

It is customary to laugh at the human propensity to take the weather as a perpetual source of remark. That this may be ridiculous sometimes, or may not always be interesting, is undeniable. Probably it arises generally from the desire to choose a topic within the comprehension of all.

Within the observation, but beyond the comprehension of every one, would be more correct.

But at the present time there can hardly be a more abstruse subject. It is variable, it is severe, it is persistent and intense, yet we are continually watching for change that any hour may bring, to the subversion of the winter's character.

Would that the chemists might get hold of it and analyze it. Find its base, its salts, its oxides, its gravity and affinities. There does not seem to be anything they cannot decompose and recombine. Let us have not only observations and "Probabilities," but analysis of the weather.

The *Medical Union*, a paper recently commenced—one number only has appeared—gives currency to a theory that the unhealthy periods, called pestilential eras, are caused by disturbances in the gravity of matter and in the atmosphere, by the combined attraction of one or both of the great planets, Jupiter or Saturn, with the sun. That, as the time required for the perihelion passage of either of these is several of our years, the baneful influence on animal and vegetable life is thus extended.

This may be philosophical, and several instances are adduced to support it; but if it be so would it not affect all parts of the world, or if not are there means that can be applied to mitigate the effects of these disturbances.

We had thought that the epidemics with which the land is afflicted were generally rather partial in their ravages, that while some parts of the world suffered most, other countries and latitudes were unusually free from them. But perhaps this has been an entire mistake.

This seems however to be well established with regard to the weather; that a very cold, warm, wet or dry season in one hemisphere is balanced by one just the reverse in another.

Perhaps our scientific observers may be able to ascertain whether this idea be anything more than a flight of fancy, and if it became established as fact, may find means of preparing mankind for the disastrous periods, and perhaps even for lessening their effect upon the products of the earth.

The *Evening Post*, in an article headed "A Visit to the National Academy of Design," mentions a number of water-color drawings of such interest that we copy some of the remarks in the hope of inducing some of the many who go to New York from the country in the spring, to take a little time from business to see some of them:

Take refuge for an hour in the gallery from the hurry of New York City, from its hard work and its harder pleasures, and see the rain clouds clearing over a cornfield and floating through a valley in Devonshire (356); or better, look at the old time-down cottages overgrown and time-stained in such drawings as 372 and 381; and at 392, where the breeze is blowing freshly across a Warwickshire field-path. Examine the drawing and atmospheric gradations in some of the mountain scenes in Wales and Scotland, and notice some curious unobtrusive examples of English art which have come to America for the first time, sketches made and sent to you direct, from

"The silence of thatched cottages and the wildness of blossoming fields."

Mr. Nast, the artist, has done a great deal of work of which we could not see the merit or meaning, but his illustration in *Harper's Weekly*, of March 15, the "Biggest Joke of the Season," is capital. Not that it is a joke; we should call it the saddest and most humiliating of all the painful displays lately made in our country—that such a man as Fernando Wood should stand up in the Congress of the Nation and offer the resolution to impeach the Vice President.

That he should stand in Congress at all is bad enough, but the constituency which he, perhaps appropriately, represents, is answerable for that. But that he should assail a man hitherto so stainless, and who we hope will hereafter be able to clear himself from all present accusations, and who, no one doubts, is immeasurably above this man who

thus rises up against him, may be human, but is very shameless.

MR. JOURNAL.—In No. 31 of your paper, a correspondent in writing about the birds, asks, "Have the bluejays and the Phoebe birds spent the winter with us?" Now the bluejay spends the winter here, as many are aware that have corn cribs where it can get at the corn during the winter. As for the bird commonly called the Phoebe bird, I never knew them to make their appearance in our climate until warm weather sets in, or about the time the swallows come. As for the bird your correspondent heard, I opine it was a chickadee, or black cap titmouse, which winters in our climate, and on fine days in the spring will frequently be in the tops of the trees and sing a long drawn whistle sounding some like "Phoebe."

I cannot say that I have paid for volume XXV of the *JOURNAL*, but I believe I can say with Mr. Thompson that I have taken the *JOURNAL* from its first issue, and all newspapers published in the County, and paid for them too; and I think that it is the duty of the people of Potter to support their County paper and then what other papers they please.

WM. H. HYDORN.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. Philadelphia, Mar. 7, 1873.

DEAR JOURNAL: The convention is at last making reasonable progress. The daily sessions have been extended to five hours, to wit: from 10 a. m. to 3 p. m.

The article on the *Executive Department*, containing twenty-two sections, has been passed through committee of the whole. It provides for the election of a Governor and Lieutenant Governor once in four years. It also provides for the election of a Secretary of Internal Affairs once in four years, who shall discharge the duties now belonging to the Surveyor General.

His department shall also "embrace a bureau of industrial statistics, and such duties relating to the charitable institutions, the agricultural, manufacturing, mines, mineral, lumber and other national business interests of the State as may be by law assigned thereto."

There are no other changes of any importance proposed in the article, and I judge that it will pass finally about as it now stands; and that the people will generally acquiesce in the changes proposed.

The article reported by the committee on Education is now under consideration in committee of the whole; ex-Governor Curtin in the chair. This article contains eight sections, only two of which are of much importance, to wit: the second, which appropriates "at least one million of dollars for each year"; and the eighth, which authorizes compulsory education.

Since writing the above the committee by a large majority has endorsed the appropriation of a million of dollars annually to the public schools. I look upon that as the most important vote yet given by the Delegates, and I firmly believe this section in favor of liberal support of common schools will do more to commend the work of the convention to the favorable consideration of the people, than anything else likely to be done. For myself I freely confess that today's work in favor of the common school has "covered a multitude of sins" heretofore committed by the convention.

The business was interrupted yesterday morning by the announcement of the death of one of the members.

Hon. William Hopkins, of Washington Co., left here on Friday evening last, in good health, to visit his family. He was taken sick on his way home, and died at the house of his son in Pittsburgh on Wednesday afternoon.

Yesterday, immediately after reading the *JOURNAL*, the President announced the death of Mr. Hopkins, when Mr. Lawrence, of Washington, offered the customary resolutions. In support of these the customary speeches were made, and then the convention adjourned.

It is certainly right and commendable to pay due respect to the memory of a deceased member of the body to which one belongs, but I am sure silence would be a more appropriate way to honor the dead than the making of such speeches as were delivered in this convention yesterday, in honor of William Hopkins.

Judge Woodward came nearer to making a satisfactory speech than any other gentleman who spoke on the occasion, but he marred his remarks by dragging in the Buckshot War. Even that was better than the

extravagant eulogies of other delegates. When these ceremonies closed, I was more than ever convinced of the difficulty of making a satisfactory eulogy at the open grave of any individual.

New Richmond, St. Croix Co., Wis., February 28, 1873.

DEAR JOURNAL: I venture to pen a few lines which I leave at your option to publish in your paper, or reject. I have often done so, and have no doubt but many of your readers, (my old and familiar friends,) would be pleased to read a few lines from me respecting the northwest. We have had one of the severest winters on record so far, and the prospect is fair for its continuance for some time yet. We had a storm yesterday—perhaps the heaviest snow fall of this winter, which completely blocked our railroad; and when the road will be opened is very uncertain—this is the fifth time. This road is only sixteen miles in length and some times it takes a week to clear the track. The snow is not more than two feet deep on an average, but the weather is so cold that the snow is light and dry and the wind drives it as it would fog, and fills every deep cut up level, and the roads between fences are nearly full. Much of the way roads are impassable, and the travel is through fields. Although the winter set in unusually early and has not abated even to give us a January or February thaw, there appears to be no complaint as yet of scarcity of fodder or grain for cattle. Our crops in the St. Croix Valley were good last season, but unfortunately we had a very wet harvest, and very much grain was destroyed. We had two violent hail storms in the midst of harvest, accompanied with a perfect gale of wind destroying thousands upon thousands of bushels of the grain in this valley; and a portion of Minnesota shared the same fate.

We have shipped an immense quantity of wheat, and there still remains a great surplus in the country. The present market price for wheat is \$1.05 for No. 1. Times are very dull, there is very little money stirring, and very little property changing hands.

Our Legislature is having a sharp fight over the St. Croix and Lake Superior land grant; the same fight was in congress last winter, but by several decisions of the Supreme Courts, the land having been granted to the state of Wisconsin by government, the state still has the title, and has a right to dispose of it for the object for which it was granted, and no other. There are two companies fighting for this grant, viz., the West Wisconsin, and the Milwaukee and St. Paul. As the West Wisconsin company has built the North Wisconsin to this place, our people want the grant turned over to that company. If the Milwaukee gets the grant we shall no doubt be cheated out of the road, for that company does not want this road at all but only want the grant to prevent this road being built; for they have already two roads from the Mississippi to the lakes. I hope your Constitutional Convention will leave the Constitution of Pennsylvania as good at least as they found it. I think there is not a chance to improve it much except in a very few sentences. I like the laws and Constitution of Pennsylvania much better than those of Wisconsin. I am glad to hear that your optional liquor law is doing so much to reduce the traffic in intoxicating drinks. Our Legislature at its last session passed what we supposed the most effective prohibition law we had ever had, that is, making the seller responsible for all damages and consequences of the sale, but somehow it does not suppress the traffic in any perceptible degree. The people are afraid to prosecute for the reason that in some cases where prosecutions have been made the courts have decided that the law is unconstitutional. There is a great fight over the law this winter, the Rummies are doing their best to get it repealed, and I should not wonder if they succeeded. The liquor party is the hardest party, we find, to fight in Wisconsin. We have many temperance organizations but not sufficient to suppress the liquor traffic to any great extent. The trouble is, we have so many foreigners that have been educated to believe it not only right but necessary to drink beer and whisky that the temperance men are left in the minority. I am glad to learn that you have a railroad as near as Port Allegany, and a prospect of one through Potter County.

Most of our county officers are Republicans, but the Democrats and disaffected Republicans succeeded in

electing a Democrat to the Legislature last fall. My best respects are tendered to my old friends in general in Potter County, and especially to the Editor and Proprietor of the *JOURNAL*. SAML. PALMER.

Pen and Scissors.

—THE false diplomas given, no sold by some pretended medical colleges in Philadelphia, have again attracted the attention of the Legislature. It seems that though some charters of colleges were rescinded last winter in consequence of their selling diplomas, to persons who had no knowledge of medicine, and had never studied; that these institutions still continue the practice, and that the municipal government has no power to arrest and punish them, so a resolution was passed to put the case into the hands of the attorney General.

This is a matter in which the whole community is interested. As a general thing people are quite too careless about assuring themselves of the qualifications of those who are called doctors. Many take the mere title, no matter how assumed, as sufficient proof of learning and wisdom, and we trust the health, welfare, even life of our most precious ones, to we know not whom. If the revelations lately made, serve to render us all more careful, it will be well.

—IN THE Legislature, March 3, Mr. Jones, (Potter,) presented a bill entitled "An Act to authorize the burgess and town committee of the borough of Coudersport, in the county of Potter to levy a special tax to build bridges in said borough. Referred to Committee on Roads, Bridges and Ferries." —Also a bill entitled "An Act appointing commissioners to lay out and open a state road in Potter county to connect the Germania & Youngmanshon state road with the Kettle Creek state road at the line between the counties of Potter and Clinton, and to repeal section 2 of the supplement to the Kettle Creek state road act, approved 13th day of May, A. D. 1871. Referred to the Committee on Roads, Bridges and Ferries."

—The action of the Court in McKean County, last week, Judge Williams presiding, is a warning to the illegal traffic in intoxicating drink. Four persons were indicted and convicted for violating the license law, and were sentenced to pay fines varying from \$50.00 to \$175.00. One of the parties in addition to a fine of \$175.00, was sentenced to fifty days in the county jail.

We cut the above from the *Olean Times*, and are very glad that McKean County has done her duty so well. It is to the shame of Potter County that those who sell strong drink here are not locked up where it would be impossible to pursue their infamous practices. We congratulate McKean on her faithful workers.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.—The following section of the Article on the Executive passed the committee of the whole in the convention on Friday:

SEC. 10. The Governor shall have power to remit fines and forfeitures, to grant reprieves, commutations of sentence and pardons, except in cases of impeachment, but no pardon shall be granted nor sentence commuted except upon the recommendation in writing of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Attorney General, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Secretary of Internal Affairs, or any three of them, after a full hearing of the parties, upon due notice, in open session; and such recommendation, with the reason therefor at length, shall be recorded and filed in the department.

—The representatives of the Burmese Government, after visiting Italy, Austria, France, and England, recently left London on their homeward journey. The cost of this mission was more than \$150,000.

—A special dispatch from Berlin to the *London Times* says many Russian officers and diplomats have left St. Petersburg for Central Asia, and it is probable the Khivan campaign will begin at an early day.

—Three hundred Liberal Catholics have written in address to Pere Hyacinthe urging him to resume the pulpit at Geneva. The Father has made a favorable reply, saying that he is willing to preach to those who are resolved not to surrender to either Ultramontanism or unbelief.

(Washington News, March 10th.)

TREASURY STATEMENT.—The balances in the Treasury at the close of business to-day were as follows: Currency \$3,689,399, special deposit of legal tenders for redemption of certificates deposited \$28,085,000, coin \$64,453,548, including certificates of \$23,886,500.

NEW LIBRARY BUILDING.—The Joint Committee on the Library this morning agreed to recommend an appropriation of \$200,000 for commencing the construction of a new library building, to be erected on one of the squares recently purchased for the extension of the Capitol grounds.

CONSCIENCE MONEY.—A certificate of deposit for \$1500 was received at the Treasury to-day from the cashier of the Brooklyn National Bank, who reports to the Treasurer that amount was handed to him with a statement that it belonged to the United States.

—Serious Charges against an American Captain.—A dispatch to the *Telegraph* from Brussels reports that Captain Curry, of the American vessel *Actona*, which sailed recently from Antwerp for New York, carried away by force, seven sailors belonging to the French schooner *Africaine*. An investigation into the affair has been set on foot, and dispatches have been sent to the Consul-General of France at New York advising him of the circumstances and instructing him to watch for the arrival of the *Actona*.

[From the *Buffalo Express*.]
Spain.—Madrid, March 10.—Senator Pi y Suñer, Minister of the Interior, presides over the Ministerial Council in the absence of Senor Figueras.

The Radical deputies from Andalusia have called a meeting of all the Andalusian deputies in the Assembly, to consider the proposition for setting up a Federal State Government in Andalusia, based on free trade and free ports.

The Federalists are organizing a Revolutionary Central Committee in Madrid.

The "Erreconcilables" have made attempts to seduce the troops of the garrison from their loyalty to the Government, but without success.

A reaction favorable to the welfare of the country is beginning to make itself felt in Madrid and in the provinces. The volunteers of Malaga have resolved to serve without pay. Troops in Barcelona are joining the volunteers' corps.

Portugal.—London, March 11.—The Portuguese journals say that at no time in the history of the country have such efforts been made to organize a Republican party as are now making. They compare England's delay in reorganizing the Spanish Republic with her speedy recognition of Napoleon's Government in 1851.

—THE foreign news is still conflicting and unsatisfactory. The powers of Europe seem to be determined to crush the spirit of liberty in Spain. The following is cut from the N. Y. *Tribune*:

Senor Olozaga, the Spanish Minister to France, has notified to Senor Castelar, Minister of Foreign Affairs, by telegraph, that the representatives in Paris of the different Powers of Europe have decided to send a collective note to the Government of Spain, declaring their belief that their respective Governments will cease to hold diplomatic relations with it in the event of the proclamation of a Federal Republic.

President Theria has recognized the belligerent rights of the Carlists in Spain. The impression grows in London that Don Carlos will succeed.

It might be expected that the Republic in France might be more sympathetic.

Italy.—Rome, March 11.—Yesterday being the anniversary of Mazzini's death a deputation of Democrats attempted to visit the patriot's tomb, but the police refused them admittance. For a time the greatest excitement prevailed and a riot was imminent. The troops were called out and prevented any disturbance.

The King has appointed Amadeus Lieutenant-General in the Italian army.

A MERCHANT advertised for a clerk "who could bear confinement," and received an answer from one who had been seven years in jail.

NOT to be behind the age, Time has thrown aside the hour glass and scythe, and now uses a mowing machine and watch.

WHAT horse pet is it that is so generally admired, sought after and valued, yet more abused, trampled upon, kicked about, looked down upon and whipped than any other? A carter.

"MAMMA, a brooklet means a little brook, doesn't it? and an eagle a little eagle?" "Yes, my darling." "Then, mamma, does an eyelid mean a little eye, and a hamlet a little ham?"

An Alabama newspaper man thought he had a first-class case for delinquency: "We did not issue our paper last week, as one of its editors was on the jury and the other was being married. We will not say here which is which, but regrets will be found from both in another column."

MISS HUNT, of Emporia, Kansas, is the clerk of the lower branch of the legislature.

THE principal of Vassar College is Miss Perry; and Maria Mitchell is Professor of Astronomy in the same institution.

Two daughters of the Earl of Portsmouth have taken certificates at the London University, in connection with the Cambridge local examinations.

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