## CORRESPONDENCE.

### THE WHITE MOUNTAINS.

**Letter from North Conway.**

(Correspondence of the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.)

NORTH CONWAY, August 13.—Little more than a month has elapsed since I found myself for the first time, in the White Mountain region of New Hampshire, and my earliest impression of its beauty was gained from that—lake, I was nearly, by the Indians, "Winnipisseogee," or "The Smile of the Great Spirit." Mountains surround it on every side; green islands dot the surface of its waters, and all along its shores lies a highly cultivated country. Our passage from Alton to Centre Harbor was delightful. The sun was beginning to decline, a mild breeze made itself felt, and a spirit of repose pervaded the scene, for the landscape is lacking in all the wildest features of mountain scenery, and here nature speaks only of quiet and rest.

Centre Harbor, where we paused a night, is located in the midst of most exquisite mountain and lake scenery, and has one of the best hotels in this region. The next morning we set out on the stage bound to North Conway, for in order fully to enjoy this charming drive an outside seat is, in every respect, the most desirable. Yet one of the thirty-five miles is without its own peculiar interest, and in the latter part of the journey a good view is obtained of Chocorua, the most celebrated of the lower peaks of the White Hills, a huge granite mount, whose only vegetation consists of a few berries.

North Conway lies in the Valley of the Saco, a stream whose width is scarcely twelve rods, and whose usual depth is no more than three feet, but after a heavy rain it sometimes rises to a great height. The village is surrounded by mountains, and the view up the Saco Valley, commanding Mount Washington and the adjacent peaks, is its chief charm.

Half hidden in clouds of mist, illumined by the sun, or, at the close of day, when shadows steal up the mountain sides, this scene is never wanting in beauty and variety.

The neighborhood of the village affords the most enchanting walks and drives. Lovely views of woods, fields and streams, behind which rise high hills and lofty mountain ranges, bound on the Swift River Valley roads, and on that one known as the Ledges, extending a distance of four or five miles along the base of cliffs, varying from one to eight hundred feet in height. In one of these cliffs a cave, forming a high arch, roofed with rock. Huge trees form one wall of this wonder of nature, denominated "The Cathedral."

Artist, Goodrich's and Jackson's Falls can all be visited in a long afternoon's drive, notwithstanding the grand or wonderful, yet the eye delights in the picturesque grouping of rocks and trees, and in the quiet loveliness that pervades them all.

Diana's Bath is the most striking of all the cascades in this vicinity. The water is broken by the jutting rocks into innumerable little falls, and in seeking the source of the stream one comes upon a single fall of some ten or twelve feet in height, overshadowed by trees. Above and below are numbers of basins, worn in the rock, filled with pure water, from the largest of which the place derives its name.

Echo Lake, a small sheet of water at the base of Mount Kearsarge, is so completely surrounded with luxuriant foliage as to transport one in imagination to the heart of the primeval forest, for the only sounds to be heard are the song of some passing bird, or by the wonderful echo from which its name is taken.

The visitor to North Conway is never at a loss for some new excursion, and but few of the summer sojourners are content to have explored the heart of the mountain region. A fine day seldom passes without which we see a stage load of merry pleasure-seekers bound to some point of interest among the hills.

Some thirteen miles, more than three thousand feet above the level of the sea, is only three miles from any village, and many pedestrians make the ascent. There is no carriage road, but an excellent bridle path to the summit. Some prefer the view from a stage coach that from Mount Washington, which bid itself in the thick fog on the day I made my way to the top, and in contempt of the agreement he had signed with them, dare not be remembered as Congressional representative, so we will make a virtue of necessity, and politely hand over the mountain to our sister county, Lebanon, who will nominate a former Representative. For State Senator, Thos. C. Zulick, of Schuylkill Haven, will be nominated. Of course, he will never get there, as he and all beneath him will be defeated by the honest Democracy of Berks, a county which this county always casts. But Lebanon being as decidedly Republican as Schuylkill is Democratic, there is always a close vote in the Congressional district, the Republicans generally coming out ahead a hundred or two.

Let them fight it out. I am not a politician, and nobody has as yet thought it worth while to buy me up; so I am independent, and have to gign this view of the situation, will endeavor to keep the readers of the BULLETIN posted with regard to future events as they may happen; not scrupling to say what I think, and tell what I see, without fear, favor, malice or affection.

The highway business is still active. This morning's *Journal* chronicles an attempted robbery which took place near Shenandoah on Saturday evening last. A young man named Yost, who is in the employ of F. H. Moyer, green grocer, in Shenandoah, was returning from a trip to some neighboring village and was letting his horses walk, as it was late and the night was dark and wet, when suddenly he was startled by a shot from behind striking the ball passing through his hat; another shot struck the wagon-cover within a few inches of his head, and two more shots failed to come near him. He fired two shots in the direction of his assailant or assailants, whipped up his horses, and drove home.—Fins.

There is some talk of indicting Messrs. Hein & Glassmire, the owners of the colliery at which the "latest mining horror" occurred, under the law passed last winter, which provides for a brake on every drum used in mining operations. *Apropos* of this, another accident of the same nature is reported as having occurred at the Kentucky colliery of Schmidt & Donahoe, near Tuscarora, on Saturday evening last. In this case, the chain was obliging enough to break before the car had descended more than eight feet, thus saving the lives of the men who were in it. The car, however, tumbled off and was badly hurt about the head, but will recover. WICO.

### EDMOND ABOUT AT THE SEAT OF WAR.

**The Hero of Bitche.**

Edmond About writes from "the frontier," July 20, as follows:

"I went yesterday to visit a certain bridge across the Blies, which separates France from Rhenish Bavaria. A post striped blue and white, on which I gave myself the pleasure of inscribing my name, marks the bound of our enemy's country. I did not have to wait long. It was not because the innocent sentinel of Bavaria threatened me with his fist—the only arm he boasts. The French commissioned officers are very much more formidable. They had to no, with the utmost politeness, "You are free to leave our territory, but it is expressly forbidden us to let any living soulstem." Nevertheless, they gave consultations to me, who went across to get us some drink. The public opinion of Gimbrinsen is not classed among the articles contraband of war, although it does serve to heat German patriotism.

"On the Bridge of the Blies I was told an anecdote which, whether true or false, will certainly go the round of all France. I hope to give you the first of it.

"It is said that an infantry soldier, posted as sentinel before the barracks of the 1st French village of Styring, was warned by a woman that the enemy's scouts were approaching. 'The Uhlans!' she cried; 'run away!' They were about two hundred yards away, and had not noticed the pitiful construction of which divides Styring from Rhenish Prussia. The soldier does not run away. He lies down, covers one among the twenty-five Uhlans who are approaching, and kills him. A second, and a third, and a fourth he brings down, without hindrance. A volley from the enemy wounds him in the right hand. Twenty more fires with the left, from a cartridge and puts the others to flight. The legend adds that the hero of the Blies fell from exhaustion on the field by his captain—here the probabilities begin to fail—and was taken to the hospital at Cassel.

"To investigate the truth of the story I went this morning to the village of Gross-Bliedersdorf, where an eye-witness was to be found. The woman who called out to the sentinel 'Run away!' is a neighbor of the hero of Gross-Bliedersdorf. As it happened, my kind host, the doctor of Lauterbingen, had a pretext to visit not far from there—a weaver attacked with sporadic cholera. I accompanied him, and took advantage of the opportunity to study one of those households interiors of German Lorraine in which the best part of the day is spent in religious exercises, and the best part of the earnings in leather *fetishes*—in which a crucifix, beads beaded and adorned with a population sheepish, blind, shut out alike from French ideas and German ideas, because they can read neither the one language nor the other. Then we returned to the village, and pulled up at the house of the Bliedersdorf. We found him hospitable, intelligent and well-read, and he told us the story as he had heard it, from his neighbor, without any other guaranty of its truth.

"To make anything of it, an interrogation of the woman seems to be necessary. She is absent. Her brother is brought to us, a young man about eighteen years old. This good fellow did not see the affair itself, but, according to his story, he saw the wounded soldier with his arm in a sling. He even saw him again at Forbach, on his way to the hospital, and heard him say aloud, and intelligibly, 'There's no need for me to go to the hospital. I can cure my hand very well myself!' Our young deponent does not look as though he were making fun of us; he is certainly not out of the Seminary, but perhaps he believes the tale from having heard and repeated it several times. I ask him where are the bodies of the Uhlans? He answers that they were left on the ground like the others—for there have been a few others—and that it is not allowed to go and see them, because they are in the enemy's territory. In the end, I go away, only slightly convinced; and, although a man from Forbach assures me that an infantry soldier has died there in the hospital, of a wound in the forearm, I begin to understand the eternal difficulty of ascertaining the real truth about a contemporary event."

### Charles Dickens and the Powell Libel.

(The Cosmopolitan—London Editor.)

Some twenty years ago there came to New York a certain London Bohemian by the name of Thomas Powell. Soon afterwards the author of very bitter attacks against Mr. Dickens appeared in the columns of one of the New York journals. When these libels reached Mr. Dickens he wrote a scathing reply, denouncing Powell, the author of them, as a forger, upon the bond of the very lowest order, who under the pretence of suicide, had escaped from his London creditors and turned up in New York. This statement was seen by Mr. Dickens to his friend Lewis Gaylord Clark, the editor of the *Knickerbocker Magazine*, with instructions to get it published in all the New York papers, and, among the rest, it was inserted in the *Evening Mirror*, of which we were then editor and proprietor. Whereupon Powell, passing by all the other journals, commenced a suit against us for libel. The reason for this discrimination against us was owing to the fact that we had refused to employ Powell on the editorial staff of the *Mirror*. Anything legal proceedings on the part of Powell, Mr. Dickens authorized us to defend the case at any cost. Retaining the late David Graham, then the leading member of the New York Bar, as counsel, we instructed him to send a commission to London to obtain testimony for the defense, and there was, indeed, an abundance of it. All of Powell's charges were proved to be false, and all Mr. Dickens' statements were substantiated. When the case came on for trial, the prosecution declined to go on with it. And thus the libel was quashed. In the meantime heavy expenses had been incurred, a statement of which was forwarded, in due form, to Mr. Dickens at his residence in London. "Never was a bill more ungrudgingly paid, seven years afterward, as we were dining with Thackeray at the Reform Club, we received a communication from his mother of the Dickens libel suit, his silence in regard to costs. Thackeray immediately exclaimed, in his grand, emphatic way: "Dickens never got your letter; he knows nothing about it; he is as just a man as ever breathed. Write to him at once, and state the case." We did so; then and there, and the very next day received in reply a long apologetic letter from Mr. Dickens, enclosing a check for "costs," and assuring us that the accounts had never been forwarded to him in Italy, and that, on hearing the action for libel had been withdrawn, he had suspended the prosecution of the suit. But, as the prosecutor was bankrupt, the defendant had to pay. In a bound volume of the New York *Evening Mirror*, to be seen, we believe, at the British Museum, the biographers of Charles Dickens will find the complete and sharp article which led to the Dickens libel suit of Powell vs. Paller.

### Speed of Thought.

When it comes to the relation of mental action and time, we can say with Leibnitz, "Cogitamus, for here we can reckon approximative results. The "personal equation" or difference in rapidity of recording the same occurrence, has been recognized in astronomical records since the time of Maskelyne, the royal astronomer, and is allowed for with the greatest nicety, as may be seen, for instance, in Dr. Gould's recent report on trans-Atlantic longitude. More recently the time required in mental processes and in the transmission of sensation and the motor impulse along nerves has been carefully studied by Helmholtz, Picaut, Hirsch, Donders and others. From forty to eighty, a hundred, or more feet a second are estimates of different observers, so that, as the newspapers have been reporting, it would take a whale a second, more or less, to feel the stroke of the harpoon in his tail. Connected with this the velocity of galvanic signals, which Dr. Gould has found to be from fourteen to eighteen thousand miles a second through the wire on poles, and about sixty-seven hundred miles a second through the submarine cable. The brain, according to Fizeau, takes one-tenth of a second to transmit an order to the muscles, and the muscles take one-hundredth of a second in getting into motion.

These results, such as they are, have been arrived at by experiments on single individuals with a very delicate chronometric apparatus. I have myself instituted a good many experiments with a more extensive and expensive apparatus, and have found results somewhat, namely, two classes each of ten intelligent students, who with joined hands represented a vast circle of about thirty-six feet, by which a hand pressure transmitted ten times round the circle traversed six hundred and sixty feet, beside involving one hundred perceptions and volitions. My chronometer was a "horse-timer," marking quarter seconds. After some practice my second-class gradually reduced the time of transmission ten times round, which had stood at fourteen and fifteen seconds, like that of the first-class, down to ten seconds; that is, one-tenth of a second for the passage through the nerves and brain of each individual, less than the least time I have ever seen assigned for the whole operation; no more than Fizeau has assigned to the action of the brain alone.

The mental process of judgment between colors (red, white and green counters), between rough and smooth (common paper and sand-paper), between smells (camphor, cloves and assafoetida), took, forty-three and a half tenths of a second; taste (vino or three waters) and touch (sand, cloth, and paper) to reach the true sentient portion of the tongue. These few results of my numerous experiments will show the rate of working of the different parts of the machinery of consciousness. Nothing could be easier than to calculate the whole number of perceptions and ideas a man could have in the course of a life-time. But as we think the same thing over many millions of times, and as many persons keep up their social relations by the aid of a vocabulary of only a few hundred, or, in the case of some very fashionable people, a few score only, of words, a very limited amount of thinking material may correspond to a full sense of organs of sense and a good development of the muscular system. The time relation of the sense of vision was illustrated by Newton by the simple experiment of whirling a burning brand, which appears as a circle of fire.

The duration of associated impressions on the memory differs vastly, as we all know, in different individuals. But in uttering distinctly a series of disconnected numbers of twenty before a succession of careful listeners, I have been surprised to find how generally they break down in trying to repeat them between seven and ten figures or letters, though here and there an individual may be dependent on a large number. Pepys mentions a person who could repeat sixty unconnected words forward or backward, and perform other wonderful feats of memory, but this was a prodigy. I suspect we have in this and similar trials very simple and mental dynamometer which may yet find its place in education.

DR. O. W. HOLMES.


### EDUCATION.

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The Session will open on MONDAY, September 5th, at which time the classes will be formed, for boys between 9 and 12 o'clock in the morning.

JAMES W. ROBINS, A. M., aug 15 tu,th,sat,6t2 Head Master.

CHEGARAY INSTITUTE, ENGLISH and FRENCH, for young Ladies and Misses, boarding and day pupils, will reopen the 1st and 15th September. Address

REOPEN ON TUESDAY, September 20.

French is the language of the family, and constantly spoken in the Dormitories.

MDME. CHEGARAY, MDME. D'HERVILLY, Principals.

MISS MARY E. ARLTSEN and MISS ROSE E. ARLTSEN will open their Boarding and Day School for Young Ladies on September 14th, 1870. No. 25 Telpochcan st., Germantown.

### MUSICAL.

SIG. P. BONDINELLA, TEACHER OF SINGING, Concert Singer, Residence, 38 S. Thirteenth street.

### COPARTNERSHIPS.

THE firm OF CORNELIUS & BAKER, having been dissolved, the undersigned have formed a copartnership under the firm of MCILHENEY, ARNOLD & CO., for the manufacture and sale of gas fixtures, Manufactory S. W. corner Twelfth and Cherry streets. Salesrooms at the old stand, No. 706 Chestnut street.

WILLIAM C. BAKER,
JOHN C. CORNELIUS.

PHILADELPHIA, July 1, 1870. jy1 tu,th,6t

COTTON.—50 BALES COTTON NOW landing and for sale by COCHRAN, RUSSELL & CO., 111 Chestnut street.




## TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

THE Georgia Democratic State Convention will meet to-day.

THE funeral of Admiral Farragut takes place at Portsmouth, N. H., to-day.

PASSENGER GRAIN left Cleveland for Long Branch, via Pittsburgh, last night.

IT is stated that the Nathan mansion, in Twenty-third street, New York, has been sold for $70,000.

WM. F. HAGGERTY, aged 18, was drowned, by falling through a railroad bridge, at Boston, on Monday.

THE Germans of St. Louis are preparing a grand celebration in honor of the French victories.

THE West Branch Methodist Camp Meeting is in operation at Elnathan, Pa., and is very largely attended.

THE Georgia Agricultural Labor Convention met at Atlanta yesterday. All portions of the State were represented.

HON. ANDREW L. ORR, of South Carolina, has published a letter announcing his adhesion to the Republican party in that State.

THE Republican State Convention of Maine met at Bangor, yesterday, and nominated General Charles W. Roberts for Governor.

THE National Committee of the Union Republicans met in this city yesterday, on business connected with the fall elections.

REAR ADMIRAL S. P. LEE arrived at Fortress Monroe yesterday morning, and resumed command of the North Atlantic fleet, relieving Rear Admiral Rowan.

THE first female compositor employed in the Government printing-office at Washington was discharged yesterday on price list. She is from Ohio, and her name is Green.

THE contract for furnishing the Post-office Department with envelopes and wrappers for four years, has been awarded Dempsey & O'Brien, of Washington, at the rate of $224,000 per annum.

THE Chicago *Post* says that Mr. Freiligrath has contributed a poem to the Museum in England, and that the President has offered it a place in his library. The inscription, it is understood to prefer remaining in the Sunate.

GENERAL RYAN, of the Cuban army, arrived Lucy Stone's office, in Cincinnati, and made an ovation from the Cubans there. He made an address, giving a favorable account of the Cuban cause, and said he was on a mission of important mission. At a second demonstration, on Monday, he said he had accomplished his mission, and had gone to New York.

In the Normal School Association at Cleveland, yesterday, Mr. Hoyt read a paper by invitation, and held an impromptu reception. The Cleveland Leader says of the meeting, as follows: President, S. H. White, of Peoria; Vice Presidents, C. C. Hounds, of Maine; Mrs. Somers, of Illinois; Miss Cummings, of West Virginia. Miss Jackson, of Philadelphia, read a paper on "The Treatment of Dunces."

## THE WAR.

BERLIN, August 16.—The following official news has been made public to-day:

BERLIN, Aug. 15, 6:30 P. M.—The little fortress of Lauterburg, surrendered yesterday, after a short bombardment, to the Second Bavarian Army Corps. The garrison, consisting of provisions and six guns were captured.

The following despatch is from King William to the Queen of Prussia:

"HERNY, August 15, 7:30 P. M.—I have just received a report from Prince Frederick Charles, the Commander of the Seventh Corps attached to the army, who were first attacked yesterday, at the fortress. The 5th and part of the 11th divisions sustained the advance. The conflict was desperate, involving the entire loss. The enemy was repulsed at all points, and was pursued to the gates of Metz. The Prussians, in the fortress, which enabled the enemy to give shelter to their wounded. Our wounded were instantly carried off, and the breach thus troops returned to their first bivouacs. All troops with incredible and admirable energy. I have no doubt of victory, and congratulate you with all my soul, and have spoken to General Steinmetz. *Fontaine.* The following is the official report of the battle, which reached Paris, 3 P. M., is just made public:

"The Germans have proved themselves before Metz, and believing the enemy, who were encamped between the Moselle and the Nied, Gallo's brigade was ordered to attack the rear-guard of Marshal Bazaine's corps, and a violent combat ensued. The Prussian forces advanced under Ostenstoken, and immediately the division of Gens Manteuffel and Wrangel participated, driving the enemy at all points. Meanwhile the French General L'Admirault endeavored to rally his troops, but was attacked by the reserves, which advanced with bayonets fixed, and the French retreated, the enemy was speedily repulsed and driven into the fortress, and many were captured. Our loss was considerable, and the French losses within range of the forts. This morning the enemy made a more determined attempt to the Prussian ambassador here are full of triumph, and express the greatest confidence as to the result of the war.

LONDON, Aug. 16.—Special to New York *Herald.*—Intelligence received at Berlin, that the Prussians are in impatiently wanted. Great crowds of people have collected at the Bourse, at the Ministry of the Interior, and in the streets.

Important news has been received from Strasbourg. The Prussians in that vicinity seem inclined to retire. Some shots have been exchanged. The Prussians are retreating, as determined to defend the place to the last.

Special to New York *Herald.*—The battle of Metz were exciting and important.

Deputy Keller said that for three days now the troops had shown that they had not been received as to what had been accomplished. It such a state of affairs, the Government could think of any other matter. The meeting of the Corps must be permanent to await communications from the Minister of Interior. The Minister of War said he was not prepared to give the details of the battle, but the Prussians had been checked, and a serious check, forcing them to retire and forego their intention of the Prussian Crown Prince's army. He had no official despatches touching the event of the battle, but he had received news from reliable sources, and might state that the Prussians had been checked several times, and had retired in the greatest disorder. He was full of confidence, but could not at present enter upon details. In a few days a much greater force would be under command of Bazaine, the only and true commander-in-chief.

The Minister then retired, and Deputy Jules Ferry took the floor, and remarked, he referred to the Emperor's proclamation to the people of Metz as having created an unpleasant feeling. The speech was frequently interrupted by expressions of disapproval, and the tumult became so great that the President arose, and he took his seat.

The Chamber then voted several loans for the prosecution of the war, and Deputy Fouchet announced to the Corps that a certain religious society had offered to place at the government their houses of Worship for hospital purposes.

PARIS, Aug. 16.—The *Journal Officiel* today contains a decree declaring the cities of Strasbourg and Metz in a state of siege, in a state of siege.

PARIS, Aug. 16.—The sub-prefect of Verdun telegraphs as follows to the Minister of the Interior:

VERDUN, Aug. 16, 9 A. M.—No news from Metz. Nothing is known to have occurred to-day. All day yesterday the roar of cannon was heard between Metz and Verdun.

"Persons who have reached here from that direction say that a great battle was fought, opening at daybreak, and that the Prussians had 40,000 men in the combat, and had been reinforced by 20,000 men yesterday morning. At the extremity of my arrondissement, 25 kilometers from the fortress of Verdun, the enemy had been seen directing his retreat to the south.

"Yesterday intelligence was transmitted by authority, the government has not yet been able to verify it. It is given to the public under reserve by the Minister of the Interior.

LONDON, Aug. 16.—A document ascribed to Count Von Bismarck, representing the army decimating territorial aggrandizement as a result of the war.

There is a growing and bitter feeling of hostility to the Emperor Napoleon in Paris. This feeling was caused by the publication of letters from the recent Ministerial appointments.

Dispatches from Berlin state that the Prussian ambassador here are full of triumph, and express the greatest confidence as to the result of the war.

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