The Press.

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jy9-stu&th25t

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The Press.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 1859.

New Publications.

The sixth volume of Appleton's "New American Cyclopædia," (for the sale of which Mr. J. McFarlan, of the Arcade Hotel, is agent in Philadelphia,) carries the reader on from the article *Cough* to that upon *Education*. A large number of able writers, each of whom has taken subjects well known to him, have contributed to this volume. For example, Mr. Paul Arpin, of New York, articles on French literati; Henry Carey Baird, of this city, upon various Philadelphian celebrities; Captain Blake, Naval Academy, Annapolis, biographies of American naval commanders; Dion Bourcicault, on the Drama; William M. Browne, of Washington, on Disraeli and Lord Derby, oddly omitting to mention that the latter, ere he had attained his majority, had extensively travelled over the United States; Edward Everett, a life of Thomas Dowse, the literary leather-dresser of Massachusetts; Professor Felton, on Demosthenes; Parke Godwin, on Descartes and Druids; Hon. Charles C. Hazewell, on Cromwell, Crusades, and Duel; George P. Hillard, on Charles Dickens; William H. Hurlbutt, on Messrs. Delane, of *The Times*; Dr. S. Kneeland, Jr., on Cuvier, and various articles on Natural History; Professor James R. Lowell, on Dante; Charles Nordhoff, on East India Companies; Rev. Dr. J. H. Spencer, of New York, on Bishops De Lancey and Eastburn; Horace S. John, on William Hepworth Dixon and C. W. Dilke, of the *Athenæum*; Rev. Dr. W. P. Strickland, on American Ecclesiastical Biography; John R. Thompson, of the *Southern Literary Messenger*, on Thomas R. Dew, and Philip Doddridge, of Virginia; and others of equal interest. Some separate articles, not included in this list, merit especial notice, as being full without diffuseness:—We would especially point to Cyclopædia, Dictionary, Cuba, Distillery, Deaf and Dumb, Dance of Death, Eclipse, and Education. There are some omissions—including the late Thomas Davis, who, by pen and speech, did so much for Irish literature, sixteen years ago—but a Cyclopædia is not a biographical Dictionary, to notice every one.

The Harpers have republished the book of American Travel, written by Charles Mackay, the popular lyrist, and recently brought out in London. It bears the name of "Life and Liberty in America; or, Sketches of a Tour in the United States and Canada in 1857-8," and is enriched with ten spirited wood-engravings. Although Dr. Mackay wounded Philadelphia, in a very sensitive part, by declaring that our houses, pavements, chapels, and churches were the color of "fiery drab," and by expressing a distaste for the dirty cleanliness which is perpetually washing our pavements, contrary to unregarded civic ordinances, we can give his want of taste as much pity as it needs, and allow him independently to form and express his opinions. He told Baltimore that her Battle Monument was "more suggestive of a pencil-case standing upon a snuff-box or a drawing-room table than of a piece of architecture." Dr. Mackay arrived at New York in October, 1857, and left Boston in May, 1858. To use his own words, "he traversed the Union from Boston to New Orleans, by St. Louis and the Mississippi, and returned to New York by land through the Slave States," afterwards visiting Canada. This was a very extensive tour, the details of which are graphically told. If, as we believe, the best prose is written by poets, there can be no difficulty in accounting for the clearness and ability with which, all through, Dr. Mackay expresses himself. There is no attempt at fine writing, or at strong writing, but we have good, solid, and often graceful writing in this book. He says "He returned from America with a greater respect for the people than when he first set foot upon the soil." He adds "Progress crawls in Europe, but gallops in America. The record of European travel may be fresh ten or twenty years after it is written, but that of America becomes obsolete in four or five. It took our England nearly a thousand years, from the days of the Heptarchy to those of William III, to become of as much account in the world as the United States have become in the life-time of old men who still linger among us." Dr. Mackay expresses anti-slavery opinions with a moderation of tone which will make them largely read: He disapproves of slavery in the Southern States, but also declares that the "anti-slavery speeches, books, and resolutions [of the North] savor of hypocrisy and false pretence." Dr. Mackay has serious fears of the increase of the slave population. He anticipates that, though the United States may not annex Canada, they "will certainly annex to themselves all the moribund republics between Texas and Panama, including, of course, the whole of Mexico." He conjectures that "the time may come when the New England States, weary of participating in the slavery which they cannot abolish, may seek to effect a legislative union with Canada; when New York and the Middle and the Western States may form another constellation of republics, and when the South, extending to Panama, may cultivate its 'domestic institution' and cotton at the same time, defying North or West, and the whole world to trouble it; and when California and the other Commonwealths on the Pacific sea-board, from mere considerations of distance and locality, may set up in business for themselves." We have received much pleasure from the perusal of Dr. Mackay's frank and able book. It is worthy of regard with James Stuart's America and a work on the same subject, published some thirteen years ago, from the pen of Alexander Mackay, (a cousin of the Doctor,) one of the most promising young men of his time. We must not omit drawing attention to the "snatches of sweet song" which occasionally appear in this book. The chaunt "Down the Mississippi" will certainly live, while the lyrical tribute to Mr. Longworth's Catawba wine, and the ballad "John and Jonathan," which the author recited at a dinner given to him in Washington, contain sentiments which, we believe, will find an echo in many hearts, here and in "the old country."

The late Dr. Jabez Bunting, for forty years the acknowledged leader of the Methodists in Great Britain, was a man eminently deserving of good biographical notice. Thomas Percival Bunting, his second son, a lawyer in Manchester, has just published the first volume of a biography which, though it might have been better written,—for T. P. Bunting has not inherited his father's ability, as writer or speaker—very fully traces his career down to the year 1812, the period when his capacity and sagacity had made him a man of mark. Dr. Bunting's older son, who is a Methodist preacher, was the proper person to write this Life, but the pressure of his clerical duties and his feeble health prevented this. Mr. T. P. Bunting puts too many figures on his canvas, and seems to be plagued with the idea that he should give some account of almost every friend or contemporary of his father. This breaks into the continuous history of Dr. Bunting and confuses the reader. In many cases, too, the year-date is not given, and when the reader wants to know at what time an incident occurred, he must go back a dozen or twenty pages to fish out the year. Jabez Bunting, though the son of poor parents, had the advantage of receiving a very good education, and of living in the family of the late Dr. Percival, of Manchester, as his amanuensis and friend. He commenced life as a local preacher, about the age of twenty, and after he was admitted by the Conference, was transferred to London, where, notwithstanding his youth, his preaching and teaching were most useful. After this, having married early, he was successively removed to Manchester, Sheffield, and Liverpool, where the first volume leaves him. His career, after that, and more particularly since 1835, when he became President of the Theological School, then established, was eminently distinguished. He was four times President of the Methodist Conference, and, indeed, had so much influence and power that he was familiarly called "Pope Bunting." Sincerely devoted to the doctrines and discipline of the Methodist Church, as left by John Wesley, the whole career of Jabez Bunting was eminently and persistently conservative as regarded them. Neither in the pulpit nor yet upon the platform, was Jabez Bunting what could fairly be called eloquent. But he was sensible, practical, clear, and earnest. He preached and he spoke as a man who believed in what he taught. To a certain extent he was arbitrary—justifying what he was once called, "that proud son of Adam, Jabez Bunting." But he was neither irritable, capricious, nor presuming. His administrative faculties were wonderfully great. He had a mind to plan and also to execute. Latterly, he appeared not a little dictatorial—but his equals in age and experience found nothing of this. In the private relations of life he was amiable, virtuous, and happy. He gained the respect even of his opponents—Jabez Bunting certainly had no enemies—and his death, last year, at the age of eighty, was felt as a loss not by the Methodists alone, but also by various other Christian denominations. We believe Jabez Bunting to have been a downright honest man, well-meaning, and thoroughly imbued with Christian faith and feeling.

As we are upon the subject of Methodism, let us here draw attention to a work which we have had on our table for several months, vainly hoping for room to publish such an extended criticism upon it as it eminently merits. This is the first volume of a "History of Methodism, from its Origin to its Hundredth Anniversary, 1839." Its author is the Rev. Dr. Abel Stevens. This first volume gives the history from the origin of Methodism to the death of George Whitefield, in 1770. A more difficult task than that undertaken by Dr. Stevens can scarcely be imagined. For, he wrote not only for "the people called Methodists," but for the world *outside their religious persuasion*. We have carefully perused his whole history of the Wesley family—for what record of Methodism could omit *them?*—and must declare that a more candid, lucid, and instructive series of religious biographies we have never read. Dr. Stevens has no sectarianism. He puts the History of Methodism on the broadest Christian basis. We hope soon to see the forthcoming second volume, which will complete the history of British Methodism, and will also record the last twenty-one years of John Wesley's life. This volume, we believe, is now in the press, and *will immediately be published by Carlton & Porter*, of New York.

The Autobiography of Col. David Crockett, first published in 1834, was an amusing book, whether authentic or not. A new edition of it, with badly-drawn and rather coarsely engraved illustrations, has just been brought out, by our neighbor, Mr. G. G. Evans—one of the few persons, we believe, who has made the Gift Book enterprise profitable to himself and satisfactory to his customers. Mr. Evans does not endeavor to gull the public by boasts of having extended his business *transactions* all over the habitable *world, and a* good way beyond. He thinks it sufficient to have customers in every part of the Union—from Maine and Minnesota to Texas and California—from the Atlantic to the Pacific seaboard. We do not pretend to know how he does business, so as to make liberal gifts. But—*he does it*. We believe that ready money, judiciously expended, will buy books and jewelry at rates which the uninitiated can have no notion of. With the immense business which Mr. Evans does, even a profit of ten per cent. would yield him a good income. Coming back, however, to Crockett's Autobiography. We think the book a very agreeable and readable one. Appended to several of the chapters are some feeble, common-place notes which no one will care to read. The familiarity, on the engraved title, of calling the hero "Colonel *Davy* Crockett" is vulgar, to say the least of it. The running heads are in the same fashion. "*Davy goes a hunting*," "*Davy* joins Jackson's army," "*Davy*" does this, and "*Davy*" does that. These imperfections excepted, the Life of David Crockett, a brave, unpolished man, is well worth reading.

The Harpers have published the concluding portion of Charles Lever's new story, "Gerald Fitzgerald, the Chevalier." The hero is represented as the legitimate son of Prince Charles Stuart, the last "Pretender," by an Irish lady. His adventures are full of romance, taking him to France as well as to Italy. The finale appears very much hurried up, as if the author had to close the story hastily. Many scenes, however, are powerfully written, and the hero's character, drawn on that of the Stuart race, is very artistical.

Mrs. Partington is before the world again. Her new sayings and doings are recorded by Mr. B. P. Shillaber, of Boston, and are illustrated by Hoppin, who, when he pleases, can lay aside his mannerism of hard outline, and has so pleased in the present instance. The new Partingtonian production is called "Knitting-Work: a Web of Many Textures, by Ruth Partington." It is published by Brown, Taggard, & Chase, of Boston, and we are bound to say a neater volume, in all respects, we have not lately seen. Only a third of the volume is indebted to Mrs. Partington. The "nice derangement of her epitaphs," on which that venerable dame rather piques herself, does not run riot upon every page, but is judiciously scattered, here and there, *so as to infuse an agreeable variety* of tints into the "Knitting-Work." Too much of Mrs. Partington would be as fatiguing as too much of any other good thing. Here, we have her judiciously served up, to be enjoyed to the utmost. Whatever the old lady's verbal blunders, she falls into none but highly probable mistakes. "The Guardian for Ike," for example, overflows with them—but not one is forced. Therein lies the value of the artistical embodiment of the whole idea. Among the miscellaneous articles, those most to our fancy are "The Pritchard Heirs," "A Pleasant Story for Jealous People," and "Christmas Hearths and Hearts." Some of the poetical pieces, also, are much above par. By the way, Mr. Shillaber, though he cannot write a sonnet, which consists of more than three four-line stanzas, concluding with a couplet, has put off several lively poems here very much in the Ingoldsby vein and merit. The book, by this time, is in the hands of thousands of readers, we dare say.

E. H. Butler & Co. have sent us a Hymn and Tune Book, for Sabbath Schools, by William B. Bradbury, author of "The Shawn" and other *singing-books*. *This is called "Oriola."* The selections of music are good. Mr. Bradbury has himself composed many of the airs given here.

"American Wit and Humor," illustrated by J. McLenan, is a handsome 8vo., chiefly made up, we believe, from the amusing department in *Harper's Magazine*, called the Editors' Drawer. There are materials in the same mine for a dozen such volumes as this, and the sooner they are published the better.

Lippincott & Co., of this city, are issuing, in monthly parts, at the Edinburgh retail price, the Edinburgh edition of William & Robert Chambers' Encyclopædia, a Dictionary of Universal Knowledge for the People, on the basis of the latest edition of the German Conversation's Lexicon. Four Parts, containing 256 pages imperial octavo, have already appeared, and are worthy of the highest commendation.

A translation of Edmond About's recent work on "The Roman Question," very ably made by Mrs. Annie T. Wood, has been published by J. E. Tilton, of Boston. It is "edited, with an Introduction, by the Rev. E. N. Kirk, D. D." The best we can say of the Introduction is that it is very short—only three pages. Dr. Kirk intimates that, though Monsieur *About wrote the work*, it is "*indeed an imperial work*," expressing the views of Napoleon. He says, "This work, if the common belief concerning its origin is [*sic?*] correct, is, in reality, Louis Napoleon at the bar of public opinion, defending his present campaign." But as it was not against Rome, but against Austria, that Napoleon went into the field, Dr. Kirk's theory does not hold good. When we see Napoleon actually *pressing* State reforms upon the Roman Government, we shall believe that M. About was but his amanuensis—not before. Next time that Dr. Kirk writes on a subject, let him take the preliminary of *understanding* it.

"Recreations of a Southern Barrister," consist of nine articles, apparently reprinted from some critical journal. Four of these—upon Thomas Chatterton, Milburn's Lectures, The New Literature, and Christianity in the Legal Profession—are interesting, not only from their subjects, but the treatment of them. "The Forum," by Mr. David Paul Brown, comes under the author's notice, and Mr. Brown is sarcastically treated, not only for "egotism and self-laudation," but for devoting "largely more than a hundred pages of a work, professedly giving an account of the practice and practitioners of Pennsylvania, to a discussion of his own merits and position, while his recital of the character and life of such a man as Judge Washington is compressed into twenty."—There is a good deal of argument, in this volume, dispassionate and searching, *in defence of Slavery*. The printing, executed at Richmond, is very good.

"A Sabbath Discourse on the Death of the Hon. Rufus Choate, together with the Address at his Funeral, by Nehemiah Adams, D. D., Pastor of the Essex-street Church, Boston," are published by J. E. Tilton & Co. The Address is extremely eulogistic of Mr. Choate, the Sermon equally laudatory of Massachusetts, in which he happened to be born.

A new edition of Dr. J. W. Palmer's "Up and Down the Irawaddi; or the Golden Dagon," has been published by Rudd & Carlton. This work contains the author's actual adventures, as Surgeon on board the E. I. C.'s steamship *Phlegethon* during the last "scrimmage" between England and the Burmese Empire:—adventures told so racily that the reader can almost fancy himself afloat on the crooked river, or facing the wooden guns at Kemmendine.

By the way, *apropos* of Dr. Palmer: his translation of Michelet's "L'Amour" has got into a *seventh* edition, to which he has appended "A word with M. Michelet," from Madame Hermance Lesguillon, whose latest work, "Les Femmes dans Cent Ans," appears to have simultaneously sympathized with the ruling idea of Michelet's. She says:

> The spirit of M. Michelet's book is that of the Court of Love, and seems written for a small circle of the élite, where reigns undisturbed the harmony of all the virtues. There are thirty-five millions of human beings to whose needs and sorrows he is blind. He seems to be ignorant of what men think of young girls who are destitute of marriage-portions.
>
> For example, I will repeat to him the bitter words in which a young husband, otherwise very worthy, replied to the love verses of his wife: "My dear, we are not rich; therefore we cannot love each other. I have no time for that; I must earn our living." These cruel words broke the wife's heart. Still, the man was not altogether wrong; marriage has its practical side, which kills sentiment. *Men do not understand how to unite the two.*
>
> While we deplore such words, we must grant that they are true in respect of *marriages* as they now are. Now-a-days it is not man who can instruct the heart of woman; it is not the man who has lived ten or fifteen years in the Saturnalia of pleasure, or in the difficulties of keeping up an appearance, who can live such a life. So long as man does not receive the same moral education as woman, far from teaching her, he will be unable to understand her. Palates accustomed to spices, spirits, and tobacco are incapable of enjoying the exquisite flavor of fine fruit. So long as men live a life of love before marriage, marriages will be found deficient in love; only one of the wedded pair will love—the wife; if, indeed, even she does.
>
> M. Michelet's book comes too late. If it had only been written thirty years ago! Then, instead of bringing their fragments of prose to love, the young men of this generation, better instructed, would perhaps have retained some little love for their nuptials.

Madame Hermance Sandrin Lesguillon (whose husband is well known as dramatist, poet, and novelist) has the most prolific muse in France. She has written almost any quantity of verses, and a great number of romances and children's books. She was born in 1810, and married in 1836. She has unbounded faith in the future improved condition of her own sex.

Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

DEATH OF RICHARD RUSH.

At a stated meeting of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, held at its hall, on Monday evening last, Judge Cadwalader occupied the chair. It being announced by the librarian that since the last meeting of the society, one of its oldest and most honored members, Mr. Richard Rush, had died—

Mr. Henry D. Gilpin, one of the vice presidents of the society, desired to express his deep emotion, occasioned by the announcement of the death of our venerable and distinguished colleague. Never, since he had been connected with the society, had it fallen to his lot to mourn with more sincere distress the loss of a fellow-member. Yet the event should not be regarded as a cause of sorrow; he had but passed the inevitable portal to which we are all tending, after a long life of unsullied probity, great public usefulness, the cultivation and enjoyment of refined literary tastes, and a deportment sincere, generous, and urbane in every social relation. Still, we feel that a link has been struck from the chain of grateful associations.

For myself, I do not approach the subject without feelings which are independent of his merit, in the light in which the world and history will judge him. For me, a long vista is closed of generous friendship; of stores of knowledge poured out; of manly truths, mildly but resolutely communicated; of a social nature ever genial, and a hospitality simple, but ever generous. By those who enjoyed the twenty years of his intercourse at Sydenham, can its charms ever be forgotten? Can they fail to recall the feast of reason and the flow of soul by which a refined nature doubles every charm of friendship? I recall the low-walled ancestral cottage, shaded by its ancient trees, and remember how books and works of art adorned them, and especially the memorial gifts of friends, which added peculiar objects of association. The step and banister brought from Milton's house, and inserted in his own staircase; volumes with some kindly notice from Rogers or Campbell, or Hallam or Lyttleton; the pictures of statesmen and men of letters, both in England and in France, tokens of their regard; all these seemed justly to augment his natural desire to linger to the last in the homestead which he had inherited, until the progress of the vast encroaching city took from it the last vestige of rural tranquillity. There must be many of those here assembled who can remember his venerable figure, as the summer evening closed, standing upon the last step of the cottage portico, to wave them his courteous adieu—the words of his conversation lingered on the ear of his retiring guest, as the wise and mild lessons of the aged Nestor dwelt in the heart of the parting Telemachus.

The life of Richard Rush must be nearly the history of his country for half a century, for perhaps no American citizen has ever been so constantly engaged in its public events. In early life he studied law in Philadelphia, where he commenced, and for a time pursued its practice; for several months he was Attorney General of the State. His marriage, however, to a lady of Maryland, many of whose connections resided in Washington, and the eye of Mr. Madison having been fixed upon him, as a young man whose talents and personal qualities would make him both acceptable and useful to his Administration, in the troublesome times which were at hand, led to his removal to that city, at the instance of the President, in the year 1811. He was appointed Controller of the Treasury, an office which, as it was then organized, largely required the exercise of legal talents.

In 1814 he was called by Mr. Madison into his Cabinet, by succeeding Mr. Pinckney in the post of Attorney General of the United States, the President having offered him the choice of this office or that of Secretary of the Treasury. He continued to hold it until the close of Mr. Madison's Administration.

The other office, that of Secretary of the Treasury, he subsequently filled during the administration of Mr. Adams. In all the business of the office he proved himself to be an able Administrator. His opinions upon the great financial question of the day, leading to a policy of protective duties, and his judgment in favor of it, were advocated with much ability. The question is one scarcely yet withdrawn from the disputed topics of governmental policy, either in this country or in Europe. He urged his convictions with candor, and did not shrink from their avowal at any period, even when they became subjects of partisan and vehement discussion. However correct or incorrect we may ourselves deem them, it is not to be denied that he found supporters of his views on this subject in some of the ablest American statesmen.

The most continuous portion, however, of Mr. Rush's public life was his representation of America as her minister in England and France. The former post he held for eight years, the latter for two.

It fell to his lot to take a leading part in some of the questions which subsequently proved to be of great national importance. In these measures he was aided by the great ability of the Secretary of State, Mr. Adams. Without attempting to trace, or even narrate these measures, which is the work of history, it should not be forgotten that he pressed with incessant activity the rights of the United States upon the northwest coast of America; and that his minute historical researches, as well as able arguments, disclosed most, if not all, the points of controversy upon which that angry question subsequently turned.

It is no longer a question of doubt that, after the close of the great wars of Europe, some of its most powerful sovereigns, who were united in the so-called Holy Alliance, entertained views of interference on the American continent, the character of which, never completely developed, would necessarily partake of the spirit and aims of that alliance. This disclosed itself to the sagacity of Mr. Canning, while Mr. Rush was in London. His views were communicated to Mr. Rush, and their negotiations became the basis of that quiet but decisive expression of the American Government without which the conduct of some of the European Governments would, in all probability, have led to consequences disastrous in American history. Without investigating the inferences, in regard to the policy of the United States, which, in subsequent political controversies, have been deduced from the language of President Monroe, and without expressing an opinion as to their applicability to subsequent events, which may or may not be similar—for this would be entering on the province of the historian—it must be admitted that the measure itself, adopted at the time and in the manner in which it was, has scarcely been surpassed in importance in the foreign policy of the United States. In its conduct, Mr. Rush displayed throughout great ability, discretion, vigilance, and temper. These qualities, indeed, marked in a high degree his whole diplomatic career in England.

Though his services as minister in France occupied a much shorter period, yet his residence in Paris embraced a portion of the reign of Louis Philippe, the whole of the Republic, and part of the Government of Louis Napoleon as its President. Notwithstanding his personal relations with the former sovereign, he did not hesitate in his duty as the representative of America, and without awaiting the course of the representatives of other countries, to recognise, so far as it was in his power, the free Government established by the French people. Although such an emergency could not have been anticipated by his instructions, he rightly judged the feelings and sentiment of his Government and his countrymen. His diplomatic conduct through the erratic course of events in France, which succeeded each other in quick succession, was marked, in each emergency, by the ability, promptness, resolution, and temper which characterized his first important movement; and when he retired from his mission, and with it from active public service, he returned to the United States with increased distinction and untarnished honor.

One feature remains to be noticed. His literary ability was superior. He loved habitually the best English authors. He was careful in the formation of his style. His mind was richly stored, perhaps, beyond any of his contemporaries, with the minute history of the men and times among which he lived. His judgment of individual character was less obscured by prejudice than is usual among politicians who lived through such stormy times. If he could ever err in accuracy in regard to events, it was from no want of an anxious search for truth, which he possessed excellent opportunities to ascertain. In his opinions on public measures it would be vain to say that all his judgments could be right, but they were always conscientious.

Much is it to be hoped that he has not gone to his grave without having left to his country some production of his historical pen. His Memoranda, given to the world at two successive intervals, disclosed in an agreeable narrative many of the incidents that occurred while he was in London. It is known that he frequently, like Mr. Madison, committed to the press communications on passing events. His letters were numerous and particularly fruitful. All these are of value, but how much more is it to be hoped that, to the few historic writings of Pennsylvania, there may be yet added a work which shall adorn, with a laurel wreath, this, her public-spirited son.

After some appropriate remarks from the Chair, it was unanimously resolved that the remarks of Mr. Gilpin be entered on the records, with an expression of the society's deep regret at the loss of their venerable, distinguished, and respected member.

A GOVERNMENT SPECULATION—THE BOSTON NAVY YARD AND THE STEAMSHIP CANADA.—It will be recollected that on the last voyage the Canada came in contact with an iceberg, which rendered it necessary on her arrival in Boston to be docked. No private dock being sufficiently large to receive her, application was made for admission to enter the dry-dock at the navy-yard, which was granted. This was courteous on their part, as it should be, but we protest against our Government taking advantage of such necessities, and rendering charges as though the Government dry-docks were built for the purpose of compensation. The bill against the Canada was $3,300, and deducting $1,300 for the actual cost, there is a credit to the Government of $2,000. If Boston had private dry-docks of sufficient capacity, and entering the dry-dock at Charlestown was a matter of choice rather than necessity, a charge of this kind would be perfectly proper, as the Government ought not to encourage anything interfering with private enterprise; but in the case of the Canada it was a necessity, and as such the Government should have charged nothing but actual expenses. We doubt whether any other nation would be guilty of such a petty transaction. The Canada was a mail ship, and as such it should be the duty of our Government to render what assistance is necessary in extreme cases.—*Commercial Bulletin, Aug. 6.*

THE WEEKLY PRESS.
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GENERAL NEWS.

TARRING AND FEATHERING A PROFESSOR.—We have already stated how Professor Poulton, the hero of "that elopement up North," got into jail, and how he got out again. Well, it seems, on regaining his liberty, he took his way by "easy stages" of foot travelling in night time, toward Lansingburg, his former residence. It seems, also, that his approach was anticipated, for, this morning, on the Mechanicsville road, about two miles above Waterford, might have been seen a large quantity of loose feathers scattered about, and an empty bolster case. To go back a little in time, and down a little in locality! About eleven o'clock on Saturday night, a horrid-looking object crossed over the Waterford bridge to the Lansingburg side. The gatekeeper ascertained that the object was Professor Poulton, making his way to his family home. He had been stripped stark naked for the operation, and he had, on being "finished," succeeded in getting on only his pantaloons, and his coat thrown loosely over his shoulders, and his thick coating of tar and feathers. Further particulars not ascertained; but the Professor had undoubtedly been "waited for" for punishment, and it was given to him severely.—*Troy Whig.*

SEIZURE OF AN AMERICAN STEAMER BY THE CHINESE.—A letter from Hong Kong, dated May 13, states that "a small American steamer, named the Cum Faa, plying between Macao and a Chinese village called Chong Sha, was taken by her passengers on the 4th inst. She had on board as passengers, a number of Chinese, who had just returned from California and were possessed of considerable money. A party of notorious Chinese pirates learning this fact, took passage also in the steamer. When she had proceeded some eight miles on her voyage, these fellows rose, drove the captain and crew into the cabin, and there confined them. The captain was badly hurt, receiving wounds on his head and hands. Simultaneously with the attack, three piratical junks ran alongside of the steamer, which the crews immediately boarded, gutting her of everything of any value, and taking every cent of money the California Chinamen possessed, after which they made their escape in their junks."

ATTACHING PROPERTY FOR ALLEGED BREACH OF PROMISE.—The Boston *Herald* of the 6th inst. says: "We learn that a well-known and well-circumstanced adopted citizen, residing in a town in this vicinity, has been sued within the past week by a young lady resident in South Boston, on a charge of breach of promise of marriage, and that the property of the gay deceiver has been attached to the amount of $10,000 to abide the result. The facts in the case are said to be extremely interesting. We are further informed, that in consequence of the peculiar condition of the young lady, a process has been issued from the police court of this city for the arrest of the Lothario, in order to secure the Commonwealth against being burdened with the expected responsibility."

AN OLD MAN.—Old free Reuben, one of the Wadsworth negroes who were manumitted by their master at his death, died last week. The old man was in his one hundred and fifth year. He held a good character for strict honesty and uprightness in the neighborhood in which he lived; and, what was singular, he has every year ploughed his own field regularly up to a few weeks before his death.

A NEW GOLD MINE.—The Calhoun (Gordon county, Ga.,) *Platform*, of July 28th, says that strong indications of a gold mine have been discovered on the land of E. S. Mann, of that county. In digging a mill race one pretty large piece was found, and some rather soft material was also found near by, out of which about a hundred particles were washed.

ATTEMPT TO COMMIT SUICIDE.—A married woman, named Ida Farley, attempted to commit suicide, in New York, on Monday evening last, by taking two ounces of laudanum. She lives at the corner of White and Church streets, and the cause of the rash act was that she lived unhappily with her husband, who expressed the wish that she might die.

DEATH OF A RUFFIAN.—A notorious ruffian, known in southwestern Arkansas as Jack Cade, was recently killed by a woman whose husband he had shot. The widow challenged him to fight a duel, and as the ruffian declined, she attacked him with a revolver and lodged three balls in his body, one of which passed through his heart.

INCREASE OF GEORGIA WEALTH.—We learn from the comptroller general that the *digests* of 112 counties, returned to his office, show an increase of the taxable property of the State, for the past year, of fifty millions of dollars in the counties for which returns have been received.—*Atlanta Intelligencer.*

DEATH BY HYDROPHOBIA.—A little son of Patrick Murphy, about 13 years old, keeper of the lodge at the mountain entrance of Llewellyn Park, near Eagle Rock, at Orange, N. J., died on Tuesday last of hydrophobia.

THE CHURCH AND SLAVERY.—At a meeting of Methodist ministers at Corydon, Ohio, on the 3d, a resolution was adopted by a large majority against any change in the discipline on the subject of slavery.

LOUIS NAPOLEON IN PRISON.—A drunken individual, rejoicing in the name of Louis Napoleon, was, before the police court of Cincinnati on Tuesday last, and, notwithstanding his name, sent to the city prison for three days.

PASSING COUNTERFEIT MONEY.—On Monday evening, a female, who gave her name as Ann Dolson, was arrested in Middletown, on a charge of passing a five-dollar counterfeit note of the Harrisburg Bank.

THE LIBERTY OF THE PRESS.—A meeting of the citizens of Buchanan county, Mo., was held a few days since, and resolutions passed, declaring that no Abolition paper should be published in the county.

DOUBTFUL REFORMATION.—Green, "the reformed gambler," has accepted the office of postmaster under Buchanan. His reformation may now be considered a doubtful matter.

SUICIDE IN CHICAGO.—Edward L. Griffith, baggage-master of the Illinois Central Railroad, at Chicago, committed suicide Tuesday last, by swallowing two ounces of laudanum.

THE Detroit *Advertiser* says: "This Pike's Peak humbug has been one of the most deliberately wicked and ruinous frauds ever perpetrated upon the American people."

SABBATH OBSERVANCE.—The Superintendent of Police of New York has issued an order requiring all tippling-houses to be closed on the Sabbath.

FOUND DEAD.—A man named Robert Engle, about fifty years old, was found dead on the farm of Wm. Hall, near the Oxford Plankroad, on Wednesday, the 3d instant.

GROVE MEETING.—A camp meeting is being held under the auspices of the Second Advent Church of Bristol, near Yardleyville, Bucks co.

THEY have a new kind of girls down at Newport this year—"girls all unconscious of their charms."

SUDDEN DEATH.—Dr. John Logan, of Allegheny county, Penna., died suddenly at his residence on Saturday last.

A COURT MARTIAL.—Major Cross, U. S. A., against whom grave charges have been made, is being tried by court martial in New York city.

FRANCE and Russia have agreed to restore the holy sepulchre at mutual expense, and to institute alternate Latin and Greek services.

FAIR.—The Agricultural Fair of Lehigh county will commence on the 29th of September, and continue four days.

CASSIUS M. CLAY has taken the stump for Bell, in Kentucky.

HON. JOHN A. DIX is to deliver the address at the State Fair, Albany, this year.

THE HON. JEFFERSON DAVIS is reported to be recovering from his recent dangerous illness.

From Lake Superior.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

PORTLAND, Lake Superior, July 27, 1859.

Among the distinguished visitors to the west end of Lake Superior, were Hon. Mr. Bright, U. S. Senate, and General Hiram Walbridge, of New York. Senator Bright and three others started from Superior City last week, on a trip over the new road to Crow Wing, on the Mississippi river, above St. Paul. The Government steamer Search, Captain Geo. Meade, U. S. army, of Philadelphia, arrived July 21. This steamer is the first Philadelphia vessel which has yet made its appearance at Superior City. It was built by Messrs. Merrick & Son, and does them great credit. Captain Meade made some important observations connected with the variation of the magnetic needle, and erected a gauge to determine the rise and fall of the waters of the lake. He will no doubt solve the vexed question of tidal motion so long in dispute. A party of ladies and gentlemen of Superior City accompanied the steamboat to Onesta on the Bay of St. Louis, distant about eight miles from the dock, and had a most delightful excursion. A meeting was held, Major McAboy called on to preside, and James S. Ritchie, of Philadelphia, as secretary. Gen. Hiram Walbridge delivered one of his best speeches, complimenting the captain and officers, the ladies, and the United States officials present, and concluded with a prophecy of the destiny in store for Superior City. Captain Meade made a beautiful little speech in return, the music struck up, and with three cheers the assembly dispersed. The steamer Search having completed her errand, left before daylight. We also expect the United States steamer Michigan, and the revenue cutter.

The steamer North Star laid over all night, and the citizens of Superior enjoyed a dance, which was kept up until nearly day-break. The Star received a very heavy load of lumber, laths, potatoes, etc., for the mining towns along the lake.

The United States land officers are engaged in the hearing of a very important case concerning the Superior City town site of three hundred and twenty acres, long in dispute. Three or four parties are interested, but I believe it will result like the fight of the Kilkenny cats. If the squatters hold on, and they say they will, no power can dispossess them.

Three persons arrived at Superior, via the United States military road, from Rum river, Minnesota; they are engaged in the lumber business, and seek an outlet to the head of Lake Superior, instead of the round-about way via St. Paul to the East. There is an immense trade anxiously seeking its outlet at the head of Lake Superior.

It is to be hoped that Congress, the next session, will make those rascals connected with the Land Grant Railroad give up to capable men, who will not sacrifice our interests.

Upwards of two hundred carts arrived at St. Paul up to July 17th, from Selkirk settlement, British America, and the train from the American side of the line has not yet arrived. The total amount which will be expended in this trade, during the present month, will exceed two hundred thousand dollars. The *Pioneer and Democrat* executed an order for the first job printing ever turned out for the Selkirk settlement. It consisted of some twenty varieties of printing in the English and French languages. NORTH SHORE.