David Sobach Esq

READING GAZETTE & DEMOCRAT.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE CITY OF READING, BERKS COUNTY, PA.--TERMS: $1,50 A YEAR IN ADVANCE.

J. LAWRENCE GETZ, EDITOR.] SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 26, 1863. [VOL. XXIV—NO. 36.—WHOLE NO. 2000.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY MORNING.

Office, North-West corner of Penn and Fifth street, adjoining the Farmers' Bank of Reading.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

$1,50 *a year, payable in advance.*
1,00 for six months, in advance.
To Clubs: Four copies for $5, in advance.
Ten copies for $12, "

All papers discontinued at the expiration of the time paid for.

RATES OF ADVERTISING IN THE GAZETTE.

	1 3t.	1mo.	3mo.	6mo.	1y.
½ Square, 5 lines, or less,	$ 50	75	2,00	3,00	5,00
1 " 10 "	$1,00	1,25	3,00	5,00	8,00
2 " 20 "	2,00	2,50	5,00	8,00	15,00
3 " 30 "	3,00	3,75	7,50	12,00	20,00

[Larger Advertisements in proportion.]

Executors' and Administrators' Notices, 6 insertions $2,00
Auditors' Notices and Legal Notices, 3 " 1,50
Special Notices, as reading matter, 10 cts. a line for one insertion.

Marriage notices 25 cents each. Deaths will be published gratuitously.

All Obituary Notices, Resolutions of Beneficial and other Private Associations, will be charged for, as advertisements, at the above rates.

Advertisements for Religious, Charitable and Educational objects, one-half the above rates.

All advertising will be considered payable in cash, on the first insertion.

Yearly advertisers shall have the privilege (if desired) of renewing their advertisements *every three weeks*—but *not oftener*. Any additional renewals, or advertising exceeding the amount contracted for, will be charged *extra* at one-half the rates above specified for transient advertisements.

Yearly advertisers will be charged the same rates as transient advertisers for all matters *not relating strictly to their business.*

PRINTING OF EVERY DESCRIPTION

Executed in a superior manner, at the *very lowest prices.* Our assortment of JOB TYPE is large and fashionable, and our Work speaks for itself.

BLANKS OF ALL KINDS,

Including Parchment and Paper Deeds, Mortgages, Bonds, Articles of Agreement, Leases, and a variety of Justices' Blanks, kept constantly for sale or printed to order.

ANDREW M. SALLADE,

ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW, 553 New Jersey Avenue, Washington, D. C. Prompt attention will be given to business in the Supreme Court, Court of Claims, Patent Office, War and Navy Departments. [nov 28-tf

Dr. JOSEPH COBLENTZ,

OFFERS HIS PROFESSIONAL SERVICES to the citizens of Reading and vicinity. He can be consulted in German and English. Office and residence, 441 Penn street, adjoining the Farmers' Bank.
October 31, 1863—1y*

JESSE G. HAWLEY,

ATTORNEY AT LAW,

HAS REMOVED HIS OFFICE TO TH[illegible] Sixth Street, opposite the Keystone House, Reading.
April 11, 1863-tf

JOHN RALSTON,

ATTORNEY AT LAW.

OFFICE WITH A. B. WANNER, No. [illegible] Sixth Street, (above the Court House,) Reading.
February 21, 1863-1y

REMOVAL.

WILLIAM H. LIVINGOOD, ATTORNEY AT LAW, has removed his office to the north side of Court street first door below Sixth. [dec 22-

Charles Davis,

ATTORNEY AT LAW—HAS REMOVED HIS Office to the Office lately occupied by the Hon. David F. Gordon, deceased, in Sixth street, opposite the Court House. [april 14

Daniel Ermentrout,

ATTORNEY AT LAW—OFFICE IN NORTH Sixth street, corner of Court alley. [aug 13-1y

David Neff,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALER IN Foreign and Domestic DRY GOODS, No. 25 East Penn Square, Reading, Pa. [March 10, 1860.

LEBANON VALLEY INSTITUTE,

ANNVILLE, LEBANON COUNTY, PA.

A SELECT BOARDING SCHOOL.—COURSE of Instruction thorough and complete—number of Boarders limited. Vacations in September and October. Expenses per quarter $35. For Circulars and information, address,
March 7-tf] W. J. BURNSIDE, Annville, Pa.

LIVINGOOD'S

United States Bounty, Back Pay and Pension Office,

COURT STREET, NEAR SIXTH.

HAVING BEEN ENGAGED IN COLLECTing claims against the Government, I feel confident that all who have heretofore employed me will cheerfully endorse my promptness and fidelity. My charges are moderate and no charge made until obtained.
WILLIAM H. LIVINGOOD,
oct 18-tf] Attorney at Law, Court St., Reading, Pa.

DISCHARGED SOLDIERS

CAN NOW OBTAIN THEIR $100 BOUNTY from the U. S. Government, by application to
ABNER K. STAUFFER,
March 7-tf] Collection Office, Court Street, Reading.

ASA M. HART,

(Late Hart & Mayer,)

DEALER IN FOREIGN AND AMERICAN DRY GOODS, CARPETINGS, &c., Wholesale and Retail, at Philadelphia prices. Sign of the Golden Bee Hive, No. 14 East Penn Square. [april 17-tf

P. Bushong & Sons,

MANUFACTURERS OF BURNING FLUID, [illegible]te, Deodorized and Druggists' Alcohol; also, Pine Oil, which they will sell at the lowest Wholesale prices. Reading, Pa. Orders respectfully solicited. [march 12

G. M. MILLER, M. D.,

Eclectic Physician and Surgeon,

A GRADUATE OF THE ECLECTIC MEDICAL College Philadelphia, offers his professional services to the citizens of Hamburg and vicinity. Painful Surgical Operations, such as Setting Broken and Dislocated Limbs, Amputations, Cutting Cancers, Tumors, &c., will be performed under the influence of Ether, at the consent of the patient. Office at his residence in Main street, Hamburg, Pa.
May [illegible]-tf

DR. T. YARDLEY BROWN,

SURGEON DENTIST.

GRADUATE OF PENNSYLVANIA Dental College. Teeth extracted by Francis' Electro Magnetic process, with Clarke's improvement. With this method teeth are extracted with much less pain than the usual way. No extra [illegible] Office in Fifth street, opposite the Presbyterian Ch[illegible] [april 2-1y

SOLDIERS'

BOUNTY-MONEY, BACK-PAY AND PENSION CLAIMS

PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO BY

A. K. STAUFFER,

Attorney at Law, Office in Court Street,
Jan 31-tf] READING, PA.

BOUNTY MONEY, BACK-PAY AND PENSIONS.

APPLICATIONS PROMPTLY ATTENDED to. E. H. SHEARER, Attorney at Law,
May 30-tf] Office in Court Street, Reading.

J. WESLEY SEIDERS,

Sign, House and Wall Painter,

No. 16 NORTH FOURTH STREET,

READING.

N. B.—GRAINING, GLAZING, BRONZING, Gilding on Glass and China, Glossing, &c. Work in the country promptly attended to.
November 14, 1863-6m

F. P. HELLER,

WATCHMAKER, JEWELER,

AND DEALER IN

WATCHES, CLOCKS, JEWELRY,

SPOONS, SPECTACLES, GOLD PENS, &c., Sign of the "BIG WATCH," No. 53½ East Penn Street, above Sixth, north side, Reading, Pa. Every article warranted to be what it is sold for. Watches, Clocks, Jewelry, &c., repaired with particular attention, and guaranteed. [feb 1-tf

FOR SALE AT THE OLD JAIL, THE CHOICest variety of Bar and Hotel Glass, China and Queensware furniture ever offered in Reading.

BALTIMORE LOCK HOSPITAL,

ESTABLISHED AS A REFUGE FROM QUACKERY.

The Only Place Where a Cure Can be Obtained.

DR. JOHNSTON HAS DISCOVERED THE most Certain, Speedy and only Effectual Remedy in the World for all Private Diseases, Weakness of the Back or Limbs, Strictures, Affections of the Kidneys and Bladder, Involuntary Discharges, Impotency, General Debility, Nervousness, Dyspepsia, Languor, Low Spirits, Confusion of Ideas, Palpitation of the Heart, Timidity, Trembling, Dimness of Sight or Giddiness, Disease of the Head, Throat, Nose or Skin; Affections of the Liver, Lungs, Stomach or Bowels—those Terrible Disorders arising from the Solitary Habits of Youth—those SECRET and solitary practices more fatal to their victims than the song of Syrens to the Mariners of Ulysses, blighting their most brilliant hopes or anticipations, rendering marriage, &c., impossible.

YOUNG MEN

Especially, who have become the victims of Solitary Vice, that dreadful and destructive habit which annually sweeps to an untimely grave thousands of Young Men of the most exalted talents and brilliant intellect, who might otherwise have entranced listening Senates, with the thunders of eloquence or waked to ecstasy the living lyre, may call with full confidence.

MARRIAGE.

Married Persons, or Young Men contemplating marriage, being aware of physical weakness, organic debility, deformities speedily cured.

He who places himself under the care of Dr. J. may religiously confide in his honor as a gentleman, and confidently rely upon his skill as a physician.

ORGANIC WEAKNESS

Immediately Cured and Full Vigor Restored.

This Distressing Affection—which renders Life and Marriage impossible—is the penalty paid by the victims of improper indulgences. Young persons are too apt to commit excesses from not being aware of the dreadful consequences that may ensue. Now, who that understand the subject will pretend to deny that the power of procreation is lost sooner by those falling into improper habits than by the prudent? Besides being deprived of the pleasure of healthy offspring, the most serious and destructive symptoms to both body and mind arise. The system becomes Deranged, the Physical and Mental Functions Weakened, Loss of Procreative Power, Nervous Irritability, Dyspepsia, Palpitation of the Heart, Indigestion, Constitutional Debility, a wasting of the Frame, Cough, Consumption, Decay and Death.

Office, No. 7 South Frederick Street.

Left hand side going from Baltimore street, a few doors from the corner. Fail not to observe name and number.

Letters must be paid and contain a stamp. The Doctor's Diploma hangs in his office.

A CURE WARRANTED IN TWO DAYS.

No Mercury or Nauseous Drugs.

DR. JOHNSTON,

Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, Graduate from one of the most eminent Colleges in the United States, and the greater part of whose life has been spent in the hospitals of London, Paris, Philadelphia and elsewhere, has effected some of the most astonishing cures that were ever known; many troubled with ringing in the head and ears when asleep, great nervousness, being alarmed at sudden sounds, bashfulness, with frequent blushing, attended sometime with derangement of mind, were cured immediately.

TAKE PARTICULAR NOTICE.

Dr. J. addresses all those who have injured themselves by improper indulgence and solitary habits, which ruin both body and mind, unfitting them for either business, study, society or marriage.

These are some of the sad and melancholy effects produced by early habits of youth, viz: Weakness of the Back and Limbs, Pains in the Head, Dimness of Sight, Loss of Muscular Power, Palpitation of the Heart, Dyspepsia, Nervous Irritability, Derangement of the Digestive Functions, General Debility, Symptoms of Consumption, &c.

Mentally.—The fearful effects on the mind are much to be dreaded—Loss of Memory, Confusion of Ideas, Depression of Spirits, Evil Forebodings, Aversion to Society, Self-Distrust, Love of Solitude, Timidity, &c., are some of the evils produced.

Thousands of persons of all ages can now judge what is the cause of their declining health, losing their vigor, becoming weak, pale, nervous and emaciated, having a singular appearance about the eyes, cough and symptoms of consumption.

YOUNG MEN

Who have injured themselves by a certain practice indulged in when alone, a habit frequently learned from evil companions, or at school, the effects of which are nightly felt even when asleep, and if not cured renders marriage impossible, and destroys both mind and body, should apply immediately.

What a pity that a young man, the hope of his country, the darling of his parents, should be snatched from all prospects and enjoyments of life, by the consequence of deviating from the path of nature and indulging in a certain secret habit. Such persons MUST, before contemplating

MARRIAGE,

reflect that a sound mind and body are the most necessary requisites to promote connubial happiness. Indeed, without these, the journey through life becomes a weary pilgrimage; the prospect hourly darkens to the view; the mind becomes shadowed with despair and filled with the melancholy reflection that the happiness of another becomes blighted with our own.

DISEASE OF IMPRUDENCE.

When the misguided and imprudent votary of pleasure finds that he has imbibed the seeds of this painful disease, it too often happens that an ill-timed sense of shame, or dread of discovery, deters him from applying to those who, from education and respectability, can alone befriend him, delaying till the constitutional symptoms of this horrid disease make their appearance, such as ulcerated sore throat, diseased nose, nocturnal pains in the head and limbs, dimness of sight, deafness, nodes on the shin-bones and arms, blotches on the head, face and extremities, progressing with frightful rapidity, till at last the palate of the mouth or the bones of the nose fall in, and the victim of this awful disease becomes a horrid object of commiseration, till death puts a period to his dreadful sufferings, by sending him to "that Undiscovered Country from whence no traveller returns."

It is a melancholy *fact* that thousands fall victims to this terrible disease, owing to the unskillfulness of ignorant pretenders, who, by the use of that *Deadly Poison, Mercury,* ruin the constitution and make the residue of life miserable.

STRANGERS

Trust not your lives, or health, to the care of many Unlearned and Worthless Pretenders, destitute of knowledge, name or character, who copy Dr. Johnston's advertisements, or style themselves, in the newspapers, regularly Educated Physicians, incapable of Curing, they keep you trifling month after month taking their filthy and poisonous compounds, or as long as the smallest fee can be obtained, and in despair leave you with ruined health to sigh over your galling disappointment.

Dr. Johnston is the only Physician advertising.

His credentials or diplomas always hang in his office.

His remedies or treatment are unknown to all others, prepared from a life spent in the great hospitals of Europe, the first in the country and a more extensive *Private Practice* than any other Physician in the world.

INDORSEMENT OF THE PRESS.

The many thousands cured at this institution year after year, and the numerous important Surgical Operations performed by Dr. Johnston, witnessed by the reporters of the "Sun," "Clipper," and many other papers, notices of which have appeared again and again before the public, besides his standing as a gentleman of character and responsibility, is a sufficient guarantee to the afflicted.

Skin Diseases Speedily Cured.

No letters received unless post-paid and containing a stamp to be used on the reply. Persons writing should state age, and send portion of advertisement describing symptoms.

JOHN M. JOHNSTON, M. D.,
Of the Baltimore Lock Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland.
May 23—1y

Richmond Prisoners! Richmond Prisoners!

THE DEPARTMENT AT WASHINGTON has decided to pay the WIVES AND FAMILIES Of Officers or Soldiers, Prisoners confined as [illegible]

The amount of pay that [illegible] WILLIAM H. LIVINGOOD, [illegible] has all the necessary forms [illegible] Pension Agent, [illegible] purpose; and for a speedy [illegible] expressly for the [illegible] claims, call on [illegible] LIVINGOOD.
nov 21-tf]

TO MY FRIENDS AND CLIENTS.

AS I SHALL NECESSARILY BE ABSENT from the County during [illegible] Congress, I have made arrangements with [illegible] of Pottsville, to take charge of my [illegible]ON, Esq., of [illegible] will be kept open as heretofore. My office and clients having legal business [illegible] my friends receiving prompt and efficient attention upon its return [illegible] of extensive legal learning [illegible] is a gentleman of the bar. I have full confidence [illegible] experience at and industry, and I therefore [illegible] integrity [illegible] interests of my clients and friends [illegible] the interest. Mr. F. W. CONRAD will also [illegible] attention. Respectfully [illegible]

POTTSVILLE, Pa., Nov. 21, 1863. [illegible] HOUSE. [illegible]21-3mo*

CLOTH[illegible]

PERSONS IN WANT OF C[illegible] Ready-made or made to order, [illegible] HER [illegible] LEVI, EINSTEIN [illegible] call on No. 619 Penn Street, above 6th, [illegible] will be found the largest stock of READY-MADE C[illegible] ever opened in Reading. A good, comfortable suit for [illegible] Good all wool Cassimere Pants for [illegible] in proportion. As we manufacture all our Clothing [illegible] goods upon it that every article is well made [illegible] work, such as is generally found in City [illegible] Having secured the services of Mr. [illegible] merly of Philadelphia, and Mr. Jacob [illegible] 25 years experience in the tailoring business [illegible] country, we are prepared to take measures [illegible] which we warrant to be of the latest style. All goods cut at this establishment [illegible] satisfaction or no sale.

N. B.—Mr. LEVI G. COLEMAN, well [illegible] the best Cutters in the State, is engaged [illegible]ment.

FICHTHORN,

DEALER IN

DRY GOODS,

FINE GROCERIES, PROVISIONS,

PRESERVES, FRUITS, &c., &c.,

No. 604

PENN STREET, ABOVE SIXTH,

READING, PA.

WE WOULD RESPECTFULLY CALL THE attention of the citizens of Reading and vicinity, to our large stock of Fine Groceries, comprising in part the following, to wit:

NATURAL FRUITS, IN SYRUPS.

FRESH CANNED PEACHES, GREEN GAGES, FRESH PINE APPLE, FRESH STRAWBERRIES, SUPERIOR FRESH TOMATOES, FRESH GREEN CORN, WINSLOW'S PATENT GREEN CORN.

Also, the following, put up in glass jars:

FRESH PEACHES, FRESH PLUMS, QUINCES, CURRANTS, GRAPES, GOOSEBERRIES, BLACKBERRIES, TOMATOES.

JELLIES, put up in glass tumblers:

CURRANT, STRAWBERRY, AND RASPBERRY.

DOMESTIC DRIED FRUITS:

Apples, Peaches, Cherries, Seedless Cherries, New-York State Plums, Black Berries, Elder Berries, Dried Rhubarb,

FRUITS:

Lemons, Layer Raisins, Bunch Raisins, Seedless Raisins, Currants, Citron, Lemon Peel, Figs, Turkey Prunes, Cranberries, Green Apples.

PICKLES, &c.:

Plain and Mixed PICKLES, in glass jars. Also, by the dozen or less.

Extra Tomato Catsup, Horse Radish, Chow Chow, Prepared French Mustard, Virgin Oil, Olive Oil.

EXTRACTS:

Burnett's Superior Extract of Vanilla, Burnett's Superior Extract of Lemon, Leavitt's Extract of Almond, Leavitt's Extract of Rose, Richards' Liquid Rennet, Essence Lemon, Cinnamon, &c.

MOLASSES:

Lovering's Extra Syrup; Sugar House Syrup; New-York Syrup; Southwark Syrup.

SUGARS:

Brown and Refined Sugars of all qualities and prices.

COFFEE:

Java, Rio, Wheat and Rye Coffee; Army Coffee; Atmore's Coffee; Middleton's Java and Middleton's Dandelion Coffee; Miles' Sano Coffee; Superior Santos Coffee.

TEAS:

Imperial, Young Hyson, and Superior Black Teas.
Baker's Chocolate, Baker's Cocoa, Baker's Broma.
Oswego Corn Starch,
Hecker's Farina,
Rich Mild Cheese,
New City Sugar Cured Ham,
Shoulders and Flitch,
New No. 1, 2 and 3 Mackerel,
Herring and Codfish,
New Mess Shad,
Soda, Farnia and Water Crackers,
Cracker Dust,
Ginger Snaps and Almond Cakes,
New Hominy and Beans,
Pearl Barley, Rice Flour and Rice,
Essence Coffee and Succory,
Sweet Cider, Pure Cider Vinegar and Patent Vinegar.
Sperm, Adamantine and Tallow Candles,
Non-explosive Coal Oil,
Marseilles Castile Soap,
Variegated, Windsor and Honey Soap.
Linen, Detersive, Oleine, Olive and Home-made Soap,
Silver Gloss Starch, Pearl Starch,
Alden's Alkali for Soap making,
Excelsior Stove Polish, Indigo Blue,
Canary and Hemp Seed,
Saleratus, Baking Soda, Azumea, Cream Tartar,
Wall, Scrub, Sweeping, Dusting, Stove and Shoe Brushes.
Brooms and Whisks,
Wash Boards and Buckets,
Tying and Wick Yarn,
Woolen Yarn and Cotton Rolls,
Hazard's Congress Paste Shoe Blacking,
Nuttall's Nonpareil Shoe Blacking,
Pure and fresh Spices of all kinds.

Give us a call, at No. 604 Penn Street, above 6th.
nov 21] FRANK. B. FICHTHORN.

438 PENN STREET, READING,

WEST MARKET SQUARE.

THE NEW YORK DRY GOODS STORE.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

To the Purchasers of

DRY GOODS.

We are now

SELLING OFF

Our valuable stock

AT REDUCED PRICES,

In order, as nearly as possible,

TO EFFECT A CLEARANCE

In a limited period, or

BY THE FIRST DAY OF JANUARY NEXT,

And have marked down

Dress Goods from 10 to 25 per Cent.

CLOTHS AND PANTALOON STUFFS,

15 to 25 per cent.

LADIES' CLOAKS AND COATS,

15 to 25 per cent.

Shawls, Long and Square, reduced one quarter.

BLANKETS REDUCED,

200 colored do. at half their value.

WOOL HOSE AND HALF HOSE,

At half price.

FLANNELS REDUCED 20 PER CENT.

Linen and Cambric Handkerchiefs at less than old prices.

QUILTS, COUNTERPANES, &c., &c.,

Decided Bargains.

The GOODS are of the best fabrics and

WARRANTED,

And need only an examination by the intelligent public to satisfy them of their worth and the great advantages now offered.

On account of extensive business transactions in New-York, the proprietor is unable to continue his personal supervision of the Reading concern. Any merchant wishing to obtain a first class location and enjoy the privilege of the prestige of the New-York Dry Goods Store, will find this a rare chance to get a valuable Business Location at a moderate rent.
dec 5] CHARLES G. HOOK.

GRAINS! (MALT.)

GRAINS CAN CONSTANTLY BE HAD AT LAUER'S BREWERY, corner of Third and Chestnut streets. F. LAUER.
December 7, 1861-tf

TO SPORTSMEN!

THE BEST AND CHEAPEST PLACE TO buy Guns, Powder, Shot, Caps, &c., is at GEO. LERCH & CO., 504 Market Square, Reading, Pa.
Oct 17]

Poetry.

HERE'S CHRISTMAS.

Here's "Christmas"—let us boldly greet him,
We may as well, for none can cheat him;
He will steal on, and slyly sprinkle
The first gray hair and first faint wrinkle.
And yet methinks it little matters
What seed of ruin-moss he scatters,
So that amid it we contrive
To keep Truth's Heartsease still alive
Within our breast.

Here's Christmas, and it seemeth well
That Conscience to our deeds should tell
The just result of all we've done,
And trace the way our sands have run.
Let us peruse the closely sealed,
The volume ever unrevealed,
And see if we have said or thought
No evil thing that shall have brought
Blots on our crest.

The heart is but a ledger-sheet
Where Right and Wrong in balance meet,
And well it is that we should see
Full often how "accounts" may be.
Old Christmas has a trick, we find,
Of bringing bills of every kind,
So, ere we drain the festive cup,
We'll look within, and reckon up
The debts we owe.

Let us not idly shirk the task,
But face ourselves, and boldly ask
Our conduct whether it has trod
The path of Mammon or of God?
A more important "day-book" lives
Than that which worldly commerce gives;
Some brighter figures must be found
Than those which make the golden round
Of Profit's dial.

Let us take heed that no arrears
Are due to those whose silent tears
Are calling on us night and day
For debts which mercy ought to pay;
Let us be sure that we have heard
The claims of Misery's lowly word,
And that our lips have never driven
The helpless and the spirit-riven
With harsh denial.

Let us think how "accounts" may stand
When the "recording angel's" hand
Adds up our columns—turning then
To the "great book" not kept by men.
No yellow dust will serve to hide
The errors made by selfish pride;
False items, though on vellum page,
Will never bear the searching gauge
Of holy sight.

So take good caution how we let
Delusion lead us into debt;
And let old Christmas find us willing
To pay Humanity's last shilling.
We'll pile the log and drain the cup,
But not before we reckon up
The "balance-sheet" that Conscience draws,
And God e'er keeps by His own laws
Of Wrong and Right.

Tales and Sketches.

A CHRISTMAS DINNER.

BY CHARLES DICKENS.

Christmas time! The man must be a misanthrope indeed, in whose breast something like a jovial feeling is not aroused—in whose mind some pleasant associations are not awakened—by the recurrence of Christmas. There are people who will tell you that Christmas is not to them what it used to be that each succeeding Christmas has found some cherished hope, or happy prospect of the years before, dimmed or passed away, and that the present only serves to remind them of reduced circumstances and straitened incomes—of the feasts they once bestowed on hollow friends and of the cold looks that meet them now in adversity and misfortune. Never heed such dismal reminiscences. There are few men who have lived long enough in the world who cannot call up such thoughts any day in the year. Then do not select the merriest of three hundred and sixty five for your doleful recollections, but draw your chair nearer the blazing fire—fill the glass and send round the song—and if your room be smaller than it was a dozen years ago, or if your glass be filled with reeking punch, instead of sparkling wine, put a good face on the matter, and empty it off-hand, and fill another, and troll off the old ditty you used to sing, and thank God it's no worse. Look on the merry faces of your children as they sit round the fire. One little seat may be empty; one slight form that gladdened the father's heart, and roused the mother's pride to look upon, may not be there. Dwell not upon the past; think not that one short year ago, the fair child now resolving into dust, sat before you with blooming health upon its cheek, and the gay unconsciousness of infancy in its joyous eye. Reflect upon your present blessings—of which every man has many—not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some. Fill your glass again, with a merry face and contented heart. Our life on it but your Christmas shall be merry, and your new year a happy one.

Who can be insensible to the outpourings of good feeling, and the honest interchange of affectionate attachment which abound at this season of the year? A Christmas family party! We know nothing in nature more delightful! There seems a magic in the very name of Christmas. Petty jealousies and discords are forgotten; social feelings are awakened in bosoms to which they have long been strangers: father and son or brother or sister, who have met and passed with averted gaze, or a look of cold recognition for months before, proffer, and return the cordial embrace, and bury their past animosities in their present happiness. Kindly hearts that have yearned towards each other, but have been withheld by false notions of pride and self-dignity, are again reunited, and all is kindness and benevolence! Would that Christmas lasted the whole year through, and the prejudices and passions which deform our better nature, were never called into action among those to whom they should ever be strangers!

The Christmas family party that we mean, is not a mere assemblage of relations, got up at a week or two's notice, originating this year, having no family precedent in the last, and not likely to be repeated in the next. It is an annual gathering of all the accessible members of the family, young or old, rich or poor; and all the children look forward to it, for two months beforehand, in anticipation. Formerly it was held at grandpapa's; but grandpapa is getting old, and grandmamma getting old too, and rather infirm, they have given up housekeeping, and domesticated themselves with Uncle George, so the party always takes place at Uncle George's house, but grandmamma sends in most of the good things and grandpapa always will toddle down all the way to Newgate-market, to buy a turkey, which he engages a porter to bring home behind him in triumph, always insisting on the man's being rewarded with a glass of spirits over and above his hire, to drink "a merry Christmas and a happy new year" to aunt George. As to grandmamma, she is very secret and mysterious for two or three days beforehand, but not sufficiently so to prevent rumors getting afloat that she has purchased a beautiful new cap with pink ribbons for each of the servants, together with sundry books and pen-knives, and pencil-cases for the younger branches; to say nothing of divers secret additions to the order originally given by Aunt George at the pastry-cook's, such as another dozen of mince-pies for the dinner, and a large plum cake for the children.

On Christmas eve, grandmamma is always in excellent spirits, and after employing all the children during the day in stoning the plums and all that, insists regularly every year on Uncle George coming down into the kitchen, taking off his coat, and stirring the pudding for half an hour or so, which Uncle George good-humoredly does to the vociferous delight of the children and servants; and the evening concludes with a glorious game of blind man's buff, in an early stage of which grandpapa takes care to be caught, in order that he may have an opportunity of displaying his dexterity.

On the following morning, the old couple, with as many of the children as the pew will hold, go to church in great state, leaving Aunt George at home dusting decanters and filling castors, and Uncle George carrying bottles into the dining-parlor, and calling for cork screws, and getting into everybody's way.

When the church-party return to lunch grandpapa produces a small sprig of misletoe from his pocket, and tempts the boys to kiss their little cousins under it—a proceeding which affords both the boys and the old gentleman unlimited satisfaction, but which rather outrages grandmamma's idea of decorum, until grandpapa says, that when he was just thirteen years and three months old, *he* kissed grandmamma under a misletoe too, on which the children clap their hands and laugh very heartily, as do Aunt George and Uncle George; and grandmamma looks pleased and says with a benevolent smile, that grandpapa always was an impudent dog, on which the children laugh very heartily again, and grandpapa more heartily than any of them. But all these diversions are nothing to the subsequent excitement when grandmamma in a high cap and slate-colored silk gown, and grandpapa with a beautifully plaited shirt-frill, and white neckerchief, seat themselves on one side of the drawing-room fire, with Uncle George's children and little cousins innumerable, seated in the front, waiting the arrival of the anxiously expected visitors. Suddenly a hackney-coach is heard to stop, and Uncle George, who has been looking out of the window, exclaims "Here's Jane!" on which the children rush to the door, and helter-skelter down stairs; and Uncle Robert and Aunt Jane, and the dear little baby, and the nurse, and the whole party, are ushered up stairs amidst tumultuous shouts of "Oh my!" from the children, and frequently repeated warnings not to hurt baby from the nurse; and grandpapa takes the child, and grandmamma kisses her daughter, and the confusion of this first entry has scarcely subsided when some other aunts and uncles with more cousins arrive, and the grown up cousins flirt with each other, and so do the little cousins too, for that matter, and nothing is to be heard but a confused din of talking, laughing, and merriment.

A hesitating double knock at the street door, heard during a momentary pause in the conversation, excites a general inquiry of "Who's that?" and two or three children who have been standing at the window, announce in a low voice, that "it's poor Aunt Margaret." Upon which Aunt George leaves the room to welcome the new comer, and grandmamma draws herself up rather stiff and stately, for Margaret married a poor man without her consent, and poverty not being a sufficiently weighty punishment for her offence, has been discarded by her friends, and debarred the society of her dearest relatives. But Christmas has come round, and the unkind feelings that have struggled against better dispositions during the year, have melted away before its genial influence, like half formed ice beneath the morning sun. It is not difficult in a moment of angry feeling for a parent to denounce a disobedient child; but to banish her at a period of general good will and hilarity, from the hearth round which she has sat on many anniversaries of the same day, expanding by slow degrees from infancy to girlhood, and then bursting almost imperceptibly into the high-spirited and beautiful woman, is widely different. The air of conscious rectitude and cold forgiveness, which the old lady has assumed, sits ill upon her; and when the poor girl is led in by her sister, pale in looks, and broken in spirit—not from poverty, for that she could bear, but from the consciousness of undeserved neglect and unmerited unkindness—it is easy to see how much of it is assumed. A momentary pause succeeds; the girl breaks suddenly from her sister and throws herself, sobbing, on her mother's neck. The father steps hastily forward and grasps her husband's hand. Friends crowd round to offer their hearty congratulations, and happiness and harmony again prevail.

As to the dinner, it's perfectly delightful—nothing goes wrong, and everybody is in the best way of spirits, and disposed to please and be pleased. Grandpapa relates a circumstantial account of the purchase of the turkey, with a slight digression relative to the purchase of previous turkeys on former Christmas days, which grandmamma corroborates in the minutest particular. Uncle George tells stories and carves poultry, and takes wine, and jokes with the children at the side-table, and winks at the cousins that are making love, or being made love to, and exhilarates everybody with his good humor and hospitality; and when at last a stout servant staggers in with a gigantic pudding with a sprig of holly in the top, there is such a laughing, and shouting, and clapping of little chubby hands, and kicking up of fat dumpy legs, as can only be equalled by the applause with which the astonishing feat of pouring lighted brandy into mince-pies, is received by the younger visitors. Then the desert!—and the wine!—and the fun! Such beautiful speeches, and *such* songs from Aunt Margaret's husband, who turns out to be such a nice man, and *so* attentive to grandmamma! Even grandpapa not only sings his annual song with unprecedented vigor, but on being honored with an unanimous *encore*, according to annual custom, actually comes out with a new one which nobody but grandmamma had ever heard before; and a young scape-grace of a cousin, who has been in some disgrace with the old people for certain heinous sins of omission and commission—neglecting to call, and persisting in drinking Burton ale—astonishes everybody into convulsions of laughter by volunteering the most extraordinary comic songs that were ever heard. And thus the evening passes, in a strain of rational good-will and cheerfulness, doing more to awaken the sympathies of every member of the party in behalf of his neighbor, and to perpetuate their good feeling during the ensuing year, than all the homilies that have ever been written, by all the divines that have ever lived.

NEW-YEAR'S DAY.

The first day of the year, for many ages and in various parts of the world was celebrated as a religious and social festival. With the post-biblical Jews the new year commenced and still commences with the autumnal month Tisri, the first day being celebrated by them with considerable ceremony. The Romans made an especial holiday of it, offering sacrifices to Janus, and taking care that all they thought, said and did, should be pure and favorable, since everything was ominous for the occurrences of the whole year. They appeared in the streets in festive garments, exchanged kindly salutations, and gave to each other presents called *strenæ*, consisting of gilt dates, figs, honey cakes, and copper coins, having on one side the double head of Janus and on the other a ship. This custom of bestowing presents was made by some of the emperors an important source of their personal revenue, until modified by a decree of the Emperor Claudius. The early Christian Emperors, however, continued to receive them, notwithstanding they were condemned by the ecclesiastical councils on account of the Pagan ceremonies at their presentation. Prynne, in his "Histrio-Mastix," referring to the hostility of the early church to any imitation among Christians of the Roman saturnalia, says: "The whole Catholicke Church appointed a solemn publike faste upon this our new year's day, to bewail those hethenish enterludes, sports, and lewd idolatrous practices, which had been used on it; prohibiting all Christians, under pain of excommunication, from observing the calends or first of January (which we now call new year's day) as holy, and from sending abroad new year's gifts upon it, (a custom now too frequent,) it being a mere relique of paganisme and idolatry, derived from the heathen Romans' feast of two faced Janus, and a practice so execrable unto Christians that not only the whole Catholicke Church, but even the four famous councils of (here follows a long array of authorities) have positively prohibited the solemnization of new year's gifts under an anathema and excommunication." The bestowal of gifts upon new year's day was not peculiar to the Romans. The Druids distributed branches of the sacred mistletoe, cut with peculiar ceremonies, as new year's gifts among the people; and the Saxons of the north, according to Bishop Stillingfleet observed the festival, and with more than ordinary jollity and feasting, and by sending gifts to one another. In spite of the opposition of ecclesiastical councils, the practice continued through the middle ages; and among kings and their powerful vassals the interchange of presents was a distinguishing feature of the first day of the year.

Henry III. of England is said to have extorted new year's gifts, and Queen Elizabeth's wardrobe and jewelry were probably almost wholly supplied from these annual contributions. It appears from the "Progresses and Processions" of her majesty, published by Nichols, that the lords, spiritual and temporal, of the realm, the chief officers of state, and the servants of the royal household, down to the master cook, sergeant of the pastry, and dustman, were among the contributors to these largesses, which consisted of money, rich wearing apparel, plate, jewels, trinkets, sweetmeats, and an infinite variety of other things. Dr. Drake says that, although the Queen made returns to the new year's gifts, in plate and other articles, she took care that the balance should be in her own favor. As late as 1692, as appears from the "Monthly Miscellany" for December of that year, the English nobility were accustomed, "every new year's tide," to "send to the King a purse with gold in it." Under the Tudors and Stuarts new year's gifts were given and received with mutual wishes of a happy new year among all conditions of people. An orange stuck with clover, or a gilt nutmeg was a popular gift; tenants sent their landlords capons, and ladies received presents of gloves or pins, or in lieu thereof, a compensation in money, whence the terms "glove money" and "pin money." Brande, in his "Popular Antiquities," enumerates many ceremonies and superstitious practices observed by the English and Scottish peasantry on the first day of the year, which, together with the once almost universal bestowal of gifts, have very much declined. In England the ringing in the new year from the belfries of churches is now the only open demonstration of joy at the recurrence of the anniversary. In Germany ceremonies derived from old superstitions are in vogue; but throughout continental Europe, although the day is a universal holiday, congratulatory wishes have generally been substituted for the more substantial expressions of esteem formerly interchanged by friends. In Paris and other large cities almost incredible sums are still expended in bonbons and similar articles for presents. In the city of New York the day is made the occasion of social visits by gentlemen among the families of their acquaintance—a custom dating back almost to the settlement of the town by the Dutch, and which has been imitated, with more or less success in other places in the United States.—*New American Cyclopædia.*

The Public Debt.—The Secretary of the Treasury, in his report, estimates the public debt, on the 1st of July, 1864, at $1,686,000,000; and on the 30th of June, 1865, at $2,231,935,190 37. This will be comforting news to the tax-payers of the country!

High Ton.—Yankee Notions says the phrase high *ton* so long monopolized by the fashionable world, now belongs to the coal dealers. A ton of coal, at seven dollars, is *high ton* with a vengeance.

A Hopeless Effort.—Edward Everett has been trying to persuade the President to reverse his unjust and outrageous decision in the case of Fitz John Porter.

THE NEGRO POLICY OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

Interesting Debate in the U. S. Senate, Tuesday, December 15, 1863.

Mr. Davis (Ky.) called up a resolution in relation to the exchange of prisoners, and proceeded to argue vehemently against the policy of refusing to exchange our suffering white soldiers—the languishing, starving, diseased white men—because the rebels refuse to exchange the negro captives. He denounced the policy of the Administration at length upon the several points in which the negro is affected—characterising its position as monstrous, and referring to the present era as "the reign of Abraham the first." He averred that his own loyalty was unspotted; that he hated, with undying vigor, the crime of secession, and that he should ever, in seeking to avoid the Scylla of the rebellion, use constant vigilance not to fall into the Charybdis of Abolitionism. It was evident that this policy was only a part of that designed to perpetuate the power of the Administration. He closed with an indignant protest against the refusal of the Administration to liberate thousands of dying white-men, for the sake of a few negroes.

Mr. Johnson (Md.) then addressed the Senate. He deemed it perfectly clear that humanity, which is the highest policy, demands the continuance of the change of prisoners. As the negroes were but few, he would suggest that an equal number of rebel prisoners should be held as hostages for the colored soldiers. He proceeded to combat the opinion of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. Davis) that these men should not be protected, and corrected his views of the power of the President by quoting from the Constitution relative to the Executive and Legislative power. Even supposing there was no army or navy to put down the rebellion, it was still the duty of the President to execute the laws and provide the means therefor. If a foreign foe has put his foot upon these shores, has not the President the right to call around him all the facilities which the power of the Government can supply? He cannot force men into the ranks, but he can call for volunteers. And has not Congress the power to call the slave population to the defence of the country? Though they are called property, for the purpose of taxation, they are still persons. It is not essential that they should be called citizens, to be called upon. If no citizens, they are men; but being property, they must be paid for, if thus called out in pursuance of the power given to the President. In conclusion, he said the Constitution will be returned to us in its original excellence, and the men who have violated it will be held to account. But until that day comes, we should, with one heart and voice, exert the whole moral and physical power of the Government in putting an end now and forever to an ambitious, unprovoked and treasonable attempt to destroy a Government the best ever vouchsafed to man; for destroying it would be to destroy Constitutional liberty itself.

Mr. Davis, in reply, argued that the preamble of the Constitution of the United States confers no power on the Government. This question was raised in the Supreme Court, and the interpretation there given was that the preamble neither creates nor confers on Government or any of the Departments any power whatever, but only points to the ends for which the power is conferred in the Constitution. It was the business of every intelligent man in America to know the principles of Government, and how its powers and principles are divided among the different Departments. The President has no right to suspend the writ of habeas corpus, which was a Legislative and not an Executive function. He altogether dissented from the positions and principles assumed by the Senator from Maryland [Mr. Johnson.] All the powers to be exercised are conferred by the Constitution alone, and there are no powers vested in the Government in any of its Departments, which are not conferred by the Constitution. Hence the President cannot raise troops or armies, nor has he the power to originate any measure to put down insurrection, without the assent of Congress. The positions of the Senator from Maryland are contrary to the decisions of the Supreme Court, and his doctrines are heretical and dangerous. Just in proportion as the principles of the Constitution are disregarded the Government is weakened and the rebellion strengthened. If the Executive had been governed by the principles heretofore announced as the true intent of the war, the rebellion would long ago have been put down; and the only way to regain what has been lost is to return to the proper basis on which to prosecute the war. It was the determination of the party in power that the war shall continue till the next Presidential election. The war would have been brought to a close long ago, if the Administration had singly and in good faith devoted itself to the principle announced in the Crittenden resolutions, and the commanders of the armies had not been selected, not because of their hostility to rebels, but because of their opposition to slavery.

Mr. Hale (N. H.) said that nothing was farther from his intentions. He rose to indignantly deny that it was the desire of gentlemen on this floor to continue the war in order to influence the next Presidential election. A more atrocious allegation against honorable men was never listened to from the beginning of time to the present moment.

Mr. Davis (Ky.) interrupting, said the Senator himself had heretofore remarked that the army of plunderers exceeded the number of soldiers in the field.

Mr. Hale replied that he never made such a remark, nor anything like it. He had said: "The liberties of this country were more in danger from profligacy in the treasury than from the rebels in the field." If the allegations of the Senator were true, he would sooner take into his own hands the head of a man from the charnel horse, reeking with pestilence, than the hands of those around him. If the allegation was true, every Senator was stamped with the foulest treason and perjury. The country is at war. The tremendous issue of national life or death trembles in the balance. Treason, with his red hand, aims a blow at the nation's life. The destinies of the country have been submitted to the gentlemen around him, who are bound by the sanctity of their oaths to sustain the country and the Constitution, and to defend the firesides and homes threatened by invasion, while the Senator from Kentucky says that they are hypocrites, and do not mean to sustain these objects.

Mr. Davis explained that he had reference to those in power.

Mr. Hale replied that the Senator had made an allegation which embraced every Senator. It was an allegation which, if true, would disgrace the vilest inmates of the penitentiary. The country is at stake. God is trying the great question of free government before the world, and in the course of his providence has entrusted the destinies of the country in their hands. Were they to have a man to rise here, and before the world, before heaven and earth, bring an allegation against them which, if true, would justify every inmate in the penitentiary to refuse to give them a friendly hand? The character of the President was also included in this allegation. He believed there was one thing that met everybody's assent—namely, that President Lincoln is eminently an honest man. To-day, for the first time, he had heard the honesty and patriotism of the Executive questioned. He apprehended the Senator did not appreciate the character of his accusation. None strikes a harder blow than he who loses confidence in the patriotism and integrity of those to whom are confined our destinies. If the Government has called for black soldiers to take up arms, and called them out to fight the battles of the country, it is bound to protect them, at all hazards, by every agency it can put forth, the Government having used them, and they having become prisoners; and if they are abandoned to their fate, it is guilty of baseness unparalleled in history. The party in power has one aim, and that aim is the country—but one purpose, and that is the