lieved that it was wrong to introduce the amendment here. He objected to the attempt to force it through in this hasty and inconsiderate manner. It was doing injustice. Some members might have had time to consider it in all its bearings, but few had either time or opportunity to do so. He thought, therefore, that it was not asking too much that the amendment should not be pressed at a time when the committee was discussing the census bill, with which it was not necessarily connected.

Mr. M. withdrew his amendment.

The Middlebury Register.

Middlebury, May 21, 1850.

Senator Phelps on the Compromise Report.

We referred last week, in brief terms, to the position of Senator PHELPS in relation to the report of the Committee of Thirteen—of which he was reluctantly a member—expecting to be able to give his remarks on that subject in the Senate, in our present issue. This we now have the pleasure of doing, through the full and accurate report of the Daily Globe.

The question being on printing the report accompanying the bill—

Mr. PHELPS. It was my purpose, Mr. President, to commit my own views upon the several topics referred to this committee to writing, and to present them to the Senate in the form of a minority report. Upon reflection, however, I have deemed it not expedient to do so. This determination renders it proper for me to say, in general terms, that, as was anticipated, it was my misfortune to differ with the committee on most of the prominent features of their report. Of course, sir, I am not to be considered responsible for the reasonings of the report. There are indeed many things in that report from which I think nobody will dissent; but there are other matters upon which there prevails in the country a great diversity of opinion. It is enough for me to say now, disclaiming the responsibility for the report, that I do not deem it proper on this occasion to detain the Senate with a more particular expression of my views. I will reserve them until these measures shall come before us for discussion, when I may think it proper to go more particularly into a defence of my views.

There is, however, Mr. President, one thing upon which I think it expedient to say a word now; that is, the subject of the construction to be given to the resolutions of annexation by which Texas came into the Union. That, sir, is a subject which I should have preferred to have permitted to pass without the expression of any opinion. It will be observed, however, that the report professes to present the unanimous opinion of the committee on that point. So far as the subject is discussed in the report, I am compelled to say that my opinion coincides with that of the rest of the committee; that is to say, as a mere question of construction of that resolution. I deem the resolution itself too explicit, and too clearly expressed to admit of cavil or doubt. So far as respects the power of Congress to admit States located in Territories not originally within the Union, it is my decided opinion that it is a question considered settled by the long-continued practice of the Government.

There is, however, another point which the committee have not discussed, upon which I choose now briefly to speak. It has been argued, that although these resolutions are valid so far as to admit Texas as a member of the Union, yet the terms of the resolution are not, in all respects, binding upon Congress. The argument is founded upon an objection taken at the time of the passage of the resolution, that it was not competent to bring Texas into this Union by means of an act of legislation. It was objected that it should be done through the medium, agency, and exercise of the treaty making power. I was most decidedly of that opinion myself at the time this resolution was passed. But I cannot say, Mr. President, that I am, as yet, satisfied with the argument drawn from the supposed unconstitutionality of adopting that resolution by legislative power alone. I am still inclined to the opinion that if Texas is admitted into the Union at all, she must be admitted upon the terms expressed in the resolution. But, sir, inasmuch as no action is now proposed on that subject, I have not deemed it my duty to give to this branch of the inquiry the examination which would be necessary and proper if I were now to be called upon to act. I have merely to add, therefore, that, should it be my fate hereafter to be called upon to act upon this question, I should reserve to myself the liberty of changing the opinion which I at present hold.

My object, therefore, in relation to this portion of the report, is merely to qualify the opinion expressed, and to reserve for future consideration and future decision the force of the argument drawn from the constitutional objections to which I have alluded. Indeed, so far as this whole topic is concerned, it would have been more agreeable to my wishes, and more conformable to my own judgment of the propriety of the measure, if the subject had been permitted to rest, instead of being introduced into the discussion, as a new topic of discussion and controversy. I would have said in regard to it, "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

With this explanation, Mr. President—an explanation which I would not deem it proper to make, if I were able to go into it more particularly—I have only to add, that should my own opinion be deemed of any importance to anybody, when a future opportunity shall be afforded, and when these several measures shall come up for discussion, I may deem it my duty to express them more at large.

Mr. Mann's Letter.

The views of Hon. HORACE MANN, on the topics at present agitating the country, have been very fully presented in a letter to his constituents. The letter is in substance, a speech, unembarrassed by the restraints of of legislative formalities, at least, if not characterized by a somewhat wider latitude of remark, and by greater freedom and severity of language than courtesy or propriety would admit within the halls of the National Legislature. In many parts it is a sectional address, appealing strongly to sectional prejudices, and tending still further to excite rather than to allay the existing commotion. The reader has, too, a certain ludicrous feeling of the presumption of such a man—a tyro in statesmanship—in arraigning the "defender of the Constitution" for his opinions of the Supreme law of our Union, no less than for a want of acumen and foresight; and that, too, in terms of arrogant censure, and almost of contempt. Yet, with all its faults, it is an ably written letter—like everything else from the pen of its distinguished author. Its great defect seems to be—not, certainly, a firm and manly stand for what we at the North believe to be *right*, but—the want of a proper regard to the spirit of the Constitution, and to what is *practicable*, in the present state of affairs. Mr. MANN's course in relation to the choice of a Speaker, and his expressions of confidence in Gen. TAYLOR, show, however, that he by no means belongs to the impracticable school of Wilmot and Palfrey. He is far above the narrow spirit which actuates these factionists.

Speech of Hon. James Meacham.

Mr. MEACHAM spoke for an hour, on Tuesday last—the House being in Committee of the Whole, on the President's California Message. From the brief report contained in the Republic, which is all that has yet reached us, we are assured that this first effort of our able Representative made a marked impression on the House, and reflected no little honor upon himself and his constituents. It has all the characteristics of his energetic, clear, and forcible eloquence.

Mr. M. takes decided ground against the "Omnibus" Compromise, and, regretting that other important interests have already suffered by reason of a protracted and unnecessary delay, advocates the immediate admission of California, with her Constitution as it is. He also presents, in a strong light, the decided and unchanged views of the people of this State, on the question of extending Slavery, for thirty years past.—But we should be doing Mr. MEACHAM injustice to attempt anything like a synopsis of his speech, at present. We refer our readers to the full report, which we expect to publish next week.

☞D A. SMALLEY, Esq., has shown up, in strong colors, the manly, disinterested, and amiable course of the Corresponding Editor of the Post, in his unprecedented attacks upon the Representative from this Congressional District, for presuming to give the all important appointment of *cadet* to another than *he* had recommended; and improves the occasion to read the said "corresponding" a page of personal history not particularly agreeable to his feelings, as we judge from the last Post. This exhibition of "Democratic harmony" affords rare amusement to outsiders. No serious results are apprehended.

☞We are informed, though perhaps it is not so, that about as many copies of the Post are taken in Middlebury, as there are of both the Register and Free Press put together.—*Brandon Post.*

Reckless statements like the above should hardly be allowed a place in a respectable newspaper. If, as the editor of the Post intimates, he doubts the correctness of his "information," he could not honorably publish it—and if he actually believed it, he must be an uncommonly gullible person. Our town list is "about" *ten times* as great as that of the Post. This statement we base upon actual knowledge.

☞The Corresponding Editor of the Brandon Post is unable to see any impropriety in filling the columns of that paper, every week, with matters belonging exclusively to another District. He may be right. We don't see any particular *harm* in it, at least.

☞Mr. JOHN WRIGHT, the noted caterer for great public occasions, passed through town, a few days since, on his way to Burlington, to make preparations for the grand Railroad celebration, which is to come off at that place on the 25th of June. The mammoth tent which he pitches on such occasions will hold, it is said, ten thousand persons—for whom he will be ready to serve up a dinner in the best style, and of the first quality. The same tent can also be put in requisition for "a little dance," in the evening. An immense crowd will no doubt be present at this celebration—the largest, probably, ever assembled on a similar occasion. We learn that Mr. WRIGHT expects a thousand guests from Boston.

☞A new Whig paper has been started at Irasburgh, called the "Orleans County Gazette"—J. A. & L. B. JAMESON, Publishers. The first number appears well, and we doubt not the Gazette will do effective political service. We hope it will be sustained by the Whigs of Northern Vermont.

☞The American Courier, published at Philadelphia, has commenced a series of American novelettes, by the most distinguished magazine writers of the country—to be published during this year. The lovers of such reading will here find it in abundance.

☞We are glad to learn that Mr. L. HEATH, of New Hampshire, composer of the "*Snow Storm*," and other popular pieces of music, will, in company with Mr. RIX, of Lowell, one of the best Bass singers in the country, give a concert at this place in the early part of next month. We have heard both these singers, recently, with the highest gratification, and we hope they may have a cordial welcome from our citizens.

☞Mr. GOODRICH, whose concert in this place, last Winter, will be recollected, desires us to say, that he will be in town on the 29th inst., when he will attend to tuning pianos, and will furnish choice pieces of sheet music to such as desire it. He is highly recommended, as a tuner of pianos, by Mr. Chickering and other competent judges.

☞We had a light frost, in this region, last Saturday night. The weather has been cold for some time, and the prospects for the season are anything but flattering.

☞Hon. S. S. PHELPS arrived in town on Thursday last. His health has been very feeble, but is now somewhat improved.

☞Rev. Townsend E. Taylor—a recent graduate of Middlebury College—is supposed to have perished in the late severe gale at the Sandwich Islands. At the last advices, he had sailed from Honolulu for Laihana, two weeks previous, and had not been heard of since.

☞The Boston "Railway Times Guide" is always posted up on all changes of hours on the several roads, *every week*, thus having an advantage over the monthly Guides. It costs only one cent.

☞The editor of the *N. O. Bulletin* says all the doubts he once entertained concerning the rumored invasion of Cuba are now dissipated. Very recently he has from authentic sources become possessed of information which convinces him that an effort is making to carry the plan into operation, and that the rash attempt will be made.

☞J. R. Spalding, Esq., of Montpelier, has recently returned from two years travelling in Europe, and is soon to be associated in the editorial management of one of the leading Whig papers of New York city. He has written some very able letters from the old world for the *New York Courier and Enquirer.*

THE "REPUBLIC."—A correspondent of the Tribune, writing from Washington, under a late date, says:

Things have come to a head in regard to *The Republic*. Its late articles have severed it completely from the Administration and Gen. TAYLOR. The President, we take the liberty to say, repudiates its course entirely, as will be made more distinctively manifest very shortly. The insinuations that have found expression, and if we understood Mr. CLAY to-day, were covertly intimated by him in his speech, to the effect that Gen. TAYLOR would sooner or later abandon his plan of settlement of the Slavery and Territorial questions, and go for the "Omnibus," are wholly without foundation. Gen. TAYLOR has never wavered a hair's breadth to the right or the left from the positions of his California Message, and he never will. *The Republic*, instead of echoing his opinions as is falsely assumed by the *Union* and the *New York Herald*, is flying directly in their face, and opposing itself to the strongest convictions of his understanding, the clearest convictions of his duty, and the unbending determination of his will.

Latest Foreign News.

The Hibernia arrived at Halifax on Wednesday last, with one week later news from Europe.

FRANCE.—The election in Paris passed off quietly. The Socialists are greatly elated by their success. Eugene Sue is elected to the Assembly by 8,000 majority. He received the votes of full one half of the Army at Paris. The aggregate vote stood, Sue, 127,812; Leclerc, 119,728.

For the relief of agriculturists, the French Government has resolved to establish public warehouses, in which farmers are to deposit their flour and other produce for which they cannot find a market, receiving in exchange an official acknowledgment; this written document will be negotiable, as a bill of exchange, for a sum equal to the market value of the articles deposited; and the Bank of France has agreed to discount these acknowledgments to the extent of 15,000,000 francs.

ENGLAND.—Another Prince was born on the 1st inst., at Buckingham Palace.

Intelligence has just been received of the arrival of Mr. Roe and Commander Pullen, of the Plover, at the Mackenzie; thus establishing the fact that Sir John Franklin's party had not reached any part of the coast between Bhering's Strait and the Copper Mine, whilst the check which Mr. Roe appears to have received in his course to the north of the Copper Mine, tends to give increased importance to the quarter eastward of that position.

Letters have been received from Sidperton, which mention that some slight improvements has occurred in the health of Mr. Moore, the poet, although he was still considered in a perilous state.

In the House of Commons, on Monday, Mr. Cockburn called attention to the case of the negro steward of the British Barque Mary Anne, who, although a British subject, had been seized at Charleston, and kept a prisoner two months.

ITALY.—The Pope, again seated at Rome, has not yet evinced his future policy; his army is being re-organized and raised to 12,000 men. All existing political tribunals have been abolished, and all political prosecutions abandoned. On the 18th of April, his Holiness gave a ceremonious benediction to the French army, in the Piazza of St. Peter.

SICILY.—Sicily was astonished on the 14th of April, by a violent earthquake. It was preceded by a bright light; then, at one o'clock in the day, came shaking and undulation of the ground. At Ragusa, many houses were damaged, and the city gates were opened to let the inhabitants escape; at Stagno, several houses were demolished.

TURKEY.—The Russian troops are at last ordered to quit the Turkish provinces of Moldavia and Wallachia—that is, some of the troops; General Luders has already departed, but 16,000 men will remain. The Turkish government insists that the troops shall be reduced to 10,000.

The GREEK difficulties are not yet settled.

A STARTLING DISCOVERY, confirmatory of the truth of the book of Jonah, has been made by Mr. Layard. In excavating the city of Nineveh, he discovered the name of Jonah inscribed upon the ruins. That prophet, as our readers know, was sent to announce to the people of Nineveh the destruction of the city. His eloquence converted many of them, and "God repented him" of the doom He had pronounced, and spared the city for that time. Jonah then became the prophet of Nineveh, and was reverenced by the inhabitants. As was the Oriental custom, they doubtless inscribed his name in conspicuous places on the walls of the public edifices, and the inscriptions engraved by Assyrian hands a thousand years before the Christian era, have been found by Mr. Layard. This is one of the most extraordinary *demonstrations* of the accuracy of Biblical history we have ever heard of.

As yet we have only seen the beginning of the end. The city of Nineveh has scarcely yet been entered, and when the excavations shall have been completed, if Mahometan jealousy should ever permit that consummation, we may expect illustrations of the prophecies that will strike the world with awe and wonder.

Great credit is due to the British government for the munificent spirit they have exhibited in aiding the labors of Mr. Layard—placing at his command vessels for the navigation of the Euphrates, conveying to England the magnificent sculptures which he has disentombed, and affording him every facility which money or British authority could secure. We should be glad to see a similar spirit exhibited by the government of this country in reference to American antiquities.—*N. ab's Sunday Times.*

CALIFORNIA GOLD NO NEW DISCOVERY.—The mines in the quartz region have undoubtedly been worked at some period far back. An opening was lately discovered in one of the quartz hills, and it was found to be a shaft very deeply sunk. Upon exploring it, three galleries were found leading from it through the rock, all of which were regularly and skillfully propped on the sides and safely roofed. The rock was found to be very rich in gold, and the amount taken from it must have been immense.

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—Mr. James Lewis Smithson, a natural son of the Duke of Northumberland, and a gentleman of some repute as a scientific chemist, died in 1830. He was noted for his skill in analyzing minute quantities; and it was he who caught a tear as it fell from a lady's cheek, and detected the salts and other substances which held it in solution. Mr. Smithson was a Fellow of the Royal Society and intended to bequeath his large wealth to that body at his death; but taking offence at some real or fancied slight towards him on their part, he altered his will, and left his property to the government of the United States of America, "to found at Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men."

It appears that the amount of the bequest, 515,168 dollars (above £100,000), was paid into the United States Treasury in 1838. Some years were suffered to elapse before the preliminary arrangements were determined on; at length, in 1846, the fund, then nearly 765,000 dollars, was placed under the control of the "Board of Regents" chosen to conduct the Institution. The Board consists of the Vice President of the United States, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and the Mayor of Washington, together with twelve other members, three of whom are appointed by the Senate from its own body, three by the House of Representatives from its members, and six citizens appointed by a joint resolution of both Houses.

CONGRESS.

MONDAY, May 13.

The Senate has been very much crowded to-day to hear Mr. Clay.

Petitions from citizens of the District of Columbia for a reorganization of the Judiciary of that District, were presented by Mr. Walker and others.

A communication was received from the War Department on the commerce of the North Western Lakes.

The Census bill, with amendments, was made the order of the day for to-morrow.

Mr. Dickinson introduced a bill for the coinage of three cent pieces, to be made of copper and silver; referred to the Committee on Finance.

The California Bill was then called up, when Mr. Clay took the floor and spoke for two hours, to an attentive Senate and crowded galleries.

Mr. Clay said no member of the Committee agreed to everything reported in the bill, but he was not discouraged; he yet indulged a hope that the Senate would agree on this bill and pass it by a handsome majority. On this report hangs the peace of the country. He defended the right of California to a representation. He regretted the difference between himself and the President; he thought non-intervention was dangerous; an independent government would be formed. Mr. Clay congratulated the Senate and the country that passion had begun to subside; the North and South were about to come together as brethren; he believed the President should have recommended a more comprehensive plan for the settlement of this question. Blood would be shed between Texas and New Mexico, if the boundaries were not settled. He answered Mr. Benton's speech in opposition to connecting any other question with that of the California question. Provisions forbidding Territories to legislate on slavery would operate alike on the North and South. He alluded sarcastically to Mr. Seward and pointed to the recent doctrines sent out by Garrison from the Tabernacle in New York; he believed seven tenths of the people were ready to support the plan of the Committee, and was glad to observe so many in the North ready to drop the Proviso. He hoped for a harmonious termination of the affair.

The House, in Committee of the Whole, resumed the discussion of the President's California Message. Mr. Clark made a warm, good-natured speech in favor of the President's plan. Mr. Savage made an energetic Pro-slavery speech. Mr. Meacham had the floor when the House adjourned.

TUESDAY, May 14.

In Senate, the deficiency appropriation bill was reported, and the House amendments concurred in.

Mr. Douglas, from the Finance Committee, reported a general bill to refund duties paid on goods destroyed by the great fire of '45 in New York.

The census bill was taken up, and the Senate disagreed to the amendment of the House, substituting a new set of statistical tables. The additional section adopted by the House, making the present a perpetual census act until some new law shall be passed, was agreed to. The question then recurred upon the House amendment providing that from and after the 31 of March, 1853, the House of Representatives shall be composed of 233 members. The Senate Committee reported in favor of reducing the number to 200, which was rejected, and the House amendment adopted, as also were the remaining additional sections made by said House.

In the House, Mr. Stanley's (Whig) resolution to terminate the debate on the President's Message, transmitting the Constitution of California, on the 23d inst., was adopted.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on the California Message, and Mr. Meacham of Vermont spoke in favor of the admission of California as an independent measure, and not mixing it up with others. He claimed that Vermont thirty years ago took a stand to prohibit slavery in the Territories, and incidentally condemned the Clay Compromise.

Mr. Julian (Free Soil) of Indiana, denied that the North had aggressed on the South. He made a calm and decided anti-slavery speech. The Committee rose, and the House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, May 15.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the admission of California and the establishment of Territorial Governments. Mr. Douglass expressed a desire to get a test vote upon the separation of the measure for the admission of California from the other subjects. With that view he moved to lay the bill under consideration on the table, in order to take up the bill for the admission of California, which was negatived, 24 to 28, as follows:

YEAS.—Messrs. Baldwin, Benton, Bradbury, Barton, Corwin, Chase, Clarke, Cooper, Davis of Mass., Dodge of Wis., Douglas, Felch, Greene, Hale, Miller, Norris, Seward, Shields, Smith, Spruance, Wales, Walker, Webster, and Yulee.

NAYS.—Messrs. Atchison, Bell, Berrien, Borland, Bright, Cass, Clay, Clemens, Davis of Miss., Dawson, Dickinson, Dodge of Iowa, Downs, Elmore, Foote, Houston, Hunter, Jones, King, Mangum, Morton, Pratt, Rusk, Soule, Sturgeon, Turney, Underwood, and Whitcomb.

In the House, the letter of Sir Henry Bulwer to Mr. Clayton, in relation to the trade from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast of the United States, and against certain changes in our Tariff, was the principal topic discussed.

Mr. Moore ("big) of Penn., said it had become a tangible reality that the act of '46 was for the interest of the British Government. Are we to study the interests of England, and consult public opinion there? Were gentlemen sent here for any such purpose? When he should so far forget himself as to act with fear lest he should displease England, his constituents would tell him to resign a position, which, by such conduct, he would disgrace. Let gentlemen meet the wishes of England, and what then? The next demand will be to do away with our revenue system entirely. It was novel to have intimated to us by a foreign source, that we must consult the interests of England rather than our own. If the amendment of his colleague (Mr. Calvin) should be voted down, he would move one, instructing the Committee of Ways and Means to inquire into the expediency of imposing an additional duty on iron, and substituting specific or *ad valorem* duties.

Mr. McLane, (Loco) of Md., with a view to dispose of the subject now, that the Census and Mint bills be taken up to-morrow, moved the previous question, which was seconded.

Without taking the question on pending amendments, the House adjourned.

THURSDAY, May 16.

In the Senate, the bill to reorganize the patent laws was considered.

Mr. Turney offered several amendments, which are now being debated.

The consideration of Mr. Clay's resolutions was resumed.

Mr. Davis modified his amendment, without changing the objects.

Mr. Foote gave notice of an amendment which he intended to offer in case Mr. Davis's should fail.

Mr. Clemens gave notice of another amendment, in favor of settling the boundaries of Texas, and removing the Indians.

Mr. Foote spoke two hours, following out the views he expressed yesterday.

Mr. Clemens attempted to reply amid numerous interruptions, but gave way to executive session. Adj. to Monday.

In the House Mr. Burt asked leave to refer the Senate bill to increase the frontier military force to the military committee. He thought action should be taken immediately, as the difficulties were formidable.

Mr. Jones objected to the request.

Mr. McLane reported the Canadian reciprocity bill, accompanied with the correspondence of Mr. Bulwer in its favor. After much trouble and confusion it was referred to the committee of the whole.

The House then took up that part of the letter respecting commerce which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. That part relating to iron was referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

A communication was received in answer to the enquiry concerning the government doings in regard to the disputed territory of New Mexico. Also, one from a second letter respecting State Banks, with some valuable statistics.

The House concurred in the Senate amendment to the coinage bill. The Senate bill was referred to the committee on the judiciary, and the bill for increasing the military was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

FRIDAY, May 17.

SENATE not in session.

HOUSE.—Mr. Burt submitted the Galphin claim report. He said that a diversity of opinion existed among the committee. He reported a resolution in favor of printing the different opinions of the members of the committee. Mr. McLane submitted a minority report. Mr. Brooks spoke against the printing in the midst of much interruption and confusion.

The Poet Wordsworth.

The steamship Niagara brought the news of the death of William Wordsworth. The London correspondent of the Philadelphia North American has the following notice of him:

WORDSWORTH, England's great poet, is dead. In the United States, where his writings are better known and more highly appreciated than they are in this country, his loss will be widely felt and deeply regretted. William Wordsworth was born at Cockermouth, in Cumberland, in 1770, and he died on Tuesday, April 23d, at noon, at his residence, Rydal Mount, Lake Windermere, Westmoreland, in his eightieth year. His health suffered a severe shock in the death of his only daughter, some time ago, but he was recovering his spirits; about a month since he was attacked with serious illness, from which he never rallied.

Wordsworth entered St. John's College, Cambridge, in 1787. After he graduated he made a tour through France, Italy and Switzerland. He first appeared before the public as an author in 1793, and his poems attracted general attention. He published another volume in 1798. He then travelled through Germany with his sister, and was joined by Coleridge. In 1803, at the age of thirty-three he married Miss Mary Hutchinson, of Penrith. In 1807, another volume of his poems appeared, and in 1814 his "Excursion" was published. Six years afterwards a volume of descriptive sonnets appeared. Wordsworth's poetry was now attracting much attention amongst the more intelligent classes of England, when it was most savagely attacked by the master pens of Gifford and Jeffrey. Blackwood, however, interceded for the poet of Rydal Mount, and, in a series of powerful and brilliant articles, elevated him to the very highest rank amongst the great geniuses of the nineteenth century. Wordsworth was appointed distributor of Stamps for the counties of Westmoreland and Cumberland, and this office, with a small income derived from his writings, secured to him a comfortable livelihood, and made his journey down the vale of life pleasant. On the death of Southey, Wordsworth was appointed Poet Laureate. Although he was treated with cold neglect by the critics when his first compositions appeared, yet now that he is gone, ample justice is done to his memory. "Full of years, as of honors," says the Times, "the old man had time to accomplish all that he was capable of accomplishing." "His life was as pure and spotless as his song." "His name will live in English literature, and his funeral song be uttered amidst the spots which he has so often celebrated, and by the rivers and hills which inspired his verse." "In losing him," says the Morning Post, the "country has lost one of the noblest minds which, in these times, have been devoted to poetry." "In the present century, rich as its earlier years were in poetry, there has been no poet combining such purity with such elevation of thoughts as Wordsworth."

WATERVILLE COLLEGE.—By a private communication from Waterville, Maine, we learn that the Literary Societies of Waterville College have chosen E. P. WHIPPLE, Esq., *Orator*, and C. G. EASTMAN, Esq., *Poet*, for their Commencement in August next.—*Burlington Sentinel.*

SELLING LIQUOR TO SLAVES.—Last January a slave belonging to a widow lady, in Platte county, Mo., bought a quart of whiskey at a store, got drunk, fell from his horse and froze to death. The widow lately sued the firm, and at the March term of the Platte court obtained a verdict for $850, the value of her negro.

☞There is a pleasant anecdote in a little satirical *brochure* just published, entitled "*The Crudities of the Code and the Codifiers*," of a tall, raw-boned recruit who was put on drill by a little cocksparrow of an officer: as every command was given to him, he would look down to see his commander, and was as often admonished to hold up his head. Repeated admonitions of the kind at length had the effect to induce the recruit to raise his head at least to a level with the setting sun, and the officer ordered him to keep it there. "What, always?" was the inquiry. "Yes, always!" was the stern reply. "Then good bye, lieutenant, I shall never see you again!"—*Knickerbocker.*

Homestead Exemption.

A Homestead Exemption law has lately been enacted by the New York Legislature, and is now a law of that State. Its features and provisions are chiefly the following:

The value of the homestead is not to exceed one thousand dollars, and a party to be benefited must be a householder, and have a family, and must reside upon the premises.

The exemption is to continue to the widow and family after the death of the exempt.

Notice must be given that the homestead is intended to be held as an exempted one, and a full description of it, which is to be recorded in a book to be called the "Homestead Exemption Book," otherwise the exemption law will not protect it.

The exemption law furnishes no protection against debts already contracted, and is in no manner retrospective.

Where an exempted estate is worth more than a thousand dollars, the residue can be sold for debt; or if it cannot be divided, it may be sold, and after paying one thousand dollars to the exempted owner, the residue goes to the creditor.

If, upon exposing a homestead to public sale, not more than a thousand dollars are bid, then the creditor is bidder, and the sheriff returns "no property found."

This law has many friends, but it has not met with anything like universal approbation. Some of the New York journals have been pretty severe upon it, and denounce it as a premium held out to idleness and dishonesty. They are a little hasty perhaps, in their denunciations, but still it has to us somewhat the appearance of a hazardous experiment. The value of the property to be exempted is pretty large, and the law is an innovation upon the principle not before invaded to such an extent, we believe, either in ancient or modern times, which subjects the property of debtors to the payment of their debts. In the course of its operation many very hard cases will occur without doubt, such as this—a very poor man, whose whole capital may be the two hands which nature gave him, may labor for an exempted householder, and be refused payment, and will be therefore without remedy, and his wife and children, "his family," who enjoy no exemption, may want bread, whilst the family of the protected swindler may be in the enjoyment of every comfort. Such cases will occur, or else that must take place which will be extremely inconvenient and detrimental to society at large—all credit must be denied to exempted persons; for if it is not, there will be cases of most villainous fraud and swindling.

These remarks do not apply, of course, to cases where the person holding an exempted estate may own property enough over and above, to secure the payment of all his debts, but to cases where that estate may be all, or nearly all, that the debtor may own.

There is no branch of legislation, we believe, with respect to which more caprice, more absurdity, more cruelty, and more injustice have been practised, than with respect to debtor and creditor. Anciently, in all countries, with scarce an exception, the debtor was regarded and treated by the laws not only as a criminal, but as a most atrocious one. In ancient Rome, where they went, above all things, *pro patria* and *pro libertate*, the debtor, however blameless he might be, might be enslaved, sold into slavery, incarcerated at the pleasure of the creditor, and even put to death. In the course of many centuries, this ferocious and bloody code has found some mitigation; but it came very slowly, and has not yet come in many countries; for yet, in many calling themselves enlightened and Christian, a debtor, though the victim of overwhelming misfortune, may yet be deprived of his liberty, whether he has any property or not; and although he cannot legally be put to death, by any compendious method, such as shooting, or hanging, or poisoning, yet he may be as effectually disposed of, though not as swiftly, by being consigned, at the instance of a creditor, to a pestilential dungeon, where he may be left to pine and perish, without air or light, or even wholesome food. In some Christian countries such is still the law; but in some, where the irrational and oppressive laws against debtors naturally become the subject of a reaction, the sympathies of society have all been turned against the creditor and in favor of the debtor, the former in his turn becoming the suffering party, and we are not by any means sure that in some cases philanthropy may not have run a little ahead of reason and justice, as in the case of this New York Homestead Law, which will, in less than two years, we think, be either amended or repealed; for within that time experience will have demonstrated its defects, the greatest of which is the protection it extends to one portion of society—the property-holders, and the withholding of it from another class—the laboring poor who will, in many cases, labor without remuneration for those favorites of legislative beneficence. It may be said that no man will be compelled to labor for those who do not pay promptly. This is an old argument and is easily answered. Those who are poor and must labor, must sometimes be content to give credit, and to take promises, or else go unemployed. It will be said also, that the exemption of the homestead is for the benefit of the owner's wife and children. This we would meet by saying that the poor man labors for his wife and children, and that to deprive him of the means of compelling his employer to pay when abounding in means, is to deprive his children of bread. If the law provided that the exempted property should be liable for debts in cases where the creditor was a poorer man than the debtor, this would be an improvement, and would reconcile many to it, who, as it now stands, never can be reconciled, among whom we would be, were we citizens of the State of New York—the magnanimity and benevolent intentions of whose legislation in this behalf we can applaud, but must, at the same time, doubt the expediency of the Homestead Exemption Law, as it now stands on the statute book.—*Daily Globe.*

For the Middlebury Register.

Mandeville's Readers.—No. 4.

The author of "Strictures" upon this series of Readers, brings the same objections against the third and fourth books, that he brought against the first and second, still complaining of the demands which they make upon "children." But if the four books of which he speaks are all that are to be used in the common school, the last books must be in the hands of those who are old enough to gain some idea of the *science of language*; according to his own showing, if so be, that the human family can attain unto it. "*This grammatical operation*" of which he so taunting'y speaks, should now certainly be brought forward if ever;—it is my impression, however, from his own method of writing, and from what he says about grammar, that he would not be very much troubled if it were entirely banished from the primary schools. The science of a language, however, is destined to go wherever the language goes, and banish it from the common schools, and we may shortly have among us, a language which shall be to the English what the Canadian is to the French,—and there certainly have been some advances toward this very point, for the want of just such a set of Readers as Prof. Mandeville has prepared. "Parent" acknowledges they have not, as yet, been fairly "tested," then why does he assume the responsibility of deciding upon their merits for the public? Is he fearful they will be tested, and does he on this very account feel that it will be unsafe for him to defer his complaint for a while? If he had waited a little, his anathemas might have met with a better reception, than they possibly can at present. The "elocutionary theory" of which he speaks so confidently, is all moonshine. There is no other theory than this, "LET NATURE DEVELOP ITSELF." If a child takes one of Mandeville's exercises and reads it naturally, laying completely aside the *humdrum school tone* which he has acquired by "imitation," he will read the exercise correctly,—will carry out completely his system, and read it in accordance with the rules which are brought out in his sixth and last book, entitled the "Elements of Reading and Oratory." His rules of elocution are not brought out and arranged until the scholar reaches this book. There they are finally arranged as nature itself has developed them, step by step.

These are the "facts" in the case, as Parent will find upon further examination, and the *very grounds* upon which Mandeville has divested reading of mechanism more completely than any other author who has preceded him. His process is not to shape nature to fixed rules, but the contrary;—develop nature first, then from this development declare the necessary rules.

Here then we come at the very, and in my opinion, the only reason, why this system is so great a novelty to Parent. Natural reading in its different stages of development, seems to bring up before his mind the image of the *sauntering* and *vulgar tadpole*; and he, like the idle school boy, had rather linger and pelt it with stones, than study. Such an image, however, does not give the *true naturalist* any special qualms. He can contemplate it, and derive a lesson of instruction from it with as much composure as he would were neither fully accomplished.

The plan of reading which Parent rakes up from the depths of his own scholastic love is found in these words—"By *imitating* in reading what they can understand, children learn to read well". At the close of this sentence he might, with much propriety, have placed his exclamation point. It is a dead idea, and in want of a tombstone. Having given us his own system, that we may contrast it with that of Mandeville, he immediately commences his tirade upon the idea of introducing such lessons as children will take an interest in; calling them "monkey stories," and the "like miserable trash" and expressly says, "they need rather to be trained to the reading of what is *serious* and *earnest*," making no allowance whatever for the volatility of the juvenile mind. He seems to be unwilling to believe that this very trait may be turned to a valuable account in the acquisition of knowledge. Let him take his own children to a menagerie, and note carefully the animal which interests them more than all others, and then cease ringing his favorite tocsin. Mandeville has shown us that he is also a parent, and that he is not an entire stranger to the juvenile mind. It is more natural for children to take an interest in the activity of a *monkey* than in the stupidity of a *donkey*. There are some children, however, who from their training are made in some measure to resemble the latter. And one very sure method of producing this resemblance is to give children any metaphysical dissertations for lessons, and teach them to "read by imitation." Mandeville's system is the antipode of this, and hence has called forth Parent's "strictures." He has found a story, as he tells us, in one of the books, which no other person has yet found because it is not there. This must have been owing to the "very critical examination" made of the books, "not omitting a single page or paragraph," as he assures us in the most solemn manner. This story in his own language is, "A story about a monkey shaving and pumping out New York!" The idea of a monkey shaving New York is his own. The idea of a monkey pumping out New York is his own also. He doubtless has reference to two different stories found in different books. In one, a *barber's boy* pressed upon the subject, consents *to try to shave a monkey*, upon a certain condition. In the other, *two men* instead of a *monkey* were at work, pumping water from a cellar in New York, and a sailor showing himself a slave to his profession, gives his own version of the transaction. Unless this animal be a favorite with him as well as with children, it may be a difficult matter to determine why he should have turned two stories into one, and have made the monkey the "*Hero of the tale*."

There is, however, another idea which naturally suggests itself to the human mind in reading Parent's strictures, which is that it would be beneficial to him to study the primary books of Mandeville, for the purpose of learning something which to him must be valuable. If he is to continue writing for the edification of the public, he will find it convenient to have a better knowledge of the "relations" and "connections" of words in sentences, would he not endure the mortification of, occasionally at last, advancing the most ridiculous ideas; as in the case of the story alluded to above. My dear sir, the best advice in my power to give you, is, study Mandeville patiently yourself, and in me and you may be led to believe that they will be a very useful treatise for children, and give them some knowledge of the use and structure of the English language.

A READER.

May 5, 1850.

THE EXPEDITION FOR CAPTURING CUBA.—Letters from Cuba state that advices had been received there of the sailing of an expedition of fifteen hundred men supposed to be bound to that Island. The authorities of Cuba are on the alert, armed cruisers surround the Island in every direction, and should any of these vessels really attempt to land their troops upon any part of the coast, they will undoubtedly meet with a warm reception.

☞Late advices from Dr. Judson give the melancholy intelligence that his health has become greatly impaired,—to such an extent that he has been compelled to suspend his labors. His recovery is extremely doubtful. As a last resort, he has gone to Amherst, the salubrity of whose climate is esteemed peculiarly favorable to invalids.—*Hamilton Journal.*

THE SUICIDE CASE AT THE CITY HOTEL.—The mystery hanging over the heroine of the attempted tragedy at the City Hotel, has been cleared up. The name of the young lady who has been ill there from taking arsenic and laudanum with the purpose of destroying herself, is Mrs. Meade. Her husband is represented to have recently died, and unpleasant relations with her father, who is a wealthy planter and merchant of Charleston, South Carolina, plunged her into that state of mind, from which she sought relief in self-destruction. Her brother came from the South on Saturday evening, and the sister having recovered from the effects of the poison, returned in his company, on Monday, to the parents' home—a step to which, we understand, she was partially reconciled before leaving. The name of her father we are not at liberty to give.

The friends of the lady have sent to us a note, desiring a public return of their acknowledgments to Mr. Jennings and his family of the City Hotel, for their constant efforts in her behalf during her sickness there. Also to Dr. Wood for his unremitting services both as physician and friend. These, with others who have manifested a deep interest in the welfare of the unfortunate lady, will ever be remembered by her friends (says the note) with gratitude.—*Springfield Republican.*

A RAT STORY.—Rev. Walter Colton, in his Deck and Port, relates the following capital rat story:

I have always felt some regard for a rat since my cruise in the Constellation. We were fitting for sea at Norfolk, and taking in water and provisions. A plank was resting on the sill of one of the ports which communicated with the wharf. On a bright moonlight evening we discovered two rats on the plank coming into the ship. The foremost was leading the other by a straw, one end of which each held in his mouth. We managed to capture them both, and found, to our surprise, the one led by the other was stone blind. His faithful friend was trying to get him on board, where he would have comfortable quarters during a three years' cruise. We felt no disposition to kill either, and landed them on the wharf. How many there are in this world to whom the fidelity of that rat readeth a lesson?

GOLD DIGGING IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.—The Exeter News Letter states that great excitement has prevailed in Stratham for some weeks, in consequence of the appearance of a "witch or fortune teller," who announced that the town was another California. She called at the house of a man named David Robinson, and either mesmerized him, or told his fortune. She told him of large heaps of gold and silver that were buried near his dwelling