

# The Middlebury Register.

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## THE MIDDLEBURY REGISTER.

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**COBB & MEAD,**  
PUBLISHERS AND PROPRIETORS.  
JUSTUS COBB, JR., EDITOR.

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Surgeon and Mechanical Dentist.

**H. KINGSLEY,**  
Surgeon and Mechanical Dentist.

**DR. JENNINGS,**  
Would take this method to inform the public, that he has concluded to make this place his residence, and would here express his gratitude to his numerous patrons in this, as well as the surrounding towns, and hopes he may still merit their patronage.

**SIMILIA SIMILIBUS CURANTUR**  
CAREFUL FOR PAST FAVORS, Dr. O. J. Felt would announce to his numerous patrons, friends, and the public generally, that he has taken into connection, in the practice of Homoeopathic Medicine, and Surgery, R. G. GERRICK, M. D., a graduate from the Western Homoeopathic College, at Cleveland, Ohio. By this arrangement, Drs. Felt and Gerrick hope to be able to supply the constantly increasing demands for Homoeopathic Remedies for the Sick.

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IRON STOVES, HARDWARE,  
CUTLERY, JOINERS' TOOLS, &c.  
MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT.

**ADDISON HOUSE.**

THE subscribers would respectfully give notice that they have leased the "Addison House" for a term of years, and that the proprietors have refitted the house in every part, and the subscribers have re-furnished it with a large amount of new furniture, and nothing shall be wanting on their part to make everything comfortable and pleasant for their guests. Excellent tables and the best attention for tables will be provided. Country residents will find a pleasant and convenient home at the most liberal rates. Special documents will be offered for county purposes. Large and small parties will be accommodated at short notice.

**ADAMS, BROTHERS,**  
MIDDLEBURY, July 16, 1857.

## POETRY.

The Register.

### The Night.

The calm, the steady, solemn night  
Stoops o'er us from above,  
She binds us with a holy spell,  
She clasps us in her love.

The twilight-whispers through the leaves  
Glide softly to our ears;  
Westward, and list, and think we hear  
The music of departed years.

The drooping flower that at our feet  
Bends to its silent prayer,  
Speaks to the spirit trembling,  
That the holy, the unseen, are near.

Lift thou up, calm thoughtful Night,  
Bid thou our spirits be free;  
Let us be purer, when glows the light  
For the teachings, the presence of thee.

JULIAN.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### An Incident of the Last War.

Allow me to relate an incident of the last war with Great Britain, on the Canada border, which develops true heroism on the part of a young officer then in his teens, but now a worthy and distinguished citizen of the State of New York. The facts were long ago related to me by an old soldier, who saw and participated in the enterprise.

In August, 1813, the American army, under Major-General Hampton, broke up their encampment at Burlington, and crossed Lake Champlain, in *bateaux*, to the Cumberland Head, on their march to Montreal, expecting to encounter the British army on their way. There were four *bateaux* corps, of two hundred men each, severally under Colonel Snelling, Colonel Wool, Colonel McNeil, and Colonel Hamilton. They arrived at Cumberland Point, at twelve o'clock at night.

It was arranged that Colonel Snelling and Wool should proceed down the lake, in *bateaux*, and that two *corps*, under Colonels McNeil and Hamilton, should march down by land and attack the British army on the Canada shore. Colonels Snelling and Wool arrived first, and succeeded in driving in the British outposts to the main body, and occupying their places.

After marching about twenty miles, Colonel McNeil's command, on coming out of the woods about sunrise, and seeing the detachment of Colonel Snelling and Wool, mistook them for the British army. Lieutenant Aaron Ward being in command of the advance guards of about fifty men, halted till the Colonel in command should come up and give orders. Colonel McNeil soon came up and ordered Lieutenant Ward to gain the first fence, parallel to the road where the troops appeared, and there to commence the attack, if near enough; but otherwise to advance to the second fence. He advanced to the second fence, and formed his company, when a flag was presented, and the advance *corps* proved to be the first detachment, under Colonel Snelling and Wool.

Colonel Snelling's *corps* soon after embarked in their boats, leaving the residue under Colonel McNeil. In the course of an hour the whole British army were observed advancing in order of battle. Lieutenant Ward was ordered to advance with his company.

The road was five rods wide, and the enemy three-quarters of a mile ahead. Lieutenant Ward, then about seventeen years of age, and on his first campaign, steadily advanced without flinching, and received three discharges from the enemy, without returning a shot; and while reloading for the fourth volley, Lieutenant Ward ordered his company to fire, and immediately after blazing away he charged bayonets on the enemy. Their advanced guard of regulars, under Captain Myers, was immediately routed, and retreated to their main body, pursued by Lieutenant Ward's company leaving several killed on the field, which was instantly occupied by the Americans. This skirmish concentrated the whole American army, and the British army retreated in disorder. Colonel, afterwards General John McNeil, at the close of the war, held a civil appointment for several years, in the revenue service. Lieutenant, now General Aaron Ward, of New York, after serving faithfully during the war, has since, for twelve years, represented Westchester district in Congress. A man of consummate skill and bearing in the field, he was a useful and faithful representative of the people on the floor of Congress, and merits well of his country.—*Boston Journal.*

—It is said that one of the editors of the Lewisburgh Chronicle, soon after commencing to learn the printing business, went to see a preacher's daughter. The next time he attended meeting he was considerably astonished at hearing the minister announce as his text:—"My daughter is grievously tormented with a devil."

## The Medical Profession the Guardian of the Public Health.

An Address read before the State Medical Society, by C. L. ALLEN, M. D.

In our individual capacities we are expected to be "ever foremost to perform," often gratuitously, "the most unselfish of Christian duties: to stand by the bedside of infection, heightened by the privations of poverty, without other fee or reward than the grateful thanks of the looker on, or the blessings of the dying man."

As a society we have more extended, if not higher and nobler duties. Here we endeavor not merely to heal and restore individuals, but, with our combined energies, to protect whole communities from disease, to disarm pestilence of its powers and to destroy the lurking seeds of decay and death.

Here opens a vast, and hitherto, almost unutilized field. *The Medical Profession the Guardian of Public Health.* It is a theme worthy of more gifted tongues and more influential pens, and of more commanding talents.

Truly the medical profession are worthy of all the high encomiums which have been passed upon them. For "who knows half so much of the wants and wishes, of the joys and the sorrows of the community? Who are the friends and comforters in adversity, especially of persons in every grade of life, from the highest to the lowest, from the wealthiest, surrounded by all the luxuries of this world, to the wretched outcast of the streets, homeless, friendless, alone? Who, ever since the revival of learning, have been foremost in every undertaking whose object has been to extend the boundaries of knowledge, and to exalt mankind? Well might the great Roman orator, more than two thousand years ago, exclaim, "*Hominum ad deos nulla res proprius accedunt quam saltem hominibus danda.*" Well may our own venerable Bishop say that "a nobler class of men \* \* \* never claimed the admiration of mankind." But how dignified, how god-like does our profession become, when, laying aside all selfish motives, all expectation of personal gain, and in fact incurring personal sacrifices, they unite their efforts to accomplish, for the public, results not only highly beneficial, useful and important, but otherwise unattainable, since no other class of men are found willing to undertake the task.

Nothing is so intimately connected with the happiness of a people as the degree of their public health, and consequent upon this the average of human life. Is it possible for a man to be at ease while living where he knows that the deaths are so frequent, that one twentieth part of the whole population must die annually, as in New Orleans, when at the same time he knows that in other places less than the fiftieth part are swept away, as in Massachusetts? Can he be happy, although himself well, if during each year every fourth individual around him is prostrated by disease, while in other regions less than the twentieth part are annually sick?

If, of an individual, a long life is presumptive evidence of a happy life, of a life exempt from care, sickness and infirmity; of a nation, it is conclusive proof of prosperity and happiness, of energy and industry, of experience and wisdom.

From the similarity of the human organization, we might, perhaps, suppose that all classes of men would live, on an average, the same number of years. But the most cursory glance at facts show that such is not the case; that within certain limits, the average of life varies in different communities, as infinitely as their physical, moral and social circumstances differ.

Hence it is of the utmost importance that the laws which regulate and control the lives and destinies of mankind should be fully discovered and widely published. What circumstances are favorable to the development and prolongation of the vital energies of man? What are the causes of disease and death among us? When, where, in what form, and under what circumstances do sickness and mortality take place?—How do these differ in different places, or in the same place in different seasons and under different circumstances?

It is a matter of great moment to the whole population collectively that they may take measures to remove the causes of death, and to prevent the operation of those agencies which engender disease. To each individual this is a subject of the greatest interest, that he may select his place of residence, or if that is fixed, that he may so control, regulate, or guard against the circumstances around him as to extinguish or ameliorate the existing evils.

But how shall this knowledge be obtained?—How can all the occult and mysterious agencies which are in continual operation to produce the "thousand ills that flesh is heir to" be revealed and rendered plain?

Fortunately we are not left without the means by which this information may be obtained. The *causes* of disease are within and around us—in our own bodies, and in the earth, water, and air, upon, by, and in which we live. It is surprising how plain and simple become these *causes*, when viewed by the light of true inductive science, causes hitherto considered so occult, so wonderfully mysterious. Diseases hitherto supposed to be in some way connected with the inscrutable dispensations of Divine Providence, are found to be but the inevitable consequences of our own ignorance or misconduct.

That the ways of the Almighty are mysterious and his paths past finding out, we are prepared to admit, but we deny that these diseases are among them. Why He allowed sin and disease to enter the world we leave for the theologians to discuss. But the fact that they do exist being undeniable, we contend that each are under our control, may, to a certain extent at least, be avoided, and therefore, that we are really responsible to the same extent for their removal.

The first and the most important step is to determine in what localities each disease is most rife and most fatal. In what place intermittents are most common, in what continued fevers, where dysenteries prevail, where pneumonias and bronchial affections are found.

This knowledge can only be obtained from extensive and reliable statistics, derived from thorough, and careful registration. In some foreign countries accurate and reliable information has been accumulating for many years, and the beneficial results are manifest in the physical, moral and social improvement of the mass of the people. The average length of life has steadily increased, while the aggregate amount of sickness and suffering has evidently decreased. In this country but few of the States have adopted a systematic course of registration, but those which have are already beginning to realize some of the profits of their wise course. Our own State, though late, yet still in advance of many of our neighbors, has nobly taken the initiatory step. We have a registration law, which, though not unobjectionable, is a good beginning, and I am glad to learn is being carried into operation. I fear, however, that we may be contented to rely too much upon our law, and thus fail to do what, as physicians, as a State Society, as guardians of the public health we are called upon to do.

In our corporate capacity the nomenclature and classifications of diseases demand our attention. Uniformity in the nomenclature of diseases is of such obvious importance that it need only be mentioned. If the returns from the different parts of the State give different names to the same disease, or the same name to different diseases, inextricable confusion must arise, and no reliable inferences can be drawn. If uniformity does exist within the State, but our system differ from that of other States, we may derive, it is true, much valuable information, but lose the advantage of comparison with other localities.—The system now most extensively adopted is that devised by Mr. Wm. Farr, of England, and used by the British government in the execution of its registration laws. It is the nomenclature adopted and recommended by the American Medical Association.

It shows clearly the etiological affinities the causes, the agencies which operate to produce the disorders to which we are subject; and also the accidents and injuries to which different classes of men are liable. It even brings distinctly before us the ills which we ignorantly or wilfully bring upon ourselves. It unerringly makes known to us what maladies are inherent in the soil or atmosphere, what in the constitution of the people, what in the occupation and manner of living, what are inflicted by others, what by ourselves, and what by the elements of nature. Hence to the hygienist, to the guardian of the public health, it is of incalculable value.

—The classification was then explained, showing that, if full returns are arranged by this system, not only the hygienic character of the localities is developed, but the strength of constitution of the inhabitants is shown, and even their social and moral condition, to some extent, exhibited.

And here let me advert to a very common fallacy in drawing inferences from statistics. For if it be true that "figures cannot lie," it is equally true that "facts themselves are false when interpreted by false theories," and, of all things, figures are the most fallacious if incorrectly used.

We often see tables showing the ratio of deaths from each disease to the entire mortality. Now this is well enough if you only wish to obtain the relative force of mortality of the several diseases in any

one locality. But beyond this, such tables are exceedingly deceptive, especially if, by them, we attempt to compare the mortality of particular diseases in different localities since "an excessive mortality from one disease will diminish the ratio of that of all other diseases to the aggregate." For instance, we learn from such a table that 13 per cent. of the deaths in Boston are Consumption, while in New Orleans, as we learn from a similar table, only 7 per cent. of the deaths are from this cause.

From these figures we should infer that consumption is nearly twice as prevalent in Boston as in New Orleans. Such was, in fact, for many years the popular opinion, and many a patient went from the former to the latter city to escape this fell destroyer. Now what is the actual fact. We find that in Boston the ratio of the annual number of deaths from Phthisis to the living population is as 312 to 100,000, while in New Orleans it is as 451 to 100,000. So that more than four die of Consumption in New Orleans for every three in Boston. Take another example. From these tables we learn that 52 pr. c. of the deaths are from Zymotic diseases in New Orleans while in Boston 25 pr. c. of the deaths are from these causes. From which we infer that Zymotics are only about twice as prevalent in New Orleans as in Boston. But from the bills of mortality of the two cities, we find that, in proportion to the number of inhabitants living more than five times as many die in New Orleans as in Boston from Zymotics.

Let us compare, by such means as we have, the hygienic character of a few places. The total mortality of London and twenty-five British cities is 2707 in each 100,000 of the inhabitants. The mortality from Zymotics is 601 in the same number of inhabitants. In Boston we have the ratio of 2221 to the 100,000 for the total mortality and 540 for that of Zymotics. Hence we very safely infer that the hygienic character of Boston is considerably superior to the average of that of the British cities. But how is it with New Orleans? Here the total mortality swells to 5959 in each 100,000, more than twice that of the British cities, and nearly three times that of Boston. While the Zymotics, which show, more strictly, the hygienic character of the locality, rise to 3121 against 540 in Boston and 601 in the British cities, being more than five times as great. Again, the total mortality of England is 2318 in each 100,000. In the United States it averages 2587 in each 100,000. For the Zymotics the mortality in England is 472 in each 100,000. In the United States it averages 566 in each 100,000. From these facts we infer that while the hygienic character of this country is inferior to that of England—it is more unhealthy—yet the vigor of constitution of the inhabitants here is far superior to that of those in England—we are stouter and healthier than they.

And how is it among the different States of the Union? Let us compare Virginia one of the oldest States, with California one of the newest. Virginia gave, by the last census, a ratio of 865 deaths in 100,000 of its inhabitants, from Zymotics. This being much below the average, for the United States 566, places her among the most healthy States, the sixth on the list. The deaths from Sporadic were 976 in the same population. This being above the average 799, places her the 25th in that list, indicating that the constitutional vigor of the people is not as good as the others. On the other hand California shows a ratio of 711 deaths from Zymotics, in each 100,000, much above the average 566, showing the locality to be very unhealthy, stands in that list. While the ratio of only 296 deaths from Sporadic causes, in each 100,000, places her the first on the list for vigorous, healthy people. And this accords with reason, for we expect only the young and healthy to migrate to new States, especially one situated like California, leaving the aged, the sickly and infirm in the older States.

But time fails me to go on with this interesting subject. I leave it here, therefore, hoping that the Society will discuss the subjects of nomenclature and classification, and will recommend a system to be adopted by the Secretary of State in making out his Report to the next Legislature.

—We understand that Dr. Allen is one of the Committee, appointed by the State Medical Society, to make, for the Secretary of State, the Report required by the Registration law, and is now engaged in that labor.

—One political editor advises another to wash his mouth with soap. Some of these politicians it is feared, have lie enough in their mouths already.

## From the Providence R. I. Journal.

### National Songs.

#### STARS AND STRIPES.

##### The flag of the United States.

This flag was adopted by act of Congress on the 14th of June, 1777, in the following words:

Resolved, That the flag of the thirteen United Colonies be thirteen stripes, alternately red and white; that the Union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.

It has been thought that the arms of Washington may have suggested the idea for the American flag. These arms contain three stars in the upper portion, and three bars running across the escutcheon. Other flags were used at different times during the revolution, which are described by Mr. T. Westcott, of Philadelphia, in a communication to the London Notes and Queries, part 852, p. 10.

In March, 1775, a union flag with a red field was hoisted at New York, bearing the inscription "George Rex and the liberties of America," and upon the reverse "No Popery." On the 18th, July, 1778, Gen. Putnam raised, at Prospect Hill, a flag bearing on one side the Connecticut motto "*Qui transtulit sustinet*," on the other "An appeal to Heaven." In October of the same year the floating batteries at Boston had a flag with the latter motto, the field white with a pine tree upon it.—This was the Massachusetts emblem. Another flag, was used during 1775 in some of the colonies, had upon it a rattlesnake coiled as if about to strike with the motto, "Don't tread on me." The grand union flag of thirteen stripes was raised on the heights near Boston Jan. 2, 1776. The British Annual Register of 1776, says: "They burnt the King's speech and changed their colors from a red ground, which they had hitherto used to a flag with thirteen stripes, as a symbol of the number and union of the colonies." The idea of making each stripe for a State was adopted from the first; and the fact goes far to negative, the supposition that the private arms of General Washington had anything to do with the subject. The pine tree, the rattlesnake and the striped flag were used indiscriminately until July, 1777, when the blue union with the stars were added to the stripes, and the flag established by law. Formerly, a new stripe was added for each new State admitted to the Union, until the flag became too large, when by act of Congress the stripes were reduced to the old thirteen; and now a star is added to the union on the accession of each new State.

Kind words—they never blister the tongue or lips. And we have never heard of one mental trouble arising from this quarter. Though they do not cost much, yet they accomplish much. They help one's own good-nature and good-will. Soft words soften our own soul. Angry words are fuel to the flame of wrath, and make the blaze more fierce. Kind words make other people good-natured. Cold words freeze people and hot words scorch them, and bitter words make them bitter, and wrathful words make them wrathful. There is such a rush of all other kinds of words in our days, that it seems desirable to give kind words a chance among them. There are vain words, and idle words, and hasty words, and special words, and empty words, and profane words, and warlike words. Kind words also produce their own image on men's souls. And a beautiful image it is. They soothe, and quiet, and comfort the hearer. They shame him out of his sour, morose, unkind feelings. We have not yet begun to use kind words in such abundance as they ought to be used.—*Pascal.*

—A merchant of Mobile recently wrote a letter of importance to a gentleman in Mississippi, and in due course of mail he received a letter with his own signature cut out and pasted on the back of the envelope, in which the writer stated that he had received his communication, but didn't know who was the writer, nor a word that was written in it, and that his only manner of finding out the author was to cut out the signature and use it as an address with the hope that the postmaster in Mobile might be able to do more by it than he had.

—A celebrated barrister retired from practice, was one day asked his sincere opinion of the law, when he replied as follows:

"Why the fact is, if any man were to claim the coat on my back, and threaten my refusal with a lawsuit, he should certainly have it left in defending my coat, I should lose my waistcoat also."

—The mantle of a bad man should always be buried within him, for fear it might chance to fall on somebody.

## Summer Tour in Europe.

June 10th, visited the amphitheatre, built about A. D. 100, very large and well preserved, the tombs of the Scaligers and the house of Juliet, and left Verona about 8 A. M. by rail for Venice, a distance of 70 miles through a fine well-cultivated country, with various matters of interest by the way. We found good quarters at the Hotel de la Ville at 12 M. by taking an omnibus, that is a gondola on the Grand Canal. Venice contains about 180,000 inhabitants, and is quite an active business place, it all being done by water.

"We approached Venice with our sense of enjoyment in full exercise, with a mid-day sun above us, indeed, but that only brightened the lovely views. We were in the best mood for receiving impressions, and though our first gondola ride was in what is called an omnibus, still it was agreeable for a first experience. We alighted upon marble steps, and that all might be sufficiently romantic, our hotel, as the coat of arms of some noble family of passed days still attests, proved to be a palace." "We stayed that night, rose the next morning at five, visited the amphitheatre and several other places, took the cars at seven and arrived about noon. We forgot all our troubles as we felt the fresh sea air of Venice, and oh! how much we have enjoyed here! At first every thing seemed so very strange: only the more delightful for that: these light fantastic gondolas—how we have longed to transport one to our own river or lake!"

The grand canal appears to be an inlet, penetrating formerly among the seventy islands upon which Venice was built, connecting in the centre the channels by which it is enclosed, and dividing it into two unequal portions as its thoroughfare. Inferior canals permeate everywhere, corresponding to narrow streets; a site, it is said, chosen at first by a flying party for security from the main land, afterwards built into splendor and peopled with talent and luxury as enterprise was rewarded with power and wealth. The principle of its society was pleasure, the more refined the more perfect; that of its government jealousy, the more exclusive the more patriotic. The aristocratic tyranny ruled as a senate for the pleasure as the glory of the State, science wrought for it, every talent was indulged that could minister to delight, and every virtue measured by its usefulness to the sense. Not a talent, nor a virtue was lacking, or vice or folly to partake their fruit. As a tree planted by still waters, poetry grew from the Venetian mind in every form in which its leaves, branches or tendrils can shelter or embellish society, or breathe upon its spirit in its bloom. It is her past which strangers seek, mingled with the enjoyments and tempering the sense of the scene, the fame in which the city is reflected and made softer and stiller, as they recognize its images floating over or looking upward to them. The parti-colored splendors of St. Mark's are spoils of the past, the glow of Titian's coloring reveals the sunlight of his day, the music which falls voluptuously upon the senses wakens sympathy with the old luxury, even Casanova's new memorial is a consecration to the past. Romance is never old indeed, and ever revives a sympathy of youth. There is the wand, made telling with human sensibility, of the half-mourning Queen of the Sea. A higher, purer sentiment has a privilege in contrast with this, beside some western island of the blessed, whose past is all unbroken and itself is calm; where the visitor's boat rests upon its shadow, and the verdant bank is repeated in the same deep mirror, on the bosom of an inlet which history hath never ruffled, where music were not a want but an intrusion, and Nature unshamed as the mother of all the living.

"We failed to see Titian's *St. Peter*, which was turned to the wall for the repair of a church, but we saw his tomb and that of Casanova just completed. I have seen nothing monumental so beautiful. It is massive, built of the purest marble with exquisite *bas-reliefs*, illustrating his life, and a fine bust of himself surmounting the structure."

"Every hour of our stay in this city of the sea was like an enchantment, and long long shall I remember the evening return from St. Mark's, and the sail through the grand canal in the most wonderful of all Southern twilights, lengthening and glowing even beyond the usual hour."

West from the city is the government of Lombardy-Venetia, including upon the railroad the cities Padua, Vicenza, Verona, Brescia, and finally Milan with 190,000 inhabitants. It falls within the wide and effectual dominion of Austria, extending down upon the Adriatic, and