NEW ENGLAND.

The Herald Commissioner's Report.

BARNSTABLE COUNTY, MASS., Aug. 3, 1853.

Barnstable County, or Cape Cod—First Landing of the Pilgrims—Origin of the Name of the Cape—Search for Gold—The Indians—Settlements Made—Ages of the Principal Towns—Population—Value of Property—Its Distribution—Agricultural Productions—Land, Cattle, &c.—Manufactures—Woollen Goods—Cordage—Glass Factories—Salt and Salt Works—Miscellaneous Articles—Maritime Pursuits—Amount of Tonnage—Ship Building—The Fisheries—Deaths at Sea—Large Number of Widows in Barnstable County—The Cape Women—General Welfare of the People—Modes of Property—The Otis Family—Chief Justice Shaw—Mr. Hallett—The Cape Merchants, &c., &c.

If there is one of the counties of Massachusetts that is better known abroad than any or all the others, it is the county of Barnstable, commonly called, by native and foreigner alike, Cape Cod. It belongs to the oldest part of Massachusetts, was originally a portion of the Old Colony, and was trod by the Pilgrims some weeks before they landed at Plymouth. The first harbor made by the Mayflower, after she left Europe, was that of Cape Cod, or Provincetown. There, on the 11th of November, 1620, (N. S.,) a portion of the Pilgrims landed. It was proposed in the Massachusetts Legislature, last year, to erect a monument at Provincetown, in honor of that event, the first in the history of our State, after the adoption of an "instrument of government," which was done on board the Mayflower; but the project failed of success, because of the opposition of people from parts of the State which probably have small claims to monumental honors. Massacusetts can celebrate the events of her history with good papers and fine talking, but it is clearly wrong in her to indulge in the expenditure of money concerning them—public money, I mean.

It was in the year 1603, and on the 15th May, that Captain Bartholomew Gosnold, whose name is of note in our early history, first saw this part of Massachusetts. He had arrived from England on the previous day, in a small vessel called the Concord; and on the 15th, after standing to the south, anchored near a cape, which, from having there taken a "great store of cod fish," he gave the excessive but not very euphonious name of Cape Cod; a name, as Drake remarks, "which it bears to this day, and which it is ever likely to bear." It was Charles the First who, nine years later, called it Cape James—but Cod sticks to it like the fish itself is to that name. About 1614 there was a gold-hunting expedition came here from England; but it did not meet with quite so much success as some modern expeditions to California have experienced. The Indians of that day and this region seemed to have had a fierce race, and a sort of "Wreckers" in their way—particularly as our pious historians assure us there came a pestilence among the Aborigines, which swept off the New England Indians. What were left were used up through the aid of those potent Christian civilizers—guns and rifles.

Though thus early known to the English, Cape Cod was not the scene of their early settlements in this part of New England. The Pilgrims did not stay long on it, and it was not until several years after the foundation of Plymouth that any settlement was effected within the limits of what is now the county of Barnstable. Sandwich, I think, was first founded in 1637, by people from the colony of Massachusetts. Barnstable and Yarmouth date from 1639, and Eastham from 1644. There is an interesting relic of the early times at Eastham, in a venerable pear tree, which, in point of age, is not unworthy to rank with the Endicott pear tree in Essex county. It was planted by Governor Prince, for many years Chief magistrate of the Old Colony, and is not less than two centuries in age. Falmouth was incorporated in 1686, Truro, in 1709, and Provincetown in 1727. These two last named towns are probably the best specimens of the Old Cape settlements that are now in existence. On the Cape are to be found better specimens of the old colonial times than anywhere else in Massachusetts. Primitive ideas and primitive manners have continued to exist there long after their disappearance from the rest of the State. The cause of this is to be found in the fact that few foreigners come here to live, so that the purity of the race has been maintained. There the people have not been exposed to the influences of great cities and adhere to the manners of their fathers. Of late years, however, the prodigious changes in modes of thought have not been without their effect on Barnstable.

Barnstable is one of our slow growing counties in the matter of population. In 1820 it had 24,046 inhabitants; in 1840, 31,662; in 1850, 33,997. The ordinary pursuits in which so many of its people engage, and the barrenness of the country, are not favorable to the increase of numbers. Many persons remove to other parts of the United States—to the west, to our large cities, and to manufacturing towns. In the early times of American manufactures, whole families used to leave "the Cape," to work in factories. Of the small increase of population between 1840 and 1850, the towns of Barnstable, Provincetown, Harwich, Sandwich, and Dennis, had almost the entire amount. Eastham, Yarmouth and Orleans actually declined in population during the same time.

The property of Barnstable in 1840 was valued at $896,683; in 1850, at $8,897,349 74, showing an increase of almost four millions. The greatest rate of increase was in Provincetown, which advanced from $423,050 to $1,043,135. Barnstable increased from $785,856 to $1,522,871; Sandwich, from $788,— to $1,314,391 15; Falmouth, from $682,998 to $1,466 85; Yarmouth, from $465,466 to $746,587; Dennis, from $423,279 to $798,934 14; Harwich, from $228,982 to $524,699 75. All the other towns have decidedly increased in property.

There are no large places on the Cape; Barnstable is the largest town, and that had 4,803 at the last census. The average population of the towns is 1,500. The smallest town is Eastham, which had 1,000 inhabitants three years ago. Eastham is famous for its camp meetings, assemblages of the kind being held there every summer, to the great edification of those who attend, and their name is legion, on more accounts than one. It is an old town, dating back more than two centuries. The whole number of towns is thirteen.

Land on the Cape unquestionably is, and in many aspects unfavorably, situated for eminence in agriculture, it nevertheless produces fairly. The leading productions of Barnstable County, in 1850, were:—Indian corn, 59,843 bushels; rye, 13,986; oats, 6,370; barley, 2,427; wheat, 882; tons of hay, 13,108; potatoes, (about) 120,000 bushels; fruit, (about) 45,000 bushels. Onions are very largely produced. In 55 the amount of butter returned as manufactured in the county was 175,000 pounds; of cheese, 9,700. The same year the hens of Orleans laid half a million eggs, and those of Harwich more than a quarter of a million. Poultry figures extensively among the farms. Beans, squashes, wood, wool, various kinds of berries, &c., are produced in abundance.

The land of the Cape is thus divided:—tillage, 7,901 acres; English and upland mowing, 3,464; salt marsh, 9,975; fresh meadow, 1,516; pasturage, 39,015; wood land, 71,182; unimproved land, 29,920; unimprovable, 6,369; used for roads, 3,063; covered with water, 21,990. The number of horses in 1850 was 2,009; of oxen, 617; of cows, 3,858; of steers and heifers, 1,768; of sheep, 1,392; of swine, 1,633. The manufactures of Barnstable are not very extensive, though respectable. There are no cotton factories, and but little is done in the manufacture of woollen goods; the whole capital thus invested being $5,000, in 1850. Cordage is made at Wellfleet and Falmouth. At Sandwich, in 1850, $41,500 were invested in foundries, forges, machine shops and nail and tack machines; the number of the latter being fifteen. The glass factories at Sandwich, have a world reputation; some of their work is not exceeded by anything that is produced in the glass factories of America and Europe. The amount of glass annually manufactured there cannot be under half a million dollars in value. Glass is also manufactured at Falmouth. There is not a town on the Cape that does not manufacture more or less salt. There are upwards of 500 establishments for the manufacture of that article, which produce not less than half a million bushels per year. The superficial feet of salt works on the county extend to almost five millions; of this Falmouth had 1,977,300 feet, in 1850; Falmouth, 1,200; Provincetown, 791,100; Eastham, 770,000; Orleans, 343,500; Dennis, 156,774; Sandwich had but 1,000. Epsom salts are manufactured at Yarmouth and Dennis. The salt works of Barnstable county are nine times as large as those of all the rest of Massachusetts united. The manufacture of salt was commenced in 1776.

Besides the articles already mentioned, there are manufactured in Barnstable county, chairs, cabinet ware, saddles, leather, boots, shoes, trunks, bricks, tin ware, railroad cars, blocks and pumps, blacking, lamp black, codfish oil, palmleaf hats, oil casks, candle boxes, rails, wearing apparel, all kinds of vehicles, hollowware and castings, axes, fish oil, copper ware, building stone, iron axles, &c., &c.

Barnstable is an essentially maritime county, and the amount of its shipping stands fourth in the State—Suffolk, Bristol and Essex alone leading it: and it is but little behind Essex. In 1850 it had 72,048 tons, which must have received considerable additions during the last three years. One-fourth of this tonnage is owned at Barnstable, Provincetown has about one-sixth, Dennis a little less than one-seventh, and Yarmouth one-tenth. Chatham and Harwich come next in order. Eastham is the smallest town in this respect. Every town has some shipping and has more or less connection with the ocean. Some vessels and many boats are built.

The Cape men participate largely in the American fisheries. They catch whales, codfish, mackerel, alewives, shad, lobsters, oysters, and everything else that can be speared, hooked, netted, trapped, raked, or otherwise obtained from seas, and banks, and bays and rivers. It must be a very remote and out-of-the-way piece of water that a Cape Cod fisherman has not "vexed" in some way or other. Members of the same family cannot unfrequently be found at Labrador, on the Grand Banks, in the Pacific, in the Indian ocean, and close to our own shores, in order to supply immediate wants in the fishing line. They are a daring, almost a reckless race of men, and expose themselves to the perils of maritime life with a carelessness that speaks much for their nerves. But they do not always escape unharmed. I suppose there is not a navigable part of the waters of the earth which has not received its tribute of Barnstable's dead. The ocean receives almost as many of the Cape's children into her bosom as the solid earth. Not a month passes which does not see many a bold seaman of the Cape depart who is destined to be

> Hidden by the rolling waves, which hide
> Already many a once love-beaten heart
> Deep in the caverns of the deadly tide.

The fishing fleets not seldom encounter severe storms, in which many lives are lost, There is no part of the world where so many widows are to be found as in this county, the number of its people considered. It was stated, some fifteen years since, and on good authority, that there were then almost one thousand widows on the Cape, whose husbands had perished at sea. About one-quarter of this number were in the towns of Wellfleet and Norwich. It is not likely that the number has decreased. Many a woman on the Cape much resembles, in one respect, the old housekeeper at Jakshoff, in Scott's "Pirate," who dreamed that she was listening to the signal of her lover, and wakened to the recollection that he had been sleeping in the frozen waves of Greenland for many a long year. The women of the Cape are very beautiful, being generally blondes, and having much of that delicacy of complexion for which the sex are renowned in Nantucket, Newport, and other places which exist under the immediate influences of the ocean's breezes. They are industrious, economical, and, generally speaking, thriving. Left, as so many of them every year are, widowed, and with families to rear, they never despair, but enter upon the battle of life with that determination to win which is so often the chief cause of success. Notwithstanding the death of so many heads of families at sea, there are few places in the world where there is so little poverty as Barnstable county. To look at it, you would not think the whole county capable of supporting the people of one of its towns comfortably; and perhaps it would not be, but that the people have subdued the ocean to their will, much more effectively than ever was accomplished by the Venetians. There are few large fortunes in the county, but on the other hand there is as little poverty, as marked an absence of social ill, as can be found anywhere on the surface of the globe.

The following are some of the modes of property in Barnstable, not before mentioned:—Dwelling houses, 5,661; barns, 3,223; shops, 735; tan houses, 3; mills of all kinds, 68; and factories, 2; superficial feet of wharf, 497,753; amount of stock in trade, $482,518; value of public securities, $8,150; amount of money at interest, $728,053; money on hand, $155,113; bank and insurance stocks, $604,002; share property of other kinds, $72,000; ounces of plate, 41½. Of buildings not previously alluded to, there were, in 1850, 791.

The Otis family are of Barnstable origin. James Otis, who founded the family which has since played so high a part in our political history, who was to Massachusetts what Patrick Henry was to Virginia, was born at Barnstable in 1725. When but twenty-three he removed to Boston, where he soon rose to eminence. His brother, Samuel Allyne Otis, was father of Harrison Gray Otis. Lemuel Shaw, who has been Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts for twenty-three years, is a native of Barnstable. Mr. Hallett, now U. S. District Attorney of Massachusetts, belongs to the same place. Several of the most eminent Boston merchants were born on the Cape. They still maintain their connection with their birth-place, the people of the Cape being as much attached to their first home as any race that breathes.

CHARLES LE CHAUVE.

BERKSHIRE COUNTY, August 9, 1853.

The Extreme Counties of Massachusetts—Berkshire and Barnstable—Origin of Berkshire—Its Towns—Population—Property—Valuation at various times, and Increase—Eminent Persons—Agriculture—Corn, Oats, Hay, Butter, Cheese, Maple Sugar, Honey, &c., &c.—Jefferson's Mammoth Cheese—Cattle, &c.—Land—Manufactures—Cotton and Woollen Factories—Paper Mills—Foundries—Cordage—Marble—Lime—Iron Ore—Slate—Miscellaneous Articles—Modes of Property, &c., &c.

When a Massachusetts politician wishes to make a very comprehensive appeal to the people, he takes them in (literally so, sometimes,) "from the sands of Cape Cod to the hills of Berkshire." This has become a sort of antithesis in politics, and is almost as hacknied as were the words "foregone conclusion" in the late (and slow) Constitutional Convention. The two counties are far enough apart, and sufficiently unlike to warrant their being placed in opposition to one another. Berkshire is far away inland; Barnstable stretches far out to sea. Berkshire shoots up into grand mountains; Barnstable sinks into the flatness of Sahara. Berkshire has rocks; Barnstable is not to be beaten in sand. Berkshire draws not a little of her wealth from the bosom of the earth; Barnstable is even more indebted to the bosom of the ocean. The Berkshire man, who cherishes that peculiarly strong attachment to his home that belongs to the natives of mountainous countries, wonders that any one can exist on so dreary a spot as the Cape; at which the Cape man laughs, and tells him that he has often seen mountains compared with which even Taghaonic and Greylock sink to the dimensions of mole-hills—the Andes, from the deck of his ship, when sailing on the Pacific, or Mont Blanc, or, perhaps, the Himmalayas, for there is no saying where your Barnstable man has not been. In Barnstable everything is salt to the nostrils and misty to the eyes; in Berkshire, the air is fresh as youth, and the mists that lie on the mountains only render them the more magnificent. In the one county, the grandeur of to-day is the same as it was yesterday, and as it will be through countless to morrows; for are not the hills eternal? In the other, the greatness of nature is various; for though, as the first of poets has told us, the ocean is now what creation's morn beheld it, we know that its moods and its manifestations are various. In what is understood by beauty, Berkshire must be admitted, by even the most sanguine of the admirers of Barnstable, to have the same superiority that the Vale of Cachemere has over the beach of Madras. To beauty Barnstable has small claims. Here and there is to be found a beautiful spot, all the more attractive from the dreariness of the adjacent country, veritable diamonds of the desert. In Berkshire there is hardly a square league that could not do service—and good service, too—as the Garden of Eden, should the good times return, and Adam and all his race be gathered together in a "Paradise Regained." There is every thing that man can wish of natural scenery in Berkshire, beside its mountains, while Barnstable has little beside the sea. Then the former county has rivers—the Housatonic and the Green river, not to speak of minor streams that "flow by in crystals," that have been hymned by great poets, who have also placed her woods and fields, mountains and vales, in immortal verse; while the Cape's glories have rarely been sung, and must depend for justice upon dealers in prose. The contrast between these counties extends to their politics. In Berkshire the whigs are seldom in the majority, and some of her towns are noted "democratic strongholds," as the papers say. In Barnstable the democrats never have a majority, and there are but few of the Cape towns where the whigs do not triumph now as of old. Even the free soil storm produced but little effect on Barnstable. She remained faithful to the whig name, and is one of the only three counties in Massachusetts that always elected whig Senators during the days of the coalition. The free soilers are comparatively few in Berkshire, but are strong enough to hold the balance of power at important elections. Were the coalition as perfect there as it is in some other counties, it would win great victories. The jealousy of the two branches of that body have hitherto prevented it from doing its perfect work among the hills. The future may see its action guided by more of that discretion which is one of the means of victory.

Berkshire has a respectable age. The county dates from 1761, when it was incorporated; but settlements had been made within its limits many years earlier, and several of its towns had a regular political existence a century ago. The oldest town is Sheffield, which was incorporated in 1733. Stockbridge dates from 1739. Several other important towns were incorporated previous to the revolution—Pittsfield, Williamstown, Lenox, Egremont, and Lanesborough, being of the number. Lenox is the shire town, and was incorporated in 1767. It is a beautiful town, and is beautifully situated—the gem and its setting being in what artists call "keeping." Its attractions have been great in the eyes of some very great people. Fanny Kemble used to open up to the eyes of the unsophisticated natives practical illustrations of the "strong-minded woman," until she had turned the heads of whole schools of the prettiest girls that ever perilled the souls of men, and whose presence in the antediluvian world would have formed an unanswerable defence for the human loves of the angels for other and fairer angels. A not less eccentric genius who honored Lenox with his presence for some time, was Mr. Hawthorne. He went there after Gen. Taylor had served him as King Richard served the Duke of Buckingham—cut his head off. The men of Lenox never knew what to make of time, wherein they resemble the rest of mankind, who have been equally unsuccessful. Lenox is said to have been named from the family name of the Duke of Richmond, as the town of Richmond, of which Lenox was formerly a portion, was from his title. At Williamstown is Williams College, named from Colonel Ephraim Williams, a noted soldier of colonial times, who left a sum of money for the establishment of a free school. This school was opened in 1791, and has since risen to collegiate rank, having received considerable assistance from the State and from individuals. Lee was incorporated in 1777, and named in honor of Charles Lee, then considered to be the ablest officer in the Revolutionary army, his laurels not having then been withered by the heats of Monmouth. Hancock—originally called Jericho—was incorporated in 1776, and took its designation from John Hancock, who that year headed the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Two years later Adams was incorporated, and named from Samuel Adams, who was so intimately connected with Hancock. Dalton was named after Tristram Dalton, in 1784, he being then Speaker of the House of Representatives, and afterwards first Massachusetts United States Senator. Otis took that name in 1810, in honor of Harrison Gray Otis, having previously been called London. Pittsfield was called after William Pitt, in 1761, he being then at the height of his fame. The original name of Windsor was Gageborough, from General Gage, who was the royal Governor of Massachusetts when it was incorporated, in 1771. In 1778 the name was changed to Windsor.

The population of Berkshire, in 1820, was 35,666; in 1840, 40,882; in 1850, 48,937. There are thirty-one towns; of these, the most rapid increase was made by Adams, which ascended from 3,639 to 6,050 inhabitants. Lee, Pittsfield, Williamstown, Sheffield and Great Barrington also made respectable additions to their population. Clarksburg, Dalton, Egremont, Hancock, Mount Washington, New Ashford, Otis, Peru, Richmond and Stockbridge, during the same time, declined in the number of their inhabitants. The other towns made some small increase, in each case.

The State valuation of 1840 showed the property of Berkshire to be $9,546,926 76, which had increased in 1850 to $17,197,607. The largest increase was in the case of Pittsfield, which rose from $1,065,008 to $2,660,744 60; the smallest, that of New Ashford, which was $74,993 in 1840, and $99,966 in 1850. Adams was valued, in 1840, at $773,929, and in 1850 at $1,724,484. Great Barrington rose from $625,125 to $1,288,176; Lee, from $474,761 to $966,320; Sheffield, from $631,882, to $1,108,145; Stockbridge, from $469,427 to $733,871 40; Williamstown, from $547,740 to $973,309; and Cheshire, from $222,385 to $516,586 50. Every town made some gain, and Boston Corner, which seems to have made no returns, was doomed to have increased more than 50 per cent. The towns which lost in people were by no means behind in adding to their wealth, a fact which I have had occasion to note in the case of some other counties. Thus, Stockbridge lost about one-seventh of her inhabitants, and increased her wealth some sixty per cent. Hancock lost a fifth of her people, and added more than one-tenth to her property. Egremont experienced a small loss in men, and made a large gain in money. So it was with Dalton, Clarksburg, Peru, and Mount Washington.

Berkshire has produced her full share of eminent men, and seems to be especially favored by distinguished persons from abroad. Some of these latter have already been mentioned. Among them are Herman Melville, who, if he would understand to write about the things of this world, would be as popular as Dickens, but whose later works are such as neither gods nor men, nor columns can tolerate. He lives at Pittsfield, and has a beautiful place there. Dr. Holmes, the poet and the wit, is another Pittsfield landed proprietor; and Nathan Appleton has a place there. It is scarcely necessary to say that Gov. Briggs is a Pittsfield man, or that Mr. Rockwell, who succeeded him in Congress, and who was his colleague in the Constitutional Convention, also resides there. The Sedgwicks, who are a historical family, and who were so before they came here, are of Berkshire. Miss Sedgwick is a native of Stockbridge. Mr. Bryant is sometimes spoken of as a Berkshire man, but erroneously, as he was born at Cummington, in Hampshire county.

The agricultural character of Berkshire is very high. The land is rough and hilly to a very great extent, but that which is rich and productive is of the very first kind. The principal productions in 1850 were, Indian corn, 219,948 bushels; oats, 312,611 do.; rye, 53,548 do.; wheat, 5,874 do.; hay, 70,995 tons; potatoes, about 400,000 bushels; fruit, about 225,000 do. The amount of firewood cut must be large, as I find in the returns for 1845 that it then exceeded 52,000 cords, and some towns made no returns. The value of this wood was some $85,000. Sheffield and Great Barrington produced the largest amounts of Indian corn, the former 23,856 bushels, and the latter 23,631. Pittsfield produced 18,345 bushels, and Stockbridge and Williamstown almost as much each. Sheffield and Great Barrington also lead in oats, though the wild article is not understood to flourish in either of them. In rye, too, they lead, Sheffield being considerably ahead. Lenox, Pittsfield, and Hinsdale are the best wheat towns, and handsomely increased the amount of their productions between 1845 and 1850. Pittsfield made the most hay in 1850, being 5,862 tons; but Sheffield was close at her heels, producing 5,754 tons. Adams comes next, and is followed in order by Great Barrington, Williamstown, Becket, Sandisfield, and Windsor.

This county is famous for the amount and excellence of its butter and cheese. In 1845 the amount of butter made, according to official returns, was a million pounds; of cheese, 2,300,000 lbs. Both amounts were probably not a little below the exact truth; and considerable additions must be made to them to get at the present rate of production. Probably each amount should be doubled. In the year named, Sheffield was the largest butter making town, as she returned 145,200 lbs. The next best towns were Pittsfield and New Marlborough. Adams was first in the production of cheese—374,578. The next was the little town of Cheshire, which manufactured 343,000 lbs. It was in this town that was made the famous mammoth cheese that was presented to President Jefferson, on New Year's day, 1802, and which weighed 1,450 lbs. Cheshire, it may be remarked in passing, has been noted for more than half a century on account of its attachment to Jeffersonian political principles. Its vote has sometimes stood twenty to one in favor of democratic candidates. The most "cheesy" towns, after Adams and Cheshire, are Sandisfield, Tyringham, New Marlborough, Williamstown, and Otis. The number of cows in Berkshire in 1850, above three years old, was 18,142.

Maple sugar is largely made in this county. Not less than a third of a million pounds is made annually. Honey is also made in great quantities, many thousand pounds being taken every year. The quantity of beeswax is large. Perhaps there is nothing that conveys the idea of moral excellence more forcibly than the production of these two articles, inseparably associated as they are with that most custom-life sound, the drowsy hum of bees. What Æschylus calls the—

> "——lucid honey, pure distilled
> By the wild bee, that craftsman of the flowers,"

is essentially the nectar of country life.

Beside the agricultural articles already mentioned, Berkshire also produces barley, common wool, flax, broom corn, buckwheat, peas, beans, millet, eggs, poultry, garden seeds of various kinds, teazles, cider, feathers, grass seed, clover seed, merino wool, Saxony wool, hops, &c., &c. The number of horses in the county in 1850, was 7,031; of oxen, 4,084; of steers and heifers, 11,970; of sheep, 74,042; of swine, 6,150. There are of mowing lands, 78,321 acres; of pasturage, 151,522; of woodland, 104,397; of unimproved land, 113,068; of land covered by water, 15,093. The number of barns, in 1850, was 7,143.

As a manufacturing county, Berkshire maintains a good position. There are twenty-seven cotton factories, with 42,615 spindles. Adams has fifteen of these, and almost two-thirds of their whole value. Pittsfield comes next, but at a long interval; and then Stockbridge, Williamstown, Great Barrington, Cheshire, and Lee. There are twenty-four woollen factories. Pittsfield takes the lead in this business, and is followed by Adams, Dalton, Great Barrington, Lee, Hinsdale and Stockbridge. A great deal of paper is here manufactured, Lee being the principal town in the business. In 1850 there were thirty-two paper mills in the county, of which Lee had nineteen, worth considerably more than all the others. Situated on the Housatonic, Lee is favored for manufacturing purposes. The other paper making towns are Dalton, New Marlborough, Tyringham, Sheffield, West Stockbridge, and Monterey. There are silk and calico printing establishments at Adams. At Pittsfield and Adams are copper, iron and brass foundries; forges at Lenox; ore beds and furnaces at Richmond, Lenox, Lee, Stockbridge, Otis, Adams, Cheshire, New Marlborough, Great Barrington, and Hancock, valued at $351,000; and machine shops at Pittsfield, Lenox, Cheshire, and Stockbridge—$66,600. Cordage is made in some places, but not very extensively.

The miscellaneous manufactures are hollow ware and castings, agricultural implements of all kinds, soap, candles, leather, boots and shoes, bricks, lumber, chairs, cabinet ware, articles of wrought iron, tin ware, axes, hats, caps, watches, clocks, jewelry, gold and silver ware, trunks, saddles, lasts, boot trees, brooms, wooden ware, bar iron, anchors, machinery, powder, pig iron, blacksmiths' work, barrels, shingles, casks, cheese boxes, palm leaf hats, musical instruments, railroad cars, fire arms of all kinds, combs, building stone, mechanics' tools, various kinds of carriages, horse shoes, veneers, carpets, straw bonnets and hats, mittens, stockings, nail machines, nails, nail kegs, and so forth. There are 36 grist mills, at which much wheat, corn, &c. is ground; 273 saw mills, 24 fulling mills, 2 slitting mills, 3 distilleries, 27 tan houses, 17 iron works and furnaces, and 46 mills for purposes not specifically mentioned.

The marble of Berkshire is well known, both for its abundance and its various character. Large quantities of it are annually quarried. The principal town in this respect is West Stockbridge, and Sheffield has the next place, and is followed by Lanesborough. Slate is another material that pays well. Lime is made in almost every town. Iron ore is abundant. Manganese is obtained in some places.

In 1850 the number of dwelling houses in Berkshire was 7,349; of shops, 823; amount of every person's stock in trade, $708,082; of public securities, $17,100; of money at interest, $1,376,325; of bank and insurance stocks, $293,359; other share property, of all kinds, $237,040; ounces of plate, 3,372.

The peculiarities of this beautiful county, and the merits of some of its most striking localities, I shall endeavor to do justice to in some future letters.

CHARLES LE CHAUVE.

Religious Intelligence.

SERMONS.

A sermon in aid of the sufferers at New Orleans will be preached in the Greene street Synagogue this afternoon at half-past two o'clock.

Rev. Antoinette L. Brown will preach this forenoon in Metropolitan Hall.

Rev. Mr. Smythe, of Charleston, S. C., will preach to-day, morning and afternoon, in the Canal street Presbyterian church.

Divine worship in the Spanish language will be held this afternoon, commencing at four o'clock, by Mr. Montsalvage, in the lecture room of the church corner of William and Fulton streets.

Rev. William Cleland, of the Second Presbytery of New York, will preach this evening in Montague Hall, Brooklyn.

The Prophet Snow will preach this afternoon and evening at Mount Zion church, 163 Bowery.

ORDINATIONS.

Rev. Levi A. Field was ordained on the 31st, over the Congregational church in Marlboro', Mass.

The Right Rev. Bishop Williams, of Connecticut, held a special ordination in Grace Church, Providence, on the 30th ult.—when the Rev. Messrs. Edward L. Drown, Edward P. Gray and William H. Mills were ordained to the ministry.

INVITATION.

Rev. William Horton has received an invitation to the rectorship of St. Paul's church, in Newburyport, Mass.

ACCEPTANCES.

Rev. George T. Rider has accepted a call to St. John's church, Canandaigua, Western New York.

Mr. A. W. Sproull, a licentiate of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, has accepted an invitation to supply the church in Jacksonville, Fa.

The Rev. William Horton has accepted the rectorship of St. Paul's church, in Newburyport. He will commence his parochial duties immediately.

DECLINATION.

Rev. R. P. Farris has declined the invitation to the new church to be organized in Park avenue, St. Louis, and is supplying the First church, Peoria, Ill.

RESIGNATIONS.

Rev. Patrick H. Greenleaf has resigned the charge of St. Mark's church, a new parish organized in Boston, and accepted a call from Christ church, in Madison, Ia.

Rev. Charles Lowe, assistant pastor of the Unitarian church in New Bedford, has determined to tender the resignation of his charge, on account of confirmed ill health.

Rev. Samuel McKinney, D. D., has resigned the Presidency of Austin College, Texas, and takes a similar position in the Female College, at Hernando, Miss.

Rev. John Blain has resigned the pastoral care of the Bethesda Baptist church, Charlestown, Mass.

NEW CHURCHES.

The most Rev. Archbishop Hughes, will lay the corner stone of St. Mary's church now building on the corner of Leonard and Remson streets, Williamsburg, on Sunday next 11th inst.

The Bishop of New Jersey will institute St. Paul's church, in Hoboken, to-day, commencing at half-past 10 o'clock A. M.

The new church of St. Agnes, near Mount de Sales, Catonsville, Pa., was dedicated on the 21st ult.

The new Episcopal church at Rockford, Ill., was consecrated on the 23d ult., by Right Rev. Dr. Whitehouse, Bishop of Illinois.

The Bishop of New Jersey consecrated St. Stephen's church, at Mullica Hill, N. J., on the 30th ult.

The Baptist meeting-house lately erected in Banksville, Conn., was dedicated on the 25th ult.

A movement is in progress for another Congregational church in this city, by the society of which Mr. Belden is pastor. A plot of ground has already been purchased in the neighborhood of Thirty-fourth street and Fifth avenue, and the erection of a lecture room begun.

The Second Baptist church, Baltimore, are building a new house of worship on Broadway, near Pratt. The corner-stone was laid on the 29th ult., with an address from Dr. Fuller.

MISCELLANEOUS.

From the *Southern Churchman* we learn that in the diocess of Virginia the Protestant Episcopal Church has 5,299 communicants, 659 having been admitted during the year: and 52 Sunday schools, with 565 teachers, and 2,975 scholars. The diocess has contributed to the cause of religion and for church purposes, during the year, $26,680.

Nearly 500 of the graduates of Amherst College—almost one-half of its Alumni—have entered the ministry. They compose now more than one-fifth of the Congregational ministers of Massachusetts, and more than forty of them have gone as missionaries to the heathen.

The Methodists of Maine are taking measures to raise $25,000 for the establishment of a female collegiate institute.

Rev. James Lowry, of Chester district, S. C., recently deceased, left $1,000 to the Old School Presbyterian General Assembly's Board of Foreign Missions, and $1,000 to the Board of Domestic Missions.

The Congregational Association of this State are preparing to establish a theological school in Rochester. The site has been selected, we understand, near the corner of North and Atwater streets, in that city.

The Michigan Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church will hold its annual session in Detroit, commencing on the 14th September next.

THE STORM AT NEW ORLEANS.—Our citizens will remember, says the New Orleans *Picayune* of the 22d ult., the sudden storm of wind that came up about half-past 3 o'clock P. M. on Saturday, and how the dust flew in almost suffocating clouds through the streets and in the houses. The same storm reached Mobile and points across the lake, or rather came from there.

At Ocean Springs, one of the yachts sailing in the regatta was capsized. In one instance, as we are informed verbally, almost a solid bank of sand was taken up and carried at least a mile out into the bay.

Lake Pontchartrain felt the effects of the blow very visibly. At the end of the railroad a boat was capsized, but no damage was caused by it. Unfortunately, however, a life was lost about the same time. A man standing on the wharf had his hat blown into the lake, and he endeavored to recover it by jumping after it. He was unable to swim, and though assistance was attempted to be given him, he was drowned. His body was recovered.

The Mobile *Advertiser* says that about two o'clock that city was visited with "a small hurricane," and adds:—"It came from the north, almost without warning, and blew "great guns" for half an hour or more. During that time the dust whirled about, blinding every one; doors and shutters swayed to and fro with discordant violence; hats were blown off the heads of unsuspecting passengers; petticoats displayed a great likeness to balloons, and everything generally presented an appearance more novel and amusing to the spectator than pleasing to the sufferer. The ladies found progression impossible, and incontinently took refuge in dry goods, jewelry and other stores, while the juveniles and negroes looked on and enjoyed the fun. A loud clap of thunder and a heavy shower of rain finished nature's performances for the day.

Crystal Palace.

It having been announced that the receipts of the Exhibition on Wednesday would be devoted to the aid of the suffering and dying in New Orleans, apparently in the forenoon a larger company than usual were within the Palace in consequence. The great attractions at the present time are the Gobelin tapestries and Sevres porcelain. The section in which these articles are shown is filled almost constantly with admiring visitors, delighted with the beauty and novelty of these wonderful works. The contribution of the Pope, which we noticed a few days ago—a picture of St. John, in mosaic—is exposed to examination in the Italian department, below stairs. It is much admired.

The Austrian and Italian departments, having been robbed by the picture gallery of the paintings which lined their sections, have supplied the place of them with velvets, silks and lace. Italy is celebrated for her manufacture of superior velvets, and the display made in the Palace shows that this reputation is well founded.

The most valuable and beautiful article in the Crystal Palace in the way of jewelry, is displayed in the case of Tiffany, Young & Ellis, in the American department. This interesting contribution is a large pearl necklace, lately contributed, valued at $15,000. This is its bona fide price, fourteen thousand five hundred having been offered for it by an American minister, lately appointed to one of the courts of Europe, and refused. This necklace is composed of a wreath of pearls, the collection of which has cost some years of time. To it is attached a very large diamond, valued at many thousand dollars.

As advertised, the building will be lighted up tomorrow night, for the first evening exhibition. At the same time the picture gallery will be ready, and opened for the admission of visitors.

Among the new inventions which American genius has produced, we find the Self Holding Screw Driver, fully deserving notice. This is exhibited in the American department below stairs, by Switzer Keyser, the inventor, of Ohio. The construction of this is so simple that the most ignorant could use it without difficulty; and it must be productive of a great saving of time and labor to mechanics. The screw driver is encased in a brass tube, in which it revolves. When the brace which holds the screw is in operation, it closes around the head of the screw two brass clasps, which firmly hold it in its place till driven in the wood. This obviates the necessity of boring a hole for the screw beforehand. In drawing also, it is equally effectual and valuable.

Associated with the above is a patent extension bit, invented and exhibited by Chas. A. Barnes, which is also an important addition to mechanical instruments. The object of this invention is to give with one instrument, what usually is only gained by a full set. Any sized hole desired can be made by regulating one of these bits, and upon a mahogany board we saw 160 different sized holes made by a set of three of these new instruments.

BRITISH DEPARTMENT.—STATIONERY.

In our notice of the stationery in the British department, we omitted to mention the display of Whatman's "Turkey mill" drawing, account book, and writing papers, manufactured by Thomas and John Hollingworth. These papers comprise every description of the above articles manufactured for the use of artists and others, and are of the finest and most delicate texture. Messrs. Hollingworth present a fine display of the above goods, and also several samples of rag in various stages of preparation. Their stand adjoins that of Messrs. De La Rue & Co., and is under the charge of Mr. Pierce Supple, the agent of the latter firm.

Washington Gossip.

[From the Evening Star, August 30.]

MINORS ENLISTING IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY.—The following "general orders" are being sent out from the War Department. The latter portion embraces matter of general interest:—

GENERAL ORDERS, No. 23. WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, WASHINGTON, Aug. 25, 1853.

I. The following regulation has been received from the War Department, and is published to the army:—

When the non-commissioned staff of regiments are serving at the same post, they will be allowed quarters and fuel at the following rates:—

The Sergeant Major and Quartermaster Sergeant of a regiment, one room, and fuel therefor.

The chief bugler and principal musicians of each mounted regiment, one room, and fuel therefor.

The principal musicians of each infantry regiment, one room, and fuel therefor.

Whenever any of the non-commissioned staff are detached on duty from the regimental head quarters, and are serving separately at any military post or station, they will each be allowed one room and the fuel therefor.

II. The following rates of the monthly commutation for quarters at the stations hereinafter mentioned, were established by the Secretary of War, July 27, 1853, and are published for the information and government of all concerned:—

At New Orleans, La.	$12 per room.
At the city of New York	10 "
At San Francisco, Cal.	30 "
At all other stations in the Tenth military department	15 "
At all stations in the Eleventh military department	10 "
At all stations in the Eighth and Ninth military departments	9 "

III. The Secretary of War having decided that all orders hereinafter given for discharge from the service of the United States on account of minority, shall be made subject to the condition that no "controlling impediment" exists. The following instructions are given for the government of the commanding officers to whom the order of discharge is sent:—

If the minor be a deserter at large; if he has deserted during his enlistment, and has been conditionally pardoned; if he is under charges for desertion, or any other serious military offence, and the ends of justice are likely to be defeated by his discharge; or if he has attained his majority before the receipt of the order, and is unwilling to be discharged, the "controlling impediment" contemplated by the Secretary of War, will then exist, and the commanding officer will suspend the discharge, and immediately report all the facts of the case for the information and further action of the War Department.

IV. By direction of the Secretary of War, Fort Brown, Texas, is placed on the list of chaplain posts, in the place of New Orleans Barracks, which is dropped from the list. By order,

S. COOPER, Adjutant General.

THE NEW UNITED STATES COIN, &c.—The Treasurer of the United States has recently received a considerable quantity of the new United States silver coin from the Philadelphia mint, which, by direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, we understand, he is ready to exchange for gold with those in Washington who desire it.

Just now there are nearly six hundred thousand dollars in the hands of the Treasurer, in this city, which, we apprehend, is a larger amount than was ever before in the hands of that officer at any one time. This accumulation probably arises from the fact that heavier disbursements at this point are now required by the law, than have ever been.

AN ASSISTANT NAVAL ENGINE