"OLD DEFENDERS."

Instructive Interviews With Three of the Old Heroes of Baltimore.

Nicholas Brewer, Joshua Dryden and Jesse L. Hiss.

THE WAR OF 1812.

Centennial Reminiscences—Religion, Travel and Morals, A. D. 1800.

COLONEL NICHOLAS BREWER.

BALTIMORE, May 4, 1876.

Colonel Nicholas Brewer, the secretary of the "Old Defenders' Association," of Baltimore, was eighty-seven years old Sunday, March 21, 1876. He does not look to be more than seventy. To be sure his hair is white as the driven snow, but his voice is strong, his eye is keen and bright, his nerve is perfect, his step quick and plastic, and his short, thickset body gives a person that idea of strength which causes one rather to prefer another antagonist, should a discussion degenerate into hard knocks. He talks with the ease and vigor of a man of forty, and it would be hard to find a pleasanter *raconteur* withal. When asked what were his views upon

THE APPROACHING CENTENNIAL

he said:—"I think they ought to celebrate it as John Adams said about the Fourth of July, 'with the firing of guns, the beating of drums, the waving of flags, the ringing of bells and fiddling, singing and dancing.' I was glad to see Congress move in the matter. We (referring to his association of the soldiers of the war of 1812) have been talking about making arrangements to go on to Philadelphia. Yes, sir; I heartily there approve of it and expect to be if I should live so long. Our members are very few now, and when men reach my time of life they do not wish to look far ahead; but it would be a disgrace to us as a nation if this celebration should fail. Why, sir, when we consider that but 100 years ago there were only 3,000,000 Americans in the United States and that now we spread from ocean to ocean and are the equal of any nation on the globe, the thing seems incredible—a miracle, sir, a miracle, and one that should be marked by just such a demonstration as John Adams recommended."

"AS OLD AS THE PRESIDENCY."

When asked to give some recollections of his early life, the manners and customs then prevailing, the amusements in vogue, &c., he said:—"I was born in the city of Annapolis, in the same month that George Washington took his seat as President of the United States for the first time, so that I am as old as the Presidency itself. Annapolis at that time was pretty much as it is now—a finished city. People in joke used to talk of running a fence round it. The State House, where Washington resigned his commission, was really a fine building, and there was a handsome church and college, and the old ball room back of the hotel, in which Washington has danced many a night, was the finest of its kind in the country. The ball room still remains pretty much in the same condition as when Washington honored it with his presence. At this time old John Johnson, Reverdy Johnson's father, and old Mr. Kelty were both distinguished lawyers. I remember Luther Martin well. He was a man of wonderful talent, but very peculiar in his manner. At times he was sociable and familiar with everybody, while at others he was morose and distant and very disagreeable. I think he was unquestionably the greatest lawyer that Maryland ever produced, though he never would plead a case unless he was under the influence of liquor.

BALTIMORE IN 1800.

"I never saw Washington, but knew of him, of course, while he was living, and his death is indelibly impressed upon my memory by the profound sorrow which seemed to overwhelm the people, regardless of class or sex. Annapolis was wrapped in gloom as though a pall hung over it. I moved to Baltimore shortly after 1800. The city then had about 30,000 inhabitants. Where I am now [Colonel Brewer's house is on Jefferson street, about half a mile from the water and at least two miles from the nearest boundaries of the city] there was a burying ground. We used to shoot cats right back of it. We had a theatre in the city and gardens all round the suburbs, where we had fireworks and plays on Sundays, and the citizens flocked there by the thousand and drank their milk punches. There was an old fellow by the name of Durang who used to have his company here, and on the edge of the city, about a quarter of a mile from here, we used to have chicken fights, bear fights and bull baits. On the Fourth of July there was always a general parade and a salute fired. Though the city was small at that time (1807) we had some 3,000 men in uniform. It was during this year that the Leopard fired on the Chesapeake in our own bay. I never saw anything like the people in my life. They were stark mad. In less than a year 5,000 troops were uniformed and equipped. The excitement increased, and in 1809 Captain Pryor arrived here with three pipes of gin on board his vessel, on which the British had compelled him to pay tribute. We took them out and burned them on Landenslager's Hill. Captain Pryor, then a prominent merchant, led the party.

THE RIOT OF 1812.

"You ask me if I remember General Lingan's death in 1812. Perfectly, as though it were yesterday. Lingan was a Montgomery county man, but he got mixed up with a party of fellows here who published a paper called the *Federal Republican*, which opposed the war and indulged in the most scurrilous abuse of the President and everybody else except themselves. The people rose up and tore down the building. The proprietors took their paper up to Montgomery and issued it from there, spreading it broadcast through Baltimore. If they had remained there they never would have been molested, but they had the temerity to come back to Baltimore and rent a house on Charles street from a Mrs. White. They collected a number of men together and barricaded themselves while printing this obnoxious sheet. I heard of it and, mounting my horse, rode to the office. I found the people in a state of terrible excitement. The newspaper men from behind their barricade had fired on the people gathered in front of the office and had killed a citizen named Gale. George P. Stevenson, our brigade major—a thorough going fellow he was, too—directed me to go after Captain Hanna's company of Fell's Point dragoons, for the purpose of taking the men out of the house and carrying them over to jail. I executed his order, and they were safely removed, in spite of the menaces of the mob; but when night came a great oversight was committed. No guard was stationed at the jail. I walked up there with Adjutant Bias shortly after nightfall. There were a few rowdies about and a great many lookers-on. I turned to Bias and said that the lookers-on only encouraged the rowdies, and we were setting a bad example. With twenty men I could have taken care of the jail and driven off the rowdies. We were turning away when the mob made a rush on the jail with axes and crowbars and burst in the doors. I immediately rushed in with them, but the prisoners, unfortunately, attempted to make their way out. General Lingan was beaten to a shapeless mass on the steps, and George Winchester, prominent then and afterward, got a cut across his forehead which he carried to his grave.

A WORK OF RESCUE.

"I was very indignant at the outrages and interfered in time to save the life of one man, but my friend bade me be careful, or I would be identified with the prisoners, as a mob never cared much who the victim was so that their infernal malice could be gratified. Thompson, an Englishman by birth, but at that time a prominent merchant in Baltimore, was seized by the mob. They tarred and feathered him, having stripped him to the waist, and stuck at least fifty pins in him. He was then put in a wagon. Just at this time an Irishman made a move to knock him on the head with a pickaxe; but I felled him to the earth without any more to-do, and walked off with my friend toward home before the mob discovered who the assailant was. I took a short cut and soon reached home, but had not been there many minutes before I heard a horrible yelling and hooting and saw the gang coming down by my house, with Thompson in the wagon. The cry was, 'To the market house and hang him on the hooks!' and I have no doubt they would have carried out their villanous threat, but the main body of the mob had gone on to the market house while the wagon stopped at a pump in front of my dwelling. Only a few of the rowdies were guarding it, and I quickly got together some of my neighbors, who were only too glad to assist in such a praiseworthy undertaking. We drove off the rowdies and took the wagon over to Captain Bunbury's, where poor Thompson was enabled to conceal himself from his persecutors. I don't know exactly what became of him, but I think very shortly after he had removed his adhesive coat of tar and feathers he shook the dust off his feet and went back to the Old Country.

FIGHTING THE RED COATS AT NORTH POINT.

"When the war broke out I was made a lieutenant in the Sixth regiment of Maryland Volunteers. We were stationed at Fort McHenry, but when Lord Solas Warren and Admiral Cockburn made their first trip up the bay we were ordered to North Point. They came up our river almost under the guns of the fort and captured a packet. They attempted to land at North Point and we had a scrimmage with them, and would, I think, have captured the whole party had not our commanding officer been too much in a hurry. After the battle of Bladensburg there was intense excitement in the city, but no giving way. A determination manifested itself to meet the enemy. Fortifications were thrown up and Commodore Rogers and Commodore Porter, with their crews, amounting to about 700 men, reinforced the troops. My regiment was commanded by Colonel William McDonald. We had about 3,000 men in the battle of North Point, while the British had 9,000. For the number engaged it was a bloody encounter. We lost 220 men and the British 500, including their commander. The night before they sent up a party of 1,200 picked men to take the fort with scaling ladders; but we had a masked battery of six guns just where they intended to land. The guard heard the dipping of the oars, and the battery opened on them and destroyed a number of their boats.

"I went in, with Madison, for the war and fought it out. Virginia furnished more soldiers than any other State; but Maryland, in proportion to her size, furnished five times as many as any other. Massachusetts furnished fewer than any of the States. Maryland, with an area of 10,000 square miles, placed 52,000 men in the field. I knew William Pinkney well. We served together in the army. He was major of the First battalion of riflemen. I have heard him make many a speech, and I accompanied him to the man-of-war when he went to England as Minister. I was intimately acquainted with Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, up to the day of his death. Richard Caton, who married a daughter of Charles Carroll, was a very fine-looking Englishman. Carroll died when ninety-four years of age, in the full possession of his faculties. Until he was ninety-two he drew his own deeds. One day, shortly after he had reached this advanced age, he walked into my office and said:—'Brewer, I think it is about time for me to stop. I shall appoint a trustee,' and shortly afterward he appointed one of his sons-in-law trustee to take care of his propery.

CUSTOMS AND MANNERS OF THE TIME.

"In the olden times all travelling was done by stage coaches. The mail coach would take a whole day, and sometimes more, to go from Baltimore to Annapolis. Three days from Baltimore to Philadelphia was rather a quick trip. There were inns at regular intervals along the road. You paid $10 for your passage, and you spent fully $10 more before you reached your destinat on for meals, lodging and incidentals. Supplies came into the city by immense mountain wagons. I have seen at the Marsh market 200 of these tremendous wagons of a morning; none of your twopenny affairs, like they have now, but great big concerns, with canvas coverings, like houses on wheels.

"During the war of 1812 we were blockaded and almost starved here in Baltimore. We hadn't a manufactory of any kind. The manufacture of cotton was started during the war.

"In my young days people were not only sociable but honest. Everybody knew everybody else. You could go to bed and leave your front door open with perfect security. It was not like it is now. We had about half a dozen watchmen in the city for show—Dutchmen who couldn't understand a word you said and you couldn't understand them.

"I remember the bank riot very well. It was in 1835. I was always opposed, to rioters and assisted in putting this down. I have always taken a deep interest in politics. In 1800 I walked three miles to the polls and pulled off my hat to hurrah for Thomas Jefferson. I was a Henry Clay man, an old line whig, and sustained the government during the late rebellion. I exerted all my influence with Governor Hicks to keep him from calling together the Maryland Legislature at the breaking out of the war, and when a raid was made in this direction during the war I was appointed Fifth ward commander, and organized a command of 500 men to meet the invaders."

Colonel Brewer belongs to an old Maryland family located in and around Annapolis, some members of which have distinguished themselves in the history of the State, but it may be doubted whether any have surpassed him in those homely virtues which are so true a test of the manly faith within. As was said above, he is now in his eighty-eighth year, but, with luck, there is no reason why he should not live to be a hundred and even more. He walks from his house to his office and back, a considerable distance, twice a day. His sight is perfect, and he writes with a clearness and boldness that many young men would be glad to imitate.

MAJOR JOSHUA DRYDEN.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE "DEFENDERS"—PROGRESS OF BALTIMORE—SOCIAL CHANGES—POLITICAL INGRATITUDE OF THE PEOPLE.

BALTIMORE, May 3, 1876.

I called upon Major Joshua Dryden to-day at his residence on Liberty street. The Major lives in a handsome four story mansion on the decline of a hill which takes in a view of a large area of the southwestern portion of Baltimore. I was pleasantly received and shown to Major Dryden's sitting room on the second floor, where I found a tall, stately gentleman, with snow white hair and beard, finely cut features and an upright, manly bearing, which a person would scarcely expect to find the accompaniment of eighty-six years of American life. A glance at the surroundings soon convinced one of the taste of the occupant. Pictures of merit alternated with portraits of those men of a former period whom the present generation have almost learned to regard as giants—the friends, doubtless, of Major Dryden, who have passed away and left him, as it were, stranded upon the shores of another era.

The furniture was elegant without meretricious ornament, just as we would expect to find in the drawing room of an old hero. A bright wood fire gave a cheerfulness to the apartment which no modern heater can bestow, and several little birds gayly twittered in a corner, in which direction the old gentleman cast his eyes from time to time with evident delight.

THE CENTENNIAL.

After the usual salutations, the Major said he thought the contemplated celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of American independence eminently proper. Our country's development had been unprecedented. He thought the general government should do everything possible to insure its success. The States also should all send good delegations to the opening, because it is a matter of general interest and pride. Baltimore had been extending her expenditures very largely of late in constructing public improvements to meet the very great increase in business and population which the city has in prospective, and this would make her less able at this time to aid her sister city, but the finances of the State are in such a favorable condition that the Legislature did not hesitate to give Philadelphia very material aid.

BALTIMORE IN EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND THREE.

The Major, continuing, said:—"I came to this city when a mere boy in 1803, and apprenticed myself to a tailor. At that time the population was about 30,000. Howard Woods came within 200 yards of my present residence (the Major's residence now is not very far from the water front, the city extending miles beyond it in every direction), and to the west of the house, out there where you see all those extensive buildings, were corn fields. Boys were boys in those days, and we knew but little about amusements. Now they are men at fourteen. I joined the Church very early in life, and never went to a theatre but once. Yes, I was swindled into one once in New York by one of my daughters. At the time I speak of the Holliday Street Theatre was the only theatre in the city. I believe there was a circus across the bridge. Peale's Museum, which was subsequently turned into a theatre, had a very large and interesting collection. It was very liberally patronized by all classes of people. The principal trade carried on until after the war of 1812 was in tobacco. It was brought to the city in wagons and carts from the up country, and in packets from the bay counties, and shipped to foreign ports.

MANNERS OF THE PEOPLE.

"In old times the people were very sociable. The fact is Baltimore or Maryland is a kind of middle ground between the North and the South, but partakes more of the latter than the former. In 1805 they tried to make every one happy around and about them, and I believe they do the same thing to-day.

FIGHTING IN 1812.

"When war broke out in 1812 I enlisted in the Fifth regiment, Maryland Volunteers, commanded by General Sterrett. We marched to Bladensburg when that town was threatened. At first General Winder had command, but the Secretary of War came up and appeared to take charge of the whole affair. Commodore Barney also joined us with the men from his flotilla, and continued the engagement after the army had retreated. Our force was not more than half as large as that of the British, and we being raw militia and they regular troops the result could be easily conceived. The main body of the troops retreated to Baltimore, and some few went toward Washington. Of course there was very great excitement in Baltimore, but no despondency. The rumor soon reached us that Admiral Cockburn was coming up the bay to attack Baltimore. Troops were organized hastily and fortifications thrown up. We were marched down in the direction of North Point, and were materially assisted by troops from Pennsylvania and the neighboring towns of this State. We were drawn up behind a fence, and an advance guard was sent out to reconnoitre. They soon became engaged with the enemy, and, in obedience to orders, fell back when the engagement became general. The British opened on us who were behind the fence with rockets, which were harmless, but soon the fire of musketry became incessant. The fight lasted about two hours, and we fell back, but the British didn't follow. I have always thought that the killing of General Ross was what saved Baltimore. Upon our return to Baltimore we were enthusiastically received by the citizens. Trade, after the war, became very brisk.

POLITICS AND PROGRESS.

"I used to take a great interest in politics—that is, as a private citizen. I was a member of the old whig party, but when the country showed its ingratitude by turning down Mr. Clay I quit politics and have had but little to do with elections since.

"I have always felt the greatest interest in the improvement of Baltimore, and have contributed to it as far as my means would allow, buying up property and building on it whenever I could. Generally my health is very good. I am at present President of the Association of 'Old Defenders.'"

JESSE L. HISS.

ANOTHER "OLD DEFENDER" OF BALTIMORE INTERVIEWED—RUNNING FROM THE BRITISH IN 1812—MANNERS AND MORALITY IN THE PAST—TRADE AND POLITICS.

BALTIMORE, May 3, 1876.

Jesse L. Hiss, another of the "Old Defenders" of Baltimore, is in his eighty-ninth year. Within a year his memory was as good, his mind as firm and his frame as strong as at any previous period of his life, but latterly he has broken greatly. The fell destroyer has laid his heavy hand upon him, and though he strives hard to nourish the wonderful vitality that has so long sustained him it is evident to his friends that he is a mere wreck of his former self. He gladly welcomed the HERALD correspondent to-day and courteously waved him to a seat, apologizing for not being able to rise. He said he had often read that paper with delight and believed it to be the greatest journal in the world. It was one of the most remarkable evidences of what energy and talent could accomplish in this great country. In reply to my questions he said:—"I am in favor of the Centennial and think the general government and the state governments have done everything in their power so that its success may be assured. I was born in Baltimore county and came to the city in 1800. Baltimore city was at that time embraced in the county.

STRICTNESS OF MORALS IN THE PAST.

"Where I was raised there were no amusements except going to church. That was about all people thought of. They were so strict that people actually would not allow their children to play with those of their neighbors. There was a raccoursc, Timoneum, not far from us in 1800, and General Ridgeley, a large landed proprietor, raised some very fine horses, but we were not suffered to go near it. In 1800 I learned my trade of chairmaking with Mr. Fisher, the grandfather of the present bankers. Major General Stansbury was at that time a very distinguished man in Baltimore county and a rival of General Ridgeley, whom he several times outstripped for the Legislature. General John Eager Howard, of Revolutionary fame, Generals Smith and Hollins and the Olivers and Sterretts were all prominent men. I remember well

BONAPARTE'S MARRIAGE

in 1803 with Miss Patterson, and the excitement it created in Baltimore. It was customary then for ladies to wear very short sleeves and very long gloves, which they wrinkled when they moved their arms, and we used to wear queues, cocked hats and knee breeches. I remember an old man, named Stewart, a manufacturer of nails. He was very rich and somewhat eccentric. He wore a queue down his back fully a yard long. We had a circus, theatre and museum in Baltimore at that time, but they were much stricter with boys than they are now, and we were not permitted to frequent such places. Baltimore in the old time was a great place for cock fighting. The most respectable citizens raised their birds and took the deepest interest in their performances. Trade was very brisk previous to the war of 1812. We used to ship chairs around Cape Horn, and we did a tremendous business with the West Indies. There was also a large trade carried on with the East Indies. I have known a whole cargo of tea to be sold here at a time.

"As to elections, I do not believe they ever have been or ever will be entirely fair. They used to cheat a good deal in old times. It was done in a quiet way, and generally in a small way. Men were bought up individually and not by the drove, as they are now; but a much better class of men were elected in those days to fill the offices.

CHASED BY THE BRITISHERS.

"When the war broke out in 1812 I went down to Annapolis and was sworn in. I was in the race from Bladensburg. As I was getting over the fence a little fellow ahead of me got struck with a bullet and turned head over heels. I never stopped to pick him up, but went straight on as fast as I could go. I stopped at a tavern and got my dinner, and slept on the floor that night; but they yelled out that the British were coming the next morning, and, without stopping to settle with my landlord, I made the best of my way to Baltimore. At the battle of North Point we were entrenched in Patterson's Park, where the fortifications still remain. I remember the riot of 1812 at the time General Lingan was killed. I participated in it. It grew out of the war. I have always been a democrat. I went for Jackson because he came next to Washington, and I only wish he was alive that I might vote for him now."

At this point your correspondent thought it advisable to discontinue his questions, as the old gentleman was very feeble and his reminiscences seemed to excite him.

THE PRESIDENT OF CUBA.

SKETCH OF THE LIFE AND SERVICES OF PRESIDENT PALMA, OF CUBA LIBRE.

An old friend of President Estrada Palma, of the Republic of Cuba, has furnished to the HERALD the following sketch of his life and services:—

PRESIDENT PALMA

is a native of the city of Bayamo. His father, a very wealthy planter, whose estates were principally situated on the banks of the River Canto, died while he was an infant. At twelve years of age his mother sent him, after he quit school at Bayamo, to the College of Havana. Here he graduated with great distinction. In 1864 he returned to Bayamo and attended to the care of his mother's property. His love for her is said to have been intense, and the parent and son were almost inseparable. He studied law and pleaded cases in the courts for the poor of Bayamo, free of cost, and was greatly beloved for his charitable deeds. In 1868,

WHEN THE REVOLUTION BROKE OUT,

Palma, who had long been an abolitionist at heart, freed all his slaves. Many of them joined the ranks of the patriots, accompanying their former master. Shortly after—namely, in 1868—the war commenced Palma's mother died of a broken heart. The Cuban patriots formed a provisional government and desired that Palma should hold office, but he steadily refused to accept such trust until a constitution had been adopted. The constitution was adopted at Guimara in 1869. Palma was elected subsequently

MEMBER OF CONGRESS

from the Eastern, or Oriental, Department. Twenty Congressmen were appointed, five for each of the Departments—Oriental, Camaguey, Las Villas and Occidente. The military government of the Republic is subservient to that of the civil authorities, and the object has been to prevent the formation of military cabals. During "recess" these Congressmen, whose places of meeting are generally in the mountain fastnesses, frequently return to their districts and study the special requirements of their constituents. The discipline of the army, its provisioning, the providing of war material, &c., come under their supervision, as also the formation of laws. Palma in

PERSONAL APPEARANCE

is small of stature and delicate looking, but of a lithe and active frame. Owing to a lack of great physical strength he has not been sent out with the patriots to attack the Spaniards, but has given time and time again proof of his courage by succoring, while under the enemy's fire, his wounded countrymen.

HIS MANNERS.

are gentle and unassuming, and he is generally beloved by his brethren who are now struggling for liberty from Spanish tyranny.

MAY ANNIVERSARIES.

The number of the anniversary meetings of the various societies in this city which are usually held in May is diminishing each year, and the custom is evidently falling into disuse. Several of the largest organizations which heretofore have held their anniversaries here now go to other cities. The American Bible Society has its anniversary exercises in Philadelphia on the 16th inst., and the anniversary meetings of the Baptist societies take place in Buffalo on the 23d, 24th, 25th and 26th insts.

The following are the meetings thus far announced to take place in this city:—

SUNDAY, MAY 7.

The anniversary sermon of the American Home Missionary Society will be preached by the Rev. Leonard Bacon, D. D., of New Haven, in the Broadway Tabernacle, corner of Sixth avenue and Thirty-fourth street, at half-past seven o'clock.

American Bible Society discourse by Rev. W. J. R. Taylor, of Newark, in the Fifth avenue Presbyterian church, at half-past seven o'clock.

MONDAY, MAY 8.

National Temperance Society. The eleventh anniversary will take place at Steinway Hall at half-past seven o'clock. Addresses will be delivered by Rev. George H. Hepworth, Rev. J. S. Kennard, Rev. W. J. Kerton, William E. Dodge and others.

Union Theological Seminary Alumni meeting, at which Rev. Dr. Adams will deliver an address at two o'clock.

TUESDAY, MAY 9.

The annual meeting of the Woman's Board of Foreign Missions will be held in the chapel of the Collegiate Reformed church, corner of Fifth avenue and Twenty-ninth street, at two o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10.

The annual convention of the National Woman's Suffrage Association will be held at Masonic Hall, corner of Sixth avenue and Twenty-third street, the sessions being at half-past ten A. M., two P. M. and eight P. M.

The American Home Missionary Society will hold its annual meeting at the Bible House at four o'clock.

The fifty-first annual meeting of the American Tract Society will be held at Dr. Crosby's church, corner of Fourth avenue and Twenty-second street, at ten o'clock A. M.

THURSDAY, MAY 11.

The New York State Woman's Suffrage Association will hold its annual convention in the Masonic Temple, at which there will be three sessions.

The annual meeting of the American Bible Society takes place at its rooms, in the Bible House, at four P. M.

SUNDAY, MAY 14.

The anniversary exercises of the American Tract Society will be held at the Church of the Holy Trinity, corner of Madison avenue and Forty-second street, at half-past seven o'clock.

COAL WORKERS.

GLOOMY PROSPECTS FOR COLLIERS—PRODUCTION TO BE UNUSUALLY LIMITED DURING THE SUMMER.

WILKESBARRE, PA., May 5, 1876.

The enforced suspension of coal production in the Lehigh region commenced yesterday and will continue for twelve full working days. The suspension affects all the collieries depending upon the Lehigh Valley Railroad for cars and transportation and throws some twenty mines in the Wyoming region into idleness. This state of things has been brought about by the coal combination, which has the power to coerce even so gigantic a corporation as the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company to draw in the traces without a murmur. Last week it appeared as if some of the bonds which hold the coal combination together were to be broken and the whole arrangement go to pieces. The Lehigh Valley Railroad Company seemed, too, inclined to exercise some of its old time independence, and went on carrying all the coal shippers saw fit to send by it. Its quota, as established by the combination, was greatly overrun, and, when notified of the fact, President Packer intimated that as his was a carrying rather than a coal producing corporation, he did not see how he could refuse to receive shipments and disappoint his customers at the dictation of outside parties. He thought he would be obliged to take all the coal offered unless two-thirds of the shippers by the Lehigh Valley route should join in a petition for him to yield to a temporary suspension. This indicationof policy on Mr. Packer's part did not please the combinationists, and they immediately took steps to force Mr. Packer to their terms. A threat to make coal cheaper at Tidewater did the business, and the Lehigh Valley Railroad is as quiet as a lamb within the fold of the great combination, and quite as impotent to go against the wishes of the coal monopolists as any of the insignificant individual operators in this valley. The price of coal is to be maintained at all hazards. It is evident, thus early, that the season is to be marked by a series of suspension of longer or shorter duration, as the combination may direct. The men will have less work than they had last year, and the coal trade will be fitful and feverish to the end. Miners generally are in a state of great distress. Many of their families are in actual suffering, and their condition promises to be much worse before the advent of winter. It seems most probable that there will be a general suspension of coal production throughout the anthracite regions at a no distant date. Indeed, it may be regarded as certain that no coal will be mined during the months of July and August, and the period of idleness may be inaugurated as early as June. The prospects of the coal trade are more gloomy than ever.

DELAWARE AND HUDSON COMPANIES.

PORT JERVIS, May 5, 1876.

In accordance with the agreement made at the late private meeting of the companies representing the coal combination the operators have stopped production in the upper coal fields. The same movement will be adopted by all the companies in the pool throughout the northern and middle coal fields. The Delaware and Hudson Coal Company, whose extensive works are located in the upper districts, have reduced the wages of their laboring men ten per cent. This has occasioned much dissatisfaction, and more trouble is expected. For some time past the workingmen have been holding secret conferences, and the impression prevails that they have determined upon a strike at an early date. The least indiscretion upon the part of any one might precipitate an open rupture between the men and operators at any moment. Those who are supposed to be well posted about the subject say the workingmen are prepared to carry on a strike, if once inaugurated, for an indefinite period. There are fully 25,000 men out of employment in the various districts, and, as is usual, much lawlessness is the result. It was intimated in a previous despatch that if the troubles were not adjusted soon at Coaldale, where a perfect reign of terror has existed for some time, a repetition of the terrible and bloody scene that was enacted there a short time since would occur. The confirmation comes with intelligence that the desperadoes are repeating other lawless acts. James O'Donnell has been shot at through a window and fatally wounded, several buildings have been fired, and certain obnoxious parties have received "coffin notices" to leave the region, under penalty of death. The evil feeling among the more desperate classes gains strength hourly, and important and startling developments may be anticipated at any moment.

PLYMOUTH PRAYER MEETING.

There was a larger attendance (if possible) than ever at Plymouth prayer meeting last night to welcome Mr. Beecher back. Professor Calvin E. Stowe and Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe were present. Professor Stowe is a very venerable looking old gentleman, with flowing, silvery locks. After the usual services sixty-five new members were received into the church. A son of Professor John Raymond and the youngest daughter of Ward Raymond, deacon of a Baptist church in San Francisco, were baptised by immersion.

Mr. Beecher's table was loaded with beautiful wild flowers. After the preliminary exercises, Mr. Beecher said:—"Experience shows that no influence in the world is like personal influence. You may interest men in nature and art; you may teach them admiration through intellectual processes, but when it comes to a matter of conduct and character there is no influence that can compare with the steady pressure of some personal friend. It may be mother or father, or some person aside from a relative, who represents wisdom and goodness to you. It is that influence that God has sent to rear the race. The whole shape and fashion of our lives is given by personal and parental influence. Whenever, therefore, Jesus Christ is spoken of as having offered a new and living way, whatever else is included this is, that a sense, not of ritual or form, or regularity, is now instituted, but with this or without, as may be, there is a personal relationship established between the soul of man and God, as represented by the Lord Jesus Christ. God is like the pure atmosphere, the purer it is the less we see it, and in Jesus Christ it is condensed and made a person, not a universal spirit, but a distinct person, and Jesus Christ becomes our conception of God. There are two thoughts I want to impress, first, that we should make

AN HONORABLE GOD

for ourselves in our conception of Jesus Christ. Do not be startled at my saying we make our God. We have never seen Him. We have ideas, and they form for each one a distinct personal conception of the Lord Jesus Christ. Now, this idea of the Lord Jesus Christ is the Lord you have chosen. You have set Him up in heaven and crowned Him Lord of all. Who is your Sovereign? What is His name? What is He like? I don't ask in the intellectual sense, but as your personal friend, how have you constituted your companion; your elder brother; your personal friend and Redeemer; your God? He is what you have put into Him—to you.

There are natures we read of that we long to know. Sometimes we fall under the influence of one of them, and we say, "How easy life would be if I could have such a one near all the time." That is what Christ makes himself to those who know how to know the Christ that is in heaven.

THE SOUL'S CHRIST.

I beseech, if you don't draw His likeness in your soul anything but beauty and grace, don't put any stern or hard or cruel thoughts in it. Make your Saviour glorious with your own personal thought and feeling. Having done that, the next thought is, treat him honorably, which very few of us do. I have often thought if I had a friend whose friendship was invaluable and I only made a convenience of him—only went to him when I wanted something and treated with indifference or contempt when I did not—how long would he be my friend? Men have not the strength to carry on a friendship against such odds as that. But how do we treat our Saviour? I have met with prosperity and adversity, have known great griefs and great joys, have had great peace and passed through great struggles, and I bear witness that nothing could have sustained me, and kept my head above water, but the vision I have of the Lord Jesus Christ.

A FLOATING PALACE.

The new French steamship Canada, which arrived at this port yesterday, forms an addition to the fleet of the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique. The Canada's length is 380 feet, and her breadth of beam 39 feet. She is of about 3,500 tons gross burden, is bark rigged, has compound engines of 850 horse power and is capable of running at an average speed of thirteen knots an hour. Her passenger accommodation is for 148 in first cabin, 112 in second cabin, 52 in third cabin and 346 in fourth cabin—total, 658 passengers. A new feature in this vessel is the grouping of two cabins and private parlor combined. She is said by her agents to be one of the most solidly built craft which ever crossed the Atlantic. In appearance she much resembles the favorite vessel of the line, the St. Laurent. Her commander, E. Frangeul, is one of the oldest and most trusted officers of the line, and was formerly in charge of the Ville de Brest, plying in the West India trade. The cabins are fitted up in the most elegant and costly fashion, and the vessel promises to do credit in every respect to the French line.

THE OLD GUARD'S BANNER.

NEW YORK, May 4, 1876.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

The flag spoken of in your paper of yesterday, as coming from the ladies of Charleston, was presented to the "Old Guard," and the only way in which the Stock Exchange are in any way identified with it is that Major McLean, who is commandant of our organization, is President of that body, and numbers of our members are also connected therewith. Again, the ten gentlemen who visited Charleston on the 22d of February last paid their own expenses, neither asking nor receiving aid from any one. Very respectfully yours,

JOHN MARTINE,
First Sergeant, "Old Guard."

THE UNITED STATES.

A Comprehensive History by William Cullen Bryant.

A CENTENNIAL WORK.

Tracing Out the Discovery and Development of Our Country.

A POPULAR HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES, from the First Discovery of the Western Hemisphere by the Northmen to the End of the First Century of the Union of the States, preceded by a Sketch of the Pre-historic Period and the Age of the Mound Builders. By William Cullen Bryant and Sydney Howard Gay. Vol I. Fully illustrated. New York: Scribner, Armstrong & Co. 1876.

Such is the title of one of the most important books ever published in America. Of histories of the United States there are no end, but there are none that have aimed at and attained the result of the present volume. It was a happy thought of the publishers to secure Mr. Bryant to write their great history, and it will be the crowning effort of the veteran poet's life. This first volume has been under way for two years, and there is not a line in it that has not passed through Mr. Bryant's hands, notwithstanding the ability of his assistants. It has been the object of the authors and publishers to make this history to the United States what Knight's is to England, and judging by the first volume we should say they had made a successful beginning. No pains or expense have been spared in letterpress or illustrations, and the most careful personal research has been made in collecting new and authoritative material. Twenty-five thousand dollars is a low estimate of the cost of this one volume. Of the 638 pages which compose the volume, 222 are illustrated. Five of these pages are steel plates and twelve full page, and all are made expressly for this work. The frontispiece is a fine portrait of Mr. Bryant, which is a work of art, and perhaps the best effort of its famous engraver, Mr. Charles Burt. A few of the illustrations were made by the celebrated French artist, Emil Bayard, who illustrated "India" so magnificently. Among the American artists represented are Thomas Moran, W. L. Sheppard, A. Bierstadt, G. H. Boughton, J. D. Woodward, E. A. Abbey, A. R. Waud, G. G. White, Sol Eytinge, Granville Perkins, Winslow Homer, Miss Hallock, Francis Lathrop and others comprising some of our best known landscape and figure painters. An analytical and chronological index combined is one of the important features of the book.

The first chapter of the present volume is a statement of the modern discovery of the evidence of the existence of the pre-historic man and the present scientific aspect of that question. The application of this evidence in the Eastern Hemisphere is made to the Western, the intention being to show that there are many reasons for supposing that the primeval man had an existence on this Continent, as well as others; that the copper colored savage found here three centuries ago was not necessarily that primeval man; that the supposition that this copper colored savage, coming here comparatively a little while ago from Asia, was the first race is highly improbable.

The second chapter is a sort of monograph of the mound builders and is illustrated from photographs of specimens in the collection in the possession of the Wisconsin Historical Society and never before engraved. It brings together and groups the evidence as to their work, their remains and their character so far as there is any indication of it and presents them as a race with nothing in common with the North American Indians, and in all probability long preceding them. The two chapters are an attempt to unravel the mystery wrapped around this half of the world till it was discovered by Columbus, and to show that it had its human interest just as much as the rest of the world, and is new only in the sense of being new to the outside world. The preceding chapters tell the stories of pre-Columbian times, whether true or false, but which have been and are believed in. The Columbian chapters show what it was that Columbus meant to find, what led him in his search, and what to the day of his death he thought he had discovered. His character and career are looked at in a new and important light. It is also shown on new authority how America came by its name. The authors have been largely assisted in their work by the discovery of some valuable old manuscripts. It is impossible to speak too highly of a work which shows on the face of it the evidence of so much research and conscientious labor. The style in which the book is written is graphic and graceful, and never for a moment dull.

In an elaborate preface Mr. Bryant summarizes the subject on which he writes and gives a valuable essay on the events of the past century. His conclusions are in the main just and always honest. He dwells at length on the subject of slavery and its attendant evils. In concluding this subject he says:—"The champions of slavery on one side—able men and skilled in the expedients of party warfare, and in many instances uncorrupt and pure in personal character—and the champions of the slave on the other—fearless and ready for the martyrdom which they sometimes suffered, their faculties exalted by a sense of danger—can now, as they and their acts pass in review before the historian, be judged with a degree of calmness belonging to a new era of our political existence."

In speaking of the effects of the late civil war he says:—

"It seemed for a while as if peculation had been taken up by a large class as a profession, so numerous were the instances of detection. The public vigilance was directed against every person in a pecuniary trust. Some who had never before been suspected found themselves suddenly in the custody of the law, and others, fearing that their turn might soon come, prudently ran away. There never has been a time when it was so dangerous for a public man to make a slip in his accounts. Investigation became the order of the day, and a considerable part of the contents of every daily paper consisted of the proceedings of committees formed for examining into the accounts of men who held pecuniary trusts. As first sight it seemed as if the world had suddenly grown worse; on a second reflection it was clear that it was growing better. A process of purgation was going on; dishonest men were stripped of the power of doing further mischief and branded with disgrace, and men of whom better hopes were entertained put in their place. The narrative of these iniquities could not properly stop short of the punishment which overtook the offenders, and which, while it makes the lesson of their otherwise worthless lives instructive, vindicates to some extent the character of the nation at large.

In conclusion he says:—

In writing the history of the only great nation on the globe the beginnings of which are fully recorded in contemporary writings, and for which we are not compelled, as in other cases, to grope in the darkness of tradition, the authors of this work have ascended to the proper sources, the ancient records themselves. The narrative has been drawn immediately from these writings, and by them has every statement and date of our early history been verified. For the later periods the materials are, of course, voluminous and circumstantial, even to embarrassment. We are not without the hope that those who read what we have written will see in the past, with all its vicissitudes and with all our own shortcomings, the promise of a prosperous and honorable future, of concord at home and peace and respect abroad, and that the same cheerful piety which leads the good man to put his personal trust in a kind Providence will prompt the good citizen to cherish an equal confidence in regard to the destiny reserved for our beloved country.

There is no reason to doubt Mr. Bryant when he says:—"We have endeavored to divest ourselves while engaged in this task of all local prejudices and every influence which might affect the impartiality of the narrative."

After devoting a chapter to the subject of pre-historic man in general the authors say, "However strong may be the probability of the Asiatic origin of the North American Indians, behind them appears another race which must have been displaced by that Mongolian migration. If here as elsewhere there were races more ancient than has hitherto been supposed, we can no longer look upon the Western Hemisphere as solitary and unpeopled, unknown and useless to man till he, grown old in the East, was numerous enough and far enough advanced in intelligence and wants to wander abroad upon the face of the earth in search of a new home."

The subject of the mound builders is one of the greatest interest not only to the historian but to the general reader. The authors have evidently been more than ordinarily interested in their research on this subject. We quote:—

"The North American Indians are, as a race, in no higher plane of culture than they were 300 years ago. If they have any inherent capability for progress—if they could, had they remained isolated and unmolested, have ever raised themselves above the condit