Corn for Fodder.

There is no doubt that the cheapest kind of fodder for neat stock, is raised by sowing corn broadcast or in drills. Tons can be produced upon an acre, and for milch cows late in the fall and winter there is none so good. Butter makers find it useful in this way and profitable. Upon this feed, their cows hold out in milk late in the season and are kept in good condition. They find it green when fall feed begins to decline, and cure it for winter feed.

The last year's crop of hay will all be fed out in this section by the time spring's work is done. The barns will be empty, and whether the crop of hay this year is to be large or small, we suggest to the farmers, the propriety of sowing corn for fodder. If the hay crop is abundant, it will hurt no one to keep over a few tons; if deficient, the corn fodder will be of still greater service for use, or to enable the producer to sell a few tons of hay at a high price. In any view of the case, it would seem advisable for farmers to raise all the fodder they can.

If any one is short of manure, an acre or two of rich pasture land will answer for the corn crop. It may be sowed as late as the 10th of June, and even later, and a profitable yield obtained.—*Caledonian.*

Weekly Free Press.

BURLINGTON, FRIDAY, MAY 25, 1855.

The Great Question.

The political questions arising from the existence of slavery in our country are more important than any others which can be named. It is idle to deny this. The whole nation feels it to be so. The subject is in every man's thoughts, and the reason is obvious. No topic which concerns the whole country or any considerable part of it, can be discussed, without its being found that slavery has something to do with it. Talk of the agriculture, the manufactures, or the commerce of the country, and slavery at once comes forward to join in the conversation—of tariffs, direct taxation, public lands, the influx of foreigners or the emigration of our citizens from one part of the union to the other, and slavery must not be overlooked. Speak about our armies and navies and their officers,—about secretaries and foreign ministers, about judges and commissioners, about territories and territorial governors, and it is the same. Name a presidential candidate or a congressman, and slavery speaks in an instant, and shows a lively interest in the matter. Gather a national or a state convention, and slavery always takes a seat and claims a right to speak and to act.

Not only has it come to be ever present in this way, but its bearing has changed, and its power has grown to an appalling degree. Seventy-five years ago, for the most part, it wore a submissive look, it spoke with bated breath, it asked for compassion,—it was going the way of all the earth very soon, it wished only to die quietly, within its prescribed bounds,—it prayed only that its flickering candle of life might not be rudely blown out, but allowed to waste itself peaceably in its socket. A little ashes and a light puff of smoke would soon tell the world that its spirit was gone from this land of liberty for ever. Now it shows defiance in its hideous countenance. Oaths, blasphemies and threats are poured out of its bathtome mouth incessantly. Its hands, so suppliant once, are now filled with bowie knives and six-shooters. Like other despotisms, it forbids any question of its powers. It tramples on laws and compacts, it breaks down the bars which itself had sworn should for ever prevent its progress,—it threatens death to those who shall speak and act for freedom. The nation's treasure, officers and armies are at its disposal. National officers of high rank plan for mobs to carry out its ferocious schemes against law and liberty, and raise money to pay the piratical scoundrels who are engaged to overpower all who stand in its way.

The talk of *ignoring slavery* as a national matter is absurd,—too absurd for sane persons to use. The danger cannot be turned aside by shutting the eyes against it. The peril is a real one. The war has begun. Slavery and freedom are now face to face. Freedom must conquer now or feel its enemy's foot on its neck for a long time to come.—Every man in the free states should realize this—should stand with his loins girt, and say "I am ready—ready now, ready for my whole life;—ready with my vote—ready with all the influence I can use—ready with my money if it is needed, and ready with my life blood as my fathers were with theirs in 1776, if freedom cannot be made secure without it."

Vermont has never held any doctrine inconsistent with that. She made her issue last year more boldly than ever, if possible, and she will not change it this. She will never forget it, or go contrary to it.

Massachusetts.

The Legislature of Massachusetts has adjourned after a session of 145 days, the longest ever held in that State with one exception, and by far the most expensive. It was the first Know-Nothing Legislature ever elected, and the people of the Bay State, if all accounts are true, are not far from unanimous in the hope that it will prove to be the last, so far as they are concerned. It has been an eminently undignified and unscrupulous body. At one time, when the House was in regular session, rowdy representatives were engaged for half an hour, in the boy's play of knocking off hats, shoving one another into their seats or lifting each other bodily out, stopping all business by the noise and confusion. In the Senate the Committee on Mercantile affairs reported "we cannot hope for a more favorable consideration in respect to our northern harbors until 'Sam' is officially installed in the presidental mansion." How dignified! At another time the Chairman of a Senate Committee took upon himself the unheard of liberty to alter and erase words and sentences in a bill which had received the official endorsements of the Clerks, and only by accident was the interference discovered. These are instances among many of the same sort.

The Massachusetts Legislature did, however, or tried to do, some good things, though the most important bills passed, as well as many others, are said to be disfigured by crudities and faults which will seriously impair their efficacy. It backed out of the Nunnery business,—turned out Mr. Hiss when it could not help it,—rebuked Judge Loring for helping Slaveholders in the Burns fugitive case, though the Governor refused to remove him,—passed the liquor law, though it is freely stated that more liquor was used by members this year than in any session for thirty years,—and at the last moment it took the bits between its teeth, and by large majorities passed the "personal liberty" bill over the veto of Gov. Gardner. Whether this was done because they were sure of the merit of the bill in all points, or to spite the Governor for clipping the wings of their bills before, we do not gather from what was said or done by either the Governor or the members. As the bill passed the House the first time, it allowed any magistrate of any court and if no magistrate is within five miles, any Justice of the Peace, to take the alleged fugitive from the U. S. officers by a writ of *Habeas Corpus*; forbade the claimant or any one interested from testifying at the trial; allowed no state official to issue a warrant, no attorney to appear for the claimant, no jail or place of confinement to be used for the detention of a fugitive, and no sheriff, constable, police officer, or militia-man, to assist in the arrest or rendition under penalty of $1000 fine and imprisonment for one or two years. It was pronounced unconstitutional and to be direct nullification by papers strongly opposed to the fugitive slave law, and was modified more or less in the Senate. In what shape it finally passed we do not find stated.

The last thing done was the passage of an article of amendment of the State Constitution, which provides that "no person shall be entitled to vote in this Commonwealth, unless he shall have been a resident within the jurisdiction of the United States for a term of twenty-one years, *and legally naturalized.*" As no native citizen can be naturalized, this brilliant provision would, if the action of the Legislature were final, exclude every American born citizen of Massachusetts from the right of suffrage. Of course such was not the intention of the framers of the article; but so it reads, and it forms a fitting climax to the action of the most ignorant legislative body which has assembled in New England for many a year.

☞ MONEY AND BUSINESS.—Money goes a begging for borrowers in the cities, because in the prostration of many kinds of business, less capital is needed to supply the wants of trade. Manufactures are depressed for lack of protection and of course foreign manufacturers are profiting thereby. The imports of general merchandise, other than dry goods, into the port of New York last week, reached $2,385,277, which for the first time in a considerable period, is slightly in excess of the same week last year. Dry goods, however, included, there is a trifling falling off from 1854

The steamer which left New York on the 17th for Liverpool, carried out nearly two millions in specie, ($1,894,300). The N. Y. Herald explains it thus. "England has made a loan of sixteen millions of pounds.—It has been taken up, and according to the terms, she must be furnished with cash from this loan to the extent of about eight millions of dollars a month. Her capitalists, therefore, are calling in their money from all quarters on account of the pressure of this loan. Hence this extraordinary shipment."

In Railroad securities there has been little change for a week. Vt. Central stock and bonds seem to be very little affected as yet by the recent decision, giving the control of the road to the Vt. and Canada corporation. The first mortgage bonds have risen from 30¼ to 37. An auction sale of ten shares of Rutland stock was made in Boston on the 17th at half a dollar a share.

☞ FUNNY.—The Bellows Falls *Argus* urges the Democracy to "stick to the old land-marks," and gives as such, a curious set of "principles," which it says "have led the Democracy on to victory in the past and will in the future." Number four, entire, is as follows

"4. That the veto power of the President as lately exercised, was a judicious use of a clear power for the public good."

Probably the *Argus* cannot accomodate us with a list of the democratic victories "in the past," which are to be credited to the late exercise of the veto power by President Pierce. Of those in the future we intend to keep a list ourselves.

Vt. and Canada, and Vt. Central Rail Roads—Important decision.

The decision of Chancellor Poland, of which we give a report below, will be read with interest. By it one step has been taken towards letting daylight into the affairs of the two important corporations which it affects. It is a short one we know, but we are glad to see it, because we think more will be sure to follow. From the beginning of the connexion between the Vermont Central and the Vermont and Canada corporations, concealment and entanglement have had full power over their most important relations.—Every movement has seemed to be bringing both of them only so much nearer to hopeless ruin. A few favored individuals, holding offices of power or trust, may have profited by such a state of things; but stock holders and creditors generally, have been treated as if they had no rights except to be bamboozled and ruined. The decision of Judge Poland can not lessen the real value of the stock or bonds of either corporation, whatever immediate effect it may produce at brokers' boards. We rather believe it will in the end benefit them both. Once get the managers' affairs before courts of justice, where truth can be wrung out on the witness stand, and where powers used will be tested by legal principles, and there will be ground for hope. For the present, the shifting and uncertain responsibility of Trustees real or pretended, has to give place to that of a board of Directors, who may find themselves brought to an account under the law of the land in a somewhat different fashion from what has prevailed in years past. At least we hope so.

Vt. and Canada R. R. vs. Vt. Central R. R.—The hearing in Chancery, between the Vermont and Canada Railroad Company and the Vt. Central Railroad Company and the Trustees of the first mortgage Bonds, of which we made mention a week or two ago, took place this week at St. Johnsbury, before Chancellor Poland. As the subject of it is one of interest to a great number of persons, the stockholders in both companies and the holders of Vt. Central Bonds, it may be useful to state the case briefly, in connection with the decision of the Chancellor. The bill stated that in 1850 the Vt. & Canada Co. leased its road to the Vt. Central for fifty years for a rent equal to eight per cent per annum upon the whole cost of the Canada, represented in the stock issued at thirteen hundred and fifty thousand dollars, or one hundred and eight thousand dollars per year, payable half yearly in equal installments;—that the Central to secure the regular payment of the rent stipulated that whenever the rent should be due and in arrears four months, the Canada Company should have the power to take possession of both roads and all the property of every description used in connection therewith, and run the same until the increase, after paying running expenses and repairs, should be sufficient to pay all rent which should then be due, whereupon the roads and property should be surrendered to the Central,—that in 1852 the Central surrendered the roads and property to the Trustees of the first mortgage bonds, and that the rent had been paid up to June, 1854,—that fifty-four thousand dollars rent due in December 1854 had not been paid, and that the Canada Company had become entitled to take possession,—that the first mortgage and the surrender to the Trustees under it were made after the execution of the lease and contract for security and in express subjection to it,—that the Canada Company had declared possession,—that the Trustees refused to give up possession of either the roads or personal property, (the personal property amounting to about eight hundred thousand dollars in value) and threatened to exclude the Canada Company from the possession by force, and prayed for an injunction or a receiver. The answer of the Trustees admitted the due execution of the instrument above mentioned and the non-payment of the rent, but stated that not more than one-half of the personal property now in their hands was in existence when the lease was made,—that about one quarter of it had been added by the Central after the lease, and the other quarter had been procured by the trustees with trust funds since they took possession, and that the Trustees were still liable personally for about two hundred and fifty thousand dollars for means raised to carry on the business,—that the Canada Company was justly indebted to the Central Company in the sum of about two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, for money, service, and other things furnished by the Central to the Canada to aid in the construction of the Canada road, and thereupon insisted that the Canada Company had no right to the possession of the road or personal property. The Canada Company denies the existence of this indebtedness to the Central. The motion for an injunction or receiver was argued at length, by Mr. Aldis of St. Albans, and Mr. Edmunds of Burlington, for the Canada Company, and by Mr. Peck of Montpelier and Mr. Phelps of Burlington, for the trustees. The Chancellor decided 1st That the contracts between the Canada and Central covered personal property acquired subsequent to the lease as well as that then in existence. 2d. That as the trustees took their title in express subjection to the right of the Canada, this right was good against them. 3d. That upon the conceded facts in the case, the Canada was entitled to the possession of the roads and property, and was entitled to an injunction to restrain the trustees from in doubting them in taking possession. 4th. That as to the alleged debt due from the Canada to the Central—even if the trustees had every right to set that up as a defence—inasmuch as this was asserted by the trustees and denied by the Canada, it was upon the trustees to make it out and that so much doubt was thrown upon it by the evidence, that it would not justify the Court in refusing the injunction. The trustees were accordingly enjoined from hindering or molesting the Canada Company in taking possession of the two roads and the personal property, upon the Canada Company giving sufficient security to the trustees in respect to their liabilities, and also to hold the earnings of the roads (after paying expenses and repairs,) and the property, subject to the order of the Court.

Sophomore Exhibition.

For many years an abundance of rain has been the usual concomitant of the Annual Exhibition of the Sophomore Class in the University. Thursday showed an agreeable exception. The weather was extremely fine. The assembly was full and attentive and the exercises were good. A lack of vivacity and freedom in manner is to be looked for in those who are making their first essay before the public, and was observable last evening, though in no uncommon degree. Time and practice will remedy that defect. Good sense and clear thought are the first requisites. The lively utterance of them is the next—easily obtained when the first are secured. On the whole, it was in our opinion an unusually good exhibition.

ORDER OF EXERCISES.

1. Claims of Oratory on National Taste. Edward Adams Sowles.
2. Alexander and the Iliad. Walter Jackson Freeman.
3. The Advisers of Augustus. John Worthington Newton.
4. Romanism, as affected by the Political power of the Popes. Royal Jackson Bancroft.
5. John C. Calhoun. Ptolemy O'Meara Edson.
6. The Spirit of Conquest. Rollin Marsh Richmond.*
7. William the Conqueror. Charles James Stewart Wells.*
8. Poland. Job Corbin.
9. The Sale of the Roman Empire. Joseph Marsh.
10. Cowper's influence upon the Poetic Spirit of his time. Samuel Lysander Bates.
11. The Moral element in the character of our early statesmen. Robert Newton Hall.
12. The Ancient and the Modern Orator. Romeo Bush Perry.
13. Heroism. Alfred Wheeler.
14. Our obligations to the Past. Richard Woodbury Lang.
15. Milton, as an example to the American Scholar. Oliver Phelps Chandler Billings.
16. Revival of Classical Learning in Italy. George Nichols.
17. Refinement of the Taste, as a part of Mental Culture. Salmon Green.
18. Johnson in Social Life. George Orville Robinson.
19. Sources of Athenian Culture. Thomas Huntington Pease.
20. Influence upon the Scholar of a Belief in Immortality. George Ingersoll Bard.

* Excused.

P. S. It is a matter of but little consequence, but we may as well mention, that the counterfeit schedules of subjects, distributed among the audience, in close imitation of the regular ones furnished by the Faculty, but with the addition of the words "*Arranged without regard to merit,*"—and bearing the imprint of the Free Press office, were *not* printed at this office. Of course there is no law to prevent any young man who stands so much higher in his own estimation than in that of his instructors, from exhibiting his wounded vanity by a printed advertisement of the same, if he is silly enough so to do. There are, however, laws of courtesy and comity among printers, which should have prevented our neighbors from affixing the imprint of another office to a job, to which they were afraid to attach their own. We did not suppose there was an office in town which would have done so dishonorable a thing. If it is ever repeated, we shall mention names, and express ourselves more at length on the subject.

☞ H. R. Campbell, Esq., has contracted to build a bridge on the Vt. Ct. R. R. in Williston, where one was burned last March. The work will be well done and done quickly.

☞ Rain is sadly needed in this vicinity. The showers in the early part of last week ceased before the surface of the ground was barely moistened, and since we have had again the cold dry north wind, which has been such a marked feature of the spring.—The grass is very low, hay scarce, the cattle on scant allowance, and vegetation generally backward.

In Massachusetts and Southern New York a fine rain fell on Saturday and Sunday last.

☞ EXCITEMENT IN NORTHFIELD.—Northfield was excited on the 16th about, if not with, liquor. According to hearsay accounts, some one was on trial for violation of the liquor law. An imposing array of lawyers were present on each side and something less than half the inhabitants of the place were summoned as witnesses. What was the exact order of the operations we are not informed, but the feeling ran high. Two juries were impanelled, one by the constable, and another by a special officer deputized by the justice, neither of whom would back out, and consequently both juries sat upon the case. A Montpelier lawyer, J. A. Vail, engaged for the liquor, brought several bottles of it into court, drank himself, offered to treat Justice and Juries, got uproarious, and was arrested for drunkenness and taken to Montpelier. The matter was materially complicated by the arrest for unlawful furnishing of liquor, of the Justice himself, who acknowledged the corn. The trial finally broke up in a general muss and dispersion of the parties.

☞ THE NEW LIQUOR LAW OF MASSACHUSETTS.—The new prohibitory law lately enacted by the Legislature of Massachusetts went into operation on Monday. It is, we suppose, with the exception of the present law in Maine, the most stringent liquor law yet enacted. The penalty for a first conviction of selling unlawfully is $10 and costs, and not less than twenty nor more than thirty days' imprisonment; for a second conviction $20 and costs, and thirty to sixty days' imprisonment; for a third, and any subsequent conviction, $50 and costs, and three to six months' imprisonment. The penalties may be severally imposed upon the first trial, if the defendant is convicted upon three or more indictments for three or more distinct sales. Clerks, servants or agents are made equally guilty with the principals, and subject to like penalties. If the fines are not paid, the imprisonment is extended thirty days. For manufacturing liquor without a license, or for being a common seller, the penalties are still more stringent than for selling. Express men, common carriers, agents of railroad companies, or other persons who shall receive any spirituous or intoxicating liquor which has been sold or is intended for sale illegally or convey such liquor into the State, are liable to a fine.

Every person convicted of the violation of any provision of the law is required to give bonds in not less than $1000, nor more than $2000, not to violate the law again within one year, or stand committed until he enter into such recognizance. Delivery of intoxicating liquors in or from a building or place other than a dwelling house, and delivery from a dwelling house with payment or promise of payment, is made *prima facie* evidence of sale, and is punishable as such sale.

The husband, wife, parent, child, guardian or employer of any person who has the habit of drinking to excess, may notify the dealer not to deliver any intoxicating liquor to such person, and may recover damages for a neglect to heed the notice. The seller of the liquor is made liable for damages done by an intoxicated person to the same extent as the actual perpetrator.

Liquors, and implements and vessels used in selling the same, contrary to law, are to be regarded and treated as common nuisances.

There are, of course, the usual provisions for search and seizure of liquor and for the destruction of worthless liquor, for the licensing of Agents &c. The authorities may also license persons to manufacture liquors and sell the same in quantities of 30 gallons or more, to go out of the State or to be used for proper purposes.

The Boston dealers openly defy the law. We wait to see which will conquer.

☞ LIQUOR LAW ON THE RAILROAD.—The President of the Rutland and Burlington and Cheshire Railroad Companies, writes as follows to George H. Thacher, Esq., President of the Albany Northern Railroad. The letter is published in the Albany *Argus*.

GEO. H. THACHER, Esq., President.

Albany Northern Railroad Company

Dear Sir:—The Liquor Law of Massachusetts goes into operation on the 20th of the present month. The law is very rigid; therefore, on and after the 20th day of the present month, we must *decline receiving Great and Small Beer, Alcohol or Liquors of any kind.* I therefore wish you to give the above notice to Mr. Clark, that we shall be relieved from complaints, or vexation by complaints, from those men that are now engaged to make all complaints for violation of our law.

Respectfully, THOMAS THACHER.

Railroad Advertising.

On Monday of this week, the Summer arrangement of the time of running the cars on the several railroads in this vicinity commenced. What the arrangements are, our readers can learn by enquiring at the R. R. Stations, [illegible] will answer their questions, and [illegible] right.—The R. R. Managers withold the publication of their times of departure and arrival in the newspapers, probably because the less there is known of R. R. matters the better for them. It is "small potatoe" business to withold these notices from the public, simply because it will cost something. It would not cost all the Railroad corporations in this region over $20 a year to advertise all that is necessary in a newspaper.—*Rutland Herald.*

We have looked in the Burlington *Free Press* and Rutland *Herald* and other papers, to ascertain something about the running of the cars on the Rutland and Burlington, and the roads leading out of Rutland, but to no purpose. Why do the managers or rather mis-managers of railroads withold from the newspapers, the time of arrivals and departures of the cars? [illegible] right? It is our opinion a small dirty business as [illegible] very much to the inconvenience of the travelling community and no little detriment to the roads.—*St. Albans Messenger.*

"There is a chance for an improvement in some respects, at Rutland; we half suspect that matters there are too much under the influence of hotels and victualing establishments. It was with great difficulty that we could find where the cars were, or anything else, in our transition from one to another. We could find no one whose business it seemed to be to give information on these subjects, and no time tables or printed instructions any where. Indeed we wonder how persons unaccustomed to travel, and especially females, can get along at all.—How to get a good lunch at the Station, or a splendid dinner at *Bardwell's* is as clear as noon day, but how to get fairly started for *Castleton* is not quite so plain."—*Swanton Journal.*

☞ INTELLIGENCE AT THE SOUTH.—An Alabama newspaper apologizes for a dearth of news, because the telegraph wires had been broken down and carried off by persons who imagined that they caused the drought.—The editor thinks it would be well to apply some of the funds employed to correct the heathen abroad, to enlightening the heathen near home, no more ignorant ones being possible on the face of the earth. He gives facts intended to disabuse the chimerical notion of these "heathen," showing that the drought is as severe in Texas, Arkansas and other sections, where there are no wires, and that though the electric telegraph was established eleven years since, until within the two years past no complaint of it had been experienced, and concludes

But is useless to state such facts to men whose heads entertain the idea that the telegraph prevents rain from falling. You might as well preach the Christian religion to a Mormon.

Southern Know-Nothings.

The Know-Nothing State Council of Georgia adopted, at its last session in Macon, the following resolution, and directed it to be published. It is thus officially printed in the Savannah *Republican*:

Resolved, That slavery and slave institutions are protected by the Constitution of the United States, and the obligation to maintain them is not sectional but national; that the right to establish them in the organization of State governments belongs to the native and naturalized citizens; and that Congress has no constitutional power to intervene, by excluding a new State applying for admission into the Union, upon the ground that the constitution of such State recognizes slavery.

The Know Nothings of the south who really believe that such doctrine can be forced down the throats of the people of the free states, by the decrees of Grand Councils, or by any other decrees, are Know-Nothings indeed:—We pity the Vermonter who shall try to swallow such nauseous and poisonous stuff.

☞ THE KANZAS OUTRAGE.—Within a few days there has been published an important document concerning the recent outrages upon citizens of Kanzas. It is a memorial prepared by the people of that territory, setting forth the manner in which their territory has been invaded by force from Missouri, that the real voters were driven by armed men from the polls, and a mere mockery of an election, carried on by men who had no right there. It is stated in this memorial that "the leader and captain of one of these bands was a distinguished citizen of Missouri, *and late the presiding officer of the Senate of the United States,*" and that he "had a bowie-knife and revolver belted around him, apparently ready to shed the blood of any man who refused to be enslaved."

This, of course, refers to Atchison, late President of the U. S. Senate, and the original author of the Nebraska villainy, and who is now, it seems, ready to resort to any species of outrage to enable him to establish slavery within the territory. The memorial proceeds to appeal to *Congress* for redress. It is, however, evident that an appeal should first be made to the Executive of the United States for the rightful remedy.

George S. Park, late of the Parkville Luminary, destroyed by the mob, publishes a letter in the St. Louis Democrat, in which he says that Atchison and Stringfellow have organized a secret association, sworn to turn out and fight when called upon. All are to act secretly to destroy the character and business of all northernmen. All dissenting from their doctrines are to be expelled all Benton and whig presses are to be destroyed. The destruction of the hotel at Kanzas city and the presses at Lawrence is deserted, cannon being taken from a distance to demolish them, and the conspirators have determined not to stop until every free soiler is driven out of Missouri and Kanzas. Park says that he telegraphed Governor Price of Missouri, and President Pierce for protection, but no answer was given. He traces to Atchison the destruction of the Luminary establishment. Mr. Park promises more developments.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE FREE PRESS.]

Letters from England.

NO. XXX.

MANCHESTER, April 27, 1855.

In one of Disraeli's political tales a young man just from College expresses an ardent ambition to visit Greece and Rome. "The Age of Ruins is past," says his cosmopolitan companion, "Visit Manchester!"

What can a tourist say of Manchester? There is nothing in it for ear or eye but sounds and sights of industry. Nay, hardly so much as that, for these cotton lords are as jealous of their walls and warehouses as noblemen are of their parks and halls. Without letters to proprietors, it is almost useless to apply for admission to the large establishments. So the stranger must content himself with looking on the dingy exteriors, and listening to the click of machinery as he passes through mile after mile of dark, narrow crooked streets. I hav'n't seen a town in England so uninviting to a visitor as Manchester—except it be Birmingham—the one the manufacturing metropolis, the other the great iron emporium of England.—I might almost say of the world. Both are almost entirely built of dingy brick and wrapped in an all penetrating atmosphere of coal smoke; neither will detain the traveler long by any attractions of architecture or antiquity.

The country in the midst of which Manchester is situated is hardly English. It is as flat and uninteresting as the level portions of Lower Canada. I have repeatedly set my face toward the country in different directions in the hope of finding some of those pleasant by roads through fields and wood, some of those pretty glimpses of scenery—those "bits of English" which I have found in other parts. But go far as I will, everything is on the same dead level, and those tall black chimneys always stand up in the back ground.

Manchester has long been the stronghold of all sorts of heresies. The "Manchester riots" in Castlereagh's time, the furious demonstrations made during the discussion of Parliamentary Reform, the "Anti-Corn-Law league," and the Chartist tumults, were all genuine outbursts of its "noble rage." Manchester politics are radical in the extreme. When a noble lord wishes to express in the strongest terms his well-bred contempt for anything democratic, he contrives to associate it with the "Manchester party," and when a cotton lord makes a speech in the Free Trade Hall, you may be sure of something close upon the *scandalum magnatum.* Manchester always sends liberals to Parliament. Her present members are men of no meaner fame than John Bright and Milner Gibson, the former notorious just now for his tirades against the war, the latter the great champion of the "Society for the abolition of taxes on knowledge," and both, in connexion with Mr. Cobden, famous for their exertions against the Corn-laws. These three men form a "team" known in the political world as "Cobden, Bright, Gibson & Co.," whose backs the *Times* so loves to lash, that in parliamentary recesses, and whenever there is a dearth of other matter, Cobden, Bright and Gibson are sure to be whipped through a series of leaders. However I once heard Mr. Cobden say that he didn't believe there were three men in England who had thicker skins! Mr. Bright is a capital stump orator. I have heard him bring down the "bray of Exeter Hall" when a real live earl could not start a grunt. He is one of those fat, well-conditioned men, whose very look speaks of bread-and-butter, cold tongue, and those nice things which people cannot think of without being good-humored. He has a plain, homely, business way of talking, but all he says comes out with a plumpness and an unction which gives it a kind of grace. Mr. Cobden talks like a clear headed man master of his subjects, and though he is no orator, he talks so like a man who loves his friend, that it is a pleasure to hear him. Milner Gibson is not a good speaker, but he handles facts well and can make a very stubborn argument. His speech for the repeal of the advertisement tax during the last session of Parliament, as it is reported in "Hansard's debates," is the most convincing in the volume.

Socialism could formerly muster a considerable force in Manchester. The socialists had a large hall where they used to congregate in masses on Sundays for political discussions. It is a gratifying fact that the Hall has recently been converted into a reading room, in connexion with which is a large library free to all classes.

Manchester has three colleges. Owen's college, the Lancashire Independents' college, both of which are empowered to send students to the University of London for degrees, and Chetham college which provides for the education of a hundred poor children from six to fourteen years of age. A large free library is also attached to Chetham college. I am told that there is no place in England where there are more ample charities for the education of the working classes, for the instruction of the deaf, dumb, and blind, and for the medical treatment of the poor. The most imposing buildings in Manchester are its noble Infirmary, where from two to three thousand patients are treated yearly, and its Asylum in which 250 deaf, dumb, and blind children are instructed and provided for.

The churches of Manchester are mostly built of stone, and many of them are very beautiful. The Cathedral is a fine old building of the fifteenth century in the ornamental Gothic style. Manchester has not long been a city; what is now the cathedral was formerly a collegiate church like Westminster abbey. Perhaps some of your readers may not know that in England no place can be a city except it be the seat of a Bishop. When I have said that the river Irwell separates Manchester from the large borough of Salford, and that the two contain a population bordering on four hundred thousand I shall leave this city of spindles and radicals, and make my way to the quiet, aristocratic, old city of York.

Your chronicler,

GRIFFITH.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE FREE PRESS.]

New York Anniversaries—Collation of the Congregational Union.

NEW YORK, May 12, 1855.

To the Editor of the Free Press.

This has been Anniversary week here, and the city has been full of visitors, clergymen especially, and the newspapers have been given up to reports of speeches and proceedings of societies of all kinds. Perhaps the most interesting, except to those who have some special interest in other directions, of all the meetings, was the "Collation," as they call it, of the Congregational Union, which was held at the Mansion House, a quiet house on Brooklyn Heights. The Congregational Union, as many of your readers doubtless know, is an association established for the purpose of cultivating a bond of union among Congregationalists all over the country and assisting the progress and spread of the denomination. It holds its anniversary of course here during Anniversary week, and closes its proceedings by a "Collation"—a sort of a dinner or supper, or tea drinking, where they come together to meet their friends and make acquaintance and hear and make speeches. I was told that they had a very fine time last year, and so I determined to go this time, though I had but one idea as to what they did, or how they did it. I went at the time announced, and found myself in a large oblong room, through the middle of which lengthwise extended a table, with eatables on it. At the further end of it was a platform, on which sat a few of the distinguished ones, and on each side of the table were ranged rows of chairs fronting the platform and filled with ladies and gentlemen. Mr. Humphrey a lawyer in New York, a son of old Dr. Humphrey and a man of elegant bearing, good sense and keen wit, was called to preside. The first thing was the disposing of the eatables. These gentlemen who had ladies in charge, went to the tables and got what they could for them, and those who had none went and helped themselves, and a few waiters did what they could to help all round. The entertainment was slight, tea and coffee, sandwiches and cake, and some ice cream &c., later in the evening.—After this part of the operations was performed, came the real entertainment of the evening, the speeches. I think I never was at a public dinner where I heard so good speeches, so many jokes cracked, so many good stories told. We had speeches from the venerable Dr. Humphrey, formerly President of Amherst College, from Dr. Sturtevant, President of Illinois College, Mr. Chickering and Adams of Maine, Mr. Beecher, Mr. Storrs and Dr. Bethune of Brooklyn, Dr. Bacon of New Haven, and several others of less note. Mr. Beecher was called on to give a welcome to the guests, which he did briefly. He said that it had been thought that Congregationalists were rather acting against good fellowship, in establishing themselves on this ground; but on examining the old history of the place, it had been found that the first church established here was Dutch Reformed, and the second a Congregational church, under a Dr. Mathek, who was succeeded by Rev. Mr. Wall, and under his charge the church disbanded. It would be seen from that, that the Congregationalists were entitled to a place here, but as they did not wish to be churlish they were very glad to see other denominations here too. Dr. Humphrey gave us some very interesting details about the different state of things when he began his ministry, when Vermont was missionary ground. He said they worshipped in a church which had never been ceiled off, but which was, though they did not know it, a modern Gothic church, and the swallows used to fly in and out during service. He told some funny stories about old preachers &c. One was of a minister who was discoursing on the story of the woman taken in adultery and brought to Christ for condemnation. The preacher said that when Christ said, "He that is without sin among you let him cast the first stone at her," then the scribes and Pharisees "began to *rewalkle for their hats.*"

Dr. Sturtevant gave us some account of things out West, and said that when he first preached, it was in a log house, where respectable swallows would scorn to build their nests, and he rose to speak from sitting on a fence rail in the corner, with his Bible and hymn-book beside him.

Dr. Bethune made one of the best after dinner speeches I ever heard. That is one of the various things that the Dr. can do well. He is a short, [illegible] man, with a bullet head set right in his shoulders, giving him as some one said, a great resemblance to a junk bottle. He is of the Dutch Reformed church, and his build renders him vulnerable to many of the jokes which are applied to Dutchmen, but he says he is by birth a Scotchman, by choice a Knickerbocker and only ecclesiastically a Dutchman.

There had been a good deal said about Congregationalism, and Congregational ideas &c., so the Dr. began his speech by telling of a captain of a steamboat who found his forward deck completely filled with a mass of swiss emigrants, who could not understand him, nor he them. But seeing among them a personage, whose air and manner indicated distinction, at least in his own opinion, the Captain hailed him with "I say, friend, do you understand what these people say." "Is it me that understands them?" was the answer—"Yes," said the Captain—"as much as any other individual, that there's no body in the warruld that can understand sich gibberish as that." However the Dr. said of course he did not mean that the story was at all applicable in the present case. Then he went on to make a great deal of fun of Mr. Beecher's claim that Congregationalist, had a right here, because some two hundred years ago, there was a church here that died. And then off he went upon a foray into New England, to pay off some of the jokes that had been cracked upon him. He said we New Englanders were always glorifying New England, but no one was ever caught there except on Thanksgiving day. Then he took up the question of sectarianism, which he illustrated by a set of people in Pennsylvania, called Dunkers, whose distinguishing characteristic was that they all wore long boards, but who split into two divisions, on the question of whether they should fasten their coats with buttons or hooks and eyes. He illustrated it again by pork and beans—Pork and molasses, he said, he believed was mythical, but pork and beans was a universal New England dish, and for that matter he attributed the lankness and leanness of the people to that. No man could get fat on pork and beans. But pumpkin pie he could get along with, and when he went into New England, he could meet the people on the common ground of pumpkin pie, but if they insisted upon his eating pork and beans, he should have to give up their society. And then he wound up by a stirring appeal against sectarianism and description of the future church.

It is of no use of course to attempt to give you even a sketch of all that was said. But the company did not break up until half past eleven, and when next the Congregational Union collects again, I shall hope to be there to see and hear.

Yours, ALPHA.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE FREE PRESS.]

Epistles from St. Paul.

NO. III.

ST. PAUL, Minnesota, May 7, 1855.

For some time past the "Press" in this region has been greatly exercised over the report of J. Ross Browne, a Special Agent, sent on here by the government to make investigations concerning the land sale which was held last season at Stillwater. When Browne was here, he was well known to be a government agent, but most if not all supposed the subject matter of his investigations was not what it turned out to be. The enemies of our worthy Governor thought that he was the rogue whose wicked ways, past their finding out, the sharp sightedness of the Special Agent would speedily detect and bring to light, and they were, consequently in high glee. Browne was pelted and puffed by these chaps, asked home to "dine," invited to deliver a lecture before the St. Paul Literary Association, in fact, made a complete lion of. But when his report was made and it was found to treat upon an entirely different subject from the supposed and alleged sins of the Governor, and his removal from office—when it was seen that his report affected the interests of 'Squatters,' real and pretended, to the lands in question which they had bid off at public auction, at $1.25 per acre and more than all when the aforesaid "chaps" saw how unwittingly some of their number had been led to give aid and comfort to the "Spy" and unconsciously furnish him with *material* on which to base his report, their indignation knew no bounds. The "Spy" was at once assailed, his report pronounced false, the means he used to gain information characterised as despicable, his private and literary reputation called in question, while some went so far as to abuse him for spelling his name with an e, instead of i in the usual way. His report was to the effect that a combination existed at the above mentioned sale which prevented or deterred outsiders from bidding and thus cheated the government out of many thousand dollars, as the lands had been improved and were very valuable.

No direct evidence of the combination is exhibited—nothing of it appeared at the sale save a wagon load or two of clubs, and the absence of competition in bidding, but Mr. J. Ross Browne argues that one nevertheless existed and adduces as conclusive evidence of it, the fact, that the speculators of Minnesota stood silent by and saw lands worth $100 per acre sold for $1.25, and made no sign. He says that to suppose they were deterred from bidding by any feeling of sympathy or sense of honor, only argues ignorance of their true character. What will be the result cannot yet be told. The general opinion is that the sales will be confirmed and the patents issued. But whatever the result J. Ross Browne, the author of Yusef, &c., should be again visit Minnesota, would quite likely meet with a reception little suited to his individual ease and comfort. Whether a man goes South and meddles with "niggers" or comes West and interferes with a Squatter's title to his "claim," the treatment of his case is the same; he is pretty certain to receive a free ride and a new suit. The *pocket sense* is a dangerous thing to touch and is alike sensitive in regard to a human chattel and a patch of wild land. The "Squatters" throughout the West consider that they are of right entitled to the lands they have improved by their own labor, and accordingly take means to get them. If speculators were allowed to bid for such lands at all, the Squatters would invariably lose them, as they have but little money while their competitors have plenty. Hence they take measures to protect themselves. They only repel what they deem an unwarrantable interference with their property. Could they not effect their object peaceably there is no doubt they would resort to force. They would fight for their "claims" as fiercely and determinedly as a slaveholder for his slaves, a slave for his freedom, or an opponent of the Fugitive Slave Law to prevent its execution. Obedience to the laws of the land they regard as proper except when their own interest is affected thereby, in which case the "higher law" is invoked.

Immigrants are pouring in upon us in one continual stream. Two steamboats, on an average, arrive daily. At any rate twenty days of navigation have given us 48 arrivals. St. Paul never was livelier. Business of all kinds flourishes. The District Court for the District commenced its session this morning. The calendar shows over a hundred cases for trial. This, however, is no indication of the amount of legal business in the district, as a large share, probably two thirds, is done in vacation before the Judge at Chambers.

The case of the Auctioneer against the Governor, in which the Auctioneer was knocked down, has been dismissed. The weather is very fine and farmers are putting in the seed as fast as possible.

Yours &c., P.

The Siege of Sebastopol.

The war critic of the New York Tribune, whose opinion on the subject is valuable, declares from a consideration of the recent intelligence that the Allies have gained no important advantage by the thirteen days bombardment of Sebastopol, and predicts that the seige *will soon be raised.* He estimates the number of projectiles thrown into the place and its defences, during the thirteen days, at over 600,000, weighing with their charges some 14,500 tons, a mass of iron thrown unprecedented in all previous history