The Free Press

GEO. W. & G. G. BENEDICT,

EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

☞ For terms see last page. ☜

BURLINGTON:
FRIDAY MORNING, JUNE 17, 1859.

THE HERALD PREDICTS AN EXPLOSION.

The N. Y. *Herald* believes that the National Convention system for nominating Presidents will come to an end by the explosion of the Charleston convention of 1860. Wise and his friends will go into that convention, it says, holding to the doctrine of the "Southern Democracy in behalf of special legislation by Congress for the protection of Slavery in all the Territories, from the perpetual snows of Nebraska to the scorching deserts of Arizona." "Douglas has issued his ultimatum of Congressional non-intervention and popular sovereignty over the subject of Slavery in the Territories." "He will go to Charleston fully convinced that the southern wing of the convention will demand him for the guillotine, and fully resolved to pay them back in their own coin." "Thus ignominiously expelled from Charleston, and left free to manage his northern democratic legions as a Northern Party," the *Herald* says he will lose no time in acting for himself; and thus it assumes that there will be four sectional parties and Tickets in the field,—that Seward, Douglas, Wise, and Goggin, will be the men, and that a failure to elect by the people will be inevitable, and that the candidates to go before the House of Representatives will be Seward, Douglas, and Wise. In that case it thinks Douglas has an even chance with Seward.

"In this alternative of an election by Congress, we shall at least have the benefit of a tribunal of responsibility and respectability, compared with the unscrupulous and irresponsible gamblers and vagabonds of a national party Convention.

* * * * *

Accordingly, let all hands prepare for the contingencies of a sectional scrub race in 1860, and an election by the House. And why should the democracy be alarmed? In an old-fashioned national fight of two parties they would be annihilated; but in a sectional scrub race a solid remnant of the party may perhaps be saved, and the President and the bulk of the spoils."

A HINT TO THE POSTMASTERS.

The subjoined article from the N. Y. Eve. *Post* adverts to one cause of the vexatious delays and mistakes which so often occur in the transmission of mail matter, and we are glad to see that the need and the possibility of improvements in that respect is admitted at Washington. The admission may lead to a change for the better bye and bye. But the delays and mistakes of distributing offices account for but a small part of the troubles. Complaints of remissness in promptly despatching letters and papers mis-sending them although plainly directed, and of their entire loss, especially when from their political character, their contents are unsavory to the administration, are heard on every hand. We all remember that Senator Douglas boldly charged in Congress upon the Department that there had been an almost entire suppression by the Post-offices of political pamphlets sent by him into Illinois last year, and we believe his charges were met by very faint denials by his democratic antagonists.

The late caution from the P. O. Department at Washington to those sending money or valuables in letters, not to register letters which were to go through the Chicago Post Office, as frequent depredations had been committed in that quarter, shows that dishonest officials are no scarcity in some parts of the country. As there will be, undoubtedly, a very large number of Postmasters here this week to attend the Democratic State Convention, we suggest the expediency of their giving some attention to the subject of the mail business in this State; we mean that part of it which concerns getting letters and papers promptly and correctly sent and and delivered. An interchange of views on the best way of serving the people, rather than themselves, could do no harm, and might do some good.

[From the N. Y. Evening Post.]

THE POST-OFFICE--THE DISTRIBUTING SYSTEM.

When our system of mails was established, one of its peculiar features was the creation of what are called distributing offices. The packages of letters and newspapers intended for a large district were sent in a mass to some considerable town, and there overlooked and assorted, and thence sent to the remoter post offices. This plan of many centres of distribution was thought to be most convenient for a thinly settled country, and it has continued to this day.

The circumstances of the country have in the meantime greatly changed. Our population has grown dense; steamers and railways, in carrying the mails, have taken the place of coaches and of post-boys on horseback; we have become accustomed to rapid travelling and the rapid transmission of intelligence, and can no longer bear the least delay that may possibly be avoided. The process of opening and assorting the mails at a distributing office occasions, it is admitted by the Post Office Department, a delay of from twelve to twenty-four hours, and hence it is that a traveller often carries a newspaper of a given date into a remote neighborhood a day earlier than the mails bring it. But this is often not the only delay. It frequently happens that the person employed to assort the contents of the mails is negligent, or worse than negligent—packages are overlooked and lie by till the next mail; or the work of distribution, or a part of it, is perhaps postponed; or packages of newspapers not friendly to the administration, are detained, and sent on after they lose all their interest. We know of no other way to account for some remarkable delays in the arrival of letters, and still more remarkable detentions of newspapers, than to suppose the existence of causes like these. From being a public convenience, the distributing system has become a public nuisance.

When we inquire why they have been so long tolerated, we find that the is a commission of twelve and a half per cent paid to the postmasters at the distributing offices on the postage of the letters distributed. This is sufficient to create an interest in favor of keeping up what has become an abuse. We are glad to see that the present Post-master-General is beginning to think of getting rid of the distributing system, and of causing all letters and papers to be dispatched directly to their destination, with a few exceptions. The Washington *Constitution* of yesterday has an article of some length on this subject, of a semi-official character, written probably in the Postoffice department, stating the conclusion to which Mr. Holt has arrived in these words:

"It has long been apparent to the department that the causes which rendered distributing offices necessary have generally ceased to exist, and that the time was not distant when the system must be abolished, except, perhaps, in a few of the larger cities, where facilities always exist for a limited and rapid distribution, without delaying correspondence."

If this be done, one great cause of the irregularities and delays that now exist would be removed. For our part, we should be glad to have the distributing system abolished altogether, so that not a vestige of it should remain.

VERMONT ITEMS.

During a thunder-storm which passed over the Town of Ripton, on the 2d inst., 30 sheep were killed by one stroke of lightning.

On the evening of the same day, the hotel of E. J. Stiles, at E. St. Johnsbury, was struck by lightning. No one was hurt, though the charge passed through one room where a person was sleeping.

The house of E. Hanson, in Brownington, was burned on the 6th, with nearly all its contents, having caught fire from hot ashes.

On the 4th, the house of E. Carpenter, in Windsor, was burned, having caught fire from coals or sparks blown from a stove in the back room into the shavings in the shed near by. The loss is estimated at $2000; insurance $800. The Windsor *Journal* takes occasion to remark upon the lack of any efficient Fire Department in that village.

St. John's Day, (June 24th), is to be celebrated this year at Middlebury, by a procession headed by the Burlington Cornet Band and Knights Templar, an address by P. C. Tucker, Esq., of Vergennes, and a Levee in the evening.

Two young men named Turner, while sailing on the Connecticut, near Brattleboro' last Wednesday, were nearly drowned by the upsetting of their boat.

A boy named Edwin Stone, broke his leg the other day while playing, in St. Albans. He had just got well of a broken arm.

Leonard Penniman was thrown out of his butcher's cart in St. Johnsbury, recently, and badly bruised. His horse ran away and made mince-meat of cart and contents.

Gideon Colton of Sherburne, caught a bear weighing 250 lbs in a large trap. That part of Vermont is quite bear-en.

We have two more suicides to record. The Bellows Falls *Times* says that Valentine Kerr, of Putney, aged 70, hung himself in his barn on the 27th of May; no cause known except the sudden death of his daughter.

Edwin Rice, of Hartland, hung himself on the 8th in his corn house. A paper was found about him stating that he wished his property sold, and his wife and children well taken care of. Mr. Rice was about forty years of age, and attempted to take his life last winter by taking strychnine, but was unsuccessful. No reason is assigned for the act.

On the morning of the 5th inst. the body of a man was found in Queechee River, at the foot of the Upper Falls, at North Hartland. The body had the appearance of having been in the water two months or more. It was thought to be that of Andrew Haggerty, of Woodstock, who has been missing for several months.

A man named Betterly shot one of his neighbor's hens which was trespassing, in Newfane the other day, and at the same time wounded a little child who was in range of the gun, one shot striking the child in the hip, while its clothes were riddled.

An eagle, measuring 6 ft. 6 in. across the wings, was shot in Cornwall last week by a boy. When brought down the bird attacked his hunter, and had to be re-shot to quiet him.

Among the patents issued June 7th were one to Decius W. Clark of Bennington—For imprvement in enamel compositions for brick &c., one to Enoch Calvin of Poultney,—for improvement in knitting machines, and one to Samuel Wiswall of Hyde Park—for improved washing machine.

THE HADLEY CELEBRATION.—They had a great time at Hadley, Mass., on the 8th inst., in celebrating the *Two Hundredth* anniversary of the settlement of that town—so famous in the Indian wars of early times, and noted also for being the place of concealment for many years of the regicide judges Goffe and Whalley.

The day was ushered in by the ringing of bells and a salute of 100 guns.

A long procession, headed by cavalry and infantry from the vicinity, was made, consisting of the Governor and other chief civil officers of the State, of the County, and of South Hadley, Amherst, Granby and Hatfield —those Towns being embraced in the original limits of Hadley,—of the President of the day, Hon. Erastus Hopkins of Northampton, a native of Hadley, and of the Trades, the Students of Amherst College, &c., &c.

As a part of the parade, according to the report in the Boston *Traveller*, there was

A representation of the Olden Time, consisting of about 25 or 30 ladies and gentlemen dressed in ancient costume of wigs, cocked hats, knee-breeches, &c., four couples being on pillions; following this was an old fashioned churn mounted on a pair of wheels, to represent, according to tradition, the manner in whith the Indians were beat back, when making an attack upon the town, by a number of ladies who rushed out upon them and they supposing it to be a cannon gave way.

As the procession moved down West street, an attack was made upon it by a body of Indians from Northampton, commanded by Capt. Clark. The attack was made upon the Northampton Light Infantry, and in a few moments the old ladies, with the churn, came to the rescue, beating them back into the fields off the street. The affair was managed admirably well

Following these came a representation of the trades; students of Amherst College; inhabitants on foot, etc. The procession proceeded thro' several of the principal streets to a large tent on West street to a large tent on West street, where the oration was delivered, by Prof. F. D. Huntington, of Cambridge.

The discourse of Prof. Huntington was of course a historical one, and full of interest for the hearers. In the progress of it, he sketched the history of Goffe and Whalley, while in Hadley, and their place of concealment in Rev. Mr. Russell's house during the last year of their lives. The prevailing accounts are that they both died there and were buried there, one on Mr. Russell's premises, and the other near by.

The Russell estate has been directly transmitted from that family through Isaac Chauncy the second minister, his son Josiah Chauncy, two Samuel Gaylords, father and son, to Chester Gaylord, now living on the spot. This latter remembers that at the rebuilding, in 1795, the bones of a large human skeleton, much decomposed, were found under a flat stone, with the remains of a coffin, behind the front cellar wall. Beyond question, these were the remains of Whalley, the sturdy old King Killer, buried one hundred and twenty years before. On exposure to the air, the decayed fragments crumbled into dust, fine as that of a summer threshing floor, which the wind driveth away and is utterly lost;—another fit theme for Hamlet and Horatio at the grave of poor Yorick, the King's jester. The Puritan Republican was no jester for a king, quite otherwise than that; he was in solemn awful earnest; his word for the tyrant was the axe, though it should afterwards fall on his own neck or sever his own heartstrings.

A Poem was delivered by E. C. Porter, Esq., and the day closed with a dinner and the usual amount of toasts and speeches.

The celebration is styled the most successful one of the kind, that has occurred in the state for many years.

GREAT FIRE AT SALEM. A fire at Salem Mass. on the 8th, was more destructive than any ever before known in that place. It caught in a stable connected with the Mansion House in Essex St. Eighteen horses were burned to death.

One of the hostlers of the stable, whose name is Hatch, and who slept in the building, also perished in it. From the fact that some five or six horses were found out of the stalls, it is concluded he must have cut the halters, and then, overcome by the smoke, fallen down and perished.

A large number of stores and other buildings was destroyed. The damage is estimated at $100,000.

FEATS OF STRENGTH.—Dr. Geo. B. Windship, of Roxbury, Mass., seems to have practised successfully according to the ancient story of the wrestler who began with carrying a young calf one day, and by repeating his effort *every day*, was able to carry the creature with equal ease, when he had become a full-sized ox. He began training himself when in his 17th year, at college, and had kept it up. He gave illustrations of his power and discoursed on the subject of gymnastics in Boston, a few days ago.

Gymnasiums, he showed, had their abuses, from persons not properly trained trying to out-do others. Exhaustion and weariness should never be allowed to come. Lifting was a neglected branch, on account of the tendency of people to injure themselves with it. Yet to a thorough hardening of the whole body, lifting was necessary. He had commenced with five hundred pounds, and had increased gradually, till on the 12th of May past, he had lifted nine hundred and twenty-six lbs.

Not long since, with his hands and back together, he had lifted 1500 pounds. There was a vast difference between lifting and sustaining. He would not advise any one to train themselves to lift over 500 pounds with the hands, or 2000 with the straps. He had gone beyond that to ascertain what could be done. Totten and the Belgian giant were the only persons he had ever learned authentically to have lifted 800 pounds. Totten lived 100 years ago, and was 30 years old when he lifted it. Dr. W. said he had five years yet to that, and he hoped to train himself to lift 1600 pounds clear.

Next to lifting, dumb bells were useful. One of his own weighed 141 pounds, and others 100 pounds each. He was 5 feet 7 inches high, and weighed 153 pounds. In reference to practicing, he would say, try no feat twice on the same day, if it was found to tire or exhaust in the slightest degree.

He handled bells of 97 and 98 lbs. weight, at arms-length, brandished them over his head, and made other displays, to show the assembly that "some things can be done as well as others,"—by some folks.

[For the Free Press.]

THE COUNTY JAIL.

Messrs. Editors:

Will you permit attention to be once more called to the condition of the jail in this county? A good service was done by the publication in your columns of the Presentations of the Grand Jury for the last two years, and by their clear and practical suggestions in regard to the improvements needed. In the hasty reading of a daily sheet, such public documents are often omitted, or but glanced at; and we would recommend those whose philanthropy does not wholly expend itself on the natives of Borroboola Gha to take up again your issue of June 3, or your last weekly, and note the condition of this public institution, remembering as they read, that the present building is of quite recent erection, and so ought very nearly to represent the charity and enlightened policy of to-day in respect to those who are so unfortunate as to get a lodgment within its walls. We use the word 'unfortunate' advisedly, but without any design to palliate the guilt of those who have become obnoxious to the law. They most certainly are unfortunate, who, young in years, and so especially susceptible to the continued influence of maturer minds, are thrown into the most intimate companionship with persons whose whole study and delight is to do all manner of wickedness—the outlaws and bitter haters of society, whose whole conversation and example is corruption itself.

If, in addition to the stimulants innumerable by beer shops and other places of nightly resort, any thing were needed as a finishing school of rowdyism and mischief—not to say of debauched and murderous wickedness—we might suppose it to be found in a common jail-room;—where the suspected and the proven guilty: the youth who has been caught in bad company and the cool, daring, hardened villain; the repentant, to whom the thought of his crime (to say nothing of his disgrace,) is an all-sufficient punishment, and the old offender, boasting of his many and multiform sins against Society and the Law: the merely mischievous and the positively malicious are thrown together with almost no other resource for whiling away the dreary weeks—nay, months—of their incarceration, than the company and conversation of their fellow-prisoners. Suppose that one-fourth of the confined are at last proved to be innocent, or that two-thirds of them cannot be reckoned among the confessed offenders; what effect can we imagine this four months' schooling will have on these? Will they be better citizens for their lessons of experts in crime? Will their conversation or their influence on others be more salutary, for the foul jests and coarse stories and horrid profanity with which such choice spirits are wont to beguile their enforced leisure, and entertain their desponding companions?

Verily, we shall need more charity schools and missionaries in Burlington, if this Devil's College continues to turn out its graduates upon us. And to think that this is a fair sample of our county jails! If so, then Vermont is in this one particular greatly behind the age, and exceedingly neglectful of her duty.

What say you, citizens, shall our jail be a disgrace to us, or shall its construction and management, and the treatment of those who are confined in it, represent fairly the christian philanthropy, and the new and better canons of prison discipline, which we believe to prevail in this year of our Lord 1859. THIS YEAR OF OUR LORD!

It is eighteen centuries now, and still the innocent and the guilty, the penitent and the abandoned, are thrown together in a promiscuous crowd to await their trial—as if the plague were not contagious, and leprosy would not spread! and "Christ's face on the Cross sees only this.

After the passion of two thousand years."

N. Y. Z.

INFANTICIDE BY DESERTION.—A shocking case of the desertion of an infant child by its mother, who left it to perish in the woods, has occurred at Haverhill, Mass. The mother, Mary E. Jones, now about eighteen years of age, was married about one year since to Daniel Jones, who subsequently abandoned her, and now resides in, or in the vicinity of Haverhill. She gave birth to her child at her father's in Lawrence, about three months since. On May 28th she left with her infant for Haverhill, and on the way turned aside in a piece of woods, and selecting a place suited to her purpose, sat down and nursed her infant freely, and, gathering some dead grass for its bed, laid it down upon the southern slope of a slight earthly elevation to die of hunger and exposure. This is her confession of the manner in which the inhuman deed was done. In answer to inquiries about her child at Haverhill, she said it was dead; but circumstances led to a suspicion of her having made way with it, and on being questioned by an officer, she confessed what she had done, and accompanied him to the place, where were found the decaying remains of her abandoned infant. She says the act was perpetrated because she could not endure the thought of having her child live, liable to become a degraded and miserable being, like herself. She was subsequently arrested.

SHOT BY AN AIR-GUN.—One John Wilson, a Nova Scotia down-easter, bought an air-gun in New York the other day, and to try its powers, occupied himself when evening came, by shooting from his room in the 5th story of a hotel, at a lamp-post on the opposite side of the street. He not only succeeded in shattering the lamp and endangering the lives of the passers by, but his fourth shot went through a window of a saloon opposite, and into the neck of a lady who was quietly eating strawberries and cream with her husband. The shot narrowly escaped being fatal to her. A search by a police officer brought the author of the mischief to light. He owned to the shooting; but said he did not mean to do any harm. Probably he thought that the bullets, being discharged without any *noise*, could not hurt, even if they hit.

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.—The English Government offer the Company an eight per cent. guaranty for 25 years, provided the cable is in successful operation at the rate of one hundred words per hour, and they will pay £20,000 per annum for messages, the arrangement for £14,000 per annum to stand good to the company in return for the surrender of the exclusive privilege of landing a cable on the coast of Newfoundland.

This proposition was to be acted on at a general meeting of Stockholders in London on the 8th inst., and another for authorizing the Directors to get subscribed a new capital of six hundred thousand pounds.

It can hardly be doubted that another attempt will be made to place a telegraph cable between England and this country. The experiment is too important to be abandoned on one trial. It is reported that the Red Sea cable has been successfully laid from Suez to Perim—a distance of 1260 miles.

RAILROAD FARES INCREASED.—At the meeting of the managers of the New York Central, Erie, Pennsylvania Central, and other leading railroad companies, at New York, just closed, it was decided to raise the Tariff of charges on roads to the West, and an agreement was signed on Monday, which raises passenger fares 60 per cent, and in some cases as high as 110 per cent.

Freights are advanced, on the average, 60 per cent. The old cattle rates, which were in force before the late breach between the roads, are restored. No road is permitted to evade the spirit of the agreement by granting drawbacks; nor can any road grant free passes for the purpose of influencing business, though all are free to grant passes which are not given with this object.

The *Herald* estimates that "the advances in the cattle rates alone will be worth $1,000 a day to the New York Central, and as much to the Erie, while $25,000 a day would inadequately represent the actual gain to the various roads concerned by the advance of passenger rates."

Correspondence of the Free Press.

LETTERS FROM EUROPE.

NO. LXXI.

Leipsic.

LEIPSIC, ——

At the time of the breaking up in the University of Prague, a portion of the seceders established the University of Leipsic, which, after that of Prague, is the oldest in Germany. It was formed in 1409, and has now 800 to 1000 students and 60 professors, besides a large number of private teachers. The private teachers, I believe, are a characteristic feature of the European University. The endowment of the University and the annual appropriations of the State are applied to keeping up the appointed and routine teaching of the Curriculum by the Professors. This gives to the Professors a small stipend, and they look for further means to extraordinary lectures given for pay to those more ambitious and industrious students who desire to push their inquiries far beyond the mere routine of the University course, for further aid. Such students also resort to able and learned men, who, in the character of private teachers, render their services for hire to such as desire to employ them, and also deliver lectures on their own speciality. From this class the corps of Professors is often recruited. It seems to me that no one at all acquainted with the facilities and needs of higher public education, can fail to see in these arrangements, almost the perfection of a system of University instruction.

The teaching rooms are of exceeding plainness—rude almost as a country school-house—the seats in some instances ranged round the room—in some cases the simplest long benches and desks of plain boards, with holes for the inkstands in front of the teacher's desk, which is quite as plain, on one side of the room. Some of the rooms have seats for not more than 25, others for 150. They open from long corridors. The buildings, in external appearance, have little to interest the traveler. Modern reparations and re-constructions have deprived them of the venerable ancient look which their years would suggest. In one is a common hall, or convlatorium, for 240 students, where, on certain foundations, they are fed gratuitously.

The Augusteum is a modern building, and has much more pretension. Within it is full of interest, being really one of the pleasant sights of the city. It was built in 1836, and finished from designs by Schinkel. It contains, besides the library of 100,000 volumes, and some other collections, a large and beautiful hall in which the degrees are conferred, and all the grand ceremonies and receptions of the University take place. The door-way is ornamented with statues of Calliope and Polyhymnia. The Frontispiece represents the four faculties of the University. It contains some fine statues, and in front of the President's seat is a noble bust of Liebnitz, who was a native of Leipsic and educated here, principally; but being denied his degree, LL. D., on account of his youth (20 years old), he took it from the University of Altorf. His fame is, however, a great glory of his native city, and his bust well deserves the place it occupies. Under the lofty cornices of the hall are bas-reliefs of life size and full length, illustrating the progress of Education.

The Observatory and the Chemical Laboratory of the University are on the citadel of Pleissenberg, from which we looked out upon the battle grounds.

The Churches of Leipsic are not very interesting. The only Catholic Church is a neat modern specimen of the gothic; it has four chapels or altars, but lacks, of course, the works of art which abound in the great temples of the Catholic Cities. The Protestant Churches are large and ancient, and have some things worth looking at. St. Thomas' is the largest and oldest—about 460 years old. St. Nicholas—330 years old, has a beautiful interior, and some good paintings. This Church was in existence in the 13th century, but has been rebuilt. We were told it would seat 5000 persons; I should not have supposed so many. In an out-of-the-way and half-sunken room, we were shown a beautiful gothic stem pulpit and baptistery, said to have been often used by Luther. I did not think any better of the Lutherans of Saxony, that such a beautiful relic, so closely associated with the great reformer and his ministerial functions, should thus be shoved into a dark corner. St. Paul's, belonging to the University, is interesting principally for the tombs of distinguished men.

Auerbacho Wine cellar fronts on the market place, opposite the end of the quaint and venerable old City Hall. We stepped down into it and took a glass of selzer water, cool, and foamy and refreshing, seated for the moment at the table, the same table at which Goethe and his crony fellow students are said to have caroused in his youthful student days, and which his genius has raised to immortality in the first characteristic scene of Faust and Mephistophiles, in his great dramatic allegory of Faust. Faust, the philosopher and man of learning, who had failed to find in philosophy and letters and study those enjoyments which a selfish and sensual ambition had hoped for, sighed for his youth again with a feeling which the poet in one of the prologues to the drama has uttered in glowing thoughts which I venture to render thus:

Oh give me back those early days
When hope was all the world to me,
When gushing streams of youthful lays
Poured from my fancy wild and free,
When shadowy veils of mist concealed
The truth of life from careless eyes;
And in the buds I saw revealed
The flowers, their perfumes, and their dyes.
I snatched the blossoms everywhere
That decked the vale and fringed the stream;
I had enough—no wealth, no care,
The love of truth, the joy of dreams.
Oh bring again the wild desires
That left my wearied heart no rest;
Return that heart with all its fires,
All unsubdued within my breast,
The hate, the love I cherished then—
Oh, give me back my youth again.

He makes his league with the devil, by which he is to be restored to youth again, and with the devil for his companion and obedient servant is to enter upon the unchecked indulgence of youthful passions and appetites. Their first experience was in Auerbach's wine cellar, where Mephistophiles exhibits his powers to the bacchanals who are revelling there. He offers them their choice of finer wines than they are drinking, and he bores gimlet holes through the spread leaf of the common wood table, about which they are carousing, and draws for each the wine of his choice, Rhenish, Champagne, Tokay—they, astonished at this diablerie, spill some of the wine on the floor. It turns to flame, and in the midst of their bewilderment and rage Mephistophiles and Faust leave the cellar. There are rude drawings on the walls—the table is there—diablerie and magic are said—it is a plain drinking cellar in the market place, but the magic of genius has written the names of Goethe and Faust on that humble *caxdu*, in letters that will not soon be obliterated, and travellers perhaps all along down the ages will drop in there as we did, and in the gratification of new curiosity keep it fresh as a monumental honor to the great poet.

Had I not desired to make some small purchases in the middle of the day I should not have observed the singular custom which seems to prevail of shutting the shops during the usual dinner hour, so that master and servant, principal and clerk, may all take their dinner at the same time. Their shops are fine, showy, and well supplied, but small.

Yours, E. C.

BOSTON TRADE SALES.—The Book Trade Sales of Boston which have been discontinued since 1836 are to be held this year on a larger scale than ever They are to be opened on Tuesday the first week in August. Many of the largest houses in the country are preparing to make contributions to the stock. It will close with a sale of paper and stationery in the succeeding week.

Besides the Book Trade Sales there is to be another for the sale of textile fabrics of domestic manufacture, the second week in July, and another in the third week in August for the sale of furniture, cut glass, pianofortes, and fancy and useful works of iron, and other manufactured articles.

BLACK MAILING THE BANKS.—Geo. H. Dodge, the President of Weare Bank, N. H. publishes a statement in the Boston *Traveler* —of attempts to levy black mail on that institution, by Anastasius Nicholas, of N. Y., and Tyler Hodges, under a threat that the bank should be discredited. The demands being non-complied with, false and injurious statements appeared against the Bank, in "Nicholas's Reporter," and Hodge's "Journal of Business." Some days since he says the following eminently literary production was received, purporting to come from the office of Dye's Wall St. Broker. After making certain false charges, the writer says

"If the mater is not Satesfacturly expland imedially I will feel it my duty to so publish the information in the Brokr, to wit that the *Bank has been Enjoined* an early reply may save truble."

JOHN S. DYE."

Mr. Dodge says the Bank has not been discredited—that it is solvent and its bills as well protected as those of any bank in New England.

EVERYBODY has been, for some days, saying: "It is time we had some warm weather." Tuesday brought along the wished-for article. At 2 P. M., the thermometer at our office indicated 88° —being about he warmest of the season thus far. There was a hot south wind blowing, and the sudden change from the cold of previous days, was very oppressive.

AT THE NINTH annual celebration of the N. York 'Turnverein' a German association, on Monday, a crowd variously estimated at anywhere from six to twenty thousand, was present and all enjoying themselves hugely. The *Sun* says about 3 o'clock a sudden thrill seemed to pass through the crowd, the dancers stopped, the glee clubs stopped, everybody looked frightened—the *lager bier* was all drunk up! and the contents of a large four horse beer wagon, which fortunately came to the rescue, did not avail to prolong the festivities more than an hour.

SEVERAL LARGE FIRES occurred on Saturday and Sunday nights. In Concord, N. H. a large bakery, Congregational Church, and five dwelling houses were burned. The loss is estimated at $20,000. In Lowell, Brooks' saw-mill and an adjoining house were burned; in Boston several small tenement houses houses, and in Toronto C. W., the lumber yard and steam mill of Smith, Burke & Co., with several houses, were destroyed. The loss at this last fire is $24,000; no insurance. A large number of workmen are thrown out of employ.

Counterfeit $3 bills on the People's Bank, Derby Line Vt, have appeared in New York They are poorly executed.

FRESH "LIFE THOUGHTS"

REPORTED FOR THE FREE PRESS,

FROM RECENT DISCOURSES BY THE REV. HENRY WARD BEECHER.

The benefit and blessing of religious truth comes only to those who connect hearing with practice —who solidify truth, if I may say so—in whose minds the truth forms an image as in a camera, and photographs itself on them.

The primary object of truth is its effect upon the habits, character and conduct of men. If it is not good for these, it is good for nothing at all. There are no doubt truths which are more valuable to the universe than those which are of most importance to us; so that it is not to be said that our benefit derived from a truth measures its rank in the universe. But for us those truths are the most important which produce upon us the greatest effect for good.

Life is the greatest commentary upon the Bible, and the way to study the Bible is to see what it says, and then carry it out into life use and see what it does.

Which of the many views of Christ that are taken, shall ultimately prevail depends upon what is found to be the effect of the preaching of those views upon the lives and characters of men.

Some men say that they can find no helps, no religion in the study and love of the beauties of nature. It may be just the same with preaching I may present to you with all my power some view of Christ in a sermon, and there is many a man would go away saying, "What a splendid presentation this has been! How I have enjoyed myself!" and in saying this he would have shown where he was. Anything which has no farther end than self enjoyment is no help to religion, whether it is in natural objects or sermons.

I think the trashiest of all trashy things is religious teaching that don't do anything—sermons and gingerbread books and all that teaching which begins in the mouth and ends in the ear.

I don't object to a man's preaching so that his sentences shall roll like rolling bands of music; I don't object to a man's preaching so that arguments shall march in serried ranks like lancers, shoulder to shoulder, irresistable; but neither of these are to be the end of preaching. I always like to look at the soldiers when they march by. I always go and open the window and look out at them, and listen to the music, and when they have all gone by I shut it again to go away and say "Splendid parade it was, was it not? all those men marching regularly in wide plateons, and all keeping step to the music and shouldering their muskets all in time! Splendid! was it not?" But there was not a bullet among the whole of them. There was not a grain of powder in any gun. It was not real war—and so many men preach. They march all along through their discourse with banners flying, and long platoons of sentences move in perfect time to loud resounding music, and men go away and shut the church door and say "Splendid sermon! was it not?" when after all it was only a parade, and the whole sermon or parade, (you may call it which you will, they are both figures of speech,) was not at all in earnest.

There are many men who are very much pleased with ideas; not ideas doing any thing—not ideas, as gravers' instruments, working out a picture in them—not ideas as spades, working husbandry in them; but just ideas. They like the preaching they hear to have thought in it.

Some men delight to see a man run argument after a heresy. They delight to see the preacher get all his arguments ready and holding them in leash, let them run after this heresy or that; and all through the sermon they run the poor thing hither and thither, like a poor fox, with much parade of horn and halloo, until at last they run i down and catch it, and bring home its theological brush in token of victory.

I think there was no such thing as a system of truth for three hundred years after Christ's time.

Let a man be never so devout, never so pure, never so true, never so good, and yet now-a-days it is thought to be a suspicious kind of goodness, if the man has not over his head the roof of some theological system.

No reformation ever took place from within a system; and it is the pew which has got to reform the pulpit.

As those that take children out on an excursion feel an especial charge upon them to return every little one to its parents in safety, so I feel with regard to my people, that I am bound to present every one of them before the face of our Father which art in Heaven.

HOW GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS ARE MADE.—The Washington correspondent of the Boston *Journal* says:

It is a curious fact, that contracts are generally made during the recesses of Congress, and whenever a representative or some potent local politician (of the orthodox stamp) is seen here now, it is safely surmised that he is looking after the "proposals" of a friend. The contracts are, *of course*, awarded to the lowest bidder. But if it can be ascertained exactly what amount of each article will probably be required, a bidder can afford to supply those little called for at half-price, and thus reduce his aggregate of bids. This artful dodge has enriched many a contractor, although it occasionally runs one. For example, a stationery contractor had offered to supply skins of parchment for commissions, at 5 cents each, and thus received a good profit on pens, ink and paper, for but few of the skins were wanted. But the Mexican war broke out, hundreds of new officers were appointed, scores of old ones were promoted, and so many blank commissions were ordered that the contractor's loss was over six thousand dollars.

This month the contracts for materials for the Navy, for anthracite coal, and for the stationery for the use of the House of Representatives at its next session, are to be awarded. The honorable gentlemen will probably keep up a brisk correspondence, as upwards of a million of envelopes are to be furnished, besides some three thousand reams of envelopping paper. No fancy articles are now supplied as stationery, but members sometimes make their own purchases. I knew a member, last year to have a pair of black pantaloons charged as "faint lined quarto post," and the bill was duly paid.

LETTER FROM MR. SUMNER.—The Milwaukie Free Democrat publishes the following letter from Mr. Charles Sumner, written to a gentleman of Milwaukie:—

ROME, Italy, May 12, 1859.

MY DEAR SIR:—Of late I have received very little political intelligence from home, and in the depression of a protracted disability, have hardly missed it, but to-day I have been gladdened and strengthened by the news that the people of Wisconsin have elected a Judge of the Supreme Court, on the issue distinctly presented, that it is the duty of the State to throw the protection of its process around all within its borders. Better news for freedom never, in the long line of history, reached this ancient capital. Wherever I go I feel the new influence, and the venerable monuments about me flash for the moment with the brightness of youth. God bless the people of Wisconsin, who know their rights, and knowing dare maintain them! God bless the cause! To the people and the cause an American citizen, far away in a foreign land, sends the best wishes of his heart. In this event, I hail the certain beginning of a new order of things in our country. Trial by jury, *habeas corpus*, and the other safeguards of the rights of all, struck down by the preposterous and tyrannical pretensions of slavery, under the national Constitution will again become realities. A happy day it will be for the peace and good name of the republic, when this is achieved. Meanwhile Wisconsin has nobly set the example, which older States must follow. The end cannot be doubtful.

Correspondence of the Free Press.

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, June 11, 1859.

Dear Free Press:

The National Academy of Design is an association of a out one hundred and thirty American artists, the principal object of which, so far as the public are informed, appears to be the collection annually of a large number of paintings, by American artists throughout the country, not confined to members of the academy, and the exhibition of the same for a period in this city. These exhibitions display the largest collections, entirely of specimens of American art, that are ever gathered, and afford the best opportunity, available to the public at large, of judging of the condition of art in this country; tho' the average merit of the paintings thus exhibited does not correspond exactly to the average of American Art; for while there can hardly be anything poorer than the poorest specimens which are allowed a place on the walls of the Academy's galleries, the highest productions of the American pencil and chisel, are not wont to be present in these exhibitions.

The Thirty-fourth Exhibition of the Academy is now open. It consists of *eight hundred and seven* Paintings and Drawings, with several Busts and Medallions, by *two hundred and fifty* Artists. The cursory examination which I was enabled to make in a visit of three hours, did not leave with me a very favorable impression of the Exhibition as a whole. I cannot compare it with previous exhibitions, and was, probably, expecting too much. At any rate I was disappointed. There are many pleasant Paintings, but no really great ones, that I saw or recognized as such, while a great proportion of the Exhibition consists of ordinary and uninteresting portraits, or efforts which seem to indicate that the authors have mistaken their calling, or are quite new in it.

Among the things which were specially interesting to me, were several views from Mansfield Mountain. "The Haymakers," a scene in Underhill, with the mountain in the near background, by Jerome Thompson; "The belated party on Mansfield Mountain," by the same artist; Camp on Mansfield Mountain, by S. R. Gifford, and the Western view from the Mountain top by the same; "Lake Champlain," a beautiful little cabinet picture, by E. W. Nichols, formerly of Burlington, and known to many of the readers of the *Free Press*; "Entrance to Llewellyn Park," New Jersey; and "October," also by Mr. Nichols; View on Lake Champlain," by Jesse Talbot; "View on the Battenkill," by C. L. Heyde, of Burlington, which many Burlingtonians have seen, and which I thought, deserved a better place in the gallery than the one it occupies; and a crayon likeness of Bishop Hopkins by Samuel Lawrence. All of these were among the better class of works exhibited, though they had an interest for me, independently of their merits.

Mr. Bancroft's discourse on the life and character of Jonathan Edwards, delivered before the Historical Society of this city, on the evening of the 5th, was a noteworthy affair, not only from the interest and value of the paper of the evening, but from the indications which it afforded of the theological views of the distinguished Historian. Mr. Bancroft has been called a Unitarian. About a year ago, however, some sentences of his in a public discourse, were understood by many as a virtual announcement of his conversion to "orthodoxy." His discourse on Edwards must have strengthened that impression. It was an appreciative and profound analysis and exposition of President Edwards' character and religious views, such as would be possible to no man to whom those views were repulsive and absurd, as for instance to the 'Professor' of the Atlantic. No one, judging from the discourse alone, could have suspected that the author was not a firm believer in the essential points of the Theology of Edwards, and his New England associates.

Mr. Bancroft was followed by a Mr. Folsom, who having risen to second a motion of thanks to Mr. Bancroft, took the occasion, with a strange disregard of decency and propriety, to intimate that the religious character of the paper just read, rendered it entirely inappropriate to the place and time, and that Mr. Bancroft was insincere in his expressed admiration of Edwards and implied acceptance of his creed. As for Mr. Edwards, he said all knew that the people of Northampton over whom he was settled, found they could not stand him or his doctrines, and sent him away. Here his remarks were interrupted by Mr. Bancroft who, springing to his feet, said, "But they soon discovered their error, would have repaired it if they could, and repented it in sackcloth and ashes, ever after."

The loud and long applause which followed this reply, from the large audience that filled the Hall to overflowing, showed that they were heartily in sympathy with Mr. Bancroft; and it was continued till Mr. Folsom took the hint and dropped into his seat. His mortification and the color of his countenance, which he apparently would have been glad to hide, were heightened by the succeeding remarks of a member of the society, Mr. E. C. Benedict, who briefly vindicated the propriety of the selection of the subject, and the ability and truthfulness with which it had been treated, and of Mr. Bradish, the President of the society, who said that Mr. Bancroft had been requested by the Managers of the Society to read a paper on this very subject. The discomfiture of Mr. Folsom was completed by another remark of Mr. Bancroft's, which has not found its way into print, and which, as it was made during the confusion of the adjournment of the meeting, was only heard by the few who stood near him, of whom I happened to be one. "Why sir," said he to Mr. F. "we have all heard of the play of Hamlet with the part of Hamlet left out. You, it seems, would have History, with the parts of God and Religion left out."

The discourse will, as I understand, form the substance of the article on Edwards, in Appleton's