Geo. W. Curtis's Oration at Dartmouth.

The following is an abstract of Mr. Curtis's Oration before the united Societies at Dartmouth on Commencement day:

Mr. Curtis began by speaking of the season, which we had all seen advance and develop through April and May, until at last, among roses and golden grain, the year stands perfect in mid-summer splendor. Some of you, he said, find a peculiar pensiveness in this summer, because it is the last of your exclusively youthful career. Yet the whole spectacle of nature reminds us that it is but an allegory of human life: that man grows and developes like a tree; youth is a flower, manhood the fruit, and the principles and character deposited by life, the seeds by which the glory of the race is perpetuated. Out of those seeds spring the flowers, and so out of the dreams of the young men come the deeds of the old men.

I do not forget, said Mr. Curtis, the ideal consecration of such days as this to good letters and good morals. Our college system is but a modification of the English; it was founded in England by monks, and is invested with lovely associations. A monk is a denizen of the cloisters; a man is a citizen of the world. Let us be men, not monks. And if we wish that the name of America shall be as dear and poetic in history as that of Greece and of any other country, we must not measure or limit our achievement by that of other nations. But how can the genius of America make its hope a reality, unless each succession of young Americans resolve that the fundamental ideas out of which our government sprang, shall still guide development? And if this be so, how could we better use the hour, than in considering the nature of the tie that binds us to that country; in other words, the nature and responsibility of PATRIOTISM.

What, then, is the country, and the fatherland for which poets sing, and patriots echo, it is so fit and fair for a man to die? It was not his olive-orchards and almond-groves that made the Greece of the Greek:—and our interest in that land is not geographical, or botanical, or geological, but an association with a certain character, which we call Greek. Every nation has these characteristics, but they are not exclusively the property of one nation; they belong to human nature at large, like personal traits. And as the lines that separate various countries are arbitrary and invisible, so that neighboring nations are blended, and the national characteristics mingle; and as we find the substance of the globe and of the human body is the same, so there is the same unity of substance in the human character,—the races are but one race; and thus Christianity or the doctrine and practice of universal brotherhood, is only the ethical aspect of a scientific fact.

Patriotism, or the peculiar relation of an individual to his country, is not a blind devotion, but an intelligent love. The patriot sees how his country is commissioned by Providence to work for all mankind. Therefore his country's honor is dear to him as his own. A mother's sin is not a virtue, because your mother is the sinner. Right and wrong, justice and crime exist for each man independently of any individual relations. A public wrong is not a private right. If a man should say, "*my country, by whatever means esteemed and made, my country right or wrong*,"—he merely repeats the words of the thief who steals in the street, or of the trader who swears falsely at the custom house both of them clutching "my fortune, however obtained.

A man's country is not an area of land but an idea, and patriotism is loyalty to that idea. In poetic minds it becomes closely associated with the soil and the symbols, but the patriot worships the idea through the emblem, as the lover worships his mistress in her glove. So was it with Arnold Von Winkelried and Nathan Hale. So Washington at once comprehending the grand scope of his country's destiny, with one hand put aside the crown, and with the other set his slaves free.

Mr. Curtis in turning to the consideration of American patriotism, glanced at the fact that before the fifteenth century, the civilization of the world was but a various development of the principle of absolutism in human affairs; the state being the corollary of the church.

He considered that the new continent had been reserved for the development of the other great principle of human liberty. He showed how Europe had ripened for the experiment, and that Wickliffe and Luther were but symptoms of the restless growth of the idea—that Columbus sailed only to find a new way to the Indies, and that the first settlement of the continent by the Spaniards was a horrible repetition of the vices of the old civilization at home; and it is dreadful to remember that the curse which has withered millions of our fellow men upon the continent, and which at this moment seems to be the only serious obstacle to the triumph of the experiment for which it was so long reserved, can be traced back to the suggestion of one man, and he a Christian Bishop. The orator recounted what could be said in extenuation of the Catholic Las Casas; and said that he was sure no candid young mind would hear without incredulity and shame that the repented error of the priest, three hundred years ago, is the last desperate defence in the land where he planted it, of a system which the holy indignation of humanity is slowly, but surely withering. For if we grant that God brings good out of evil, shall we, therefore, do evil?

The office of the first Spanish settlement in America seems to have been to publish the new continent to the world, and meanwhile the movement went on in Europe.—Martin Luther was its tongue, and presently his spiritual children, the Puritans, made the first settlement which has exercised the controlling influence upon our shores.

From the love of liberty and the resolution and ability of organizing freedom in human institutions, sprang the America of which we are so fondly proud. Our democracy has always had religion as the foundation of political liberty. America is the permanent reformation, the perpetual protest against the principle of absolutism.

Mr. Curtis argued that the American patriot was the man who held unswervingly to the interests of liberty. Law must generally be obeyed, but the name of law has been always the mask of tyranny. In this country we are bound to submit to any individual inconvenience or loss in time or property, because it will not be long; or if it is we must still submit, because the cost of violent change or active disobedience would be a worse inconvenience to the whole. But any law which commands us to violate a moral instinct nullifies itself. We have no right to obey it, for obedience would engender a more fearful public demoralization than any possible revolution could breed; and upon a nation which could yield to it, there is no tyranny so bad that it might not be imposed. If a man or a nation of men should deliberately act against their consciences for a year or for six months, then the moral nature is in process of corruption. Every individual must be his own judge, for when such a law exists among us it does so by the will of the majority; and if he decides to disobey, he will be held to the penalty. And it is this infliction of the penalty which will always prevent a knave from declining to obey, under the plea of his conscience. He will not make anything by the plea.

The orator described the present demoralization of our politics; alluded to the character of our national achievement, which, as yet, is entirely material, and showed that our commercial prosperity endangered the triumph of the very principle for whose development that prosperity is desirable, by producing a public pusillanimity.

The single duty of patriotism just now, therefore, is the maintenance of that public conscience; the cultivation of that moral tone of character which will carefully discriminate between inconvenient and iniquitous laws; and which will insist at every hazard, that America, as a nation, will do justice and develop and protect liberty. There are indeed, good men who despair already. But the purpose of God in the progress of the race is not to be thwarted by moral cowardice. In our general intelligence and our popular institutions, we have all the means good men could ask in human society, to co-operate with that purpose, and incarnate the American idea in a nation which shall be worthy its advantages.

The Caledonian.

BY C. M. STONE & CO.

St. Johnsbury, August 8, 1857.

☞ It will be the aim of the conductors of THE CALEDONIAN to give the News in an attractive form and in its season; to make an interesting and elevating Family journal; to discuss public affairs with independence and vivacity; and to reflect the common New England sentiment against the great Wrong of Slavery.

CORRESPONDENCE.—We solicit *voluntary communications* from all parts of the country upon matters of interest. ☞ Items of *News*, in particular, will be thankfully received.

Republican State Ticket.

For Governor, - **RYLAND FLETCHER.**
For Lt.Gov'nr, - **JAMES M. SLADE.**
For Treasurer, - **HENRY M. BATES.**

Essex County Nominations.

REUBEN C. BENTON, Senator.
J. P. DENISON, } Ass't Judges.
ASA HIBBARD, }
GEO. N. DALE, State's Att'y.
WM. CHANDLER, Judge of Probate.
DAVID H. BEATTIE, Sheriff.
ELBRIDGE POOR, High Bailiff.

Election, Tuesday, Sept. 1.

Republican Co. Convention.

A Republican County Convention will be holden at DANVILLE, on TUESDAY, the 29th day of August, at 10 o'clock, A. M., to nominate County Officers for the year ensuing.

A. E. JUDEVINE, }
GEO. IDE, } *County*
WM. CHASE, }
J. D. ABBOTT, } *Comm.*
E. C. REDINGTON, }

July 24, 1857.

Information Wanted.

Among the resolutions passed at the recent convention of the plug-ugly democracy in this State, was the following:—

"*Resolved*, That the present prohibitory liquor laws of this State do not meet the demands of the Freemen of Vermont, and that it is encumbent upon all citizens to vote for its repeal, and to secure enactments relating to spirituous liquors, wholesome, practicable and efficient."

This resolution is without a parallel for foolfriliteness since the days when Van Buren promulgated those admirable state papers, which, whether read forwards or backwards, upside down, or from one corner of the page to another, always had the same meaning, and that no meaning at all. "The liquor-laws do not meet the demands of the Freemen of Vermont," but how do they fail to meet those demands? Do the freemen demand a more stringent law? Or are they calling for something milder? We have not happened to hear a very loud call in either direction, and our private opinion is that if it were submitted to a popular vote whether the law should remain as it is, or be altered either by strengthening or weakening, four-fifths of the voters would decide to let the law stand just as it is. But what opinion does the resolution express on that point?

What kind of enactments does the resolution regard as "wholesome, practicable, and efficient?" The present law is "wholesome" beyond all question. No law was ever enacted which has operated so wholesomely, in suppressing intemperance, preventing rowdyism, and diminishing petty crimes and misdemeanors. Nor is it at all deficient in "practicability." It is as easily enforced as the law against sheep-stealing or any other crime. And as for its efficiency, it is the chief fault of the law in the eyes of its opponents that it is so efficient as it is. Nothing more efficient is needed at present, and if there were, it is not from the democratic party that it is likely to come.

But indefinite as is this resolution, there is no great doubt what it was intended to mean; offered as it was by a man notorious for his gross and continued violations of this and every other law ever enacted in this State for the suppression of intemperance, and adopted by a party which has never failed to oppose every law tending to make the people more virtuous or more intelligent. Of course they are opposed to the Anti-Liquor Law, and bound to make all the capital they can by opposing it. But the day has gone by when they can gain a solitary vote by a movement of that kind. The people of Vermont are satisfied with the law. They have seen and experienced, they are daily seeing and experiencing, its good effects. They are not to be diverted from the great issue pending between Freedom and Slavery by any attacks upon little matters of domestic policy. But there is no objection to the democrats fighting the anti-liquor law if they take any comfort in so doing. So, gentlemen, "go in and win," fire your pop-guns at the law, elaborate your constitutional arguments, make the usual flourishes about the "sanctity of the domicil," and if you succeed in electing ten representatives who will vote to repeal the law, we will give you credit for doing twice as much as you now have any prospect of doing.

WHAT A BOY CAN DO.—Fifty years ago, George Peabody, at the age of twelve, had occasion to pass through Concord, on his way to Vermont. He stopped all night at the old "Stickney Hotel," where he paid his lodging and breakfast by sawing wood! Such was the beginning of George Peabody.

George Peabody is now the well known American London Banker. During the six months he has been on a visit to his native country, he has given to benevolent and literary institutions more than half a million of dollars. His last donation was $10,000 to the city of Newburyport, Mass., for any benevolent object its authorities may specify.

Slavery in Kansas.

LETTER FROM SENATOR MASON, OF VIRGINIA.

WINCHESTER, Va., July 22d, 1857.

To the Editor of the "South":

Dear Sir: In your paper of Monday last in an article headed "Walker's Usurpation," I observe the following paragraph:

"But we are told that *Hunter* and Mason, and other distinguished Southern Senators, in the debate on the Nebraska Kansas bill, expressed the same opinion, that Kansas must be a free state." &c.

I cannot undertake to say what opinions may have been expressed by my honored colleague, or by other senators from the South, in reference to the probable condition of Kansas; though, from a general knowledge of their views in regard to that territory I should not doubt that any opinions so expressed would have reference to circumstances and contingencies necessarily qualifying them. To avoid misconstruction, however, I think it proper to say that I never expressed the opinion ascribed to me; because I never entertained it. At the time the law passed organizing the territorial government, there were few with whom I conversed who did not believe that the future state would take its place with those recognising and cherishing the condition of African slavery. There was at that time, certainly, every reason to believe why this should be so; and none why it should not. The state of Missouri, bordering its eastern frontier, was a slaveholding state, holding at that time nearly an hundred thousand slaves, and these were chiefly held in the border counties.

The state of Arkansas, adjacent to the territory on the south, was likewise a slaveholding state. The soil and climate of Kansas were well adapted to those valuable products chiefly hemp and tobacco, which gave value to slave labor in Missouri. The proximity of its population with the attractions of new, fertile and cheap land, I believed would lead the slaveholders in Missouri to diffuse themselves speedily over Kansas, and the prohibitory line of 36 30 being obliterated, there was no reason why they should not. I had no fear of fair competition in such appropriation of the new territory from any quarter. Unfair competition I did not look to.

What may yet be the result as to the condition of Kansas, notwithstanding the extraordinary and unscrupulous efforts of Northern Abolitionists to force a population there, I cannot undertake to say. Nor will I allude in this place to the new and unexpected aspect now exhibited of affairs in that territory, with so much propriety reprehended in the columns of the "*South*." Whatever may be the information of others, I certainly am not sufficiently informed of the existing state of things in Kansas to form a clear opinion one way or the other; yet I will venture to say this much, that if African slavery be ultimately excluded from Kansas, it will be effected by the numerical force or organized majorities, operating against the usual laws which govern emigration; and will present a new and most instructive lesson to the Southern States.

Very respectfully, I am yours, &c., &c.
J. M. MASON.

From the known influence of the Virginia Senator with the Administration, as well as from recent events in Kansas, we infer that "The new and unexpected aspect of affairs in that Territory with so much propriety reprehended in the columns of *The South*" must henceforth be reckoned among the things that were. The South—not merely the Richmond journal bearing that name but the people of the South—the aristocracy of Slaveholders who made the present Administration, and by right of conquest intend to control it, demand that it shall be otherwise. And what is, or rather was this terrible "aspect" of affairs in Kansas, that so stirs the indignation of Southern Slaveholders? Nothing more than a simple declaration made and repeated by Gov. Walker, that the principle of Popular Sovereignty should be honestly applied to settle the controversy in regard to the institutions of the future State: the same principle which Northern Democrats, under the lead of Douglas & Co., have been for four years trumpeting to the public admiration in the free States: and which they are still vaunting wherever it will serve their purpose to win popular favor. We would not without reason distrust the professions of any political party, and we have no doubt that leading Democrats North and South have intended, and still intend to carry out the principle of "Squatter Sovereignty" wherever they happen to constitute a majority of the sovereign party; but beyond that we confess to some doubts about their integrity. Circumstances alter cases. The doctrine was good in Kansas so long as Stringfellow and Atchison with their hordes of Border Ruffians had their own way, but now when the Free State settlers can outnumber and outvote them at the polls it must not even be talked of there—certainly not by the Governor of the Territory. The theory too was good in the estimation of the party in Minnesota while the Republican Delegates to the Constitutional Convention were supposed to be in a minority, but not a whit longer.

"But have not we (at the North) been told that Hunter and Mason and other distinguished Southern Senators in the debate on the Nebraska-Kansas Bill, expressed the same opinion that Kansas must be a free State?" We believe so, and that too by the most reliable democratic authority. But it seems now that we were misinformed, for the Virginia Senator affirms that, "At the time the law passed, organizing the Territorial government, there were few with whom he conversed who did not believe that the future State would cherish African Slavery; and furthermore that there was at that time every reason to believe that this would be so and none that it would not." This is, in effect, we believe, just what the Republican Press had from the first asserted, and what it still maintains, that the whole intent of the abolition of the Missouri Compromise was to give more room for Negro Slavery.

DEATH OF SENATOR RUSK.—Thomas J. Rusk, Democratic Senator from Texas, has taken his own life. The deed was committed on the 59th ult., with a rifle. No cause is assigned; but probably it was insanity caused by intemperance. No prominent man in the Southern Democratic ranks had a clearer appreciation of the politics of the country,—none understood or respected so fully the real character and strength of the rising Republican party,—and none was personally so courteous to it and its representatives on the floor of Congress.

Mr. Rusk has been an aspirant for the Presidency. He has represented Texas in the United States Senate ever since her annexation to the United States. His death gives fresh interest to the result of the election in Texas, for the new Legislature will have a United States Senator to choose.

Teachers' Institute.

According to the notice previously given, the Secretary of the Vermont Board of Education, J. S. Adams, Esq., accompanied by Messrs. Slade of Middlebury, Palmer of Pittsford, Conant of Royalton, and Needham of Hartford, commenced a Teachers' Institute in our village on Thursday evening of last week. The season of the year being unfavorable for such purposes, it was anticipated would prevent a general attendance of those employed in teaching our Common Schools; and such, to some extent, was the result, though from fifty to sixty teachers from this and the neighboring towns were present during most of the exercises of the two following days. There were teachers present from Waterford, Concord, Burke, Danville and Barnet, but in small numbers. Peacham was represented by a dozen or more of its young men and women who came as many miles to attend the Institute, and in so doing, furnished, we apprehend, a very significant indication of their qualifications to have charge of the District Schools which have been or will be entrusted to their care. Candidates for teaching that estimate their intelligence and skill as already more than equal to any demand that can or will be likely to be made upon them, in conducting the recitations and maintaining the requisite discipline of the Common School, who, in their own judgment, cannot profit by the aid and suggestions which these Institutes are designed and adapted to give them, have certainly made a mistake either in regard to themselves or their occupation. There is not in the State a more important office or one more difficult to properly fill, than that of the Teacher of the unpretending District School, and they show their appreciation of the fact, who, whatever may have been their past attainments or present success in the School room, are foremost to avail themselves of the assistance which the matured experience and observation of older Teachers and conductors of Teachers' Institutes can furnish to them.

It is fitting too—and the presence of several on this occasion has reminded us of it—that, while the Teachers of the Schools attend these Institutes, the teachers of the people, the ministers of the Gospel, should go with them. Nor these only, but superintendents of Schools especially, and parents, so far as possible, should do the same. It is a mistake to suppose that our schools are to be made what they should be through the agency of teachers alone, and the sooner our communities are convinced of it, the sooner they understand that the united and earnest cooperation of teachers and parents, of all classes, whether they be professional or unprofessional men, is essential to the attainment of this end, the sooner shall we have in Vermont, what, in our social economy we most need, a revised and improved edition of the Common School. We are aware that specimens of this are on exhibition already here and there in various parts of the State, but they are few comparatively and need to be greatly multiplied to meet the general want.

The efforts and addresses of the Secretary of the Board of Education seem to us to be very happily adapted to accomplish this object, to inspire in all who listen to him, a new interest in behalf of the Common School. With the advantage of having a familiar and hackneyed subject to treat of, he has notwithstanding invested it with such an earnestness and fervor of address, with such common sense and comprehensive views of its relations to all the material, social and moral interests of individuals and the State, that we think very few listened to him here, without feeling that, in behalf of his object, something must be done, or without going away resolved to do it. Those of our citizens who were present during his address to the members of the Institute on Friday forenoon, will not fail to recognize in themselves the results we have indicated above, and we are confident also that they will not fail to be in attendance whenever the Secretary shall advertise himself to lecture here again.

Able and instructive addresses were delivered by Messrs. Needham, Palmer and Slade upon various matters pertaining to the Teacher's qualifications and calling. Mr. Conant also furnished several familiar and profitable exercises illustrating very happily the proper methods of teaching some of the common branches studied in the District School.

We doubt not the Teachers present have returned to their employment strengthened and encouraged to prosecute with new zeal and fidelity their chosen and responsible work, and that when the time comes for holding another Institute, at some other point in Caledonia County, they will be among the first to attend and profit by its exercises. At the conclusion of the exercises on Saturday evening, the following Resolution, presented by P. H. White, Esq., and seconded by Ex-Gov. Fairbanks, was adopted by the citizens present:—

Resolved, That we have listened with much interest to the exercises of the Teachers' Institute—that we highly appreciate the labor of the Secretary of the Board of Education, and of the gentlemen associated with him, and that we anticipate great good to the interests of Common Schools in Vermont, from the measures which have been adopted and the energy and efficiency with which these measures are put in action.

KANSAS.—The way Gov. Walker is arranging matters for the October Territorial election in Kansas, does not look as if that Territory was to be "pacified" in a hurry. He has clearly succumbed entirely to the old border ruffian pro-slavery leaders. The Free State people having indicated their purpose to vote in October, their tyrant rulers have gone to work to disfranchise them. The slavery party has evidently no idea of giving up the Territory, if injustice and fraud can retain what rascality and butchery won. The pro-slavery press everywhere denounced the people for refusing to vote in June,—what will they say now, that the people proposing to vote, (under the Territorial government, be it remembered.) Gov. Walker either denies them the privilege outright, or cuts down their representation so that the border counties can outvote them? How long—oh, how long! are these things to go on, flaunting their tyrannical scandal before the name of Republic, and the cruel injustice in the sight of Heaven?—*Traveller.*

☞ Mr. William Weed, of Stamford, Conn. was bitten by a mad dog a week ago, and all the stray curs in the place have since been killed. If they had been butchered ten days since, a life would have been saved.

"Nothing to Wear."

An interesting controversy respecting the authorship of this spirited little poem appears in the New York papers. Rev. Isaac Peck insists that the idea of the poem, as well as some of its best stanzas, originated with his daughter, a young lady yet in her teens. On the other hand, William Allen Butler asserts that the whole is his own. The poem itself furnishes conclusive evidence that it was not written by a woman. The legal allusions are so accurate, yet so subtle, that no woman could possibly be the author of them. Taking it as certain that it was written by Mr. Butler, those who have read the poem will be glad to have us give them some account of the author.

Wm. Allen Butler was born at Albany, N. Y., in 1825. He is the son of Benjamin F. Butler, the eminent lawyer and politician, famous for being connected with "the stated preaching of the gospel" at Sandy Hill. He was graduated at the University of the City of New York, after which he read law with his father and then spent a year and a half in Europe. Since his return he has been actively engaged in the practice of his profession. Mr. Butler is the author of a number of poems and of several prose articles contributed to various periodicals. Several translations from the German of Uhland appeared in the *Democratic Review*, a series of biographical and critical sketches of the Old Masters, under the general title, "The Cities of Art and the Early Artists," in the *Bulletin of the Art Union*, several humorous papers in prose and verse, entitled "The Colonel's Club," and a few pleasant sketches of travel with the title, "Out-of-the-Way Places in Europe," in the *Literary World*. In 1850 he was the author of "Barnum's Parnassus, being Confidential Disclosures of the Prize Committee on the Jenny Lind Song;" a poetical squib, which passed rapidly through several editions. He is justly entitled to a place among the most promising of our young authors, and will doubtless acquire high rank in the literary world.

The August Elections.

KENTUCKY.—In the election which took place in this State on Monday, the Americans appear to have carried the day.

MISSOURI.—Stewart, the pro-slavery democratic candidate has carried the State, though by a close vote with the emancipationists.

IOWA.—The people voted on Monday for a new Constitution, but without success. The general election is in October.

ACCIDENT AT NIAGARA.—A piece of rock, weighing one hundred tons, fell from the precipice of Goat Island, Niagara, on Sunday, about three hundred feet below the British falls. Three persons underneath were badly injured—G. W. Parsons, of Cleveland, it is feared fatally; F. G. Williams, of New Haven, had an arm broken, and a boy had a leg broken.

BURDELL MURDER.—Mrs. Cunningham, of Burdell association, has been detected and exposed in a fraudulent attempt to procure an heir to Dr. Burdell's estate. This exposure will tend to confirm the suspicion that she murdered Dr. Burdell, or procured the bloody deed.

New Publications.

TALES OF A TRAVELLER.
SKETCH BOOK.
SALMAGUNDI.

These three works, from the polished pen of Irving, are a portion of the series of "Railway Classics," published by Messrs. Geo. P. Putnam & Co., New York. Their portable size renders them very convenient for the pockets of the traveller. Their contents have a fame so wide and universally established that commendation of them is superfluous. Salmagundi is not so well known to the present generation as the other works. It appeared originally in numbers, and created a great sensation in New York circles. It is full of fun, satire, badinage, sly burlesque, and shrewd observations upon literature, the drama, music, society, men, and manners. The three books are among Irving's best, which is all that need be said in praise of them.

NEW MUSIC.—By the kindness of Mr. S. A. ELLIS we have received from the Publishers, Messrs. RUSSELL & RICHARDSON, the following new music, much of which is just published, and some very good, as we are able to testify:—"Minnie Brown," a Song and Chorus, written by Rev. J. H. Vincent, Music by H. P. Danks; "Florence May," a beautiful Ballad, written and set to music by E. A. Hosmer; "Mother, watch the little feet," a Ballad; "Deep Blue Sea," a Song; Pete Morris' "Comic Melodies;" "Farewell Waltz;" "Emily Polka;" "Texas Star Schottisch;" "Amateur Schottish;" "Sunny Memories Waltz;" "L' Eclair;" "Menuetto;" "The Varieties," consisting of twelve much admired compositions for the Piano; and "The Sheaf," six favorite melodies arranged for the Piano. Also, Howe's New American Piano Forte School; with rules and exercises and necessary instructions to perfect the player in the art of playing the Piano without a master; together with a large collection of Polkas, Schottisches, Waltzes, Marches, Songs, &c., &c. Also Howe's New School for the Melodeon and Seraphine. Both these books contain about 75 pages each, filled with music adapted to those beginning to play, and also those more advanced. All the above Music is for sale at Mr. S. A. Ellis' Music Store, Kittredge's Building, St. Johnsbury.

HOUSEHOLD WORDS for August. Conducted by Charles Dickens. MILLER & CURTIS, American Publishers, New York. Terms: $3 a year.

The present No. concludes Vol. 15th of this excellent journal, and we would urge our friends and readers to avail themselves of this opportunity to subscribe to one of the most readable and interesting publications printed in the English language.

☞ The *School Fellow* for August, with its usual number of pages laden with the instructive and interesting reading for children, is received from its publishers, Messrs. MILLER & CURTIS, New York.

☞ The wife of Ex-Postmaster General Campbell died in Philadelphia on the 31st.

A Letter from Kentucky.

Correspondence of The Caledonian.

MINERVA, KY., *July 27th*, 1857.

Summer has already passed its meridian point, and yet has brought us no intensely hot weather. The mercury, throughout the season, has ranged extremely low, and stands this morning—which is a fair average of the season—at 68° in the shade. As a consequence of this depression of the temperature, and the frequent heavy rains which have been showered upon us, the crops generally are unusually backward, and promise but a scanty return to the farmer for his months of toil and devotion in the fields. The harvest is now about over. The past two weeks have been weeks of labor. The crops of wheat, rye and barley were immense, extending over a third more area than in any previous year. Besides, although these cereals in May were meagre and sparsely set in the ground, owing to the severe frosts of winter, killing out a great proportion of the plants, the growth at maturity, from the unusual branching of the stalks, was exceedingly rank, almost defying the sturdy arm of the hardy harvesters. In most localities in Northern Kentucky the wheat is excellent, while in others, where it matures later, it has proved an utter failure. The rust and smut have consumed the kernel, and reduced to a vain and heart-sickening shadow the high-raised expectations of the laborious and confiding tillers of the soil. Some of the farmers adjacent to Minerva, who counted on their thousands of bushels and an increase of so many dollars in their coffers, have, after a few hours' cutting, abandoned their blighted fields, and given up as a dead loss the promised reward of their labors. This drawback will fall heavily upon the country, and money in consequence will be as scarce as pearls in the "Old Granite State." A large proportion of the wheat is under contract—of last year—at $1 per bushel. That which is merchantable and unsold will bring a much higher figure. Reaping Machines of every patent are extensively used here, Atkins' Self-Raker being the most satisfactory, both in the neatness and dispatch with which it harvests the grain, and its little liability to get out of repair. The history of this invention is peculiar and worth a passing notice. Mr. Atkins—who lives near Chicago, the great focus of Patent Reapers, as Illinois is the great center of the wheat-growing region in this country—was an invalid, being confined to his bed from a spinal affection. But although thus disordered, his brain was unusually active and wrought out the great idea that was generated therein, till under the mechanician's hand, his Farmer's Reaper and Mower came forth to public view, ready to enter upon its mission of labor in competition with the many other similar machines that had already entered the field. When it was first taken out for trial, the afflicted inventor, at his own request, was conveyed along with it, confident of its operating successfully, and elated with proud satisfaction at the completion of his great mental achievement. The first experiment was equal to his expectations, and the fame and fortune of the helpless inventor were established on a sure basis. Now, thousands of this Patent are made yearly, and still the demand outstrips the supply. The price is $200, with the Mowing attachment, or $180 without it.

When we consider the high prices paid for harvest hands.—$2 per day, and scarce at that—and the great saving of grain from the use of machines, the value of such a machine cannot be overestimated. A machine of this kind will cut and deliver to the binder fourteen acres in a day, when the grain stands fair and the ground is smooth and level; and the saving, over and above the use of the sickle or cradle, it is estimated, will pay the expense of cutting.

The Corn crop is backward, but growing with great rapidity; and if the Fall is favorable it will yield an average turn-out of this indispensable product. Corn is now selling at $1 per bushel, and very scarce at that figure. Tobacco is small and unpromising—the thoughtless bugs, regardless of man's great acquired want, having devoured the plants while yet young and tender. Hemp is rank and well-coated, and will perform well its part in hanging any one around whose neck the law may twine its fibres. Let disunionists and cut-throats take the timely warning. Grass is excellent, and cattle, horses, mules, stock-hogs, &c., look thrifty and promising. On the whole, farming in Kentucky is a profitable business, notwithstanding the failures and defects to which the various crops are each year more or less subject.

The State election, for Treasurer, Senators and Representatives, and for Congressmen, comes off next Monday. The rival candidates are now busily engaged in enlightening the people, and making their "calling and election sure." The contest is close and heated. The logic employed is not always of the purest kind, the whiskey treated away not always the best, nor the expedients resorted to to overshadow or undermine an opponent, always the most commendable. An antagonist generally feels justifiable in hurling back upon an opponent his own weapons, whether they be lawful or unlawful ones. The rules of Scripture have but little to do in regulating a political canvass. Rant and ridicule, and sometimes sharp-shooters, as well as fists, are all brought to bear upon the campaign. The great struggle between the "Rotten Democracy" and the Americans is to get possession of the *lion's share* of the Old-Line Whigs. The former are now courting this hopeless class of citizens, with as much assiduity and seeming love, as formerly they poured upon their heads their overflowing vials of abuse and indignation. In some instances, as in that of James B. Clay, rewarding the "wooed and won" with official positions, in hopes thereby not only to retain *their* love and devotion, but induce others, who are "hungering and thirsting after" the *loaves and fishes*, to yield in spite of all this weak attempt to "win and wear" the crown of Whiggery,—and if won, how ungracefully it would sit upon the hairless and brainless pate of Democracy!—that noble remnant of a once proud and mighty party are here almost unanimously standing up to the American candidates, whose political principles they find nearly identical with those which for a lifetime they have maintained and cherished.

As you may have noticed in the papers, a difficulty, growing out of a rabid editorial article in the Louisville *Courier*, has recently taken place between G. D. Prentice, of the Louisville *Journal*, and Durritt, of the former paper. A number of pistol-shots were interchanged, but no serious damage was effected. Prentice is the idol and champion of the American party in the South. His talents, and intrepidity in maintaining his rights, are well known to the country. He is ready with the tongue, the pen or the pistol, and goes off half-cocked as soon as any other way, when occasion requires. His paper is extensively taken, and exerts a larger influence than any other printed South of Mason & Dixon's famous Line. But enough of this at present. Should my mercury, with that of Fahrenheit's, take *a rise* after the election, you may receive from my rambling pen another message.

M. D.

Commencement at Dartmouth.

The Vermont Chronicle says:

The Commencement at Dartmouth College last week, with its accompanying literary anniversaries, attracted large audiences.

On the preceding Sabbath the President, as usual, preached the Baccalaureate Sermon.

Tuesday was Class Day,—the large Senior Class occupying most of the afternoon with their farewell exercises. Oration by E. C. Bradble, Poem by Henry W. Fuller, Ode by Charles H. Wallace, Chronicles by Daniel A. Crosby, Prophecies by Charles E. Milliken, Parting Address by Royal S. Crane, with a brief response by President Lord.

Three Orations, a Poem, and a Concert in the evening, filled up the hours of Wednesday.

Professor PARK of Andover, before the Theological Society, commenced at 9 o'clock. Subject—Taste and Religion auxiliary to each other. Rev. WILLIAM H. LORD of Montpelier was the orator of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. His subject was:

"A believing spirit, the natural sentiment and the divine principle of faith, the only foundation of human knowledge, the only means of certitude, and therefore the only means of moral and and philosophical progress."

The oration by Geo. W. Curtis of New York before the Literary Societies was upon the Nature, Responsibilities, and Duties of Patriotism; and was followed by Mr. Saxe of Burlington with his well known poem, The Money King.

The Graduating Class numbered 61. The Graduating Chandler Scientific Class, 12.

The following are the honorary degrees conferred:—

Doctor of Divinity—Rev. Joseph Sawyer.
Doctor of Laws—Sir Henry Rawlinson, Bart., David M. Christie, Nathaniel Wright.
Master of Arts—Hon. John S. Wells, Ichabod Goodwin, John Camden, Justin S. Morrill, Onslow Stearns, Lewis D. Ham, Isaac L. Mace, J. B. Forrieclli.

The Association of the Alumni re-elected the old Board of officers. They also chose for their orator at the next Commencement, Hon. Rufus Choate, and as substitute Hon. Geo. P. Marsh.

CHIVALRY IN COURT.—In Boston, recently a young lady was brought into court on charge of obstructing the sidewalk, by superfluity of clothes. She was brought through the large folding doors, as no other entrance would admit her. The officer testified that half a dozen of times during the week he had been obliged to stop from the sidewalk to enable the defendant to pass. Once he came near being run over by a carriage, and he inquired of the Judge whether the city government would have allowed a pension to his widow in case he had been killed.

The officer further said, he had requested the prisoner two or three times not to stop on the sidewalk, as people were unable to pass without going into the street, which at times was inconvenient to ladies wearing paper-soled shoes, owing to the outrageous manner in which the thoroughfares were watered.

The Court in summing up, said that the evil was one of great magnitude, and should be checked by vigorous measures. There were no statutes under which too great a display of crinoline came, but he should take the responsibility of inflicting a fine of $5 and costs which were promptly paid.

From the Montpelier Watchman.

SUMMER AMUSEMENTS.—We learn from the *Freeman* that two State Conventions are called at Montpelier—one "Whig" and the other "Radical Abolitionist." These are amusements that will, immediately, do no harm except to impair the unanimity of the people of Vermont against the extension of slavery. Ultimately, possibly, they may do more harm. We have observed, elsewhere that attempted re-organizations of the whig party have cured solely to the benefit of sham democracy, while radical abolitionism has tended to disunionism, as in Massachusetts. Prudent men will avoid these things.

ATTEMPT TO SWIM LAKE ONTARIO.—A couple of gentleman, well known in this city, met on Thursday and fell into conversation respecting their ability as swimmers. Finally a wager was laid of $50, to swim for in Lake Ontario. It was agreed that the contestants should go to the beach at Charlotte, and strike out for the Canada shore, only *sixty miles* distant; a boat was to accompany them and the one who gave up first was to lose the stake. All the preparations were made, and the parties went to the Lake in the afternoon, accompanied by three or four friends. A boat was procured, and the rival swimmers struck out on the race, each bent upon winning the money, or swimming to Canada. They had not, however, swam five rods, after wading to their depth, before both of them, at the same instant, shipped a heavy sea, which threw them upon their beam ends.—They took in large quantities of water, and would have foundered in less time than it takes to relate the story, but for timely aid from the boat. They were drawn aboard and placed on opposite sides of the boat with heads over the gunwale, freeing themselves of the water they had taken in. In this situation they were brought ashore, amid the shouts of their companions. It was some little time after being taken aboard of the boat before either gentlemen were fully restored to consciousness, and strange to say, each thought the other had "gone down with all on board." One said he had never before taken so much water, and the other allowed that he did not know much about the element when taken clear. Both had enough for once. The wager remains undecided, as it is difficult to say which of the contestants gave up first. They were struck by the same swell at the same instant, and both turned over like dead fishes and threw up so much water while floundering in the element, that it was impossible for those in the boat to decide the bet. All agreed, however, that this attempt to swim the Lake Ontario was not as successful as that of Byron in crossing the Hellespont.—*Rochester Union.*

☞ Thalberg is taking lessons on the banjo.