

The Newspaper—Its Uses.

"The events of to-day have more interest than those of yesterday. So men are fast giving books for newspapers."

That this is true, is beyond question. Even the child of a few years, just spelling out the words he can scarcely pronounce, as he pores over the advertisements or the locals of a morning paper, is a living evidence of the universal utility of the newspaper; for we have never yet seen a family of children grow up ignorant or uninformed of current events, when the newspaper was a daily visitor at their home. And when we say newspaper, we mean emphatically a daily journal of news. Literary weeklies or monthly periodicals, and especially the majority of those published at the North, are no substitute for the newspaper in a family, and, indeed, too frequently are injurious to the formation of correct habits and tastes in literary matters.

As the boy grows up to manhood, he does not lose the desire to peruse the newspapers. From mere current local events, he passes on to paragraphs of more importance, which are to be found in every newspaper in the country—paragraphs briefly stating the merits of new inventions, scientific discoveries, what is going on in Europe and other countries, and what progress the world is making in arts, science and literature. From these, he begins to turn to politics—which, by-the-way, as parties are now manipulated by politicians, had better be avoided—and soon begins to form an opinion for himself on the public questions of the day. The daily teachings of his political monitor soon begin to manifest themselves, and he is a "party" man before he is well aware of it. Although politics is a bad trade to follow, yet it is highly proper that the rising young citizen should have a knowledge of political events, and educate and prepare himself to discharge the duties and obligations that will soon devolve upon him.

He reaches manhood and enters seriously upon the business of life. He now finds that the information he has garnered—the result, perhaps, of an hour or two's reading every day—is really invaluable to him in almost any avocation or pursuit in life he may select, or into which he may be compelled to embark by circumstances. The merchant, the mechanic, the petty tradesman, the large contractor, the dealer in small wares—all feel the benefit of their newspaper reading in the past, and all realize the necessity of keeping posted up in the daily events of the world. The world moves forward now more in a day than ten centuries ago it moved in ten years, and the people upon it live now longer in a day than Methuselah did, perhaps, in his long, long life; and in this accelerated progress the newspaper has been the chief agency—the most important lever in rolling it onwards.

The merchant, tradesman or mechanic commences business, and the newspaper opens up to a daily correspondence with thousands of customers—if he chooses to avail himself of the opportunity. He may get hundreds of hand-bills printed, and supply himself with reams of circulars, but the advantage derived from this mode of making known to his friends what he has on hand to supply their wants, must be very limited, and frequently is of no use whatever. The hand-bill is read and forgotten, and the circular probably thrown among the pile of waste paper. With the newspaper it is different. Every impression that comes from the press is read, on an average, by five people, and that journal must have a limited circulation which does not every morning present his advertisement before the eyes of more than a thousand readers.

The farmer has his seed time and harvest, and the capitalist has his season for investments, and so it is with the merchant and tradesman. Now is the seed-time—heavy and choice stocks of goods are rolling out into our stores, and as "quick sales and small profits" is now the motto of most of our mercantile friends, the only true way to realize its benefits, is to advertise liberally. Every

dollar spent in advertising, is as seed sown in good ground—an investment that pays a better percentage than any other venture the merchant makes. Within our own knowledge there are striking illustrations of this fact; but lest it might appear invidious, we forbear to individualize. Such are some of the uses and benefits of the newspaper; but they are not a tithe of the number we could mention, did our patience, or that of the reader permit.

FREE SCHOOLS AT THE SOUTH.—We clip the following paragraph from one of our Northern exchanges:

The American Freedmen's Union Commission and its auxiliaries are laboring with enlightened zeal to open the way for the introduction at the South of the free school system of the North. At the present time they are especially anxious to secure the co-operation of the freed people in the support of the schools. A conference of delegates from the various societies was lately held in this city—Judge Bond, of Baltimore, in the chair—to devise a plan for carrying this object into effect. The result arrived at is embodied in the following resolutions:

1. Resolved, That the best interests of the freed people require the permanent establishment of free schools in the South; that, as in the Northern free school system, the people should co-operate in their support; and, therefore, that no new schools should be established, except where co-operation can be secured.

2. Resolved, That our teachers and agents in the South should organize the people into associations to raise means to aid in the establishment and support of their schools.

POLAND.—A correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, writing from Warsaw, on the 5th instant, says:

"An important decision has been arrived at by the authorities here and at St. Petersburg. In order to destroy as much as possible all historical recollections among the Poles, it has been determined that Warsaw shall cease to be the capital of Poland. The kingdom will be divided into two districts, in which the chief seats of government will be Kaisch and Lublin, Warsaw thus being reduced to the rank of a second-rate provincial town. Arrangements are already being made for the removal of the principal Government officials from Warsaw, and the rents of houses have accordingly fallen considerably. This summary measure is supposed to be partly intended as a defiance to France, which nation, since the Bezowski affair, has been the subject of constant attacks in the Russian press."

EQUAL TO THE PRIMITIVE APOSTLES. The *Louisville Courier*, speaking of a sermon preached in that city by Bishop Pierce, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, eulogizes it as follows:

The Methodist Church South in the morning was filled to overflowing, and hundreds went away who could not even get standing room. Bishop Pierce preached. The primitive apostles never preached better. We do not believe it to be in the power of mortal man to do it. Said an eminent lawyer of this city, and a man of the world: "I have heard Clay, Prentiss, Marshall and Bascom, but George F. Pierce is the greatest orator of them all." The enthusiasm was tremendous. The sermon gradually rose in grandeur and power, until it reached a point where the universal outburst of feeling seemed imminent. It was directed to the ministers. Said an old Presiding Elder: "Well, none of the preachers will locate after that, and some of them will refuse to go to their appointments." An eminent member of the conference said: "It has always been hitherto a question with me as to which was the greatest sermon I ever heard. It is no longer a matter of doubt; the sermon of to-day settled it."

MOVEMENTS TO TEST THE AMNESTY. The Washington correspondent of the *New York Tribune* says:

Positive information has been received here, that in Alabama and Virginia, where the lists of registration are being revised, under the Reconstruction Act, a number of rebels who have been pardoned by the President's recent amnesty proclamation, have applied to have their names registered. In Alabama the Boards of Registration, by order of Gen. Pope, have refused permission, and a number of these men in Montgomery, Alabama, have taken the matter before the courts, intending to test the constitutionality of the Reconstruction Act. This, of course, opens up the whole matter again, and may cause delay in the elections.

It is a curious fact, that news from South America comes now by way of England. Yankee enterprise has not yet established a line of steamers with South America ports, and the British lines bring to London the items which are conveyed here by the Atlantic cable.

The Fort Pillow Affair—A Card from General N. B. Forrest.

To the Editor of the *New York Times*: A correspondent of the *Times*, whose letter was published on the 25th instant, says:

"At the time of the capture of Fort Pillow by the rebel General Forrest, and the massacre of its entire garrison, General (then Colonel) Lawrence was in command of Fort Columbus, a point on the Mississippi river above Fort Pillow. General Forrest, flushed with his victory and his murders, marched from Fort Pillow directly on Fort Columbus, notified Colonel Lawrence that the commander and garrison of Fort Pillow had been massacred, informed him that he commanded 10,000 troops, and knew that he (Lawrence) had only 1,000, and ordered him to surrender in one hour's time, or he and his command should share the fate which had been visited on the garrison at Fort Pillow."

I have hitherto borne in silence these outrageous assaults upon my character as a man and a soldier; but a decent regard for my own reputation, and a sense of duty to the brave gentlemen who fought under me during the late war, will not permit me to remain silent any longer. I must, therefore, ask you to be pleased to allow me to say through the columns of the *Times*, that the charges made against me by your correspondent are utterly false, and that their falsity can be easily demonstrated by proof, which is within easy reach.

The official report of the United States officer commanding at Fort Pillow, and the testimony reported by the Congressional Investigating Committee, of which Vice-President Wade was chairman, show that the garrison consisted of only about 580 officers and men. Other proofs, which I can produce at any time, show that I captured, and can account for, more than 300 of these—sixty-five of them, who were badly wounded, having been delivered by me to the officer commanding a United States gun-boat in the vicinity of the fort, and about 250 (an official descriptive list of whom is now in this city, in the possession of General Thomas Jordan,) having been turned over by me to General Polk, at Demopolis, Alabama. Of these captured men, ninety were negro soldiers. Nor were the rest of the garrison all killed; for many of them effected their escape, while others were drowned in the attempt. It will thus be seen that the proportion of killed was not greater than is usual in the case of so severe a fight, accompanied by a desperate assault and defence.

These facts are known to the Government of the United States, and acquit me, not only in the opinion of the President, Mr. Stanton, and Judge Holt, but in that of Congress, of any violation of the rules of civilized warfare. Otherwise, I would have been long ago arrested and tried upon that charge. For my own part, conscious of my innocence, and knowing perfectly well that I have always waged war with the strictest regard to the usages of civilized nations, I have never shunned any investigation to which the Executive or Congress might subject my military conduct.

N. B. FORREST.

CROPS IN THE PEE DEE SECTION.—A correspondent of the *Charleston News* writes:

"It is difficult to give a reliable opinion as to the crops in the Pee Dee country. So far as my observations extend, the corn crop appears to be poor. There was not much planted, as compared with the crop before the war, and the cultivation has been slovenly. The grain crop, although better than last year, will not be sufficient for the country, and large supplies will be required from abroad. The cotton crop is undoubtedly better in the Pee Dee country than it was last year, but it will not turn out what it promised some weeks ago. There has been too much rain for cotton all through the season, and the rust is now blasting the plant rapidly. This crop will stand bad treatment and disasters better than any other grown at the South; but this year very late planting, heavy rains during the entire season, and very imperfect culture, will undoubtedly cut this production down much below general expectation. These impressions, derived principally from observation, are confirmed by the planters in the country."

A Scotch paper says that recently, at Lochearnhead, Mr. Plumb, an American gentleman and three companions, killed 900 trout in about ten hours—more than one every three minutes to each rod, and a total of 225 fish to each of the four anglers.

CHEAP GAS AT LAST.—Messrs. Smith & McGowan, patentees, have just received a patent for the manufacture of gas. This invention consists in the manufacture of gas from coal and coal tar, every particle of tar being converted into gas. By the ordinary process of gas manufacture, large quantities of coal tar is made, which is sold for a trifle, or suffered to run off around the gas-works. This invention is to demonstrate that coal tar is the very essence of the coal, containing more gas than is now made from the coal itself. In fact, by this invention coal is used more for the making of tar than for making gas, as no coal would be required, if coal tar could be obtained in sufficient quantities. For instance, in gas-works of a hundred retorts, they are each filled say with three bushels of coal every four hours; whereas by this new process, these same retorts would only require filling with coal once in every twenty-four hours, the coal tar which is made being sufficient to supply the requisite amount of illuminating material. These gentlemen claim that by improvement, a superior quality of gas can be made at twenty-five per cent. of the present cost.—*Washington Republican*.

HYDRAULIC STEAMERS.—The hydraulic propeller steamship has had another trial at Stokes' Bay, England, with two Admiralty screw vessels pitted against her. The *London Times* devotes nearly three columns to the subject, giving a very minute report of the trial, from which it appears that in six runs over the measured mile, the gun-boat *Water Witch* (hydraulic) obtained an average speed of 9,223 knots with forty-one revolutions of the turbine, against an average of 9,267 by the screw boats, with 107.25 revolutions of the starboard engines, and 108.26 of the port engines. The *Times* says the hydraulic machinery "worked perfectly and noiselessly," without "even so much as a warm bearing from the time of its erection" in the hold of the *Water Witch*. The Admiralty has ordered two other vessels fitted with the hydraulic propeller, to more fully test its powers.

A SHIP SAVED AT SEA BY PUMPING OIL OVERBOARD.—The marine tradition that vessels can be saved in a storm at sea by pouring oil upon the water, has lately been verified—if the tale is true—in the wonderful instance of a vessel loaded with oil and blubber, and voyaging from St. John's, Newfoundland, to Bristol, England. According to the story, in a terrible storm the vessel was thrown on her beam ends, the sea ran high, when some one suggested the oil remedy, and a hoghead was broached and pumped overboard. "The effect," says the narrative, "was marvellous; around the ship the sea appeared as though there was a calm, and, in spite of a tremendous gale, the sea never broke on board for the eight days the vessel lay to." [*New York World*].

EXPENSIVE LITIGATION AND EXTENSIVE EVIDENCE.—The New York courts bid fair to rival the Chancery suits of England. We have seen the formidable octavos of testimony which grew out of the controversy of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company and the Pennsylvania Coal Company, which has been going on for a decade and more; and we notice that the famous Berden-Spike case, which has been in litigation for sixteen years, was up before Justice Nelson, at Cooperstown, a few days since, the testimony in which is comprised in nine volumes, accompanied by a volume of briefs. Had the parties compromised, they would have saved lawyers' fees, court expenses and vexation of temper that has, doubtless, shortened life.

The church at Saint-Pe-Saint-Simon, France, has been devastated by lightning. The electric fluid struck the clock tower, and, although, leaving the bell hanging, rent the foundation; descending into the church it tore up the flooring, destroyed the windows and several paintings, flattened a tin vessel on the high altar, and drove in the door of the tabernacle, thence it went to a side altar and mutilated a figure of the Virgin. The edifice has been so much injured as to be no longer fit for divine worship.

Little Alice found out an ingenious way of getting to bed in a hurry. The crib in which she slept was so low that, by placing one foot on the inside, and taking hold of the post, she could easily spring in. "Mamma," said she to her mother one evening, "Do you know how I get to bed quick?" "No," was the reply. "Well," said she, in great glee, "I step one foot over the crib, then I say 'rats,' and scare myself right in."

WHIRLWIND.—Just before the war, Mr. Stanton called the "late lamented" a gorilla. "Why," cried he, "need we send to Africa for the gorilla," when we (referring to the arrival of Mr. Lincoln) have one in our midst?"

In 1839, Mr. Forney styled Thaddeus Stevens a "villain at heart." Now, Mr. Stanton alludes to Lincoln as the "sainted martyr," and Forney calls Stevens a pure and matchless statesman.

"MASTER."—Some colored folks object to using this word, thinking, no doubt, that it means slavery. The great dictionary-maker, Webster, thus defines the word: "Master—A man who rules, governs or directs either men or business. A man who has servants is their master; he who has apprentices is their master, or he who has the government and direction of them. The man who superintends and directs any business, is master or master workman. 'Nations that want protectors will have masters,'" and so on.

It is again asserted by a cable despatch that the Japanese are cruelly persecuting the native Christians. Since the re-establishment of a friendly intercourse between Japan and the Christian countries, the opinion has gained ground that there still are in the country many thousands of Christian descendants of the martyrs who perished for their faith in the sixteenth century. The Governments of the Christian nations will, of course, not fail to intercede in behalf of the sufferer.

The latest sensation at Barnum's Museum is a live gorilla, captured in the wilds of Africa, five feet and a half high, and costing \$8,000. The gorilla displayed its great muscular strength by bending double a huge wrought iron bar an inch and three-quarters thick. It has a face and eyes like a human being, and its hand is as delicate as that of a woman. This is the only specimen of the gorilla now on exhibition in this country.

Haloxlin is the name of a new species of blasting powder, which rather cleaves than crushes, a valuable property if used in coal mines. It will neither ignite spontaneously, nor by friction, nor by percussion, and its explosion gives rise neither to deleterious gases nor smoke. It is twice as bulky as gunpowder, but it is one-half more powerful, and is composed of sawdust nine parts, charcoal three to five parts, and nitre forty-five parts.

GOOD.—"According to Milton, Eve kept silent in Eden to hear her husband talk," said a gentleman to a lady friend, and then added, in a melancholy tone: "Alas! there have been no Eves since." "Because there have been no husbands worth listening to," was the quick retort.

DEATH OF MR. ROBERT MORRISON. This aged and respectable citizen of our town died yesterday morning, at 8 o'clock. He had lived out his three-score years and ten, but for twelve months past he had been a victim of suffering, having all that time been confined to his bed.

[*Windsboro News*].

The drought in Ohio still prevails, to the great injury of the corn and potato crops. Farmers are selling their stock; water is very scarce, and, in many cases, the cattle have to be driven a great distance for water. Farmers are not feeding hogs for the winter markets to any extent, and no contracts are being made but those for early delivery.

Women have a much nicer sense of the beautiful than men. They are, by far, the safer umpires in the matters of propriety and grace. A mere school-girl will be thinking and writing about the beauty of birds and flowers, while her brother is robbing the nests and destroying the flowers.

The French Government, says the *Liberte*, has just ordered 800,000 waist belts, each having attached to it a small medicine box. The latter will contain whatever is necessary to give, in a rough way, a first dressing to a wound, or to stop dysentery. The whole will cost about 1,500,000 francs.

Let no gentleman ever quarrel with a woman. If you are in trouble with her, retreat. If she abuses you, be silent. If she tears your cloak off, give her your coat. If she box your ears, bow. If she tear your eyes out, feel your way to the door—but fly.

Some new phrase for what is impossible must be substituted for "catching a white blackbird." Such an anomaly has actually been caught and caged in Cecil County, Maryland.

A colored man, named Cisco, has been fined \$10 by the recorder of Hudson City, N. J., for swearing on the Sabbath, and a German named Sherbert fined \$1 for working in his garden on the same day.

A writer in the pious *New York Independent* suggests a pious method of getting rid of the President. He says: "Let him be tried by a court-martial, and shot by twelve soldiers in a hollow square."

A man in Connecticut has cleared his house of rats by catching one and dipping him in red paint. He then let him loose and the other rats left, disgusted by his appearance.

The yellow fever has visited twenty towns in the lower portion of the State of Texas. Some of these places were never known to have a case of the disease before.

Local Items.

Attention is invited to the card of Captain Garden, formerly of the "Palmetto Battery." He has established himself in Fauquier County, Va., and, in addition to the practice of law, has opened a land agency office.

The rapid approach of cold weather is heralded by the appearance of porkish preparations in our market. At Stall No. 8, Mr. Brill has excellent Bologna and country sausages, head-cheese, liver pudding, etc. Give them a trial.

Dan. Castello's mammoth circus and menagerie, will be exhibited this afternoon, on Levy's lot, corner of Plain and Gates streets. The procession will pass through the principal streets about 12 o'clock, we suppose. If there is any reliance to be placed in show-bills—and some parties set great store by them—Dan's exhibition is on the tip-top order. But as we have on several occasions published favorable notices of it, we will without any further commendation, leave it to its merits.

It has been suggested by a friend—and we approve of the suggestion—that the afternoon's circus performance be postponed to a later hour than that mentioned in the posters, so as to allow those persons who wish to see the menagerie exclusively, ample opportunity of so doing.

AN EDUCATIONAL HINT.—As the most of our schools will be re-opened during this and next week, we note a hint that should not be lost on teachers and parents. In a recent speech on education, delivered by Sir John Browning, before the British Association, he urged that greater attention should be paid at the public schools to reading, writing and arithmetic. He stated that when he was Governor of Hong Kong, a highly connected young gentleman was sent out to him for public employment, bringing recommendations from very influential quarters. A report having shortly afterward reached him of the gentleman's ignorance, he sent for him and examined him as to his proficiency in spelling. When required to spell the word candle, the highly connected young gentleman spelled it "kandell."

AN OWNER FOR STOLEN PROPERTY WANTED.

A friend, says the *Southern Opinion*, writes us from Shawnee, Johnson County, Kansas, asking information of a family named Radcliff, who, during the war, resided in or near Columbus, North Carolina. The writer says a Yankee soldier in Shawnee, who was with Sherman in his raid through the South, has in his possession a captured ring, and claims to have bought the jewel from the man who first captured it. The ring is described as a very valuable family relic, apparently of gold, large and heavy, intended for a gentleman's forefinger. On the inside is engraved, "Mrs. Eliz. Radcliff, died 21st February, 1800, aged 73 years and 6 months." On the outside, set in gold, is a lock of hair, under glass plate, the whole surrounded by a circle of pearls. The gentleman who seeks this information and communicates these facts, promises, upon receipt of the certificate of ownership, to purchase the ring from its present possessor, and forward it to the family, upon the single condition that the receiver shall pay express charges, he generously contributing the cost in aiding the restoration of the jewel into the rightful hands.

Any person having knowledge of the family inquired after, will please communicate with the editor of the *Opinion*, who holds the address of the writer of the letter referred to. It may be that Columbia, South Carolina, is meant.

Read Udolpho Wolfe's advertisements in to-day's paper.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.—Attention is called to the following advertisements, which are published this morning for the first time:

Hugh R. Garden—Real Estate Agent. Thos. E. Gregg—Dissolution. J. S. McMahon—Notice. J. & T. B. Agnew—White Lead, &c. Edward Hill—Removal of Office. Apply at This Office—For Sale.

C. F. Jackson is receiving goods regularly every week. They are well selected and sold at low rates. Call and see them. No house sells goods cheaper than he does.