

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All communications for this paper should be accompanied by the name of the author, not necessarily for publication, but as evidence of good faith on the part of the writer. Write only on one side of the paper. Be particularly careful in giving names and dates, to have all letters or figures plain and distinct.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Personal and Literary.

—A new work of Charles Darwin, about to appear, discusses "The Different Forms of Flowers on Plants of the Same Species."

—Jefferson Davis is now residing at Beauvoir, on the Gulf coast of Mississippi, between Mobile and New Orleans, and preparing his memoirs. He is in excellent health, and looks younger than he did a few years ago.

—Mr. Erastus Brooks, who has retired from the New York *Express*, after a service of 41 years, is, with the exception of Mr. Bryant, the oldest journalist in the city. He says in his farewell that 112 daily newspapers have started and failed in New York City since he began.

—The late W. H. C. Hosmer's poetry, like Alfred B. Street's, is identified with the life, character and traditions of the Indians. "The Fall of Tecumseh," "Legends of the Senecas," and "The Warriors of the Genesee," were his chief productions. He thoroughly studied the Indian character years ago in Florida and the Northwest.

—Mrs. Louise Chandler Moulton, well known for her stories and poems and literary correspondence, is now in London, where she is engaged as a regular contributor to the *Tatler*, a new weekly somewhat in the 18th century style. She also writes frequently for other papers and magazines; and it is likely that she will remain abroad a year or two longer.

—Bob Burdette, the *Hawk-eye* man, is to publish a book and have it sold by agents. Yet undoubtedly that same Burdette has been chased clear into the fourth story of a brick block and cornered in the coal bin, and there been obliged to sign his name to a book agent's subscription list; and when the man came around with the five-dollar book, he had to go out and borrow fifty cents of the foreman, ten cents of all the compositors, five cents of the devil, and ask the editor to advance the remainder of his next month's salary. Oh, that we could write a book and send the agent to our enemy.—*Oil City Call*.

—"Christian Reid," the author of "Valerie Aylmer," and several other books of increasing merit, is thus described by a correspondent of the *Cincinnati Commercial*: "She is Miss Fisher, of North Carolina, and spends her winters in Baltimore, with her aunt and uncle, Judge and Mrs. Hairstone. Miss Fisher is poor, and aids in every way her father's family, which is large. Indeed, I understand she is their mainstay. She is about 22, of medium height, with a slight, graceful figure, which she dresses with exquisite taste. Her small, shapely head is covered by a profusion of wavy, rippling brown hair, done up after a carelessly artistic fashion. Her features are regular, small and very pretty. Her eyes are large, lustrous, and of a very uncertain color. She is gentle, extremely graceful, and very shy; can not bear the least reference to her writings, on which subject she is painfully sensitive. Her voice is low-toned and musical. She talks well, and, when warmed up to her subject, grows positively eloquent. She makes but little from her books. There is quite a demand for them, but a friend told me the Appletons bought out the copyright of each for a low figure, and that was the end of it. She spends her summers at home, and her winters with her uncle and aunt, who are devoted to her, and very proud of her genius."

School and Church.

—A Sunday-school Assembly to be held in the Yosemite Valley, California, in 1879 is announced. Dr. J. H. Vincent assumes the responsibility of its organization.

—The Rev. A. Jurger, the converted Jew, who was for some time a teacher of Hebrew in the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has joined the Episcopalians.

—The will of Charlotte Harris, of Charlestown, gives \$80,000 to Perkin's Institution for the Blind; \$10,000 to the Charlestown Library, and \$7,000 to other institutions. The rest of her fortune, after deducting private legacies,

goes to the Massachusetts General Hospital.

—Prof. M. W. Harrington, of Michigan University, who is now in Europe, has been offered by the Chinese Government College, at Peking, the Chair of Astronomy in that institution, at a salary of \$4,000 a year, with the perquisites amounting to \$1,000 more.

—The Sabbath-school lessons for 1878, as decided upon by the International Committee, will be, for the first six months, "Studies about the Kingdom of Judah," from II. Chronicles and Daniel, and for the last half of the year "Studies in the Gospel according to Luke."

—A Sunday-school Assembly is to be held at Lake Bluff, 30 miles north of Chicago, from July 17 to 28. Rev. J. H. Vincent, of New York, will be the Superintendent. The course of instruction will be the Chautauque series, consisting of the first 13 lessons thereof.

—The total results of the long struggle between the German Empire and the Roman Catholic Church may be epitomized as follows: The Archbishops of Gnesen-Posen and Cologne, the Bishops of Breslau, Paderborn, and Munster, and the auxiliary Bishops of Posen, six in number, have been deposed. The sees of Treves and Fulda have become vacant by death, and no attempt is made to fill them. About 600 members of different orders and congregations have been expelled from the diocese of Cologne, among them 420 priests. In the diocese of Cologne, there are 94 parishes without priests; in Paderborn, 90; in Munster, 60; in Treves, 150; in Limburg, 17; in Breslau, 64; and in Hildesheim, 11. None of the Bishops will fill these vacancies, because the Pope will not permit them to conform to the new ecclesiastical laws of the empire.

Science and Industry.

—The municipal clocks of Vienna are moved in accord, by means of pneumatic tubes, with a central clock. Every minute a wave of compressed air is sent through the tubes, causing the hands to move.

—Only 15 years ago China held the monopoly of tea production; now India is proving a formidable rival. From 1,300,000 pounds in 1861, the export from Calcutta advanced to 25,000,000 pounds in 1876.

—A Scottish correspondent traveling in Texas quotes an intelligent Texan as saying to him that "the stock of cattle in Texas will not last more than two or three years if Texas has to supply the British as well as the American markets."

—M. Redier, barometer maker to the French Association for the Advancement of Science, has devised a barometer for warning miners when the atmospheric pressure is undergoing a sudden depression, so that they may guard against fire-damp explosions.

—One of the New York obituary writers says that the Harper periodicals bring in an annual profit of half a million, while the whole manufacturing business amounts to \$5,000,000 yearly, one-third of which is profit.

—At Pascagoula, La., there are extensive works for creosoting timber, which is done by first expelling the sap by steam, and then giving the wood a bath in "dead oil," strongly impregnated with creosote. Besides doubling the durability of the timber, it protects it from ship worms.

—A method of burning petroleum under steam boilers has been successfully tried in Italy. It consists simply in pouring oil over a thin layer of asbestos, which, being incombustible, serves to retain the oil and provide a large wick. Sheets of paper placed beneath the furnace were not injured by the intense heat.

—A committee of the scientific societies of France has decided that, in future, information shall be sent to the various coal mines of that country of any sudden or great fall of the atmospheric pressure, as recorded in the different meteorological observations. It is thought that such depressions have great influence on gases in mines.

—A substitute for gunpowder, invented in England, is called "powder paper." It is paper impregnated with a mixture of potassic chlorate, nitrate, prussiate and chromate, powdered wood charcoal, and a little starch. It leaves no greasy residue on the gun, produces less smoke and less recoil, and is less

impaired by humidity, and it is 5-16ths stronger than gunpowder.

—The cork tree has been domesticated, or acclimated, or at the very least cultivated at Sonoma, California. A resident of that place has succeeded in growing five trees which are now 25 to 35 feet in height, and from 10 to 12 inches in diameter in the trunk. One coat of cork, one and one-half inch thick, has been stripped off. The seeds were brought from Spain 20 years ago.

Haps and Mishaps.

—William Connor, a painter, fell from a scaffolding a distance of 60 feet and was instantly killed, at Waterloo, Neb.

—By the premature discharge of a blast in a stone quarry near Bethlehem, Pa., James Walton was instantly killed and Abraham Fry fatally injured.

—Tom Peterson, a well known saloon-keeper of Burlington, Iowa, dropped dead in his own saloon from an overdose of laudanum, which he was taking on a physician's prescription to recover from the effects of a spree.

—Eddie Howe, a little boy 7 years old, was sitting in a wagon at Monroe, Wis., when the horses became frightened and dashed off, throwing the boy to the ground so violently as to tear off one side of his head, and scattering his brains along the street.

—Mr. G. Vreecslaar, a wealthy farmer, living three miles east of Otley, Iowa, stepped into the yard among his cattle, when he was attacked by a large bull and gored in a fearful manner. One horn penetrated his side in the vicinity of the heart, causing almost instant death.

—Curiosities of suicide: J. P. Lallemand, of Memphis, an upholsterer, threw himself from the balcony of the jail to the flags, some 30 feet below, causing death instantly. He had been threatening suicide for some months, and was arrested to prevent him from destroying himself. He leaves a wife and five children.—Edward Lee, a convict in the Minnesota State-prison, recently sentenced for 30 years for rape, hung himself in his cell with his bed-clothes. He left a letter in the cell with messages for his sister and mother saying he did not commit the crimes charged upon him; warning homeless young men against women and dissipation, and asking that his body might be thrown in Lake St. Croix to serve out there his 30 years' sentence.—George D. Unler, a retired and wealthy Brooklyn clothing merchant, shot himself through the head for some reason unknown. He was 56 years old, leaves a wife and four children.—Charles Axt, a baker, aged 35, committed suicide at Wilkesbarre, Pa., by hanging himself with a bed-cord. Cause, despondency and inability to procure employment.—The Rev. Dr. Morlen, of London, Ontario, shot himself in the public street and fell down dead. Deceased was dressed in a fine dress-coat, white kid gloves, and fancy velvet vest, having gotten himself up in the most presentable style. He had of late been canvassing for a church, but unsuccessfully, and it is also said he was lately disappointed in love. On his person were found many Scriptural texts, written apparently to justify the deed.

Foreign Notes.

—The Queen of Holland, recently deceased, was a special patron of Motley, the historian, whose death preceded her only a few days. The Queen's marriage relations were not very happy, and she lived in a palace a little out of The Hague, a mile or two from that inhabited by her husband, King William III.

—Previous to the departure of Queen Victoria for Scotland, a few days ago, a gentleman of middle stature, rather inclined to stoutness, and of fresh complexion, arrived at Windsor Castle, and, announcing that he was King of England, desired to be shown to his apartments in the Palace. He was informed that as he had not sent notice of his coming, they were not ready, and he was requested to take a seat. A doctor was sent for, who pronounced him to be insane, and he was consigned to the Windsor Union.

—The Japanese Prince, Kita Schwankiwano Miga, a near relative of the Mikado, was lately married, in a German city, to the Baroness de Tressan, a young widow. The Prince had been sent to Germany to pursue military studies. On asking permission of the

Mikado to marry, great surprise was expressed at court at the idea of a member of the royal family being wedded to a Christian. Orders were sent for his immediate return, but he preferred an immediate wedding. He then wrote that he was married, and is now awaiting a reply. If the Mikado should refuse to sanction the union, the Prince will make Germany his home.

—A clerical manifesto has been issued in favor of opening English museums and picture galleries on Sunday afternoons. Among the signers are Dean Stanley, Canon Duckworth, and the vicars of several prominent parishes, some of whom are Broad Churchmen, while others are Ritualists. They took the ground that this would bring within the reach of the working classes a new means of intellectual improvement, and even of Christian influence; that it would relieve the church from an injurious misconception which alienates many people from religion; that it would directly counteract, by the competition of an innocent recreation, the manifold temptations to drunkenness and other vices; and that it would indirectly promote the moral and religious welfare of the people.

—By a royal warrant from Queen Victoria the decorations styled the Albert medal, first and second class, are to be extended to cases of gallantry in saving life on land. Hitherto they have been conferred in cases of bravery at sea. The medals are to be awarded on the recommendation of the First Lord of the Treasury "to those who, in saving or endeavoring to save the lives of others from accidents in mines, on railways or at fires, or other peril within our dominions others than perils of the sea, have endangered their lives." The medal of the first class is to be a gold oval-shaped badge, enameled in crimson, with a monogram composed of the letters V. and A. in gold, surrounded by a garter in bronze, inscribed in raised letters of gold, "For gallantry in saving life on land," surmounted by a representation of the Prince Consort crown, and suspended from a crimson ribbon in four white longitudinal stripes. The medal of the second class will be of bronze. The heroic rescuers of the miners imprisoned by the recent colliery inundation at Troedyrhiw, Wales, will receive these medals.

Olds and Ends.

—Consolation is always soothing to the bereaved. Here is what a Western journalist offers to his readers: "Owing to the death of our chief editor, there will be no editorial article on Tuesday, but look out for a regular ripper on Wednesday!"

—The mother-in-law finds a defender in the *San Francisco Mail*, which says: "If old Adam had had a mother-in-law to look after him and his wife, it is more than probable that this very day we might have been able to caper about in the light and airy costume of our first parents."

—When you see a young fellow who a year ago used to step up and order lager for the crowd with the utmost sang froid, patiently trundling a baby carriage along the street on Sunday afternoon, and looking chapfallen in his last season's hat, don't it speak volumes for the reforming influence of woman's society?

—When you see a man who has been owing you \$5 of borrowed money for a year past skipping home with a brand new shiny plug hat on, and a big basket of early strawberries daintily carried in his right hand, it does indeed make you feel that there are cases which the law doesn't reach, or where a man is fully justified in being his own avenger.

—Shall American liberty be fettered? Shall the proud American bird moult his feathers in despair and the chords of Columbian pride cease to vibrate with the sweet music of freedom? No? Then why should we pass a law that deprives the American small boy of the right to blow his own head off on the Fourth of July, if he feels like it?

—After seeing two doctors hang around over a man for four hours and use a gallon of mixed chloroform and ether, trying to get him to sleep that they may saw his leg off, it grows more and more a mystery how a rubber can come in, and slap a little two-by-four sponge, saturated with chloroform, over a clerk's nose and steal a whole bank slick and clean in less than seven minutes.