

The Avant Courier.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1878.

In Church and in State, It is ruled or ruled; In courtship or marriage, It is ruled or ruled; In logic and law, It is ruled or ruled; In trade and in traffic, It is ruled or ruled; In the struggle of life, It is ruled or ruled; In the struggle of life, It is ruled or ruled.

The Difference. To you the day is fair As days may be; My eyes are filled too bitterly with tears To see.

You view a thousand graves And sigh at none! My heart is breaking at the single thought Of one!

The Baby's Thoughts. What is the little one thinking about? Very wonderful things, no doubt, Unwonderful history.

Yet laughs and cries and eats and drinks, And chuckles and crawls and nobs and winks, As if his heart were full of alkali, And curious riddles as any child!

Where the summer goes, He need not laugh for he'll find it so.

A Watch. Lines printed on an old English watch card could but our travelers more like this machine, Not urged by passion or delayed by spleen; And true to nature's regulating power, By virtuous acts distinguish every hour.

Then health and joy would follow as they ought The laws of nature and the laws of thought— Sweet health to pass the present moments o'er, Involving joy to treat them all as more.

The New York Herald's Best Work. [Scientific American]

If asked to name the most notable illustration of modern newspaper enterprise we should mention—not the achievements of Abyssinian or Bulgarian war correspondents, nor the riddle of Livingstone, nor the survey of the Equatorial Lakes of Africa, nor Stanley's conquest of the Congo; no, nor even the Herald's latest project to attack the North Pole. We should name a service to humanity greater than any of these, and one less liable to suspicion as to its motive—namely, the work of the Herald's Weather Bureau.

In this we find not only the noblest exhibition yet made of newspaper enterprise, but one of the most significant achievements in modern practical science.

A few days ago the Herald gave a review of the first year's work of its weather service, with a complete list of the warnings and predictions transmitted by cable to Europe, with the manner of their fulfillment.

The first warning issued was dated Feb. 14, 1877, predicting the arrival of a storm on the European coast five days later. The prediction was fulfilled to the letter. During the ensuing three months eleven more warnings were called, and each was justified by the event. During May, June and July, sixteen warnings were sent, and but one proved out of time. From August, 1877, to January, 1878, out of nineteen predictions called, seventeen were completely fulfilled, one was generally fulfilled and one failed, the failure being due to a misstatement of the progress of a slow cyclone storm from the southwest. Thus out of forty-six warnings only two wholly failed of complete or partial fulfillment.

Of the forty-four successes, thirty-one were correct in general, and five were partially fulfilled by the arrival of storms on sections of the European coast, but not affecting other sections of their influence was believed likely to extend. It certainly speaks well for the truth both of the observations and the theory on which these predictions were made that over ninety-five per cent. of them were fulfilled, and as nothing succeeds like success, it is not surprising that the warnings, which were received at first with derision, are now published regularly in the leading commercial and agricultural papers of England and France, and also find a place in the official International Bulletins of the Observatories of Paris and Brussels.

The storm movements on which the warnings are based are few and simple. Except in the Mediterranean regions the weather of the countries to the east of us is chiefly determined by the weather of the Atlantic continent, and as the telegraph outposts the Atlantic coast, we are usually foretold days in advance of their arrival. Nearly every storm that strikes the Norwegian, British, French and Spanish coasts has affected in its course the weather of some portion of the United States or Canada.

These storms generally strike the coasts northward of the Bay of Biscay, traveling in a northeasterly, easterly or southeasterly course. Those which come from the southwest are usually, but not exclusively, of equatorial origin, or pass over the American continent by the southwestern route of the Gulf from the Pacific Ocean. Cyclone storms, such as the one which devastated Southern Texas in 1875, take very direct courses toward Europe from the southwest. But instances are by no means rare of storms that have passed over the lake region from the northwestern territory and the Pacific, being carried southward to comparatively low latitudes, and then northward so as to reach Europe from the southwest.

After storms reach the European coast they pass either over Norway toward Northern and Central Russia, or eastward over Denmark and the Baltic to Northern Germany or Southern Russia, or else southward over the English Channel, the Netherlands, and France to Central Europe and the regions of the Danube Valley and Asia Minor. Nearly all the storms that affected the belligerents in Bulgaria during the recent campaign in Turkey were of the latter class.

After a protracted comparison of weather reports on both sides of the Atlantic, supplemented by observations of ships captains on the Atlantic and the Gulf, the Bureau was able to declare, in the laws of Atlantic storm movements on which its weather predictions and European warnings are based. From their scientific, not less than their commercial and agricultural value, these warnings are among the most notable achievements of the age.

One of our neighbors, a married lady, sent a note to a newspaper in this city to get a recipe to cure the whooping-cough in a pair of twins. By a deplorable mistake a recipe for pickling onions was unconsciously inserted and her name attached, and she received this answer through the "Answers to Correspondents": "Mrs. L. H. B.—If not too young, skin them pretty closely, immerse in scalding water, sprinkle plentifully with salt, and immerse them for a week in strong brine." She didn't do it, however, as she thought it would kill the cough nineteen times out of twenty, and the children nine times out of ten.

How to Burn a Barn.

It is the easiest thing in the world if a few simple directions are followed. Use an old-fashioned tin lantern at night, throw some roughly punched sheets only the minimum of light can penetrate, and whose door must necessarily be open to enable you to see anything. Set it right down in the bedding while you go up in the hay-loft to throw down feed, and the chances are good that your hungry horse or frisky cow will kick it over, as Mrs. O'Casey's did in Chicago, and set the barn on fire. If you have not a tin lantern, carry a candle, or open lamp, and use it in the same way. If the night is windy, feed your horse out of the barn the best you can, and light your candle inside with matches, and let the match ends take care of themselves—they are small affairs anyhow.

On rainy days make the barn your rendezvous for smoking and whittling, and talking politics with intelligent neighbors who have leisure hours on their hands as you have. Do not be stingy with your pipes and tobacco, and keep plenty matches lying around loose, so they may be handy to fire up with. A few social afternoons spent in this way will not, unlikely, enable you to get your barn burned.

Never lock a barn door. Padlocks are expensive, and a wooden peg will keep the thing shut just as well as forty padlocks. Besides that, there are poor people constantly on the road ("tramps"), they are called by unfeeling, well-to-do people, who have nice, comfortable homes of their own) who need a night's lodging, as well as other folks, and who will be attracted by the hospitable appearance of an unlocked barn door. These gentlemen are not, as an average thing, of an alterity of mind, but they do sometimes carry short pieces of candles in their pockets, with which to look over scraps of newspapers and other things in the interior of barns where they spend their nights, and they almost invariably have a supply of matches with which to light their pipes, as they take a "night-cap" smoke on the hay-mow before closing their gentle eyes in slumber.

Never clean your barn. It involves a great deal of labor to be particular about a barn—in sweeping the floor and clearing up the stalls, and lastly disposing of the rakkings and droppings, and odds and ends, which accumulate and make a pleasant carpet for the feet if left alone. All this refuse, when it becomes dry, is caught and ignited, and offers handy food for incipient fires, which may be kindled by an unskillful match, dropped during the day and stepped on as you pass through at night.

Do not pay attention to those hyper-sensitive people who are everlastingly talking about spontaneous combustion in hay-mows. Never mind if your hay is wet; you do not want to be all the year round waiting for it to dry. Slow it away; tramp down, let it dry at its leisure, scout at the idea of a match setting hay on fire. A ridiculous newspaper reporter the other day actually printed an item about an extra high tide setting a warehouse on fire because the water reached some lime stored in the cellar! Just as if water could set anything on fire!

As with your hay, so with your grain. Suppose it is damp, what harm will it do? Don't fool away your time in drying it; put it in the bin, shut up tight, and let it bed like a wise man, without troubling yourself with over-particularity.

These directions, all of them, or part of them, faithfully adhered to, will beyond doubt enable you to get your barn burned. —Farm and Fireside.

A Reminiscence of Ben. Wade.

One day I replied to Toombs, of Georgia, and to all appearances used language which would compel Toombs to challenge him. Several friends went to Wade and begged him to desert, but the old man grew more and more violent, until Toombs indicated his intention of calling Wade to account for the language he was using, when Wade quietly sat down, seemingly having accomplished his object. The Southern men looked at each other in surprise, and it was manifest to all that Wade deliberately sought a quarrel with Toombs.

That night a friend of the Southern Senator called on Mr. Wade to know if he would retract the offensive words he had used.

"No, I won't take back a word," was the emphatic reply.

"Then," said the friend of Mr. Toombs, "it will be necessary for Mr. Toombs to challenge you to-morrow."

"That's just what I want, and we might have got to the point without all this palaver," said Wade.

"You surely cannot be in earnest, Mr. Wade," said the Southerner.

"Why, of course, I am. You see, sir, we Northern men don't like to fight. Now, I am opposed to the cob, and so are my constituents; but you fellows have broken Sumner's head, and you must spunk up a little, or you will have all our heads. The shortest way to end the matter is to kill off a few of you, and I have picked up on old Toombs as my man; he will have to challenge me. Then, of course, I will have the choice of weapons, and I will take my own rifle, and hang me if I don't bring him down at the first crack."

When Toombs heard of what Wade said he replied: "I can't challenge him; if I do, he will kill me before he has time to load."

It appears that Toombs and Wade had been out together shooting with a pistol several times, and while Toombs could shoot well with a pistol, he was a poor rifle shot. Wade was an old hunter, and at a distance of a hundred yards could hit a dollar almost every shot.

Mr. Wade afterwards said to the writer: "I told Toombs had challenged me that time, as I expected he would, I would have made him put a dollar on his coat, about the size of a patch, over his heart, and an old fellow would have got demoralized when he saw me drawing a bead on it, and missed, while, hang me if I wouldn't have cut the patch."

More Liberty Wanted.

A petition was presented in the Senate on March 12th by Robert G. Ingersoll, of Illinois, and others, in which they say that without the knowledge of your petitioners, and as they believe, without the knowledge of a great number of citizens of the United States, certain laws were enacted to be passed by Congress in 1870, since incorporated into the United States Revised Statutes, for the ostensible purpose of suppressing obscene literature, which reversed the policy and practice of our government since its foundation. That in the belief of your petitioners the government of the United States was established under the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, for the use general purpose of government only and for protection, and not for the limitation of the rights of personal liberty, freedom of conscience, of the press, of expression of opinion, &c. That the Statutes aforesaid are, in the opinion of your petitioners, a plain violation of the letter and spirit of these fundamental principles of our Government, and that they are in fact being used for the purposes of moral and religious persecutions. The petitioners pray that the Statutes aforesaid may be repealed or materially modified, so they cannot be

used to abridge the freedom of the press or of conscience.

A few names were signed to the petition, after which was the following: "and 50,000 others, attached to a petition 110 feet long, filed with the house committee on the revision of the laws." The petition was referred to the committee on revision of laws.

Ben. Wade's Oath.

According to the Cleveland Herald, the following is related by a prominent gentleman, who was acquainted with Mr. Wade in olden times: "The Senator could certainly swear terribly, and he once gave me his opinion on profanity during a conversation, which I will state precisely as it occurred. Said Mr. Wade: 'After the passage of that outrageous fugitive slave law, while holding court at Jefferson, I appointed an evening for a speech. The town was filled with people, and I gave all who were present for the late or sanctioned it perfect hell. At the Warren court it was the same way, and at Canfield. While at the latter place, the Quakers of S. C. invited me to their town, and the audience was fully 4,000. I swear the Quaker women are posted on government matters. They are nice people, and I attended their meeting and enjoyed it. They put me upon one of their high seats in front, facing the audience. Now, you know, I don't often go to meetings at home, but I enjoyed that Quaker meeting. I tell you, and they are good sensible people. I swear if I am anything of a religious nature, I'll be a Quaker.' I responded: 'You could not be a Quaker, Judge Wade.' 'Why not?' 'Because you would have to be entirely metamorphosed, and the change would be as great as it was with Saul of Tarsus.' He eyed me closely and listened with marked attention, saying when I had concluded it perfect hell. At the Warren court it was the same way, and at Canfield. While at the latter place, the Quakers of S. C. invited me to their town, and the audience was fully 4,000. I swear the Quaker women are posted on government matters. They are nice people, and I attended their meeting and enjoyed it. They put me upon one of their high seats in front, facing the audience. Now, you know, I don't often go to meetings at home, but I enjoyed that Quaker meeting. I tell you, and they are good sensible people. I swear if I am anything of a religious nature, I'll be a Quaker.' 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