THE PRESS.

THURSDAY.......................DECEMBER 8

JOHN BROWN—INSPIRATIONS OF THE NEW ENGLAND MUSE.

At a John Brown meeting, in Boston, on Sunday, Ralph Waldo Emerson delivered these verses, quite as rugged and queer, though far less meritorious than many of his other metrical effusions:

A man there came, whence none could tell,
Bearing a touchstone in his hand,
And tested all things in the land
By its unerring spell.

A thousand transformations rose
From fair to foul, from foul to fair,
The golden crown he did not share
Nor scorn the beggar's clothes.

Of heirloom jewels prised so much,
Were many changed to chips and clods,
And even statues of the gods
Crumbled beneath its touch.

Then angrily the people cried,
"The loss outweighs the profit far,
Our goods suffice us as they are,
We will not have them tried."

But since they could not so avail
To check his unrelenting quest,
They seized him, saying "let him test
How real 's our jail."

But though they slew him with the sword,
And in the fire the touchstone burned,
Its doing could not be o'erturned,
Its undoings restored.

And when to stop all future harm,
They strewed its ashes to the breeze,
They little guessed each grain of these
Conveyed the perfect charm.

Another poem, supposed to be from the pen of Henry D. Thoreau, was read on the same occasion:

To-day beside Potomac's wave,
Beneath Virginia's sky,
They slay the man who loved the slave,
And dared for him to die.

The Pilgrim Fathers' earnest creed,
Virginia's ancient faith,
Inspired this hero's noblest deed,
And his reward is—Death!

Great Washington's indignant shade
Forever urged him on—
He heard from Monticello's glade
The voice of Jefferson.

But chiefly on the Hebrew page
He read Jehovah's law,
And this from youth to hoary age
Obeyed with love and awe.

No selfish purpose armed his hand,
No passion aimed his blow;
How loyally he loved his land
Impartial Time shall show.

But now the faithful martyr dies,
His brave heart beats no more,
His soul ascends the equal skies,
His earthly course is o'er.

For this we mourn, but not for him,
Like him in God we trust;
And though our eyes with tears are dim,
We know that God is just.

An Austrian Countess' Appreciation of a Brilliant Conversationalist.

This amusing story is told by a Paris letter-writer:

A good story is told of an adventure which befel the late Charles Nodier, from yealding too readily to the temptations of a good kitchen and a cellar. An Austrian Countess, of old family and great fortune, spent the winter of 1832 in Paris. She had met Charles Nodier in a good many dining-rooms, and had been delighted by his brilliant and piquant conversation; he was for a long time reckoned the best talker in Paris. She heard everywhere his talents vaunted, and that nobody gave a dinner-party without at least trying to have Charles Nodier among the guests.

Some weeks afterward, the Countess, having determined upon giving a large dinner-party, wrote to Nodier asking if he would be good enough to dine with her and her friends the Thursday following, and in a postscript she said she would be very much obliged to him if he, accepted the invitation, if he would come at four o'clock. He accepted the invitation, and and while he thought four o'clock rather early for a dinner hour, he remembered the Germans were early diners, and suspected his amiable hostess imported her dinner-hour from home. At four o'clock, therefore, he was at the door. To his surprise, he found her alone, and not yet dressed.

"Ah! how do you do? I am glad to see you—and so punctual too! I hope you have not dined yet."

Charles Nodier smiled and looked astonished, and said:

"Certainly not."

"So much the better! Come, go to the table. I have had your dinner served in the little parlor adjoining.

Really, thought poor Nodeir to himself, these Germans are odd fish, and do things in the queerest style. His surprise was not lessened when he saw a small table with one cover on it, and when he was bidden to take his seat, the Countess rang the bell, and the previously instructed servants brought in the dinner. Nodier's eyes were like saucers, so large were they.

"Great Heavens, Madame, I thought I was invited to a dinner party; and here I am alone—not a guest present, you in deshabille, and not sharing the dinner! Really I don't understand it!"

The Austrian Countess now manifested as much surprise as the French writer, and she said (allow me to show how her strong German accent added to the ridiculousness of her remarks.) "De zing is very zimple; tare are twentee of my franz coming to tine wiz me to-daa, at seex o'clock. I means for you to sat down at de table wiz dem; you muss talk for zem; you muss be funnee, gay, wittie, and makes dem all laff. No bodee shall talk buts you. Don't be afrades, dey will all pe glads to hear you talks. Now if you was to stop to eat dis or to trink dat, dare would pe a disagreeable silence; your delightful converzation voulds be interrupted, and dens de folks vould lose de jokes, do troll anectotes, ozer funee sings you says pefore folks, and de sharm wouldz be proke everee instant. But's as you have tined, zen your mind will be free, and you cans shatter aways and pe telightful. Dis is de reason I gives you your tinner before ze ozer folks."

Charles Nodier looked quizzingly at the Austrian Countess, burst into a horse laugh, and went out of the room, leaving her furious. At six o'clock twenty-five or thirty guests were assembled, and after soup had been served in the solemn silence which befits that "consumation wished," she said: "I did expect to have to-day a delightful literary man de pest talker in Paris, to telight you turing tinner, put zees literary people are so troll! he accepted ze tinner, he comes to see me, and zen all at once he laff, take his hat and run off wizout say ze why or ze pecause!" The guests were surprised, and questioned their hostess; the secret leaked out, and the Austrian Embassador explained to her the mistake she had made. She was mortified more than I can express, and wrote so kind a letter to Charles Dodier, he could not but pardon her. She looked (and not without some ground or reason) upon a literary man as upon a musician, who was paid to drown dinner stupidities in melodies.

☞ A patriotic writer is of the opinion that ladies of the present day would make good soldiers, because of the dress which they wear by day they might make a tent at night.

A Learned Doctor.

The Knickerbocker relates the following: "I stumbled on a character the other evening," writes a friend, "on board a steamboat, which presented some traits that I thought rather original and unique. I Daguerreotyped him on the spot. I had just finished supper, and was quietly enjoying my cigar on the deck, when I heard an individual declaiming in a loud tone of voice to some two or three attentive listeners, (but evidently intended for the benefit of whomsoever it might concern,) on pathology. Being as it were thus invited, I also became a listener to something like the following: "There it is now! Well, some people talk about seated fevers. I don't know any thing about seated fevers; there aint no such thing as seated fever. A musquito-bite is a fever; cure the bite, and the fever leaves you. So with a bile—just the same thing; there aint no such thing, I tell you, as seated fever. The fact is, your regular doctor prac-tizes according to books. I prac-tize according to common sense. Now there was Dr. Rugg, of our village, the Sampson of the Materier-Medicker. Well, he treats fevers according to books; consequence is, I get all the patients; and he says to me one day, says he, 'why,' said he, 'how is it, you got all the fever cases?' And I told him exactly how it was, and it is so. 'Well, Doctor,' interrupted one of the listeners, 'how do you treat fevers?' 'Well, there it is; you ask me how I treat fevers! If you had asked me when I first commenced prac-tizing I could ha' told you; can't tell you now. I treat cases just as I find 'em, according to common sense. And there it is: now there was Mrs. Scuttle; she was taken sick; all the folks said she had the consumption: had two doctors to her; didn't do her a single mossel o' good. They sent for me. Well, as I went to the house, I see a lot o' tanzy and a flock o' chickens by the door: felt her pulse: says I, "Mrs. Scuttle, you aint no more got the consumption than I've got it. Two weeks, an' I cured her!" "Well, doctor, how did you cure her?" "How did I cure her? There it is ag'in!" I told you I see a lot of tanzy and a flock of chickens growing at the door. I gi'n her some of the tanzy and a fresh-laid egg—brought her right up. It's kill or cure with me! In fact, I call myself an officer. My saddle-bags is my soldiers, and my disease my inimy. I rush at him; and' ither he or me has got to conquer. I never give in!"

My cigar was out, and while lighting another the doctor vanished: possibly hastened by the influence of one of his own prescriptions.

The Lobster and the Dog.—The December number of the Knickerbocker says:

We wish we could lay our hand upon a sketch which Mr. Leupp also sent us, describing a toothless old fellow at Blossom's Hotel in Canandaigua, trying to devour the claw of a lobster, a fish he had never "tasted on afore," and the "peth" of which, when he had drilled down to it, he said he "kind o' liked!" It was very rich and so is this:

"There was much surrounding cachination where this circumstance was mentioned the other evening: A man who was "somedele" fond of lobsters, was wistfully regarding a basket of them in the market, with his dog by his side, while another by-stander was sticking the end of his cane into one of the disengaged claws of a big fellow at the top. "How he does hold on!" said the man with the cane. "Yes," responded the man with the dog, "but it's because he 'dents the cane, and his claws won't slip on the wood. But he couldn't hold on to a critter, or you or I, in that way. When he feels any thing givin', a lobster always stops pinchin." "Guess not," said the owner of the basket: "you put your dog's tail in that there claw, and you'll see whether he'll hold on't or not." No sooner said than done: the lobster-lover lifted up his dog, dropped his tail into the open claw, which closed instanter, and the dog, "as smit by sudden pain," ran off howling, at the top of his speed! "Hello!" exclaimed the owner, "whistle back your dog: d—n him! he's 'runnin' off with my lobstor!" "Whistle back your lobster!" rejoined the other, "that dog aint coming back; that dog's in pain. I can't git him to come near me when he's in pain!" That humane citizen dined that day upon as fine a lobster as there was in that basket, "any how!"

A German Idea of a Kiss.—A kiss is thus defined in a love-letter, written in 1689, and translated from the German:

What is a kiss? A kiss is, as, it were, a salute expressing our sincere attachment, a pledge of future union—a present, which at the same time is taken from us—the impression of an ivory coral press—crimson balm for a love-wounded heart—a sweet bit of the lily—an affectionate pinch of the heart—a delicious dish which is eaten with a scarlet spoon—a sweetmeat which does not satisfy our hunger—a fruit which we plant and gather at the same time—the quickest exchange of question and answer between lovers—the fourth degree of love.

Reciprocated Affection. A dandy with more beauty than brains, married an heiress, who, although very accomplished, was by no means handsome. One day he said to her:

"My dear, as ugly as you are, I love you as well as though you were pretty."

"Thank you love," was the reply, "I can return the compliment, for, fool as you are, I love you as well as though you had wit."

An Understanding Wife.—The venerable lady of a celebrated physician, one day casting her eyes out of the window, observed her husband in the funeral procession of one of his patients, at which she exclaimed: "I do wish my husband would keep away from such processions; it appears too much like a tailor carrying home his work."

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Spiced Oysters
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11:30 P. M. EXPRESS TRAIN—For Cleveland ...
The night Express Train leaving Cincinnati at 11:30 P. M. runs daily except SATURDAYS ...
For further information and Tickets, please apply at the Ticket offices—north-east corner Front and Broadway; No. 169 Walnut-street, near Gibson House; at the Sixth-street Depot; No. 169 Walnut-street ...
D. McLAREN, Superintendent.

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THIRD TRAIN—Night Express at 11:30 P. M. ...
This Train stops at Loveland, Morrow, Xenia and London. SLEEPING CARS ON THIS TRAIN.
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