

The Fish by which Jonah's Life was Preserved.

Doubtless the little readers of the "Press" are familiar with the story of the prophet Jonah as told us in the Bible. But if any of them do not remember it all distinctly let them refer to their Bibles, before reading the following account of the way in which his life was preserved.

There are two verses which we will copy, as they are the ones to elicit your attention. "Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. And the Lord spake unto the fish and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land." This part of the story is very wonderful, and were it not the word of God we should be inclined to doubt its truth. The whole transaction is a miracle wrought directly by Almighty agency, but it will not be wrong for us to enquire if there were any natural causes operating, by which it may be more easily understood, and made more probable.

The Bible does not say anything about the kind of fish employed. If then, no whale ever visited the Mediterranean, or if the largest whale has not a throat large enough to swallow the smallest man, this would not prove the Bible narrative untrue.

The Mediterranean formerly abounded in a species of carcharis or dog-fish, and specimens are found at the present day. It is an animal of the shark kind, and, though smaller than a whale, its throat and maw will contain, without crowding, a man of the largest size.

A fish of this kind has been taken in the Mediterranean in whose stomach was found the body of a man dressed in complete armor. Some have been caught which were from twenty-five to thirty feet long, nine feet around the body, and weighing two tons, or four thousand pounds. The following story is told by the philosopher Muller of a frigate which was cruising in the Mediterranean, in the year 1758. "In a heavy storm a seaman fell overboard, and was immediately received into the jaws and throat of a carcharis, which was following the ship. Before the animal sank an officer on deck discharged a gun at its head, which taking effect caused the animal to disgorge its prey. The sailor was rescued alive and uninjured, and lived for several years to repeat the story of his deliverance." This fish was captured and weighed exactly 3924 pounds.

Without doubt it was by a fish of this kind that the prophet's life was saved.—During the imprisonment of Jonah God could easily preserve him alive, and any natural cause simply could effect his release on the third day. Instead then of the story of Jonah being absurd and ridiculous as some wicked people have said, we see that it is perfectly rational and true. It should make upon our minds a very deep impression of the awful power of God, of the energy of his justice, and of the security of his favor.

Mr. Mansfield's Address,

Delivered before the Editorial Convention at Cincinnati, on Tuesday Evening.

The speaker proposed to consider "The Moral Power and Responsibility of the Press."

1. What is the Press? In popular understanding it means the newspaper. The newspaper is a PRINTED VOICE. It is the utterance, through type, of the acts, thoughts, sentiments and feelings of the human being, spoken aloud in the ears of all mankind! To do this by mere mechanical agency, is a modern invention. By this printed voice, the utterance of thought and fact are diffused through the whole earth, among all people and kindred—ubiquitous as the air, and penetrating as the light.

This printed voice, gifted with such capacities, has become a new element of social action, enlarging the sphere of thought, and diffusing intelligence with a rapidity which we deemed impossible. Loved by freemen, feared by tyrants, it mingles in the revolutions of mankind, and battles for liberty against principalities and powers. Whatever other characteristics the press may have, this much is certain. It is everywhere claimed as the friend of light, and is everywhere the enemy of darkness.

This new element of society is the most effective element in the intellectual condition of modern States. It has never been properly analyzed by either philosophers or statesmen. The great fact of its influence exists, and we are content to leave to other ages the task of measuring its force and writing the history of its changes.

I would speak first of the Moral Power of the Press, and as preliminary to this, let me state briefly its history:

The first press established was simply a News Bulletin, utterly devoid of either opinion, sentiment, debate or report, other than naked fact, briefly stated.

The first English newspaper was published in the time of Elizabeth, in 1558, and was in manuscript. The first printed one was the "Politician Mercurius," or Political Mercury, and was started in the reign of Charles I., in 1631, and continued through Cromwell's time. A copy of this I have seen in New Haven, Conn.

Thus it will be seen that the newspaper press is less than three centuries old; established since the Reformation, of which it became the right arm. The first newspapers were indeed bulletins, but the moment discussion became free they took part in it, and took care to keep it so. In that time the press was bolder than at the present day.

The following statement will show the increase of the Press in the United States:

In 1775 there were	37
" 1810 " "	358
" 1840 " "	2,000
" 1850 " "	2,500

The newspaper increase has been six times greater than that of the population, and the circulation five times greater. Thus the increase of the power of the press has been thirty times greater than that of the population.

The effect of this is two fold; it diminishes the individual power of a paper, but it has increased the aggregate power beyond computation.

We will now consider some of the particulars in which the Power of the Press consists.

Its first great power is to utter the truth, magna est veritas et prevalebit. A truth once given to the people is never lost. Such is the elastic power of gunpowder, that if this globe were a solid mass, and one single grain enclosed within it and ignited, it would explode the whole; so a single truth has sufficient explosive power to tear asunder human society.

The multitudinous issues of the press enable it to iterate and reiterate truth until it encircles the world.

Another power of the press is to color facts. Whoever announces a fact has the opportunity to give it a coloring; so that though truth may not be violated, a false impression is made upon the reader. This power is very much abused.

Another power is to censure evil doers; to inflict the lash of public censure upon those who go "unwhipt of justice." Men, who from their wealth and position in society, fear neither the prison nor the gibbet, yet are keenly sensitive when touched by the press. It is a salutary power; God forbid that it should ever be lost. [Applause.]

We will now consider the elements required to make a daily paper. The editor is required to write at a moment's notice, and without preparation, intelligible articles on all subjects; a thing which nobody but an editor ever did. [Applause.] Next comes the Reporter, that ubiquitous individual, who is everywhere, and always prepared to make for a stupid speaker an intelligent and interesting address. Dr. Johnson was once parliamentary reporter for a London paper. He made the member speak with the ore retundo, but he made them speak good sense and elegant English. It would be a curiosity to see a report of Congressional proceedings perfectly accurate and impartial, without a reporter to do it into good English and into sense.

Next comes the commercial Editor. Next the traveling Editor. The London Times once sent out a traveling Editor to investigate the subject of city sewerage. He traveled three years without perpetrating a single article; but shortly after that the subject came up before Parliament, and the London

Times astonished the world with twenty leaders on the subject, proving that they were better informed on the subject than all England beside.

We come now to speak of the intellectual ability of the press.

No power in the world has developed so much intellectual ability as the press. [Applause.] Under this head, the speaker alluded to Benjamin Franklin, John Dickinson, the author of the "Farmer's Letters," which, he remarked, contributed more than any other thing to the revolution.

Allusions were made to the Ontario Repository, edited by John C. Spencer, and St. Lawrence Republican, by Silas Wright.—All New York looked to these two papers to know what public opinion was.

No portion of the world has contributed more to its literature than newspaper Editors and their contributors.

The French press is characterized by eloquence and imagination; the English press by strength and solidity; and the American by intelligence and comprehension.

Let me ask your indulgence, while I advert to a few of what I deem errors of the press.

The only legal responsibility which the press feels is the law of libel; it is responsible to government and law only as far as it injures individual character.

The press has a moral responsibility to the common sense and common conscience of mankind. It violates this, when it does not adhere sufficiently to truth and accuracy, and when it departs from common justice and common morals, and when it fails in independence; and more than all does it violate this, when in paragraphs clothed in decent language it ventures to sneer at the morals and religion of the community.

This class of papers (which happily are found only in large cities) has been well characterized as the Satanic Press—for if Satan has work to do in this world, and employs means to do it, be assured they are his instruments.

Time is coming when the press will be more powerful than ever. Mr. Canning has said that henceforth the wars of the world are to be wars of opinion. Every sheet that falls from the press is a bomb-shell or a cannon ball in that warfare.

A STEEP RAILROAD GRADE.—The steepest railroad grade in Europe is upon the Piedmontese Railroad, between Turin and Genoa. It is near the town of Gleni, and the ascent is one hundred and eighty-five feet to a mile! Experiments which have been made have shown that two locomotives, drawing a train of six loaded gravel cars, weighing altogether 100 tons, ascended the grade at a time when the rails were exceedingly wet and slippery, at a speed of nineteen miles an hour. This is a feat unprecedented in the annals of railroad history. The engines used were of peculiar construction, and were built by a London Manufacturer, after plans furnished by the Piedmontese Engineer of the road.

Profundity of thought is generally purchased at the expense of versatility. To be very profound, it is necessary that the intellectual eye be fixed for a long time on one continuous series of operations; to be versatile, the mind must glance from subject to subject, and brood over none. Profundity plunges to the depths, while versatility skims the surface of the sea of speculation—while the former is going down, the latter is sporting onward on easy wing.

CAIRO.—Six hundred lots have been sold to actual settlers in this town, since they were thrown open to purchasers. It is contemplated that several large warehouses will be shortly erected, and a company in New York has been formed for the purpose of putting up several entire blocks of buildings.

The Alton (Ill.) Telegraph says that the people in that region of Illinois favor the project of a railroad from Alton to Cairo, and no opposition has been made.—[Evansville Journal.]

The construction of a ship exactly like the Great Republic, lately destroyed by fire, has been commenced at Boston.

After many years of experimental culture in Cincinnati and neighboring counties, grape culture has at length become well understood, and is becoming profitable. By a recent communication in the Columbian of that city, we learn that within a circle of twenty miles around Cincinnati there are 1,200 acres planted with the vine, 800 acres of which were in bearing last year, and produced an average of 400 gallons of wine to the acre, making an aggregate of 320,000 gallons. Some of the best vineyards yield 900 and 800 gallons to the acre, but others where the "rot" prevailed did not average over 150 gallons per acre. The season has been very favorable, and the crop unusually large. The new wine sells at \$1 to \$1.10 for the best, 75 to 90 cents for second quality, and 40 to 50 cents per gallon for inferior. The average yield for a series of years, may be safely estimated at 200 to 250 gallons to the acre, from the vineyards in the vicinity.

CHANGE OF GAUGE OVERCOME.—By a new arrangement of car wheels, they can be accommodated to railroads of different gauges. The Cleveland Herald mentions the arrival in that city of a train of eleven cars, freighted with hogs, which were loaded from Indianapolis, and transported in the same cars from Indianapolis, and 54 miles over the 4 feet 8½ inch gauge, to Muncie, and thence 227 miles over a 4 feet and 10 inch gauge to Cleveland. This is an admirable improvement, and will do much toward obviating the delays consequent upon the different gauges of connecting railroads.

The Cincinnati Enquirer believes the Missouri Compromise of 1820 was unconstitutional, and therefore is void. Some men had doubts upon this subject at that time.—President Monroe laid the subject before his Cabinet, consisting of John Quincy Adams, John C. Calhoun, William Wirt, and William H. Crawford, all eminent statesmen and jurists, and they were unanimous in the opinion that the Compromise was constitutional. Mr. Monroe concurred with them, and signed the bill. We rather think the weight of judicial opinion is against the Enquirer, and in favor of the constitutionality of the Compromise.—[O. S. Journal]

WEALTH OF BOSTON.—A single ward in the city of Boston, (the fourth,) has an assessed valuation of upwards of \$60,000,000, and is probably the richest locality of its size in the United States. This ward is nearly as wealthy as the city of Baltimore, with 170,000 inhabitants.

A large meeting was held on the 16th of December, at Bristol, on the subject of the vote by ballot. The meeting was unanimously in favor of that measure. A similar meeting has also been held in London, with the same result.

The surest way to prevail on a young couple to marry is to oppose them. Tell them you "would rather see them in their graves," and twelve months afterward their baby will pass you twice a day in a willow wagon.

Waterville, Maumee City and Perrysburg MARBLE WORKS.

THE subscriber having established the Marble business in Waterville and Maumee City, asks the inhabitants of these places, and vicinities, to give him a call and examine his large stock of MARBLE.

My Marble is from Rutland and Dorset, Vt., and North Adams, Mass. My stock consists of 3,000 feet, so that any can have a chance to make a selection. My prices will be one-fourth to one-third less than the people have been in the habit of paying in this section of country. My terms will be cash, or good notes on a reasonable time.

My shop at Waterville, is just north of the School house, near the canal; and at Maumee City, on Broadway, between the Pearl Mills and the Maumee Woolen Factory in Mr. McNeese's Cloth Office.

Those who wish for Grave Stones or Monuments, now is your time. So give me a call if you do not purchase.

GIDEON MYERS.
Waterville & Maumee City, Jan. 3, 1854.—48y1

STRAYED, on the 30th of April last, from the Big Island, Maumee river, nearly opposite Perrysburg, A SMALL SORREL MARE, five years old, about thirteen hands high, with flowing tail, and a white stripe in her forehead. Any person returning the mare, or giving information where she may be found, to Mr. B. F. HOLLISTER, Perrysburg, or to J. P. CLARK, Detroit, will be liberally rewarded; Detroit, Dec. 1st, 1853.—47tf