

Columbus's First Letter.

In a late number of the "North British Review" is an interesting article on "European Navigation in early times." Speaking of the letter and announcing to the world the discovery of Columbus, the Reviewer says:

"On the arrival of the first letter in Spain it was speedily published and issued from the principal towns of Europe. In Italy, the letter was even versified and sung about the streets. In England, Sebastian Cabot tells us there was great talk of the new discovery in all the courts of Henry Seventh, 'insomuch that all men with great admiration affirmed it to be a thing more divine than human' to 'send by the west into the east, where the spice do grow, a way that was never known before.'"

It was supposed of course, that India had been reached by making the circuit of the world whence the name of West Indies was given to the new islands.

After a short introduction, Columbus gives, in his letter, a rapid sketch of his route, naming the several islands upon which he landed and of which he easily took possession in the name of his sovereigns. These were North Caico, Little Inagua, Great Inagua, Cuba, and others of these notes, and lastly St. Domingo. Of these islands he gives a most enticing description, speaking of the beautiful birds, rich pastures, honey, new and delicious fruits, valuable harbors and abundance of fresh water. Of the inhabitants he says: "They go always naked as they were born, with the exception of some of the women, who use the covering of a leaf or small bough, or an apron of cotton, which they procure for that purpose; they are timid and full of fear; when I have sent one or two of my men to any of the villages to speak with the natives, they have come out in a disorderly troop, and have fled in such haste at the approach of my men that fathers have forsaken their children and children their fathers."

"As soon, however, as they see that they are safe, and have laid aside all fears, they are very simple and honest, and exceedingly liberal with all they have, none of them refusing any thing he may possess when he is asked for it; but, on the contrary, inviting us to ask them. They exhibit great love for all others in preference to themselves. The Indians practiced no idolatry, and believing all good things in heaven they inferred Columbus's ships had descended. Thus the Spaniards were every where introduced as 'celestial beings' and 'men, women, children and adults, young men and old, flocked to them, some bringing food, others drink, with astonishing affection and kindness.'"

Columbus describes Cuba as being larger than Great Britain, and affirms that in a distant region which he did not visit, the men are born white, and the women are entirely formed of bricks and united by mortar. In addition to all this, a tomb, containing statues in marble or alabaster of Juno, Venus, and of a reclining figure wearing a Phrygian cap, together with some rings, earrings, and other articles of jewelry, has been found. He has also numerous statues, vases, pearls, articles of pottery, black stones, &c., of Greek, Persian, or Chaldean workmanship.

Hon. Wm. L. SHARKEY.—This distinguished gentleman, late United States Consul at Havana, has been nominated for the office of Governor by several county conventions of Mississippi; and the earnest desire that he should take upon himself the responsibilities of a canvass, is only equalled by unsurpassed zeal and enthusiasm in his favor. We have no means of knowing whether Judge Sharkey will respond favorably or unfavorably to the calls that are being made upon him from various sections of a State, where his universally respected and very generally popular, among the people, name is a public man, and who, in addition to his many other qualifications, is a man of high ability and large experience, unshaken by the least taint or speck of corruption. One thing is very evident: If the Judge runs, he will poll a tremendous, if not a successful vote; and in the present condition of political affairs in our sister State, it would not be wholly unreasonable to look forward with confidence to his election. We trust he may be induced to accede to the wishes of his friends and become a candidate. A man of his splendid eloquence, lofty character, and undoubted services to the State, would arouse an enthusiasm that might lead to victory.—Bulletin.

EXECUTION OF ARTHUR SPRING.—This wretched man was executed on the morning of the 10th instant, in the Philadelphia jail yard, at a quarter past eleven o'clock. He died apparently without a struggle.

A few moments before the execution took place, the Rev. Dr. Street, who was in attendance, put the following question to the prisoner:

"Is young Arthur, your son, guilty of the murder of Mrs. Shaw and Mrs. Lynch?" To this the culprit made the following answer: "He is no more guilty of their murder than I am."

The last words of Spring were: "I went to bed that night—I mean the night of the murder—at seven o'clock, and did not rise until breakfast the next morning. I knew nothing of the murder until the officers arrested me."

Spring denied most positively and earnestly to have committed the murder for which he had been convicted. He also protested his innocence of the murder of Rink, with which he had been charged. Of these he alleged, just before passing from time to eternity, that he was wholly guiltless.

He passed the night with apparent composure, and this morning ate a hearty breakfast, remarking whilst he ate it that it was the last breakfast he would ever have.

Whilst on the gallows he stood up firm, not the slightest tremor was visible. Quite a large number of persons witnessed the execution, which has created a great sensation throughout the city.

Before ascending the scaffold, Spring asked for some liquor, which the sheriff refused to give him.

Thousands of persons witnessed the execution. An immense heterogeneous mob, or concourse of persons, all colors and sexes, surrounded the prison.

The neck of the culprit was broken instantly upon the trap falling, which was the result of his struggling. He was allowed to hang 27 minutes, and then cut down, and the body taken by Doctors Kirkbridge and McCintock for examination of the brain, after which it will be handed over to the Rev. John Street, for burial. Everything passed off orderly.

A HENRY OF KASTOUC.—The correspondent of the Evansville Journal writes as follows about a Kentucky hunter.

"Wat Ekman—It would do you good to see him—has followed hunting for a livelihood since the year 1831. Since that period he says he has killed 38 hares, 964 woodrats, 8847 coons, 3000 wild geese, 2040 pheasants, 44 grand blue wild geese, 14 polecats, 200 muskrats, besides squirrel, quail and other small game beyond his power to calculate. The sum he has realized from his game, skins, &c., falls but little short of twelve thousand dollars."

ANIMAL FRATERIZATION.—A correspondent of the Post, writing from Charleston says:

"Of four citizens have been eye witnesses to a singular freak of nature which has developed itself within the last week. Mr. John Mullett, who keeps a large grocery store near the navy yard, caught a young rat in a trap about a week since, and immediately threw it alive to a favorite cat, that was crouching in a barrel several kittens. A few days after this, Mr. Mullett had occasion to show a friend his litter of kittens—when lo and behold! the identical rat which was destined to fall a victim to the voracious appetite of the cat was alive and well, and fraternizing with the kittens as well as their mother. Those who may feel a curiosity upon the subject can have it gratified by calling upon Mr. Mullett, who will give a categorical ratification of the whole affair."

THE WESTERN STYLE.—The folks out West "do things" in their own way. Thus they introduce one another:

"Miss Wiggins, let me make you acquainted with an uncle of his, just come down from Iowa county, the town of Fremont, village of Broadmill, come way up here to mill, they can't do no more there. Uncle, this is Miss Wiggins, John Wiggins's wife, up yonder on the hill, where she's the mistress. You can see the house from here. She's come down to meeting."

Ancient Babylon—Its Ruins.

It may be known to many of our readers that the French Government has employed a party of gentlemen to explore the site of ancient Babylon. From reports just received from them, it appears that they have ascertained, beyond any doubt, that the ruins beneath a tumulus called the Kasr, are those of the marvelous palace-citadel of Semiramis and Nebuchadnezzar. They are in such a state of confusion and decay, that it is impossible to form from them any idea of the extent or character of the edifice. They appear, however, to extend beneath the bed of the Euphrates, a circumstance accounted for by the change in the course of that river. In them have been found sarcophagi, of chryseous execution and strange form, and so small, that the bodies of the dead must have been packed up in them, the chin touching the knees, and the arms being pressed on the breast by the legs. These sarcophagi have every appearance of having been used for the lower class of society; but notwithstanding the place in which they were found, the discoveries are inclined to think that they are Parthian, not Chaldean origin. There have also been found numerous fragments of enamelled bricks, containing portions of the figures of men and animals, together with cuneiform inscriptions, the latter white in color on a blue ground. According to Mr. Fresnel, the chief of the expedition, these bricks afford a strong proof that the ruins are those of the palace of Nebuchadnezzar, inasmuch as the ornaments on them appear to be sporting subjects, such as are described by Ctesias and Diodorus. The foundations having been dug down to in certain parts, it has been ascertained that they are formed of bricks about a foot square, united by the strongest cement, and that they are in blocks, as if they had been snapped in all directions. In a tumulus, called Amran, to the south of Kasr, interesting discoveries have also been made. They appear to be the ruins of the dependencies of the palace situated on the left bank of Euphrates; and they contain numerous sarcophagi, in which were found skeletons clothed in a sort of armor, and wearing crowns of gold on their heads. When touched, the skeletons, with the exception of some parts of the skulls, fell into dust; but the iron, though rusty, and the gold of the crowns are in a fair state of preservation. Mr. Fresnel thinks that the dead in the sarcophagi were some of the soldiers of Alexander or Seleucus. The crowns are simple bands, with three leaves in the shape of laurel on one side, and three on the other. The crowns are very neatly decorated. Beneath the hands are leaves of gold, which it is supposed covered the eyes. From the quantity of iron found in some of the coffins, it appears that the bodies are entirely enveloped in it; and in one there is no iron, but some ear-rings, a proof that it was occupied by a female. The sarcophagi are about two and three-quarter yards in length, by between half and three-quarters of a yard wide, and are entirely formed of bricks and united by mortar. In addition to all this, a tomb, containing statues in marble or alabaster of Juno, Venus, and of a reclining figure wearing a Phrygian cap, together with some rings, earrings, and other articles of jewelry, has been found. He has also numerous statues, vases, pearls, articles of pottery, black stones, &c., of Greek, Persian, or Chaldean workmanship.

THE NEW SCHOOL PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL Assembly has recently been in session in Buffalo, New York; and we regret to say that slavery fanaticism, as usual, engendered elements of mischief. Fanaticism is on foot at nothing else. It stirs up discord, promotes dissension, and stimulates bad feeling; to the exclusion of good works, and the advancement of brotherly love. A protracted, and somewhat acrimonious discussion, ensued on the "Report of the Committee on Slavery," recommending the appointment of a Committee to examine and report the extent of slaveholding among the members of the Presbyterian Church South, in connection with the Assembly and other matters connected therewith.

This report aroused a discussion which lasted several days, and finally the Committee modified their report by recommending the Presbyteries of Slaveholding States to answer inquiries respecting the number of Slaveholders in the Church, and, instead of appointing a committee to make such inquiries. During the progress of the debate it was stated that the Southern Synods would secede if any interference with the churches of the Slaveholding States was attempted, and Western delegates declared that Western Presbyteries would secede, if no action was taken. And finally the report as modified, was adopted by a vote of 76 ayes, to 38 nays.

Pending the debate, Dr. Ross, of Tennessee, took the floor, and offered the following substitute for the report of the Committee, which is so good, just and appropriate, that we insert it:

"That with an express disavowal not to be injudicial, etc., a committee of one from each of the Northern Synods of — be appointed who shall be requested to report to the next General Assembly:

1. The number of northern church members who traffic with slaveholders, and are seeking to make money by selling their negro clothing, handkerchiefs and cowbills.

2. How many northern church members are concerned, directly, or indirectly, in building and fitting out ships for the African slave trade, and the slave trade between the States.

3. How many northern church members have sent orders to New Orleans and other southern cities to have slaves sold, to pay debts connected to them from the South. [See Uncle Tom's Cabin.]

4. How many northern church members buy the cotton, sugar, rice, tobacco, oranges, pineapples, figs, ginger, cocoa, melons, and a thousand other things raised by slave labor.

5. How many northern church members have intermarried with slaveholders, and have thus become slaveholders themselves, or enjoy the wealth made by the blood of the slave—especially if there be any northern ministers of the Gospel in such a predicament.

6. How many northern church members are the descendants of the men who kidnapped negroes in Africa and brought them to Virginia and New England in former years.

7. What is the aggregate and individual wealth of church members thus descended, and what action is best to compel them to disgorge this blood stained wealth, or to make them give dollar for dollar, in equalizing the loss of the south by emancipation.

8. How many northern church members, ministers especially, have advocated murder in resistance to the laws of the land.

9. How many northern church members stock in the underground railroads, running of fugitive slaves and Sabbath breaking railroads and canals.

10. That a special committee be sent up Red River to ascertain whether Legay, who shipped Uncle Tom to death (and a northern gentleman) be still in connection with some northern church in good and regular standing.

11. How many northern church members attend meetings of Spiritual Rappers—see Bloomers—or Women's Rights conventionalists.

12. How many are cruel husbands.

13. How many are reprobated husbands.

There is just as much reason and justice in the substitute as there was in the report, and could both have been adopted we should not have cared the value of a pin. But the abolitionists are the last persons on earth to permit an investigation into their affairs. They claim the right to go unquestioned, while they question the motives of every body else.

In regard to this matter the N. Y. Journal of Commerce, of the 1st inst., says:

"The proceedings of the New School General Assembly on the subject of Slavery are important, and may lead to a secession of the Southern Synods. Should this be the result, there ought to be a further division of what remains—the abolitionists going one way, and some men another. The Old School General Assembly have taken the only available ground on the subject, and will henceforth have peace. Whoever undertakes to conciliate Abolitionists by meeting them half way, will fail of his object, and be worse hated and maligned than the slaveholders themselves. All experience proves this."

The N. Y. Express, of the same date, contains an excellent article as follows:

"Of course, slavery is strengthened and fortified by its separation from the Northern Church, because through that church, the North can no longer act upon it, and because Southern Christians thus denounced as 'sinners'—warring, as they believe they do, only as the Patriarchs did, and as did most Christians in the Apostles' days—will defend the substitute as a theory which, if admitted and established, would entirely change the principles of astronomical science. The Scientific Academy and the Bureau des Longitudes of Paris, having refused to report upon the claims of his theory, Mr. Emanuel has brought the matter before the public in a series of demonstrative lectures, at which the city of Paris are being converted to his views."

A RESTLESS TONGUE.—A Boston lady has at this time a somewhat novel disease—a continual motion of the tongue, which no device, effort of the will, or medication controls. We do not mean that she is a nuisance as a talker or a retailer of street gossip. On the contrary, a worthy woman does not exist. Her husband is worth five hundred dollars among the dentists for artificial teeth, which her mercurial member has knocked out so repeatedly that they are now wholly abandoned. Her tongue is moving nimbly and involuntarily within the mouth, against the wall of the cheeks. In conversation, the organ takes a normal action, but runs instantly into its usual rapidity of motion at the conclusion of a sentence.

"Inspectors of customs?" said Mrs. Pattington, energetically, as she laid down the paper chronicling some new appointment. Here was a new idea that broke upon her mind like a ray of sunshine through a corn barn. "Inspectors of customs?" and she looked up at the rigid profile of the old coroner, as if she would ask what he had to say about it; but that warrior had long been there too long to be now disturbed by trifles, and he took no notice of her. "Inspectors of customs?" continued she, as she turned her attention to the old black teapot and then turned out the tea, which celestial beverage gurgled through the spout in harmony with her reflections, not too strong; "that's a new idea to me. But thank providence I haven't got no customs that I hadn't as lieves they'd inspect as not; only I'd a little rather they wouldn't. I wish every body could say so, but I'm afraid there are many customs that won't bear looking into. Well, let every tub stand on its own bottom. I say I want cast no speciousness on nobody. But I don't see what they wanted to appoint any more for and be to so much suspense when every place has so many in it that will inspect customs for nothing. If they only make my next door neighbor, Miss Juniper, now, an inspector of customs, they wouldn't need another for a long way, that's mortally sartin." She directed her nonchance as she ruminated untrusting, and he helped himself unheeded, to the last preserved pear there was in the dish.—Boston Post.

VERY PLAIS.—When the Governor of Ceylon was addressing a native prince through an interpreter, in a high strain of courtly address, to which sentence the prince answered "Cadau." This was repeated so frequently as to induce the Governor to enquire the meaning.

"It means to say," answered the interpreter, "that your Excellency lies."

New Elements of Agitation.

The Savannah Republican published the following communication to oblige personal friends, and in the belief that there is no better way to expose the ridiculous nonsense which is now going the rounds of the papers, with the sanction of names which have been long respected. The writer of the communication asks the Charleston Courier, which published Mr. Talmadge's letter, to copy his. As we also copied that letter we cheerfully copy this. It is too good to be lost:

On the night of the 1st inst, in Robertville, S. C. a citizen of high respectability, sound judgment and unquestionable veracity, suddenly observed various articles of furniture in his room moving about in his great surprise and consternation, and soon several raps were made under one of the large tables, and then the following words were uttered in a loud, clear and distinct voice: "I'm John C. Calhoun; I'll be here again at 3 o'clock the afternoon of the 4th of July next; I'm going via Augusta to the Memphis Convention, and perhaps Clay, Webster and Franklin, will return with me. Collect every one here that you can, charge each \$10 for admission, send the money to my monumental committee in Charleston."

The "medium" having somewhat recovered from his surprise and alarm, asked the following questions:

Q.—Are you now subject to emotions of pleasure and pain as you were in the world?

A.—It is not permitted me to tell you of this head; forever at your peril.

Q.—Are you still opposed to internal improvements?

A.—No! no! no! I turned my last somersault when I swallowed the Mississippi. I go to the West to further the objects of the Memphis Convention, and to direct the explorers in the best route for the Pacific Railroad, the completion of which will soon revolutionize the commercial affairs of the whole world.

Q.—Why do you now seem to be a wanderer?

A.—I am one. The doctrine of Metempsychosis is true. There are some spirits so great that they wander over the earth thousands of years before they can find bodies capable of containing them. Forbear!

Q.—Where is Washington at this time?

A.—In the body of Franklin Pierce.

Q.—Where is Socrates?

A.—In Mary. He entered his body when Mary rent his breeches.

Q.—Where is —, but here,

A sudden and luminous ray of light was seen through one of the cracks of the window, and no further question was replied to.

The foregoing is a correct account, substantially, of this spiritual communication.

The medium will not be answerable for the appearance of Mr. Calhoun at the appointed time, as he was sometimes accused in this world of having changed his opinions; but he will do his best to call him seven from the vasty deep." THOMAS JORDON. June 7, 1853.

What is the Bourse?

Every time we hear from Paris, about the first item (after the usual announcement of a revolution or a mob) is how "the funds are in the Bourse?" If Louis Napoleon makes a *coupe d'etat*, or falls into the clasp of fate, the first question is: "what is the effect upon the Bourse?" If the Bourse is all right, the country is considered (like our own beloved land) safe. But if there is a "decline on the Bourse," it is considered a sure sign of consumption (of powder and lead) generally. And yet few people know what "the Bourse" is; so we take from our sprightly friend, the Boston Bee, the following description:

"The Bourse.—Every transatlantic steamer, when Paris matters are touched has something to say of the Bourse. What is the Bourse? It is simply what corresponds to our exchange—the gathering point of the money men of the city; and the street (we) on which it is situated is something like State street.

The Bourse is one of the beautiful structures in the great metropolis. It is 212 by 126 feet, and is surrounded by a range of Corinthian columns. Although commenced in March, 1808, it was not completed until 1826, on account of the vicissitudes of intervening time. Over the entrance is inscribed:

"Bourse et Tribunal de Commerce."

The roof is composed entirely of iron and copper, and during business hours at this time, a very large number of the French Empire, the National flag floats over the edifice. Portions of the interior are beautifully decorated by figures emblematic of Commerce, Abundance, &c., with paintings of several of the principal cities of France. Ladies were formerly admitted to the Bourse, but as it was found to encourage a passion in the gentle sex for gambling in stocks, they are not allowed to enter during hours of business. Total cost of the Bourse, \$1,399,000 francs. There are stirring times within its walls and upon its pavements during the hours allotted for public operations.

USE OF SLANDER.—That slander is often beneficial to the person slandered is indisputable: We recollect an anecdote in point. A man somewhere out West was elected to Congress. He was totally unqualified, in every respect, for the position. A friend at Washington once asked him—

"How the deuce did you manage to get elected?"

"I stole a pig."

"Ha!—what!—how!—is stealing pigs considered a qualification to Congress?"

"No—not as soon as it was known, the papers on 'other side' took it up, and of course our had to defend me. A great noise was made about it—was called it an attempt to destroy the spotless reputation of an innocent man for party purposes—the people got roused and I got in."

At the next election his opponent was elected. His friend, meeting him one day asked how it happened.

"Oh! blast the fellow," he replied; "he smelt the rat, and got the start of me." He stole a sheep.

OUR NEW DICKENS-airy.

A. BUSE.—Editorial compliments.

A. KAD EMT.—A place where young gens learn all species of mischief, which is afterwards spoken of in the word Diploma.

A. BUSTERS.—A steamboat boiler or a bibulous young man.

AN SHUX.—A movement; the sudden elopement of a dandy from his boarding-house might be called an shux, although the landlord would designate it leg bail.

A. R. TIST.—One who knows nothing of his business; for instance, a bad actor is called an artist, or a singer with a knitting-needle voice has also the appellation of artist applied to him. A barber is an artist in hair; a coal-heaver is coal, or so forth.

ART.—To be sick, and rather to ail from drinking tea.

ART.—The process whereby young ladies continue to catch husbands. It is a process which is also much used by insolvent debtors to dodge their creditors.

ART.—A conjunction invented to aid public speakers in finding words to express their meaning.—N. Y. Tick.

SPIRIT "GAS."—A drunken man talking politics.

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The Quizzer Quizzed.—On a recent occasion of a medical professor delivering practical lectures to the public, a gawky lumbering eldoproph thought he had devised a mode of turning a laugh against the doctor. He mounted the stage, and on being questioned as to his disorder, said very gravely:

"Why, I'm a liar."

"Sad disorder, sir, but perfectly curable," said the doctor.

"Well," said the man, "but I've a woser nor that; I've lost my memory."

"Quite curable, also, added the doctor; "but I must make preparation. Come again after dinner, and I will be ready for you; but pay down five shillings."

The man, who had intended to have his fun gratis, resisted, but the doctor declared that he never let any one down from the stage till he had paid something.

"Blessed," said the doctor, "how can I trust you? You say you are a liar, and have no memory; so you will either break your promise or forget all about it."

A laugh from the crowd expressed their acquiescence in the justice of the claim, and the poor fool, SOLENS VOLES, was compelled to lay down the cash. No one supposed he would come again, but he still hoped that he might turn the tables, and presented himself at the appointed hour. The doctor received him with great activity, and addressing the audience, said:

"Gentlemen may think it a joke, but I assure them on the honor of a gentleman, that it is a very serious affair; and I hereby engage to return the money if the bystanders do not acknowledge the cure, and that I am fairly entitled to the reward."

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