

THE VERMONT PHOENIX

FRIDAY EVENING, AUGUST 8, 1878.

TO ADVERTISERS.

THE VERMONT PHOENIX has a larger circulation than any other newspaper in Southern Vermont.

"EDWIN DROOD."

SOME ACCOUNTS OF THE AUTHOR.

The published accounts of the version of Edwin Dood, now in course of preparation by a so-called "spiritual medium" of this place, purporting to act as Dickens's amanuensis, calls forth a great diversity of comment, some highly complimentary to the character of the work and some derogatory. Inquiry has naturally been made as to the character and antecedents of the writer, who has been a resident of Brattleboro for some time, and as to whether he has been suspected in view of the secrecy under which he has attempted to veil himself, the result is not particularly favorable. The following is from the Boston Herald of Wednesday:

We have given hitherto the substance of the announcements concerning a mysterious man up in Vermont who is just now serving as a medium through whom Dickens is completing his Edwin Dood. The charge has been openly made that the publishers of the newspaper which first gave publicity to the story are to publish this "medium's" production if he ever comes to the city. The publishers of the Brattleboro medium and his work is only a shrewd advertising dodge. This seems very probable. Recent developments show the publisher of Dickens's work in a very unfavorable light, and a great deal of good will upon any of the stories or his future publications may have to be paid to the publisher. The following gives the following account of his operations before beginning the present swindle:

After our publication last week of the extracts from the remarkable article that appeared in the Springfield Union, purporting to be an account of the finishing of Edwin Dood by a Brattleboro medium, we heard that the medium in question was Mr. Thomas P. James, whom many of our citizens will remember as foreman of the Telegraph job printing department some three years ago. Having satisfied ourselves that the Brattleboro "medium" and our willow printer were one and the same, our conclusions in reference to the character of the "fish" were very different from those arrived at by the deceived or deceiving reporter of the Springfield Union.

Mr. James entered our employ in 1869, coming from Portland, Me. He represented himself as a skillful job printer, and on trial he proved to be above the average of workmen. He was about thirty years of age, rather slight, but well formed, and a remarkably self-possessed man. He had formerly been in business in Lowell, where he failed, and subsequently found his way, we believe, to Philadelphia. He had in fact seen a good deal of the world, and in his wanderings he had fallen in with Mrs. Bost, a former resident of Nashua, whom he married, though she was many years his senior. For a year James proved to be an industrious workman, when circumstances arose that aroused our suspicion that his veracity was wholly unworthy of dependence. On leaving our employ he engaged with his son-in-law, Mr. G. C. Scott of Lowell, and on the removal of the "fish" office to this city, James once more returned. About two years ago the fact was developed that improper relations existed between him and a pretty operative in the Jackson Mills by the name of Hill, who had become an inmate of his family. An explosion followed and James suddenly left town, leaving behind him a bad record of moral character upon his printing office, and a sad stain upon his character of the darkest kind.

It was given out that James had fled to New Orleans, but it is doubtful if he really went farther than New York, where he was subsequently heard from. Last fall, it appears, he made his way to Brattleboro accompanied by his pretty victim, who it would seem, from the accounts given, has played the open role of an industrious printer and the secret one of a mediocrity fisher of Edwin Dood. Knowing James pretty thoroughly, we are not surprised that the Springfield Union man was "taken in" by his consummate assurance and duplicity.

Although it is evident from the extracts given to the public that the "fish" of Edwin Dood is entirely unworthy of the original, it is probable that James has a confederate of more scholastic finish than himself. He is hardly up to a sustained "narration, however great his familiarity with Dickens' works which he affects. Still we must give him credit for considerable ingenuity, as he has succeeded in making it one of the cleverest in conception and execution of modern times. And we shall not be surprised if he attempts, with his infinite assurance to bluff it through.

The Boston Traveller of Friday last contained the following:

From reliable authority it appears that the individual who is called the Powers James, in an early life, was known as Nathan, N. H., and that he was exposed by R. Scott (with whose children he had been quite intimate in youth), and who is of course some years his senior. From Nashua he removed to Lowell, where he failed in business (printing), and for some time acted as foreman to his step-son, who succeeded him in business. Returning to Nashua, he acted in the same capacity and employment until he became an ardent admirer of a young girl who lived with his wife, and came to Boston. We next hear of him at Fall River, and his wife, at New York, still working as his aide, at which time it was said to be a matter of some derisive he has been accompanied by the girl, and now we find in him the "young mechanic" of Brattleboro, through whom the spirit of Charles Dickens is preparing an unprecedented message from the dead to the living. The name of Hill given in other journals as the signature used by him in his mysterious communications, is the name of his wanderings. He has the character of a smart, enterprising adventurer, with no nice scruples of honor to embarrass his energies; with little education save what has been picked up in his business; some thirty-five years of age; plausible and confident in appearance, and in general well up to the mark in the art of the "medium" world, in the surname of the companion of his wanderings. He has the character of a smart, enterprising adventurer, with no nice scruples of honor to embarrass his energies; with little education save what has been picked up in his business; some thirty-five years of age; plausible and confident in appearance, and in general well up to the mark in the art of the "medium" world, in the surname of the companion of his wanderings.

Literary speculation, it is said, is no new feature of his history, he having some time ago given to the public a new play by the title of "Euphrasia," but some

ABOUT RAILROADS, ETC.

The (St. Johnsbury) Vermont Farmer, of last week, in reply to a criticism from the St. Albans Messenger, charging the Farmer with "persistent attempts to give material aid and comfort to non-polevists," makes the following just and sensible remarks:

We have traveled over the state a good deal, lately, taking pains to ascertain the popular feeling on this subject, and it seems to us that we very accurately express it when we say that whatever complaints the editors of the Central may have against the trustees, and however just those complaints may be, the people, the traveling and freighting public, are generally well satisfied with the management of the road, and do not regard it in the light of an aggressive monopoly. Farther than this, if we have learned the general sentiment rightly, there is a very strong disinclination to see the principal railroad of the state fall into the possession of the aggressive foreign capitalists whose hands have been in the attack made upon it during the year. The people feel that it would probably be an exchange of King Log for King Stork, and they would "rather bear the ills they have, than fly to others that they know not of."

We are the more strengthened in the above views by the fact that they seem to be gradually being generally every newspaper conductor in the state. We scout the charge that a free press, which all railroads extend to editors, muzzles the entire press of this or any other state against misdoings of railroad men. We know it has never weighed a grain with us, and we do not believe in such a thing. We have established ourselves at the Burlington and Rutland dailies, and with weeklies like the Brattleboro PHOENIX, and the Montpelier papers. As for ourselves, we have never hesitated to speak sharply of the errors of railroad men over whose roads we ride much oftener than we do over the Central, and we do not pay attention to anything but the interest of our patrons by covering wrong in its way, even if we had no other motive, nor any pride in the independence of our paper. But we have not only the independence to condemn a road when it deserves it, we have also independence enough to stand up for one when we believe the interest of the people will be best served. In doing this we by no means justify any wrongs its managers may be guilty of, and our columns are open to all complaints from the people against the Central or any other railroad in the state.

In regard to passes and "dead-heads" over railroads, at hotels, to show, books, magazines, &c., we shall rejoice when such things are put an end to, and the relations between the papers and all who want to advertise put upon a square cash basis. But we cannot break down the present arrangement single-handed. We should be glad to back the proprietor of the Messenger, in the Editors' and Publishers' Association in such a matter.

The dilemma in regard to the Central is this:—Either the courts, legislature, press and people of Vermont utterly corrupt, as the Massachusetts papers writing in the interest of the capitalists of that state are virtually charging, or they are simply acting on the defensive, to keep in their own hands the rails that run through their own territory. We believe the latter to be nearest the true state of the case. The following extract from the Springfield Republican of July 29 reveals something of the animus of Massachusetts journals and their few allies in Vermont:

"Moreover, the dilatoriness of the investigating committee, the spread of the farmers' grange, the rock's ambition for Governor Park, who means to be governor next year, and the political aspirations of men who mean to get into power by a popular outcry, are fast working a revolution in the public sentiment of Vermont. If Park runs for governor in 1874, and the Smiths who are in league with him, are elected, we shall find them confronted by a strong anti-monopoly party, which includes Bradley, Bowler, of St. Albans, an able man who knows all Gov. Smith's secrets, and who now detests him more cordially. One of the most capable editors in Vermont, Albert Clark, of the St. Albans Messenger, sides with Barlow in his warfare on the Smiths, and makes a newspaper a valuable ally in the struggle. The true cause for the first mortgage bond-holders to take is to hold their securities and bring suit in the United States court for the recovery of their property; and if this were done at once and vigorously followed up, the ring would probably be driven from their new plunder, compelled to give up their constitutional character, and either turned out of the management of the road altogether or obliged to pay first their indebtedness to the first mortgage bond-holders and the Vermont and Canada investors. These creditors live almost wholly in Massachusetts and Philadelphia—and Boston is probably the nearest neighbor by the front of the St. Albans ring."

There is a large colored population in that wood pile, and we believe the people of Vermont whose money was sunk under those mortgages will not cry much if the money of those mortgages goes to the lot of the same sex. Mr. Barlow and Mr. Clark may be patriotic in trying to wreak vengeance for private quarrels by throwing the Central into the hands of its enemies, but we doubt if Vermonters generally will see it in that light.

Hon. Edwin B. Morgan has given \$100,000 to endow Wells College, Aurora, N. Y. The endowment has just had another fire, which destroyed property to the value of half a million.

The Board of health of New York have ordered the seizure and destruction of all unripe fruit and vegetables found in the city.

Iowa grasshoppers not only eat Lima beans, but will eat the poles, and swallow them, too. Rail fences and grain-stones are also favorite articles of diet with them.

Melchior University has matriculated 88 girls for the next college year. Forty-two have entered the academic department, 37 the medical, and the rest will take Blackstone.

A dreadful accident occurred Aug. 2, on the Boston and Lowell railway, near Wigan, to the Scotch tourist express train from London. Twelve persons were instantly killed, and thirty wounded.

The authorities of San Francisco have discovered positive evidence of the existence in that city of a secret Chinese society named High Zee Tong, formed for the purpose of prosecuting a traffic in Chinese women to be sold for prostitution.

An insane patient at Ulster, formerly a seaman, has had three hundred needles taken out of various parts of her body, which she is supposed to have swallowed at various times during the last five years.

Mr. King, the Boston aeronaut, proposes to start from Buffalo about the first of September on the most extended inland voyage ever attempted. He is now constructing his mammoth balloon in that city.

A Saratoga express train Friday afternoon collided with a freight train at Tarrytown, on the Hudson River railroad, and 30 passengers were injured, a good many of whom were seriously hurt. It was caused by one of the freight cars jumping the track.

Local Intelligence.

Brattleboro.

—Croquet—closing out at low prices at Felton's.

—Books for summer reading at Felton's, Brooks House.

—Fresh novels, also the first part of "Edwin Dood," at Cheney & Clapp's.

—Two persons were united with the Baptist church, last Sunday, by immersion.

—Mr. and Mrs. L. K. Fuller embarked last Saturday on their return voyage from Europe.

—Rev. D. O. Mears of Cambridge, Mass., will preach at the Congregational church next Sunday, morning, and evening.

—Dr. C. S. Clark, dentist, has so far recovered from his recent accident as to be able to resume business at his office.

—Inequitable man in reference to the former "grange" lately organized in this village. Is it dead or alive? and if so, how much?

—Rev. M. H. Harris is expected home this week. Services will therefore be resumed in the Universalist church next Sunday.

—Five quires of commercial note paper can be had for 35 cents, or five quires of note for 30 cents, of F. C. Edwards. He also pays cash for rags and papers.

—A purse containing about \$8 was lost, Sunday morning in front of Mr. Kilgus's, on Elliot street. The owner, who is a poor, hard working woman, will feel greatly obliged if the finder will leave the same at the Proctor's office.

—The ladies of the Unitarian Society will hold their annual fair and festival at the town hall on Wednesday evening, Aug. 15. A great variety of useful and fancy articles will be offered for sale, together with the usual refreshments. Doors open at 4.30 P. M.

—Gen. Devens of Massachusetts, on his way to attend the soldiers' reunion at Rutland, stopped at the Brooks House Tuesday night. In the evening he was serenaded by a band, when he responded from the balcony in an eloquent and telling speech. Gen. A. B. R. Sprague, was then called upon for a speech, but declined.

—Brattleboro is again slandered. Read the following item from the Rutland Herald:

"A Brattleboro woman invented a new style of fastening for her dress. It worked so well that while walking along one of the public streets she attracted the attention of her body to the sidewalk, leaving her costume in a Georgia major."

—Henry K. Field of Montpelier, son of Chas. K. Field of this place, has been appointed by Judge Timothy F. Redfield as clerk in the matter of determining the indebtedness of the Vermont Central Railroad management that the Central Vermont Railroad Company is to pay, in place of Gen. James S. Peck, declined.

—Vacation notes: R. W. Clarke returned from Martha's Vineyard on Monday. Fred Reich and Sidney Miner also returned the same day, via the Hudson River and Essex Turnpike. Prof. Charles A. Saratoga, C. F. Thompson and family are residing at Buzzard's Bay. Mr. & Mrs. A. F. Whitney returned from Saratoga on Wednesday.

—The Brattleboro cornet band has been invited to join the Western Massachusetts bands in a grand musical festival which is to be held at Lake Umbagog on the 27th inst. At least fifteen or twenty bands are expected to be present on that occasion, which will make it one of rare interest. We understand that the invitation is open also to the public, and the gathering will, in all probability, be a large one.

—A meeting of the stockholders of the Western Vermont Improvement Association, on Thursday last, was voted to lay a four-inch iron pipe from the main reservoir to the reservoir on High street, a distance of about one mile. A contract for the pipe has been made with a Philadelphia firm, and an assessment of \$20 per share has to be so, so, they will find themselves confronted by a strong anti-monopoly party, which includes Bradley, Bowler, of St. Albans, an able man who knows all Gov. Smith's secrets, and who now detests him more cordially. One of the most capable editors in Vermont, Albert Clark, of the St. Albans Messenger, sides with Barlow in his warfare on the Smiths, and makes a newspaper a valuable ally in the struggle. The true cause for the first mortgage bond-holders to take is to hold their securities and bring suit in the United States court for the recovery of their property; and if this were done at once and vigorously followed up, the ring would probably be driven from their new plunder, compelled to give up their constitutional character, and either turned out of the management of the road altogether or obliged to pay first their indebtedness to the first mortgage bond-holders and the Vermont and Canada investors. These creditors live almost wholly in Massachusetts and Philadelphia—and Boston is probably the nearest neighbor by the front of the St. Albans ring."

Local Intelligence.

—The above places are within a few rods of each other. Three trees surrounding and not more than ten feet distant from the tenement house of Deacon Hines, on Forest street, were struck during the shower, but the houses were unharmed. Mrs. Alexander Capen's house, on Prospect street, was struck in the rear, the lightning passing entirely through to the front side, and leaving trees of its work in almost every room. The unfinished chamber where it entered and the piazza which it made its exit were both considerably demoralized; but here, as elsewhere, the occupants were unharmed. The gristmill of Messrs. Eley, Frost & Co., near the depot, was struck near the ridgepole, at the west end of the main building, the lightning following the partition down nearly to the lower floor, where it exploded with a loud report. One of the workmen was within a few feet of where the explosion occurred, but escaped unhurt. The mill was struck in the rear, at the time the mill was struck, the accommodation train from the south had just arrived at the depot, and some of the stages were loading their passengers. The horses of the Townshend and Williamsville stages became unmanageable from fright, escaped from their drivers and ran. The lead-ers of the Townshend stage broke away, but the wheel horses remained attached and were soon stopped, the passengers being unharmed. The other stage was overturned and badly demolished, one of the passengers, Miss Laura Sweeney of West Dummerston, receiving severe spinal injuries. The other escaped with severe bruises. Charles A. Saratoga, who is a well known name in the State, Mr. Carpenter is also librarian for the Brattleboro Library Association. The third store is occupied by Mr. W. F. Richardson as a meat market, and is one of the best kept in the Connecticut valley. The second floor is used for tenements, and the office of the Record and Farmer. Farther north they have completed another block called "Centre block." This building was built more particularly for Messrs Leonard & Roes, cigar manufacturers, and, without doubt, one of the largest cigar manufacturers in Vermont. Messrs. L. & R. use the best of stock, and their goods are getting an extensive reputation. Mr. Roes is said to be one of the best judges of foreign tobacco in the country. There is also in this block a large engine room, in which is steam power enough to do a heavy business. There are also several small shops in this building. Still farther north is what is called "Preliminary House block," 25 by 75 feet, two stories. The Record and Farmer by F. D. Colburn, and the Household by the Household Publishing Company, are printed on the first floor, and in connection is the Household job printing office. On the second floor there are a screw factory and stoneware works. All of these are furnished with power by the engine in Centre block. In this screw factory is a most wonderful machine, invented and patented by Mr. Curtis, for making in a very rapid manner a most perfect screw for iron work of all kinds. Mr. E. M. Douglas's stoneware factory does the best work of his orders from all parts of the country testify. This completes the building improvements which Crosby & Rice have made since July 15, 1877, and the village appears to be largely indebted to them for their labor and skill, as they undoubtedly do, fully appreciate the beauty which they have added to the village as well as the advantage they have given the people who occupy and frequent their premises. These great improvements must be a lasting benefit to the village and town. Farther north on the second floor is the Books block, which is a full description has heretofore appeared in these columns. At the south end of Main street nice brick blocks have been erected by Messrs. Marshall & Esterbrook and F. Tyler, improving very much what was left over by the flood of 1865. As the above improvements have just been completed, we could not forbear referring to them at this time. Many other improvements have been made and are still going on in our midst. Although the growth of the town may seem slow to some, yet we feel it is healthy and sure.

—The Windham Association of ministers met with Rev. Lewis Groat of West Brattleboro on Tuesday and Wednesday. The attendance was full, and the exercises and discussions were both varied and interesting. On Tuesday evening the Rev. Mr. Ward of Grafton preached a somewhat yet able and instructive discourse on the need of moral culture and Christian courtesy as a means of perfecting the union life and increasing the usefulness of our few who are firmly set in the faith and other doctrines of the gospel. Mr. Metcalf of South Wardsboro was examined as to his religious experience and doctrinal views, and approved for a year of service in the Christian ministry.

—Miss Groat's school had twenty pupils last term, twelve of whom were boarders. Miss Hattie E. Carpenter of White River Junction has been re-engaged as assistant teacher for the ensuing term, and the prospects of the school are better than ever before.

—At a meeting of the Congregational society in this place, last Saturday, it was voted to allow the pastor, Rev. Mr. Merrill, to discontinue his Sunday afternoon sermons for the present, and to grant him a three weeks' vacation. The society have also given him a call to become their settled pastor.

—Miss Tenney, late principal of Glenwood Seminary, is to be principal of Montpelier Institute, a new school to be opened in connection with the Montpelier Normal school at Newbury, under the management of Rev. William Clark.

—Western Engine Company, No. 1, have voted to attend the Bennington muster on the 16th inst.

—Col. Russell Hyde has been appointed postmaster at Bellows Falls, in place of A. N. Swain, resigned.

—The address delivered here last Sabbath, by Mr. D. Gilbert Dexter of Boston, whose childhood was spent in early manhood in Lovell, was listened to by a good congregation of his own townsmen with deep and deserved interest.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

—There are 27,000 cases now pending before the Southern Claims Commission.

—Postmaster Neal McLean, at Meridith Village, N. H., is a defaulter to the government in the money order business to the amount of \$10,000, and has been arrested by the Post Office Department.

—A man who was discovered asleep among a lot of potatoes in a grower's yard in Hingham, said, on being awakened, that he had come in to buy a monument for himself, and having picked out one, made up his mind he would try it one night before purchasing.

—An old lady on a steambath observed two men pumping up water to wash the deck, and the captain being near, she asked him as follows: "Well, captain, got a well on board, did you? Yes, indeed, always carry one," said the pilot, "and that's what this steamer has, I always did dislike this nasty river water, especially in dog days."

—"I had more money than had to carry on the suit," said a very mean individual who had just won a lawsuit over a poor neighbor, "and that's where I had the advantage of him. Then I had much better counsel than he, and there I had the advantage of him. While the suit was pending, so he could not attend to it, and there I had the advantage of him again. But then, Brown is a very decent sort of a man after all." "Yes," said his listener, "and there's where he has the advantage of you."

—A young married friend tells a good joke on himself perpetrated by a little three-year-old "pride of the family." She said she had been reading a book and had read herself around the hearts and affections of a minister and wife. A few evenings since a minister visited the family and remained until after tea. At the table the reverend visitor asked the blessing and the little one opened her eyes to the fullest capacity in started wondering. She could not understand what had been done, and it was with a very "perplexed" look that she could keep her hand during the time they were at the table. When they left it she walked up to the minister for whom she had formed a great friendship and said: "What did you say at the table before we commenced eating?" "My little darling, I thanked you for your good blessing in giving us to eat, so that we might grow and be strong." "Papa don't say that." "What does your papa say?" "Papa says 'God-did-temple what a supper!'"—Lowell Courier.

To obviate difficulties and annoyances from the present plan of running railroads, even those connected with each other, on different standards of time, it is now proposed to adopt the time of Washington as a standard for the use of railroads throughout the country, and in order to be accurate, the great clock at Washington is to be connected by telegraph wires with all the principal cities in the United States. These in turn will furnish the time to the smaller outlying towns and villages, and in this manner a degree of accuracy will be arrived at in the method of running and running trains which will tend to greatly diminish the hazard always attendant on the management of long lines of railway. If this is adopted, noon at Portland, Oregon, by Railroad time will be over three hours later than by actual time. Railroad trains might stand such a discrepancy but in all other matters as connected with railroad management confusion would be worse than the present.

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