The Vermont Phœnix.

BRATTLEBORO:
FRIDAY EVENING, MAY 25, 1877.

The managers of the French Exposition of 1878 have notified our Government that if this country is to be represented in Paris, immediate steps to that end must be taken. In the absence of Congress, it is believed that the Cabinet will at once recommend some action in the premises.

The Massachusetts legislature adjourned on Thursday of last week, after a session 134 days long, during which 255 bills and 69 resolves were passed. Gov. Rice vetoed three important bills during the last days of the session—the local option liquor bill, the Hoosac Tunnel bill, and a bill relative to the Danvers insane asylum.

Ex-Gov. Chamberlain told a New York reporter last week that all Negroes under the Hampton regime in South Carolina are kindly treated, that there is no disposition manifested to maltreat them, that the State is at peace, and the whites and blacks are alike devoting themselves to the development of the industries of the State. He also said that President Hayes's southern policy was an experiment, the wisdom of which would only be known when it has had a fair trial.

It appears to be a peculiarity of the present season that, while it is full two weeks earlier than usual here at the North, at the South it is at least that much later than in the average of years. A Washington letter written last week says: "We have at last a bit of genuine Summer weather at the capital, but we have waited long and impatiently for it. It is a very late Spring in all this region. Furnace fires up to the middle of May is a thing almost unheard of here, but it is a fact this year. In many respects the season is but little in advance of it in New England, though ordinarily there is a difference of about a month.

One of the prominent Liberals who recently had an interview with the President and all the members of the Cabinet, says that he is convinced that President Hayes is thoroughly in earnest in his civil service policy, and that he will adhere to it firmly to the end, no matter what reception it may meet with in his own party or out of it. The President would prefer to have his own party sustain his policy, but he will abide by it irrespective of party unanimity or party opposition. His views are exactly those set forth in his letter of acceptance. He formed them long ago when a member of Congress at the time the subject was first publicly introduced by Jenks of Rhode Island. He intends to employ all the constitutional powers of the Executive to introduce this reform, and to request Congress to promote it by legislative action.

President Hayes's greeting during his visit to New York last week was cordial and enthusiastic, and the impression which he created upon all classes was of the most favorable character. On the second day of his visit he held a reception at the City Hall by invitation of the Mayor, after which he, with his party, lunched at John Jacob Astor's, and in the evening dined with ex-Gov. Morgan. The Tribune, speaking of the public reception says: "There was not a New Yorker who left his coupe or his cart to take the President by the hand the other day who did not come 'to make up his mind about Hayes,' and no one, we venture to say, went away without feeling that it was a genuine, well-meaning, honorable man who stood before him and looked him fair in the eye, or without receiving from even that momentary meeting encouragement for the future of the country."

The national board of fire underwriters is making a vigorous effort to persuade municipal authorities throughout the country to totally forbid the manufacture, sale or discharge of fire-crackers or fire works within city or town limits, on the approaching Fourth of July. A circular letter has been sent from their office to all the municipal and town governments of the country, requesting this action, accompanied with a draft of such a law as is desired, and documents showing the loss from Fourth of July fires in the past. Last Fourth was an exceptionally fortunate one in this respect, only $244,000 worth of property having been destroyed by fire on that day and July 3d. Statistics of the companies show that the total loss by fires resulting from fire-crackers since 1865, in the United States, has been $20,000,000, two fires alone making up $15,000,000 of it. It is estimated that every dollar's worth of fire crackers ever imported into the country has directly caused $100 loss by fire.

The result of Newfane's railroad town meeting on Monday was favorable to the Brattleboro and Whitehall railroad, as we believed it would be—the vote standing 122 to 118 in favor of aid to the enterprise. The amount of aid was not fixed, this having been very properly left to be done at an adjourned meeting to be held June 18th. Newfane's case is only another illustration of the manner in which the claims and merits of this enterprise grow upon the people the more they think about it and come to understand it, and there is no doubt that the amount which the town will finally fix upon as her share in aid of the road will be a liberal and creditable one. Pawlet's vote last Saturday was against aid to the road, by a majority of 51, but another meeting will soon be held, and those of her citizens who are most competent to speak for the town, express perfect confidence that she will eventually reverse this action and place herself on the right side of this important question.

The Connecticut river farmers have, as a rule, learned wisdom from their disastrous experience in tobacco raising and corn is taking the place of the weed among them to a large extent this year. Accounts from nearly every town on the river in Massachusetts indicate an increased acreage of food crops and a great falling off in the quantity of tobacco planted, although in some towns nearly as much tobacco as usual will be raised. The rise in the price of provisions has turned the attention of farmers generally to food crops, to a greater extent than has been the case for several years. Many are planting largely of potatoes, trusting to a persevering campaign against the bugs and the almost inevitable scarcity of the tubers next fall in consequence of their ravages, to recompense them for the trouble and risk. Crop reports from the West and Southwest are very favorable. Good progress is reported from all the great grain-growing States, especially of wheat and oats. Corn, too, is doing well; also the small grains. Grasshoppers are exciting less apprehension, but it is too soon to estimate their ravages. Despatches from San Francisco represent that crops are doing very well, especially in the northern part of the State.

Ex-President Grant received such an enthusiastic [reception at the hands of the Philadelphians last week as must have sent him off on his European voyage in the happiest possible frame of mind. The whole city seems to have been ready to do him honor on Wednesday as well as at the time of his departure on the following morning. At the farewell banquet on Thursday morning Gen. Sherman and several of Grant's old cabinet advisers were among the party, and the speeches on the occasion were profuse in their praise of the ex-president's services both as a soldier and civilian. Gen. Grant's reply to all this flattery was so modest and so eminently characteristic of the man, that it is worth transcribing as his farewell words:

"My dear friends, I was not aware that we would have so much speech-making here, or that it would be necessary for me to say any more to you; but I feel that the compliments you have showered down upon me were not altogether deserved. They should not all be paid to me, either as a soldier or a civil officer. As a General your praises do not all belong to me; as the Executive of the nation they were not due to me. There is no man that can fill both, or either of these positions without the help of good men. I selected my lieutenants when I was in both positions, and they were men, I believe, who could have filled my place often better than I did. I never flattered myself that I was entitled to the place you gave me. My lieutenants could have acted perhaps better than I, had the opportunity presented itself. Sherman could have taken my place as a soldier, or in a civil office; and so could Sheridan and others that I might name. I am sure that if the country ever comes to this need again there will be men for the work; there will be men born for every emergency. Again I thank you, and again I bid you good-bye; and once again, I say, that if I had failed, Sherman or Sheridan or some of my other lieutenants would have succeeded."

However the public judgment may vary in its estimate of Gen. Grant's services as the Chief Executive of the nation, there is no question that he goes abroad with the cordial good wishes of the American people and secure in their lasting esteem and good will. He has made no programme for the trip and expects to be absent about two years.

THE MISSISSIPPI TRAGEDY.—Nellie Chisolm, whose death from wounds received in defending her father from the De Kalb, Miss., mob we mentioned last week, (as well as that of her father,) seems to have been a girl of rare courage. A Washington lady, who was impressed by the story of her brave conduct, wrote her a letter of condolence, and received this reply by mail on the same day her death was announced by telegraph:

DE KALB, Miss., May 12, 1877.

Madam: At the request of Miss Nellie Chisolm, whose wounds render it impossible for her to write, I serve as her amanuensis. She takes great pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of your kind letters which have come to hand since the De Kalb horror took place, and let me assure you that your kindness is appreciated. I have had the pleasure of opening your letters and reading them to her, and, from your writing, judge that you do not know that the brave and devoted little daughter was shot, beaten and mangled equally with her father. Her right arm was shot through and through while endeavoring to shield her father. A whole charge of buck-shot, which first struck the flat iron bars of a cell, struck her full in the face, filling it with chips of lead and burnt powder. She was struck in the face by some brutal hand, which has blackened and disfigured it in a fearful manner. She was also shot in the leg above the knee, and is now lying prostrate and helpless as an infant, and nothing but the tenderest care and best surgical aid can save her arm and precious life. Her father is still alive but suffering intensely, yet we have some hope of his final recovery. The house is being guarded by a few faithful friends and relatives, but we do not know at what hour the savage barbarians may renew the attack. You can do us all no more good at present than to lay the enormities of the massacre before the people of Washington and especially the President.

To the above was added the following postcript in the handwriting of Mrs. Chisolm: "Our son, this heroic little Johnnie, was shot to death because he persisted in getting before his father for his defense."

The New York Tribune, in a paragraph relative to Miss Chisolm's death says: "The spectre of this heroic young girl, with her 'sweet intelligent face, brown hair, and large resolute blue eyes,' shot to death while trying to save her father from the murderous mob, shielding him with her shattered hand, struck in the face and pierced with bullets, dying at last a martyr of filial devotion, puts argument to flight and defies cool judgment. It may be true that the feud which has reached this shocking termination was not entirely a political quarrel. Yet the Northern people will be sure to decide that Chisolm, his son and daughter, McLelland and Gilmer, were all massacred because they were Republicans. The indignation of the Northern press is not likely to affect the people of De Kalb, who are probably not much addicted to reading; but it ought to be a warning to Gov. Stone that the welfare of his party throughout the United States depends in a great measure upon the promptness and efficiency of his action in relation to this outrage."

England and the Eastern War.

To the Editor of the Vermont Phœnix:

The extract with which this article closes is taken from the last number of the "London Quarterly," and is a fair indication of the spirit of the English government in the present crisis. There is, however, another motive, and that a selfish one, influencing England at this time. She is not ignorant of the fact that in the empire of India she has many subjects who are Mohammedans. As a matter of course were she to oppose the Turks they would immediately resent her action, and she would have a rebellion to quell of no insignificant proportions. The complications, therefore, are manifold, and it will be strange indeed if she is not drawn into that conflict which seems even now to threaten the peace of all Europe. England fears Russia, and must dread any collision with a power that can send into the field and maintain there, an army of half a million. But, however the government may feel and act, it cannot be denied that many of the people, at least, have no sympathy with the cause of the adherents to the doctrines of the false prophet, and in reality care very little for "the sick man." This difference of opinion has been strikingly manifested: on the one hand by public meetings, which have been held for the open and avowed purpose of censuring the government for the apparent expression of sympathy with the Turk, and on the other, by the public lectures of R. Bosworth Smith, M. A., the object of which appears to be this: To convince the christianized Englishman of the present day that the religion of Mahomet is not so very bad after all, and that its distinctive principles are worthy of imitation. It is to be hoped, however, that the public will refuse to be convinced.

W. H. C.

"There is no desire to support the Turks simply as Turks, but that there is a settled resolution to defend the empire which our fathers have created, no reasonable politician can pretend to doubt. The long discussions of this question have not been without their result. The power which rules over India and other possessions of importance in the East, and to whose safety the supremacy of the seas and the security of the road to India are essential, will never allow the command of Constantinople and the Dardanelles to pass into the hands of an ambitious and aggressive State without a determined struggle. No English Ministry would stand idle while the attempt was made, and the British fleet would be anchored in the Bosphorus before the Russians appeared under the walls of Constantinople."

—The New Hampshire State Press Association come to Vermont for their annual excursion July 12th, spending from Friday till Monday at Mount Mansfield; Monday night at St. Johnsbury, and going home by way of Wells River and Plymouth.

MINOR NOTES.

The colored citizens of Ohio have issued an address to the colored citizens of the South, urging them to still adhere to the Republican party.

According to present appearances Judge Taft of Cincinnati is likely to be the Republican nominee for Governor in Ohio.

The Illinois Legislature has passed a bill appropriating $50,000 to complete the monument to Stephen A. Douglass, and the Governor has signed the bill.

It is said that ex-President Grant will occupy the residence of the American Consul-General in London, Gen. Adam Badeau, while in that city, but he has made it an express condition that he will pay his own expenses while occupying the house.

After all the noise which has been made about the Iowa Republicans' opposition to the President's policy, it is predicted that no resolution will be offered in the State convention denouncing it.

In a school district election in Mankato, Minnesota, a few days since, to elect a member of the school board, Miss Pierson was re-elected, receiving 101 of 104 votes, 69 of which were cast by women under the new law.

Ex-Gov. Chamberlain of South Carolina was sworn in Friday by Chief Justice Davis as attorney and counselor at the New York bar.

Secretary Thompson will not employ men in the navy yards on account of their polities nor at the request of politicians. He wants workmen, not politicians, to work up his ship-timber.

The question having arisen in the construction of some law as to the time when the rebellion dated from, the Solicitor of the Treasury has decided that it was at the time States held conventions and passed the ordinance of secession.

The government has just paid a claim which has been pending within two days of a century. It was based on some supplies furnished the revolutionary army in 1779, and was for only about $8000, but the accumulated interest, which the supreme court ordered should also be paid, ran up the bill to over $51,000, which goes to the grandson of the original claimant.

Mr. Evarts has finally recognized the impropriety of being advocate and secretary at the same time, and it is announced that he has made his last appearance in court while he remains at the head of the state department.

Ex-Treasurer Spinner is the most successful fisherman in Florida. The secret of his success is said to lie in the fact that he uses his autograph for bait, and the fish imagine it a new kind of worm.

Gen. Grant was mustered in as a comrade of George G. Meade post of the Grand Army at Philadelphia last week Wednesday. About 1200 veteran soldiers and sailors attended a reception, which the general gave Wednesday at Independence hall, and in the evening they serenaded him at the residence of George W. Childs.

At the present time, fifteen States of the Union have Republican and twenty-three Democratic Governors, while in eighteen of the Legislatures the Republicans have a majority, nineteen are controlled by the Democrats, and one by the Independents.

Postmaster General Key thinks that the revenue of his department will be at least $250,000 less this year than last, and he holds the postal cards chiefly responsible. They are now used in multitudes of cases where letters were before, and the difference between one cent and three naturally tells upon the postal revenue receipts.

A rumor is abroad that Gen. Grant has not given up the third term idea, and that the marked attention paid him in Philadelphia was part of a scheme to make him the Republican candidate in 1880. During the present dull season the story may serve instead of something better.

The St. Louis Times, a Democratic paper, speaking of the butchery of the Chisolm family, says: "The plain truth is that not only the State of Mississippi, but the Democracy of the Union, is on trial in this matter." And further: "That State and that party cannot afford to lie under the imputation of having aided or permitted those outrages, or of having suffered them to go unavenged."

Some of the Republican papers are insisting that Grant must share the praise or the blame, whichever it may be, which shall attach to the Southern policy of the Administration. They point out that in January Grant replied to appeals from Packard and the Republicans of South Carolina, that unless actual violence broke out he could not interfere. The troops were instructed simply to maintain the peace. Now peace seems able to maintain itself, and those who are dissatisfied might as well blame Grant as Hayes. One will do as much good as the other.

A special election was held in Fairfield county, S. C., last week, for the choice of two members of the House of Representatives in place of two republicans who refused to apologize for remaining in the republican House during the Winter and were consequently denied seats in the Hampton House. The democrats elected their candidates by 1200 majority, against 573 republican majority last fall. Some of the negroes voted with the democrats, but most of the colored voters did not go to the polls at all.

The money question already promises to become the leading one in the Ohio canvass. The Columbus State Journal says that "a number of the Democrats prominently mentioned in connection with the nomination for Governor have been notified by the extreme greenback element that they are all right on other points, but not soft enough on the money question."

It seems to be President Hayes's ambition to thoroughly unite the North and South in a lasting union during his term of office. He is reported as saying that, in addition to his policy of non-intervention, he would recommend that the test oath administered to members of Congress be abolished as a useless and irritating reminder of an unfortunate period in the nation's history. He would encourage the development of the resources and promotion of the industries of the South as far as that lies within the power of the National Government, and believes that the removal of causes of political agitation of purely sectional issues and the return of material prosperity will tend to awaken a national feeling in the South, and open up a grand career for her and a new and glorious era for the Republic.

AN EXCITING RIDE.—The passengers through the White Mountains on Tuesday, 15th inst., had an unusual excitement in the forest fires which raged on both sides of the Notch, and which made the ride one long to be remembered. The passenger train from Portland and Boston ran into the fires in Bartlett, and the amount of smoke so shut off the vision that the engineer did not know if it was safe to go forward, and he knew it was not safe to retreat, as his train was being followed by a freight. Very fortunately, however, the train was enabled to run the gauntlet of fire on the east side of the mountains, and after a few minutes of deep anxiety, the passengers found they were safe from that peril. The train was unable to get through the fires on the west side of the mountains, however, and the passengers remained at a farm house near the Twin Mountain House over night, and came on early Wednesday morning. Since then trains have run regularly.—*St. Johnsbury Caledonian.*

[From the Boston Herald.]

Vermont's Jubilee.

The executive committee of the Vermont Centennial Commission have issued an appeal to the people of the Green Mountain State, calling for their co-operation in the celebration which is to take place during the third week in August, and in which our own State Executive and Legislature are to participate. On the 15th of August will be commemorated the battle of Bennington, with which the name of General John Stark is forever to be associated. "A glorious victory it was," said General Stark when he sent some trophies of it to Massachusetts, and he went on to describe it as one "which ought to be kept in memory and handed down to futurity as a lasting and laudable example for the sons and daughters of the victors." His injunction was not forgotten, and in 1816 he was reminded by letter that the grateful people of Bennington, if no others, had, year by year, celebrated the achievement of his troops—an achievement worth a thousand times as much as the cold student of military science would value it at. And since that day—every year, in fact, for a century—John Stark has been remembered. Now the State of Vermont proposes to honor Stark and his brave men, this summer being the one hundredth anniversary of the battle which gave them a fame which we, in our careless way, call undying. Perhaps it is. Why should it not be? And in the same week Vermont will also celebrate an event which, her commissioners say, no sister commonwealth has yet observed—the 100th anniversary of her birth as a State. The events were distinct, although their dates were so nearly alike that two days will cover the celebration of both. To some men one will seem more important, to some the other more worthy of being honored. But what Vermonter, by birth or residence—what New Englander, who thinks upon the struggles and the occasional triumphs of those dark days—what patriotic citizen, wherever he may have been born, will hesitate to respond to the call of the committee to which we have referred? These events, one military and the other civil, were two of the most important of the then young revolution. Their effect was bounded by no geographical lines. The commemoration of them should know none. New Hampshire and Massachusetts were as much interested as the State in which the battle of Bennington was fought in its results. Molly Stark was not a Vermonter.

The committee ask for, and we hope and doubt not they will receive, from $10,000 to $15,000 in addition to what the State has appropriated. It will not do to fail in an attempt to commemorate the birth of a State and a battle which, perhaps, turned the tide in favor of our sorely-pressed ancestors. The people of Vermont certainly will be lacking in patriotism if they fail to respond to the appeal: "As Concord and Lexington and Bunker Hill, the beginning of the struggle for liberty in 1775, have been worthily commemorated in 1875, as the signing of the immortal declaration at Philadelphia in 1776 has been fittingly honored in 1876, so let the no less important event of Stark's memory in 1777, which has made his own name famous and that of Bennington historic, be 'kept in memory and handed down to futurity as a lasting and laudable example for the sons and daughters of the victors' by a commemoration in 1877 which shall be alike worthy of the memory of the men of 1777 and their sons and daughters of 1877."

Barnum and Charley Ross.

(From The Springfield Republican, May 19.)

The negotiations between P. T. Barnum, the showman, and Christian K. Ross, the father of the kidnapped Charley, by which the former is to offer $10,000 for the return of the child and the latter to agree not to attempt any prosecution of those bringing him back, were finished at a conference in this city yesterday, and the formal offer is now made. The idea first occurred to Mr. Barnum when he was in Philadelphia two years ago, but he decided not to countenance any condoning of the offense. Lately, however, the idea has been growing upon him that the persons who have had the child in custody, since the death of the original abductors, must find him a burden on their hands, which they would be glad to get rid of for money if they could be sure they would escape exposures. These parties being only accessories after the deed, there would be little or no moral harm in giving them their safety for the return of the child. Accordinlyg he telegraphed his offer to Mr. Ross, and requested that gentleman to meet him at Bridgeport, and the two men met there for the first time on the 11th of this month. Mr. Barnum's proposition then was that he should offer the reward as proposed, and, if the boy was secured, some arrangement should be made for exhibiting him by which Mr. Ross should have a large share of the profits, and thus, perhaps, restore his estate of $60,000 which he has spent in the search. Mr. Ross made no answer at that time, but returned to Philadelphia to consult with his wife and her brothers, who are quite wealthy, and met Mr. Barnum at the Haynes House yesterday to accept the offer, with the condition that, if the boy is found, it shall be discretionary with the family to reimburse Mr. Barnum or arrange for the child's exhibition, but in no case is any other exhibitor to have the privilege, and these terms were readily accepted by Mr. Barnum.

Mr. Ross is a man of medium height, with rather sandy beard and complexion, the effect of his long and severe trial showing rather in his quiet manner than in marks in his face. He is determined to devote his whole life, if necessary to the work of unraveling the mystery. He and his family dislike the publicity the affair has given them, but feel that their honor and their affections are too deeply involved for them to give up the search. Mr. Ross's three years' experiences have shown him many phases of detective work, and he has encountered the extremes of human character, the baseness that would take advantage of his loss to swindle him, and the readiness, on the other hand, to assist him with means and labor. The railroads and telegraph companies have given him free use of their facilities, but he has nevertheless spent all his means, and is now practically bankrupt. His grasp of the case, to which he has given his whole thought, is of course complete, and he discusses it calmly and shrewdly.

The family cling to the hope that the child is not dead, and base it largely on the ascertained fact that he was living at the time the abductors were killed on Long Island, five months after he was stolen. He passed out of their hands within two days after he was stolen, and the family think if he was so closely kept up to that time that no trace of him could be found, it would be as easy to conceal him to the present time. In his investigations, Mr. Ross has come across the very interesting fact that Mosher, who possessed literary ability, wrote a novel 16 years before this affair, in which the plot turned upon the abduction of a child. He accepts this offer of Mr. Barnum as a last resort, only hoping, as will every other good parent, that by this or some other means he may soon see his boy again. The following is the formal announcement of Mr. Barnum's offer:

$10,000 REWARD FOR CHARLEY ROSS.

I will pay $10,000 in cash for the delivery to me alive of the kidnapped child Charley Ross, or for information that will lead to his recovery. I most solemnly and sacredly pledge my word of honor and my reputation as an upright business man not to attempt for myself to discover the identity of the persons negotiating with me in this matter, nor to convey to any other person any hints or clews by which any accusation, or even suspicion, shall be directed against them. The parents of the child unite with me in this pledge, and agree, if their darling child is by this means restored to them, to abandon all attempts to punish any person connected with his abduction or concealment; they argee never to appear against such parties, and with myself will use every endeavor to shield them from exposure. For the last three years these parents have suffered more than death, and now that Mosher and Douglass, the real abductors, are dead, it is hoped that the persons who have the child in custody will be willing to accept this reward and immunity. The reward shall be paid in current money as soon as the child is identified by his parents. As an additional security to the persons bringing him, a reasonable time shall elapse between his delivery and the public announcement of the fact, that the parties delivering him shall have every opportunity to avoid discovery.

P. T. BARNUM, Bridgeport, Conn.

I sanction the above arrangement for myself and wife. CHRISTIAN K. ROSS.

Springfield, May 18, 1877.

Local Intelligence.

Brattleboro.

—Mr. George Brooks arrived from California last Saturday evening.

—Decoration day, May 30th, was made a legal holiday by the last legislature.

—Dr. Gale, J. H. White, and W. H. Childs left last week on a Maine fishing excursion.

—N. B. Williston & Co. will sell their stock of fine carriages by auction on the 31st inst.

—Prof. Charlier was in town over Sunday. A portion, at least, of his family will probably spend the Summer at their residence here.

—We are assured that the "pest poison" advertised in another column is an excellent and reliable article, and all that it claims to be.

—The installation of the officers of Beauseant Commandery of Knights Templar, for the present year, took place at their hall on Tuesday evening.

—Owing to the illness of Rev. Dr. Walker, Prof. H. M. Tyler of Smith College, Northampton, supplied the pulpit of the Centre church last Sunday.

—The ladies of St. Michael's Episcopal society contemplate giving a series of attractive summer entertainments to open, we believe, with a lawn party at an early date.

—$1.25 per day is to be the price paid for labor upon the highways during the present season. We learn that the work of reducing the High and Green street grades will probably be begun during the coming week.

—A drum corps and battalion of the Grammar school boys are drilling preparatory to taking part in the observance of Decoration day. Their appearance in the procession will be one of the pleasantest features of the occasion.

—A train of Vermont Valley rolling stock, consisting of four locomotives, two passenger cars and three baggage cars, which have heretofore been in the possession of the Central Vermont, was delivered over to Col. Waite, the Vermont Valley manager last Saturday. More will probably follow.

—Judge Stoddard of Townshend and Hon. B. D. Harris of this town are to speak at Windham on the Brattleboro and Whitehall railroad question on Saturday afternoon of this week. Mr. Harris is also to speak at Whitehall to-night (Thursday), at Manchester next Tuesday and at Dorset on Wednesday. It is hoped that J. L. Martin, Esq., of Londonderry, and other gentlemen, will be present at the last named places.

—We are glad to learn that Mr. H. A. Kilburn, who has recently returned from a successful winter's work as manager of the new Arlington House at Gainesville, Florida, has leased the Prospect House at Chesterfield Lake for the coming season. This will be good news for all the patrons of that popular resort, and we believe that under Mr. Kilburn's skilful management the house will receive the liberal patronage which its delightful location and commodious arrangements deserve. It will be opened June 1st.

—Through the diligence of our Jacksonville correspondent we are enabled to lay before our readers a very full and reliable account of the terrible tornado which swept over the town of Whitingham with destructive force on Friday last. This tempest of almost unprecedented severity in this section, was undoubtedly an offshoot of the great hail and wind storm which passed, on the same afternoon, over a tract of country in Western Massachusetts, Southwestern Vermont and Eastern New York, the effects of which are elsewhere noted.

—The death of Miss Hattie A. Niles which occurred on Thursday last, after a brief illness from typhoid fever, has caused an unusually deep feeling of sadness to pervade a wide circle of friends and acquaintances. Universally loved and admired for her rare graces, both of character and person, her untimely death leaves a vacancy in the ranks of the young people of the town which can never be filled, while to her immediate family and friends the blow is a crushing one. Her funeral was attended from her mother's residence on Sunday afternoon, Rev. W. H. Collins officiating. The display of flowers on the occasion was exceedingly beautiful and elaborate, and a very large number of people were gathered at the cemetery to witness the last sad rites.

—We are glad to learn from official sources that both our local savings banks have decided to reduce the rate of interest on all home loans to 6 per cent. We hardly need say that the adoption of this liberal policy is in accordance with our own views on the subject, for we have already discussed the question of the interest rate at considerable length in our editorial columns, and we confidently believe the result of this reduction, in response to the universal demand of the times, will be productive of a better feeling and increased activity in our business community. The savings banks having thus led the way, we trust that the discount banks may become convinced, at an early day, of the expediency of reducing their rate to a corresponding figure.

—The Brooks House has received such a thorough re-painting, refitting and general renovation throughout, during the past three or four months, as makes this establishment more than ever a model of neatness, tidiness and elegance in every respect. The wookwork in every room and in all the halls, up stairs and down, has received a new coat of paint, the ceilings have been tinted, and the walls have been painted in neutral tints which are pleasing to the eye and add greatly to the attractiveness of the rooms. The effect in the parlors, with their newly tinted walls and ceilings, is very harmonious; some rich pieces of new furniture have been added, and, on the whole, the house was never so attractive and inviting to transient guests and regular boarders as at present. We are glad to learn that the prospects for the summer patronage are very encouraging.

—The programme of the Memorial-day exercises, which has been issued, announces that the procession will be formed in front of the town hall at 3 o'clock P. M., and will move in the following order: Brattleboro brass band, Chief Marshal and Aids, Estey Guard, orator and chaplain, choir of male voices, Sedgwick Post G. A. R., old soldiers and sailors, Beauseant Commandery Knights Templar, Fuller drum corps, Fuller battery (dismounted), Oasis Encampment I. O. of O. F., Wantastiquet Lodge I. O. of O. F., "77" drum corps, school battalion, citizens. The order of march will be through Main and South Main streets to the cemetery, where a square will be formed about the soldiers' burial lot and the following order of exercises will be observed: Introductory remarks by the commander of the Post; music by a choir of male voices; prayer by the chaplain; music by the band; address by Rev. N. F. Perry; music by choir; ranks will be broken and graves decorated, a detachment visiting the Catholic cemetery and decorating the graves of soldiers buried there. The ranks will then re-form and the exercises will close with music by the band and the benediction. The members of the Grand Army and all old soldiers and sailors are requested to meet at the town hall at half-past two o'clock, and contributions of flowers are earnestly solicited. The observance of the day promises to be more general and interesting than on any previous occasion.

—The members of the Executive Committee of the Vermont Centennial Commission visited Brattleboro last Friday afternoon and met several prominent gentlemen at the Brooks House, to whom they briefly explained the arrangements which the Commission have in view relative to the celebration of the battle of Bennington and the centennial of the State, which is to take place at Bennington on the 15th and 16th of August. These gentlemen stated that, in addition to the appropriation of $2000 made by the last legislature, from $10,000 to $12,000 will be required for the purposes of the celebration, and this sum has been apportioned as evenly as possible among the different counties in the expectation that the sum set apart to each county will be raised by subscription among its people. $1000 is the sum apportioned to Windham county. The members of the Commission were obliged to leave on the 5:45 train. In the evening an informal meeting of interested citizens was held, at which additional members of the Centennial Commission for this town and county were chosen. On Saturday evening of this week the members of the Commission from this town, with any who may chance to be present from other towns in the county, will be held at the Brooks House, at half-past seven, when an organization will be effected and arrangements will be instituted for raising the requisite funds. It is desirable that there should be a full and prompt attendance.

THE BERGER FAMILY AND SOL SMITH RUSSELL.

—The entertainment by this company last Friday evening was one of the most thoroughly enjoyable of its kind which has ever been given in Brattleboro. The musical part of the programme embraced performances by the silver cornet band, harp and violin, a charming bell duet, saxophone solo, and "crystal chimes," and in every instance the instruments were handled in a masterly way which delighted the audience and more than fulfilled the expectation which had been raised in regard to the troupe. Miss Franklin possesses an agreeable soprano voice of great compass, and the rendering of her numbers of the programme was received in each instance with an enthusiastic demand for an encore. Of Mr. Sol Smith Russell there is only one opinion. He is a perfect master of the art of mimicry and caricature—and, more than this, his character sketches are artistic in the highest sense. We have never seen an actor, nor had we even conceived of one, who, standing upon the stage, in the face and eyes of his audience, could instantly, and with absolute perfection, transform himself into so many different personations and entirely opposite tpyes of character as did Mr. Russell on this occasion. His "Dorcas Pennyroyal" is an admirable conception; none the less so is the school-boy and his composition, the dancing master, the "impromptu" speech by the amateur skipper, the hen-pecked husband, and so on to the end of the chapter. It should also be noted that Mr. Russell makes his personations irresistibly funny and ridiculous, while they are entirely removed from anything which even verges on coarseness and vulgarity. We hope to see him and the Berger family in Brattleboro again, on the coming of another season, and we think they may feel assured that on a second appearance they will be greeted by such a full house as their entertainment deserves.

ANNUAL PARADE OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

—No better day could have been selected to make glad the hearts of the firemen than that which greeted them on the occasion of their annual parade last Saturday. The rain of the previous day served to lay the dust and cool the atmosphere, and, in consequence, the march was far less tedious than it would otherwise have been. The different companies were out with full ranks, all of them made a fine appearance, and everything passed off smoothly and in an orderly manner. The display was such as few towns of this size are able to make, and our people have never had better reason than now for cherishing a commendable feeling of pride in their excellent and well-organized fire department.

At half-past one o'clock Hydropath No. 3, marched to the head of High street, to meet Western No 1 of West Brattleboro, escorting them to the left of the line of march. The department moved in the following order:

Brattleboro Fire Police, J. W. Simonds, captain, 30 men.
Chief Engineer E. Wales and assistants Davis, Briggs, Turner, Kinson and Chief Howe of the West village.
Brattleboro Cornet Band, 21 pieces.
Fountain Engine Co. No. 4, James B. Coffin foreman; 80 men; machine drawn by four horses; hose cart drawn by two horses.
Fuller Drum Corps.
Phœnix Engine Co. No. 6, D. W. Brosnahan, foreman; 60 men; machine, with hose cart attached, drawn by four horses.
Protector Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1, L. W. Newton, foreman; 40 men; truck drawn by four horses.
J. Estey Steamer Co., J. H. Holden, foreman; 25 men; steamer "J. Estey" drawn by six horses. The new steamer drawn by four horses, following in the rear of which was the steamer hose carriage drawn by two horses.
Meacham's Drum Corps.
Hydropath Engine Co. No. 3, W. Dorr Perry, foreman; 60 men; machine drawn by four horses. Waite hose carriage drawn by one horse.
Western Engine Co. No. 1, West village, A. C. Loomis, foreman; 50 men; machine with hose cart attached drawn by four horses.

After marching through the principal streets of the village the parade closed with a march and counter-march through Main street, during which the department was reviewed by the Chief Engineer and village bailiffs, who were stationed on the Brooks House balcony. The companies were then dismissed, and they repaired to their respective engine houses, where they partook of generous and substantial collations provided by their stewards. The Western engine company was entertained by company No. 3, the Fire Police by No. 6, the steamer company by Hook and Ladder company, and the band by No. 4.

At about 5 o'clock all hands proceeded to Frost's meadow for a trial of machines and muscle, each engine drawing its own water and playing through 300 feet of hose horizontally onto a platform, the farthest water being counted, and the number of men and size of nozzle being optional with each company. The order of playing and results were as follows:

Fountain, - -	205 ft. 9 in.
Western, - -	201 ft. 3 in.
Phœnix, - -	200 ft. 2 in.
Hydropath, - -	203 ft. 1½ in.

The plays were all good ones, but their most remarkable feature, as will be seen, was their evenness, and it would probably be difficult to match them, in this respect, with any four machines in any other department. After the different companies had finished playing, by a mutual proposition and agreement the Fire Police and the Hook and Ladder company tried their strength and skill at working the brakes, the Police taking No. 6 machine and the "Hooks" No. 3. The result was as follows:

Hook and Ladder, -	187 ft. 11 in.
Police, - - -	190 ft. 11½ in.

No end of merriment was caused by this trial, and when the announcement was made that the police had won the Hook and Ladder boys cheered lustily, and, amid the greatest hilarity, presented the victors with a broom in token of their success. This friendly rivalry had the effect to so arouse the memory of old times in the mind of Chief Wales that he forthwith proposed to the assistant engineers and foremen of the different companies that they should take his old favorite No. 6 engine and beat the crowd, which they did, playing 207 feet 10 inches.

This ended the playing and the companies returned to their houses, the Hydropaths escorting the Westerns out of the village, and very soon thereafter the streets resumed their usual quiet. The arrangements for the occasion were carefully made and faithfully carried out. Nothing occurred to mar the pleasure of the afternoon and no disorderly conduct of any kind was manifested. The only accident or incident of any kind was the fact that No. 4 company broke one or two of the braces on their brakes just as they were making their last and winning play. The parade must be set down as one of the most successful in the history of our department. In closing it should be said that the new organization, the Fire Police, presented a very attractive appearance in their uniforms of black, with white caps trimmed with blue, and white belts, and they led the procession with becoming dignity and precision. All our people were glad to see the brass band out with full ranks and discoursing fine music as of old.

For the purpose of convenience of comparison we append the record of plays at the parade last year. The plays at that time were apparently better than this year, but the boys claim, we believe, that the wind materially favored them on that occasion:

RECORD OF 1876.

Fountain No. 4, - -	226 ft.
Phœnix No. 6, -	221 ft. 4 in.
Western No. 1, - -	217 ft. 11 in.
Hydropath No. 3, -	215 ft. 9 in.

—At the burial of Miss Niles on Sunday last, the casket, a full white broadcloth, was literally covered and surrounded with flowers; it was trimmed outside very richly with silver-plated trimmings, and inside with the nicest satin linings, making by far the richest burial outfit ever seen in Brattleboro. It was furnished by our well-known village undertaker, Mr. C. L. Brown, who has no superior, and is rarely equalled in getting up these splendid outfits, as his numerous customers would be glad to testify. The floral display on the occasion, which was very profuse and embraced a great variety of beautiful designs, was furnished by our local florists. No less than eleven of the choicest and most elaborate pieces came from Allen's establishment, and all of them were arranged with rare taste and skill. Mr. Horner also supplied a large quantity of flowers.

—The following is the list of letters remaining at the post office in this village May 24:

Ladies.—Mrs. Rob't Arthur, Miss. Louisa Barrett, Mrs. Bridget Cummings, Viola Hoyt, Bridget Minogue, Mrs. I. C. Newton, Mrs. C. D. Sargent.

Gents.—Geo. J. Bishop, A. W. Chamberlain, Chas. Clement, C. E. Covey, Henry Cook, Webster Dunklee, Z. P. Day, H. P. Freeman, Myron Frost, S. F. Foster, A. F. Gale, F. E. Geer, Clinton J. Paine, Joseph Parker, S. C. Pike, Willard Packer, S. L. Sibley, S. B. Smith, Willie D. Simonds, Ellery J. Wood, John F. White, Winslow Ward.

Bellows Falls.

—The Times says that Rev. Mr. Ogden of the Episcopal church has asked and obtained leave of absence a few months, during which he will visit Europe. He will start on his voyage about the middle of June.

—Messrs. Eddy & Bolles, having dissolved their law co-partnership, Mr. Bolles will continue the practice of law at their old office in Union block. Mr. Eddy, and his son, Charles F., recently of Poultney, have formed a co-partnership for the practice of law, and have taken and moved into the very pleasant office in the bank building, over Geo. O. Guild's store.

Brookline.

—School in Dist. No. 3 is taught by Miss Brown of Townshend.

—A music class is taught by Miss Cora Wells of Athens.

—Several of our young ladies are teaching summer terms of school in neighboring towns.

—We notice some action in the line of building. A dwelling house is in process of erection by Albert Mack, a barn by A. Flint, and additions to dwelling house by J. B. Stebbins.

—Some preparations are being made for the annual Baptist Sabbath School Convention which convenes here June 13th.

—A sarcastic item in regard to our railroad meeting on the 12th inst., published in the last issue of the PHŒNIX, has caused considerable comment, and as the honor of our best men and the good name of all were attacked, we think it no more than just to say, that we see no reason why all our lands and real estate need be oppressed with taxes to gratify the demands and selfish interests of a few. We are a farming people and cannot look for that business activity which other towns hope for. Not over five farms will be much increased in value by the proposed railroad, and to take money from the pockets of poor men to add to the fatness of these already wealthy farmers is what the good sense of our people will not allow. * * *

[While cheerfully giving place to the above paragraph, we must at the same time add that we think our correspondent is mistaken in the idea, apparently entertained, that no farms will be benefited by the introduction of the Brattleboro and Whitehall railroad, except those which lie in immediate or near proximity to the road. In case of the introduction into any community of an enterprise, of whatever kind, which increases business or transportation facilities and supplies a long-felt want, no one class of men or property can monopolize all the advantages thus accruing, but common benefits must necessarily result in which all will share to a greater or less degree—and the results which will follow the construction of the Brattleboro and Whitehall railroad will form exception no to this general rule. [ED. PHŒNIX.

East Dover.

—Mrs. Chloe Boutwell has sold her house to her son, S. H. Sherman of Brattleboro, and taken up her residence with him. Mr. Sherman has sold the place to Prouty & Connell.

Grafton.

—Memorial Day is to be observed with appropriate services. Committee of arrangements—E. C. Tenney, Ambrose H. Burgess, J. D. Leonard, S. J. Smith, G. H. Holmes; marshals, E. C. Tenney, S. J. Smith; president of the day, Ambrose H. Burgess. An address is to be delivered by Rev. A. B. Flanders of Chester at 2 o'clock P. M. The Grafton Cornet Band will furnish music for the occasion. A large attendance of people is expected from surrounding towns.

A. W. D.

—The sermon of Rev. E. J. Ward last Sunday morning, was listened to with much interest, it being the 10th pastorate of Mr. Ward.

—Mr Bartholomew of Boston, an artist friend of Mr. Chas. Barrett, is spending a few days with him. He has been looking about town with the thought of having a summer residence here.

G.

Jacksonville.

GREAT DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY BY A TERRIBLE TORNADO—BUILDINGS UNROOFED, BARNS DESTROYED, LIVE STOCK KILLED, AND STANDING TIMBER PROSTRATED—DAMAGES FROM $5000 TO $10,000.

—One of the most destructive and terrific tornadoes that has ever visited this section, passed over Whitingham on Friday, May 18th, at about half past two o'clock P. M. It commenced on the height of land at the north-west corner of the town, unroofing a house owned by Ephraim Wheeler; taking a south-easterly direction it soon reached and destroyed two barns, one new, and a shed, belonging to Henry Wheeler, also severely injuring an ox of his; then rapidly descending to the valley of the Deerfield river, it lifted the house of Frank Barnes from its foundation, removing it about thirty feet, and, from some material beneath, the floor was thrown up, and a small child sleeping in a bed was thrown some twelve feet; the roof was taken off, leaving the body standing, and although the family was in the house at the time of its removal, no one received any material injury. Mr. B.'s barn was blown down killing a calf and hog. A buggy, a sleigh which was carried over Deerfield river, a mowing machine, horse rake and other farming implements, were destroyed, and stocks were torn from wagon axletrees; trees were torn up upon the west side of the house and carried over it many rods to the river; timber and boards were carried half a mile and a clapboard more than a mile.

Having done its work in the valley it ascended and passed over the high hill at the southward of Garrison Davis', and passed through the wood-lots of Mowry & Powers, O. B. Wheeler and N. Upton, carrying down heavy timber along a path about ten rods wide. Then reaching Nathaniel Whitcomb's it demolished an unoccupied house, also a barn in which were a horse, several cows, and a number of young cattle, all of which singularly escaped unharmed; boards were carried more than half a mile over a wood-lot; a large number of fruit trees were torn up, fences carried away, a large log forty feet long and partly imbedded in the earth was removed from its place, and a hillock, several feet in height and diameter was removed from its base and carried a number of feet. Passing on it next struck the wood-lot of John W. Sawyer, and laid prostrate more than an acre of heavy timber, not leaving a tree standing, but laying the fallen trees in wild confusion. At about this point a portion of the main current seemed to strike off in a southerly direction, crossing Sadawga pond and causing great commotion in the water for a space of about ten rods in width, and reaching Dr. Gilletts' with great force, but doing no material damage, and apparently spending its strength in that direction.

The main current leaving Mr. Sawyer's wood-lot soon reached Wm. H. Hicks's, demolishing his barn and the wing of his house, and starting the upright part from its base, destroying a valuable carriage, several hundred pounds of sugar, and injuring various farming tools, and taking up a large apple tree and carrying it over his house across the highway into a pasture. Pursuing its course, tearing up trees, taking up fences and disturbing walls even to foundation stones, it at length reached the farm of Wm. Henry Lynde, known as the Sam Winn place, where it seemed to gather strength for a last effort. Reaching his buildings it instantly demolished two barns near together, one fifty and the other forty feet in length, and taking a forty foot shed from its base and throwing it with the barns into one confused mass of undistinguishable ruins, covering carriages, sleds and various farming implements. One horse, two oxen and five calves were in the barns. One calf was killed, the horse, oxen and four calves escaping unharmed or with very slight injuries. One ox was carried four rods from his stable, nearly in the direction from which the tempest came, and was rescued from under a portion of roof from one of the barns. Five turkeys and eighteen hens were killed; about twenty feet of the roof of the wing of the house, nearest to the upright part, was taken off, leaving the larger portion with a small building between the house and barn uninjured. A block from the chimney in the wing, weighing about one hundred and fifty pounds, was carried about three rods. Six very large apple trees were torn up near the barns, pointing in different directions, clearly showing that the tempest had a circular motion. One of the apple trees torn up was more than three feet in diameter at its base, bearing evident marks of being a centennarian. One large tree was thrown eight rods across the highway into a field. Timber, boards and shingles were widely and profusely scattered over the fields.

Several hundred people have visited the scene of disaster to witness the ruins. Mr. Lynde has owned the farm about two years, and rented it this season to Frank Davis, who had been to the barns and fortunately left them just before they were thrown down. Mr. Lynde, at the time of the disaster, was absent at a distance on business. He suffers very severely and has the sympathy of all. The tempest passed on with but little further damage in town. It was attended with blinding torrents of rain and hail, accompanied with almost incessant lightning and thunder. Ruin followed its giant march, and debris was scattered in wild confusion in all directions. Fortunately no lives were lost. The damage has been variously estimated at from five to ten thousand dollars.

Fayetteville.

—At our railroad meeting last Monday, on a motion to aid the Brattleboro and Whitehall railroad the vote stood—Yes 122, No 118. It was then thought advisable, upon due consideration, to adjourn the meeting to give ample time for a careful investigation of our real position in this enterprise, that all may fully see the exact relation that Newfane holds toward the road and the county. Accordingly the meeting was adjourned until June 18th, at one o'clock P. M. *

Guilford.

—People wonder why Henry Smith holds his head so high now-a-days. The record of births will explain it.

—Smith and Hunt's Cab Manufactory, which nearly comprises the enterprise of this village, is doing a lively business, scarcely keeping pace with its orders.

—H. J. Richmond has a cow, which he claims to have given, in the best of the season, 30 quarts of milk per day, five quarts producing cream enough for one pound of butter. This is a little the largest cow story we have ever heard, but as "Hub" has an unquestioned reputation as a truth-teller, we have no authority to dispute his statement.

—Public school teachers in Guilford for the summer term, 1877: District No. 1, Flora J. Cutting, Guilford; No. 2, A. D. Taft, Guilford; No. 3, Lizzie I. Bider, N. H.; No. 4, Julia P. Leonard, Greenfield; No. 5, Jennie M. Chase, Guilford; No. 6, Elsie P. Lazelle, Guilford; No. 7, Alice W. Gullow, Bernardston; No. 8, Addie F. Davis, Vernon; No. 9, Celia McClure, Guilford; No. 10, Minnie B. Aldrich, Bernardston; No. 11, Nellie H. Hale, Bernardston; No. 12, Jennie M. Houghton, Guilford; No. 13, Etta O. Kimball, Bernardston; No. 14, Cora J. Holbrook, Brattleboro.