

## The Horrors of Idiocy.

Of all the long and weary pains of mind to which the unselfish can be subject, we know of none so terrible as that of the mother attaining the certainty that her child is an idiot. Reviewing the whole case as we have ourselves observed it, it seems to us an affliction made tolerable only by its gradual growth, and the length of years over which it is spread.—How sweet was the prospect of the little one coming—not only in the sacred anticipations of the parents, but when the elder children were told, in quiet, joyful moments of confidence, that there would be a baby in the house by-and-by! And when it came, how amiable and helpful, and happy everybody was—keeping the house quiet for the mother's sake, and wondering at the baby, and not minding any irregularity or little unbecomings while the mother was up-stairs. Perhaps there was a wagger that baby would "take notice," turn its eyes to a bright watch or spoon, or looking-glass, at the end of ten days or a fortnight, and the wagger was lost. Here, perhaps, was the first faint indication. But it would not be thought much of, the child was so very young!—As the weeks pass, however, and still the child takes no notice, a sick misgiving sometimes enters the mother's mind—a dread of, she does not know what, but it does not last long. You may trust a mother for finding out charms and promise of one sort or another in her baby—be what it may. Time goes on; and the singularity is apparent that the baby makes no response to anything. He is not deaf. Very distant street music probably causes a kind of quiver through his whole frame. He sees very well. He certainly is aware of the flies which are performing minuetts and reels between him and the ceiling. As for his other senses, there never was anything like his keenness of smell and taste. He is ravenous for food—even already unpleasantly so—but excessively difficult to please. The terrible thing is his still taking no notice.

His mother longs to feel the clasp of his arms around her neck; but her fondlings receive no return. His arm hangs lax over her shoulder. She longs for a look from him, and lays him back on her lap, hoping that they may look into each other's eyes; but he looks at nobody. All his life long nobody will ever meet his eyes; and neither in that way or any other way will his mind expressly meet that of anybody else. When he does at length look at anything, it is at his own hand. He spreads the fingers, and holds up the hand close before his face, and moves his head from side to side. At first, the mother and the child laugh, and call it a baby trick; but after a time the laughter is rather forced, and they begin to wish he would not do so. We once saw a child on her mother's lap laughing at the spinning of a half-crown on the table, when, in an instant, the mother put the little creature down—almost threw her down on the carpet, with an expression of anguish in her face perfectly astonishing. The child had chanced to hold up her hand before her face in her merry fidget; and the mother, who had watched over an idiot brother from her youth up, could not bear that horrible thought in this case it was a mere accident.

The great improvement in the treatment of idiots and lunatics since science began to throw light on the separate organization of the human faculties is one of the most striking instances in all human experience of the practical blessedness induced by knowledge.

It is for us to act upon the medium view sanctioned alike by science and morals—neither to cast out our idiots, like the savages who leave their helpless ones to perish, nor to worship them, as the pious Egyptians did, and other nations who believed that the gods dwelt in them, more or less, and made oracles of them—a perfectly natural belief in the case of beings who manifest a very few faculties in extraordinary perfection, in the apparent absence of all others. Our business is, in the first place, to reduce the number of idiots to the utmost of our power, by attending to the conditions of sound life and health, and especially by discountenancing, as a crime, the marriage of blood-relations; and, in the next place, by trying to make the most and the best of such faculties as these imperfect beings possess. It is not enough to repeat the celebrated epitaph on an idiot, and to hope that his privations here will be made up to him hereafter. We must lessen those privations to the utmost, by the careful application of science in understanding his case, and of skill, and inexhaustible patience and love, in treating it. Happily, there are now institutions, by aiding which any of us may do something towards raising the lowest, and blessing the most afflicted members of our race.

## The Caloric Ship Ericsson.

It will be seen by the subjoined letter from Captain Ericsson that his confidence in the practical utility of his application of caloric as a motive power for steamships has been strengthened by further experiment. The perseverance and energy which he has displayed under the most untoward circumstances, commands admiration:

To the Editors of the Commercial Advertiser.

SIR:—The serious accident to the Caloric Ship last Thursday, has deprived me of the anticipated pleasure of inviting you to witness the performance of the new machinery of this ship. Previous to the untoward occurrence, Mr. Kitching had cheerfully acceded to my proposition of making a formal trial trip, this week, to afford the New York press an opportunity of witnessing the practical operation of the new machinery, and of hearing my explanation of the important changes that have been made in regard to that motive power, which a year ago was heralded to the world by the distinguished press of New York, in a manner altogether unprecedented in the history of mechanical progress.

As soon as the ship and machinery are again in serviceable condition, I shall not lose a moment in performing the agreeable task of rendering the proposed account of the invention. In the mean time, I have to state that, when the noble ship went down, the motive power had proved completely successful. The engines had not been put to anything like maximum work, and yet we attained a speed of more than eleven miles an hour, with a consumption of fuel which promises to render ocean navigation, in point of economy, what it has already proved in point of safety.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
J. ERICSSON.

New York, May 24, 1824.

## A Duel in California.

The Sacramento Union contains a humorous account of a duel which occurred at Rattlesnake Bar. Two individuals had quarreled, and at the friendly instigation of their friends resolved to fight with pistols. The pistols were accordingly procured and loaded with corked bullets, of which interesting fact but one of the principals was aware:

"Silence reigned; the pistols were placed in their quivering hands—the handkerchief fell—a loud explosion ensued and one of the belligerents (the one who was in the secret) turned partly around and fell on his face, while the other stood like a statue, at a perfect picture of amazement, at the grunts and contortions of his antagonist, and no wonder; for his pistol had missed fire! This let the 'at out of the bag,' and such a roar of laughter went up as made the hills echo again. On the return of the spectators they appeared as if all of them had been shot in their sides from the manner in which they were holding on to their hands. This ended the ever-to-be-remembered conflict between the two 'Rattlesnakes.'"

The man who was charged with electricity has been acquitted. He left in the lightning train.

## DAILY PIONEER.

### SAINT PAUL:

WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 17, '54.  
EARLE S. GOODRICH, EDITOR.

**THE DAILY PIONEER**, is published every week-day morning, at the Office, South Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota, and furnished to Subscribers for Six Dollars a Year, in Advance. City Subscribers, Fifteen Cents a Week, payable to the Carrier.

**THE WEEKLY PIONEER**, printed at the same office, is sent to Mail Subscribers at the following rates: Single Copy, Two Dollars; Five Copies, Eight Dollars; Eight Copies, Ten Dollars; Twelve Copies, Twelve Dollars. To take advantage of the Club rules, however, the subscription price must be paid invariably in Advance.

**TO CORRESPONDENTS.**—Anonymous communications will receive no attention. All articles professing to state facts, must be accompanied by the Author's name, not for publication, but as a guarantee of the truth of the statements made. Voluntary Correspondence, containing important news, or statistics of the condition and growth of towns and settlements throughout the Northwest, is solicited.

### News Items.

Sunday morning, 9th inst., after services had commenced in the Catholic Church, at Erie, Pa., the gallery being crowded on account of the Bishop, being there, it gave way, and the whole fell on the crowd below. Several persons were taken out badly injured, one has since died, and two or three others cannot live.

There has been quite a change in the weather, from the mild and balmy, to the stormy and tempestuous, since Monday's issue. Yesterday it rained incessantly all day, gladdening the hearts of all engaged in the lumber trade.

A telegraphic report from New York announces that the Spanish Government refuses to make the reparation in the Black Warrior case which was demanded by Mr. Soule.

The New York *Sunday Times* says that the "coronation of art," as Mr. Barnum felicitously expressed the opening, came off with great eclat on the 4th inst. There was a great contrast between the failure of last summer and the present success. The first was an aristocratic Wall street affair—the second was one for the people. The addresses were of a very high order of excellence, and, as published in the *Times*, from stenographic notes, read very well. Judge Campbell was classical, Horace Greeley was practical, O'Gorman was oratorical, Ward Beecher was funny, Counsellor Marsh was poetical, and Chapin eloquent. President Barnum—if he is a showman—beat the speech of ex-President Sedgewick (a lawyer, author, and of a literary family besides), as delivered last summer, three to one.

Oregon furnishes an example of the impolicy of granting lands to the lazy landless. The grants made by government to settlers in that Territory, were for large quantities, varying according to the size of families, the smallest being a half section, or three hundred and twenty acres. These grants are now being rapidly thrown up, the settlers preferring to relinquish their claims rather than remain thereon the term of years required in order to get a title in fee.

We infer from the tone of President Pierce's admirable message to which we have alluded, that the Homestead Bill will meet with no favor at his hands. He is a strict constructionist; and if that bill is worked through Congress, we look to him to save us from the curse which would follow its enactment as a law of the land.

Samuel Thurston was killed by lightning at West Point, Ky., last week.

Mosquitoes have appeared in New Orleans for the season.

A little son of Wm. Ballue, was accidentally killed near Mill Creek Hundred last week.

A boy named Coy, aged 14, has been drowned in Newark.

Christian Long, a German, was found dead in his bed at Newark.

Detroit, with a population of thirty-five thousand, has no night police.

During April there arrived at Boston 679 vessels.

Over one hundred colored persons have arrived at Norfolk for Liberia.

The steamer Massachusetts left Norfolk on Wednesday, on a trial trip.

Since the Ward trial, pistols and bowie knives at Louisville are called "Kentucky statistics."

The first locomotive built in Kentucky was placed on the railroad landing in Covington, last week.

Col. S. M. D. Clark, who served under Commodore Porter, in the frigate *Essex*, at Valparaiso, died at West Point, La., a few days ago.

There was much excitement in New Albany, Indiana, on Sunday evening, in consequence of the arrival of Matt F. Ward in that city. A committee was about to invite Ward to leave the place.

The journeymen harness-makers of Rochester are on a strike for an advance of wages, demanding an increase of 12 1/2 per cent on former rates.

The number of deaths for the week, ending May 1st, in Pittsburgh was sixteen, eleven males and five females.

Sidney Bailey was brought on a requisition from Georgia to Charleston, on a charge of stealing ten slaves.

A woman in Brandywine village, Delaware, while laboring under an attack of delirium tremens, a few days since, seized a gun and shot two children of one of her neighbors, injuring them severely. It is hoped, however, they will recover.

The Rhode Island Legislature has granted to Mr. Gouraud, a charter to build one or more ocean steamers, on a new plan and gigantic scale. He proposes have them a thousand feet in length, and propelled by engines of five thousand horse-power.

The Savannah Republican of the 1st May, gives the particulars of a fatal affray at that place, between Mr. Austin Green, and Mr. Walker, the Town Marshal, which resulted in the death of the former. He appears that Austin was riotous, and the Marshal attempted to arrest him. In the attempt, Green drew his revolver and fired upon Walker three times, when the latter becoming exasperated, drew his own pistol and shot Green, the ball entering his breast. He walked some thirty yards and immediately expired.—He leaves a wife and three children.

Mr. Hiram Hutchinson, President of the Bank of Hamburg, South Carolina, has given \$5,000 to the South Carolina College, for the purpose of founding a scholarship to aid in the education of indigent young men of merit.

A Polish physician at Kalafat has made a curious and important discovery of a species of camera, or optical telegraph, by which a perfect reconnaissance could be effected at an incredible distance. It can be used on horseback.

J. M. Anderson, a young white man, was convicted of petty larceny, in Mercer co., Ky., a few days ago, and sentenced to be whipped publicly on his bare back. Kentucky ought to remove this relic of barbarism from her statutes.

A brute, in the shape of a man, was sent to the work-house, in Louisville, for whipping an infant child a few weeks old. His wife testified, on the trial, that he caused the death of a former child, having actually whipped it only three days before its death.

Olive leaves have been used successfully in the worst cases of fever and ague. They are made into a decoction—say two handfuls boiled in a quart of water till reduced by evaporation to about a pint.—Given in doses of a wine-glass full every three or four hours.

It appears, from an examination of items in relation to the crops contained in the papers, from nearly all the agricultural states, that the prospect of an abundance is more promising than is usual at this season of the year. The season is backward, but the winter grains appear to have wintered well, as a general thing.

## The Application of the President's Veto to the Homestead Bill.

Considerable discussion has been already had in the Senate of the United States relative to the principles contained in the message of President Pierce, vetoing Miss Dix's Insane Land Grant Bill. There is a strong disposition to sustain the President; but the friends of the Homestead Bill object to the idea of applying the principles of the message to their favorite measure. We do not see how the President can escape such application. If the Veto means anything, its application must be made to all improvident grants of the public domain. The President in his annual message, as well as in this, places the government in the situation of a landowner, who manages and improves his estate in a prudent manner. The government should encourage roads through it, by granting alternate sections, because it will double or quadruple the value of the balance, and bring it more readily into sale and settlement.

Granting lands to the lazy landless, can never enhance the value of the public domain.—No man is worth having in a new country, who lacks the energy to gather together the small pittance now demanded by the government for its public lands. There may be exceptions, occasioned by peculiar and continued misfortunes, but the rule in general will hold good. Such a course would bring upon the frontiers, where we want live, active workers, the curse of an idle population, willing to declare themselves paupers, and always to remain so. For, the able bodied man who would take a grant of land under the provisions of the contemplated Homestead Bill, when an acre costs no more than the price of a dozen tipples, has "shiftless," "lazy," "pauper-by-nature" stamped on him as irremovably as if placed there by precept of fore-ordination.—We want no such men here, to act as clogs and hindrances to the development of our glorious Northwest. Their presence would be an insult to our fruitful, generous soil.

Oregon furnishes an example of the impolicy of granting lands to the lazy landless. The grants made by government to settlers in that Territory, were for large quantities, varying according to the size of families, the smallest being a half section, or three hundred and twenty acres. These grants are now being rapidly thrown up, the settlers preferring to relinquish their claims rather than remain thereon the term of years required in order to get a title in fee.

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## Serious Accident.

One of the stage coaches coming down from Saint Anthony yesterday morning, overturned, seriously injuring CHARLES LINDSEY, of that place. Mr. L. received a cut across the forehead, nearly scalping him, tho' we believe without fracturing his skull. Dr. BRISBINE, who attended upon him apprehends no fatal result.—Some two or three others were considerably damaged by the fall. No blame is attached to the driver, as the accident occurred from the loosening of the rein-fastener holding one of the leaders, by reason of which the team became unmanageable.

**THE BROADWAY CALAMITY.**—The jury in the Broadway calamity case brought in their verdict on the 14th inst. In it they say that "the whole building was, in our estimation, a complete death trap, and could not have been more insecure and dangerous if it had been constructed purposely for the destruction of human life. It was moreover deceptive in appearance; and on that account diabolically dangerous in case of fire." The jury reported several parties as responsible for the insecurity of the building—the architect, the mason, the carpenter and the lessees, and entirely exonerated the occupants from blame.—The fire they believed to be the work of an incendiary.

## Personal Intelligence.

S. O. Dunning, New York; A. A. Soule, L. E. Fisher, Wisconsin; Col. Stewart, U. S. Army; G. S. Law, J. H. Trader, St. Anthony; R. B. Snyder, J. Hay, J. Hienly, Penn.; A. S. Harris, Chicago; J. Gibson, Benton county, were among the arrivals at the American House yesterday.

## Valuable Acquisition.

A highly valuable work has been added to the Library of Congress—a complete file of the London Gazette from 1656 to the present time. This is the only complete file in existence, and was obtained through Rich's sons, of London, the English agents of the Library. The Royal Library of Great Britain made several ineffectual attempts to obtain this work, but the prize was borne off by Brother Jonathan. The Gazette has been for 200 years the official journal of the British government, and in it are, first published all civil, military and naval appointments; resignations, deaths and dismissals—all bankruptcies, proclamations, ordinances, and the dispatches from military and naval officers in command on foreign stations.

The history of the whole civilized world for the last two centuries, in which England has borne so important a part, is contained in this journal. There we find the original record of the battles of Boyne, Blenheim, Fontenoy, Minden, Ramillies, Quebec, Bunker Hill, Saratoga, Yorktown and Waterloo; and the great sea fights of Camperdown, Aboukir, St. Vincent, Copenhagen, Trafalgar and Navarino. The deaths of Wolfe, Howe and Nelson—the appointments and promotions of Wellington, Moore, Smith, Pigot, Beresford, Cathcart, and other heroes whose names will be rapidly suggested to the reader.

**A MAN SHOT.**—We understand a man by the name of Palmer was shot on Monday night, at the residence of Mrs. Arnett, on the Sand Hills, by a small negro boy. As related to us it appears Mrs. A. a few nights ago had a valuable dog shot on her premises. She procured a shot gun, loaded it and gave it to the boy with instruction if he found any one prowling about the premises, to shoot. On Monday night the boy was aroused by his sister, who was sleeping close by him, and told that somebody was in the house and had gone up stairs. On going into the passage way he found the door open, and told his sister to go to the stair case and give the alarm, he remaining in the passage with the gun. She did so and Palmer came running down, and on reaching the door the boy gave him the load of buck shot, which brought him to the ground. Palmer is seriously if not dangerously wounded. He is a resident of Harrisburg so we are informed.—*Augusta, Ga., Republic, May 3.*

## The Feeling in England.

There is great discontent manifested in England at the tardiness of the government in sending succor to Turkey. We have before us the London Morning Advertiser, of April 20th, which is severe in its denunciation of the Ministry. It says that the "delays which have taken place are not only proving disastrous to the Turks, but they are meant to do so." It cannot be too often repeated that they are not the result of mere imbecility or incapacity, but of deliberate connivance. We charge some influential party or other in the councils of the Sovereign, with criminal complicity,—with playing purposely the game of the Ogre. We do not say we said some days ago, undertake to name the traitor; but we re-affirm that there must be a traitor, because there is treachery. Nor will he be able to conceal himself much longer. He will be speedily discovered and dragged into the light of day, from the darkness in which he has hitherto contrived to enshroud himself.

In the meantime Russia is having everything her own way. She is crossing the Danube in all directions, and marching and counter-marching wherever and whenever she pleases, she has got up a very convenient insurrection in Greece, and, through British instrumentalities, will get up another at Constantinople. She is still, in effect, the mistress of the Black Sea. Her fleet, and other vessels, proceed from one part of the Bosphorus to another, as if there were no such thing as a British ship-of-war in existence. Admiral Dundas might just as well be lying with his fleet at Spithead. A little more time is all that she requires. And that, under some flimsy pretext or another, she will obtain, through the same traitorous influence at head-quarters, to which she already owes so large a debt of gratitude. She is on the high road to the attainment of all that she seeks. In a very brief period, Turkey, through the assistance of England, will be broken in pieces, and Constantinople and the Bosphorus become the possessions of the Czar.

The London *Times*, although the "organ" of the Ministry is scarcely less severe, upon the want of activity displayed in the war movements. It is particularly savage upon Admiral Dundas of the Black Sea fleet, whose proceedings it characterizes as "timid and sleepy."

**CALIFORNIA GAMBLING.**—The Marysville Herald says that some time since a gambler absconded from that place, leaving behind him a roulette wheel, which on being taken apart, was found to be so constructed that, by touching a spring, the bottom of every box painted red would be made to rise, presenting a smooth surface, and leaving the ball no alternative but to drop into the black. Should the gambler bet on the black, the screw might be pressed a little harder, whereupon the bottoms of all the black boxes would come up, and the ball must go into the red. Moving with the smoothness of clock work, the machinery could never fail. With it a child might play against the world and win every stake. Doubtless many a young man who has gone out from our Eastern States to the land of promise, buoyant with health, and hope, and energy, and has there earned the sweat of his brow an amount sufficient to render him independent for life, has, in a moment of excitement or forgetfulness, been induced to stake his hard-earned gains at the table of a gambler—perhaps on such an instrument as this—and has thus been robbed not only of his wealth, but of his hope, his energy, and his self-respect.

## Churches and Pastors.

It has been suggested to us that the Rev. Mr. Neill, of this city, either has tendered, or was about to tender his resignation as Pastor of the society to which he has been attached for some years. He designs devoting his time to the building up a large educational institution here.

The Rt. Rev., the Missionary Bishop of the Northwest, held divine service at the Episcopal Church in this city, on Sunday last.

Rev. T. S. Childs has resigned the charge of the Presbyterian Church in Hartford.

A new Baptist Church has been formed at Bellows Falls, Vt.

Rev. J. T. Marsh has resigned the pastorate of the Congregational Church at Peoria, Ill.

Rev. E. O. Bennett has become pastor of the Congregational Church in Anamosa, Iowa.

A new O. S. Presbyterian Church has been formed at Allegheny City.

A new Unitarian Church edifice has been dedicated in Somerville, Mass.

A Baptist Church is being erected in East Boston, Mass.

Rev. Geo. Mixer is in charge of the Second Baptist Church in Waterford, Conn.

Rev. Dr. Coit has received a call to Saint Paul's Church, Troy.

Rev. G. V. Maxham has been installed pastor of the Universalist Church in Medford, Mass.

Rev. G. W. Quincy has closed his labors with the Universalist Society in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Rev. Mr. Shale has resigned the pastorate of the Universalist Church, in Foxboro',