Spirit of the Age.

BY E. M. BROWN. "Freedom of Inquiry and the Power of the People." $1,50 PER ANNUM.

Volume 9-Number 7. WOODSTOCK, VERMONT, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1847. Whole Number 398.

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THE AGE.

SATURDAY, DEC. 25, 1847.

A Married Woman's Soliloquy.

BY 'ONE WHO HEARD IT.'

Yes, it's go! go! and get! get! get! for every body on earth; but one's own wife. If I should ask Mr Slocum to go out at such a time of day for a water pail and basket of oranges, d'ye guess he'd go!—Not he; I might want one while and take it out in wanting!—Oranges forsooth.—'Twas only yesterday, I asked him to call at William's for Charley's shoes. Would't you have liked to have heard him scold though! If he didn't tune up!—Always something wanting! Wished he could go to the store and back without calling for a dozen parcels! And when he came in and put them on Charley's feet, slapped him for crying because the pegs hurt him! Poor fellow! he limped round till his father had gone, and then pulled them off.—The pegs were an inch long at least calculation. And now just because Mrs. Brown hints at a water pail, he's up and off in a minute! Why couldn't Brown go? Just as though her own husband wasn't good enough to wait upon her.—I'd show him the difference, if I was Brown! A pretty how d'do we shall have of it, if things go on at this rate.—I'll ask Brown to do my errands, see if I don't! and then see how *he* likes it.

If the girls only knew! But no! They wouldn't believe a word of it! You might tell them till doomsday and they'd determine to try it! 'Bought wit is the best if you don't get it too dear.' Dear! I wonder what some folks call dear? There's Nelly Bly. You might talk to her till next July and she wouldn't believe it. But she'll see! She'll learn a lesson for herself she'll not forget very soon.

If I was a girl again I wouldn't change my condition in a hurry! Not I. There was Slocum always ready to run his legs off—but now—he'll go sooner for that Mrs. Brown, than for his own flesh and blood.

But I'll pay him: see if I don't! I won't get him a mouthful of supper. He may get his victuals where he does his work! See how he'll like that. If I should do so, always trying to please other folks husbands instead of my own, we should have a pretty kettle of fish. There's Willie, he's teased for an orange these three days, and not the peal of one has been seen yet.

There he comes puffing like a steamboat! If I had sent him, he wouldn't have been back these two hours. Calling at Mr Brown's too! if it aint enough to vex a saint. I'll tell him I'll quit—I'll—I'll—but no! he'll like that too well! the brute!

I won't please him so much. I'll stay if it kills me, and Willie shall have an orange if he wants, and no thanks to him either.—There he comes again, and both hands full. Wonder what he has got now, and who else he is running for!—Coming through the gate and——yes, both pockets full of oranges.—The——dear soul! I knew he wouldn't forget his own children! Won't Willie have a good meal? And I will—yes he shall have muffins for supper; Slocum loves muffins!

* * * * * *

That's all we heard, reader; for when Slocum opened the hall door, Charlie, Willie, Wife and all, ran out to meet him and get some of those same oranges.

Mrs. Slocum did get supper, and Slocum had muffins.

The English Language.—Few of our readers are perhaps aware of the great changes which have taken place in our language since its formation. We give below specimens of the Lord's Prayer at different periods:

1300. Fader our in hevene, Haleweyed be thi name, come thi kingdam, Thy will be don as in hevene and in erthe, Our oche dayes bred give us to day, An forgive us our dettes, as we forgeven our dettoures, And lede us no into temptation, Bote delyvere us of yel. Amen.

1379. (*Wickliffe's Bible*)—Our fadyr that art in heavenes. Hall owed by thy name, Thy kingdom come to, Be thy will done in erthe as in hoayene; Cive us this day our bread over other substances, And forgif to us our dettes as we forgiven to our detters and leed us not into temptation, but delive; us from evil. Amen.

1526. (*Tindal's Testament.*)—O oure father which art in heven, hallowed be thy name. Let thy kingdom come.—Thy will be fulfilled as well in erthe as hit vs in heven. Give vs this daye oaer dayly dreade. And forgeve vs oure treaspas-es, even as we forgeve them which trespass vs. Leede vs not into temptation, but delyver vs from yveb. Amen.

1580. (*Coverdale's Bible.*)—Our father which art in heauen, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done euen in earth as it is in heauen. Giue us this day our daily bread. And forgive us dettes as we also forgeve our detters. And leads us not into tentation, but deliuer us from euil; for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glorid for euer. Amen.

'Who's Afraid!'—The editor of the Hartford *Whig*, whose voice has been on the peeping order for some time, now crows lustily on the strength of CLAY's speech.—Here him:

"The clarion voice of Henry Clay has sounded, and very soon the whole whig column will be in motion. Where is the coward who is afra d to be called a "Mexican?"

From the London Chronicale, Nov. 12.

THE ENGLISH VIEW OF THE CAPTURE OF THE CITY OF MEXICO.

The failure of any fresh advices from Mexico by the last packet from New York, is made up for by the unusually precise and definite information which had previously arrived by the West India mail. It is needless for us to recapitulate the facts detailed in the letter of our Mexican correspondent, which appeared in our columns of Tuesday, and in the not less interesting one, by another eye-witness, of the occupation of the Mexican capital, which we present to our readers this morning. General Scott is at length in quiet possession of the object of all his manœuvres, but with a force reduced to two-thirds of the number with which he left Puebla.

The Mexican armies, on the other hand, appear to be in a state of utter disorganization; and the ruling powers—President, Congress, Executive, Peace Commissioners, and all—are scattered to the four winds of heaven. The Yankee commander-in-chief may repose in the halls of Montezuma as long as may be agreeable to him, and then take his departure in what direction he will. But a long time may elapse before he will meet with any thing in the shape of a government, with which to renew negotiations for that peace which every succeeding victory seems at once to render more desirable to the conquerors, and more difficult to obtain from the vanquished.

After all, if a cessation of the most anomalous war is now farther off than ever, General Scott ought in fairness to lay the blame on the course which he has followed—whether, in full accordance with his sober judgement, or in mere submission to instructions received from Washington, it is impossible to say. By capturing and partly destroying the city of Mexico, he has himself overthrown the principal portion of the rather precarious foundation on which the central authority of the Mexican Federation rested. If peace was his main object, it would surely have been a sounder policy, whatever else might be seized on or devastated, to have left the seat of the government and the legislature altogether intact—permitting as many as possible of the wealthier classes, who were driven out of the other states, to take refuge there.

The peace party within the walls would thus have been constantly increasing its numbers, and might at length have possessed itself of the supreme authority, and have concluded a peace which would have had all the requisite legitimacy, and have afforded the invaders a tolerably valid title to the territory that might have been conceded to them. If something of this sort did not enter into the original designs of the Washington Cabinet, we must confess ourselves unable to understand with what object Santa Anna was restored to power, if not by the direct furtherance, at least by the connivance, of the Anglo-American authorities. There are certainly considerable grounds for the allegation that there was at the commencement of the war some sort of collusion between Santa Anna and the government of the United States. We do not profess perfectly to understand the pros and cons of this very intricate affair. The following view of it, by the ablest statesman in America, will be interesting at the present moment.

It is from a speech delivered by Mr Webster during the recent session of the Massachusetts State Convention; it forms in itself a brief, and, in the main, we believe, an accurate summary of the origin, pretexts, and progress of a war which it is an honor to the great party of which Mr Webster is the leader, that they never approved of:—

* * * * * *

With these forcible statements of Mr Webster, we leave the subject for the present. We are glad to see that the feelings of the party which Mr Webster represents, are so decidedly hostile to this most preposterous and unprofitable contest. There is yet time for the honest portion of the American statesmen to come to the rescue of the constitution of their country—a constitution which a few years of Presidential wars, and the preponderance of the slave-holding interests by the annexation of new slave states, would seriously imperil, if not inevitably and incurably destroy.

DEATH OF DR. FELIX MENDELSSOHN-BARTHOLDY.—The death of this distinguished musician and composer took place at Leipsic, on the 4th November, after a short illness. This last of the great German musicians was only in his 39th year, when his imperishable labors were terminated forever. His health has been for some time declining, and he had retired to Interlachen, in Switzerland, during the summer months, without receiving relief. Upon his return to Leipsic, the cerebral affection with which he was afflicted proved fatal, and, like Mozart, he was snatched from the scene of his labors before he had exhausted the fulness of life; his brief career has, however, terminated in its brightest glory.

In Leipsic the greatest grief prevailed, and all kinds of funeral honors were paid to the memory of the departed. M. Mendelssohn Bartholdy was born at Berlin on the 3d of February, 1809. He was grandson of the illustrious philosopher Mendelssohn, and son of the celebrated archæologist, James Solomon Bartholdy, who died in the year 1825, at Rome, where he filled the functions of charge d'affaires to the Holy See. The celebrity of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy dated from his very infancy. At eight years of age he had already composed some remarkable pieces, and he had performed on the piano both at Paris and London with immense success.

☞ The following appropriate piece for this season and the close of the year, was written, as the date will show, eight years since. The writer now reposes beneath the pure element of which he so rapturously speaks, yet he left behind the impressions of a kind heart and noble mind, with which we hope to be able to favor the readers of the Age from time to time.

THE SNOW.

The snow, the snow, the drifting snow,
The sleet, the winds that fiercely blow,
The whitened fields, with aspects drear,
In terror clothe the parting year.

The snow, the snow, the virgin snow,
How many a tale of cheerless woe,
Of want, of wretchedness untold,
Its stern, rough visage shall unfold,

The snow, the snow, the pure white snow,
Its fleecy flakes now lie full low;
The storm, its angry conflicts o'er,
In calmness sleeps to rage no more.

The snow, the snow, the splashing snow,
Its surface shines with brighter glow,
When morn, unveil'd in beauty, gilds
The summits of the crested hills.

The snow, the snow, the frosted snow,
How quick the vital currents flow,
While merry hearts, with welcome cheer,
Hail with delight the new-born year.

The snow, the snow, the lovely snow,
I deem it not man's haggard foe;
A bounding heart my transport tells,
While listening to the merry bells.

The snow, the snow, the wintry snow,
It cheers my steps where'er I go;
The social glee its scenes impart,
Brings joy and gladness to my heart.

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL'S REPORT—It appears from this report, from which the Herald publishes extracts, that on the 30th of June, the Post routes in operation extend over 153,818 miles; the annual transportation over these was 38,887,899 miles, at an expense of $2,406,848.

Since the 1st of July last, new routes have been put in operation 8,239 miles in extent, at an additional cost of $42,943 per annum.

The number of mail contractors in the service during the last year was, 3,659; of route agents, local agents, and mail messengers, connected with the mail service, on railroads and steamboats, 186.

From the best estimate which can be made, the number of letters and papers passing through the United States mail, during the last year, may be stated as follows:—

Paid and unpaid, single rate of 5 cents,	36,152,556
Paid and unpaid, single rate of 10 cents,	12,851,332
Ship and steamboat letters at 6 cents,	427,800
Ship and steamboat letters forwarded in the mails from foreign countries, 2 cents added to the regular postage,	850,980
Dropped letters,	865 398
Printed circular letters,	1,025,304
	$52,173,480

The free letters sent by persons entitled to the franking privilege, and those sent free to the army, cannot be ascertained with any degree of accuracy, but it is believed would not fall short of 5,000,000

The newspapers passing through the mails annually, are estimated at 55,000,000. Pamphlets and magazines at 2,000,000.

The dead letters passing through the offices and returned to the department, as nearly as can be ascertained, number annually about 1,800,000; which, calculated at an intermediate point, between the two rates of postage, would make an annual loss to the department of $135,000.

The revenues of the department for the year, amounted to $3,945,893 36 exceeding those of last year.

By the sum of $458,693 96, being an increase of the last over the preceding year of 13 15-100 per cent., and falling short of the annual revenues of the nine years preceding the first of July, 1845, by the sum of $418,731 34. The expenditures of the year ending the 30th of June, 1847, amounted to $3,979,570 63, making only $33,677 32 more than the revenues.

The Postmaster General thinks that a less uniform rate of postage might be made to cover the expenses, provided certain modifications of the acts of 1845 were made, such as:

The suppression of private expresses; The privilege of sending sealed letters "in relation to the cargo," free over mail routes in the source of frauds, and ought to be interdicted; To make the single letter a quarter or third of an ounce, instead of a half, &c.; To equalize postage on newspapers according to weight; the payment of postage, or double postage on all letters passing through the mails for delivery within the United States, and prepayment on letters destined for foreign countries not having postal arrangements with the United States, and on all printed matter; and the abolition or modification of the franksng privilege.

☞ A letter was received to-day, by a gentlemen of this city, from Col. THOMAS H. SEYMOUR, bearing date Oct. 31st. He still has his quarters at the convent in the city of Mexico, and was well.—*Daily Times, 14th.*

Mr. Webster said at Springfield. 'I do not admit that it was just ground of complaint on the part of Mexico that the U. S. annexed Texas to themselves.'

American Newspapers in Mexico.—The London press in its strictures, on the war with Mexico, is right in one respect—that the mode in which it is prosecuted is anomalous. It is so, and we may add, very different from the mode pursued by the English in all their war.

After every defeat the Mexicans sustain we administer to them a doze of civilization. After our troops cut them up with rifle balls and bayonets, they step out of the ranks, take up the "stick" and pursue the retreating legions with the great civilizer of mankind—the Press. After a discharge of shot and shells, they receive a discharge of newspapers; and while disabled by their wounds, they leisurely read the news of the day, prepared for them by their conquerers. Such is a characteristic of the war with Mexico, which, in this respect, at least, is anomalous.

There are in the United States from ten to fifteen thousand persons connected with the press, comprising editors, reporters, printers, pressmen, and devils. As a class they are unquestionably the best educated, most talented, most energetic, the most original, the most patriotic part of our population. Of this number, probably a thousand or fifteen hundred joined the invading army, and assisted materially in achieving the splendid victories that have astonished ourselves and the world. From the moment they entered Mexico, till the present time, they have fought and printed as they went along. At every halting place and every town they captured, they started a newspaper, and at the present moment there are nearly a dozen Anglo American newspapers printed and circulated in the enemy's country. These journals, though small in size are well got up, and display considerable talent and ability. They cannot fail in working a great change in the minds of the people; and in the event of its becoming necessary to permanently occupy the whole of Mexico, will exercise an important influence in the preservation of order and quiet.

The press is altogether a new element in the prosecution of war, and troops of America have the honor of being the first to introduce it. Thus far, its effect has been good, and we have no doubt it has aided much in producing the present contentedness to submit to American rule, which is apparent among the masses of the Mexican people.

CRIDGE'S BOSTON AND MONTREAL EXPRESS.

We published last week a letter of instructions from the Postmaster General to the P. M. at this place, relating to an attempt of a concern called "Cridge's Boston and Montreal Express" to run mail matter over the United States post routes, from Canada to the steamers at Boston, after the mail arrangements existing between the two Governments, had been broken off by the illiberality of the British Government.

We understand that on Tuesday, this Express, with some one or two thousand letters, came in contact with Mr. Deputy Marshall J. F. Dodge, somewhere between Burlington and St. Albans—that the letters are held at Burlington and the Express driver is lodged in the Chittenden County jail.—*V. T. Patriot.*

'Disturbed in their *Worship!*' said old Roger, knocking the ashes out of his pipe after reading the deprecations of the military funeral on sunday. 'Worship of *what*, I wonder; their minds must have been some miles this side of heaven, it seems, to be drummed back so easily. But they were not all disturbed, though for old lady Bumble slept through the whole of it. I lined her by one of the pillars, and she didn't start a hair, I'll take my affydavy of it,' and he reloaded his meerschaum and became oblivious amid clouds of fragrant Turkish tobacco-smoke —*Boston Post.*

CAPE MAY.—We were much amused at an incident that took place on a late visit to the cape. A lady and gentleman were walking on the beach, the former carrying a lap-dog. A boy ran up to them, saying, "I'll drown it for you ma'am," presuming, of course, that no lady would carry a beast for the mere love of it, and that her purpose, being so near the water, was to drown it.—*Lady's Magazine.*

It is expected that Lieut *Newman*, of Vermont will be in Hartford in the course of a few days, and spend a few days here. Col. Seymour wrote to his sister, that Lieut. N., would probably stop here three or four days. He should be received in a becoming manner.—*Hartford Times.*

ORIGINAL.—Somebody tells the truth in this way:—

'The steed called lightning (says the Fates)
Is owned in the United States.
'Twas Franklin's hand that caught the [horse:
'Twas harnessed by Professor Morse.'
—*Boston Chronotype.*

Gen. Scot's Suggestions.

We learn from the N. O. Delta, that Gen. Scott has submitted his view in full to the President, and has suggested, for the consideration, three modes of settling our difficulties with Mexico:

1. To hold the City of Mexico and the other chief cities of the Republic; to take possession of the mines and public lands, and from them, as well as from other sources of revenue, to raise the means of paying the expenses of the war, and at the same time to occupy all the ports and seaboard and collect the imports on all articles introduced into Mexico from foreign countries, until the expenses of the War are defrayed, and an honorable peace concluded.

2dly. To occupy and hold a certain line, in the manner suggested by Gen. Taylor, Mr Calhoun and others.

3dly. To occupy the whole country, under martial law, until peace is concluded.

Laws of Vermont.

An act in relation to boards of civil authority.

It is hereby enacted, etc.

That whenever it shall become necessary to have a meeting of the board of civil authority, of any town in this State, for abatement of taxes or for any other purpose, the selectmen of said town, or either of them, shall, on application, appoint and notify such meeting, which notice shall be given personally to all the selectmen and justices of the peace of such town, previous to such meeting, or be posted up at three or more public places in such town, at least five days previous to said meeting; and the acts of a majority of the board of civil authority aforesaid, present at such meeting, shall be as good and valid, as though executed by the whole of said board of civil authority.

Approved Nov. 12, 1847.

An act for the prevention and punishment of the wilful and malicious obstruction of rail-roads.

It is hereby enacted, etc.

Sec. 1. If any person shall wilfully and maliciously, displace or remove any railway switch, or rail, of any rail-road, or shall break down, rip up, injure or destroy any rail road track, or rail-road bridge, or any portion thereof, or place any obstruction whatever on any such rail, or rail-road track or bridge, with intent that any person or property passing on and over such rail-road, should be injured thereby, and thereby put in jeopardy human life; every such person so offending, shall be punished by confinement to hard labor in the state prison, for a period not less than two years, according to the degree and aggravation of the offence.

Sec. 2. If, in consequence of any such wilful and malicious displacing, removal, breaking down, ripping up, injuring, destroying or placing any obstruction, as in the preceding section mentioned, with the intent therein set forth, any person passing on and over such railroad, shall actually suffer any bodily harm, or any property shall be injured, such actual suffering or injury shall be taken and adjudged as an additional aggravation of the offence, and the person offending shall be punished accordingly, by such further confinement to hard labor in the state prison, as the circumstances of the case may demand.

Sec. 3. If any person shall wilfully, and maliciously displace or remove any railway switch, or rail of any railroad, or shall break down, or rip up, injure or destroy any railroad track, or railroad bridge, or any portion thereof, or place any obstruction whatever, on any such rail, or railroad track, or bridge, with intent that any person or property passing on and over such railroad, should be injured thereby, and if, in consequence thereof, any person is killed, or the life of any person is lost, every person so offending, shall be deemed and taken to be guilty of manslaughter, and shall be liable to be indicted and tried for the crime of man-slaughter.

Approved Nov. 11, 1847.

An act relating Agricultural Societies.

It is hereby enacted, etc.

Sec. 1. Each Agricultural Society entitled to receive money from the State treasury, shall thro' its treasurer transmit to the treasurer of the State, in the month of October annually, a statement of the money as received from the State, together with the amount received from the members of said society for the preceding year, a statement of the expenditures of all such sums, and the number of the members of said society.

Sec. 2. Each Agricultural Society receiving money from the State as aforesaid, shall, previous to the month of February in each year, publish at their own expense the statements mentioned in the first section of this act, together with full statements of their experiments and improvements, and reports of their committees in one or more newspapers in the county in which said society is located, or of an adjoining county where no paper is published in the county where such society is located, and evidence that the requirements of this act have been complied with shall be furnished to the State treasurer, before he shall pay over to any county society the portion of the sum appropriated by the State, for the benefit of said society.

Approved Nov. 13, 1847.

An act to regulate the choice of a Council of Censors.

It is hereby enacted, etc.

Sec. 1. The first constable in each town in the State, or in his absence or inability, the town clerk or one or more of the selectmen, are hereby required, at least twelve days before the last Wednesday in March next, to warn a meeting of the freemen of their respective towns, to be held at the usual place of holding freeman's meeting, in such towns, on the last Wednesday in March next at one o'clock P. M. to give in their votes for thirteen persons whom they would choose for a council of Censors, as provided by the Constitution.—And the presiding officers are hereby required to open the meetings, and to call on the freemen of such town, from time to time, for the space of four hours, to give in their votes for thirteen persons whom they would choose for a council of Censors; which votes shall be sorted and counted by the presiding officer, with the assistance of the town clerk for the time being, and a list thereof recorded in the town clerk's office. And a certificate containing a list of the number of votes given for each person, signed by the presiding officer, and sealed up, and superscribed with the name of the town, and the words, "Votes for the Council of Censors," shall be made in the following form to wit:

State of Vermont

As a freeman's meeting, legally warned, and holden at in the County of on the last Wednesday in March, A. D. 1848, the votes of Council for Censors having been duly taken, sorted and counted, the following persons had the number of votes annexed to their names, respectfully, to wit:

——	——
——	——
——	——
——	——
——	——
——	——
——	——
——	——
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Given under hand at this day of March, A. D. 1848.

A. B first constable, town clerk or Selectmen, (as the case may be.)

And such presiding officer shall deliver such certificate, so sealed up, to the clerk, of the county court, in the county in which such votes were taken, within fourteen days from the taking of such votes; and the county clerks, aforesaid, shall receive said votes, and, on the Wednesday next following the first Monday in May next, at one o'clock P. M. shall meet together at the State House in Montpelier, and when convened, shall proceed to sort and count said votes, and shall certify to the Governor, the thirteen persons who have the highest number of votes, as elected Censors, within six days from the time of their meeting aforesaid; and the Governor shall, at the charge of the State, notify such persons officially of their election within twenty days.

Sec. 2. In case of the absence or disability of