

Weekly Times

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1877

THE LAST SENSATION.

We doubt whether there has been anything since Luther's time that created more profound sensation in ecclesiastical circles than the "new departure" on the subject of eternal punishment, set forth in Mr. Beecher's sermon last Sunday—of which a full synopsis is given in our supplement this morning. At the "Old Orchard House," of Congregational Ministers, a few weeks ago, the fact was developed, that a large number of the preachers of that denomination, "new doctrine" on the subject, and many of them a majority, in the whole number invited—declared that they did not preach the doctrine. That eminent Episcopalian Canon, Farrar, of England, in two sermons delivered recently to large congregations in Westminster Abbey, boldly avowed an utter disbelief in the doctrine of eternal punishment, as commonly taught from orthodox pulpits. "Was there any dignity of a human being," who did not revolt and shrink at the notion of a world of worm and flame? The words, "hell," "damnation" and "everlasting," he said, ought not to stand any longer in the English Bible, or in the mouth of any man. All three would be stricken out. While he could not preach the doctrine of universal salvation as a certainty, he found it supported by many passages of sacred writings, as well as taught by some of the early fathers. That a vast majority of the lost would finally be saved and saved, he firmly believed and unhesitatingly taught. This is very strange doctrine, from a Canon of the Church of England, and we are not surprised to learn that all England is talking about this clergyman's utterances. But it has been left to Mr. Beecher to take the most advanced ground on the subject, and in his sermon above referred to, he uses the most powerful language in his command, which is to denounce and utterly to destroy the doctrine. He says that such a doctrine could transform the Almighty into a monster more heinous than even Satan himself is supposed to be, and he declares that he cannot and will not believe it. He says men may tell him that he will not go to heaven if he does not believe it, and he answers:

THE FRENCH EXPOSITION.

Two sailing ships and a steamer will lie off the coast of France, and will be directed to the French International Exposition. The Commissioner of Agriculture will at once proceed to prepare for an extensive display of cotton, tobacco, wool, Indian corn, sugar, rice and other products of this country. He also intends to exhibit a choice collection of different kinds of food of this country. Gov. Croft, the Commissioner-General, will this week issue rules and regulations concerning the application for space and the transportation of goods.

A BAPTIST CREED FOR HARD TIMES.

The Philadelphia Baptists have declared that the commercial and industrial depression of the country are due to moral causes, such as selfishness, greed of gain, public and private dishonesty, waste, recklessness, and a disregard of the rights of man and the laws of God. The remedy which they propose for these crying evils is prayer. As if the good people haven't been praying all these years.

BOSTON CHURCHES.

The Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott after a visit to Boston, writes about the churches of that city. He says that many of them are burdened with heavy debts, and that the number is far greater than the need. Edward Everett Hale's congregation is small and not increasing. Starr King's old chapel is no longer crowded. James Freeman Clarke has transferred his evening service to a hall. Adirondack Church's work, "judged by the standards applied to other churches, and pulpits, is a failure and he has little or no church."

FAST LIVING.

It is a very common thing in this country, to talk about the French, and to say that they are "fast" people; such people generally do not attain very long life, and the most of the prominent men in France today in literature or politics are old men—many of them from seventy to ninety years of age—Julius Armand Dufaure, head of the new ministry, being in his eightieth year. These facts would seem to show that our countrymen of French descent and habits are not correct.

DEMANDING A REVISON OF THE CREED.

The diversity of views among the Congregationalists of New England regarding the doctrine of eternal punishment, have led to a revision of the creed. A manifesto was issued, in which was a manifestation of it, the other day, in Hartford. It would be convenient, now, to hold a sort of Varian Council, and promulgate a statement of the dogma which is to be accepted as a part of the Congregationalist creed.

PAYING OFF CHURCH DEBTS.

The movement for the wiping out of church debts is gaining force. Reports from New York, Chicago, and other cities show that a regular mortgage lifting campaign has commenced, and that so far the results are of a most encouraging character. The churches are probably paying off more debt than any other city or city in the country, yet the are congregations here carrying uncomfortable loads.

ST. ENGLANDS TURN NOW.

Sitting Hall, having tried his allegiance to the "Union" and "Mother," is again within the benediction of the United States in quest of scalp and plunder. The Cincinnati Gazette says it is now in order for the British Government to send a commission to interview him.

WESTERN MINORITIES.

It is reported that ex-Senator Hillebrand, of Nebraska, is to be appointed consular general at Paris, vice General Torbert, whose commission expires in January next.

FRANCE IN RUIN.

The telephone is spreading all over Europe. In Germany it is now a part of the post-office system. It is more general use in that country than in the United States, because, nothing is paid to the patentee; whereas, here, every telephone pays an annual charge of \$50. If the tax were not so high it would be more generally employed. The English Post Office Department has adopted the telephone as a part of its telegraph system. In a recent telephonic experiment in connection with the cable, twenty-one and three-quarter miles long between Dover and Calais, there was not the slightest failure during a period of two months. Through three other wires were busy at the same time, every word was heard through the telephone, and individual voices were distinguished.

AN IMPORTANT ITEM.

One of the ways in which the ill wind in the East blow good to the United States, is illustrated by the fact that the famous Russian locomotive company in Philadelphia, have just received orders from the Russian Government for the construction of forty large first class engines, of five feet gauge, to be completed during February and March, 1878. The Russian Government has advanced nearly all the railroad stock in the country, and is in a position to build a large number of railroads.

MY AVIARY.

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

Through my north window, in the Winty weather, I watch the river flow. I watch the water as they flock together. When the boatman flatters his dripping coat, I do not answer, but sit looking down on the smooth, pebbly stream, and think that my hands would keep striking, and on the long yellow hair that hung down over the shoulders in waves, and in spite of myself I thought of my lips. I did not answer, but sit looking down on the smooth, pebbly stream, and think that my hands would keep striking, and on the long yellow hair that hung down over the shoulders in waves, and in spite of myself I thought of my lips.

THE PIE MAN.

SOME PERSON HAS WRITTEN A CIRCULAR FOR THE PEOPLE.

Some person has written a circular for the people, who is called "The North-Western Mutual Life Insurance Company" of Milwaukee, in this city, and the fellow feels as proud as a child with a new toy—in fact so proud as if he himself was the author. "There is nothing in it," and were it not for the fellow's audacity, and his persisting in false statements, the comparison of dividends would be amusing. If it were not intended to deceive the public, as most all publications issued by the Company are, for instance he falsifies figures to show that the dividends of the New York Life for 1876 are 8 per cent. less than the "North-Western," when in fact they are one per cent. greater. As I shall not have time to state the details of the falsifications, I will only say that the Company's dividends are 8 per cent. less than the "North-Western," when in fact they are one per cent. greater.

THE NEW YORK LIFE.

The premium income of the New York Life for the year 1876, is given at \$2,565,805.47. The Company paid dividends as follows: Cash, \$38,505,161; notes, \$941,653.59; then the greatest want to bring in as dividends \$2,565,805.47, which is \$941,653.59 less than the premium income. Instead of answering the charges of swindling and fraud against his company, he has taken the opportunity to bring in a new set of figures, and says his company has a claim against the Government of \$4,846,241, when he knows that he has a good and valid claim against the Government of \$4,846,241.

THE NEW CALIFORNIA SENATOR.

HE ENJOYS FREE TRADE AND THE SILVER DOLLAR.

In view of Hon. James T. Farley's "United States Senator for the term beginning the 4th of March, 1878, a report of an interview with him, printed in the San Francisco Call of the 10th inst., becomes of general interest. The reporter thus describes him: "He is a man of large and rather heavy frame, whose dark hair and full beard are sprinkled with silver, and whose eyes look like those of a hawk. He is a man of large and rather heavy frame, whose dark hair and full beard are sprinkled with silver, and whose eyes look like those of a hawk."

GATHERED ROSES.

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