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The Eastern Mail (Vol. 15, No. 21): November 28, 1861

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Daniel Ripley Wing

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The Long Winter Evenings.

Notwithstanding the present fine weather, we cannot ignore the fact that the short, cold days are approaching, each to be followed by a long warm evening, by way of compensation. The winter evenings are, during the cold season, an important part of our waking life, and one that tends to give a coloring to the whole of it. They will be delightful or dismal, pernicious or profitable according to the manner in which they are employed. Let no one fancy that he can do his duty to himself and others if he spends the next hundred evening reading alone in his room. The book may be instructive, moral, religious; but to the solitary reader it will impart an imperfect lesson, a repentance that ought to be repented of. The practical benefit can never be a healthy-minded man. It is common and just, to speak of the snarers and the temptations of the world, and one of them is a tendency, within the world to withdraw from it as much as possible. The social talent was not designed for the folds of a napkin, and with most people the evening affords the best opportunity for the free commerce of words and thoughts. When the days are briefest and blankest, let this thought lie warm at every heart. To fight I shall meet with intelligent and kindly faces, neighbor or friend, fair woman or winsome child, not overlooking the silent sympathy of a sagacious dog. I shall borrow impulse and inspiration from my friends, and though now a beggar, I shall give as well as take.

Of course, a part of the coming evenings will be spent at amusing exhibitions, or in attending parties of pleasure. These last are open to two objections—late hours and need less expense. If human beings cannot meet without a display that gratifies their vanity, they should at least make that display when the eyes that are to enjoy it are not already weary with watching. Still, the custom may be tolerated till a better obtains. An occasional visit, with agreeable associates, may be more refreshing than the soundest solitary sleep. It is better to see our friends at midnight than to never see them at all. But a great deal more may be made of the neighborly call, and above all, of the fireside at home. On no account let the latter become a silent meeting. Let not the father of the family become absorbed in book or paper, while wife and children sit in mute constraint, or worse still, converse in surreptitious whispers, checked by his gathering frown. Let the good man remember that *familiar* is derived from *familiar* and is defined—'accustomed by frequent converse, well acquainted with, intimate, close.' It is true that many persons have been members of the same family for years, without being in the least degree intimate with each other; but so it shall not be among you in the light of the already kindled fires.

One evening in a week may well be devoted to lectures, where lectures are accessible, and the village lyceum, if well conducted, is an excellent substitute where they are not. A correspondent writes requesting us to advocate social reading circles, where young people may meet to discuss printed history, poetry and essays, and to offer their own humble efforts in the same direction in a manuscript form. This would be a capital idea in one respect at least. It would give to the brief immortality of an hour, productions that never otherwise could hope to meet the smallest fraction of an appreciative public. It would relieve many an editorial waste basket from constitutional plethora, and restore to a grateful parent the feeble foundlings which, consigned to its cold charities, now perish from neglect. These reading circles, so beautiful in theory, are apt to fall into one of two practical errors. The reading and writing is wont to be of the highest description, degenerating into mere nonsense and buffoonery; or, in avoiding this folly, the articles to be read are so decorously dull that nobody remains to hear. There is a happy medium between these two extremes. Works may be found, brisk, sparkling and readable, which will interest and instruct a village audience and call out its latent power. Our friend assures us that the experiment has been successfully tried, and we hope it may be repeated wherever circumstances favor. But, however these coming evenings are to be spent, whether in books, or beautiful play, or anything except arson and burglary, let them not be spent alone.

[Springfield Republican.]

AN EXPLANATION.—Some able and excellent men are never able to adapt their phrases to the comprehension of children. A man of this class, a learned theological professor, was once engaged to address a Sunday school. He read a number of verses from the Bible, and then said: 'children, I intend to give you a summary of the truth contained in this portion of the Scripture.'

Here the pastor touched him, and suggested that he had better explain to the children what 'summary' meant.

So he turned around and said to the children—

'Your pastor wants me to explain what summary means, and I will do so. Well, children, summary is an abbreviated synopsis of a thing!'

TO LET.—There are more things 'to let' than are placarded. Hearts are to let every day; old hearts, young hearts, stricken hearts—all empty—all to let.

There are hands to let; to any new thing, to aims, ologies, and lists; heads without a repent.

There are hands to let. Hands plump and fair; hands lean and brown. Those to love, those to labor; those for rage, and those for tings.

There are consciences to let; elastic, accommodating, cautious; at five per cent. a month, sixty per cent. a year. To let on bond and mortgage, and a pound of flesh.

And so it goes, from soda to souls; almost everything to let; almost everything with its price; everything in the market but griefs. They are never quoted, never at a premium, never 'to let.'

IT'S VERY HARD.—It's very hard to have nothing to eat but porridge, when others have every sort of dainty; 'muttered Charlie,' as he sat with his wooden bowl before him.

It's very hard to have to get up so early on these bitter cold mornings, and work hard all day, when others can enjoy themselves without an hour of labor.

It's very hard to have to trudge along through the snow, while others roll about in their coaches.

It's a great blessing, said his grandmother, as she sat at her knitting, 'it's a great blessing to have a roof over one's head, when so many are homeless; it's a great blessing to have sight, and hearing, and strength for daily labor, when so many are blind, deaf, or suffering.'

Why, grandmother, you seem to think that nothing is hard,' said the boy still in a grumbling tone.

No, Charlie, there is one thing that I think very hard.

What's that? cried Charlie, who thought that at last his grandmother had found some cause for complaint.

Why, boy, I think that heart is very hard that is not thankful for so many blessings.

The Eastern Mail.

VOL. XV.

WATERVILLE, MAINE.... THURSDAY, NOV. 28, 1861.

NO. 21.

The Eastern Mail.

EPH. MAXHAM, DANIEL R. WING, EDITORS.

WATERVILLE... NOV. 28, 1861.

AGENTS FOR THE MAIL.

S. M. PATTENBELL & CO., Newspaper Agents, No. 10 State street, Boston, and 119 Nassau street, New York, are Agents for the Eastern Mail, and are authorized to receive advertisements and subscriptions, at the same rates as required at this office.

S. R. NILES, (successor to Y. B. Palmer), Newspaper Advertising Agent, No. 1 Scollay's Building, Court street, Boston, is authorized to receive advertisements at the same rates as required by us.

Advertisers abroad are referred to the agents named above.

ALL LETTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

Relating either to the business or editorial department of this paper, should be addressed to 'MAXHAM & WING, or 'EASTERN MAIL OFFICE.'

ALAS! TOO LATE!—No, not an hour too late, but just in the nick of time! This Fall has gone too far past, but now is the time to see that next Spring don't glide by in the same way.

We are talking of apple trees!—either Spring or Fall is the right time, and here are 70,000 trees at Mr. Gilbreth's Island Nursery, Kendall's Mills, just adapted to this section, every one of which ought to be set within a circle of ten miles, to keep pace with the increasing demand for apples. The old orchards are starving to death, and no extent of warning will help them to meet the increasing demand upon them. Many of them are beyond the reach of aid, and the best of them are but half cared for—like the horse whose owner buys oats by the dozen. It is time, and high time, to be providing new orchards. Fifteen years ago the farmers of Kennebec were predicting that this branch of farming was in danger of being overdone by setting so many young orchards!—during which time the crop has fallen a hundred per cent. behind the market demand, and it takes four bushels of potatoes to buy a bushel of apples! And still not one farmer in ten gets his eyes open, enough to see what he ought to do—and to do it.

Gen. Capen is now 'stumping' the neighboring towns, for the sale of Mr. Gilbreth's trees, and we cannot do the farmers a greater favor than to advise them to secure enough for an orchard. No better opportunity can offer; and if the whole cannot be done, let a beginning be made, while the ground is preparing for an additional outlay. These trees possess the advantage of having been raised in our climate and on our soil; and we commend the General to the good will of all into whose presence his genial face may ask admission. If they would ever begin an orchard, now is the time.

ARRIVAL. Lieut. Col. Heath, of the 5th Maine regiment, late captain of Co. H, 3d reg't—arrived at his home in Waterville on Wednesday evening. He is in fine health, and full of hope for the coming strife on the Potomac, for which he expects to return in season. The Fifth is in camp near Alexandria, in command of Col. Jackson, who has recovered from his late severe sickness.

DIED. Mr. John Emery, one of the oldest men in Waterville, died very suddenly Tuesday afternoon, at the age of 84 years and 4 months. He had been in nearly his usual health; and a few minutes before his decease stepped out at a back door, a few steps from which he was found dead—the weary pulse having apparently sunk under the burden of old age. 'Uncle John' boasted neither great talents or hoarded wealth, and yet few faces would be more missed in the little circle to which infirmity had so long limited his daily walk, or among those with whom his humble and honest piety, for a few of his last years, had constituted a social bond.

KIND.—Augusta papers say that Sheriff Hatch fed some forty prisoners on roast turkey on Thanksgiving day, at the county jail. We understand the Sheriff is somewhat given to weaknesses of this kind, and this is by no means one of his best jokes.

CHANGES. A letter to the Ken Journal says Col. Tucker, of the 3d reg't, has resigned, and Maj. E. Burt taken his place. Captain Sampson, of Co. D, is elected major. Lieut. Colson, of Co. C, has resigned.

SNOW. Several days of mingled snow and rain have resulted in any quantity of mingled wheeling and sleighing. A small quantity of either of the former would now secure a good quality of either of the latter.

QUICK SALES. A great place for either buyers or sellers of all kinds of property, at Dr. Littlefield's Auction Room, at the old brick store, next door to J. P. Caffrey, Main Street. Everything sells rapidly there; and those who have furniture or other articles to dispose of, or goods of any kind to consign, will do well to commit them to the Doctor. His evening sales, as well as those during the day, are well attended; and whether you want to buy or sell, go there for good bargains.

THE SLAVE TRADE. The Montreal Transcript pays the present U. S. Government a deserved compliment for its energetic and successful prosecution of parties engaged in the slave trade who fit out their vessels at Northern ports. After rehearsing the course of past administrations in such matters, which it says was evidently intended to facilitate rather than check the slave trade, and the operations of the slave traders hitherto, the Transcript remarks:

All this we believe we may congratulate the Lincoln Administration on having put a stop to, by the firmness and energy with which they have, through the law courts, conducted the prosecution of Gordon. All honor to

them in the midst of a trying contest on other matters, for steadily determining to accomplish what their predecessors, whether from apathy or inability, failed to perform. If there be blots in their escutcheon in other respects, this honest act will suffice to efface many of them. It will do much to convince the world of their determination to carry out the principles on which their party is formed, of checking, at all events, the progress of slavery, and retaining within its present limits, if they cannot yet still it altogether.

WHAT THE 'LOUISVILLE JOURNAL' SAYS.—We do not believe that even in this age of cheap publications any work can be more reasonable than the terms of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN at \$2 per annum, with twenty five per cent. discount for clubs of ten. It forms a yearly volume of 832 pages quarto, with an immense number of original engravings of patented machines, valuable inventions, and objects of scientific interest. There is not an industrial pursuit which does not receive a share of its attention. It contains official lists of patent claims, important statistics, practical recipes for useful domestic purposes, and has long stood, both in this country and Europe, as the highest authority in the mechanic arts and sciences. There is no publication more valuable to the farmer, the miller, the engineer, the iron founder, the mechanic, or the manufacturer. We have never opened a number without learning something we never knew before, and obtaining valuable information for the benefit of our readers.—The Publishers, Messrs. MUNN & Co., of 37 Park Row, New York, have deserved the success which they have achieved. No one should visit that city without calling at their palatial establishment, which is a museum of inventive genius, collected from the entire world. If any of our friends away off in the country do not know this work, and will take our advice, they will mail \$2 and become subscribers immediately, or by applying to the Publishers they can obtain a specimen copy gratis, which will be sure to confirm the truth of our recommendation.

We fully endorse the above, and would recommend our readers to take Prentice's advice, and subscribe for the paper. A new volume commences on the first of January, and it being a valuable work of reference, containing, as it does, the only official list of patent claims published in the country, every number should be preserved. The paper is published every Saturday, by the well known patent agents, Messrs. MUNN & Co., who have conducted the paper during the past sixteen years.

In addition to furnishing specimen copies of the paper gratis, the publishers will send a pamphlet of advice to inventors, free of charge.

Address, MUNN & Co., 37 Park Row, New York City.

The 12th Maine Regiment, forming a part of Gen. Butler's New England Division, embarked on board of the Forest City, at Portland, on Sunday, the accommodations of the Constellation not proving sufficient. They go to Fortress Monroe, but their ultimate destination is a secret.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER.—We invite attention to an advertisement of this sterling agricultural publication in another column, just adding that, important as full and reliable reports of the markets are to every farmer, they are but a small part of what one gets for his money who subscribes for this paper. We know of no publication better adapted to meet the wants of the farming community, than the New England Farmer.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE.—In closing an article, reviewing the business operations of the season, which is cheerful and hopeful throughout, the Boston Journal says:—

On the whole we may say of the business and finance of the closing year, that none but the 'croakers' have been disappointed, and of the prospects before us that they are sufficiently encouraging if the same prudence which has lately prevailed is still adhered to by consumers and importers. If no man buys till he has the money ready to pay, business will be prosperous and profitable and money plenty.

THIRDS WEEKLIES.—The publishers of the Kennebec Journal and Age, during the coming session of the Legislature, will publish three weeklies, as usual, and as they will be issued on alternate days, a daily report of the doings of the Legislature, as well as the news of the day, will be furnished to subscribers. The terms will be \$1 for each.

A correspondent of the Lewiston Journal represents the Maine 5th as in fine condition, bearing favorable comparison with the best in its vicinity. This regiment suffered originally for want of competent officers, but under Col. Jackson and Heath, and with official changes in several companies, it has come to rank well with the best of the Maine regiments.

FAIRFIELD SEMINARY.—The Winter Term of Miss Bonker's flourishing school, at Kendall's Mills, commenced on Tuesday last, with flattering prospects, and under circumstances that promise well for the improvement of the pupils. Miss Lebard, a popular and accomplished teacher, is now domiciliated at this school, and the advantages of this arrangement to students in French, by affording opportunity for conversation in that language, will be obvious to all. Mr. C. P. Baldwin, one of the best teachers in the State, is also retained, and his energy and efficiency will do much to promote the usefulness of the school. Good teachers are provided for the other departments, and Miss Bonker presides over all with wonderful tact and tireless vigilance. The number of pupils in attendance at this school, during the seven terms of its existence, has been 600; and it is regarded as one of the best schools on the river, as it is certainly one of the most flourishing.

OUR TABLE.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY.—In our notice of the December number of this periodical, last week, we made no mention of the good things which the publishers have already in hand for the coming year. These are enumerated below:—

Professor Agassiz will begin in the January number a series of articles on Natural History, and other kindred topics, to be continued from month to month throughout the year. The name of so distinguished a man of science in connection with this announcement, is a sufficient guaranty of the great benefit to be derived from his monthly contributions. A New Romance by Nathaniel Hawthorne, will appear in the pages of the Atlantic early in the year. A New Story by the late Theodore Winthrop, author of 'Cecil Dreeme,' will be commenced in the January number. Dr. George B. Winship, well known for his remarkable experiments in Gymnastics, has written for the Atlantic 'The Autobiography of a Strength Seeker,' giving an account of his method of obtaining for feats of strength, with advice on matters of health. The author of 'Life in the Iron Mills,' and 'A Story of To-Day,' will contribute a series of Tales during the year. Articles by Professor James Russell Lowell, on topics of National interest, will appear frequently. Bayard Taylor has written a story which will be printed in the February number.

Many other able writers are to be employed, and no expense will be spared by the enterprising publishers to improve the Atlantic, and make each succeeding number better than its predecessors. Published by Ticknor & Fields, Boston, at \$3 a year, with liberal discount to clubs.

BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE.—The following is a list of the articles in the November number, just issued:—Chronicles of Carlingford: The Doctor's Family, No. 2. How the world Treats Discoverers. Captain Clatterbuck's Champagne—A West Indian Reminiscence—Part 2. Mr. Buckle's Scientific Errors. Sir Cresswell Cresswell. The Stage of Weimar. The Island Sea of Japan. The Crumming System. M. Ernest Renan. The Reconciliation. The Search. The Late Earl of Eglington.

LONDON QUARTERLY. The October number of this quarterly, American edition, from the press of L. Scott & Co. New York, is received. The leading article is entitled 'The Life of Shelley.' The other articles are: 'Enterprise and Peril in Coal Mines; The Immortality of Nature; Newton as a Scientific Discoverer; The Growth of English Poetry; Plutarch; Education of the Poor; Alexis De Tocqueville; Church Bazaar.'

The four Great British Quarterly Reviews and Blackwood's Monthly, are promptly issued by L. Scott & Co. 64 Gold Street, New York. Terms of subscription: any one of the four Reviews \$3 per annum any two Reviews \$5; any three Reviews \$7, all four Reviews \$8; Blackwood's Magazine \$3; Blackwood and three Reviews \$9; Blackwood and the four Reviews \$10—with large discount to clubs. In all the principal cities and towns, these works will be delivered free of postage. When sent by mail, the postage to any part of the U. S. States will be but 24 cents a year for 'Blackwood,' and but 14 cents a year for each of the Reviews.

ARTHUR'S HOME MAGAZINE.—The December number has a fine steel engraving, entitled 'Sketching from Nature,' two spirited wood engravings of touching domestic scenes, and numerous patterns and designs of articles for the toilet, &c. The literature of the number is of the pure and elevated character that has always characterized the contents of this monthly, which is truly a Home Magazine. 'Nothing but Money,' an interesting story by T. S. Arthur, which has run through the volume just closed, is finished in the present number, but we are to learn 'What Came Afterwards,' in a sequel which will appear in the coming volume. Virginia F. Townsend, in addition to other contributions, will also furnish a serial, entitled 'Belle Fields of Our Fathers,' which will be of course be looked for with much interest. We refer our readers, for terms, premiums, &c., to the prospectus for the coming volume, in our advertising columns.

THE GENESEE FARMER.—The December number of this well known and truly excellent agricultural journal is received. We are not surprised at its immense circulation. It furnishes just such information as every farmer and gardener needs—no matter where he is located. It costs only Fifty Cents a Year! This is surely cheap enough for such a paper, but we observe that the publisher offers to send the remaining numbers of this year free to all who subscribe at this time for the volume for 1862! We advise every one of our agricultural and horticultural friends to subscribe at once. Send the fifty cents in postage stamps to JOSEPH HARRIS, Rochester, N. Y., or get one of your neighbors to join you, and send a dollar bill.

YOUTH'S CASSETTE AND PLAYMATE. Of the good things provided for the amusement and instruction of the little folks in the November number we enumerate the following:—'Not Now,' 'Wishy and Worky,' 'Things to be Seen in the Country,' 'Kindness to Animals,' 'The King and the Locusts,' a humorous dialogue, a half dozen pages of excellent Chat Chat, a very filled puzzle department, &c. &c. Some very pretty illustrations are also given, enhancing the value and interest of the number. Published by William Guild & Co., Boston, at \$1 a year.

NEW MUSIC.—The following pieces of music have just been published by Oliver Ditson & Co., the well known Boston music dealers:—

In Memoriam: Gen. Baker's Funeral March. By J. W. Tower. The Hero of Wake. A Ballad, by Brinsley Richards. 'Off Again.' Answer to 'Home Again.' Song and chorus by Marshall S. Pike. McCallan's Serenade. Addressed to the Union Army. A Quartette. Words by Lt. Col. F. S. McCallan. 4th Maine Regiment; music by S. K. Whiting, of the Regimental Band.

Saints a La Fille. From La Fille du Regiment. By Adelphi Baumbach. Marked away cheerily. By Geo. H. Russell.

All the above, with other publications of the same house, will be found at C. K. Mathews's, Waterville.

WAR OF REDEMPTION.—The newspapers continue to speculate upon the probable action of Great Britain upon the Mason and Slidell capture. The reported outbreak on the part of Lord Lyons is denied, and the prevalent opinion is that the affair will not seriously complicate the relations of the two countries.

The Tribune's Washington correspondent says that the soldiers at Beaufort and the slaves on the island will soon be picking the ungathered cotton. The former, under an order from the War Department, the latter upon the impulse of wages directed to be paid them by Gen. Sherman. It is also probable that the cultivation of the Sea Island for the next crop of cotton will be contracted for with some responsible Yankee, who will be required to employ the slaves abandoned by their masters.

A letter from Port Royal announces the death of Gen. Drayton, who had command of the rebel forces at Port Royal. It is said he was wounded in the foot, and died on the retreat. He was a man of great wealth and large military experience.

A Washington letter says that accounts coming from below Fairfax and the region of Manassas report that there is great uneasiness among the South Carolina and Georgia troops,

and they have demanded the privilege of returning home to defend their own States; but it will not be permitted, as the rebels are daily expecting an attack from McClellan. The rebel army is suffering from the cold weather.

Roanoke Island, which the rebels have abandoned, is at the mouth of Albemarle Sound, about forty miles north of Cape Hatteras, and near enough to the ocean to command Oregon Inlet. They had respectable works there.

A 'rat hole fleet,' as it is humorously called, has sailed for the South under sealed orders.

It consists of sixteen large vessels loaded with stone, which will be sunk in the entrances to certain harbors, an effectual way of blockading, truly.

Matters in Eastern Virginia are going along finely. The rebel force in the two counties of Accomac and Northampton has been disbanded, and the Union men are jubilant.

Representatives from thirty seven counties appeared at the convention just assembled in Western Virginia.

It is said that Government has determined to treat Mason and Slidell, in all respects, as the rebels treat Col. Corcoran and the other officers held as hostages for the pirates confined in northern prisons.

The privateer B. Bauregard, and the schooner Adelaide, of Nassau, bound for Savannah, have been captured by our vessels.

Through rebel channels, we get news of an engagement at Fort Pickens, which resulted in the burning of the town of Warrington. The rebels claim to have breached Fort Pickens with great Federal loss, and driven off the Niagara and Colorado. Further advices, through different channels, are of course looked for with much interest.

In the same way we learn that three companies of Gen. Sherman's command had an engagement with the rebels and were compelled to retreat with the loss of eight men. Our forces were retreating Beaufort.

Affairs are in a very unsatisfactory state in Missouri. The town of Warsaw was burned by the rebels recently, and a government train captured between Sedalia and Leavenworth. One account has it that McCulloch and Price are both advancing to give our forces battle, and another that by the disbanding of Price's troops, the country is filled with roving bands of rebels who are doing great mischief. More energetic measures are evidently called for in that State.

In East Tennessee, the Unionists are giving the rebels much trouble.

Good news is promised us from Kentucky, soon.

In Western Virginia, Floyd has been compelled to retreat in great haste, and many of the troops opposed to him will go into active service in other quarters.

REPORTS OF THE SECRETARIES.—As the forthcoming reports of the Secretaries approach completion, we get some inkling of their contents. Mr. Cameron, the Secretary of War, it is said, will make a distinct avowal of his policy of placing arms in the hands of slaves willing to use them for the cause of the Union. Mr. Cameron will appeal to Congress and to the Governors of States to practice the closest economy, and will sternly require economy and accountability from all subordinates in the bureau and the army and the field. Mr. Cameron's report will also probably contain recommendations that will go far to abolish the distinctions between regulars and volunteers. Among these will be the repeal of the regulation which confers rank upon the regular officer over the volunteer of the same grade.

Mr. Chase's report will recommend necessarily a large increase of revenue duties, particularly on woollens, iron, sugar and other articles. The largest increase will be on woollens. It is said that Mr. Chase will fully develop the theory that the slaves in the rebel States should be employed under wages to raise cotton, sugar, rice and tobacco for government account.

THE CONTRABAND CONTROVERSY.—At the reception given to Mr. Prentice, of the Louisville Journal, at Washington, a few evenings since, Secretary Cameron reiterated his decided terms the doctrine previously advanced in Col. Cochrane's speech and endorsed by himself at the time. Secretary Smith, of the Department of the Interior, took issue with him, and said that, with our superior numbers and credit, our powerful navy, and the righteousness of our cause, we could conquer the rebellious States without resorting to the extreme policy advocated by Mr. Cameron. He also declared explicitly that the policy of Mr. Cameron is not the policy of the Administration. Robert J. Walker and Senator McDougal followed on the same side, strongly endorsing the conservative views of Secretary Smith.

A respectable newspaper correspondent says that the Cabinet stands four to three against freeing the slaves and putting arms in their hands to put down the rebellion. General Cameron, Secretaries Chase and Welles favor it, and Seward, Bates, Blair and Smith oppose it. The most bitter opposition is made by Smith, Blair and Seward. The President is understood to favor it.

Samuel Hanes, acting sailing master of the Ottawa, at the taking of Beaufort, writes to his family in Waterville, a lively sketch of their doings; but the miscarriage of the letter throws its details behind what we have already given. He says, 'The blacks think the Yankees are a great people. They come to us from all quarters for protection. A boat load of women and children came along side, telling

us their masters were shooting them to prevent their coming among us.' He says they are luxuriating upon oranges and sweet potatoes, in a most delightful climate.

The brig Elsinore, of Bangor, recently captured by privateers, we are sorry to learn was partly owned by our townsman, Dr. Porter—reported one eighth, he having recently sold another eighth. She was 283 tons register.

Skating has commenced at the Bay, and we shall soon see the ice covered with women—or snow.

THE TENDENCY OF SORROW.—Nearly all sorrow has in it the same tendency. While it lasts it depresses action, crushes hope, and destroys energy, but it renders the sensitiveness more acute, the sympathies more genial, and the whole character less selfish and more considerate. It is said that in nature, but for the occasional seasons of drought, the best lands would soon degenerate, but these seasons cause the lands to suck up from the currents beneath, with the moisture, all those mineral manures that restore and fertilize the soil above. It is thus with sickness and sorrow—once surmounted, they fertilize the character and develop from the deep fountains of the human heart a joy and fruitfulness not otherwise attainable.

Keep cool! is a good motto, always. Nobody ever injured himself by being cool and circumspect in deeds and dictation, but thousands have gone to ruin by giving way to a hasty temper and a disposition to act precipitately. 'When first tempted to throw a stone,' says an old writer, 'first ascertain if you can do it without stooping; if not, let it alone.' Better advice could not be given: for, although 'revenge is sweet,' its means are generally degrading; and although it is gratifying to cast rocks at one we dislike it is impossible to do it without stooping most ungracefully to procure missiles for the purpose. So keep cool by all means. Let others fret and fume and grow indignant; but ever maintain, if you can, an equanimity that is proof against the blandishments of pretended friends and the malignity of open enemies.

THE EVER PRESENT SHINGLES.—In the time of General Jackson, a man of some note in Western Missouri built a house, and in doing so placed the shingles the wrong way—big end uppermost. Soon the rain came and as a 'physical consequence' the roof failed to turn it off—it came right through. In great tribulation he sought the counsels of his friends. The difficulty was soon obviated; but he was greatly annoyed by allusion to the circumstance. He made a speech, and a Whig paper, showing that he misrepresented matters, said he 'put the shingles on the wrong way!'

He accepted the appointment of land receiver, and the same paper copying the announcement, called attention to it in this manner:—

The notice was shown to the persecuted gent, and, as soon as his eyes fell upon the index and exclamation points, he sprang up, and in a frenzy of rage exclaimed:—

'Confound the newspapers—there are those shingles again, butt end uppermost!'

NOT TOO MUCH AT ONCE.—Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, in a recent lecture in England, said:—'Many persons seeing me so much engaged in active life, and as much about the world as if I had never been a student, have said to me, "Where do you get time to write all your books?" How on earth do you contrive to do so much work?' I shall surprise you by the answer I make. The answer is this: 'I contrive to do so much by never doing too much at a time. A man, to get thro' work well, must not overwork himself, or, if he do too much work to day he will be obliged to do too little to-morrow.' Now, since I began really and earnestly to study, which was not till I had left college, and was actually in the world, I may perhaps say that I have gone through as large a course of general reading as most men of my time. I have travelled much and have seen much; I have mixed much in politics, and the various businesses of life; and in addition to all this, I have published somewhere about sixty volumes—some upon subjects requiring much research. And what time do you think, as a general rule, I have devoted to study—to reading and writing? Not more than three hours a day; and when Parliament is sitting, not always that. But then, during these hours, I have given my whole attention to what I was about.'

PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE REFORMATORY.—A novel and interesting application of the art is now in daily use at the famous Mettray colony, near Tours, which is the first and most celebrated reformatory established in France for young convicts. Every urchin brought to this house of correction has his portrait taken the moment he sets foot in it, and another is made on the day of his leaving. The first represents the rage, dirt and misery, the physical and moral degradation, the prematurely careworn features, the scowling, cowering, timid, uneasy and withal ferocious look of the born thief. The second shows the same individual transformed by the magic of judicious discipline, which includes physical comfort and kind treatment. His dress is now clean and neat, and his countenance is redolent of health, contentment, benevolence and energy. Philosophy had never, in any age, a grander subject for contemplation than two such pictures. More than one of the English reformatories adopt a similarly interesting record of the good they effect.

SERVANTS AND MISTRESSES.—'Maria,' said a lady to a colored chambermaid, 'that is the third silk dress you have worn since you came to me; pray how many do you own?' 'Only seven, miss; but I'm saving my wages to buy another.'

'Seven? What use are seven silk dresses to you? Why I don't own so many as that.' 'Specs not, miss,' said the smiling darkey: 'You doesn't need 'em so much as I does. You quality white folks everybody knows is quality; but we bettermost kind ob colored pusses has to dress smart to 'tinguish ourselves from common niggers.'

So, critics, who denounce the present extravagant style of dress, be leucist, and when the paraphernalia of hoops and founces, silks, velvets and laces, is very astounding, think—Well, poor things! they must do something to 'tinguish themselves from common folks.'

PROBABLE FAMINE IN IRELAND.—The news from Ireland in relation to the destruction of the potato crop, by rot, continues to be of a very gloomy character, and the most serious apprehensions seem to be entertained that the want and distress which marked the period of the famine of 1847 will again ensue. The English and Irish press devote considerable space to the subject, and manifest much alarm.

HORRID SITUATION.—Jeff Davis's message reminds Col. Forney of Rufus Choate's famous exclamation at the predicament of a

