

The Greensborough Patriot.

VOLUME IX

GREENSBOROUGH, NORTH-CAROLINA, FEBRUARY 12, 1848.

NUMBR 44

Published Weekly
BY SWAIM & SHERWOOD.

PRICE, THREE DOLLARS A YEAR,
OR \$2.50, IF PAID WITHIN ONE MONTH AFTER THE DATE
OF SUBSCRIPTION.
A failure on the part of any customer to order a discontinuance within the subscription year, will be considered indicative of his wish to continue the paper.

THE PATRIOT.

A LETTER FROM THE HON. JOHN McLEAN.

From the Cincinnati Gazette.

The following letter was written to a gentleman in this State, and has been furnished us for publication. The opinions of our distinguished men, upon the war and the means of ending it, should be known. Judge McLean occupies a high official position, and has been named, and has many friends in the several States, for the Presidency. His opinions and suggestions will be highly appreciated, and tend to direct the public attention to the ruinous consequences of this war:

WASHINGTON, JAN. 7, 1848.
MY DEAR SIR: To all human appearance the termination of this miserable war with Mexico is more remote than when the first blow was struck. In my judgment it was unnecessary and unconstitutional to commence by marching our army into disputed territory in the possession of Mexico; and I think that Congress, who unquestionably have the power, should put an end to the war on just and honorable principles.

After agreeing upon the terms on which a treaty should be made, they should call upon the Executive by resolution to offer a peace to Mexico upon that basis; and during the negotiation hostilities should be suspended. If the President shall refuse to do this, in the military appropriation bills the army should be required to take such positions as shall carry out the views of Congress. These bills the President could not veto, and he would be bound by their requirements. This may be done by the House.

I hope Congress will refuse to issue any more Treasury notes. The notes demanded, in addition to those already in circulation, would flood the country with that description of paper. Such an emission would constitute a Government bank, controlled and managed by a party Administration. It would increase the circulation of Treasury notes in circulation, and authority to issue five millions more. I would not increase this circulation a dollar, but reduce it as rapidly as possible. Such a system would be incomparably more dangerous to the public morals and the public liberty than any other system of banking that could be devised.

To meet any deficiency of the revenue to pay the current expenses of the war, I would authorize loans at par, paying not more than six per cent interest, and if loans cannot be made at this rate, let the Administration resort to a system of taxation, which shall cause the people to feel the expense of the war. All wars should be accompanied by the system of direct and internal taxation. Nothing short of this can show, in addition to the sacrifice of life, what we pay for military glory. This was the policy in the better days of the republic.

The late war with England was nobly sustained by the people, not only in the field but by the payment of taxes. And they will sustain every just war in which our country shall be involved. But I risk nothing in saying that an attempt to adopt such a system of taxation would wind up this Mexican war in sixty days. And this shows that the war should be put an end to. This may be done by Congress in ninety days, and I pray God that they may do it.

Very truly, yours,
JOHN McLEAN.

PORTRAIT OF GEN. TAYLOR.

The following pleasant and graphic "pen and ink sketch" of General Taylor, is from the able pen of the Rev. Dr. Wightman, senior editor of the Southern Christian Advocate:

Daybreak overtook us, just below Baton Rouge, on the left bank of the river. We have passed during the night, that most picturesque portion of the river called the coast. The alluvial margin on both sides of the river spreads, in breadth, from four hundred yards to a mile and a half. It is the garden spot of the United States. Sugar plantations touch each other, and elegant residences stretch out as far as the eye can follow the bold curves of the river. After the run of 150 miles, the Mississippi looks not a whit narrower than at New Orleans; its average width is about three quarters of a mile. At Baton Rouge, where we touch a few minutes to take in passengers, there stands, in company with two or three other gentlemen, an elderly, plain-looking man, who, after a brief leave-taking, comes on board. We shove off, the breakfast bell rings, and we find our way to the table. I observed that the entrance of our new fellow-voyager occasioned a subdued remark, and brought upon him the glances of several spectators; and whispering to the clerk, who was about to take the head of the table, I asked who he was. "General Taylor," was the reply. "Indeed! lucky chance, thought I, that threw me on board this craft.

There was the veritable "Rough and Ready," sitting opposite me, sipping his coffee; the most remarkable man, in many respects, in the Western hemisphere. I had missed the gorgeous spectacle of his New Orleans reputation—the most magnificent affair that had ever shaken that city with excitement; but vastly better, I had him now where I could see and study the man—a man whose name belongs to history, and whose achievements place him side by side with the great captains of the world. The first thing that struck me was his simplicity, an unfeigned attribute of true greatness. He ate, and talked, and carried himself with the unostentatious ease of a little child. You would have supposed him some plain country gentleman, who dreamed not of attracting a look, or calling out a remark. All right in that line, thought I; but how different looking, and better looking, than the million of lithograph likenesses which stare you in the face at the shop windows, and every where else! There is in the ring original nose of that extreme breadth be-

tween the chin and the back of the head, very little of the protrusion of the lower lip, to be found in the lithographs. In a word, they are a bundle of caricatures, one and all. He is precisely the height of your present correspondent—has a considerable sprinkling of gray hairs, is 62 years of age, erect and firm when on his feet, with one of the kindest expressions of face you ever saw. He had on a common blue frock coat, with flat buttons, the covering of which was worn off, showing that it belonged to an order of things which passed away some two or three years ago. Still his dress, as a whole, was sufficiently becoming through exhibiting no trace whatever of the military. As we rose from the breakfast table, I was introduced to the old hero. I told him I was from South Carolina, and rejoiced in the good fortune which allowed me to see him, and tell him how much the people of my native State honored and loved him. His eyes filled with tears as he shook my hand warmly, and I saw that the simple assurance of love could affect profoundly a man who faced the storm of battle with a nerve that never moved. His conversation exhibited fine, clear, common sense, without the slightest tinge of any sort of affectation or personal vanity. In the course of the day, he gave me the details of the great battle of Buena Vista, the key to all the successes of the American arms in Mexico.

Had that field been lost, the fate of the war would have been entirely different, even though indomitable courage, might in the long run, have cut its way to the Mexican capital. That victory, won against odds so vast, gave a prestige to American valor that made the subsequent battles comparatively easy affairs. But I must put a curb upon my galling pen, or you will never see the end of this epistle. The General remained with us until after breakfast the next morning, and was lauded at his own residence on the river, some distance above Natchez. I smiled to see the republican simplicity with which a couple of his negroes, field hands, who happened to be at the landing, walked up as he got on shore, and shook hands with him, without doffing hat or cap; and the expression of delight with which they looked into his face, as he spoke kindly and familiarly to them. Our engine bell rung as soon as we touched the shore, and we were off.

A MILITARY EXECUTION.

One of our volunteers, in a recent letter home, thus describes the execution of the sentence of death upon a military criminal in the army.—"Though not written for publication, we are under obligation for permission to try before our readers a description of a scene so shocking, yet so frequently necessary to the discipline of an army."

On last Monday an event occurred which, I was the most distressing occasion, I can safely say, that ever I was present at. By sentence of a court martial, a Texas volunteer, a bugler in Capt. Meigs' company of mounted men, was condemned to be "shot to death with muskets," and Monday was the day appointed for the sentence to be carried into execution. Accordingly all the troops in the neighborhood were commanded to appear on that day at Buena Vista. Our Regiment was present, and of course I was with it. The line was formed as soon as all the troops assembled. The artillery took the right; then came the Mississippi and Virginia Regiments; next to the latter was our Regiment, and on the extreme left were the Cavalry.

"At 11 A. M. the prisoner was led to the spot prepared for his execution, under a strong guard. The guard marched by platoons. The prisoner in the centre, escorted by three dragoons with drawn swords, marched immediately behind his coffin, which was borne on the shoulders of four men. As they reached the spot, the word was given to form line on first platoon, which was done, and the prisoner marched with a firm and steady step and an erect carriage to the place shown him. He took his seat upon the coffin, and the sentence of the court martial was read to him. I noticed that he paid the strictest attention to the reading, and removed his cap in deference to the authority of his commanders. After the sentence had been read, the Lieutenant commanding the escort retired to his men, who were not more than ten yards from the prisoner, and gave the word—"Ready!" As the men obeyed the order and cocked their pieces, the prisoner straightened up his body as erect as he could and said, "I am good for my bugle!" I watched his countenance all the time, and was almost utterly confounded at the calm composure of his features. I saw not the slightest sign of timidity or fear; but all was resolute and defying in his appearance. The word "Aim!" wrought no change in his countenance. At the word "Fire!" three balls passed through his body and he fell forward to the ground.

"Upon examination it was found that he was not dead; one ball only had entered his breast; the other two passed through his shoulders. He raised up, asked for some water, and said in a low voice, 'if you are going to kill me, I wish you to do so at once.' Four muskets were leveled at his head, and at the report he rolled upon the ground a corpse. He would have been killed the first fire if the men had done their duty; but the most of them fired over his head intentionally."

"He had been guilty of a number of offences, each of which would have been sufficient to have condemned him to the fate he met. Two of the most weighty were—1st, threatening the life of his Captain in a drunken fit; 2d, deserting his post. Both are punishable with death. Several attempts had been made to get him reprieved, but without success. He died and met death as a soldier should do. Poor fellow! he had been in the battle of Buena Vista, and only survived to die a less honorable death."

EXTRAORDINARY INCREASE OF POPULATION.—The census of Wisconsin has just been completed and laid before the Convention now meeting at Madison. The general result is that Wisconsin now contains a population of 210,000 souls. In June, 1846, the census then taken showed a population of only 55,000, so that the number has nearly quadrupled in eighteen months.

THE CRAMP.—A towel dipped in hot water, and applied to the part affected, will it is said, afford an effective and immediate relief to the painful contraction of the muscles called the cramp.

EMINENT INVENTORS.

GUTENBERG, FITCH, FULTON AND MORSE.

At the late Anniversary of the Typographical Society of the District of Columbia, Mr. SARGENT, formerly noted as a correspondent of one of the Philadelphia papers over the signature of "Oliver Oldschool," and now sergeant-at-arms of the House of Representatives,—being called out, mentioned several interesting facts in relation to inventions.

"The honorable gentleman," he said, "has spoken of the inventor of printing, John Gutenberg, or Mayence. The fate of this distinguished benefactor of mankind remains one of those of others, who, by their inventions and discoveries, have conferred incalculable benefits upon the human family. It will be recollected by those who are familiar with his history, as I presume most of those who are here assembled are, that he was unfortunate in his connections in business; that he entered into co-partnership with the celebrated Post, or Faust, known to us as Dr. Faustus, with whom he had a lawsuit which resulted in his ruin, and the transfusion of all his printing materials, Bibles on hand, &c., to the latter. The celebrated Doctor grew rich out of his invention and property, while Gutenberg pined and finally died in poverty. The Doctor, it is well known, became suspected of being collied with the devil, from the fact of his being able to produce Bibles with such astonishing rapidity, and all exactly resembling each other, as they necessarily must, being printed upon the same type. I fear that the charge of his being collied with the evil one was not without some truth; at least he seemed to have been instigated by him in his treatment of Gutenberg."

"But, sir, the fate of the inventor of printing was not a singular one; it was such as other benefactors of mankind have met with. It was the fate of Fitch, of Philadelphia, the first man who ever applied the power of steam to the propulsion of vessels in America, and who constructed a steamboat. Mr. Fitch, you are probably aware, sir, constructed a boat and steam-engine, and succeeded in running his boat on the Delaware river from Philadelphia to Burlington, in 1787. His invention and experiment were partially successful; that they were not entirely so was probably owing to the very imperfect manner in which this machinery was constructed. There were no mechanics in this country at that time competent to construct machinery perfect enough to hold steam together, and the consequence was, that it was constantly giving away, and was not of order, capable of being repaired, or of bearing anything like the pressure now applied. These difficulties were most disheartening; but superadded to them was that of want of pecuniary means to enable him to perfect his machinery and experiments. Mr. Fitch expended all of his own means, and was assisted to some extent by others; but repeated failures and the incredulity of the public, as well as of those who rendered him assistance, soon cut off all resource, and he was obliged to abandon his invention, and be content to pine in poverty the remainder of his days, though he died in the full belief that the day was at hand when all the principal waters of United States would be navigated by steamboats."

"It was my lot to become acquainted with an aged gentleman in Philadelphia, some years ago, who informed me that he was one of those who contributed means to aid Mr. Fitch in his enterprise. I inquired of him why more pecuniary means were not furnished to enable him to perfect his invention? His reply was, 'Because Fitch and all who assisted him were so laughed at and ridiculed that they were ashamed to do with him, or to have anything further to do with him.' Mr. Sargent remarked that the old gentleman he had mentioned said that Fitch was generally considered crazy, and all who had any faith in his invention were looked upon as a parcel of simpletons; that a proposition at this time to establish a line of balloons to England or China could not excite more ridicule than his plan of running boats by steam power did then."

"Twenty years after Fitch's failure, Fulton succeeded in propelling a boat by steam from New York to Albany and back. It was left to him, after Fitch had gone down to the grave poor and broken-hearted, to complete, amid the jeers of thousands and the doubting hopes of a few, what the latter had commenced, and to change, as it were, in an instant, laughter and ridicule into wonder and admiration. But had Fulton depended upon American mechanics for his machinery, as Fitch was obliged to do, the probability is that he would have been secretly score successful with the latter. His engine was manufactured in England, by Watt & Bolton. Fitch used paddles, eight upon each side, driven by a crank, to propel his boat, while Fulton more wisely adopted the paddle-wheel. What a change has been wrought, by this successful application of steam power, in travel, in commerce, in manufacturing, and in the general saving of time and labor."

"Mr. Fitch left a sealed paper which he directed to be opened thirty years after his death, and not sooner. At the expiration of the time it was unsealed, and was found to contain nothing more than the prediction that, when that paper should be opened, the waters of the United States, and especially the Western rivers, would be navigated by steamboats. The prediction was fulfilled, for at the moment of opening the paper the navigable waters of this country were literally covered with steamboats. Such was the fate, such the prediction, such the presence of one who, when living, was so far in advance of mankind as to be looked upon as little less than stark mad!"

"But there is another eminent inventor of our own day, who I am happy to say is likely to share quite a different fate from those I have mentioned. I allude to the distinguished author of the Magnetic Telegraph, Mr. Morse—an invention which, literally annihilating time and space, outstrips the sun in his rapid career, and by which we are able to hold immediate converse with our friends, though a thousand miles distant."

"But, if Mr. Morse is not destined to illustrate the fate of the distinguished inventors alluded to, he has not been entirely exempt from the ridicule usually thrown upon those in advance of the world. I cannot forget (said Mr. S.) the intense anxiety and suffering he underwent in 1842, while asking of Congress an appropriation of money to

enable him to establish an experimental line of telegraph from this city to Baltimore, and of which I was an eye-witness. While the bill making this appropriation was before the House in Committee of the Whole, as my honorable friends now before me (Mr. Holmes, of South Carolina, and Mr. Seaton, of Washington), will doubtless recollect, every possible objection was made to defeat it, and throw ridicule upon the invention, by absurd and ridiculous amendments, such as authorizing an experiment to be made of running a railroad to the moon, establishing a line of balloons to the planet Saturn, or something of the kind—amendments which I am happy to say, met no encouragement from, but were opposed in a proper spirit by the honorable gentleman from S. Carolina, (Mr. Holmes.)

"To a sensitive man like Mr. Morse, and one who, like him, had every thing at stake, these attempts to cast ridicule upon his invention or discovery were excessively disheartening and painful. He felt them keenly, and was wrought up by them to a most intense state of excitement and suffering. But, fortunately, there were good sense and liberality enough in the House to resist these ungenerous assaults, and to authorize the experimental line of telegraph, which has now been extended by private enterprise thousands of miles, and will soon connect every city in the Union."

THE ABSORPTION OF MEXICO.

From the "Charleston Evening News" of Jan. 26.

We desire to call public attention to the progress which these near the Administration, and the Administration itself, are making towards a consummation so momentous and so much to be deplored as the *colore absorption of Mexico*. The friends of the Administration denied that they entertained the design of destroying the sovereignty of Mexico. In response it was urged that, whatever might be the intention or design, this result would inevitably follow from the measures they were pursuing; and that, as statesmen and patriots, it was their duty to anticipate the result and to provide against it. The more this view was pressed, the more strenuously did they insist that it was only an idle fear, a vain imagination, a "panicked devil," made to fright "the eye of childhood" withal. But, now, how is the tune changed! It is admitted that they may be obliged to make "the great experiment" they at first so resolutely repudiated; but, if they do, it will not be their fault; it will all be owing to the obstinacy and hardness of Mexico, that will not cry craven just at the time that her antagonist has grown tired of whipping her, and thinks he has given her "enough." Hear what Gen. Scott has to say on this subject in his instructions to Gen. Scott:

"I repeat what I have said, that the longer Mexico continues her obstinate rejection of reason, of indemnity and the greater the exertion she compels us to make, the greater will be our demands, and the heavier her losses.—What we would have accepted last year, or even at the commencement of the present campaign, we may well refuse now; and what we would accept now, we may well refuse after a few months. And how much the public sentiment of this country has changed, a year or two years hence, if the war continues so long. I do not pretend to predict. We may have to make the great experiment so dreaded by the Senator from South Carolina and the Senator from Kentucky, and annex the domains of Mexico to our own. This is the penalty which national injustice has often been called to pay, and which Mexico may be preparing for herself."

The truth is, the friends of the Administration have no idea that the war will be speedily brought to a close; and they know, too, that the longer it is protracted, the greater and more exacting will be the demands of our people. In a word, they will know that, if the war is carried on in the way they propose, it will take the whole of Mexico to furnish us with what is called indemnity for the past and security for the future.

The true issue involved in the present conduct of the war is THE DESTRUCTION OF THE NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE OF MEXICO, and the people ought to understand it at once. Are they prepared to rush on to such a crime and such a catastrophe? General Cass speaks of "the penalty that will most surely be visited upon that nation, which, with deliberate intent, and in the wanton exercise of superior might, proceeds to rob another of that which is the very life and soul of a State—its existence as a free, sovereign, and independent community, and its recognition as such among the nations of the earth!" Let us not give the world occasion to fustian upon us the reproach that no sooner do we feel power than we forget right! It may be "excellent to have a giant's power;" but it is "tyrannous to use it like a giant."

TREASON!—The Democrats in the district represented by the Hon. Thos. J. Turner of Illinois, held a Mass Meeting on the 5th of January, at Freeport, Stephenson county, at which the following resolutions were passed:

Resolved, that the long and abundant use of tea and coffee in our country have made those articles accessories of life, and that we are opposed to the levying of a tariff upon said articles, for the strong reason, that it makes the poorest day laborer pay as much to defray the expenses of Government as the wealthiest millionaire in the land!

Resolved, That it is the duty of Government, as soon as practicable, to improve our lake harbors and the rapids of the Upper Mississippi.

A letter from Washington to the N. Y. Courier and Enquirer says:

I see it stated with great explicitness in some of the New York papers, that J. Q. Adams has declared himself in favor of annexing the whole of Mexico, as certain to hasten the emancipation of slavery. I know this rumor to be untrue. Mr. Adams has said, emphatically and repeatedly, that he believed the absorption of all Mexico to be inevitable, but never that it was in his view desirable. The use that has been made of his rumored declaration renders its correction proper.

HONOR TO THE ARMY.—The editor of the Staunton (Va.) Advocate, now at Saffilo, writes home as follows:—A lady in Saffilo, (in some letters lately overhauled by the authorities here) writes to a friend in San Luis that she need not think of leaving her home in case our army advances—that there is no danger to be apprehended from us—that she feels much safer in walking the streets of Saffilo now than she did before we came!

COMMON SCHOOLS IN NEW YORK.—The Annual Report of the Superintendent of the Common Schools of New York, says, that on July 1st, 1847, there were 11,052 school districts, duly organized in the State, 8,241 whole districts, and 5,555 parts of joint districts. Returns were received from 8,103 whole districts, and 5,400 parts of districts, showing that 138 of the former, and 165 of the latter had not reported in compliance with the requirements of the law. The average number attending the schools during the past year was 270,119 for the Winter and 247,833 for the Summer schools. The average monthly compensation to teachers has been, for males \$15.95; for females, \$6.99. The number of teachers under eighteen years of age was 2,322, of whom 1969 were females; and there were 1,943 over thirty years of age, of whom 1443 were females.—The residue of the number were between eighteen and thirty years of age.

A MEXICAN ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—A document published in Mexico, entitled, "The State of Vera Cruz to the Mexican Confederation," contains a historical narrative of events in that State, from August 15th, 1846, to June 30th, 1847. It states, "Cerro Gordo cost the nation 40 pieces of artillery, 1,500 men killed, wounded and missing, 6000 muskets, the surrender at discretion of five Generals, with 3,700 men who laid down their arms, the disgrace of 3,000 cavalry, who fled with the second in command; the Major General, 15 Generals, 40 officers, and 150 petty officers, who sought safety in the direction of Puebla, the fortress of Perote, which was abandoned to the enemy, with 40 pieces of artillery, 4 mortars, and all the stores in the magazine, and a space of 52 leagues around that fortress."

The papers in the interior of Mexico are discussing, and condemn, annexation to the United States. Those who favor the measure are accused of high treason by their antagonists.

A TOWER OF STRENGTH.—Mr. Polk takes great pains to convince the world that Mexico was the aggressor in the commencement of the present war. "But there is a tower of strength," which he will allow to overcome, in the opinions of ALBERT GALLATIN, JOHN C. CALHOUN, HENRY CLAY, THOMAS H. BENTON, and DANIEL WEBSTER, who have all placed the United States in the position of aggressor. Are these men all "Federal Tory Whigs"? Where can there be found five men, in the whole world, whose opinions are entitled to more weight, in regard to their wisdom, experience and patriotism?—Wilmington Com.

MAKING MEXICO SUPPORT THE WAR.—General Scott has announced, in his operations, the grand scheme of the Administration which was to relieve us from all our difficulties, and pay the expenses of the war without the assistance of the United States. The utmost sum which Gen. Scott has deemed it prudent to exact from Mexico is three millions a year. Will Mr. Ritchie have the kindness to tell us what proportion this will be of the expenses of maintaining an army of one hundred thousand men in Mexico!

ROMAN CATHOLICS IN THE UNITED STATES.—The Metropolitan Catholic Almanac gives the following statistics of the Catholic Church in the United States: Dioceses and Archdioceses, 30; Archbishops, 3; Bishops, 24; Priests, 919. Total number of bishops and clergy, 946. Churches, 607; other stations at which the clergy officiate, 562. Increase of Churches, 95. Clerical Students, 217; Ecclesiastical Seminaries, 22; Religious houses for females, 53; Religious houses for males, 19; Colleges, 25; Female Academies, 74; Orphan Asylums, Hospitals, and other Charitable Institutions, 95.

THE SATURDAY COURIER.—For a long time past the public journals of this and other cities have teemed with notices of the difficulty which has existed between Mr. McMakin, the present editor of the Courier, and the Administrators of Ezra Holden, deceased, the late partner of Mr. McMakin. Mrs. Holden claims that the good-will of a co-partnership business survives to the heirs of a deceased partner. The case has lately been decided by one of our Courts and the claim of Mrs. Holden sustained.

INTERESTING TO WINE DRINKERS.—Galignani's Messenger states that 103 hogsheads of adulterated wine were brought out of the *entrepot* at Philadelphia, and their contents spilt in the Seine. Immediately after this operation, the surface was covered, to the distance of 200 yards with an immense quantity of fishes, poisoned by the deleterious liquor.

The editor of the Chronotype says that, passing by a wine-making establishment in Boston, lately, he saw the refuse thrown out, which he should have pronounced logwood chips, had he not known that they must be grapes!

ATLANTA, GA., is rapidly approximating the point when she will be a city. As one evidence of this, we may state that the enterprising publisher of the "Miscellany" at that place is now issuing a semi-weekly paper! But a few years since Atlanta was a forest! So much for Georgia enterprise in building Rail Roads. When will our own State imitate her in a liberal system of internal improvements!

YANKEES IN TEXAS.—A friend who has just returned from Texas, informs us, that he was not a little surprised while traveling through that State to find so many Yankees settled there.—Every town and village contains a fair proportion of the larger number being from Maine. Emigrants are pouring in in large numbers, as well from the States of the Union as from the Old World.

A correspondent of the Baltimore Clipper, says: "The daughter of Col. Benton, (Sarah) was yesterday married to Mr. Jacob, of Louisville. The sister of Mr. Jacob was married to a son of Mr. Clay. Thus the children of Mr. Clay and Col. Benton become sister and brother-in-law. Mr. Clay was at the wedding, as was also Mr. Buchanan, but no other member of the Cabinet."

THE ASPERATED "H."—Mrs. Crawford says she wrote one line in her song.—"Cathleen Maureen," for the express purpose of confounding the Cockney warblers, who sing it thus:—"The ora of the unter is eard on the ill."

NOVELS AND INSANITY.—Indulgence in reading works of fiction is assigned by the intelligent Physician of the Mount Hope Institution, Boston, as one of the causes of insanity. The perusal of works of fiction, by the young, particularly females, is hurtful and dangerous to a degree little dreamed of. Parents owe a stern and solemn duty to their children, to watch their reading, and to preserve their opening minds and hearts from the vitiating influence of much of what is called popular literature. The opinion below is worth pondering:

"Another fertile source of this species of derangement has appeared to be an undue indulgence in the perusal of the numerous works of fiction, with which the press is so prolific of late years, and which are soon broadcast over the land, with the effect of vitiating the taste and corrupting the morals of the young. Persons cannot too cautiously guard their young daughters against this pernicious practice. We have had several cases of moral insanity, for which no other cause could be assigned than excessive novel reading. And nothing is more likely to induce this disease than the education which fosters sentiment instead of cherishing real feeling—such as results from the performance of active benevolence, and the sacred duties of ordinary life, and of religious obligations."

INFLUENCE OF A BAD EXAMPLE.—The "Alabama Journal" learns from a gentleman whose source of information entitles it to credit, that the conduct of Mrs. Wiggin, which brought about the killing of Dr. Perry, in Sandor, Alabama, was in a great degree attributable to the influence produced on her mind by the reading of Virginia Myers' letters. She too, wished to write letters which should be circulated, read, admired. We are told, however, that except in their prurience, and as evidence of their great depravity, they were far below the epistolary specimens of her exemplar. This fact, adds the "Alabama Journal," reads a lesson to newspaper publishers, worthy of their gravest attention. While the human mind, in its perverseness, morbidly craves notoriety, it is highly injurious to individual virtue and to the peace of society, that such publications should be made. The moral effect is about the same with that of those delightful novelettes with which the French Press has inundated this continent. If published at all, the letters of Mrs. Myers should have been bound among the works of "Paul de Kock."

PERSONAL HOLINESS.—Every individual should feel, that whilst his influence over other men's hearts and character is very bounded, his power over his own heart is great and constant, and that his zeal for extending Christianity is to appear chiefly in extending it through his own mind and life. Let him remember, that he as truly enlarges God's kingdom by invigorating his own moral and religious principles, as by communicating them to others. Our first concern is at home, our chief work is in our own breast. It is idle to talk of our anxiety for other men's souls, if we neglect our own. Without personal virtue and religion, we cannot, even if we would, do much for the cause of Christ. It is only by purifying our own conceptions of God and duty, that we can give clear and useful views to others. We must first feel the power of religion, or we cannot recommend it with an unaffected and prevalent zeal.—Channing

Unless the United States take territory from Mexico, say many, nothing can be had in the shape of indemnity. We say then take nothing. We would not rest ratabase just for the sake of securing a debt which one might owe us who had nothing but that commodity to pay in. What arsenic would be to a man, Mexican territory will, if acquired, be, we fear, to the United States. *Wm. Chronicle*

NEW YORK STATE INDEBTEDNESS.—The Comptroller's Report, just published, makes the present indebtedness of the State amount to \$21,446,500 33, including \$4,563,000 contingent indebtedness where the State has loaned its credit to incorporated Companies. The decrease of indebtedness since 1842 is \$4,266,442 53.

The Nantucket Inquirer draws a discouraging picture of the prospects of the whaling business in that place. Since the year 1843, the whaling fleet has been diminished fifteen sail, by shipwreck, sales, &c. The voyages are said to be one third longer than they were twenty years ago, and the number of departures and arrivals is constantly growing less and less.

The Legislature of Ohio has adopted, without a dissentient voice, a resolution requesting the Delegation from that State in Congress to vote for an amendment to the Post Office Law, which shall permit newspapers to go in the mails free of postage to any Post Office within thirty miles of the office of publication.

A Frankfort Ky. paper contains an advertisement offering for sale the costly family carriage of the late President Harrison. It cost \$3,500, and was presented to him by the young whigs of Baltimore. The circumstances of the family are not such as to enable them to keep it.

On Sunday, a lady called to her little boy who was tossing marbles on the side walk, to come into the house. "Don't you know you shouldn't be out there, my son! Go into the back yard if you want to play marbles—it is Sunday." "Well, yes.—But ain't it Sunday in the back yard, mother?"

LEAP YEAR.—The Brattleboro' Eagle states that the ladies of Vermont, Vt. availing themselves of the time-honored prerogative of leap year, made arrangements for a dance on Tuesday evening last, invited the gentlemen, gallanted them back and forth, and—paid the bills.

A Dutchman was relating his marvellous escape from drowning, when thirteen of his companions were lost by the upsetting of a boat, and he alone was saved.

"And how did you escape their fate?" asked one of his hearers. "I did not go in to post," was the Dutchman's placid answer.