

## EDUCATION.

*School Systems of Massachusetts and Connecticut.*

The State of Massachusetts is divided into large counties, which are subdivided into townships of various dimensions.—The townships are also divided into School Districts, the size of which depends on the denseness of the population. Each township is, for many purposes, a little republic within itself, possessing many of the powers of self-government. Among those powers, one of the most important is, that of raising money, by an *ad valorem* tax, for the support of schools. It is exercised by the legal voters of the township, assembled in town meeting. Each man has a right to propose the sum which to him may seem expedient; the vote is taken upon the highest first, and so on, until some particular sum obtains the assent of a majority. The amount so voted is assessed upon the property of the township, and collected like other taxes. It is apportioned among the several school districts, in proportion to the number of children to be educated in each, and paid over to the Trustee of the district. He is an officer chosen by the people of each district, in public meeting at their school house, and it is his duty to receive the money, hire teachers, and superintend all the details of the school. The sum expended in each district, varies according to the wealth and liberality of the township, or the number of children in the district; but there is no spot, throughout the State, from which a school is not accessible from six weeks to four months in the winter season, and from two to five months in the summer season.

The winter schools are taught by men, and are attended by boys and girls of all ages, from infancy to mature age. The summer schools are taught by ladies, and attended by girls and young children of both sexes. In the winter schools, are taught reading, writing, arithmetic, English grammar, geography; in the summer schools, generally, reading and writing. The wages of a winter teacher are from twelve to twenty-five dollars per month, according to the wealth of the district and the reputation of the teacher; but the average price is about eighteen dollars, together with their board. The summer teachers receive about nine or ten dollars per month, together with their board. This system is admirable for its simplicity, its cheapness, and its efficacy. It has no complicated machinery to embarrass its operations; its cost is not two dollars per scholar for six months' tuition; and it reaches and blesses, with at least the most useful parts of knowledge, every child in the community, rich or poor.

Connecticut presents us with another system of Free Schools, founded on different principles, but equally efficient and extensive. That State has a School Fund, amounting to about \$1,600,000, the interest of which is annually applied to the support of common schools. To this sum is added an amount equal to two dollars on every one thousand dollars of the list of taxable property throughout the State, drawn from the public treasury.—The State is divided into School Societies, which include the inhabitants living within the limits of the ecclesiastical societies or parishes. These Societies have power to appoint a Committee, Treasurer and Clerk; to lay taxes on themselves, by a majority of votes, for the purpose of building and repairing schools. They also have power to establish school districts within their respective limits, and appoint one individual as a committee in each district, whose business it is to employ an instructor, and manage the concerns of the district. The districts have also the power to choose a Clerk and Treasurer, and to tax themselves for the purpose of building or repairing their school-houses, and furnishing it with the necessary appendages and furniture. They have also power to appoint the necessary officers for managing their affairs, make rules relative to the school house, &c. and enforce their observance, by excluding from school the children of those who refuse compliance with them. Visitors or Overseers of School Societies, to visit the schools at least twice during each term, and examine into the progress which the scholars have made in the several branches of learning. No person is permitted to teach school within the Society, unless he first obtain a certificate of qualification from the Visitors. Each Society has the power, by a vote of the majority, to establish a school of a higher order, the object of which is to instruct the youth of the Society in English grammar, composition, geography and the learned languages. The school money is distributed among the Several School Societies and Districts, in proportion to the number of persons residing within each, between the ages of four and sixteen years. To ascertain this number, the committee of each district annually makes returns to the committee of the Society of the names of all such persons; and the aggregate amount being returned to the Comptroller, an officer similar to our Auditor, he issues an order on the treasury for a due proportion of the public money, which is drawn by the Committee of the Society and paid over to its Treasurer. The money so

drawn is paid exclusively towards the wages and board of teachers.—If the school money received by each district is not sufficient to pay the teacher and his board, the balance is assessed upon those who have sent their children to school, in proportion to the number of days each scholar has attended; or, in case that cannot be ascertained, in proportion to the number of children sent by each. Thus, by the interest of the School Fund, by a state tax of two dollars on the one thousand, by a voluntary tax laid by the school societies on themselves, and, in case all these sources be not sufficient, by an assessment upon the parents of children sent to school, are raised moneys which support a general system of common schools throughout the State of Connecticut.—Though more complicated in its machinery, its effects are known to be not less beneficial or extensive than those of the more simple system of Massachusetts. The Connecticut system originated more than 150 years ago, and having undergone a variety of modifications, has become an example for other States and the admiration of the Union.

## "THE PIONEERS."

Such is the avidity for novel reading among us, that this work is by this time, we suppose, in the hands of many of our reading community. These who have not read it will feel much interest and pleasure in the perusal, if they will be content to postpone their gratification until the second volume. The first is rather awkwardly commenced, is meagre in incident, and abounds too much in minute descriptions of wood and lake scenery, &c. The passing of a deer across the road is the key stone of the arch, on which the novel depends. Nor would this have produced any result, but for the pertinacity of an obstinate judge, who thinks he knows every thing in the world as well as law, and enters into a ridiculous contest to shew that he had killed the deer. He is convinced to his mortification and sorrow, that he had wounded a man instead of killing a deer.

The wounded hunter becomes the hero of the piece, and the daughter of the judge, the heroine. The scene of the settlement is entirely new—the time soon after the revolutionary war—when the civilized felt insecure, and the savage brooded over revenge. Yet is there nothing developed in the piece to justify either sentiment, and all the wrongs conceived or attempted were on the part of the civilized whites.

The author does justice to the Indian character. It is not too soon when the sun is sunk below the horizon; the twilight should come to preserve its beams. Decidedly the best character in the novel, is an old man, whose whole life has been past with the aborigines and who was a celebrated warrior among the Indians.—Wherever danger is to be encountered or good to be done, he is present, active and successful; and if even his noble virtues do not shield him from suspicion and hatred, yet in the end he triumphs over them all, and throws shame upon his accusers.

The second volume is full of interest—but it is an interest arising rather from the rapid succession of surprising and unlooked for incidents, than from the excitement of any strong passion or deep sensibility. There is enough of external nature, but too little is drawn from the springs of the heart.

The style is natural and unambitious, and the author in the second volume, particularly, has exemplified no small power in interesting the attention of his readers.

As an American production, it is welcome and ought to be patronized; and we wish the author a golden harvest. As nothing has yet been done for authors in this country, every thing is to be hoped for; and, as there was once a shower of stones in Connecticut and a shower of fish on Boston Common, who knows but there may be, in some fortunate hour, a sprinkling of gold on despairing LETTERS.

Chas. Courier.

The Baltimore Federal Gazette mentions two cases of imprisonment for debt in that city, for which we fear, parallels could be found in other cities. They are as follows:

Wash. Refub.

"The first is of a man, probably fifty years of age, whose residence is in the state of N. York, where he has a family; on a casual visit to Baltimore, he was arrested here for a debt amounting to six dollars and some cts.; being unable to pay or give security, he was committed to prison, where he has already been confined ninety-eight days, and his creditor has paid for his support in prison, upwards of twelve dollars."

"The other case is of a sick Female, seventy years of age, who has been confined for upwards of two weeks, past, for a debt between six and seven dollars; although in ill health, her accommodations are similar to those of the aged male debtor—food and fuel are carefully supplied by the Sheriff, but clothing, a bed, or even a blanket are not allowed by law to the unfortunate debtor."

At Albany, on Friday 7th ult. the mercury at sunrise was 18 degrees below zero.

## INTELLIGENCE.

He comes, the herald of a busy world,  
News from all nations lumbering at his back.

## IMPORTANT FROM VENEZUELA.

We are indebted to the editors of the Norfolk Beacon, for the following important intelligence from Venezuela, which we received yesterday in a news slip from that office.—*Peters. Republican.*

Beacon Office, Norfolk, Feb. 25.  
Late and important from Venezuela.

The schooner Fourth of July, captain Phillips, of Baltimore, arrived off Smith's Island yesterday after 24 days passage from La Guayra. Capt. Hathaway, a passenger, very politely furnished Mr. Dentzel, the keeper of our Reading Room, with a regular file of the *Venezolano*, (a paper published at Caracas) from the 9th December to the 13th January, both days inclusive;—and to Mr. Myers, another passenger, we are indebted for the following interesting items of news from the Main.

The late hour at which we received these papers and the verbal intelligence, put it out of our power to notice them in this morning's Beacon. The papers are now in the hands of a translator, and should they contain any thing interesting, we shall lose no time in laying it before our readers.

The Fourth of July sailed from La Guayra on the 1st ult. at which time the Colombian arms were every where successful, and the retreat of Morales to the seaboard was entirely cut off. Gen. Paez had sent back from St. Carlos 1500 men, stating to gen. Sublette that he had no use for them, having Morales completely in his power.

The Spanish frigate Legera having been totally lost, off St. Jago de Cuba, in the heavy gale of the 21st December, the naval force of Morales was reduced to one vessel, the brig of war Hercules, which was at Curacao, and would not venture out, lest she should fall into the hands of the patriots.

The Colombian squadron, consisting of 3 ships and two brigs, under commodore Daniels, blockaded Porto Cavello, and had captured the Spanish sloop of war Marie Francisco, having on board 300 troops and 40,000 dollars in specie, and a schooner in company with her, loaded with clothing, &c. for the royalists.

The Colombian privateer Eagle, capt. Coffereil, had captured the Spanish brig Concepcion, having on board 46,000 dollars in specie, and an assorted cargo, valued at \$5,000 dollars. She had also sent into La Guayra, a Spanish Polacre, with a cargo of Cocoa, &c. worth 31,000 dollars.

The above intelligence gives a very different aspect to the affairs of the patriots on the Main, from that received from the same quarter a few months ago, and justifies the expectation, that the patriots will soon be the indisputable masters of that country, which they have consecrated to liberty, by their best blood and treasure.

## LATE AND IMPORTANT FROM MARACAIBO.

Extract to the Editor of the Democratic Press, dated,  
CURRACOA, 18th JAN. 1825.

"An hour ago a Colombian schr. of war have too off this harbor and sent her boat ashore. She has had only six days passage from Maracaibo. I conversed with the officer, who informed me that Maracaibo is closely blockaded by 29 vessels of war, under Com. Relluche—and that General Urdanette with 4300 men is closely besieging the same place. Morales is completely hemmed in, and the town must necessarily fall; by the time this reaches you, it no doubt will be in the hands of the Patriots.

"Markets here for American produce very dull, the warehouses and stores are literally filled and no sales can be effected. The affairs of the Main have caused a stagnation of business. When Maracaibo shall again wear the flag of Independence, we may expect a revival of Commerce."

## PIRATE SQUADRON.

We learn that Commodore PORTER put to sea on the evening of the 14th ultimo, with his squadron of small vessels, headed by the Peacock sloop of war, in pursuit of the Pirates in the West Indian Seas. We have a list of the vessels, and of their officers, as we have already said, but shall not at present publish it, (the publication in this paper of the List of Officers of the schr. Shark, one of the squadron, having been an inadvertence, which we regret.) We will not publish the list, because the enumeration of so many well known names of gallant spirits, who have forsaken the peace and pleasures of the land for the toil and privation inseparable from the service on board these diminutive vessels, might lead our readers to look, for some daring exploit, some brilliant victory, or some valuable acquisition, as the result of their cruise. Whereas, in plain and honest truth, this squadron, however useful its destination, however honorably manned, is engaged in a pursuit which may be hazardous, perhaps, and will be laborious, but cannot be glorious. The greatest success that can be anticipated from it, is the destruction of the few piratical vessels which have not alrea-

dy taken the alarm and fled, and the breaking up of the haunts of the free booters, so radically as never again to be re-occupied.

It is precisely because so little can be reasonably expected from this enterprise, that unbounded credit is due to the officers of this squadron—to those who have families, particularly, and to Commodore PORTER at their head, for the promptitude with which they have rallied round the standard of their country, moved by the cries of suffering humanity, rather than the seductions of glory. Their service will have been honorable to them, though no pirate should be found by them on the ocean or on its borders.—*Nat. Intel.*

Letters from Havana, represent the state of society at that place, as dangerous in the extreme for strangers, and Americans in particular. One dated 6th inst. with an extract from which we have been favored, says—"I shall get away from this, as soon as possible, for a residence here is really dangerous to strangers—6 or 7 men have been murdered within the last week; some of them in the most shocking manner, being seized, stripped, and then laid on a cot and completely cut to pieces, from head to foot. It is not considered safe to be out after sun-set. The boat of the U. S. brig *Shark*, was stowed at the public landing a few days since, and there is no doubt that they would all have been murdered, had the officer persisted in landing. On being informed of the circumstance, Capt. WILKINSON wrote to the General of Marines, to know if he must arm his boat's crew, or whether the authorities here would protect him. The answer, I am told, was a very polite one; stating, in substance, that he and his crew would be protected; and expressing regret at the outrage which had been committed."—*Chas. Courier.*

Pirates.—Capt. Graniger, at New-York, from Matanzas, informs that two vessels, supposed American, had been captured by pirates 16 miles to the westward of that place. The crews were tied in the rigging, the vessels set on fire, and all burned together!! Capt. G. also informs that Matanzas swarmed with pirates. A few days previous to his sailing, they attacked the Americans on the King's Dock, with clubs, stones, &c.; a number were driven into the River, and others seriously hurt. Capt. Culver, of the schr. *Wm. & Henry*, of New-York, was nearly killed, by a stone thrown from the Custom House. Captains Garner and Blinn, were also wounded. Three piratical vessels were cruising between point Yesoco and Havana.

CHARLESTON, FEB. 19.—The schr. *Ad-who* brought a broken file of New-Orleans papers to the 24th ult. We are indebted to a friend in this city for use of them. There was some stormy work in the Senate of Louisiana on the 20th January, occasioned by a resolution offered by M. Lislet, to eject from their body the members of some parishes in Florida, but which parishes had been by Congress annexed to Louisiana. Mr. Clark afterwards moved that the resolution and the proceedings on it, should be expunged from the journals of the house—there was little doubt that this motion would prevail. Some of the New-Orleans papers are very vehement upon this subject, and speak of the unbounded hostility of foreign Frenchmen to Americans and their institutions. The legislature of Louisiana is very far from being in a state of harmony, and the parties in it are extremely bitter against each other. A bill to call a convention to remodel the constitution has been referred to a committee.—*Mercury.*

## FROM THE PHILADELPHIA PRESS.

A circumstance occurred in this city a few weeks since, which being a singular instance of the turpitude of human nature, its publicity cannot be unacceptable to the readers of your journal. A young man and woman belonging to the society of friends, were, in the presence of a large assemblage of persons in their meeting, united in the bands of matrimony. The ceremony being over, the married couple repaired to the dwelling of the bride, which was occupied as a boarding house, where they intended to remain a short time; having regaled a few of their friends, at a reasonable hour the guests retired to their respective homes. One of the inmates of the house, about this time missed a plaid cloak, which was in the entry; several fruitless inquiries were made concerning the cloak, and it was finally concluded it was stolen. The groom necessarily suspended his attention to mercantile concerns for a few days, and then went to his store, when on examining his merchandise, he discovered that two merino shawls of considerable value were gone.

The clerk was questioned concerning them. He could give no tidings of them, nor could he account in any way for their disappearance. Just at this time two young women passed the store; the groom recognized a merino shawl on one of them, which he knew to be one of his; motives of delicacy prevented him from accusing her;—they were suffered to pass unobscured. The young man in the store having disputed an account with a tradesman, and refusing to pay it, was served with a summons by an officer, (well known to the

citizens of Philadelphia,) the affair of the shawls was related to him, and during the conversation, the young woman alluded to, repassed the store. The officer being apprised of it, was determined to investigate the matter. He accosted the one with the shawl, and requested her to walk into the store, as a gentleman wished to speak to her. She immediately entered; the question was then put where she had purchased that shawl; the reply was that she did not purchase it, that it was a present from Mr. S. of New-York; he lodged at J—s hotel; that she expected him in the evening at her residence, where if they wished to see him they were at liberty to call. At the request of the officer she left the shawl, and one of small value was supplied her. The officer knew where the house was situated, and that it was of ordinary character. In the evening he went, accompanied by the groom, to ascertain the person who had purloined his property. On entering the mansion of the *Fair lady*, to the great astonishment of the groom, he discovered that the perpetrator of the deed proved to be no other than his first groom's man. His feelings may be more easily imagined than described. Suffice it to say, the young man, who had heretofore sustained a respectable character, confessed that he had not only stolen the shawl; but also the plaid cloak referred to.

WASHINGTON, FEB. 22.—The bill to appropriate 25,000 dollars for the repair of the Cumberland Road, was yesterday ordered to a third reading in the House of Representatives, by such a majority as leaves no doubt of its final passage this day. The amendments made to it are unimportant, and the Senate will, no doubt, concur in them. We are assured before hand of the approbation of the President to this act; so that our readers, who feel an interest in the preservation of that National Road, may assure themselves of the fulfillment of their wishes in its behalf.

Nat. Intel.

Congressional Election.—There appears to be no doubt of the re-election to the next Congress, of Messrs. Poinsett, M'Duffie, Hamilton, Gist, Carter, and Tucker. Mr. Warren R. Davie, is said to have been returned from Pendleton and Greenville. Col Campbell has succeeded against Mr. Mitchell in the Georgetown District; and Major Felder is said to have a small majority over Mr. Govan, in Orangeburg and Barnwell.

Chas. Courier.

## From the Richmond Enquirer.

Cuba—Great Britain.—Much interest prevails in consequence of the rumour, that England is about to occupy Cuba.—Our correspondent at Washington, (who derives his information from the first authority) has authorized us to say, that the rumor of England being about to take possession of Cuba, is entirely groundless—and that so far from it, Mr. Canning, it is said, has made an official communication to the government of the United States, that the British government would consider itself disgraced, were it to avail itself of the present condition of Spain to aggrandize herself by the dismemberment of the Spanish territories.

## From another Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, FEB. 19.—The British minister here (Mr. Canning) waited some time ago upon Mr. Adams, Secretary of State, and read to him a letter from his cousin, George Canning, in which he speaks of the rumours as to Cuba; denies in the most positive manner any wish or intention on the part of the British government to obtain it, and expresses an opinion that it would be dishonorable in them to avail themselves of the weakness of Spain for any such purpose. It seems too, that the Minister here was directed by his government to read this letter to the Secretary of State. No copy was furnished, and Mr. Monroe directed Mr. Adams to apply to know whether one would be furnished. It is said, he has not had an answer, but that it will not.—This is all the information our government has on the subject."

The New York Canal Commissioners have reported in favor of constructing a basin at the termination of the Canal at Albany, which will cost about 100,000 dollars. It is to be so constructed as to enable transhipments to be made between canal and river craft, without the cost and delay of cartage and storage.

## A LIBERAL SPIRIT.

The first stone of a Protestant Church laid by a Catholic Duke.

The first stone of a new church has been laid at Attercliffe; the Duke of Norfolk, attended by Earls Fitzwilliam and Surrey, Lord Milton, and others, presided. The singularity of a Catholic Duke laying the first stone for a Protestant church, elicited the following remarks from his Grace:—"He felt no scruple at what he had done; in many respects, he considered himself as much a Protestant as any of his fellow subjects; that he had taken the oath of allegiance to a Protestant King, and if that King were ever to become a Catholic, he should consider himself absolved from his allegiance."