WEEKLY ERA.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Old Age.

It is a prevalent error of the young to look upon old age as one of the unavoidable evils besetting our pathway in life, which we must always dread for ourselves and can only compassionate in others. But whoever thus questions the Providence of God by presumtionsly declaring a part of the existence. He has bestowed in His wisdom, a misfortune, must be blind to the benevolent designs so plainly written on the nature of man. The great law inscribed there is forgiveness. We were placed here on earth under the probationary form of moral government that we might our lives long grow in capacity for truth and virtue, that each day might bring us nearer the great type of perfection manifested one in humanity as a model for man.

When heaven itself is the goal for which we are striving, how dare we shorten the time allotted to us for perfection, and sacrifice the inestimable treasures future years perchance may have in store for us?

This work of preparation is not appropriated to youth or middleage, but to a life time. We cannot cultivate so successfully with the impetuous ardor of youth or the unbending will of manhood, those christian graces for which the contemplative mood of old age, when the sublimer faculties of the soul holds sway, seems perfectly fitted.

Not only should the young regard old age "honorable," as Solomon declared it; not only should the ready hand or eye lend themselves willing servants to the tottering step or failing sight of the aged man; but they should also ever turn in the skies, and they will put on a reverent ear to his counsels. Ex their ascension robes and go up. Of perience has given him wisdom, and with his age-dimmed eyes, he can read more clearly than we, the book of life,-for to him its pages will be lighted with bright rays gathered from the past.

It is true that a disregard of physical laws may bring an old age of suffering, or a neglected intellect be wasted into worse than childish imbecility. The man in his grey hairs may live only to mourn over the errors of his youth; or, most terrible of all, may "have grown old in sin and hardened in his crimes." Then indeed we may say it would have been better if he had died in his youth, or better still if he had never lived. A merciful God can never have designed such an old age for his creatures.

Let us turn from this sad picture to the last years of one who all his life obeyed nature's soverign laws, whom temperance has preserved from disease, whose intellectual and moral powers have been expanded and ennobled by every day of a long life. To him the crown of gray hairs is a crown of glory A life like this grows only more benutiful as it approaches heaven. The soul, as it nears its release, gleams through the wasted form with a radiance so divine, we almost believe the angel tenement that is soon to enclose it is already brending with its clay and shadowing forth the future glory.

Can we point the young to any goal of a merely selfish ambition, to any crown of worldly fame, so worthy of their noblest efforts, as an old age, like this-crowned with the honors of a well-spent life. Can we point the middle-aged man, at the busy noon of life,-when the cares of the ever-urging present will scarce afford him time for mercy or rest and peace of old age .- Selected.

In a Convict's Cell.

York Sun. He had passed a sleepstriped pantaloons, jacket, and cap, swarms new plants every time you and when the cell door was opened break its roots, whose blossoms are The young man tried to be calm in armed host. The whole plant is a Principal.

his father's presence, but he could torment and vegetable curse. And principal.

The wretch- yet a farmer had better make his Music Department. ed father bowed his head and answered in low tones when the son ease upon interest. bade him have courage. The parting was even more affecting than on the previous day, and after the ed himself out on his cot overcome with emotion. The only furniture in the cell is the bed, an iron frame with canvass stretched over it, without a mattress. A heavy pillow and three blankets constitute the bedding. In Sing Sing and many other prisons convicts are allowed to furnish their cells and have carpets; but on Blackwell's Island a cot is all that a prisoner can have. Warden Liscomb said that he could make no distinction among these under his charge, and that Tweed

must live as the others do. Much difficulty was found in obtaining a uniform large enough for the prisoner. The rough pantaloons were pieced and made to fit, but the jacket is too small, and a new one was

cut out and made. tain breakfasted on coarse bread and coffee, with convicts of all classes and colors. His fellow prisoners stared at his large, burly form, and seemed to pity him in his misery. A swallow or two of coffee and a bit of bread were sufficient for him, and when he arose from the table, as the hungry convicts But in one of their congregationsaround him finished their repast, he tried to avoid their gaze. He made no complaint, and awaited the pleasure of his keepers. They cell as he was really ill, and he was conducted to it. The Warden visited him several times in his cell, but the Boss was not in talking humor. He asked permission to walk in the corridor, and the request was granted. Occasionally he stood in his cell door, with his head bowed and in a thoughtful attitude. Dr. Schirmer, his physician, called and said that his patient's health was such that his removal to the hospital was imperatively necessary.

The Day of Doom.

A certain wild and pathetic chapter of history is repeating itself just now on a little island in the Connecticut River, a little way above Windsor Locks. There have assembled in that lonely spot fifty or sixty persons, who have pitched their tents and are living on prayer-meetings, sermons, and two meals a day, while they await patiently the coming of the crack of doom. They fervently believe that sometime before midnight of December 31st, the signal will be given course they are perfectly sincere .-Their abandonment of business, and their patient, serious watch upon that island abundantly prove this. "They do not lay in coal or winter deal of labor about it especially supplies of any sort to last longer than the end of next month." The Springfield Republican, which gives a vivacious account of this colony of dozed prophecy-students, thus announces its platform on this subject: "In the first place it dosen't take any stock, in the theory that the universe is going to wind up inside of eight weeks. Of course, there's no telling what may happen, but we have a pretty stong impression that the centennial celebration, it the farmer can (s) they say) sion that the centennial celebration, Charles Summer's re-election to the Senate, woman suffrage, republican government in England, a new depot in Springfield, the end of the Tichborne trial-perhaps-and a number of other interesting events that dan't possibly come off for a period of years are destined to transpire yet. We therefore inform our readers, confidentially, that the Rapublican isn't lying awake nights worrying about the end of the world, and doesn't advise them to. On the contrary, it has 'he greatest Confidence that it will have the pleasure of wishing its readers a Happy New Year, and is making arrangements to report the Legislafore of 1874. In any event, it will take a pretty healthy convulsion of the elements to make the Republi-

Henry Ward Beecher on Interest.

can suspend publication."

No blister draws sharper than does the interest. Of all industries, none is comparable to that of interest. It works all day and night; in fair weather and foul. It has no hope, -to any peace so serene as the sound in its footsteps but travels fast. It knaws at a man's substance with invisible neck. It binds industry with its film, as a fly is bound in a spider's web. Debts roll William M. Tweed arose early a man over and over, binding hand the morning after his committal to and foot, and letting him hang upthe Penitentiary, says the New on the fatal mesh until the long legged interest devours him. There is less night, and his cleanly shaved but one thing on a farm like it, and face was very pale. He put on his that is the Canada thistle, which he stepped out into the corridor and prolific, and every flower the father hopelessly glanced around. He of a million seeds. Every leaf is an kept his cell on Sunday, sitting on avl, every branch a spear, and a leading make Is 11 his cot all day. His only visitor every plant like a platoon of bayowas his sou, Gen. Wm. M. Tweed. nets, and a field of them like an

Sensible.

cell door was closed the Boss stretch- A gentleman of great wealth in D O R New York, but who has never cared to mingle much in fashionable society, recently settled \$15,000 a year on a daughter who had married to his satisfaction. In speaking on the subject to a friend the other day, he remarked he was willing to do the same by his other daughters, on one condition—that they married respectable, upright and industrious young men. He did not care how poor they were, if they were only of this description, and their characters.

divided in two or more lots to suit purchasing will be taken over the premises and can obtain all necessary information from either Wm. H. Bledsoe, or myof this description, and their characters. ters would bear investigation.

Quaker Innovations.

Innevations are stealing in even among so conservative a portion of the community as that of the Friends. Year after year we have been accustomed to see the Quakers In the morning the fallen chief- in their drab bonnets and sad-colored suits, not so numerously, indeed, as in Philadelphia, but numerously | HEARTH and HOME enough to lend, now and then, a quiet and mellow trait to our vivid and picturesque thoroughfares. If any association could stand perfectly still, it would be thought that that of the Friends could do so. that of the Schermerhorn street Friends' Society of Brooklyn-a change has at last crept in which admits of whole families sitting tothought it best to return him to his gether in meeting irrespective of cell as he was really ill, and he was sex. Of course the thing will not stop here. In a few months we shall have young Quakers and Quakerresses sitting together in meeting, whether in the family or out of it; and, this grand change being adopted, there is no telling where the matter will end. On the whole we cannot but congratulate the Schermerhorn street congregation upon the new step taken. We have a great respect for the Society of Friends as a sect; but we have a reverence also for any spirit of progress which shall tend to to draw the sexes together into a nearer relation, at the same time retaining pure and natural conditions. We think this Quaker step is in the right direction.—N. Y. Herald.

Winter Feed.

My bill of fare for winter, says the gentleman who took the first prize for butter at the New York State Fair, is twenty pounds clover hay, one peck roots, and four quarts fine corn meal. That will be an average; if any cow wishes more she shall have it. A good cow always pays for what she eats. Last winter I cut and steamed the food with a Prindle steamer, but an not pre-pared to say whether I got paid for the extra pains. There is a great when you do it yourself. I am certain it pays to cook the meal as one of the oldest and best magazines when the weather is too cold to in the world, for the Farm, Garden, and Household, \$1.50 a year. One copy sour it. Cows are very fond of steamed food and will at a great deal of it. I cannot see my saving in quantity by feeding cooked food. Proprietors of feed catters and steaming apparatus are always very transmute refuse straw and musty hay into a poduct superior to the best hay uncooked. What a mess

to place before a well bred Jersey cow, whose very name is suggestive of delicious cream and golden

The Shortest Day.

The daylight portion of Sunday the 21st, was the "shortest day" in the year, the sun at 33 minutes after 12 P. M., reaching his furthe. est Southern limit, the winter solstice. The sun rose at 7:20 A. M., and set at 4:38 P. M., making the day between sunrise and sanset but 9 hours and 18 minutes in length in this latitude. This, with the short twilights characteristic of this season of the year, leaves but a comparatively brief period of daylight. The "day time" of Monday was but a few seconds shorter than that of yesterday, the difference of the daylight periods being inappreciable.-Christmas, the days have been and will be practically about 9 hours Large Commodious Dwelling, and 18 minutes in length. It will not be until New Year's day that they will be perceptibly longer, the period of daylight being at that time two minutes longer than it is now. After that, the old saw says: "As the day lengthens the cold strengthens," which we hope will no, prove true this winter.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

RALEIGH FEMALESEMINARY

P. Hobgood, A. M. Principal. H. W. Reinhart, (U. Va.) Associate Principal.
Dr. L. Von Meyerhoff, of Vienna,

bed of Canada thistles than to be at The Spring term will open on Mon-

27—feb1

SALE

The undersigned offers for sale, on reasonable terms, a very desirable and valuable tract of land, within a mile and a quarter of the Southern limits of the city of Raleigh, on the West side of Fayetteville road, containing two hundred and twenty acres. It fronts on the road for nearly a mile, and can be divided in two or more lots to suit pur-chasers. Persons desirous of purchas-

M. A. BLEDSOE.

PROSPECTUSES.

AN EXQUISITE CHROMO.

[Size 14x20, in 18 Colors] "The Strawberry Girl," For Every Subscriber to

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The Journal itself is a rich treasure for any Household. A single volume contains about \$25,000 worth of splendid engravings, finely printed, and of a highly pleasing and instructive character. It has, also, a vast amount of the choicest reading, carefully prepared,

and full of instruction. With all these attractions, and other improvements contemplated, the price of HEARTH and Home continues at the low rate of only \$3 a year, or \$4 for HEARTH and Home and the American Agriculturist. (With the Agriculturist there will also be presented a most beau-tiful Chromo of an original picture, painted expressly for this purpose, entitled "Mischief Brewing," by B. F. Reinhart. Sent, mounted, for only 25 cents extra. N. B.—\$4.75 secures both papers for the year 1873, and both Chromos, mounted and scnt prepaid.)

The Hearth and Home Chromos are delivered in the order in which the names are received. No charge for the Chromo when taken at the office, unmounted. If to be sent prepaid, un-mounted, 20 cents must be sent for payment and packing.

It will be move ed and varnished, ready for putting i. to reframe, for 30 cts extra—that is, for 50 cents it will be mounted, Varnished, Packed, and sent Prepaid to subscribers (to Hearth and Home for 1873.) That is, the Hearth and Home Chromo will be delivered

At office, Unmounted, Free. Mounted, 30c extra. If sent prepaid, Unmounted, 20c extra. Mounted, 50c extra.

We advi e all to have them mounted, before lees ! e office, as in large quantities we are able to have them mounted for a qualities of he cost of doing it singly and better than it can be usually be done elsewhere.

The subscription price of the American Agriculturist, which is well known each of Hearth and Home, Weekly, and American Agriculturist, Monthly will be sent one vect for \$4.- 32 cents additional postage were the papers are to go to British Amei

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It is useless to speak of the productiveness of these Lancs. Corn, all kinds of grain, and Clovers yield abundant; but its reputation is

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situated in Greene county, 8 miles from Snow Hill, and 3 miles from Marlboro, Pitt county. A Railroad line recently established within 3 miles of this Farm, For nearly two weeks, beginning leading from Wilson to Greenville, last Monday and ending after which is designed going into operation this Fall.

> all necessary out buildings needful to a farm this size, newly and neatly fitted

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Rev. T. M. Jones, D. D. President. The Spring Session of 1874 will begin on the lath January. Charges per session of 20 weeks. board and tuition in regular course,

Charges for extra studies moderate. For full particulars, apply to the President.

N. H. D. WILSON, President Board of Trustees. 23-tf

CITY ADVERTISEMENTS

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Furnishing Goods "Sax'ny w'l" 150-225 Men's White "Fine fur " 150-4 60 Men's White den's White Dress Shirts, 2 25-3 50 Boys wool " 75-1 50 Op'n Back " 2 00-3 75 "Sax'ny w'l" 100-200 "F'y Bosom "100-225 Men and boys "Chiveats "125-250 Caps in great caps in great variety, " Morn'g und'r Shirts, 75-250

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great q'ntity, 10-75 "h'vy" 350-6 60 Eal' r'l shoes, 150-4 50 Color'd 8-25 Button Con. Ladies Hats and Boys b'ts, peg'd Color'd and sewed, 2 00-4 75 Balmorals Ribbons.

Ladies Promenade Hats, 200-300 L'di's Calf seweds shoes, 250-350 Wisses "100-200 Rib'ns, all wid's, 5-100 Clothing. Gaiters, 250-350 Gaiters, 250-350 Wasses "100-200 Buff Bat. 175-250 A calf & Morrocce Shoe 140-225

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