

IS IT TRUE?

We cut the following from the New York Herald. The public, as well as ourselves, will be curious to learn whether the statement is true, and so, whether the Administration has had anything to do with it. We are very much disinclined to believe that the Navy Department at Washington would sanction anything of the kind. It is, however, quite probable that the commander of the steamer Michigan did, without authority, show off his extraordinary gallantry in the manner described by the Detroit Tribune. There are too many officers, both in the Army and the Navy, who place an undue estimate upon titular dignity, and are ever on the qui vive, to render an obsequious homage to rank. A plain, American born Mr. Smith, or Mr. Brown, on his way to some out-of-the-way field of missionary enterprise, with a pure gospel to teach, would hardly meet with so much courtesy at their hands, as an Aegyptian, with a Right Reverend prefix to his name, and a commission in his pocket from a European Court.

For our own part, we are becoming more and more democratic every day, in our aversion to those pompous distinctions and arrogant pretensions which have been imported among us from abroad, for the very purpose of shaming our people out of their republican simplicity. These high sounding titles with all their fanciful associations, are foreign to our habits, and inconsistent with the spirit of our institutions. We should not be misled by them, or forget that—

"The rank is but the guinea stamp; A man's a man for that."

AGREEMENT CONCERNING A GOVERNMENT STEAMER.—The Detroit Tribune says, that—"Arch-bishop Hughes arrived in town yesterday, on board the United States iron steamer Michigan, from the Lake Superior country. We understand that the Michigan, which had been on a cruise to the upper part of his mission here, in order to take him to Mackinac. Here she found the Lord Bishop of New York, where he was to discharge his official duties. Ascertaining that he was intending to visit Little Traverse and other places professionally, the gallant commander tendered him the use of the government vessel, to employ on board, and about ship, waiting at all ports he desired to visit in the lake. He performed the necessary religious ceremonies, and brought him on his way to this city. We presume the steamer is now waiting at this port until his Lordship shall have completed the object of his mission here, in order to take him to Mackinac, or to whatever other point he may desire to visit on the lakes. If it be true, as we are informed, that a United States officer has thus placed a United States vessel at the service of a prelate, making a tour on business strictly connected with the interest of the Catholic Church, or any other church, or any object of a sectarian character, it is certainly something new under the sun in this country at least."

We presume that this affair has been exaggerated, or else the admiral is fairly open to the suspicion of delectation for the Catholic vote. But in any event, we apprehend, as we claim for a portion of the proceeds of these lands to aid in their education, it is both just and reasonable.

Resolved, That a memorial in behalf of the institution for the blind in the United States be presented to the President of Congress, asking for a portion of the proceeds of the public lands—a portion to be equitably applied to all the States for the education of their blind, and a portion for a specific fund for printing books in raised letters.

Resolved, That Messrs. Howe, Chapin, Cooper, Brown and Dutcher be a committee to prepare such memorial previous to the 1st day of January next.

Resolved, That it will be expedient for a delegation of pupils from several institutions to visit Washington to the presentation of the memorial to give publicity to the success of the system of instructing the blind.

Resolved, While this Convention would not discourage the use of any type or character now in existence, they decidedly recommend a form type or letter for all letters published for the blind.

Resolved, That the "Boston letter," so called, in which the great bulk of books for the blind have been printed, be preferred as the standard type for all future books printed for the blind, subject to the amendment proposed in the following resolution.

Resolved, That the fact of any individual applying to the Convention, be appointed at this time to examine the "Boston letter," to ascertain whether any alteration in any of said letters be expedient, and if so to recommend its general adoption.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed by the Convention to consider upon and report to the next Convention a plan for the publication of a periodical devoted to the advancement of education among the blind.

Resolved, That such committee be, if they find it practicable to prepare the publication of such periodical as a private enterprise, be authorized, in behalf of this Convention, to secure the commencement of the same under their own general supervision.

Resolved, That in the event of the commencement of any institution for the blind, and pupils in all existing institutions for the blind, be invited to contribute to its columns.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to correspond with the American Bible Society, with a view of obtaining from said society a copy of the New Testament in Braille for every blind person, and that the same shall present to them a certificate of the principal of the institution where he or she was educated, that he or she can read, and is unable to pay for such book.

Resolved, That this Convention do not approve of the present method of binding the Bible for the blind, by the blind sewers, but the leaves so as to present the printing on both sides of the leaf, and accordingly suggest the expediency of the Bible being bound as formerly, and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the officers of the Bible Society.

Messrs. Wiseman, Thurman and Sturtevant presented a report upon Mr. Mahony's system of musical notation, which, after some debate, was adopted by the Convention.

Resolved, That this Convention recommend to the various institutions for the blind, and to all blind persons, to practice the system of musical notation devised by Mr. Mahony, as possessing many advantages.

Resolved, That Mr. Mahony merits the encouragement of this Convention in his laudable efforts to supply this desideratum in the education of the blind.

The question of dispensing with the word "blind" was discussed at some length, and it was remarkable that all the speakers who were blind insisted that children should be subjected to an open strict discipline as well as children. It was finally

"ARTHUR'S HOME MAGAZINE" for the same month embodies the best articles of his well-known weekly publication. It is of course one of high character. The August number of the "WESTERN HORTICULTURAL REVIEW" is also acknowledged.

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE EDUCATION OF THE BLIND.

THE SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS FOR THE INSTRUCTION OF THE BLIND, IN CONVENTION. This Convention was held on the 16th, 17th, and 18th inst., at the New York Institution for the Blind, and was called to order by Wm. Chapin, Esq., of Philadelphia, who nominated T. Colden Cooper, Superintendent of the New York Institution, as chairman pro tempore, and Jas. S. Brown, of Louisiana, as secretary.

All superintendents of institutions for the blind, and teachers of the blind, in such institutions, were delegates entitled to seats in this Convention. The following gentlemen were appointed the permanent officers of the Convention:— For President, Dr. S. G. Howe; for Secretary, T. Colden Cooper.

The delegates present were: S. G. Howe, Director Perkins Institution, Mass.; Wm. Chapin, Principal Pennsylvania Institution; T. Colden Cooper, Superintendent N. Y. Inst.; R. E. Hart, Superintendent Ohio Institution; Dr. J. Rhoades, Superintendent Illinois Inst.; Dr. Merrill, Superintendent Virginia Institution; M. S. McLean, Superintendent Tennessee Inst.; C. W. H. Churchman, Superintendent Indiana Inst.; C. B. Woodruff, Superintendent Wisconsin Inst.; J. S. Brown, Superintendent Louisiana Institution; Samuel Bacon, Principal Iowa Asylum; J. W. Phillips, Superintendent Georgia Institution; David Lovell, Superintendent Maryland Institution; Edw. Wheelan, Superintendent Missouri Inst.; A. W. Fay, Teacher Indiana Institution; B. Reiff, Teacher New York Institution; J. W. Fisher, Teacher New York Institution; and Chaubertin, Former Superintendent of the New York Institution for the Blind, to attend the meetings of the Convention, and to share its deliberations.

A resolution was also passed, inviting the managers of the New York Institution for the Blind, and Mr. E. W. H. Ellis, Trustee of the Indiana Institution, to attend the sitting of this convention.

On taking the chair, Dr. Howe addressed the convention. The convention then proceeded to business, and discussed the several resolutions and propositions submitted by the committee on the part of the delegates, and in the various institutions, took prominent parts, and gave proof of their talents and acquirements.

The following resolutions were finally adopted, as expressions of the views of the convention: Resolved, That where a majority of the States of the Union are provided with institutions for the education of the blind, this Convention, representing such institutions, recommend the following resolutions:— Resolved, That a permanent provision in aid of the education of the blind, and for a suitable library in the several States, should be regarded as a subject of national concern.

Resolved, That as Congress has appropriated large portions of the public lands for general education, from the benefits of which the blind have been and necessarily are excluded, an equitable portion of the proceeds of these lands to aid in their education, it is both just and reasonable.

Resolved, That a memorial in behalf of the institution for the blind in the United States be presented to the President of Congress, asking for a portion of the proceeds of the public lands—a portion to be equitably applied to all the States for the education of their blind, and a portion for a specific fund for printing books in raised letters.

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THE POPULATION OF NEW ORLEANS AND THE FEVER.—The New Orleans True Delta estimates that three months ago there were in that city 150,000 people. This number was, as usual, greatly reduced in the early part of June, as the more wealthy of both the acclimated and unacclimated, at this period set out on their Northern sojourn. The summer visitors to the North, previous to the appearance of the fever, were unusually numerous. The same paper says:— As soon as the first few cases of yellow fever occurred, the run-away army received new recruits, till the city was reduced to less than half the ordinary winter population. All who feared the fever, and were wealthy enough to travel, left, and it will perhaps not be considered an over-estimate when we set down 85,000 as the population of the city when the yellow scourge commenced its ravages in earnest. Of this 85,000 at least 80,000 were natives of the city or acclimated, and of course, for themselves, had no fears of Yellow Jack. It followed that among the remaining 25,000, the pestilence was to find its victims;—and among these its ravages have been truly fearful. Of the 25,000 of unacclimated, more than 5,000 are already sleeping in the deep which knows no waking;—another 5,000 have recovered, and still another 5,000 are at the present time sick. This will leave but 10,000 at all likely to be attacked, and of that number perhaps a third will be entirely passed over. All old residents know that these statements are founded in truth, and they further know that no person can be looked upon as a permanent citizen of New Orleans until he has undergone the acclimating process.

The True Delta, in order to show that its basis is not so entirely suspended in that city as represented, goes on to say that all of the 60,000 acclimated persons who can be spared from the pestilential work of watching over the couches of the sick, and attending to the interment of the dead, are busy at their usual avocations, buying and selling and getting gain, while they cast freely their substance into the urn of benevolence. It is also added, that while hundreds and hundreds of thousands are dying, and yet it is at the same time a well known fact that among the worthless, the dissipated and the vile, the fever has been most exacting and the victims most numerous.

AN INSANE AND FUGITIVE BOY.—There is a remarkable boy named F. G. He was found in the insane Asylum, Utica, N. Y. He was there in September, 1851, in an orchard in South Farmington, Ontario county, N. Y., dressed with exceeding neatness—his dress fitting with exactness and his clothes having the marks of traveling or wandering through the country. It was supposed at the time that he had run away and came by the railroad to the neighborhood where he was found. He was detained for a time at the house of Mr. Edward Herrenden, a farmer who then had charge of the poor of the county; but his restless and his efforts to escape, caused him to be sent to the insane Asylum at Utica. Clear and satisfactory account could be gathered from his statements. He stated that he came from Virginia or Maryland, that his name was Edward Radcliffe, (some times Topfille), that he had parents and a little sister living in that neighborhood. He is remarkably well acquainted with the history of the country, and is especially familiar with several languages, and with ancient and modern history. It is supposed he came from the South. Any further information can be obtained by addressing the Rev. Mr. Manchester, Ontario county, N. Y., or at the Asylum in Utica.

THE YELLOW FEVER.—New Orleans, Aug. 18.—The Picayune says that the disease is still on the increase. In point of typography, it will compare favorably with any work done in the North; in fact, the execution is beautiful as an addition to the History of the State. The work is prettily colored with Engravings, and should command an extensive sale.

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THE DESTRUCTION OF SHIRAZ BY EARTHQUAKE.—A letter from Persia gives some further particulars of the terrible earthquake at Shiraz on the 21st of April last. The shocks continued, up to the 14th of May, at short intervals every day. The first shock lasted five minutes, when the inhabitants were asleep, and had nearly the whole city in ruins. The writer, speaking of the scene next morning, says:— "On every side the eye could see nothing but a heap of ruins, streets blocked up with stones, and dead bodies being carried on litters without the walls of the city. I felt the heart bleed to see the limbs of persons showing themselves from beneath piles of rubbish, and men, women and children endeavoring to withdraw the mutilated bodies of their friends and relations from beneath the ruins, which in their despair they were tearing away with their teeth, their hands, and their nails; but of several thousand victims, the lives of only a very small number were saved. Severe shocks occurred for five days, during which it is calculated that twelve thousand persons perished. On the fourth day large bands of brigands made their appearance, and plundered the unfortunate inhabitants, who were without defense and without asylum, of what little they had been able to save from the ruins."

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