

Our Rights

WILMINGTON, N. C., FOR THE WEEK ENDING JULY 8, 1881.

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THE BLOODY BALLOT.

BY REV. C. DENISON.

"Father in Heaven! Thy Kingdom come
This is the prayer of Christians dear
And yet we vote the demon Rum
Over Thy Kingdom sovereign way.

"No drunkard ever enters here!"
Sounds forth from Heaven its fearful knell;
And yet we vote from year to year
To plunge the drunkard down to hell!

By votes we run the Devil's still!

By votes we kill God's living grain!
By votes the drunkard's cup we fill,
And doom him to eternal pain.

Who casts those votes! Thou, voter! thou!
Thy ballot damps these drunken souls!
Thy brother's blood is on it now,
Dropped, red and reeking, at the polls!

The Broken-Hearted.

It is a beautiful figure, this binding up of the broken-hearted—as though the Crucified One took the liniment and the strapping, and put it around the broken heart, and with His own dear, gentle hand proceeded to close up the wound and make it cease to bleed. Luke does not tell us that He came to bind up the broken-hearted; if you examine his version of the text, you will read that He came to heal them. That is going still further, because you may find a man who falls in his surgery. He whose own heart was broken knows how to cure broken hearts. If you have that broken heart within you, beloved, Christ came to cure you, and He will do it, for He never came in vain: "He shall not fail or be discouraged." With sovereign power anointed from on high He watches for the cases. Heart disease, incurable by man, is Christ's speciality. His Gospel touches the root of the soul's ill, the mischief which dwells in that place whence are the issues of life. With pity, wisdom, power and condescension, He bends over our broken hearts, and ere He has done with them He makes them all rejoice and sing glory to His name.

A Queer Machine.

A watchmaker in Newcastle, Penn., says a Pittsburg paper, has completed a set of three gold shirt studs, in one of which is a watch that keeps excellent time, the dial being about three-eighths of an inch in diameter. The three studs are connected by a strap of silver inside the shirt-bosom, and the watch contained in the middle one is wound up by turning the stud above, and the hands are set by turning the one below. But perhaps the most remarkable thing about the Illiputian machine is that it works with a pendulum like a clock, and the pendulum will act with ease and accuracy in whatever position the time-piece is placed even if it be placed upside down.

Mr. Vanderbilt's House.

The most costly house in New York will be that of Mr. Vanderbilt, who is only outdone in magnificence throughout the States by the bonanza King in the Far West. The house, together with two others adjoining, which Mr. Vanderbilt is constructing for his daughters, will cost some £300,000. The woodwork, to be "chosen from the choice woods of the world," and is to be fashioned by the "most skilful European and American carvers." During the Railway King's recent visit to Paris, he bought some almost priceless ceilings, and secured a replica of Ghiberti's famous gates of the Baptistery at Florence, the latter for £4000. The "good times" which our Transatlantic cousins have been having of late years have certainly given

a great stimulus to the building trade in New York, and edifices of from seven to nine stories high are fast springing up in place of the older buildings, of the city. Indeed, one man recently regretted that he had not built his house fourteen stories high, and prophesied that in a few years the streets will tower to the extent often of eleven stories, save in certain districts, which were swamped before the adventurous Dutchmen of the seventeenth century founded their settlement of New Amsterdam. Mr. Vanderbilt, wiser than his progenitors, has blasted the foundations of his house out of the solid rock.—*English paper.*

Don't Prune Tomatoes Too Much.

No one who has not tried it can have any idea of how valuable the leaves are to the tomato plant. One may for experiment take off most the leaves of a plant, and he will find the flavor insipid, and every way poor. Of course it is the peculiar acidity of the tomato that gives it so much value to all of us, but the acid from the tomato that has ripened on an insufficient amount of foliage, is disagreeable to most tastes. The same principle has been found to work in managing grapevines. The man who judiciously pinches back the branches does well; but he who strips off the foliage to "let in the sun and air," generally finds that he has made a bad mess of it.

Mary's Lamb.

The *Christian at Work*, in reply to a correspondent, gives the following, which will prove interesting, especially to the children:

You have heard, of course, of that most famous of all lambs, known by the name of "Mary's little lamb," but perhaps you don't know that there really was such a lamb, or that there ever was such a girl as Mary who owned the pet. Such, however, is the case, and Mary is still living, and has some of the very yarn made from the "fleece as white as snow." The school-house mentioned in the poem was at Stirling, Mass., and the teacher's name was Polly Kimball. The lamb was born in 1815, and the "following to school" was in the same year. The lamb grew up and had three lambs of her own, and was killed by a cow soon after. The wool was made into yarn by Mary's mother, and knit into stockings for Mary. She kept them until the year 1878, then raveled them out, selling the yarn in small lots to aid in the preservation of the "Old South Church" in Boston. Mary's maiden name was "Sawyer." At the time of the selling of the yarn she was Mrs. Columbus Tyler, of Somerville, Mass. The poem about this wonderful lamb, written by John Rollstone, of Boston, is familiar to all grandma's children, and she thinks they will be glad to have learned the true history of it.

Sweet Potatoes.

An old potato raiser, who has never yet failed to make a good crop, assures us that the ridge should never be disturbed after the plants are in position. The common plan of barring off the potatoes and then throwing the dirt back into a ridge he considers ruinous. If the ridges wash down, the dirt may be thrown back upon them through the agency of a plough, otherwise, but there must be no tearing up of the original ridge.

Charles Lamb to Young Men.

The waters have gone over me. But out of the black depths, could I be heard, I could cry out to all those who have yet to set a foot in the perilous flood. Could the youth to whom the flavor of the first wine is delicious as the opening scenes of life, or the entering upon some newly discovered paradise, look into my desolation, and be made to understand what a dreary thing it is when a man shall feel himself going down a precipice with open eyes and a passive will—to see his destruction and have no power to stop it!

and yet feel it all the way emanating from himself; to see all godliness emptied out of him, and yet not able to forget a time when it was otherwise; to bear about him the piteous spectacle of his own ruin. Could he see my fevered eye—feverish with the last night's drinking and feverishly looking for to-night's repetition of the folly; could he but feel the body of the death out of which I cry, hourly from another gallery, to be delivered—it were enough to make him dash the sparkling beverage to the earth in all the pride of its mantling temptation.

A Leaf From Confederate History

The Norfolk *Landmark* prints a communication from a former officer of the Confederate Army giving particulars of a plot, originating with Governor Wise, of Virginia, in January 1861, for the capture of Fortress Monroe, while the question of the State's seceding was pending in the State Legislature. The writer induced three orderly sergeants attached to the garrison of the fort and others to place proper men on guard at certain points prepared to surrender. They, however, declined to get unless the demand for the surrender was made by the authority of the State of Virginia and free passports guaranteed to them to pass through the State, with protection during the same. Governor Letcher was consulted, but he declined to make the demand for surrender on the part of the State unless authorized by the Legislature, and as this could not be obtained without making the plot public, the project was abandoned. The writer says that at least one-fourth of the garrison had joined the sworn organization to surrender the fort.

The Difference!

Some men move through life as a band of music moves down street, flinging out pleasure on every side through the air to every one, far and near, that can listen. Some men fill the air with their presence and sweetness, as orchards in October days fill the air with perfume of ripe fruit.—Some women cling to their own houses like the honeysuckle over the door, yet, like it, sweeten all the region with the subtle fragrance of their goodness. There are trees of righteousness, which are ever dropping precious fruit around them. There are lives that shine like star-beams, or charm the heart like songs sung upon a holy day.

How great a bounty and a blessing it is to hold the royal gifts of the soul so that they shall be music to some and fragrance to others, and life to all! It would be no unworthy thing to live for, to make the power which we have within us the breath of other men's joy; to scatter sunshine where only clouds and shadows reign; to fill the atmosphere where earth's weary toilers must stand with a brightness which they cannot create for themselves, and which they long enjoy, and appreciate.—*Christian at Work.*

Will Corn Deteriorate?

Many farmers think because their crops of corn decrease from year to year that it is due to the seed "running out." The deterioration is the result of exhaustion of the land, or it may be to some extent due to a want of care in the selection of the best type for seed. There is perhaps no field of corn but will contain more or less mixed ears. Some will be of a type which yields more abundantly than the other. If this is carefully selected, year by year, the corn will become more valuable for seed the longer it is cultivated. The Tichenor corn, which has been selected in this way and grown on the same farm for half a century, took the premium two years in succession at the State fair. It has been selected with a view to a fixed type, and that the best.

Four thousand emigrants, mostly Scandinavians and Danes, arrived at New York on the 19th ult., bound for Minnesota.

STATE NEWS.

Warsaw Brief Mention: Capt. J. M. Hartsell, of Magnolia, beats the State in raising onions. He has measured from one-thirtieth of an acre forty-seven bushels, which is at the rate of six hundred and eleven bushels to the acre.

Wilmington: Will not allow a continuation. Geo. H. Peeler, that a mad dog came to his house last Sunday morning, and went under his piazza. His behaviour left no doubt of his being mad, and he was therefore dealt with accordingly, before he had an opportunity to do any harm. He was a strange dog, unknown to any one in the neighborhood.

Fayetteville Examiner: Some two or three months ago, Mr. John S. Maultsby, of this place, received from Mr. S. G. Worth, fish commissioner for the State, sixteen young German carp, averaging about two inches in length. They were placed by Mr. Maultsby in the mill pond of Mr. J. D. Smith, in the lower part of the town. Recently one of these carp was captured by Mr. Maultsby's son and found on measurement to have attained a length of nearly nine inches, with a breadth of three inches.

Warrenton Gazette: Mr. Edward Alston, of Fork township, this county, is a most fortunate man. He has long known that there was a good deal of gold on his place, but has never systematically worked it. Recently a Mr. Irwin, from Onslow county, this State, has been prospecting there without machinery of any kind. Last week between sunrise and sunset Mr. Irwin found what miners call a pocket, 26 feet in the ground, and took out in pure gold 1,113 pennyweights. A pennyweight is about 35 cents, so there were found in less than six hours over \$1,100 in gold. During this work he took out one wash pan of dirt in which was \$150 in gold. The largest piece of gold found weighed 49 pennyweights and number were found from ten to twenty pennyweights.

Greenville Express: Mr. John W. says he saw what he took to be a hoop snake rolling over and over like a hoop Sunday. He killed it with a chunk and upon examination found that two snakes, a poplar leaf and a black, had swallowed part of each other, one the head and one the tail and as one gave a jerk to swallow more head the other gave a jerk to swallow more tail, and so the jerks kept them rolling over.—Mr. W. thinks that if he had let them alone they would have completely swallowed one another, and he is very sorry that he killed them.

The Newbernian: Thousands upon thousands of barrels of Irish potatoes have been shipped within the past twelve days from this city to points North, and yet more than one-half of the crop is still in the ground.—There is no end to squashes, cucumbers and tomatoes in this market, while vast quantities are being daily forwarded by steamer and rail to Northern markets. Green corn is also now being offered for sale on the streets and in the markets. Newbern is the vegetable depot of North Carolina.

Elizabeth City Economist: We are glad to learn that the Albemarle Immigration Society have in the printers hands a comprehensive hand-book, descriptive of the advantages of this favored section. They are making arrangements to distribute 4,000 copies through agencies they have established in the North and abroad.—Hyde county items: Hot and dry; rain needed. Crops promising. Jos. M. Watson has been elected Superintendent of Public Schools. Wheat and oats are putting on their golden livery.

—Washington county notes: A gang of thieves, supposed to be about 25 in number, are committing depredations in this county and in Martin and Bertie. On Thursday night they broke into the smoke house of Langley Brown and stole one thousand pounds of meat. The same night they stole Mr. Gaylard's horse to make way with their stolen property. A reward of \$500 has been pledged by the citizens for their arrest.