BOSTON DAILY ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, MARCH 2.

AMUSEMENTS THIS DAY AND EVENING.

BOSTON THEATRE.—Engagement of Mr. Fechter.—"Lady of Lyons." At 7½.

SELWYN'S.—"Little Em'ly." At 2½ and 7½.

ADELPHI THEATRE COMIQUE.—Farce, Olio, Pantomime, Burlesque, &c. At 7½.

BOSTON MUSEUM.—"Fron-Fron." At 2½ and 7½.

HOWARD ATHENÆUM.—Trowbridge & Hart's Combination. At 7½.

112 WASHINGTON STREET.—Exhibition of the Cardiff Giant. From 9 A. M. to 9 P. M.

☞ We do not read anonymous letters and communications. The name and address of the writer are in all cases indispensable, as a guaranty of good faith.

We cannot undertake to return or preserve communications that are not used.

The present law of this State in regard to crossings of steam railways by each other, at grade, *deserves* a passing notice. Of course its object is the protection of human life. With this in view, the legislature of 1855 enacted that "whenever any railroad now "constructed, or which shall hereafter be "constructed, crosses or is crossed by any "other railroad at grade, it shall be the duty "of every engine man on both such railroads " " " before reaching such crossing to "stop his engine at some point within the "distance of five hundred feet," &c. (Chap. 452.) But in 1860, chap. 63, sec. 93, of General Statutes, the law reappears as follows:—"When a railroad other than a horse "*railroad*, or a railroad ON WHICH NO PASSENGER TRAINS ARE RUN, is crossed by "another at grade, every engineman on "either of the roads shall, before reaching "the crossing, stop his engine," &c. So that, by this act of 1860, roads on which no passenger trains are run—meaning freight roads—are excepted from its jurisdiction. To illustrate: All engines and trains on the Fitchburg road stop before crossing the Boston and Maine—both being passenger roads; but by the law, while the Grand Junction was a freight road, neither the Fitchburg nor Grand Junction trains were required to stop for each other at their junction! As it the danger of the passengers in the Fitchburg cars was not as great in running through a freight train on the Grand Junction as if they had done the same to a passenger train on the Boston and Maine! Such a catastrophe did not occur because the managers of the roads referred to took counsel of prudence and experience *instead of the statute*. Little more can be necessary to show the insufficiency and absurdity of the law.

It must be confessed, however, that the original law was quite defective. For suppose a train on each of two passenger roads to stop at the required distance at the same moment, which shall cross first? and how shall both know which has this right? The law is silent; the danger serious. It is a daily experience, we are told, for each engineer to believe he is ahead of the other. The managers of the roads answered by employing a signal man at such junction, whose duty is to show balls from the top of a high staff which must be seen by the men of both trains before starting after their stop. In this way the signal mangives the law to both. And we are assured by railway men there would be frequent collisions without these signals.

To another point in this connection we ask attention. The comfort of the traveller and the interest of the railways alike require that unnecessary stops shall not be required. *Are they so required by the present law?* Let us see. In speaking of the crossing of the Fitchburg and the Grand Junction roads just now, we assumed that the latter was a freight road in order to illustrate the working of the law; but of late, since immigrants are sent from East Boston over the Grand Junction by three trains in a fortnight, on arrival of each steamer, it became a question whether the Grand Junction was not thereby made a passenger road. Preferring to err, if at all, *on the side of safety*, the *Fitchburg road* prudently classed it among passenger roads, and now stops all its trains in obedience to the law. Now over that road there pass daily at that point, in both directions, we suppose, not fewer than fifty trains, about half of which are passenger trains. Over the Grand Junction there pass, regularly, one freight and from one to two brick trains, daily, each way, between 7 A. M. and 6 P. M. Attached to this freight train, when they arrive, are the passenger cars with the immigrant passengers already mentioned.

The Boston and Albany road is also crossed at *South Framingham by the Mansfield road*. This crossing is so near the station that the stop of the Boston and Albany trains there, when crossing east, meets the requirements of the law; but all its trains westward make the stop as the law directs. Over the Mansfield road, which was opened only a few weeks ago, one freight train each way only is run regularly, with a passenger car attached;—crossing the Boston and Albany twice between 10 A. M. and 5 P. M.

With a board of railway commissioners in whose hands may be placed the necessary discretion, it seems preposterous to say that no unnecessary stops are required in these cases. This law, indeed, needs a thorough revision. It can be made more effectual for the safety of travellers, while well-grounded objections are removed.

The evidence taken in relation to the "gold corner" of last September makes a very long story, of which some of the salient points are given in another part of this paper. The banking and currency committee, before whom all this waste of words was drawn out, have sifted it, analyzed it, tested it, and put their conclusions in the form of a report, which also appears at full length among our despatches. It is something to have come so near sounding the depths of the conspiracy; it is something to know how these things are managed on a great scale, and how little knowledge it requires, after all, to raise a dust like that which blinded the eyes of most intelligent people during those lively autumn days.

The result of it all appears to be that there were a few men in New York who were bent *upon making money out of the uncertainties* of the times; that they tried to the best of their ability to enlist in their scheme relatives of the President and members of his household; that they made the most of the little encouragement which Mr. Corbin's interest and General Butterfield's sympathy gave them; that they miscalculated the purposes and the policy of the government; and at last failed in the grand object they had been striving for. The sufferers were for the *most part those who were drawn into the* whirlpool after the excitement began, and had as little idea of the cause of the flurry as the great majority of lookers on had till the excitement was over. It was the device of a few men, working with the materials which they found ready for use, unscrupulous as to means, not troubled with any absurd notions of honor, and apparently unsuspicious that the President or any member of his household could have any *use for such a commodity*.

The theory on which the leading speculators based their operations, namely, that a rise in gold was desirable to enable the farmers to move their crops, and that when the crops were taken care of gold would fall, and so the country would come off a debt of gratitude to them for patriotic services, appears to have been pressed upon the President's attention in season and out of season. He fled from Washington, but it followed him. He went to Long Branch, and found it awaiting him there. He came to the Peace Jubilee, and Gould and Fisk served it up for him at supper on board the boat. He escaped to the mountains, beyond the reach of telegraphs and railroads; but messengers were routed from their beds at night and sent flying across the country, lest the President should forget that the crops were in danger. "I represented," says Mr. Corbin, speaking of the famous letter which Fisk despatched for him into western Pennsylvania, "that the government "should not interfere to put down the price "of gold just as the crops were maturing and "nearly ready to be marketed."

The President was human, and was impressed by the persistent badgering which assailed him, while all the country supposed he was in the enjoyment of unruffled repose. For we find that early in September he was advising the Secretary of the Treasury, then at his home in Groton, that it was of vital importance to the West that the farmers should be able to move their crops; that if gold should fall the movement of the crops would be retarded, and the West would suffer; and that while he was not disposed to *interfere actively* in this matter, his own opinion was very clear that the market should be let alone. There is nothing impeachable in this. But it would perhaps have averted the occasion *for interference* at all, if he had closed, not his ears, but his mouth and his hand, against the blandishments of those who meant *to use the supposed need of the western* crops, and his personal influence, for their personal profit.

But there is little occasion to waste indignation on individual malefactors while the country deliberately and persistently forces into their hands the instruments by which their plans are carried out. While we are obliged now and at all times to trade with foreign nations through the agency of gold, we steadily refuse to take the steps which will make gold the medium of exchange among ourselves. Gold is falling now, it is true, and has already reached a point where *it may well excite hopeful anticipations* that it will touch bottom soon. But, are we sure of that? Whether it is so or not, there is *certainly no assurance* that, while the government is indifferent to its own obligations, the necessities of the country will not be made the sport of reckless and unprincipled men. It is only—as an intelligent observer of these events remarked at the time—it is only because gold is artificially thrown out of its legitimate sphere as the standard of value, and *reduced* to a mere object of speculation, like cotton, or hemp, or saltpetre, that such fluctuations are possible; while in other countries it still retains its true position, and thus indirectly influences all our values and transactions at home. Restore the equilibrium, restore the true standard of value to its true position, and these eccentricities will disappear. The financial machine will once more work smoothly and easily, and those who may then attempt to derange its working by "corners," will not be likely to try the experiment a second time!

The naturalization bill, offered in the House of Representatives by Judge Davis of New York, and amended and decided upon by the House judiciary committee, proposes important modifications of the existing laws relating to naturalization. It proposes to reduce the term of probation from five to three years and a half, and to give up the three years' notice of intention to become a citizen; but it insists upon a proper certification that the applicant is of good moral character, is attached to the principles of the Constitution, and is well disposed to the good order *and happiness of the country*. These are, however, merely nominal restrictions, and would probably not prevent any person, who was not recognized as a felon, from becoming a citizen if he were so disposed. The educational qualification applied in two or three States has not kept out a very large number, and we presume the moral qualification, which is a much more reasonable one if it could be applied, will not be more effective. There can be no doubt that the country would receive great advantage by liberalizing the naturalization laws in the matter of time, provided the safeguards against abuse and fraud were "honestly" enforced.

The musical enthusiasts on the Pacific coast *have had a Peace Jubilee* at San Francisco on a grand scale, beginning on the 22d of February and continuing through that and the two following days. The preparations and rehearsals furnished the chief subjects for conversation during the month preceding the event. Thirty-five hundred persons took part in the festival, including several military bands. Nor were usual accompaniments of such festivities wanting. Artillery roared, bells chimed, anvils rung, and "cannon were fired from the stand "of the leader by the use of electricity, under the "supervision of the Western Union Telegraph "Company." An organ, and a drum eight feet in diameter, were made for the occasion. The children of the public schools had a week's holiday. The banks and leading business houses were closed on the first, and partially on the following days. The originator of the affair was the favorite Camilla Urso, who also bore on her feminine shoulders the burden of its organization, and is just now, as may well be believed, more admired than ever.

The New York Times printed its abstract of the gold testimony yesterday morning, before the report was presented to Congress, and in violation of the pledges upon which it had access to the records of the committee. This was not only an insult to the committee, but it was an injury to the press. It is always a convenience for the press to have access to important reports and documents in advance of their publication, and the officers of the government have shown entire readiness to allow it, so far as they could do so, with a proper regard for the public interests. But there will be an end to this, and there ought to be, if any journal, ambitious for the sale of a few extra papers, can break its engagements and publish reports which it has received in confidence, at its own pleasure. The action of the Times is censurable in this case, not so much because its news was of great importance as because it destroys confidence in the honor of the press, and stands in the way of the relations *which ought to be sustained between it and the* officers of the government.

The disaster to the United States steamer Oneida, though not quite as sweeping as was at first reported, still remains one of the most terrible which have befallen the American navy in time of peace. No complete list of her officers and men is attainable, owing to the fact that transfers were made to and from the vessel just before her departure from Yokohama. The last letters received from her before the disaster spoke of the departure for home with high hopes, and *of the joy* with which all looked forward to their return to their native land.

LETTER FROM ROME.

Society in the Eternal City—Mercenary Gossip—Death of an Exiled Monarch—The Great Council.

[FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.]

ROME, ITALY, Feb. 9, 1870.

There are several fine fortunes in Rome this season, maids, widows and bachelors. A young lady from Canada has her income told at a half a million of francs. Some say she wishes to go into a convent; some say she wishes to buy a Roman prince—and she can have her choice if she pays her money, as the old slang English circuses sung runs. But report is a sad gossip, you know, and her words are not to be depended upon. Another one of these tempting fortunes is young Astor of New York, a tall, good-looking youth, studying sculpture with Tadolini, and said to have some artistic ability, which is *remarkable, for the kingdom of art is as hard for* a rich man to enter as the kingdom of heaven. Mr. Astor is appreciated at his full money value;—"Your American Marquis of Bute," said an English lady to me the other evening when speaking of him.

The Marquis of Bute, by the way, is also among this Council of fortunes. With him, too, is one of the wealthiest commoners of England—Towneley, I think, is the name—young, good-looking and unmarried. The two attractive Englishmen have been great beaux, danced pretty gayly in the cotillons at the English subscription *balls and elsewhere. But as Lent is approaching*, Lord Bute is beginning to withdraw discreetly and in season from society, and May Fair and Columbia are in despair,—it is indeed a grievous disappointment. Why, to be sure, must rich, handsome young English lords and bachelors be troubled with a conscience and a Mgr. Capel for a chaplain? This same conscience of Lord Bute has been a grievous thing to him, and made his course of true love run very much awry. He was engaged to, and loved very dearly, Lady Alberta Hamilton, daughter of the Duke of Abercorn. When the Marquis went into the Roman Church the *engagement was broken by the young lady herself*, for her parents left it to her own decision. This family of Hamilton is Protestant, it is the Duke of Hamilton who is Catholic. Lady Alberta refused the richest peer in all England, and a few months after married Lord Lansdowne, and it is said Lord Bute is still very much "cut "up," as the English say, by it.

The old Grand Duke Leopold of Tuscany died last Friday midnight. He had a superb military torchlight funeral on Monday evening. All the army that is in Rome turned out on the occasion with five military bands; it was a grand sight as *it stretched down the Corso, went along the* Condotti, and wheeled around the Virgin's column in the Piazza di Spagna. The next day the *Pope* attended the funeral mass, which was celebrated at the Church of the Holy Apostles. The body lay in state on a magnificent catafalque, and the Holy Father gave it absolution with the holy water after mass. Balconies were erected in the church for the numerous ex-royal relatives of the Grand Duke and Duchess now in Rome,—a convocation of most impolitic Bourbons, by the way,—and also for the friends of the family, who were invited to be present at the solemn ceremony. The celebration was in every way a royal one, as if for a reigning sovereign. After mass the little coffin of princes and intimates went to the palace of the Archduchess in deep mourning, to offer their condolences, and were presented by her to the eldest son, Ferdinand, "the reigning Grand Duke," as he is called in Rome. This prince only arrived in Rome on Tuesday morning, and reached the Holy Apostles just as the funeral was being celebrated. He *was so deeply affected that he could not enter* the church, but remained in the sacristry weeping bitterly. The old Grand Duke was 73. This son and successor to a lost kingdom is 34; he has been married twice, first to a daughter of the King of Saxony, second to a sister of the present Ex-Duke of Parma. In the Florence journal, "L'Italie," for Wednesday of this week there is this curious paragraph:—

"At dull morning there has been seen at the door of *the little Chapel of Mercy* a cenotaph covered with a blue velvet funeral cloth; the cipher of the brotherhood at the four corners; in the middle a blue velvet cushion, and on it a simple black dress hat. A brother of the confraternity—a *capo padrile*—has died recently: H. R. H. the Archduke Leopold of Austria, who was formerly, before the change of 188 , Grand Duke of Tuscany."

This is all a Florence journal has to say about the death of its old sovereign who reigned so kindly in Florence! If Leopold had died fifteen years ago the Florentine papers would have sung another song. But from the height of the Grand Duke's prosperity he could not have had so grand a funeral as Pius IX. and the Roman court have given him.

The Council affairs increase in interest. The differences of opinion between *the Ultramontanists* and Montanists create a deal of clerical gossip and wrangling, especially in the clerical journals, such as "L'Univers" and "La Français." Louis Veuillot, the well-known editor of "L'Univers," is a very violent writer. He belongs to the extreme Ultramontanes, is "more papaline "than the Pope," as the Romans say. Veuillot is in Rome this winter; his letters to his own journal, which are intended to prove how little *other persons ought to know about Council* doings, disclose more secrets than can be obtained from any other source, and create also a good deal of bad feeling. Veuillot has one of the best reputations as a journal writer. "No man understands the weight of words "better than Veuillot," I have heard distinguished persons say, over and again, since I came to Rome. This may be so, for certainly Veuillot uses words as a butcher might a club when killing an ox, or as a prize-fighter his fists in a free fight and no quarter shown. La Français, which is said to be the organ of Mgr. Dupanloup, is much more decorous and dignified in tone.

Mgr. Dupanloup, whose pastoral letter on the *infallibility definition* appeared at the time of the opening of the Council the last of the year, and was like an unexpected bomb-shell thrown into the infallibist camp, has been told by Padre Spada that he will be refused an *Imprimatur* to the pamphlet he wishes to print at Rome, in reply to Mgr. Deschamps, Bishop of Maline, attack upon him. I heard last evening from pretty good authority that the pamphlet is to be printed at Paris. It has already been circulated in MS. among the bishops, and is said to be quite equal to the pastoral.

The infallibility postulata for and against *the infallibility stand about equal—over 200 sig*natures to each. Some of the bishops have refused to sign either, and a third party has framed a compromising definition; in this party the English and Spanish Fathers are found. Some French ladies of Paris and other parts of France have sent in a petition to the Pope begging him to remove all questions from the Council which may revive old hatreds and dissensions among their husbands, fathers and brethren, especially the subject of infallibility, "which," they say, "will "produce incalculable evil."

There have been several eloquent "discussions," *as the speeches in the Council secret sessions* are called. Mgr. Dupanloup's, made on the 22d January, was very effective. This bishop treated several points of discipline severely, and made some pointed remarks on the Council organization, which every one is now admitting is extremely defective. He quoted from the old church fathers, especially from St. Bernard, and said, after quoting St. Bernard's counsel to bishops, to be frank in their intercourse with the Pope, "We, too, ought to tell the Holy Father all the "truth—the exact truth." Mgr. Dupanloup's "speech is the finest we have had," and a bishop; *"respectful, able and full of independent energy."* But on the 25th of January the Bishop of Bosnia, Straussmayer, a Hungarian, carried everything before him with his superb flow of Ciceronian eloquence. He spoke nearly an hour and a half. "Held the 800 fathers perfectly "enchained," one of them said. This Hungarian prelate always speaks without notes, and uses Latin as if it was a mother tongue. "Once he "was interrupted in such a manner," a bishop told me, "that if he had prepared his speech he "would have been put out and embarrassed, but "the interruption only seemed to make him more "eloquent."

My bishop friend was so prudent he would not even give me the name of the great speaker of the day—for it was the very afternoon after the session we talked of it—nor the nature of the interruption. But his reserve was of no consequence; the next day it was all out—name, subjects of discussion, everything. The eloquent Hungarian bishop spoke on the two first *Schemata* concerning discipline. The interruption was this: Cardinal Capalti, the head and front of the Ultramontanes, called him to order, and said he was going beyond the question in discussion. Strauss mayor not in the least dashed or put thrown off his balance; he replied with dignity and firmness. "I am not speaking outside the question. If "my brothers have patience they will see it. We "have a right to discuss these subjects; we have "a responsibility resting upon us, and we must do "our work faithfully." Then he continued with redoubled fire and energy, and was not interrupted again during all his long speech.

The representation question is strongly agitated in the Council. Sixty-two Italian bishops rule over only 700,000 souls, while the archbishop of Paris has 2,000,000. The Archbishop of Cologne represents 1,400,000 Catholics, and in the Breslau diocese there are 1,700,000. Notwithstanding this inequality, most of the Council commissions have in them a majority of these Italian bishops. The German bishops have sent in a pamphlet on demand, requesting that this inequality shall be corrected, and also that in voting some regard shall be paid to the number of souls represented in a diocese.

The Holy Father visited the American College last Saturday, and I was presented to him. He looked vigorous, energetic and in excellent health. When he made an address to the American bishops I thought his voice had never sounded more round, full and sonorous. Several deaths have occurred during the Council and since its opening among the fathers, but they have been aged men who were in delicate health when they came to Rome. As a general rule, the Council Fathers are a hearty set of men. *They look strong and able to stand a great deal*: the majority of them have good square heads, and faces that have a practical common sense expression.

Rome is not healthy just now, it must be admitted. The late severe cold weather has irritated the nervous system and caused severe rheumatic fevers, pneumonia and complete physical prostration. Many visitors are dangerously ill. But "the back of the winter" is broken, as American farmers say; anemones and violets are blossoming in the Pamphilia Doria grounds and Borghese villa. The air is deliciously soft and the streets and roads *dry*. In a short time Lent will begin, the extreme dissipation will be over, May Fair and Columbia can repose on their laurels gained in the cotillion, and good health will return to beautiful Rome.

ANNE BREWSTER.

A FAMILY COUNCIL.

To the Editors of the Boston Daily Advertiser:—

In the year 1870 there was a family residing on one of the continents of the earth, possessed of great wealth. The stewards in charge estimated their real and personal estates at twenty-four thousand millions, and their gross annual income at seven thousand millions of dollars. The head of the family had no property separate from that of his children, and his chief occupation was to give such direction to the development of their industry as would enable them to maintain the character and credit of the family. A great deal of advice was offered to him, and at times he yielded to opinions entirely at variance with his own judgment, believing it best to do so, and thus convince his family of their unsoundness, as it was his first wish to educate his children to take care of themselves. He was an enthusiast on the subject of self-government, and had an unlimited faith in the capacity and ultimate prosperity of his family. His cardinal principles were truth and justice. He could not tolerate fraud. It gave him great pain that at one time, under a supposed necessity, his family undertook in their collective capacity to transfer a portion of the wealth which some of them had accumulated by greater industry to others who had borrowed it, by permitting the latter to pay their debts in a depreciated currency. The result of this attempt at dishonesty was great corruption and extravagance, public and private.

At the time mentioned a change had taken place in the views of the family, and, although some portion of them, more devoted to their own selfish interests than to the general welfare, made efforts to continue a system commenced in injustice, a large majority, having observed its bad results, were very desirous to remove it entirely, and to return to the standard of truth and justice. Aside from the principles which govern all families who regard the *right*, there were prudential reasons which satisfied them that their material welfare would be greatly promoted by *correcting the error* into which they had fallen. They had been led to overestimate the difficulties in returning to their old ways, which embarrassed them. On one occasion they met for a familiar discussion on this point, and one of the family stated his views upon it. He said: "Although I generally admitted that we have "great wealth, and that we are a powerful family, "our credit is inferior to that of other families of "less wealth and less power. It seems that this "*arises* partly from a want of courage to meet "the questions in hand, and partly from a want "of understanding their real character. In order "to make our exchanges among ourselves and "with other families, it is necessary that we have "an uniform standard of value. The commercial "world has always recognized gold and silver as "best adapted to this purpose. What we need is "a sufficient supply of these metals as currency "to transact our business. Now the supply re "quired is very small in comparison with our "wealth, or our annual income. From three "hundred to four hundred millions of dol"lars in coin in circulation would be ample. "What should we think of an individual "with twenty-four thousand millions of dollars of "accumulated capital, and a gross annual in"come of seven thousand millions, and whose "net surplus income, after a lavish expenditure, "was at least one thousand millions annually, who "should be so ignorant as to omit to provide so "paltry a sum as three to four hundred millions of "dollars, hardly one-third of his surplus net in"come for a single year, when by so doing he "would lessen all his expenses, place his credit on "a level with the highest, and develop his re"sources as they had never been developed before? "The sum so employed as currency would be the "most productive portion of his property. It "would be the golden key which would give him "access to the accumulated wealth of other families "abroad. It would be an instrument in the hands "of his great wealth to increase it. He would be "relatively free from the great reverses which the "want of such an instrument frequently causes. "Our annual sales are probably fifteen thousand "millions of dollars; the gold and silver currency "required to make these sales would not exceed "one-fifteenth part of their amount. The losses by "mere fluctuations of price, with our present cur"rency, must very largely exceed the full amount "of gold and silver required as currency. Besides, "our dealings with families abroad are almost en"tirely cut off; the cost of what we make is so "much enhanced, that others undersell us; and "there is so much uncertainty of the value of re"turns in the currency used, that few will venture "on long voyages. Some shipments recently made "yielded a moderate profit, because, and only "because, the anticipated returns were sold when "gold was at forty per cent. premium; for when "the returns were received gold was at twenty per "cent. premium, and at this rate there would have "been a large loss."

"You talk reasonably enough," says one, "but "how would you act to get us out of our difficulty?"

"In the first place," was the reply, "I would "withdraw the entire circulation of the paper "promissory notes payable on demand, which "are a standing witness to our want of integrity "and good faith. I would offer such inducements "to fund them, either in the interest and time of "bonds issued, or in the character given them as "the basis of banking, as would make it for the "interest of lenders to return them to the head of "the family who will certainly cancel them. These "notes should be withdrawn, because it is dishon"est to attempt to pay debts with them, and no "such circulation can be properly and advantage"ously used. It is not based upon any mercan"tile need; it is not controlled by the state of the "exchanges; and, whilst the saving of interest "was at one time relied upon as a defence of it, "that is now substantially abandoned. With the "withdrawal of these notes, whether by payment "of dues to our head, or by funding, the banking "system might be judiciously extended, requiring "payment of bank notes in coin within a short "period. We must then forget the great wealth "we are receiving, and the large amounts which "we can draw from other families for our agricul"tural products: with the proceeds of crops of "1870 and 1871, of the values of those of 1868 and "1869, the business of the family can be restored "to a specie basis without convulsion. To pro"mote this end, and the general prosperity, and "to lead to economy in public expenditure, the "taxes should be reduced seventy-five millions of "dollars annually."

The meeting broke up; at some future time it may be worth while to see what steps the family has taken.

W. G.

New England News.

MAINE.

—The wires of the Western Union and International lines got in contact between Belfast and Camden a few days since. The operators of the two offices at Belfast were sending such calls as "Camden, how long from Belfast, four feet wide, and about one foot thick. The spot has been visited by many persons, and all pronounce it a remarkable and unmentionable occurrence."

—Joseph Fish, a well known wealthy merchant and ship-owner of Thomaston, died a few days since, aged 70 years.

—Brunswick is to have a course of lectures, under the auspices of the senior class of Bowdoin College.

—The State reform school is to be enlarged, to accommodate the increasing number of pupils. There are now 200 boys at the institution.

—A telegraph office has been established at Crowley's Junction.

—A little son of Mr. William Harrington of Bath, while asleep Sunday night, was bitten in the thumb and leg by a rat, which *is is said* had partaken of the child's food. The child is now suffering quite severely from the wounds.

—A mass meeting of the ship-builders and owners upon the Penobscot Bay and river, in favor of protecting the navigation interests of the State, will be held in Bangor to-morrow.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

—An elegant $100 carriage whip lies idle in Amherst which was ordered for a present for Andrew Johnson, four years ago; but, ere the elaborate carving on the ivory handle could be finished, he was hurled from the ivory of apostasy, and his admirer's feelings changed.

—The Merrimack County teacher's institute will be held at Franklin from the 21st to the 26th instant.

—Professor J. S. Woodman of Dartmouth College is recovering from his recent severe illness.

—Captain John Gage of Nashua died on Sunday last, aged 96 years. His son, who survives him, is the republican candidate for railroad commissioner.

—Mr. Greenleaf C. Clough of Greenland, a few days since, paid the sum of $1000 for malpractice in setting a broken leg.

—Forty-five years ago a member of Congress sent home, under his frank, a package of garden seeds, which came and bid fair to be neglected.

—Mrs. Susan Byers of Rochester died in the cars, between Worcester and Boston, yesterday morning, on her way home from Washington, D. C. Her age was 70 years.

—Newcastle had its election on Monday last, which resulted in a republican victory. All the republican officers were elected by a majority of 42. The majority last year was only 7.

VERMONT.

—A letter reached Charleston a few days since, which left a certain post-office in Wisconsin on the 10th of April, 1867.

—The State teachers' association will meet at Springfield on the 8th, 9th and 10th of the present month. There will be addresses by Rev. Dr. Kitchel of Middlebury, Rev. J. C. W. Cox of Springfield, J. S. Spaulding and Professor E. H. Perkins of Burlington, and discussions on educational topics will occupy the time.

—Mr. C. Wilson of Monkton, Addison County, sowed in the spring of 1868, rather more than six and a quarter acres with opium poppy seed. The yield from the gathered juice of the poppy heads or capsules was 640 pounds, which, when dried, became marketable opium. For this the grower obtained prices varying from $8 to $10 the pound from druggists and physicians in New England. This opium furnished 6.25 per cent. of morphia.

—Messrs. Corbin and Merchant, of Swanton, have started a new weekly at that place.

—One firm in Castleton, a few days since, sold 50,000 pounds of wool at from 43 to 45 cents per pound.

—A Montpelier school teacher was recently sued for damages for punishing an unruly youth, and the damage awarded amounted to 1 cent and costs.

MASSACHUSETTS.

—Professor L. Clark Seelye, of Amherst College, has been appointed by the State as chaplain of the State Agricultural College.

—Mr. Wooster Smith, of Newburyport, has prepared with care the names of the vessels, owners, tonnage, builders and the year of their construction in this district.

—Thomas Kempton, a prominent citizen of New Bedford, was found dead in his bed on Monday morning last. He had served six terms in the legislature.

—The last loom in the new mill of the Fall River Manufacturing Company was run into operation on Friday last, and the whole establishment is now in full operation.

—Professor Charles R. Treat, late of Williams College, has received a call from the Congregational church in Marlborough. He will be installed about the middle of the present month.

—William R. Cutter, esq., of Woburn, is preparing a history of the Cutter family of New England.

—The Fall River Daily News has appeared in a new dress and enlarged.

—The fifteen bridges in Conway which were carried away by the freshet, last fall, have now all been rebuilt.

—The loss by fire in North Bridgewater, in 1869, did not amount to one hundred dollars.

—The Glen rolling mill and the nail works at East Shoreham are now in operation.

—Every county in the State shows an increased valuation in 1869 over the previous year, with the exception of Dukes, which shows a loss.

—Worcester had only thirty-one fires in 1869.

—Newburyport jail is, at the present time, without a tenant.

—George Creamer, esq., the well known bookseller, of Salem, died on Monday last, aged 46 years.

RHODE ISLAND.

—Mr. Thomas B. Buffum, of Middletown, one of the best shearers of sheep in the country, has recently sold to parties in California a lot of his rare Southdown sheep.

—Misses Charlotte and Martha D'Wolf erected, at their own expense, a Congregational chapel, at Bristol, which was dedicated a few days since.

—Mr. John Brown of Providence, while driving his team through Centerdale on Monday last, received injuries which it is feared may prove fatal. His load had become loose, and while attempting to fix it the chain broke, throwing him violently upon the ground.

—A large number of residences are being built in Newport. Thirty-eight cottages have been rented since January and $200,000 worth of property sold.

—The disappearance of Captain Carson remains still a mystery. The river in the immediate vicinity of his vessel has been dragged, and there is no room to doubt that he has been murdered.

—Miss Annie L. Hardy was recently arrested at Cambridge, Mass., for forgery, and carried to Pawtucket. Several weeks ago she presented a check, drawn on the Globe National Bank of Boston, in favor of F. Harding, by a Mr. John A. Blanchard of Boston, for $100. The check was endorsed "F. Harding." She stated that she was F. Harding and received the money. The check was forwarded to the Bank of Mutual Redemption in Boston, from which it was in a few days returned as fraudulent. Meantime she departed for Cambridge. She is a young woman of fine appearance, about 21 years of age. She states that she applied for a letter at the office in Pawtucket, and received an envelope containing the check. She returned it to the office and again received it from the same source in an envelope directed in her full name. On receiving it the second time she mailed it to F. Harding, Providence, after which she knew nothing of the whereabouts of the check. She learned by letter from Mrs. Nickerson, a lady with whom she had merely resided, after her departure from Cambridge, that there was some trouble about it. The affair seems to be mixed up with other personal matters at Pawtucket.

CONNECTICUT.

—Martin Merrill, esq., a prominent citizen of Hartford, died a few days since. He was chosen to the legislature several years, and held for many years various responsible city offices.

—A Britannia firm in Meriden paid, a few days since, $250 in postage for price lists, which they sent through the post-office in that town.

—The shoddy mill of Mr. S. W. Gledhill in Chester was entirely destroyed by fire on Friday night. Loss heavy, and partially insured.

The Social Science Lectures—Civilization and Health.

The third lecture in this series was delivered last evening at the Lowell Institute by Professor Francis Bacon of New Haven. He subject was "Civilization and Health," and he discussed the triumph of modern civilization over disease, the transitions of sanitary opinion and practice, the evils peculiar to our modern cities, and some general features of American cities.

It is an opinion, said Professor Bacon, that our age is a degenerate one. But every age has held the same conviction of its own defects. The era of Adam was the only one which did not complain of its falling off from the physical perfection of preceding ages. It has been received for modern ages to shew how unfounded is this opinion. The conclusion of great masses of facts relating to the duration of human life is a modern achievement. The Geneva records are the oldest that we have, and they show us that in a period of 800 years the average length of human life increased from twenty one to forty years. We know that the expectation of life for those born in Christendom is greater than ever before. The growing opposition to capital punishment attests this sentiment, and our humanitarian intolerance of bodily pain. The rack and *auto da fe* have gone out of the world, and the tortures of our physical pains under the surgeon's operation.

The speaker then proceeded to discuss more in detail some of the experiments which the world has attempted. He spoke of the potato, which had become a national staple in Ireland, but whose exclusive possession of the soil had led to a terrible calamity when it failed in results. When the crop failed there was no resource for the starving peasants. The general consumption of this vegetable had been called by a great chemist "disguised starvation." The use of tea and tobacco was mentioned. The effects of these plants were known to be great, but their character was not yet accurately ascertained. It is held by many that these "subsidiary foods" have been of great service to the world by increasing human endurance and taking the place of more substantial foods. The increasing list of diseases peculiar to each trade and profession indicates our subordination to the forces of nature. We borrow her phosphorus, her mercury, and they in turn poison our blood and shorten our lives. The painter, the matchmaker, the printer, the painter, each has his special complaint. The effects upon mankind of the use of glass in building were spoken of. It is complained that man in nowadays raised under glass, and that his sensitive is in darkness and filthiness, and glass is much better even for ventilation than solid walls of brick, stone or wood. The repeal of the English "window tax" marks an advance in the hygienic state of the English poor.

In casting about for the causes which have tended to the extension of human life, Professor Bacon first spoke of the extinction or modification of various diseases—such as the oriental plague, the scurvy, and the small-pox—which were terribly destructive in past ages. Some statistics of the ravages of the plague in the 14th century, by which one-fourth of the inhabitants were swept away, were given. Though this destruction has never been paralleled, the mortality of the metropolitan and great cities in Europe for centuries, bursting out in violent epidemics at intervals. Two hundred and five years ago it broke out in London, and raged briefly with great violence; and since then it has never since has been seen. The destruction by this epidemic was of 50,000 of the inhabitants of Boston should be suddenly carried off by one disease. And in the middle ages such a disaster would be regarded by greater disarrangement of society than it would be today. The almost total extinction of the scurvy was also a great triumph of our civilization. For merly more seamen perished from scurvy than from all other causes combined; now the disease is very rarely seen at all. We know more that this disease was due to bad, ignorant, careless feeding. The small-pox was even worse than the plague and the scurvy, for it was always present and was loathsome as well as dangerous. For its decrease and probable extermination the world is indebted to Dr. Jenner. Yet we can never hope to destroy it till we make vaccination compulsory, as statistics fully prove.

The most important differences between an ancient and a modern city are due to changes in the interest of health. The ancient city was low, close, dark; light, air and water being the dearest commodities to the unhealthy inmates. It was among the crowded population of such a city that the pestilences of the middle ages were fearfully developed. All this. The old high walls of mediæval cities have been demolished, streets have been straightened and widened the sunlight, best of disinfectants, has been admitted. Most of our American cities are free from the faults of those of the Old World. We lay out our towns with broad and open streets, with an eye to the prophetic future as well as to the practical present. Yet there are obstacles even in American towns to an immediate realization of an ideal low death-rate. Such are the morbid anxiety to become rich, and the careless disregard of great social vices. Besides, the cities of the United States have to contend with difficulties and evils peculiar to heterogeneous populations. Different classes have to be here domesticated to city life. The education of Bridget was described in an amusing way, and the speaker said that it was hard to make the Celtic peasant girl fit into our cities, bringing with them habits of uncleanliness. They must be educated and disciplined. But this steady exodus from the farm to the town results in a sort of decimation of the cities. The sanitary laws cannot control the politics and swell the mortuary records of the town. English newspapers call this the "degeneracy of the American people." A dangerous period in the history *of every city is that when it is changing from a rural town* to a commercial city, and before there is a strong sense of individual responsibility, and proper police regulations have been established. In such a juncture, if a fever or *other distember breaks out, there is widespread conster*nation. When the causes are discovered, they may be impure water, imperfect sewerage, general filth, and inattention to the simplest sanitary precautions. The excuse *for this is generally that the town is small* and does not need such elaborate regulations of more extensive towns. So the slaughter-houses find for protection, the pig dealers for their rights, the soap-makers for their privileges. Municipal reformers have to face the fierce brigands of the back alleys.

After laying out some of the evils which beset young and small cities, Professor Bacon proceeded to say that the statistics of English experts show that the death rate is as great in some small towns as in Liverpool and London. The poor live in as dirty a condition, they pay as little attention to sanitary measures, and are crowded more closely together and in less convenient quarters. Destructive fevers are thoroughly domesticated in such communities. The evils of such a state of things are not confined to the poor, but are felt by the rich.

Health, continued the speaker, is of different kinds. That of the prize-fighter is different from that of the poet. Both may be in good physical condition, but they could not exchange places. Every army engineer can testify to the superior powers of endurance shown by the mechanics; the thin skinned, small-limbed men are the hardy woodsmen and the stalwart farmers. It has also been proved that our immigrants are not filled with the restless brain-workers of the cities. Nothing preserves the even tenor of the understanding so well as contact with many people. We say that the agricultural laborer lives a natural life instead of the *artificial* life of the city. This is a grand delusion. What we call our sense of comfort is, when unperverted, an appreciation of the conditions most suitable to our welfare.

Professor Bacon closed with a graphic description of the city of the future, that is to be the model of order cleanliness, healthiness and good government. The lecture was delivered to a large audience, and was listened to with profound interest.

Court Calendar.

UNITED STATES CIRCUIT COURT—March 1.

SHERLEY, J.

J. A. Fay & Co. v. Richard Ball et al.—Bill in equity by a corporation established by the laws of Ohio, to restrain the defendants, who reside in Worcester, from the infringement of the Fay patent for cutting tenons on blind slats. There was a hearing yesterday upon a motion for a temporary injunction, and an injunction was granted by the court.

Causten Browne and C. B. Collier of Philadelphia for the complainants, and Thomas C. Dodge of Worcester for the defendants.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT—March 1.

LOWELL, J.

The Schooner Ida.—Libel by the owner of the barge Henry L. Cake to recover damages for the loss of the barge by a

Brewster, Anne. "Letter from Rome." Boston Daily Advertiser, 2 Mar. 1870. Nineteenth Century U.S. Newspapers, https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/GT3006465336/NCNP?u=bayreuth&sid=NCNP&xid=d67cabf4. Accessed 31 Mar. 2020.