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Lapland.

The New York Tribune translates from a Russian journal the following particulars of a country and people but little known:

The number of the Russian Lapps does not exceed 2000; those of Swedish Lapland were estimated in 1814 at 4000; and those of Norway 5000—an aggregate of only 11,000. Besides the Lapp population, there are villages of Russians, stretching along the coast to the Bay of Kandalasch (or Candalax.) Between the village of Kandalaschka and Kola, on the coast, at the mouth of the Toulo, is a distance of 213 wersts, (141 miles) there are seven post stations, the mails being carried from one to another by reindeers, four of which are kept at each station. This mode of transport, however, is only employed in winter, in summer everything being transported first, by land to Lake Imandra, then the whole length of that fine body of water, some 60 miles by water, pull them out and narrowly scan the dial, even to the fractional part of a second. Then ensues a kind of "crawmill" concerning winding them, up and shifting of index hands as if the church was turned into some huge watch manufactory!

It is a shame, if any person poorer than you is more contented than you.

General News.

The Methodist Church Suit.

We are indebted to the New York Commercial Advertiser, for the following report of the present state of the Methodist Church suit in New York. To many of our readers it will be very interesting:

It will be remembered that this case was argued in the United States Circuit Court for the Southern District of New York, at the May term, 1851, before Judges Nelson and Betts; and that, in November following, Judge Nelson pronounced a decision in favor of the complainants, who sued, on behalf of themselves and of their associate beneficiaries, connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church South, for a *pro rata* portion of the property of the Methodist Book Concern in the city of New York. In pursuance of the terms of the decree, a reference was had before the clerk of the court to ascertain and report upon the value of the property, and upon other matters involved in the questions hereafter mentioned. The commissioners for the South, with their counsel, were present at the reference in April last, and the book agents also appeared with counsel. Considerable testimony was taken on the reference, and the whole matter was argued in May before the reference, who reported thereon. As to the questions wherein the counsel differed, he decided generally for the defendants, (the North.) The complainants, being dissatisfied with the report, took exceptions to it; in consequence of which the matter was brought before the court, and in October last it was again argued by Daniel Lord for the complainants, and by E. L. Fraeker for the defendants.

We now learn that the Judges, (Nelson and Betts,) having deliberated upon the case, are divided in opinion upon the principal questions arising on the exceptions to the report; and they have, consequently, ordered the points on which they differ to be sent up to the Supreme Court of the United States, for decision by that tribunal. We understand that a final decree cannot be entered in the case until the direction of the Supreme Court upon the points certified to it shall be sent back to the Circuit Court. Nor can the defendants, should they elect to appeal from the decree of November, 1851, deciding the main question of the right of the South, take such appeal until the final decree in the the cause is entered.

It was contended for the South, on the argument of the exceptions to the clerk's report, that the Southern beneficiaries were entitled to be paid their portion of dividends, according to the profits as yearly reported by the book agents to the Annual Conference; that the share of the South in the capital was to be ascertained according to the value of the same in 1815; and that such share should be paid in cash, with certain additions of interest, [illegible] the number of preachers reported in the minutes for the year 1845. On the other hand, it is contended for the defendants that the share of the Southern beneficiaries in the profits should be rated according to what the Northern beneficiaries had actually received, and not according to reported or actual profits, that the portion of capital to be ascertained for the South should be taken according to the value of 1851, and not of 1845; and that whatever the share was, it should not be paid in cash, but that the capital must be portioned under the decree of the Court, by apportionment of the specific effects to be agreed upon; and if such agreement could not be made, then that there must be a sale ordered, and a distribution of the proceeds; also, that the ratios were to be regulated according to the number of preachers named in the minutes of 1844, and not of 1845.

We understand that the differences of opinion between the Judges are fundamental upon the principal points mentioned; and it is therefore inevitable that the case, so far as those points are concerned, should go to the Supreme Courts of the United States.

Baptists of Alabama.

The Baptist cause is prosperous in Alabama. The great objects of the day, Missions, Sabbath-schools, Education, both general and theological, share largely in the prayers, the sympathies, and the "mental aid" of our brethren here. There are in this State 529 Baptist churches, 18 Associations, and 50,000 communicants.

The Baptist church in Marion numbers about 600 members of whom near 400 are colored. It has enjoyed the continuous and zealous labors of its present devoted pastor, Rev. J. H. De Votie, for about thirteen years. Under his ministrations it continues in a highly prosperous condition.—For some months past a precious revival has been progressing among the colored population, resulting in the conversion and baptism of over 40.

The twenty-ninth anniversary of the "Alabama Baptist State Convention" has just been held with the church in this village. The annual sermon was preached by Rev. S. Henderson, of Macon County, from Matt. xxviii. 18 "All power is given unto me," &c. The speaker illustrated very forcibly, and at length, the dominion and power of the Saviour, portrayed the purposes which his power subserves, and educed encouragements to those who labor in Zion. Other able sermons and stirring appeals were given upon missions, the Bible cause, education, &c. Interesting reports, upon various topics, were read, and animating discussions were held, which evinced that, of Alabama Baptists, a large number, at least, are quite awake upon the great questions to engage the Christian world. The report upon the state of religion presented the cheering intelligence, that the churches were never more prosperous, and that some 5,000 have been added by baptism the past year. The financial report exhibited as raised for benevolent objects, $4,730; besides the amount for the Bible cause of near $5,000. The report eliciting by far the greatest interest was on theological education. This topic was the burden of much deliberation, of urgent appeals, and of many fervent prayers. An "educated ministry" is the imperious demand at the present crisis.

The two principal literary institutions under the direction of the Convention, Howard College and Judson Female College are located at this place. The "Howard" has a pleasant and extensive apparatus, a library, and valuable cabinets. The present number of students is 120. Rev. H. Talbird, of the class of 1842, Madison University, is President and Professor of Theology. The "Judson" has been in operation fifteen years. Its efficient President, Rev. M. Jewett, formerly Professor of Rhetoric in Marietta College, Ohio, has been connected with the institution from its first organization. Under this management it has steadily increased in public favor, as is evinced by its crowded halls.—The number of students in the collegiate year now commenced will not vary far from 200. The faculty consists of 14 professors and instructors. The literary regulations are judicious; the methods of instruction of the first order, and the point of rigid discipline and systematic arrangement, I doubt if it has a superior in any State. A voluntary Missionary Society exists among the young ladies, which is an effective organization, as has been indicated by the raising of $115 since the present commenced. Such associations, it seems to me, are highly important appendages to seminaries of all grades, as affording means for developing those benevolent feelings which give such grace and dignity to character.—*Exchange.*

Important Law Case.

Under this head, the Washington correspondent of the New York Times, in a recent letter presented a statement of facts and arguments in a case pending before the Supreme Court of the United States, which are thus summed up by the Editor:

The case arose under the Fugitive Slave Act of Illinois, and involves the question whether power to legislate on the subject of the delivery of fugitive slaves does not vest exclusively, either in Congress or in the several States; and if so, which has the jurisdiction—the State, or the Federal authority?

Dr. Richard Eells, a warm hearted, benevolent man and highly respectable physician, was indicted, under a statute of Illinois, for harboring and secreting a fugitive slave; was convicted and sentenced to pay a fine of four hundred dollars. From this sentence an appeal was taken to the Supreme Court of Illinois where the sentence was affirmed by a divided Court. Judge (now Senator) Shields delivered the opinion of the majority, and Judge Lockwood the opinion of the minority—and [illegible] was the Chief Justice against affirmance of the sentence.

From this judgment [illegible] the Supreme Court of Illinois, a writ of error was taken to the Supreme Court of the United States. The cause stood first on the docket of the present term, and was argued by Senator Chase, of Ohio, orally, and by Mr. Dixon, of Connecticut, in writing, for Dr. Eells, and by Mr. M[illegible] Attorney General of Illinois, also in writing, for the plaintiff in error. The plaintiff in error [illegible] relation to the arrest and delivery of fugitives is vested either in Congress or in the States, and that as Congress had already (by the act of 1793) legislated thereon, the State could not, and therefore the statute under which the plaintiff in error was convicted and sentenced, is void. Thus the case necessarily brings under review the decision of the Supreme Court in the famous case of Prigg vs. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in which the Court held that the master of a fugitive slave had a right to seize him and take him out of the State where found, without any process; and, 2d, that the exclusive power of legislating upon the subject of fugitives from service is vested in Congress.

Senator Chase is well known to hold the opinion that no such rights of seizure and deportation exists in the master; and that the power to legislate on the subject of fugitives from service is not in Congress at all, but exclusively in the State Legislatures. That is the "free Democratic" doctrines, and it will be seen at once that this opinion operates against his own client. In opening his argument to the Court, he adverted to his own opinions, and to his endeavors to impress them upon the Court; but, having failed in these attempts, he now claimed the benefit of the adjudication in the Prigg case for his client in this suit. He argued:

1st. That the power of Legislation on the subject of fugitives from service having been held to be exclusive in Congress, all State legislation upon the same subject must necessarily be void.

2d. That if Congress and the State Legislature, possessed concurrent powers of Legislation, (as is the opposing argument,) the exercise of the power by Congress, must necessarily supercede the exercise of the same power by a State Legislature; and therefore

That Congress having by law prohibited the harboring and secreting of fugitive servants under a penalty payable to the claimant, no act of State legislation prohibiting the same acts under a penalty payable to the State, could be valid. How—he argued—can the same man, for the same offence and at the same time, be arrested by national officers and State officers; be tried in national courts, and in State courts; and in case of non-payment of penalty be imprisoned in national jails, and State penitentiaries?

3d. That the right of the State to legislate could not be successfully asserted on the ground that it was a simple police power. To sustain this position, he quoted the opinions of Chief Justice Taney and Judge Daniel in the Prigg case: and further argued that even if it were a police power, still the whole power of legislation having been vested in Congress, according to the majority of the Court, no part of it could remain in the States, by whatever name it might be called.

No one can fail to see the important political bearing which the decision in this case must have. Unless the Supreme Court reverses its own opinion, (long ago delivered, and ever since looked up to as the highest exposition of the constitutional law, and declares that there is no exclusive jurisdiction either in Congress or the States, but that their power is concurrent,) one of two things must result—either all State enactments on the subject must fade from the statute books, and the plaintiff in error in the present case be relieved from his sentence; or, the very Fugitive Slave act of Congress, which so recently convulsed the land, must be declared invalid, and be blotted from the pages of federal law. The public will await, with deep interest, the decision of the Court.

By the Washington papers [illegible] notice that the Supreme Court [illegible] the case of R. Eells, plaintiff in error, vs. the State of Illinois, have affirmed the judgment of the Supreme Court of Illinois, with costs. If the statement of the correspondent of the Times as to the issues involved in this case, be correct, it will readily be perceived that the decision is a most important one.—*Charleston Mercury.*

Laws of South-Carolina.

An Act to extend the Charter of the Bank of the State of South Carolina.

I. *Be it enacted* by the Senate and House of Representatives, now met and sitting in General Assembly, and by the authority of the same, That from and after the expiration of the present charter of the Bank of the State of South Carolina, the same shall be, and is hereby, extended until the first day of January, which shall be in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy one.

II. That the said Bank shall not have authority at any time to make any [illegible] of internal improvement within or without the limits of this State unless by the authority of the Legislature.

III. That the fifth section of an Act [illegible] "An Act to establish a Bank, on behalf of the State, for the benefit of the State," be and the same is hereby repealed.

IV. It shall not be lawful for said Bank to accept in settlements with other Banks, [illegible] or deliver out in payment or satisfaction of any demand upon it, or by way of loan or otherwise any bill, note, check, [illegible] other paper of any other Bank.

V. That it shall be the duty of the President and Directors of the said Bank, whenever any part of the funded debt of the State, (except the three per cent. stock,) can be purchased at or under par, to purchase the same out of the sinking fund; and hereafter, the profits of the Bank, as they are annually ascertained and carried to the credit of the sinking fund, shall be disposed of in the following manner, that is to say: They shall be invested in the purchase of the funded debt of the State, (except the three per cent. stock,) if [illegible] the same can be obtained at or under par. And in case the said profits, or any part thereof, cannot be invested as aforesaid, within six months after having been ascertained and carried to the credit of the sinking fund, then it shall be the duty of the President and Directors of the Bank to invest the same in the purchase of the three per cent. stock of the State: *Provided*, the same can be obtained at a rate not exceeding sixty-four per cent, or in bonds, notes or other obligations made payable not more than six months after date, and secured by pledge of three per cent stock of the State, at a rate not exceeding sixty-four per cent, or other funded debt of the State not above par, or other good [illegible] of their par value, and [illegible] sixty per cent. of the current [illegible] are saleable at the time of [illegible] pledge. And it shall also be the duty of the said President and Directors to cause an account of the sinking fund to be kept in such [illegible] as to show at all times what particular bonds, notes, stocks and other [illegible] belong to the said fund.

VI. That [illegible] the first day of July next ensuing, [illegible] corporation or body politic, who shall within this State, directly or indirectly pay out, pass or put in circulation, or cause the same to be paid out, passed or put in circulation, any [illegible] note, bill, certificate or acknowledgment of indebtedness, whatsoever, purporting to be a bank-note, or of the nature, character or appearance of a bank-note, of a less amount or denomination than five dollars, issued or purporting to be issued, by any bank, or person or association of persons, in any other State, shall be subject to the payment of twenty dollars to be recovered by action of debt at the suit of the State, and appropriated one-half to the informer, and the other to the maintenance and repair of the public buildings in the district where the action is brought.

An Act to prevent obstructions to the passage of Fish up Lynch's Creek.

I. *Be it enacted* by the Senate and House of Representatives, now met and sitting in General Assembly, and by the authority of the same, That any person or persons who shall hereafter may erect any dam or [illegible] ary hedge or hedges, or other permanent obstruction of any kind whatsoever, to the free passage of fish up Lynch's Creek, otherwise, near the mouth of said Creek, from its junction with Pee Dee River, or who shall run any seine of such length at or near the same place, in a [illegible] lique direction as to prevent the passage of fish as aforesaid, or who shall open a new channel or channels for the said Creek, and erect any such obstructions in or across the channel or channels thus opened, although a passage of fifteen feet may apparently be left unobstructed, all such person or persons shall be subject to indictment in the Court of Sessions, and upon conviction, shall be punished by fine or imprisonment, or both, not exceeding five hundred dollars fine and six months imprisonment.

II. That all owners or occupiers of lands situated upon the said Creek, who shall wilfully and knowingly permit or suffer the erection of any such obstruction as aforesaid to the free passage of fish up said Creek, such owner or owners shall be subject to indictment and punishment upon conviction as those who shall be convicted of erecting maintaining or using the said obstructions.

III. That one-half of all fines imposed by virtue of this Act shall go to the informer, (who shall be a competent witness to prove the offence) and the other half to the Commissioners of Public Buildings of the District in which the conviction shall be had.

The word daisy is a thousand times pronounced without advertising to the beauty of its etymology, "the eye of day."

If you ever promise at all, take care at least, that it be so as nobody may suffer by trusting you.

Rum Bottles Outlawed.—The following case tried in the Quarter Sessions of Berks county, Pa., is thus reported by the Reading [illegible]:

[illegible] wife indicted her husband for assault and battery, committed under the following circumstances: They were returning home together in a wagon, from market—the husband armed with a 'pocket-pistol,' well loaded, which he took sundry 'swigs,' until he got 'shot.' The wife remonstrated earnestly against such conduct, which aroused the ire of her lord, and he commenced abusing her whereupon she seized the rum bottle and threw it out on the road. For this her brute of a husband beat her. Judge Jones charged the jury that the wife's act of breaking the bottle did not justify the husband in striking her; that although a wife had no right to dispose of the goods and chattels of a husband, a rum bottle was an exception; that a wife was morally justifiable in seizing her husbands rum bottle wherever she could lay hands on it and destroy it; and that in this instance the defendant did no more than what a sensible woman ought to have done. The jury rendered a verdict in accordance with this sound opinion. Rum bottles may, therefore, from this date, be considered without the pale of the law's protection."

Never trust a man for the vehemence of his asseverations, whose bare word you would not trust; a knave will make no more of swearing to a falsehood, than of affirming it.

Curious Employment in Church.—The Morrose Standard states, that no sooner does the meridian hour boom forth from the steeple clock of the Arbroath parish church on a Sunday, than the whole congregation who may be possessed of a watch pull them out and narrowly scan the dial, even to the fractional part of a second. Then ensues a kind of "crawmill" concern in winding them, up and shifting of index hands as if the church was turned into some huge watch manufactory!

[illegible] frequently the prelude to another; [illegible] the pioneer to a profligate course. [illegible] extremes of our physical and mental [illegible] operate by mutual re-action. The [illegible] of intense pleasure alternates [illegible] susceptibility to intense sorrow. In [illegible] situation, and on every occasion, [illegible] study to be firm, resigned, moderate in [illegible] desires, temperate in your enjoyments, [illegible] by avoiding the pursuit of delusive [illegible] secure tranquility.

[illegible] may be happy in the pleasing sensations and grateful emotions rising from the present in general, reflective happiness depends on the anticipation of the future, and remembrance of the past. [illegible] memory silently records your [illegible] conscience will impressibly read you a lecture (especially in sickness and age) [illegible] joy or sorrow.

[illegible] is not wisdom. [illegible] may know much and yet have no claim to be called wise. Wisdom is the practical application of knowledge. Knowledge prepares the way [illegible]

[illegible] things of their [illegible] not wanting either [illegible] perspicuity, and being [illegible] on fitting occasions. And what they do [illegible] the latter direction is done without ostentation or loud talking. Comfortable people do everything in order. They are systematic, tidy, [illegible], industrious. You will never find them in a [illegible] of tidying-up. As they do everything at the right time, so nothing is done in a hurry or [illegible] bered over." Comfortable people dress comfortably. They adapt themselves to the season, neither shivering in winter, nor perspiring in summer. You will find they expend more on warm stockings than on gold rings, and prefer [illegible] good bedding to gaudy window curtains. Their chairs are sound, not gim-crack; they will bear sitting upon though they may not be ornamental. Everything they have is convenient, snug, comfortable, and you have pleasure in feeling yourself in the midst of them.

Eliza Cook.

Accustom yourself to have some employment for every hour you can prudently snatch from business.

He who promises rashly, will break his promise with the same ease as he made it.