

THE FREE CITIZEN.

E. A. WEBSTER, Editor and Proprietor.

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TIMELY TOPICS.

GUMBORD'S remains have laid away in the grave, after all, unattended by rioting or disorder of any kind.

THE Spanish government has opened a competition for composers of a national air. Can it be possible that all this time Spain has been without a national air? No wonder it is constantly in a state of distraction. What would this country have been without Yankee Doodle?

THE newly arrived daughter of the duchess of Edinburgh increases Queen Victoria's tally of grandchildren to twenty-seven, twenty-four of whom are still alive, and that of her total living progeny to thirty-three, including three unmarried children and the Princess Louise, who is married, but without family.

WHEN you grumble at hard times and crippled industries, just cast your eyes over the big water and look at France, with one hundred and twenty-three thousand industrial establishments, and giving work to about one million eight hundred men. At least two-thirds of these are now losing a month's time and wages in order to drill for a future war.

THE explosion and destruction of the ironclad Magenta makes the second vessel of this kind lost by the French government within two months. The sinking of the English vessel Vanguard, within the same period, by the tap of the spur of a neighboring vessel, is beginning to weaken confidence in the durability of ironclads.

IN Michigan's population of 1,300,000 there are 60,327 more males than females. In Massachusetts there are 60,000 more females than males. Under such circumstances it would seem eminently proper for the Michigan male surplus to relieve Massachusetts of her female surplus. Doubtless the Massachusetts women would be more than willing.

THE annual report of the commissioner of education contains many interesting statistics of fact. There are enrolled in public schools upwards of 8,000,000 pupils, with an average daily attendance of 4,500,000. The estimated population between six and sixteen years is 10,500,000. To support these children in school cost last year \$74,000,000.

THE fate of the passengers and crew of the City of Waco is yet unsolved. The theory that the oil stored on deck ignited from the lightning and set fire to the vessel, wrapping her entirely in the flames in a few moments, giving the passengers no time to escape the awful death, seems the most probable. If so, it is one of the most terrible catastrophes of the year.

CANADA has indulged in the past in some exceedingly lofty boasting as to the superiority of her buildings over those erected on this side of the frontier. The bursting of the grain elevator at Belleville, however, is calculated to check such boasting in the future. The structure was of the "cheap and nasty" order of architecture, and its fall scattered 40,000 bushels of grain to the winds and the pigs.

A NOTICEABLE thing about the monthly meeting of the Massachusetts Total Abstinence Society, held in Boston, was a little speech by William B. Spooner on the prevalence of drinking among clergymen, more than one-half of whom, he said, drink wine. A large majority of the Roman Catholic clergy drink; a majority of the Episcopal and of his own denomination—the Unitarian, some of the orthodox and Baptist, but very few of the Methodist or Universalist.

THE British commissioner to our centennial has suggested, according to Foreney, that the permanent buildings of the exhibition should be kept filled with interesting objects, contributed each year, so that there may be a bi-centennial ready made in 1976. This would be a good thing for Philadelphia, perhaps, but there is no certainty that the rest of the country would find it either pleasant or profitable. The coming centennial would be an awful bore if we had deliberately begun preparing for it a century ago.

A little matter of dispute has caused the disruption of a powerful Long Island camp meeting association. The dispute arose from the setting up of a billiard saloon and bowling alley on the grounds last summer. The advocates of these sinful games argued in vain that they would attract to the grounds just the class which needed most the spirit of a camp meeting. Their opponents would not listen, but seceded and have formed another association.

THERE is considerable discussion and difference of opinion as to how rapidly

fish grow. A recent letter from England says that a salmon weighing eighteen pounds was caught in the Severn, wearing a silver label. This was identified and proved the fish to be one which was caught six months before and returned to the water. At the time it weighed nine pounds. That is, it had gained a pound and a half for a month, or nearly an ounce a day right along.

VALMASEDA has originated a new method of squeezing money out of the loyal in Cuba in order to provide one of the recently arrived regiments with horses. He has decreed that a "sacred contribution" of 16 per cent. on each individual's taxes in Havana must forthwith be handed in. As all the money necessary to pay the bills for the subjugation of the Cuban insurgents must come out of Cuba, Spain contributing little or nothing, through inability to do so, the arrival of 8,000 troops must strike dismay into the hearts of the most loyal of Alfonso's subjects and create much dissatisfaction.

COCOA differs widely from tea and coffee, in being a food or flesh former, while they are rather condiments and stimulants. One-half the weight of cocoa consists of fat, and 20 per cent. of albuminoid material, whereas milk contains 3.5 per cent. of fat, and 4 per cent. of albuminoid material; beef contains 2.87 per cent. of fat, and 20.75 of albuminoid matter; and wheat contains 1.2 per cent. of fat, and 14.6 per cent. of albuminoid material. In addition, cocoa contains starch, which is absent in milk and beef, and present in but a small proportion in wheat.

A Boston merchant, who imports nearly all the gutta percha which enters the United States, writes to the Scientific American to say that "the only region of production thus far discovered is the East India islands in the immediate vicinity of Singapore." The principal use made of gutta percha is for insulating telegraphic cables and for cementing India rubber is collected in localities all around the globe between the tropics. The best comes from the banks of the Amazon river. Brazil produces annually about 14,000,000 pounds, and the Central American States, Africa, and the East Indies together about 15,000,000 pounds. The consumption of India rubber is about equally divided between the United States and Europe.

THE report of the commissioner of education furnishes some statistics which are a fair test as showing the activity of the various religious denominations in the matter of theological education. The Catholic church leads with 18 seminaries, 144 professors, 1,233 students. The Baptist denomination has 16 schools, 53 professors, and 638 students; the Presbyterian has 15 schools, with 71 professors and 617 students; the Lutheran church, 13 schools, 52 professors and 426 students; the Protestant Episcopal, 12 schools, 56 professors and 294 students; the Congregational has 8 schools, 50 professors and 392 pupils; the Methodist Episcopal has 7 schools, 58 professors and 321 scholars; and the Reformed church has 3 schools, 12 professors and 89 students; the United Presbyterians, Christians, Free Baptists and Methodists have 2 schools each; and the Unitarians, African Methodist Episcopal, Cumberland Presbyterian, German Reformed, Methodist Episcopal South, Moravian, Swedenborgian, Union Evangelical, United Brethren, and Universalists have 1 each.

Respect for Women.

Women are at a discount where there is no civilization. Thus it is a notorious fact that among the natives of Africa the fair sex is more honored in the respect which is shown to the cow than in that which the heaven-sent companion of man elicits there. Women have nothing to complain of in this on the score of sex, but may fairly insist that the particular members of their sex chosen for special honor should be of their own species. The superior respect accorded to cows, too, is entirely at variance with the spirit of modern intelligence; and until the men of Africa reverse the present distinction against the wives of their bosoms in favor of those who hold a less intimate relation with them, there can be no favorable result of missionary enterprise. The difference is merely a zoological one—the difference between a cow and a horse. It is exceedingly difficult for the missionary to persuade a true disciple of Mohammed that he should degrade his horse in a position in his family inferior to that of a wife; far more difficult, in fact, than to convince a native African that he has transposed the proper relative positions of the mother of his children and her too successful rival, the mother of his calves. In changing his field of effort, indeed, from the savage stupidity of the negro race to the keen intelligence of the Arabic race, the missionary finds himself further from, rather than nearer to, the highest civilization.

FORTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

Full List of Senators, Representatives, and Delegates.

The regular session of the National Legislature will begin on Monday, Dec. 6, and the following list of Senators and Representatives will be convenient for reference.

All the elections to the Senate have been made, and the list published, and all seats, except one (Pindback's) for Louisiana, disposed of, in the House there is a vacancy in the Fourth Tennessee District, caused by the death of Hon. John W. Head. Hon. Samuel M. Fite, who was then elected to the seat, died at Little Rock, Ark., a few weeks since, and there is still a vacancy; but as there is no lack of candidates it is expected the seat will be occupied early in the session.

THE SENATE.

Republicans (marked R.), 41; Democrats (D.), 28; Independents (SMALL CAPS), 2.

STATE.	Senators.	Party.
Alabama	1875-1876, Goldthwaite, Dem.	
Arkansas	1875-1876, Clayton, Rep.	
California	1875-1876, Stanford, Rep.	
Connecticut	1875-1876, Tilton, Rep.	
Delaware	1875-1876, Bayard, Rep.	
Florida	1875-1876, W. W. Phelps, Dem.	
Georgia	1875-1876, T. T. Clayton, Dem.	
Illinois	1875-1876, Richard J. Oglesby, Rep.	
Indiana	1875-1876, D. C. Hoar, Rep.	
Iowa	1875-1876, G. G. Wright, Dem.	
Kansas	1875-1876, J. H. Hawley, Rep.	
Kentucky	1875-1876, J. H. Campbell, Dem.	
Louisiana	1875-1876, J. B. W. Thibodeaux, Dem.	
Maine	1875-1876, Hannibal Hamlin, Dem.	
Massachusetts	1875-1876, Lot M. Morrill, Rep.	
Maryland	1875-1876, Wm. P. Miles, Rep.	
Michigan	1875-1876, P. C. Christian, Rep.	
Minnesota	1875-1876, J. R. McMillan, Rep.	
Mississippi	1875-1876, Wm. W. Venable, Dem.	
Missouri	1875-1876, M. C. Hammons, Dem.	
Nevada	1875-1876, J. H. Paddock, Rep.	
New Jersey	1875-1876, J. H. Mitchell, Dem.	
New York	1875-1876, Frank B. Rowland, Dem.	
North Carolina	1875-1876, Roscoe Conkling, Rep.	
Ohio	1875-1876, S. M. Pomeroy, Dem.	
Oregon	1875-1876, J. H. Mitchell, Dem.	
Pennsylvania	1875-1876, Simon Cameron, Rep.	
Rhode Island	1875-1876, H. B. Flanders, Dem.	
South Carolina	1875-1876, J. R. Thurmond, Dem.	
Tennessee	1875-1876, D. M. Key, Dem.	
Texas	1875-1876, Henry Cooper, Dem.	
Vermont	1875-1876, M. C. Hammons, Dem.	
Virginia	1875-1876, J. H. Mitchell, Dem.	
West Virginia	1875-1876, J. H. Mitchell, Dem.	
Wisconsin	1875-1876, Timothy A. Coffey, Dem.	
Republicans	41	
Democrats	28	
Independents	2	
Total Senate	71	
Republican majority	41	

THE HOUSE.

Republicans (marked R.), 178; Democrats (marked D.), 178; Independents (marked I.), 6. One vacancy exists in Tennessee, caused by death. The asterisk (*) indicates members of the last Congress re-elected. The C. stands for colored.

STATE.	Representatives.	Party.
Alabama	1875-1876, J. H. Campbell, D.	
Arkansas	1875-1876, Clayton, R.	
California	1875-1876, Stanford, R.	
Connecticut	1875-1876, Tilton, R.	
Delaware	1875-1876, Bayard, R.	
Florida	1875-1876, W. W. Phelps, D.	
Georgia	1875-1876, T. T. Clayton, D.	
Illinois	1875-1876, Richard J. Oglesby, R.	
Indiana	1875-1876, D. C. Hoar, R.	
Iowa	1875-1876, G. G. Wright, D.	
Kansas	1875-1876, J. H. Hawley, R.	
Kentucky	1875-1876, J. H. Campbell, D.	
Louisiana	1875-1876, J. B. W. Thibodeaux, D.	
Maine	1875-1876, Hannibal Hamlin, D.	
Massachusetts	1875-1876, Lot M. Morrill, R.	
Maryland	1875-1876, Wm. P. Miles, R.	
Michigan	1875-1876, P. C. Christian, R.	
Minnesota	1875-1876, J. R. McMillan, R.	
Mississippi	1875-1876, Wm. W. Venable, D.	
Missouri	1875-1876, M. C. Hammons, D.	
Nevada	1875-1876, J. H. Paddock, R.	
New Jersey	1875-1876, J. H. Mitchell, D.	
New York	1875-1876, Frank B. Rowland, D.	
North Carolina	1875-1876, Roscoe Conkling, R.	
Ohio	1875-1876, S. M. Pomeroy, D.	
Oregon	1875-1876, J. H. Mitchell, D.	
Pennsylvania	1875-1876, Simon Cameron, R.	
Rhode Island	1875-1876, H. B. Flanders, D.	
South Carolina	1875-1876, J. R. Thurmond, D.	
Tennessee	1875-1876, D. M. Key, D.	
Texas	1875-1876, Henry Cooper, D.	
Vermont	1875-1876, M. C. Hammons, D.	
Virginia	1875-1876, J. H. Mitchell, D.	
West Virginia	1875-1876, J. H. Mitchell, D.	
Wisconsin	1875-1876, Timothy A. Coffey, D.	
Republicans	178	
Democrats	178	
Independents	6	
Total House	362	

Gabriel Conroy.

Bret Harte's first novel begins as a serial in Scribner's for November, and opens with the following description of the Sierras in winter:

Snow. Everywhere. As far as the eye could reach—fifty miles, looking southward from the highest white peak. Filling ravines and gulches, and dropping from the walls of canyons in white shroud-like drifts. Fashioning the dividing ridge into a likeness of a monstrous grave, hiding the bases of giant pines and completely covering young trees and larches, running with porcelain and bowl-like edges of still, cold lakes, and undulating in motionless white billows to the edge of the distant horizon. Snow lying everywhere over the California Sierras on the 15th day of March, 1848, and still falling.

It had been snowing for ten days; snowing in finely granulated powder, in damp, spongy flakes, in thin, feathery plumes, snowing from a leaden sky steadily, snowing fiercely, shaken out of purple-black clouds in white flocculent masses, or dropping in long level lines like white lazes from the tumbled and broken heavens, but always silently. The woods were so choked with it, the branches were so laden with it; it had so permeated, filled and possessed earth and sky; it had so cushioned and muffled the ringing rocks and echoing hills, that all sound was deadened. The strongest gust, the fiercest blast awoke no sigh or complaint from the snow-packed, rigid files of forest. There was no cracking of bough nor crackle of underbrush; the overlaid branches of pine and fir yielded and gave way without a sound. The silence was vast, measureless, complete.

Nor could it be said that any outward sign of life or motion changed the fixed outlines of this stricken landscape. Above there was no play of light and shadow, only the occasional deepening of storm and night. Below, no bird winged its flight across the white expanse, no beast haunted the confines of the black woods; whatever of the brute nature might have once inhabited these solitudes had long since flown to the lowlands. There was no track or imprint; whatever foot might have left its mark upon this waste, each succeeding snow fall obliterated all traces or record. Every morning the solitude was virgin and unbroken; a million tiny feet had stepped into the track and filled it up. And yet, in the center of this desolation, in the very stronghold of this grim forest, there was the mark of human toil.

A few trees had been felled at the entrance of the canon, and the freshly cut chips were but lightly covered with snow. They served perhaps to indicate another tree "blazed" with an ax, and bearing a rudely shaped ellips of a human hand, pointing to the canon. Below the hand was a square strip of canvas, securely nailed against the bark and bearing the following inscription:

NOTICE.
Capt. Conroy's party of emigrants are lost in the snow and camped up this canon. Out of provisions and starving!
Left Salt Lake January 1st, 1848.
Arrived here March 1st, 1848.
Left Salt Lake on the 15th of Feb.
Abandoned our wagons February 25th.

Our names are:

- Jane Brackett,
- Gabriel Conroy,
- John Walker,
- Henry Ashby,
- Philip Ashley,
- Mary Dumphy.

One of Horace Greeley's Old Letters.

NEW YORK, July 24, 1857.

MY DEAR SIR: Seeing in the Tribune the death of your sweet child, whom I so well remember, impells me to write you a word. I offer no consolation, and I need not assure you of my sympathy. But you and your wife are still young and hopeful, other children will doubtless be lent you; and though you will never forget this firstling of the flock nor fail to remember her with a pensive and chastened sadness, yet you will live to realize even in this state of being, how wisely present and merciful in the chastisement which "smites but to heal."

Let me give you in this connection a leaf from my experience.

I have had seven children of whom five are gone. Of three sons none survive, and two of them were respectively five and a half and six years of age when they were reclaimed. I need not say how beautiful and good they were—the early called are always thus. When the first of them died my youth ended. I thought I could never be so sorely bitten thereafter. Yet in due time there came another, not so delicate, so beautiful, so poetic; yet so loving, so tender, so devoted to me, that I thought I had never been understood before. I cannot remember that during his six years' abode with me he ever wished to contravene my will.

I left, January 14, for that hard western tour in brave spirits and good general health. At Galisburg after leaving you, I had a letter dictated by him, leaving him in excellent health. I heard no more until I reached Scranton, Pa., on my way home, when a telegram reached me during my lecture, stating that he was dangerously ill of croup. I hastened home next evening at eight o'clock only to find him dead an hour before, after enduring a severe operation and extreme suffering. With him I buried my last earthly aspiration. I have two little daughters, one eight years old, and another but four months, having been born since his death, but they are very different from and do not replace him.

Did you not mean to see me this season? Kind regards to Mrs. — Yours,
HORACE GREELEY.

Changes in the Earth.

The date of man's appearance on our globe (to say nothing of the beginning of organic life) will probably never be ascertainable beyond a rude approximation; but this much at any rate is certain, that "creation" is to be spoken of at all, it must be taken, not as a single isolated act, but rather as an unbroken series of productions, extending from the dimæst past to our time, and destined doubtless to extend beyond us. Everybody knows, says the Westminster Review, what the nature of the record is, everybody knows that the crust of our planet, so far as we have sounded it, is composed entirely of mud, deposited in gradual successive layers under water; that these layers through the slow but constant undulations of the crust, have been upheaved again, unrelated to the enormous thickness of sixty or seventy thousand feet; and finally, that each deposited as it hardened, preserved imbedded in the mud the shells and bones of creatures which died at the time of its formation. Similar formations are continuing at present; the soundings made in the Atlantic ocean preparatory to the laying of the telegraphic cable, prove that over the whole of the immense area explored (1,000 miles from east to west, and about 700 miles from north to south) an exclusively fine chalky mud is being deposited, consisting solely of the hard parts of animals which have lived and perished in these regions. The chalky mud will gradually harden into limestone rocks; possibly some day these rocks will be gradually upheaved, just as the Himalayas, and the new continent of Australia, are projected to the wearing influence of air and rain will furnish the mud which is to bury new creations. Let us not smile incredulously, far greater changes have been wrought than those, and as far as we can judge, by the same influence. When Scotland stood higher than it stands at present, it was covered with ice descending from the Grampians; later, it became an archipelago, and marine sand with shells was spread over the former glacial drift; later still, the land emerged again, glaciers were reformed, though probably to less extent, and Britain was connected with the continent; lastly, minor changes separated England from the continent, and Ireland from England.

Mullum in Parvo.

No legacy is as rich as honesty.
Brutes leave ingratitude to man.
Self-trust is the essence of heroism.
Light and lust are deadly enemies.
Lion off loses both itself and friend.
When all else is lost, the future remains.

Life is the art of being well deceived.
Jealousy dislikes the world to know it.
True joy is only hope put out of fear.
A knavish speech sleeps in a foolish ear.

Laws are the sovereigns of sovereigns.
Diligence is the mother of good luck.
We forgive too little; forget too much.
Hope is a light diet but very stimulating.

If all were rich, gold would be valueless.
Many good purposes lie in the churchyard.
Human knowledge is the parent of doubt.
Hate no one; hate their vices, not themselves.
Good nature is stronger than tomahawks.
The innocent seldom find an uneasy pillow.

AN AUTUMN ODE—AFTER TENNYSON.—
The grasshopper creaks in the heavy gloom, and the bumble-bee bumbleth the live-long day. But where have they gone with the brand-new broom? And what has been done to the buzz-saw's play?

Oh, it's little he thinks of the cold mince-pie. And it's little he seeks of the raw ice-cream; for the dying year with its tremulous sigh shall waken the lingering lion from his dream.
Oh, list for the cricket, now far and near, skillfully singeth his roundelay, and the negligent moths his noisy cheer, and where the doodlebug eats the hay.
Oh, the buzz-saw so busily buzzes the stick, and bumbleth the bumble-bee, and bumbleth his tune; while the cricket creaks, crickling down at the creek, and the noodle calls noisily out "it is noon!"
The dog fennel sighs, "she is here! she is here!" and the smart-weed says dreamily "give us a rest!" The hop vine speaks tenderly, "give us a beer," and the jimson-weed hollows, "oh pull down your vest!"
Most of the sporting men are contributing \$50 toward a monument for American Girl, and most of the great statesmen are, in a spirit of rivalry, going to contribute toward a monument for Washington. So far, American Girl's chances are two hundred feet higher than Washington's.