

[From the Boston Advertiser]

THE DECISION OF THE GOVERNOR AND COUNCIL IN THE CASE OF JOHN W. WEBSTER.—The Committee of the Executive Council on Pardons, consisting of the Lieut. Governor and some other members of the Council, made a report on the petition of Dr. Webster for a commutation of the sentence against him. The report recites briefly, the history of the case, and recapitulates the proceedings which were had by the committee, in the hearing of parties who appeared in support of the petition. They state that having given the whole case a deliberate consideration, that they find no ground for executive interposition, either in the records and proceedings of the court, or in the statements made in the confession of the prisoner, or the evidence and comments with which it had been accompanied. The report concludes as follows:

The Committee therefore respectfully report, that they cannot consistently with what they conceive their duty, recommend a commutation of the sentence, in the case of John W. Webster, as prayed for in his petition.

Nothing now remains for the Committee, in the discharge of this painful duty, but to advise your Excellency in determining upon a time for the Execution, and they name Friday, the thirtieth day of August next, as the day; and recommend to your Excellency to decide upon that day as the time for the Execution of John W. Webster.

JOHN REED, Chairman. Council Chamber, July 19, 1850. This report having been read and considered by the Council, it was accepted with but one dissenting voice, that of Mr. Copeland, of Norfolk.

His Excellency the Governor then proceeded to pronounce his opinion and decision upon the case, which was in full concurrence with that of the committee. In his address he presented a succinct but very clear and able recapitulation of all the important facts of the case, and of the proceedings upon it. He thereupon proceeded to remark that he did not feel authorized, by any considerations which had been presented to his mind, "to set aside the deliberate verdict of the jury, arrest the solemn decree of the law as pronounced by the highest judicial tribunal of the Commonwealth, and disregard the opinion and advice of the Council. If the circumstances of the killing as stated by the prisoner, are taken to be true, it may well be questioned, whether the Executive Council could interfere with the sentence without violating the settled laws of the land."

He remarked that the only new fact brought to light since the trial as to the killing depends upon the word of the prisoner, and it could hardly be pretended "that the declaration of a person under sentence of death should be permitted to outweigh the doings of the Court and Jury, and to rescue him from the consequences which are to follow these proceedings."

His excellency concluded his opinion on the case as follows:

"If the circumstances disclosed on the trial are relied on to support his statement, the reply is, that those circumstances were urged in his favor before the Jury and they have decided against him. The facts of this appalling case are before the world; they will hereafter fill one of the gloomiest pages in the record of crime amongst civilized men."

"It is undisputed, that on the 23d day of November, 1849, John White Webster, a professor in Harvard University, and in the Medical College in Boston, did at mid day in his room, in that college, within a few feet of the place where he daily stood and delivered scientific lectures to a large class of young men, with unlawful violence take the life of Dr. George Parkman, a respectable citizen of Boston, who had come to that room at the repeated requests of the said prisoner; and that after taking his life, he eviscerated and in a manner most shocking to humanity, mutilated the body of his victim, burning parts of it in a furnace, and depositing other parts of it in different places in the building, where they were found by persons who were seeking after Dr. Parkman; that after killing him, he robbed his lifeless creditor, by taking from him two notes of hand, signed by himself, to which he had no right, and committed still another crime, by making false marks upon those notes; and that a Jury of his country, empanelled according to law, under the direction of four of the five eminent Judges constituting the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, after a long, patient, and impartial trial, and after hearing in his defence the arguments of learned and eloquent counsel, upon their oaths, found him guilty of murder."

"Upon that verdict, the Court pronounced the awful sentence of death. In such a case there should be obvious and conclusive reasons to justify the pardoning power to interpose and arrest the sword of Justice. I do not see these reasons. The combined circumstances of the case force me to the conclusion, that the safety of the community, the inviolability of the law, and the principle of impartial justice demand execution of the Sentence. "I hope it is not necessary for me to say that it would have given me unspeakable pleasure to come to a different result, and that I would do anything on earth in my power, short of violating duty, to alleviate the sufferings of a crushed and broken-hearted family."

GEORGE N. BRIGGS. Council Chamber, 19th July 1850.

THE CROPS IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE WHEAT HARVEST.—The editor of the Detroit Advertiser was, on Tuesday last, shown a fine sample of new wheat from the interior, and we are informed that the harvest will be commenced this week in some sections. Also a fine sample, raised on the Thames in Canada.

A sample of 300 bushels, already harvested on Long Island, was exhibited on change, in this city yesterday, but we did not hear that any offer was made for it.

The Buffalo Commercial Advertiser of Wednesday states that the new crop is beginning to arrive at St. Louis, which seems to depress the market. Flour and wheat are both declining in consequence.

NEW FLOUR.—The Buffalo Commercial Advertiser has seen an extract from a letter to a produce house on the dock, dated Mad River, Ohio, which says, "we shall ship you flour from new wheat next (this) week." The wheat in that section of Ohio is said to be of the finest quality ever raised there.

THE WHEAT CROPS.—From all that we can learn from a large number of papers published in the wheat growing districts throughout the country, we have no doubt that the aggregate of the wheat produced in the United States this year is far above what is usual. Indeed, we have no doubt that more wheat has been produced this year than was ever before produced in a single year. In some sections, some complaints of rust have been made, but generally, from the Mississippi to the Atlantic, the accounts are highly favorable.—Louisville Journal.

THE CROPS.—The Rochester American of Saturday says:—Nothing has occurred to mar the highly promising appearance of the wheat in this vicinity. The weather continues to be of the most valuable character. There has been a sufficiency of rain, of warm sunshine, and of cool days and nights. Consequently, while the growth of the straw is very fine, the heads are well filled, and the kernels uncommonly plump. We hear of no rust, and the period in which that calamity can be apprehended is well nigh past. The yield can now hardly fail to prove uncommonly, if not unprecedentedly abundant. We learn that wheat cutting, on a dry sandy soil, near Palmyra, Wayne county, commenced on Thursday last.—Harvesting will begin to a considerable extent in this neighbourhood, by the middle of next week, and become general as early as Monday, the 22nd inst. Other crops—corn, grass, potatoes, &c., are also excellent.

THE WHEAT OF OHIO.—In many parts of the State the wheat harvest is commenced, and throughout the State generally the promise for an abundant harvest was never better. In the south part of the State much of the crop is already safe. It is too late now to have the crop affected by the blight. The heads are well filled and the kernel plump. We congratulate the farmers of the State, and through them every other class of business on the improved prospect.

IMPORTANT FROM HAVANA—FATE OF THE AMERICAN PRISONERS.

CHARLESTON, July 13. The steamship Isabella has arrived with dates from Havana to the 8th. It is stated that much excitement prevailed in relation to the American prisoners. None are allowed to see them, and no intelligence being furnished as to their fate, it is rumoured that a great number have died, and the Spaniards boast they will keep them till they all die.

In the meantime, the American officers are enjoying the hospitality of the Spanish officers. The American Consul Mr. Campbell is still denied access to them, and is obliged to keep ten armed men in his house as a protection from the mob.

The city continues quite healthy, but the Cholera has committed great ravages in the country.

We understand from the best authority, that at a meeting of the St. Andrews and Quebec Railroad Company, held this day at the Company's Rooms, a resolution has unanimously passed the Board, respectfully inviting the Hon. Charles Fisher to become one of the Delegates from the Company, to meet at Portland on the 31st inst. We feel great pleasure in announcing this to the Public in this country, as Mr. Fisher has always shown himself a person of great zeal in developing the internal improvement of the Province, and has upon all occasions shown, as a member of the Executive and Legislature, that he has not been actuated by any sectional feelings; but has always on the floor of the Assembly, advocated those measures that have been of general utility, and for which all persons must give him credit.—St. Andrews Standard, July 24.

NEW GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA.—Port Spain, Trinidad, June 18.—Our amiable and good Governor, Lord Harris, is to leave the island in a few days in conformity with the orders from the Home Government, which has commanded him to repair with all possible despatch to Canada, there to assume and exercise the ruling power of British North America, vice Lord Elgin recalled. What is gloom to this island will be sunshine to the Canadas.

A NEW SPECULATION.—Some interest has been excited this week, from the fact that the Schr. Olive Branch has left this port for Turks Island, ostensibly for the purpose of digging for treasure, which is said to have been buried there, or on the islands contiguous thereto. The adventurers are inhabitants of this city, and persons of the highest respectability. They are said to be conducted thither by a person who has followed the sea, and professes to have seen the money, which he represents to be in gold coin, and amounts to about £70,000. Although we have little faith in the story of the money being there, still, if true, we trust the parties engaged in the enterprise will succeed in recovering it.—St. John's New Brunswick.

AFFRAY AT YORK POINT, AND ASSAULT UPON THE POLICE.—About 8 o'clock last night, two men began fighting at the North end of Dock Street, (York Point,) and a large mob very soon collected. Two Policemen who were on duty there, endeavoured to quell the riot, and as we understood, took the two persons who were fighting into custody. These were almost immediately rescued by a large body of labourers, who set upon the Policemen with knives and other weapons, and injured them severely. One of the Policemen was much cut about the head, and the other was seriously beaten. Several arrests were made.—15.

LUCIFER MATCHES.—"I wonder how they make Lucifer Matches," said a young lady to her husband, with whom she was always quarrelling. "The process is very simple—I once made one," he answered. "How did you manage it?" "By leading you to Church."

St. Louis, July 16.—The City Register reports 212 deaths during the past week, of which 97 are reported to have occurred from Cholera,—of the whole number 112 were children under 5 years of age—this statement shows a smaller decrease of mortality from the previous week.

The cholera had committed most awful ravages in the city of Mexico. From the 17th of May to the 16th of June, inclusive, the number of cases was 7,846, and on the last day named—June 16th—there were 230 deaths, which was the highest number in any one day. After this period, the disease continued to increase. Of the 7,846 cases, 2,856 were treated in hospitals.

In San Luis eighty deaths per day took place from the epidemic; 900 persons had died.

EDUCATION IN OREGON AND CALIFORNIA.—The Baptists were at the last accounts, laying the foundation of a college in Oregon City, upon a lot of 40 acres of land.—It is to be styled the Oregon City College, and is to contain a theological department. The Methodist Episcopal Church have an Academy at Salem City, in Oregon, called the Oregon Institute. The buildings are excellent for the country.

COMMUNICATIONS.

THE SERMON OF THE 12th JULY.

(Continued.)

3d. The next error which my text may be said to include, is that of prohibiting the reading and circulation of the Holy Scriptures. This has been one of the strong towers of the Church of Rome. She takes from the people the Bread of Life, and without any compunction of heart, commands that the sacred Book be given to the flames. She takes from man the right of private judgment, and puts her own exposition upon the sacred text, an exposition replete with error and falsehood. The Church of Rome succeeded so well in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries as to prohibit almost entirely the use of the Holy Scriptures; so much so that Luther the champion of the Reformation was twenty-four years of age before he saw the Bible, and then when he saw it, it was a chained book in one of the convents of Germany.

Now, my brethren, the question at issue is: does Christ command his church or people to read the Scriptures or does he not? "to the law and to the testimony." Search the Scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of me.—(John, v. c. 39 v. Again the Apostle when leaving his brethren, addressed them in the following language:—"And now brethren I commend you to God and the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all them that are sanctified.—(Acts xx 32.) The Church of Rome says you shall not read the Scriptures, Christ says "Search the Scriptures." Paul "commends his brethren to God and the word of His grace." The Church of Rome does not obey the commands of Christ. Therefore she cannot be the church of Christ.

4. The next error to which I refer is that of Baptismal regeneration, and a refusal to bury the dead without baptism. I shall not occupy much of your time in refuting this erroneous soul destroying doctrine. I am astonished at men of learning and apparently good understanding who can stand in the sacred desk and preach such doctrine, so calculated to destroy the immortal interests of man. I deny my friends that baptism with, or in water, is regeneration, or that it (Baptism) is essential to Salvation. I ask those who propagate such doctrine where is it taught in the Holy Scriptures? I ask where in the bible are ministers told to go from house to house and declare to parents that unless their children are baptized and thereby regenerated, that they must be lost? What is baptism? "it is not the putting away the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience towards God."—(1 Peter 3 c 21st v.) How then can a man say that baptism regenerates? How can he thank God in his form of prayer, that this child or person has been regenerated, made an heir of God and an inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven? It is preposterous! It is derogatory to the atonement of Christ and the christian religion! I rejoice that there is such a doctrine taught in the Scriptures as regeneration, or the new Birth; but not that regeneration which has water for its foundation. Paul in his epistle to Titus in my opinion set forth the subject in its proper light, when he said "not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost." (But how is this blessing conferred on the people? through the fingers of the Pope, Arch Bishop, Lord Bishop or any of their prebendaries? Nay, my hearers! the Apostle tells us, "which He (the Holy Spirit) shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, and that thus being justified by His grace we shall be heirs according to the hope of eternal life."—(Titus iii c. 5, 6, and 7 v.) I court not a litigation with any man or body of men, but the truth of God I wish to declare. The next idea under this head, is the right of burial;—where is it said in the bible that the cemetery or place of interment must be consecrated, and that Baptism is a prerequisite to interment in that place so said to be consecrated? Let any man point me to a consecrated cemetery in the bible and I shall confess my wrong. Let any man show me from the bible that it is imperatively necessary for any one to be christened or baptized before the right of christian burial is allowed them. I declare it in unequivocal language, they can not. The man that is not baptized is looked upon as a worse character than he who commits suicide; for the one unbaptized is not allowed the right of christian burial, while the other is. Oh! how revelation stands and blushes at such conduct, while reason abashed hides her head! Oh! when shall the potent radiance of truth dispel such papal darkness.