

swell with generous warmth; and, thrusting his hand into his pocket, he took out a handful of gold and put it into the hands of these starving people. Now, as he looked upon these joyful countenances, and the blessing of many that were ready to perish fell upon him, he felt as he had never felt before; for he had performed a nobler act than he had ever accomplished at any previous period in his whole life. He left the house with a deep impression that he had been pursuing happiness all his days in a wrong direction; and this circumstance seems to have led to his conversion to God, for he afterwards devoted his large estate to purposes of philanthropy and religion. Here we see the ineffable glory of the Gospel, in discovering to men the true way of happiness.—*Rev. E. Noyes.*

LAW AND LAWYERS IN NORWAY

THE administration of the civil law in Norway is most admirably contrived. In every school district, the freeholders elect a justice of the Court of Reconciliation. Every lawsuit must first be brought before this justice, and by the parties in person, as no lawyer or attorney is allowed to practise in this court. The parties appear in person, and state their mutual complaints and grievances at length, and the justice carefully notes down all the facts and statements of the plaintiff and defendant, and, after due consideration, endeavors to arrange the matter, and proposes for this purpose what he considers to be perfectly just and fair in the premises. If his judgment is accepted, it is immediately entered in the court above, which is a Court of Record; and if it is appealed from, the case goes up to the district court, upon the evidence already taken in writing, by the justice of the Court of Reconciliation. No other evidence is admitted. If the terms proposed by the justice are pronounced to be just and reasonable, the party appealing has to pay the costs and charges of the appeal. This system of minor courts prevents a great deal of unnecessary, expensive, and vexatious litigation. The case goes up from court to court upon the same evidence, and the legal argument rests upon the same facts, without trick or circumlocution of any kind from either party. There is no chance for pettifoggers—the banditti of the bar. Poor, or rich, or stupid clients cannot be deluded, nor judge nor jury mystified by the skill of sharp practitioners in the courts of law in Norway. More than two thirds of the suits commenced are settled in the Court of Reconciliation, and of the remaining third not settled, not more than one tenth are ever carried up. The judges of the Norwegian Courts are responsible for errors of judgment, delay, ignorance, carelessness, partiality or prejudice. They may be summoned accused, and tried in the superior court, and, if convicted, are liable to damages to the party injured. There are, therefore very few unworthy lawyers in the Norwegian courts. The bench and the bar are distinguished for integrity and learning. They have great influence in the community, and the country appreciates the many benefits which have resulted from their virtue and their wisdom.—*Maxwell.*

From Hogg's Instructor.

THE IRRESISTIBLE PERSUADER.

God touches the lips of the sincere man, as Moses smote the rock, and thenceforth doctored the most elevated and consolations the most grateful flow forth to the multitudes famishing in the deserts of the earth. He toils without rancor, and sees the aspiring around him soar without envy, never more happy than when the laurels of more fortunate competitors cast a shadow upon his own brow.—He lives only for the glory of his Maker, and the advent of superior talents is to him a cheering prophecy of the speedy realization of his most ardent desires. In a nobler sense than was originally expressed, he magnanimously exclaims, 'Sparta has many a nobler son than I.' At the voice of such a man, and in his presence always, sentiments arise in the common heart of mankind which are worthy of answering to his own; he fascinates all by his sincerity, and moves everything by the strength of the convictions with which he is inspired. To him may be applied what Carlyle said of Burns: 'Here are no fabulous woes or joys; no hollow, fantastic sentimentalities; no wiredrawn refinings, either in thought or feeling: the passion that is traced before us has glowed in a living heart; the opinion he utters has risen in his own understanding, and been a light to his own steps. He does not write from hearsay, but from sight and experience; it is the scenes he has lived and labored amidst that he describes; those scenes, rude and humble, as they are, have kindled beautiful emotions in his soul, noble thoughts, and definite resolves; and he speaks forth what is in him, not from any outward call of vanity or interest, but because his heart is too full to be silent. He speaks it, too, with such melody and modulation as he can, 'in homely rustic jingle'; but it is his own, and genuine. This the grand secret for finding readers and retaining them; let him who would move and convince others be first moved and convinced himself.'

The fountain of truth like the sacred stream of Dodona, has the gift of enlightening those who seek it, and the power of igniting with glorious flames every torch which touches the surface of its water. But this source of illumination, to be profitable, must be approached with a discriminating mind and sincere heart, since truth and error are not generally unmixed. In the words of Ulmann, 'the convictions of men never stand over

against each other as black and white, day and night, God and the devil; but sunshine and shade spread themselves over all intellects in many various gradations.' The highest truth, that of our holy religion, seeks not its favorite defenders from those who give it a hasty and uncandid approval, but from those who greatly prize what they have diligently sought, and who habitually exemplify the excellence they have found. To such votaries the power of truth is as great as her beauty. Though all things conspire against her she conquers all. As is said in Esdras, 'She is the strength, kingdom, power and majesty of all the ages.' Her potency is like the sword of Michael, which

'From the armoury of God
Was given him temper'd so that neither keen
Nor solid might resist that edge: it met
The sword of Satan, with steep force to smite
Descending, and in half cut sheer; nor stay'd,
But with swift wheel reverse, deep entering,
shared
All his right side: then Satan first knew pain
And writh'd him to and fro convolved; so
sore
The griding sword with discontinuous wound
Pass'd through him!'

This leads us further to remark, that the sincere are not only the most attractive, and the most forcible in speech, but their influence every way is the most benign. If there is anything beautiful and sacred on earth, it is the divine constitution and invincible power of truth. It is influence the most exalted and enduring. Men, by force, elevate empires which under force are again speedily reduced to ruin. Cyrus destroyed the work of Ninus, Alexander that of Cyrus, the Romans that of Alexander.

Sooner or later force antagonises with force, one isolated dogma meets and annihilates another; but when truth supreme has conquered the universe, not in the sense of brutal force and carnal weapons, but in the spirit of sacrifice, then has it exemplified its inherent immortality, and proved itself divine. And if they are unscrupulous fishermen that have been instrumental in that kind and degree of conquest—if a handful of Galileans have founded an empire of conviction all round the globe, then its original force is evidently supernatural and glorious beyond all power of expression.—*Magoon.*

From Chambers's Edinburgh Journal.

THE FIRE OF DRIFT-WOOD.

BY HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW.

We sat within the farm-house old,
Whose windows looking o'er the bay,
Gave to the sea-breeze, damp and cold,
An easy entrance night and day.

Not far away we saw the port—
The strange, old-fashioned, silent town—
The lighthouse—the dismantled fort—
The wooden houses, quaint and brown.

We sat and talked until the night,
Descending, filled the little room;
Our faces faded from the sight,
Our voices only broke the gloom.

We spoke of many a vanished scene,
Of what we once had thought and said,
Of what had been, and might have been,
And who was changed, and who was dead;

And all that fills the hearts of friends,
When first they feel with sacred pain,
Their lives thenceforth have separate ends,
And never can be one again;

The first slight swerving of the heart,
That words are powerless to express,
And leave it still unsaid in part,
Or say it in too great excess.

The very tones in which we spoke
Had something strange, I could but mark;
The leaves of memory seemed to make
A mournful rustling in the dark.

Of old the words upon our lips,
As suddenly from out the fire,
Built of the wreck of stranded ships,
The flames would leap, and then expire.

And, as their splendour flashed and failed,
We thought of wrecks upon the main—
Of ships dismantled, that were haled,
And sent no answer back again.

The windows, rattling in their frames—
The ocean, roaring up the beach—
The gusty blast—the bickering flames—
All mingled vaguely in our speech;

Until they made themselves a part
Of fancies floating through the brain—
The long-lost ventures of the heart,
That send no answers back again.

Oh flames that glowed! oh hearts that yearned!
They were indeed too much akin—
The drift-wood fire without that burned,
The thoughts that burned and glowed within!

ORIGIN OF THE PHRASE "BROTHER JONATHAN."

General Washington placed great confidence in the good sense and patriotism of Jonathan Trumbull, who, at an early period of the American Revolution, was governor of the State of Connecticut. In a certain emergency, when a measure of great importance was under discussion, Washington remarked, "We must consult brother Jonathan on the subject." The result of that consultation was favorable; and the words of the commander-in-chief passed into a common

phrase, applied indiscriminately by officers and men in all cases of difficulty which afterwards occurred during the war. Thus, from the constant use of the expression "we must consult brother Jonathan," which soon passed from the army to the people at large, the Americans received from the English that appellation which has stuck as closely as their "John Bull" to them.

Communications.

ON THE REGIONS OF THE NORTH,

In connexion with the causes now in activity in destroying the Animal and Vegetable Kingdom, or Animals and Inanimate Nature, from all that is well authenticated.

BY WILLIAM SMITH,
Shoemaker, Miramichi, New Brunswick,
TO MOSES H. GRINNELL, MERCHANT, NEW YORK.*

In consequence of such complaint, the Hudson's Bay Company found themselves in some measure obliged to attempt the discovery of a North West Passage. They sent in 1720, Knight and Barlow, who were never afterwards heard of; and again in 1722, Scroggs, who effected nothing of the smallest note.

In 1737, Mr Arthur Dobbs, a gentleman of considerable weight and information, prevailed on that Company, by mere dint of importunity, to despatch a sloop for discovery, but it returned without achieving anything. Application being next made to Government, a bomb ketch, in 1741, was entrusted to Middleton, who examined the shores of Hudson's Bay, from Repulse Bay to Cape Comfort, and met with much ice, but no opening.

Mr Dobbs, dissatisfied with this result, now persuaded the public to form a joint stock, to the amount of £10,000, for the purpose of resuming the search under better auspices. Two ships were accordingly despatched, under the command of Moor and Smith, in the spring of 1746. These navigators wintered in Hudson's Bay, and explored it in their long-boat the following summer. They found various creeks, but no distinct passage, and the great object of their pursuit seemed quite hopeless. The Admiralty again sent the Lion brig to Davis's Strait in the years 1776 and 1777, under the successive commands of Lieutenants Pickersgill and Bane; but these naval officers made very little progress, and effected no discovery whatever.

In 1818, on the 18th April, Captain Ross took his departure for the Polar seas, in hopes of discovering the North West passage. He proceeded as far North as the latitude 50 24, where, on the coast of Greenland, he discovered a settlement of Esquimaux, who had never before been visited by Europeans, and, what was more remarkable, who were ignorant that there were any human inhabitants on earth but themselves. His northerly passage was interrupted at a short distance beyond this point by fields of ice. As he returned towards the south, along the westerly shore of this immense bay, Captain Ross neglected to make that thorough examination of the various inlets, which the objects of his mission demanded.

On the 29th of August he entered the broad inlet called Lancaster Sound, which is 50 miles broad. After advancing about 30 miles within this Sound, he imagined he saw land at a distance of about 8 leagues, stretching entirely across it. His officers, particularly Lieutenant Parry, saw no land, and were surprised and mortified to find their commander resolved to abandon the further prosecution of the voyage in that direction, without any attempt to verify the existence of the imaginary land, to which he gave the name of Croker's mountains. Captain Ross continued his voyage southwards, and returned to England. Neither the British Admiralty nor public were satisfied with the result of this expedition, and in the following year Lieutenant Parry was despatched with two ships, the Hecla and Grips, to make a thorough examination of those seas. He sailed from England on the 5th of May, and on the 31st of July arrived near the entrance of Lancaster Sound. They entered the sea which Captain Ross supposed to be closed up by a range of mountains, with a fresh breeze, and had the gratification to find, as they proceeded, the shores continued to be at least 50 miles asunder. After passing a broad Sound, which has been named Barrow's Strait, they discovered land ahead, which proved to be a small island. The passage to the North appearing to be blocked up with ice, they proceeded southerly in an open sea, which has received the name of Prince Regent's Inlet. About 120 miles further, their progress was obstructed by ice, and they returned to attempt a more northerly passage. This they found to be clear of ice, and they pursued their course westwardly a distance of about 20 degrees, without serious impediment. Having reached the 110th degree of west longitude, they became entitled to the reward of £5000 which had been offered by an act of Parliament to the first ship that should accomplish this enterprise. Near this point they were obliged to take up their winter quarters. After passing a dreary winter in that inhospitable region, where there was no perceptible thaw until the end of April, they succeeded in getting the ships out of the ice on the 1st day of August, with a view of prosecuting their voyage westwardly. After laborious efforts they succeeded in reaching, on the 16th of that month, long. 113 46, lat. 74 26 25, and finding any further progress out of the question, they

set out on their return for England, and arrived about the middle of December.

The results of this expedition were so encouraging, that another was resolved upon for the purpose of discovering the North West passage. The Hecla was fitted out anew, under the same commander, accompanied by the Fury, both very strong ships, and furnished with every thing that experience had suggested as wanting, to enable the adventurous crews to endure the rigours of a northern winter in those inhospitable regions. The plan of this expedition was to effect an entrance into the Polar sea, not by Baffin's Bay and Lancaster Sound, as before, but by Hudson's Bay. Captain Parry left England May 8, reached Davis Strait June 14, and the northerly part of Hudson's Bay on the 2nd August. Various inlets were explored with much difficulty, without being able to advance much farther than had been done by Captain Middleton, more than 60 years before. Captain Parry was obliged to take up his winter quarters under the Arctic circle, where the ships were frozen up till the 2nd of July. The short summer was employed in exploring a number of other inlets, which led to no discoveries of importance; and the next winter was passed at no great distance from the quarters of the preceding year. In the summer of 1823, after getting released from the ice on the 12th of August, and after further fruitless attempts to find a western passage, Captain Parry returned with his two ships to England. In the following year the Hecla and Fury were again fitted out, and sailed under Captain Parry for the Arctic Sea, by way of Baffin's Bay and Lancaster Sound.

His object was to attempt the passage of the Regent's Inlet, believing it would lead to an open sea, bounding the American continent on the north, in about 70° of latitude. His passage through Baffin's Bay was so much impeded by broken ice, that he did not reach the eastern shore of the Regent's Inlet until the season was so far advanced that he was obliged to go into winter quarters without delay. In the following summer, in an attempt to proceed along the western shore of the Inlet, they were forced ashore by immense masses of floating ice, and the Fury was so much injured, that it was necessary to abandon her. Her stores were landed, and the officers and men embarked in the Hecla for England.

In 1827 Captain Parry made an attempt, under the patronage of the British Admiralty, to reach the North Pole by means of light boats, fitted with runners in such a manner that they might be taken from the water and used as sleds upon the ice. He sailed from England in April, and stopped at Hammerfest, in Norway, and there took on board reindeer, to draw the sledges, and proceeded northerly until the ship was obstructed by ice. The ship was then moored, and the sledges were landed upon the ice. The surface was so broken and irregular, that the reindeer were of no use. It was extremely difficult to make much progress. It was found necessary to transfer the sledges frequently into pools of water, and after a short distance to drag them again on the ice. Five days were occupied in making a progress of eight miles. They found it necessary to travel by night and sleep by day, on account of snow blindness. On the 22nd of July they advanced 17 miles, the greatest distance in any one day. They had reached the high latitude of 32 40, a distance of about 500 miles from the Pole. On the 23d the wind shifted to the north, and after travelling with great labor ten or twelve miles over the ice, they found by observations they were four miles south of the position they reached the preceding day, in consequence of the drifting of the masses of ice on which they were travelling. A discovery so discouraging induced them immediately to return to their ships, which they reached August 21, after a journey upon the ice of two months, and they returned directly to England.

While Captain Parry was employed in prosecuting his adventures in the Arctic sea, another enterprise equally adventurous, and promising more certain results, was undertaken by Lieutenant Franklin, accompanied by Midshipmen Hood and Back. Their object was, by an inland journey, to reach the Coppermine River, and by following the course of that stream, to reach its outlet in the Arctic sea. They sailed for Hudson's Bay in the spring of 1819, and arrived at York Factory on the 30th of August, and at Cumberland House, 600 miles distant, on the 22nd of October. Here Dr. Richardson and Mr Hood remained until the following spring, but Captain Franklin and Mr Back proceeded on a winter's journey, and after travelling 860 miles, reached Fort Chipewyan, on Athabasca lake, on the 26th of March.

During the whole of this journey the adventurers slept in the open air, the thermometer frequently sinking to 40 and sometimes to 50 degrees below zero. Dr. Richardson and Mr Hood reached Fort Chipewyan in July, and the party proceeded on their journey. In consequence of the difficulty of procuring provisions, and other impediments, they reached this season only a spot on Winter river, in latitude 64 23 113, which they called Fort Enterprise, where they established their quarters for the winter. In June, 1821, they proceeded down the Coppermine River, and reached the mouth on the 18th July. The sea was open, and the tide was scarcely perceptible. The party embarked in two canoes, with food for 15 days, and went to Cape Turnagain, where, for want of provisions, they had to return again, and with the loss of Mr Hood, they reached the Hudson's Bay Company's posts, and returned to England.

* Continued.