

knotted by the law that suspends death itself over his head should his passion discharge the slightest blow at the boy-worm that spits at his feet.

Communications.

ON THE REGIONS OF THE NORTH.

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

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

It was in 1658 that Charles IX of Sweden crossed the Little Belt over the ice from Holstein to Denmark with his whole army, foot and horse, followed by a train of baggage and artillery. During these years the price of grain was nearly doubled in England, a circumstance which contributed among other causes to the Restoration. In 1670 the frost was most intense in England, and in Denmark both the Little and Great Belt were frozen. In 1684 the winter was excessively cold, many forest trees and even the oaks were split by the frost, most of the hollies were killed, coaches were driven along the Thames, which was covered with ice eleven inches thick, and nearly all the birds perished. In 1691 the cold was so excessive, that famished wolves entered Vienna and attacked the cattle, and even men.

The winter of 1695 was extremely severe and protracted. The frost in Germany began in October and continued till April, and many people were frozen to death. The years 1697 and 1699 were as bad. In England the price of wheat, which in the preceding years had seldom reached to 30 shillings a quarter, now amounted to 71 shillings. In 1709 occurred that famous winter, called by distinction the cold winter. All the rivers and lakes were frozen, and even the sea, for many miles from the shore; the frost is said to have penetrated nine feet into the ground; birds and wild beasts were strewn along the fields, and men perished by thousands in the houses, the more tender shrubs and vegetables in England were killed, and wheat rose to £4 per quarter. In the south of France the olive plantations were almost all destroyed, and it is said they have not recovered that fatal disaster. The Adriatic sea was entirely frozen over, and even the coast of the Mediterranean, about Genoa; the citron and orange groves suffered severely.

In 1716 the winter was very cold; on the Thames booths were erected and fairs held. In 1726 the winter was so intense that people travelled in sledges across the Strait from Copenhagen to the Province of Scania, in Sweden. In 1729 much injury was done by the frost, which lasted from October until May. In Scotland great numbers of cattle and sheep were buried in the snow, and many forest trees in other parts of Europe were killed. The successive winters of 1731 and 1732 were very cold. The cold in 1740 was scarcely inferior to that in 1709; the snow lay 8 or 10 feet deep in Spain and Portugal; the Zuyder Zee was frozen over, and many thousands of persons walked and skated on it. At Leyden the thermometer fell 10 degrees below zero, Fahrenheit's scale; all the lakes in England were frozen, and a whole ox was roasted on the Thames; many trees were killed by the frost, and postillions were benumbed in their saddles. In both the years 1709 and 1740 the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland ordained a national fast to be held, on account of the dearth that prevailed.

In 1744 the winter was again very cold, Mayne was covered seven weeks with snow, and in some parts of Portugal the people could hardly creep out of their houses for heaps of snow. The winters during the five successive years, 1745, 1746, 1747, 1748, and 1749, were all of them very cold. In 1754, and again in 1755, the winter was very cold; at Paris, Fahrenheit's thermometer sunk to the beginning of the scale, and in England the strongest ale exposed to the air in a glass was covered in less than a quarter of an hour with ice a quarter of an inch thick.

The winters of 1766, 1767, and 1768 were very cold all over Europe. In France the thermometer fell six degrees below the zero, of Fahrenheit's scale. The large rivers and the most copious springs in many parts were frozen. The thermometer laid on the surface of the snow at Glasgow fell two degrees below zero. In 1771 the snow lay very deep, and the Elbe was frozen to the bottom. In 1776 much snow fell, and the cold was intense. The Danube bore ice five feet thick. Below Vienna wine was frozen in the cellars. Both in France and Poland many people were frost-bitten, and great numbers of the feathered and finny tribes perished, yet the quantity of snow which lay on the ground had checked the penetration of the frost, and Van Swinden found in Poland that the earth was congealed to the depth of 21 inches on a spot of a garden which had been kept cleared, but only 9 inches at another place near it, which was covered with four inches of snow. The successive winters of 1784 and 1785 were uncommonly severe, insomuch that the Little Belt was frozen over. In 1789, the cold was excessive, and again in 1795, when the Republican armies of France overran Holland. The winters of 1799 and 1800 were

*Continued.

very cold; in 1809, and again in 1812, the winters were remarkably cold.

Those years that were warm will be more easily enumerated. In 763 the summer was so hot that the springs dried up. In 870 the heat was so intense that near Worms the reapers dropped dead in the field. In 993 and again in 994 it was so hot that the corn and fruit were burnt up. The year 1000 was so hot and dry that in Germany the pools of water disappeared, and the fish being left to rot in the mud, bred a pestilence. In 1022 the heat was so excessive that both men and cattle were struck dead. In 1130 the earth yawned with drought, springs and rivers disappeared, and even the Rhine was dried up at Alsace. In 1159 not a drop of rain fell in Italy after the month of May. The year 1171 was extremely hot in Germany. In 1232 the heat was so great, especially in Germany, that it is said eggs were roasted in the sands. In 1260 many of the Hungarian soldiers died of excessive heat at the famous battle fought near Bela. The consecutive years 1276 and 1277 were so hot and dry as to occasion a great scarcity of fodder. The years 1293 and 1294 were extremely hot, and so were 1303 and 1304, both the Rhine and the Danube having dried up. In 1333 the corn fields and vineyards were burnt up. The years 1393 and 1394 were excessively hot and dry. In 1403 and 1404 the heat was so intense that it bred a pestilence called the 'black death,' which carried off thousands in Europe, being most severe in Germany, and almost depopulated Greenland. In 1447 the summer was extremely hot. In the years 1473 and 1474 the whole earth seemed on fire; in Hungary one could wade across the Danube. The four consecutive years 1538, 1539, 1540, and 1541 were intensely hot, and the rivers dried up. In 1556 the drought was so great that the springs failed in England; wheat rose from 8 shillings to 56 shillings per quarter. The years 1615 and 1616 were very dry over all Europe. In 1646 it was very hot. In 1652 the warmth was very great, the summer being the driest ever known in Scotland, yet a total eclipse of the sun had happened that year on Monday the 24th of March, which hence received the appellation of Mirk Monday. In 1665 the summer was very hot, so much so that the heat and drought bred a pestilence. The plague broke out in London in May, and in the first week in July the number of deaths were 725, the first week in August 2,817, and in the first week in September the number of deaths were 6,988, and though in the second week the number decreased to 6,544, yet in the third week it rose to 7,135, which was the highest; it engrossed the ills of all other maladies, and made doctors despicable,—of a potency equal to death, it possessed itself of all its armories, and was itself the death of every other mortal distemper. The touch, yea, the very sight of the infected was deadly, and its appearance was so sudden, that families seated in happiness at their meals, have seen the plague spot begin to redden, and wildly scattered themselves for ever. The very cement of society was dissolved by it. Mothers, when they saw the sign of infection on the babes at the breast, cast them from them in abhorrence; wild places were sought for shelter; some went into ships and anchored themselves afar off in the waters, but the destroying angel had a foot on the sea as well as on the land; no place was so concealed that the sun did not visit it; none could fly where it would not overtake them; it was as if heaven had repented the making of mankind, and was shovelling them all into the sepulchre; justice was forgotten, and her courts deserted; the terrified jailors fled from the felons that were in fetters; the innocent and the guilty leagued themselves together, and kept their prison for safety; the grass grew in the market places; the cattle went moaning up and down the streets and fields, wondering what had become of their keepers; the rooks and the ravens came into the towns, and built their nests in the mute bellfries; silence was universal, save when some infected wretch was clamouring at a window; for a time all commerce was in coffins and shrouds, but even that ended; shiffts there were none; churches and chapels were open, but neither minister or penitent entered; all went to the charnel house; the sexton and the physician were cast into the same deep and wide grave; the testator and his heirs and executors were buried from the same cart into the same hole; fires became extinguished, as if its element had expired; the seams of the sailorless ships yawned to the sun; though doors were open and coffers unwatched, yet there was no theft, all crime and offences ceased, and nothing but the universal woe of the pestilence was heard among men; wells overflowed, and conduits ran to waste; the dogs banded themselves together, having lost their masters, and ran howling over all the land; horses perished of famine in their stalls; old friends but looked at one another when they met, keeping themselves far aloof; little children went up and down, and numbers were seen dead in all corners.

Nor was it in England alone that the pestilence raged. It travelled over a third part of the earth, like the shadow of an eclipse, as if some dreadful thing had been interposed between heaven and earth. At that epoch, for a short time, there was a silence, and every person in the street stood still, and London was as silent as the grave yard. But at last the sound of the bell summoned worshippers again to the house of prayer; at the third toll a universal shout arose, as when a herald proclaims the news of a great battle won over some terrible enemy. The people fell on their knees, and with anthems of thankfulness, rejoiced in the dismal sound of

that death-tolling bell; but it was a signal that the plague had spent its virulence, and that men might again return to their former habitations, and perform the last obsequies for their friends and enemies.

THE LATE FIRE.

Mr Pierce,

Sir—On account of Snap's rabid attack on the Firemen at the late fire, would you do the Firemen the favor to publish a few facts by way of answer to him.

On the alarm being given, the Engine was conveyed to the place of danger, with all possible speed; and placed on the highway, opposite the vacant space, between the building that was on fire and the new one to windward. Having sufficient length of hose to reach the new building, likewise the stone building, as soon as occasion would require, without moving the engine. On the engine being stopped, the buckets were thrown off, but as there was no sign of a line being formed to supply the engine with water, and the new building having caught fire, the engine was taken down on the wharf, to the north end of the new building, expecting to be able to apply the suction hose. Unfortunately it was low water, the suction hose would not reach it, so that the water had to be hauled up with buckets, a tedious way of supplying an engine with water at a fire. As soon as there was sufficient water in, the engine commenced to play on the part of the new building that was on fire; and if Snap had been alongside of the fireman who was holding the branch pipe, he would have felt the situation hot enough. Just after a plan had been devised for getting quicker supplied with water, one of the firewards ordered the engine up to the road, to try to save the stone building, but did not order it to be placed to windward, and even then, if the engine could only have been supplied with water, (although on the very spot where Snap says it could be of no earthly use), there is little doubt on my mind but the stone building would have been saved, but it would have required all the buckets that were there, to supply the engine; then the wooden building would be left to its fate, as a number of the buckets were required there after the engine was ordered up. After stopping on the road with the engine for a short time waiting for water, we were ordered down to where Snap says we could be of some service; but it was like ordering soldiers out of the ranks during an engagement, to do hospital duty. We were a very short time there when Mr Bain came down and wished us to go up to the Foundry wharf with the engine again. He was referred to the firewards for permission, but as he did not return we remained there, but not altogether as Snap says, in order to throw the water along the bank-head. We put on an additional length of hose, which burst in a short time, it was replaced by another length, which soon went the same way, a circumstance of itself quite sufficient to upset Snap's assertion, namely, that the engine was not worked with effect. There must be a cause to produce an effect, and the working of the engine produced the effect of bursting the hose; (we did not make the hose.) After bursting two lengths of hose it would have been very imprudent to continue working the engine when there was no appearance of danger, not knowing what might happen before we could get the hose that burst repaired. As soon as the tide rose a little, we ran the engine down the slip where it could supply itself with water, and occasionally wrought it to wet the roof of the building at the head of the wharf. When we went down with the engine to where Snap says we could be of some service, notwithstanding all the danger, I was much surprised to see that there was not a barrel of water, or even a washing-tub full, placed anywhere about the premises, so as to be ready to lift a pitcher full out of to throw on any fire that might chance to fall. Had that been done, and wet blankets thrown on the roofs of the buildings, it would have lessened the danger, considering that they were about 150 yards from the building that was on fire.

Presuming that Snap is a man in authority, or would be in authority if he had caused something in accordance with the above remarks to have been done, he would have been more beneficially employed than watching a chance to get a bite at the firemen's heels. There is one thing that appears to have escaped Snap's notice, that was, the absence of nearly one half of the Engine company, which perhaps never happened on any former occasion. It is next to an impossibility to carry out the most judicious plan of operation with an engine at a fire, when there is neither water tanks nor fire plugs. I can assure you Mr Editor, that the firemen that were present at the fire, felt quite mortified that they were prevented from want of water, from even having a chance of doing any good.

I would also further remark, that there have been a great many Fire Buckets lost and destroyed at the two late fires. Although they are public property, those that use them ought to take as good care of them as if they were their own, not knowing when and where they may be required.

A FIREMAN.

Chatham, August 5, 1850.

SONS OF TEMPERANCE PIC NIC.

To the Editor of the Gleaner.

Sir,—As an impartial journalist, and the professed friend of the Temperance cause, you will no doubt be happy to learn, that on the Friday preceding the day on which the narrative of the Pic Nic, by Filius, was handed to you for publication, that narrative was unanimously approved of by the Northumber-

land Division of the Sons of Temperance—the writer thereof having been previously appointed to the duty of drawing up such a narrative. And that since the appearance of the little philippic notice of it in your paper of the 5th instant, the three Divisions of the Order, instituted in this County, have every one disowned the would-be Son of Temperance, and recorded their entire approval of the Narrative prepared by Filius. This will appear by a perusal of the following Resolutions, being one from each of the three Divisions.

Resolution of the Northumberland Division, No. 37, Sons of Temperance:—

"Resolved unanimously, That the thanks of this Division are justly due to Brother —, for his interesting, animated, yet truthful description of the Anniversary Pic Nic of the Sons of Temperance, as published in the Gleaner of the 29th July; and that this Division do kindly regard the zeal for the cause, and love for the Order, that filled the heart, and guided the pen of 'Filius.'

"Extract from the Minutes.
"DAVIS P. HOWE, R. S.,
"Northumberland Division.

"August 9, 1850."
Resolution of the Caledonian Division, No. 41, Sons of Temperance:—

"Resolved unanimously, That this Division do highly appreciate the pleasing and truthful communication lately published in the Gleaner, Newspaper, containing an account of the Sons of Temperance Pic Nic, held on the 11th July last, and signed 'Filius.'

"Submitted in L. P. and F.
"ROBERT EDGAR, R. S.,
"Division Room, August 14, 1850.

Resolution of Newcastle Division, No. 45, Sons of Temperance:—

"On motion, Resolved, That this Division disclaims sympathy with all such sentiments as those said to have been expressed by a 'Son of Temperance,'—record their approbation of the narrative given by 'Filius,' and express their belief that no such words were ever used by any member of this Division, as those said to have been used by 'a Son of Temperance.'

"Extract from the minutes.
"JONATHAN CRANE, R. S.,
"Newcastle Division, No. 45, S. of T."

Thus disowned, this *Japeth* must appear somewhat small even in his own eyes. Was it his aim, think you, as a *Son of Temperance*, to scatter the seeds of discord among his brethren? If so, I tell him his efforts have only tended to gird them the more firmly together. Or was it his aim to spit his venom at me, merely because I had paid a just but feeble tribute of praise, to the Brass Band? If so, his venom has squirted back on his own head, for it has given to that tribute a ten-fold importance. Is this 'bombastic and inflated' Solon really 'a Son of Temperance?' Be it so: he is a disowned and disgraced one. Is he not? then is he a liar, for asserting that he is, what he is not. So that by holding on to either of the horns, his position is anything but enviable.

Having favored your readers with the most spicy slice of a 'Son of Temperance's' epistle, why not let us have a look at its whole latitude and longitude? The small sample vouchsafed being so exquisite, the whole affair would no doubt have sufficed to thoroughly establish his pretensions to the 'green glasses.' At least it would have afforded me—an unoffending correspondent of your paper—a chance of measuring him for a suit, in which he probably would not have appeared quite so waggishly as he did, when rigged out in the short jacket of your selecting.

FILIUS.

N. B. The Resolution of the Caledonian Division was enclosed in a letter from a Brother of that Division authorized to transmit it, of which letter the following is a copy:—

Worthy Brother,—Inclosed is the Resolution of Caledonian Division, expressing their approbation of the communication which appeared in the Gleaner respecting the Pic Nic of the Sons of Temperance, and signed 'Filius.' I trust you will not be discouraged in your laudable efforts to promote this good cause, as it must give you pleasure to know that you have the approbation of all the true Sons of Temperance in the County of Northumberland.

Yours in L. P. and F.

[Had Filius contented himself with simply publishing the Resolutions of the different Divisions of the Sons of Temperance, we should have inserted them without note or comment; but as he has attacked the 'Son of Temperance' because we took from that communication a few words in acknowledging its receipt, and declining its insertion—and also thrown out some discourteous insinuations, which will be perfectly intelligible to our readers, reflecting on our impartiality and veracity as public journalists, we consider it but an act of justice to our correspondent. 'A Son of Temperance,' and to ourselves, to give publicity to the rejected article. 'Filius' even challenges us so to do. He will now be able to 'look at its whole latitude and longitude,' and judge correctly if the extract given was 'the most spicy slice.' In doing this, we do not take 'Filius' by surprise; we gave him notice that this would be our course of action, should he persist in giving his communication to the world. He has chosen his