

AMERICAN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY.—A large and interesting meeting in behalf of this Society, was held in the Rowe street Church Sunday evening. Rev. BARON STOW, pastor of the church, gave a brief history of its origin, from which it appeared that it was first started in Washington, in 1825, but was subsequently removed to Philadelphia, where it is now located. At first its means of usefulness were limited, but it has gathered strength from year to year, until the last year its receipts were \$40,000—more than double what they were three years ago. This rapid increase is looked upon by its friends with intense gratification, and as an incentive to more strenuous exertions in its behalf in time to come. The meeting the last evening was the first ever held in this city for presenting its claims.

The corresponding Secretary made some statements in regard to the objects and labors of the Society, and its inadequateness to meet the calls it received from various parts of the country. The society is entirely free from debt, (a state of things which it is and always has been the policy of the managers strictly to maintain) and has a capital of \$37,000. Particular mention was made of the lack of libraries among Baptist clergymen in the United States. Fifteen hundred, it was said, are entirely without libraries, and a strong appeal was made in their behalf. The editor of the Society's publications also made some statements in regard to the books issued by the society, which comprise nearly 300 different works, of which 178 were tracts. Especial efforts have been made to disseminate the works of Fuller and Bunyan, more particularly the latter, as being the best calculated to meet the wants of a large class of people.—The works of John Bunyan have proved unusually acceptable to the recipients, and are daily becoming more popular.

Remarks were also made by a German missionary colporteur, pastor of a German Church which he has gathered in Buffalo, N. Y., and also by Rev. Drs. Ide and Malcom of Philadelphia, and a missionary from St. Helena, all of whom interested the large audience present.

The Legislature of Maine was opened at Augusta on the 19th inst. We take the following extract from the Governor's Message:

The St. John River labours under many natural disadvantages as a channel for its commerce. This noble river is extremely circuitous. The distance from the heart of the Aroostook down the St. John River to the City of St. John, is about 100 miles greater than it is from the same point to Bangor, and when arrived at St. John City, our own markets, instead of being approached, are farther distant. The navigation is interrupted by falls, rapids, and shoals, is impracticable even for rafts, through a large portion of the distance, except in seasons of high water, and at all times difficult and expensive. Added to this, there is an onerous, illiberal and unjust tariff on all our lumber and products passing down this river, imposed by the cupidity of British legislation, contrary to the spirit, if not the letter, of the treaty of Washington; and it is likely to continue so long as the mouth of the river is within the exclusive jurisdiction of a foreign government.

A railroad from the Aroostook country to Bangor, a distance of about one hundred and fifty miles, would, in my opinion, independent of these foreign restrictions upon the use of the river, present for the present and in future, a cheaper and more desirable means of transportation than the river itself.

The inexhaustible supply of cedar and spruce for spars and other uses—of ship and cabinet timber in every variety—of hardwood for all purposes—and of pine fit only for short lumber, and unsuitable for river running, needs some such convenience to a market.

Without the requisite facilities for transportation, this class of timber, so highly valuable to the industry and wealth of the State, must share the fate of the clearings in all our older counties.

In fact the operations in lumber on the whole of the St. John waters, have thus far, if we except the revenue derived from stumpage and the sale of timber lands, added but little to the wealth of the State. The pine is becoming exhausted, and it has, up to the present time, gone mostly to the British market, in the form of ton timber and round logs, to encourage British industry and add to British capital.

The doctrine of free trade is undoubtedly the correct one, when it can be made reciprocal. Between us and our Provincial neighbors, there exists the utmost good feeling—they have

been in most respects liberal in their policy towards us, and we should cordially reciprocate such policy.

GREAT MINERAL DISCOVERY.—The Du- buque Tri-weekly Herald gives a glowing account of a recent discovery of lead ore, about three miles from that town, by Mr. Thomas Levins. The editor has been down into the mines one hundred and twenty feet below the surface of the earth, and he tells, with great minuteness, what he saw there. The extreme length of the subterranean vault is something like one hundred and sixty feet by sixty, and varying in height from ten to sixty or seventy feet. It was discovered about six months since, and since then one million pounds of ore have been taken from their hiding place, and scarce more has been done than to remove what hung upon the encrusted wall, or laid exposed to the eye, or slightly buried beneath the floor of the cavern.

The Herald says \$28,000 is the reward of this bare skimming of the surface, while the testimony of experienced miners is, that the vast reservoir of wealth is as yet entirely undisturbed. But when this portion of the cavern is exhausted, the work and wealth of its owner will have just commenced to be realized. Stretching on from the eastern terminus of what is now visible of the cave, is a narrow passage which may be traced for 1300 feet, and through the whole course of which are visible signs of the same rich deposit of mineral. The explorer wormed his way for about 600 feet, and saw enough to gratify his curiosity.

Twice the rocks open into somewhat capacious rooms; neither of them of sufficient height to allow a man to stand erect, but both showing unequivocal evidences that the depths below are loaded with mineral treasure. One of the openings which he denominated a "bed room," is about twenty-five by fifty feet, and the other, "the parlor," is some thirty-five by one hundred feet, and is highly ornamented, both with clusters of mineral from the walls, and beautiful stalactites of carbonate of lime from the roof. It is said to be impossible to estimate the value of this lead—\$500,000 may be too high a figure, or it may be too low. It will take a long time to exhaust it, and until exhausted its value cannot be told. It is doubtless, the richest deposit of mineral ever found in America, and sinks California into the shade.

A SLAVE IN CALIFORNIA.

The question, whether a master can hold his slave in this state, has just been decided. Below is the account. It will be seen that a slave taken there by his owner becomes free as in England, the moment he sets foot upon the soil. This is as it should be. It is clear, however, that a slave escaping to California, as to a Northern State, would be reclaimed under the Fugitive law:

"A man from Tennessee brought a slave with him—perhaps a year or more since. The negro chose to think himself his own owner, and walked whither he listed. The master wishing to return, desired to take the boy, but mistrusting legal aid, he seized him and attempted to bear him off. The negro's friends interposed, and old *Habeas Corpus* brought the case before Judge Morrison. This morning (April 1) the Judge gave his decision, liberating the boy, and hinting at the liability incurred by the complainant as a kidnapper; whereupon measures were instantly taken to arrest the gentleman. This will prevent him from sailing in the steamer of to-day, as he designed. The decision of Judge Morrison, and the subsequent proceedings will do incalculable good in settling other cases, and putting a stop to all kidnapping."

Seven Days Later from Europe!

The steamship *Canada* arrived at Halifax on Monday evening, in 9½ days from Liverpool, bringing dates to the 17th inst., one week later. She brought out 68 passengers, among whom were Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wright, of this City. The Express Mail arrived on Wednesday.

The Commercial news is uninteresting. The Flour market was declining, but wheat and Indian Corn were in fair demand at previous rates. Cotton was fluctuating. The sales of the week reached 46,000 bales. Business in Manchester was improving.

The Timber Market does not appear to have been affected by the change in the foreign duty, and prices remained unchanged.

The discussion of the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill, in the House of Commons, has been postponed until the 19th.

A statement is made in the *Liverpool Journal* to the effect that the Ministry intend to resign very shortly, and that Lord Stanley is prepared to form a new Ministry.

The Great Exhibition continues to attract all attention, and immense numbers throng the Crystal Palace daily. On the 13th the receipts, independent of season tickets, were \$8000. The total number of foreign packages received at the Exhibition is stated at 10,055.

The Pope, who questioned the right of the Spanish government to sell their own church lands, has signed a concordat which makes those sales legal.

Viscount Melbourne was in such a precarious state of health, that but slight hopes were entertained of his recovery.

The whole of the specie and gold dust brought on freight by the Great Western from California, was despatched in a train of four waggons from Southampton on to London. While on its way up, a special guard accompanying it, some adroit rogues managed to plunder it of four boxes, containing \$26,000. The robbery was not discovered until the train reached London. One of the boxes was afterwards found secreted near Winchester.

The London Times does not admit that the unpopularity of the present Cabinet is attributable to their free trade tendencies, but there appears to be a growing sentiment throughout the country that the corn law battle must be fought over again, when it is conjectured that Ireland will use her influence in favor of protection.

Queen Isabella of Spain has had the misfortune to break her leg in descending from her carriage at Aranguez.

At a banquet in London, last week, the Lord Mayor expressed a hope that among the illustrious foreigners of the year he may be able to entertain the "distinguished Kossuth."

In the House of Commons, after some discussion, the further consideration of the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill, by consent of the Premier, was postponed to the 19th inst.

The *Liverpool Journal* says: "We believe we are in a condition to state that, in a week or two, Ministers will resign, and Lord Stanley will accept office. We are, at all events, quite certain that this occurrence is expected by all the Government officials, to follow immediately on Mr. Baylie's motion relative to the maladministration of Government in Ceylon, on which it is calculated that the Ministers will be left in a minority. Lord Stanley is quite prepared to form an administration."

DEATH OF MUNGO PARK'S BROTHER.—We record in our obituary the death of Mr. John Park, the brother of the famous African traveller, and the last of that family. It appears that the family of which the African traveller was descended, have occupied the farm of Fowlshields, on the Buccleuch estate, for three generations. Both the father and grandfather of the deceased attained, like himself, to an advanced age. Archibald Park, the grandfather, having died in 1763, aged 86; and Mungo Park, the father of the present notice, on the 22d of May, 1793, aged 79. He was much respected for his simple, unassuming, but withal eccentric manners. His remains were deposited in Galashiels churchyard, where repose the ashes of his forefathers, and those of his wife, as well as the wife of the lamented traveller.—[Border Advertiser.]

A London paper says that one of the census takers on his tour, met with Ellen Crafts and her husband, who fled from the U. States sometime since. They were stopping with a friend and it was necessary that they should be counted with other members of the family. The officer was at a loss how to enter their names upon his books, but it was finally decided upon application to the proper quarter that they should be entered thus: "Fugitives from slavery in the United States," and the two were thus set down and described.

In the House of Lords, the Duke of Argyll presented 100 petitions, among them one from Glasgow signed by 56,000 persons against Papal aggression.

The *Times* commences its synopsis of the Exhibition with the Piano Fortes, of which there are splendid instruments from all the famous French, German, English, and American manufacturers.

The Queen held a levee on Tuesday, May 6th; the presentations were numerous, including many foreigners.

IRELAND.—The salary of the chief Secretary for Ireland is to be reduced from £5,500 to £3,000 a-year.

It is said that the census, nearly completed,

shows a diminution of two millions of inhabitants in Ireland since 1841.

Ribandism is troublesome again in Louth. 11 men have been arrested. There have been several murders.

Advices from Vienna of the 7th state that the English government has withdrawn its protest against the arrangement by which it is proposed to admit all the Austrian provinces into the Germanic Confederation.

The King of Prussia was to meet the Emperor of Russia, at Warsaw, on the 15th inst.

The President of the Propaganda at Rome issued an appeal to all Italy, calling upon all good Catholics to subscribe funds for the erection of a Roman Catholic Cathedral in London.

In Hamburg the Jews and Christians have, for the first time, united in the erection of a building for lodging poor Jewish and Christian families who have no home at the end of the quarter.

ELOQUENT FOREIGNERS IN LONDON.—The London correspondent of the Boston Journal makes the following mention of two of the present celebrities of London:

There are at the present moment two great Roman Catholic "Lions" in this metropolis. For some weeks past a Father Gavazzi, an Italian monk, has been delivering orations upon the abuses of popery. He is wonderfully eloquent. People throng to Willis's rooms to hear him, and to gaze on his magnificent head and face and his fine figure, which is clad in the flowing garments of his order. His eloquence is of a very high order, and the enthusiasm of his hearers never flags for a moment.

To counteract in some measure the influence of Father Gavazzi, the Romish Church has sent to London one whom the Italian priest has denounced in no measured terms. Last Sunday, the celebrated De Ravignan, a General of the Jesuits, preached in a Catholic chapel at Islington. De Ravignan is the very opposite of Gavazzi, and is at once the Coryphæus and the Boanerges of his Church. He, too, is very eloquent. It is said that Mr. Newman, formerly of Oxford, and a convert to popery, will take De Ravignan's place in Paris, and that the latter will remain in London, at least until the stir about the papal aggression shall have subsided.

FRANCE.—Gen. Cavaignac is now prominently put forward as a candidate for the Presidency, and receives the support of M. Emile De Girardin.—The leading Journals seem to favor his views.—Great preparations are being made by parties for the approaching election. Gen. Duncan, the Government candidate, is elected for the department of the Landers. The Journal "Les Messagers" has been seized for announcing that 14 Regiments had been ordered to Paris, and reiterating the statements as correct.

A mass was said at the Invalides on May 5th, the Anniversary of the Emperor's death. The President and most of the Imperial Family were present. There was great enthusiasm among the Invalides.

GERMANY.—No news.

ITALY gives signs of more than its usual discontent.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—Advices to the 4th of April are received. Intelligence is very unsatisfactory. Sir Henry Smith had been compelled to fall back upon his camp at Williamstown, his force being inadequate to undertake anything like a comprehensive military scheme. The defeat of the Kaffirs by Col. Somerset, had only incited the various tribes to fresh hostilities.

UNITED STATES.

THE CASE OF THE METHODIST BOOK CONCERN.—The great case of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, to recover their share of the Methodist Book Concern, founded by the whole denomination soon after the American Revolution, is now pending before the Circuit Court of the U. S., now held in New York by Judges Nelson and Betts. The Concern is a property of great importance, being estimated at the value of \$750,000, and has grown up from small beginnings since the independence of the country. Previous to that time the Methodists were supplied by books from England. Such is the property in dispute.

The cause of action arose from a schism in the Church upon the subject of slavery, that prolific source of trouble in private and public relations.

The testimony is all documentary, presenting therefore a question of law for the determination of the Court. Eminent lawyers are engaged on both sides; for the plaintiffs, Daniel Lord, Reverdy Johnson; for defendants, Thomas Corwin, Rufus Cheate, Geo. Wood, E. L. Faucher. The trial will probably consume several days.—*Newark Ad.*