

of the Province, and of the neighbouring islands, calls for a large increase of home missionary effort; and the fact that Baptist preaching is usually acceptable, in a high degree, to the people generally, should encourage and stimulate such effort.

3.—Brethren who are 'apt to teach' should be advised to give themselves entirely to the work of the Lord. If they seek further instruction and improvement, it is the duty of the Churches to assist them while thus engaged.

4.—In proceeding to the ordination of candidates for the ministry, it is affectionately suggested that due caution should be exercised and that care should be taken to ensure the co-operation of as large a number of pastors as possible, in harmony with the long established usages of the Denomination.

5.—Though our "beginning was small," God has greatly blessed our endeavours, so that now the Baptist Denomination is sufficiently numerous to exercise a powerful influence on the population of these Provinces. Every believer is bound to enquire in what manner his individual activity may be most usefully employed; and at the meetings of this Convention the attention of the assembled brethren may be properly directed to a consideration of the methods by which combined talent and energy may be brought to bear, most effectually, on the spiritual interests of the community.

6.—Recognising, in every stage of our religious progress, as individuals and as churches, our dependence on divine aid, it is obviously incumbent on the Churches to abound in prayer for the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit, and suitably to observe any days which may be specially set apart for that purpose.

J. M. CRAMP, *Chairman.*

REPORT ON DEPARTED BRETHREN

The Committee on departed brethren report the following Resolution:

Resolved,—That in reviewing the past year this Convention are called to the mournful duty of recording the departure from our midst of several honored brethren whom, in the course of the year the Lord has been pleased to remove from the ties of earth.

The first pioneer from these Provinces amidst the darkness and difficulties of labor in the vast heathen field, struggling long against the inroads of insidious disease, now cheering us with the hope of returning health, now again prostrated with threatening weakness, at length breathed forth his spirit among strangers, but leaves to us the legacy which none can feel as we, and which we possess in the remembrance of his peculiar singleness of heart, and increasing earnestness of devotion to God and his cause.

Then our valued brother Park in the midst of toilsome labours in the pulpits and among the homes of the surrounding neighbourhood, honest, sincere and earnest of purpose, is also called to obey the summons and has departed.

Our aged Father David Harris too, burdened with many years, but still vigorous and giving promise of much continued useful labor, has been suddenly called from the ties that bound him.

And again called with almost equal suddenness from the midst of active useful life in the Church and in the world our lamented brother Doctor Sawers, so favorably known to the churches as the originator of the Union Societies, and to so many of our friends by his hospitality and kindness, has left desolate his place on earth and is seen no more amongst us.

We that are thus left cannot but mourn; but we would mourn not as those that have no hope, on the contrary we feel ourselves called at this time especially to rejoice while we mourn, for the cheering hope that these our brethren are only called from earth, because meet for heaven, and that through the merits of our common Lord they have only exchanged the toilsome field of earthly labour, for the glorious service of a brighter world.

And further, in remembrance of the long continued and most important labors of the late lamented Professor Chipman and of the peculiar circumstances attending the death of the honored brethren who were so suddenly removed from earth with him by a heart-rending calamity.

This Convention earnestly recommend that a suitable monument be erected in the Churchyard in Horton, where repose the ashes of Professor Chipman and brother W. Grant, to-

gether with a proper inscription in honor of all those lamented brethren, and that an appeal be made to the community to defray the needful expenses.

All which is respectfully submitted.

E. A. CRAWLEY, *Chairman.*

Resolved,—That for the purpose of effecting the object recommended in the above report, brethren J. W. Barss, J. Chase and E. A. Crawley be a Committee to solicit subscriptions and carry out in all respects that object.

Science.

Ancient Babylon—Its Ruins.

It may be known to many of our readers that the French government has employed a party of gentlemen to explore the site of ancient Babylon. From reports just received from them, it appears that they have ascertained, beyond reasonable doubt, that the ruins beneath a tumulus called the Kasr, are those of the marvellous palace-citadel of Semiramis and Nebuchadnezzar. They are in such a state of confusion and decay, that it is impossible to form from them any idea of the extent or character of the edifice. They appear, however, to extend beyond the bed of the Euphrates, a circumstance accounted for by the change in the course of that river. In them have been found sarcophagi, of clumsy execution and strange form, and so small, that the bodies of the dead must have been packed up in them, the chin touching the knees, and the arms being pressed on the breast by the legs. These sarcophagi have every appearance of having been used for the lowest class of society; but notwithstanding the place in which they were found, the discoverers are inclined to think that they are of Persian not Chaldean origin.—There have also been found numerous fragments of enamelled bricks, containing portions of the figures of men and animals, together with cuneiform inscriptions, the latter white in colour on a blue ground. According to M. Fresnel, the chief of the expedition, these bricks afford a strong proof that the ruins are those of the palace of Nebuchadnezzar, inasmuch as the ornaments on them appear to be sporting subjects, such as are described by Ctesias and Diodorus. The foundations having been dug down to in certain parts, it has been ascertained that they are formed of bricks about a foot square, united by strong cement.

In a tumulus called Amran, to the mouth of the Kasr, interesting discoveries have also been made. They appear to be the ruins of the dependencies of the palace situated on the left bank of the Euphrates; and they contain numerous sarcophagi in which were found skeletons clothed in a sort of armor, and wearing crowns of gold on their heads. When touched, the skeletons, with the exception of some parts of the skulls, fell into dust; but the iron, though rusty, and the gold of the crowns are in a fair state of preservation. M. Fresnel thinks that the dead in the sarcophagi were some of the soldiers of Alexander or Seleucus. The crowns are simple banos, with three leaves in the shape of laurel on one side, and three on the other. The leaves are very neatly executed. Beneath the bands are leaves of gold, which is supposed covered the eyes. From the quantity of iron found in some of the coffins, it appears that the bodies are entirely enveloped in it; and in one there was no iron but some ear-rings, a proof that it was occupied by a female. The sarcophagi are about two and three-quarters of a yard wide, and are entirely formed of bricks and united by mortar. In addition to all this a tomb, containing statuettes in marble or alabaster of Juno, Venus, and of a reclining figure wearing a Phrygian cap together with some rings, ear-rings, and other articles of jewelry, has been found, as have also numerous statuettes, vases, phials, articles of pottery, black stones, etc., of Greek, Persian, or Chaldean workmanship.—*Literary Gazette.*

The Caloric Ship.

Most of our readers have heard of the much talked of Caloric Ship Ericsson, and doubtless wonder what has now become of it, seeing that there is not a word said of it in the papers. In Appleton's American Mechanics' Magazine for September, however, we find the following account of it:—"The caloric ship Ericsson is now lying at the dock of Messrs. Hogg & Delamatre Works, foot of

North Thirteenth Street. All the supply and working cylinders of the original construction have been removed entirely, with their pistons, heaters, levers, regenerators, and air pipes. On the other hand, there have been retained the bed plate, the principal framing, shafts, cranks, the beautiful valve movement, and even the connecting rods which in the old arrangement transferred the motion from the working beams to the crank. In place of the four huge sets of cylinders standing perpendicularly, there are to be two moderately sized cylinders on the line of the keel, and inclined towards each other, making an angle with the keel of about forty-five degrees.

The supply cylinders are of the same stroke, four in number. One is placed on each side of each working cylinder, and worked from the cross head, in the same manner as pumps are often placed, on each side of the air-pump in condensing marine engines. It will thus be seen that the present engines of the Ericsson, comprise two working and four supply cylinders. The working cylinders are each six feet in diameter, with eight feet stroke. Speaking theoretically of both arrangements, these two moderate sized double-acting engines are designed to be as efficient as the four large single acting ones previously employed, in consequence of working with a higher pressure. In these engines the same air is to be used repeatedly under a high pressure. This is the difference between the present and the former engines of the Ericsson. The regenerator, in a different form, but acting on precisely the same principles, and with it is presumed, precisely the same effect for good or ill, is retained, and continues to be relied on as the chief economic feature. This is the fundamental feature of the caloric engine, and the supposition that it had been given up, would be equivalent to supposing the caloric engine 'an obsolete idea,' which is yet far from being the case."

The Farm.

From the Maine Farmer

Whence Comes the Seed of Plants.

MR. EDITOR,—I notice in to-day's paper, some remarks on "spontaneous plants," and the query seems to be, where from do they come? Moses, in his account of the creation, Gen. i, 11 says: "And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed was in itself upon the earth: and it was so."

In verse 20th, he says, "And let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life; and the fowl, that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven." 21st. "And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind."

It is noticeable in this account, that God bestowed on matter, a power chemically to produce all kinds of vegetable matter, according to climate, soil and location; and, in whatever situation matter is, it has an elaboration of its own, capable, and calculated to produce whatever is congenial and adapted to the location and circumstances. It shows also, that all matter is alive, and equally apt to produce something.

This view of nature and her chemical powers of elaboration, and production, when rightly understood and applied, will teach us that previous views of philosophy have been too limited. My own views and theory of nature, are, that all matter is equally alive and living, and that the two great divisions of matter, are, into fluid and stationary, and that matter, in all situations, has a peculiar aptness to produce something conformable to the accompanying circumstances. I also hold that all matter is only the reorganization of decomposed light, and that in the pure solar light, we have 161 distinct and various kinds of matter and that of these decomposed all the various kinds of matter, by recombination, are formed; and that this reorganization includes all kinds of animals and vegetables, and also metals, minerals and earths. Taking this enlarged view of nature, her works and philosophy, it is not at all strange that she does, in all places and situations, produce whatever is congenial to peculiar locations and circumstances.

This theory also gives us a more enlarged and exalted view of the wisdom and goodness of God than any other. It also opens to us a ready and philosophical way of accounting for

all and every operation of nature, that we see daily, and also relieves the inquiring mind from all doubt and perplexity in all cases, which otherwise would be embarrassing and inexplicable. For, if inert or stationary matter is to be considered to be dead, we have no philosophical way of accounting for the reformation and reproduction of anything; because it is a settled principle of philosophy, that death cannot reproduce, and reorganize itself into life. And this brings us directly to this one point, that what is commonly called death is only a change, which matter continually undergoes, in shifting from one form to another. And Mr. Pope has cast more light upon this subject in two lines, than all the philosophers that have written:

"All forms, that perish, other forms supply,
By turns we catch the living breath and die."

It may perhaps be asked, how, and into what is light decomposed? Into atmosphere. And this is the reason that atmosphere is the common source of life to every living thing, animal and vegetable. It is also the reason that so many different species of animals and vegetables can breathe and maintain a healthy growth in the same vicinity, without interfering with each other's health, or comfort.

I have, perhaps, gone as far into detail, as is allowable in a newspaper article, the detail of which must be deferred, till my theory of nature and natural philosophy shall be published at large. PHIL.

Portland, Sept. 22, 1853.

Farmers' Evenings.

In one respect the farmer has the advantage of almost all other classes of the laboring community, his evenings he has to himself. While the mechanic has to labor from morning till nine o'clock in the evening, the farmer's day commences with the rising and setting sun. Although the industrious farmer finds many little jobs of work to which he very economically appropriates his evening leisure, yet the greater part of the long winter evenings he can appropriate to his amusement and instruction. In no place do we see more cheerful countenances than around the blazing fire at the farmer's hearth. There, at the merry apple paring, or at the neighborhood collection, or even in the family circle alone, do we find social happiness in its purest simplicity. What an opportunity this for the acquisition of knowledge. What farmer who improves these opportunities can but be intelligent?—And what instruction so interesting as that which gives him a knowledge of his own employment? Here we would suggest the importance of every farmer having a supply of agricultural books and papers. It seems to us that no one can be insensible of their utility. If this should be a suggestion of self-interest we do not deny, still we believe it coincides with the interests of the farmer. We will not enlarge on this subject, as we apprehend it will not convey that knowledge which we recommend. We will barely say, that we expect our subscribers to increase as the evenings lengthen.

VALUE OF A PLOUGH.—Among the Caffres, agriculture is considered to be a kind of labour unworthy of a warrior, and is therefore left entirely to the women. When they first saw a plough at work, they gazed at it for a time in astonishment and delighted silence: at last one of them gave utterance to his feelings in this exclamation—"See how the thing tears up the ground with its mouth! It is of more value than five wives!"

HOW THE QUEEN WEARS HER BONNET.—The Dublin Evening Mail has the following hit on bonnets:—"We may mention, for the information of our fair readers, that the Queen wore a pink bonnet, (on her visit to the Exhibition,) which her majesty wore on her head, be it remarked, and whose shape we wish we could induce the fashionable milliners of the present day to adopt, instead of those absurd things which now-a-days hang half-way down the backs of young ladies, giving a brazen, bare-faced expression to the fairest and most delicate features, and an appearance of being high shouldered to the most graceful figures."

THE FINGER OF GALILEO.—After all, I know not whether the most interesting sign in Florence is not a little mysterious bit of something like parchment, which is shown you under a glass case in the principal public library. It stands pointing towards heaven, and is one of the fingers of Galileo. The hand to which it belonged is supposed to have been put to torture by the Inquisition for ascribing motion to the earth; and the finger is now worshipped for having proved the motion. After this, let no suffering reformer's pen misgive him. If his cause be good, justice will be done to it at last.—*Leigh Hunt.*