

REMARKABLE CASE OF TRANCE VISIONS OF AN INDIAN SERVANT GIRL.

The people living in the vicinity of Whiteland, Johnson County, have recently been very much excited over a matter which, to say the least, is very strange. Several weeks since Miss Van Arsdale, a young woman about seventeen years old, living at the house of a family near Whiteland, in the capacity of a servant, was taken sick with something like hysterics. She had been confined to her bed a little over a week, when to all appearance she died. The body, however, did not lose its warmth, and a very slight pulse remained.

The people with whom she was living, supposed that she was dead, and were making preparations to bury her, when the physician interfered, forbidding any such step. After remaining in this state twelve hours, consciousness returned and the girl pronounced herself much better. She then went on to describe her sensations and experiences during the trance, averring that she had visited heaven and hell, and had conversed with the Saviour and many persons whom she had known on earth. She spoke of seeing persons in both places whom had recently died; in heaven, a young man named Quinn, who, although at one time a professor of religion, had in the last year or two of his life led a bad life; in hell, the two men, Hatchell and Patterson, who were lynched at Franklin on the night of October 31, for the murder of Lyons, at Greenwood. Miss Van Arsdale sent for a number of persons in the neighborhood, and not only imparted to them news of lost friends, but told of sins committed by them, supposed to be unknown to any one. Among others was a man who had participated in the execution of the man named above; she told him that he had been there that night (which he acknowledged), and in the sight of God committed murder. Previous to this, the names of the band had been kept a profound secret, and this man had not even been suspected. She narrated a good many strange things, relating mainly to individuals both in this world and the other, many of which would have been at most impossible for her to have invented.

But the strangest part of the story is yet to come. A few hours after the expiration of the first trance she predicted that she would have another, and told to a minute the time at which it would end. Everything turned out as she had said; in the exact time she fell into the same state. In an ordinary trance or cataleptic state, respiration is not suspended, but in this case breath could not be observed. She was to all appearance dead; but the pulse beat faintly, and the body was not cold. All sensation was gone. The physician made numerous experiments, pricking the body, opening the veins, and so forth, to discover if there could be any deception. In the end he was perfectly convinced that there was none.

At the expiration of the time set by herself she came to, and in a few hours was well enough to go about the house. The story of her experience in the second trance was similar to the first one, and was confined almost wholly to individuals. She seemed unable to describe the places she had been in, but gave histories of events and persons with remarkable minuteness. She also said that she should never have a recurrence of the trance unless she should commit some flagrant sin; her authority for this prediction was that the Lord himself had told her so.

This is certainly a strange thing. The girl is uneducated, and has lived about as a servant ever since she was able to work. She has always borne a good character for truthfulness, and is a member of a church. She is almost the last person in the world to have manufactured such stories, and one thing especially noticeable is the fact of her sending for persons to whom before her illness, she would have been afraid to have spoken, and conversing with them without the least restraint, and telling them stories and facts not the least palpable to worldly people. She was visited by a great many people, some of them eminently respectable, who for many of the statements of her illness.

The physician in attendance is positive as to her condition during the whole time, and had it not been for him, she would have been buried alive.—Indianapolis Herald.

THE SUFFERING IN THE SOUTH.

It would really seem as if the Southern States were destined to share the fate of Jamaica, only on a larger and more intensified scale. From an official report made by General Gillem of the state of things in Mississippi, it is clear that social and material prosperity has gone forever. Only one half the cotton crop expected has been raised, while the price has fallen about a half from what it was last year. The consequence is that nine out of every ten of the planters are ruined, and many estates abandoned altogether. The freedmen are starving, and yet refuse to work, except on terms which cannot be granted. They are under the impression that the land is actually to be divided among them, and are content in the meantime to live in a great measure by stealing whatever they can lay hands on. In Louisiana thousands of negroes are dying of actual starvation. The lands have been repeatedly flooded, and the owners being no longer able to compel labor, and without the means to pay for it, everything is going to destruction.—In Georgia matters are still worse, for there the negroes believe that the whites have lowered the price of cotton for the purpose of ruining them, and though starving, are acting together in gangs, and destroying property wherever they can find an opportunity.

The same appalling story of want, idleness and violence, comes from Florida and Arkansas. The South is utterly ruined, and while the planters in most cases have lost everything, the freedmen are still worse off. They believed that the abolition of slavery meant also an end to servile labor, and that they were to possess the land and every comfort without the necessity of doing any work. The sudden disfranchisement of the blacks has been a dire misfortune to themselves as well as to the country. But the thing has been done, and the consequences must be endured. It is questionable whether cotton growing in the Southern States will not have to be abandoned. It requires steady and constant labor and large capital. But the labor must be negro labor, and the negro, it has been found there as elsewhere, will not work steadily unless under compulsion. Such a state of things will probably go on from bad to worse. No Freedmen's Bureau can do much to mend it, unless by passing a law compelling every man to work for a given number of hours a day, or to perform a given amount of work for so much pay, or be subject to punishment as a vagrant. But we question if even this is practicable. The result will be more or less universal poverty,—the abandonment of the land by the whites wherever they can, while the negroes will

cultivate it only to the extent of yielding him a bare subsistence. The loss to the North is said to be equal to £50,000,000 sterling a year in the consumption of her manufactures, so that the sudden abolition of slavery, while it has ruined the planter, has also materially injured the New Englander. And the worst, we fear, has yet to come.

WHY THE RECIPROCITY TREATY WAS REPEALED.—A United States paper—the Commercial Bulletin, in an article on Senator Ramsey's conglomerate resolution, makes this candid confession:—"After having signally failed in forcing our Provincial neighbors into the Union by repealing the Reciprocity Treaty, and after driving the trade to foreign markets, we shall show our wisdom by attempting to attack any proposition which bears the resemblance of a granting policy provided it secures our efforts to regain this trade." This is candid and considerate—very. It lets the "cat out of the bag," and we see plainly why the Reciprocity Treaty was repealed. Yet in the face of this very plain statement, we hear it stated in different parts of these Provinces. "Oh, we would never have had the Treaty repealed, if it had not been for Canada. The people of the United States hate Canada, and love with a tender love those Maritime Provinces." And coupled with this, one often hears it stated that it is Canada (that was) which lies in the path an obstruction to a renewal of the Treaty. That is not so. Our Republican neighbors know the glorious results to be derived from a policy of "divide and conquer," and are in consequence busy spreading the statement that if it had not been for the back Provinces, Nova Scotia would have had a treaty long ago. All which is about as true gospel as is Joe Smith's Mormon Bible.—Herald Reporter.

THE VALUE OF ST. THOMAS TO THE UNITED STATES.—A writer in the New York Times thus discourses on the advantages which will insure to the United States from the acquisition of the Island of St. Thomas:

By the possession of St. Thomas the United States make themselves masters of Porto Rico and Cuba, and in this it is necessary to confess that Secretary Seward has proven himself a great strategist, having made an irresistible flank movement against Spain, getting to her windward and placing Porto Rico under the 12-inch turret and Dahlgren guns of Fort Carlotta Amalia.

The illustrious Webster, in 1837, speaking of the Congress of Panama, proposed to Bolivar, said that not even Spain had so much interest in the Spanish Antilles as the United States. The "balance of power" between the North and South afterward prevented the North from making any such move into our Union, with an increase of political power, thanks to slavery, in favor of the South. This political reason has disappeared. Slavery no longer exists, and therefore the radical difficulty in the way of acquiring the Greater Antilles has been removed. The United States without slavery are, for Cuba and Porto Rico with slavery, the glass of Archimedes, invented for the purpose of burning ships from afar. The ancient mathematician, although right in principle, never succeeded in effecting his purpose. But with the new astrolabe glass it happens that it is as successful in its effects as it is rational and grand in principle.

To propose to Spain, as chivalric and full of vanity as her illustrious Don Quixote, to sell Cuba, and to sell the island, and to sell the island, is to sell his leg when a thief has carried off his right eye. The wounded honor of the Spaniards which he had injured by merely proposing what they will now come and ask us to do.

The New York Tribune gives publicity to a rumor that a plot has been discovered on the part of the Fenians to kidnap Queen Victoria while visiting the sanctuary of the late very much lamented Prince Albert, and slaying her on board a gasboat for Abyssinia, where that Fenian savage could have carried out at his leisure his intentions to compel her to marry him. The plot, however, seems to have been discovered in season, and the Queen only visits the aforesaid sanctuary at present under the protection of a regiment of cavalry.

NEGRO BARRIBISM IN HAVTI.—A special telegram to the N. Y. Herald confirms the report of the murder of General Leon Montes, in the dungeon at Cape Haytien. The original report was not enough; but, as it was left us in comparative ignorance of the actual facts of the case. The details as we now have them are horrible in the extreme. Kept without food for four days, dosed with poison, smothered to the extent to which the available strength could smother him, he is only deprived of life at last by repeated stabs in the skull with a chisel. This, however, was not all. The brother of the murdered man, who had the meantime been captured, was chained down to the bloody bed on which the deed of wickedness had been perpetrated. The only relieving feature in this barbaric picture is the announced fact that the parents of the brothers Montes have been driven to desperation. It is to be borne in mind that this barbarity has been accomplished by official command. What is the lesson? Do we require to state it? Were it not for the especial benefit of our New England philanthropists we should be ashamed to do so. This is a specimen of negro civilization; this is what the negro can do when left to govern himself; this is an illustration before hand of what is to be expected from negro supremacy in the South. A word to the wise is not lost. Even the unwise sometimes learn. God save the South from such masters.—N. Y. Herald.

IMPENDING CRISIS IN THE SOUTH.—The "La Crosse Democrat" calls the Houses of Congress by the very elegant title of "the Rump Halls at Washington," and under that heading gives its summaries of doings for both branches. The same paper says: "Virginia is ripe for a Negro insurrection—a war of races." It then proceeds with a savagery of tone almost appalling to us, whose fathers are happily cast under better auspices:—"For the blacks we can have some pity, but for the white scoundrels who have incited them to violence, only vengeance—speedy and sure—a punishment of the most extreme character. Let them look to it! For the black negroes, justice tempered with mercy; for their white fathers, justice, but no mercy. Let them, one and all, when you hear a man with a white face advocating negro equality, spit him; fix a mark upon him so that when the destroying angel of white supremacy sweeps over the land, he may see and mark his lawful prey."

The New York Tribune, commenting upon a letter from its correspondent in Wallusia, says, "The new territory, it appears, is not a land flowing with milk and honey, though under favorable circumstances it is capable of supporting human life. Agriculture is not its strong point. Cabbages have no value, sweetens and potatoes no body, cauliflowers no fruit, and fruit trees no fruit. There is plenty of timber, but one cannot get at it owing to the natural obstacle to transportation. In summer there is no dry weather and in winter no snow for sledding. The greater part of Mr. Seward's \$7,200,000 in fact, seems to have been expended for Codfish." Hopeful purchase, certainly.

The New York Tribune, referring to the flood of crime and accident with which the columns of newspapers have of late been burdened, says:—

"The telegraph wires bend under their weight of woe; the old earth quivers with throbs of agony from the centre to the pole; cities are shaken down, countries are engulfed, fair domains are diversified with red hot lava; wife is arrayed against husband, mother against child, son against father;

a hecatomb is sacrificed on one railway, half as many on another, and on still another the width of a hair stands between a thousand and sudden death. In social life, our newspapers are smothered all over with reports of divorce and separation trials, of infidelity and disgrace, of gigantic crimes undertaken, half accomplished or completed. What shall be the end of these things?"

From Mexico. NEW YORK, Jan. 23.—A City of Mexico letter of Dec. 17th, states that every device has been put in operation to raise money—the first great need of this Government. A municipal tax law has just been issued, which it is expected will produce some three millions of revenue. An excise law came into help. Also, putting a tax on every conveyance. Private carriages must pay 50 dollars a year. Public conveyance, 120 to 180 dollars. Pawn Brokers, 456 dollar down. According to their class bakeries 100 dollars. Gambling Saloons, a necessity here, 480 dollars, and so forth.

Father Fisher, the well known Confessor and Confessor of Maximilian, has at last been set at liberty through the intercession of his friends, including some Americans.

Correspondence. LETTER FROM BOSTON. BOSTON, CHRISTMAS, 1867.

Dear Journalist.—CHRISTMAS is a great day in Boston, and in all American cities. Windows are beautifully decorated, and posts and pillars lined with lonely evergreens in honor of the birth of our Great Master and Teacher. Were it not for cold west winds you would suppose it was midsummer from boats on the waters and waggon on the streets running in every direction. There is no winter here yet, but winds from the north and people's hearts just as cold. "Hard times" is the word wherever you go; hundreds are out of employment, who scarce know how to face a hard winter. But not so hard here as in New York. A few days ago a poor woman poisoned her children and then attempted suicide rather than face hard times. Vendors of everything press you to come in and buy that which is held up and praised for the almighty dollar. To my young Islam friends who have good homes, "my voice is, be content there where you are set and out of temptation. Those who come here and are prudent may do well, rise and make money; but if foolish and find they soon find the way that leads to ruin. Those who wish good society and choice company will find such here; societies are here of the very best description, to the most of which students are invited free. The Young Men's Christian Association is a moral magnet to the city, with its Reading Rooms, Lecture Rooms, and Prayer Meetings. There are excellent temperance societies here; Odd Fellows, Templars, and Sons of Temperance. The Divisions are A. 1, and by the way I must tell you that temperance men, like the fools, are not all dead yet. The sale of rum is not legalised in this State, but the "P. L. S." at the late election claim to have won a victory, and it is supposed rum shops will soon be as open and common as they ever were. Last Sunday our popular and teetotal preacher in Tremont Temple told us that the law makers feared the people rather than God and the right, and accordingly done wrong that good might come—greenbacks into their pockets—that there were men in Boston who would stab sweet temperance to the very heart, but they couldn't do it—that a rum seller was a soul-killer and the devil's tool, and he knew it too." It is a pretty remarkable how seldom a drunken person is seen in the streets here. I have lately been at two Levees, where I saw not a drop of anything that would intoxicate. We all last Friday evening enjoyed ourselves very nicely at the "Review" at the annual Levee given by the Faculty of Harvard University. The affair cost about \$1300. There were present about 35 professors and doctors, and about 400 students. The supper was all that could be wished. At its head were pitchers and goblets, filled not with wine—but lemonade and pure sparkling water. The entertainment wound up with toasts, speeches, &c., and ended by giving first three cheers for the Queen, three for the President, three for the Faculty, &c. &c. &c. Your Island you may suppose was feebly represented on one occasion, the duty having fallen on yours most humbly.

I will now lead my young friends to the Hospitals, of which there are three, an Infirmary and a Public Dispensary. The wards are filled with patients suffering every disease to which humanity is heir. It is enough to make the stoutest heart weep, when first seeing the sufferings which are endured here. Some improving, some lingering, some sinking, some dying; some with their novels and papers, some at their prayer books, others at their bibles. I have admired the excellent tracts laid here by societies, and the sheets printed in large type, with choice passages of Scripture, and hung at the bedside of the dying. Death often ends suffering here, but convalescence often. Patients here are kindly treated and skillfully attended by the very best physicians and surgeons—all are under good hygienic treatment, and everything kept scrupulously clean. Here I have met one poor fellow from P. E. I., who is no stranger to my home and yours.

The sad results of the late cruel war are yet to be seen in these hospitals. Men without arms and legs are here almost in scores. Our means of instruction in the medical art here are threefold,—from books, by lectures, and best of all, at the bedside. If we do not gain knowledge here it is our own fault. Every faculty and privilege are here rendered by gentlemen possessed of genuine kindness and ability. The number of patients under treatment and the probable expense attending each hospital, I am unable to give you; but you may form some idea on the fact that there are thirty nurses and fifteen servants besides assistants, in each of those excellent institutions. In the Marine Hospital at Chelsea, through which I passed to-day, there are 110 poor invalids, chiefly seamen, who seem to be skillfully attended to.

To our young men who intend studying the medical profession, (and I am proud there are so many, and that some at least are distinguishing themselves). I would say your requirements are fourfold—a love for the profession—a love of study and great perseverance—a thorough English education, a good knowledge of Latin, and last, oh! that it were least—a purse which has no bottom. But let those not scare you. The profession is an honorable and important, though responsible one. Be attentive to study and be bound to be educated, and commence business in an honorable and legal manner, and scorn quackery.

Should a holiday again occur before the term closes, you may expect to hear from Yours, as before, MACA.

Summerside Journal. THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 1868.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. We must know the names and addresses of our correspondents as a guaranty of their good faith. We cannot undertake to return communications that are not used.

ABYSSINIA. No. 11.

It appears that the present ruler of this country became offended with Mr. Cameron, who since 1861 and at the time of his imprisonment in 1864, was the representative of Queen Victoria at the Court of Abyssinia; and subsequently six others shared the same fate. We need not recapitulate the causes in which originated the misunderstanding that led to the capture of Mr. Cameron, and the other gentlemen who, with some of their ladies also, have had to endure the hardships of an incarceration in the prison of a semi-civilized country. Suffice it to add that the treatment which these prisoners have received, combined with the gross insult cast upon the British Empire, have aroused alike the anger, pride and sympathy of the British nation. Various means have been resorted to to endeavor to affect their release by peaceable and friendly means. If of which have proved abortive; and the cry of the captives being constantly heard in the distance, and their tale of distress reiterated through the press, resorted in private, social and public assemblies, so continuously, that Englishmen have from the dead, as it were, in that distant land again heard Shakespeare's honest old councillor in agony crying out:—

"All torment, trouble, wonder and amazement Inhabit here: Some heavenly power guide us Out of this strange country!"

So that the Government, as the exponent of the nation, have replied to the captives substantially thus: "In the absence of a heavenly power to guide you out of that fearful country, and especially since peaceful and friendly efforts have been unavailing, we have determined to endeavor to rescue you by the strength of our arms, from the grasp of his Sable Majesty, and also to forcibly remind you that British subjects cannot be abused with impunity by any foreign power." Abyssinia is to be taught that—

"Must be free or die, who speak the tongue That Shakespeare spake."

When war was determined upon by the Government of Great Britain, much anxiety was manifested respecting the nature of the country against which war had been proclaimed, and the best means of reaching the enemy. A few remarks therefore respecting this distant land may be acceptable to our readers.

We shall briefly glance at the topography of the country, which by the way is very imperfectly known; but as the wars of the last eighteen years have very materially aided in extending our knowledge of countries and localities, we have no doubt but that such will also be one result of the present war.

In our former article we stated that this country was bounded on the east by the Red Sea, and it would be but natural to suppose that the rivers and streams known to exist in Abyssinia would flow towards the sea; but such is not the case; and this fact may be noted as one of the striking peculiarities of the country.—The coast along the Red Sea is a low, dry, sandy desert; and is, we believe, one of the hottest places on the globe. This low level plain extends inland for a considerable distance, or until it reaches the natural wall of the country, the plateau, which rises from 7,000 to 10,000 feet above the level of the sea. Between this plateau and the sea there is some low swampy ground, with considerable jungle, interspersed with fertile plots of ground, and from this region ascends a malaria that is fatal to all mankind, although a few wandering gypsies are to be found in it. The inland part of the country is covered with hills and mountains, some of which are 15,000 feet high, with rich valleys, deep gorges and the table land, or plateau referred to already. The country is well watered, and produces two crops in the season. There are a few rivers and lakes. Two of the former are described as very good, the largest of which takes its rise near the eleventh degree of north latitude, and flowing west empties itself into the Nile. Some of the smaller streams run west and others in a south-west direction—through Machida. Volcanic agency has left its mark upon some parts of the country. A large portion of Abyssinia is a land of great fertility. The inhabitants are represented as being lively and intelligent, but for a long time have been surrounded on all sides by barbarians, who have been continually crowding upon it; and hence the inhabitants have been compelled to live with arms in their hands, like Mehemet, when building the walls of Jerusalem.

Although this country is so near the equator, yet Europeans who will do as the Abyssinians do, find it a healthy country to live in. As proof of this it is said that Mansfield Parkins spent three years in the country, "without so much as a fur to cover his head," only anointing it from time to time with butter, and that he suffered no inconvenience, not so much as a headache. If the treasures which were brought to Jerusalem in the time of Solomon by the Queen of Sheba were obtained in Abyssinia, the country—which is by no means improvable—must also be rich in minerals. But as reliable and valuable information will doubtless be furnished to the world by the correspondents of the press, who have accompanied the expedition, it is now unnecessary to give a more extended review of the country. We shall, no doubt, have ample opportunities of doing so before the close of the year.

They have a legend in Granada, that old Father Adam paid a visit to our world a few years ago, to look after his affairs, and to see how matters were

going on since he left it. When he came to Germany, he found schools, colleges and books, and all the people intent on learning. Leaving Germany he went to France, when lo! the people were dressed in a style that was not pleasing to our old friend. He found the French "mad upon works of art and improvement unknown to our great ancestor." Highly displeased with France, he goes down to Spain,—when he positively affirmed that everything was as he left it. That no improvements had been effected, and that in some places the country had more of an antediluvian appearance than when the Moors dwelt in it. We would like if some equally wise old sage would re-visit Abyssinia, and inform the world of the difference between the Abyssinia of B. C. 900 and the Abyssinia of A. D. 1868. In our next we shall glance at the history of the present Empire.

READING.

This is pre-eminently the age of thinking. And the most modern improvements of the printing press are only equal to the task of affording facilities for the dissemination of the latest thought. Poverty almost ceases to be an excuse for not possessing a well chosen library; for books, periodicals, and papers of every description have become so cheap, by means of recent invention and a minute division of labor, that they are accessible to every one from the rich to the mendicant. The most brilliant discoveries in science and the choicest gems of thought are daily served up to us at astonishingly small costs.

Notwithstanding all these advantages how many of us there are who scarcely ever read. "If a man," says Lord Bacon, "read little he had need of much cunning to seem to know what he does not." The necessity of reading rings from the pulpit; the press proclaims it, and we feel it in our own consciousness; yet in the face of all this light, by a strange perversity, we too often fritter away the time that should be devoted to it, in frivolous and unprofitable amusements. But how many read who do not read right? We may read much and know very little. It is thinking makes what we know to be ours. If a man eat voraciously when his digestive organs are in an unhealthy state, he does not receive a corresponding amount of nourishment; but what is worse, it acts as an irritant to engender further disease. So it is with mind; by simply reading everything promiscuously, as it may chance to come in our way, we not only receive very little benefit, but it has a tendency to make the mind unsusceptible and wavering. Every thing we read about should be submitted to the touchstone of reason. True, we read some things, the validity of which we have neither the opportunity nor ability to examine. But the great amount of what we do read, we can and are in duty bound to test by the operation of our intellect. We read volumes through, and when done we do not carry away one solitary idea—nothing but a confused mass of heterogeneous facts floating across our brain. On the other hand, when a single chapter is read which is well digested, we find that something has been added to our stock of knowledge, and that we have made the experiences of others subservient to our own individual necessities.

We are prone to attach a character of sacredness and infallibility to all books indiscriminately; forgetful all the while that the writers, in the great majority of cases, were men liable to err like ourselves; and forgetful too that we ourselves possess minds which have been kindled by the same Promethean spark that prompted their utterances. Of course—since in most cases the sphere of the writer's observation is much wider and his reasoning powers are more highly cultivated than ours—when a doubt arises, his opinions ought to be received with due deference. There are primary and secondary planets, and each has its influence in the great revolution. In like manner among men, there are greater and lesser lights, each having his own particular part to perform. We often find in print, as elsewhere, opinions that are not based on truth, as well as those which are incorrectly deduced from sound principles. Nor is this to be wondered at, even supposing it did not arise from ignorance, if we but reflect on the selfishness of human nature. Bigotry, prejudice, and interest have marshalled all the arts of sophistry to warp truth from its legitimate course, in order to serve their particular ends. In order then to comprehend the truth and detect error we require to have a critical eye, as also an intellect practiced in the habit of reasoning, and to be able to weigh facts and trace them to their first principles. Without doing this we surrender our individuality, and become the prating parrots of other men's ideas and thoughts—a destiny which the mind was evidently never intended to fulfil. Faculties with such unbounded capacities and ennobling aspirations were certainly intended for action. In a word, mind is a noble inheritance possessed by every human being, and with it we receive a royal prerogative to think for ourselves.

You're it is the time to acquire the habit of thinking on what is read, the mind is then plastic and easily takes direction. Still we hold that there are no cases of carelessness and inattention to what is read so chronic that they cannot be overcome by industry and perseverance. We believe that there is a sad defect in our Educational System in this respect. After children have learned the mechanical part of reading, they are too exclusively kept studying subjects far beyond their comprehension—and we might say in many instances beyond that of the teacher. In this way the mind is fettered, and becomes stereotyped into a mode of inactivity and dependence; whereas it should be very frequently practiced in reading subjects which are short, familiar and suggestive, affording an opportunity of tracing conclusions to their premises, deducing new facts, and comparing them with other facts,—which has the effect, not only of making them

think, but inspires them with a proper confidence in their own intellectual powers. When the mind is thus judiciously trained in youth, as we advance in years it will acquire an ease in digesting what it reads. Then we have the key which will unlock the hidden treasures of books—the magnet which will point to the truth, through the labyrinth of conflicting opinions and the false glasses of equivocation. Reading will become both a profit and a pleasure, instead of dozing our long evenings away in a vacuity of thought, we will be cataloguing facts from the intellectual experience of others; which will not only be adding to our fund of information, but will incite us to work for ourselves in the boundless field of ideas.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

The late English papers present us with no new topics of interest. Their general tone, however, is one of uneasiness, a feeling which seems to be very generally shared by the Continental Powers. M. Poyrat, a French writer, considers that it is a miserable year that has just come to an end, and that it is probably a miserable year that has just begun.

In France, business is everywhere slack. Money seems to be imprisoned in the Banks instead of being in circulation; and from Lyons, Rouen, and the other great centres of industrial and manufacturing activity are received the most distressing reports.

Italy, humbled by the French Roman Expedition is still in ferment, and threatens the peace of other countries besides her own.

Uneasiness in certain circles exist as to the designs of Prussia in Germany and Russia in the East, and all Europe present the spectacle of millions of men armed to the teeth with the latest deadly inventions of war. By their maintenance the energies of the continental nations are being exhausted, and their resources impoverished.

England, in spite of her immense moral influence, is in agitation respecting the absorbing question of the day. Fenianism is viewed by different minds in different ways. The Right Hon. E. Horsman, in addressing his constituents, declares that "it is the centre of a great deal of English indignation, which finds ready tools of mischief in the Irish people."

President Johnson has called the attention of Congress to the subject of the protection of naturalized American subjects in foreign countries. Some of the members of Congress have made it, as usual on foreign subjects, the basis of a glorification of "our great eagle," and of harangues against England, the violence of which has threatened great danger to their vest buttons. We are not aware, however, that the peril of anything else is imminent. Earthquakes have occurred in the state of New York, producing great alarm to the inhabitants. A newspaper correspondent in describing the first shock says it is no exaggeration to say that the impression made was overwhelming. It came in the dead of the night. The great body of the people had no warning until the intensity of power was upon them, shaking their houses as though struck by a tornado. Connected with this were heard fearful crashings and bellows in the bowels of the earth, such as one may feel but not describe.

Reduse Island in Lake George has sunk eighty-four feet below the water. The physical upheavals in the north find echo in the political troubles of the South. Black vs. White is the order of the day. Many late disclosures show that political demagogues while instilling into the negroes ideas which they are totally unprepared to receive have been playing with edged tools and firebrands, rendering the question of Southern reconstruction more difficult than ever.

Mexico is in a most dreadful condition. Robbery and assassination are the order of the day. The chest is empty, and she offered cent per cent. Mexico could not borrow a dollar, and "the people" are not very likely to submit to taxation. One of the finest countries on earth, it is inhabited by a people at once wretched and impatient of all wholesome authority. The despotism of Russia or Turkey is far better than the rule of lawlessness.

In the New Dominion matters have a decidedly stormy aspect. Nova Scotia is surging against the chain that binds her to Canada. Canada with great good sense professes her willingness to "let her slide." Should Nova Scotia "slide" it is hard to say what the result will be. Altogether the world is in a dissatisfied state.

The latest intelligence from the Abyssinian Expedition, is down to Jan. 9th. Col. Merewether says that bands of natives, supposed to be hostile, were prowling around the English camp at Senape. In consequence of this all the European troops stationed along the line of march were ordered to join the headquarter division at Senape. The Egyptians have not only mustered 3,000 fresh troops at Massowah, but have actually sent a message to Theodore warning him that if he does not give up the captives they will join in the expedition. They are also going to place ten frigates at the disposal of the Expedition. This is all very good, but it may not do them any good, as they may then find themselves engaged in a national and religious war, as the very name of an Egyptian offensive in Abyssinia.

We have been informed that the agent of the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Company, for this Island, has notified those who have insurance on their property in this town, that he has received instructions not to renew a very great number of policies, &c. It appears to us very little use for an individual to insure in such companies, as he is liable at any time to be compelled to look out for another office. What we want in Summerside is a Company of our own. We believe there are plenty of gentlemen here who have the capital and ability to form one. Who will move in the matter?

Only part of the English Mail was received here on Monday last. A mail bag for Newfoundland was received at the General Post Office in Charlottetown, and it is supposed that the missing bag for this Island went to Newfoundland.

The prices of Vessels in the Home Market is very low, and it is thought it will remain so for some time.

We would direct the attention of the Road Commissioner for Summerside to that piece of road near Hall's lime kiln. It is very dangerous, as a sleigh might easily slip over the bank.