

DISREPUTABLE LITERATURE.

"Nasty Journalism" is the title of an article in the Springfield Republican, in which the writer deals some home-thrusts at a class of newspapers, the numbers of which are increasing in the East, that are devoted to illustrations of scenes of violence, crime and lust. He says: "If the Puritan element in the country has done asserting itself and intends to lie under the feet of license, let us know it, and hear no more prating of morals. These journals are just what we have been, as a nation, decrying the use of in Europe; and here they are full blown among us, more numerous, more filthy, and cheaper than in England or France. They are sold everywhere, in cars, steamboats, and on hotel steps; country people ask the newsboys to bring them copies, and always look disappointed when they do not come. Every one in America knows enough about the 'under world' without having it dragged into his notice."

It is a lamentable fact that the liberty of the press, which is so much lauded as one of the great blessings of our age and nation, has degenerated into license. A free press, when properly used, is a source of great good to those who enjoy it; but, when abused, it becomes an injury and a curse to all who come within the range of its influence. We are no friend of despotism; but we have often thought that the exercise of arbitrary authority for a sufficient length of time to stop the issue of sheets which are a disgrace to journalism would be an unmitigated benefit to the people. A great number of the evils under which the nation is now groaning are directly traceable to corrupt and unprincipled journalism. Journalists have not been prompted, as a class, by high, pure motives; but they have been in the market for the highest bidder, willing to sell themselves, their influence with the public, and their columns, for money; and this, too, without regard to the good or evil to be wrought out by their so doing. A licentious, venal press, if sustained, can soon debauch public sentiment, and lower the standard of morals to suit its ideas. People's views, insensibly to themselves, are moulded to the shape given them by the paper they read. Everything is viewed through the eyes of the editor and his writers, and seen in the color in which they place it.

The "nasty journals" are not the only ones which are working out injury to the people. The seed they sow yields a prolific and frightful harvest; but there are other journals which are injurious and dangerous, the more so, perhaps, because they do not have gaudy, badly-executed illustrations of scenes of violence, lust and crime to excite emotions of repugnance in those who examine them. The "nasty journals" are but seldom seen here; but the others—the cheap novelettes, sensational story papers, and others of that class, are very common, and the injury they are accomplishing is much greater than many people imagine. To know the character of a man's mind, the nature of his thoughts and the extent and variety of his views, we have only to be informed respecting what he reads. Reading is to the mind what food is to the body. If it be sound, the mind will be healthy, its action will be vigorous, and its thoughts correct and pure. But such reading as is too common, and in our Territory and among our young people, too, must produce different effects to these. If sensational papers, novels and trashy journals of that class formed the

chief staple of a people's reading, their most bitter enemies ought to be satisfied and content. For they would only have to wait but a short time until their demoralization would be complete.

This may be unpalatable to some; but it is nevertheless true.

AUCTION SALE AT PLYMOUTH CHURCH, BROOKLYN.

On the evening of the 4th ultimo, the ladies and gentlemen of Reverend Henry Ward Beecher's congregation met, according to their annual custom, for the purpose of renting the pews and seats of Plymouth Church. There being more applicants than pews, it was deemed best by all parties to sell the choice of seats by auction. The business of the evening was superintended by the President of the Society—Father Freeland, assisted by his leading deacons and other officers. Mr. N. O. Pillsbury, of New Jersey, was the auctioneer.

Punctually at 7 o'clock the pastor, Mr. Beecher, called the house to order, and made a few appropriate remarks. He congratulated the members upon the prosperity and harmony which characterized the society. He could freely say that in some respects there never had been a religious society that could be compared with that, not only in the fact of very many individuals of marked character and difference of opinion working together without a jar; but it was equally remarkable in a pecuniary point of view. With an income of over \$50,000, collectable in small sums from many individuals, there had not been during the past eighteen years one quarter of one per cent unpaid. That, he thought, in the history of churches, was unparalleled. He was not desirous that prices should go up as high as they had done the preceding year; if they did, however, it would not be from a desire to oppress anybody who might wish to sit there, but simply from the fact that the property in the market would not equal the demand for it. After some further remarks in relation to the privileges enjoyed by the members of the society, and those extended to strangers, Mr. Beecher introduced Mr. Pillsbury, who, to facilitate business, instructed those present who wished to bid, to call the name and number of the pew they desired, which would then be knocked down to the highest bidder. The first bid for the first choice was \$50, which was contested for with much spirit until it reached \$425.00 when it was knocked down to Mr. Sage, who chose pew No. 90, the rent of which, in addition to the premium, was \$110, making a total of \$535 for the privilege of occupying one pew for one year.

The sale was continued until all in market were disposed of, the premium realized amounting to \$49,500. In the year 1853 the sum realized for seat rent amounted to \$11,157; every succeeding year, with the exception of 1862-3, advancing on its predecessor, until the present year, when it has reached an amount bordering closely on \$50,000. This system has been adopted in this society for over twenty years, and has worked so advantageously that many other churches are following in the steps of their Plymouth brethren.

(Special to the Deseret Evening News.)

By Telegraph.

THE OHIO LEGISLATURE REJECT THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT!

ANOTHER RAILROAD ACCIDENT AND BURNING. A WOMAN BURNED TO DEATH!

A MILITARY FORT NEAR CHEYENNE!

SALE OF UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD BONDS!

THE ITALIAN FLEET FOR SOUTH AMERICA!

UNITED STATES WILL ENFORCE THEIR DEMANDS UPON GREAT BRITAIN AT ALL HAZARDS!

IF THEY ARE NOT SETTLED SPEEDILY, WAR WILL BE DECLARED!

AN UNDERGROUND RAILROAD FOR NEW YORK!

Washington, 31.—Senate.—The Chair presented a joint resolution from the Ohio Legislature, rescinding the ratification of the Constitutional Amendment. Sumner claimed that the State could not withdraw the approval once given. Johnson argued on the opposite side of the question. Finally the matter was referred to the Judiciary.

The supplemental tenure of office bill was taken up, the question being Sumner's amendment that the bill shall not abolish foreign agents in the State department. The morning hour expired, and the bill went over.

The supplemental reconstruction bill came up and Howe spoke in favor of the bill. Adjourned till Monday.

House.—The resolution from the Ohio Legislature was presented and referred to the Judiciary Committee, who were instructed to report whether a State has a right to withdraw assent.

Washburne reported the military appropriation bill, which was ordered printed, and made the special order for Monday.

Elliot reported the bill continuing the Freedmen's Bureau, a synopsis of which was previously telegraphed.

The report of the Conference Committee on the cotton tax was agreed to. It admits cotton free on and after November next. Adjourned.

London dispatches, giving an account of the caving in of the side of Vesuvius, causing loss of life, are unfounded, no such accident having occurred.

Harrisburg.—A fast passenger train on the Pennsylvania road this morning was thrown from the track by a broken rail. Three cars went down the embankment, took fire, and burned up. All the passengers, except one woman, escaped; she was burned to death. A number were injured, but none seriously.

Boston.—The Legislative Committee have reported a bill licensing liquor dealers. It gives the power to the Mayor and Selectmen of cities and villages to grant licences.

Washington.—In the Supreme Court the Hon. James Hughes, for the Government, moved that the McArdle case be dismissed for want of jurisdiction. He argued that the courts have no right to interfere with the war-making power of Congress now being exercised in the seceded States. Black argued that the court has jurisdiction in this class of cases, given in express terms by the reconstruction acts. The court then adjourned.

The House Military Committee have decided to report a bill establishing a military arsenal at Fort David Russell, near Cheyenne, the cost not to exceed \$50,000.

New York.—Vanderbilt is reported dangerously ill. The Protestant Episcopal House of Bishops will meet on Wednesday to choose a Bishop for Oregon, in place of Bishop Smith, deceased.

The meeting of publishers and authors has appointed a committee to prepare a system of regulation which may serve as a basis for international copyright.

Ten million dollars of Union Pacific railroad bonds were sold by the Company, to-day, and advanced the price to ninety-five.

London.—Dispatches from Florence allege that the Italian Government is about to send a naval expedition to Rio Plata. Nothing is known of the cause of this movement and Menabrea declines to give any explanation. It is reported that the Italian fleet now lying in the Bay of Naples is preparing to sail for South America.

Naples.—The Italian fleet now in this harbor has received orders to sail forthwith for Rio Parana, in Paraguay. All information with regard to the expedition is rigorously withheld by the Government.

London.—Dr. Arminius Vambrey, the well known traveler in Central Asia, in a letter to the Times, proves the absurdity of the reports that the Chinese Government is preparing a hostile movement against Russia.

Savannah.—The schooner Lone Star with ten passengers and three deck hands, was blown to sea, and was overhauled by the bark Eureka; only three passengers were saved. Such was their exhaustion that they could not tell what became of the others. They were all negroes.

Leavenworth.—Four buildings on Delaware street were burned this morning; loss about \$150,000; two-thirds insured.

Little Rock.—The Convention has voted a memorial to Congress, asking an appropriation of \$30,000 to improve the levees of Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas, the land benefited to be taxed twenty-five cents per acre to reimburse Government.

There was a sharp debate over the report of the Committee recommending the continuance of the Freedmen's Bureau; several Radical members asserted that the negroes had got impartial justice in their country. New Orleans.—The Convention has

adopted articles of the Constitution as far as 131, still under the title of general provisions.

New York.—The World's special says it is authorized to state, most confidentially and decisively, that the legitimate demands on Great Britain which have been too meekly urged by Secretary Seward, are about to be enforced at whatever cost and hazard. The new British minister will be presented on Tuesday, and although the speeches may be guarded and serene, the fact yet remains that a speedy and satisfactory response, must be made by the British Government to the President's ultimatum, or a declaration of war will eventually ensue. The Tribune's special makes substantially the same assertion.

Chicago.—The diplomatic appropriation bill makes no appropriation for the minister to Portugal, and prohibits the salaries of Consuls or Consuls-General, except these specified in the act. No diplomatic officer will receive his salary for the time that he is absent, by leave or otherwise, when such absence exceeds sixty days in a year.

Montreal.—Specials say the anti-confederate movements in Nova Scotia, cause some sensation. There is a report that the Government have made overtures to Mr. How, to renounce his opposition to the new order of things, but have failed, How remaining faithful to the interests of his province.

A bill has been introduced into the New York Legislature, incorporating the Metropolitan underground railroad with a capital of six millions. It is proposed to build the railroad under Broadway to Central Park, also under other streets.

San Francisco.—Late advices from Arizona say the Indians made a descent on Beale Springs Station and Camp Willows, and shot or carried off all the stock. The mail carrier had to be escorted by military. Four men belonging to the railroad survey were lost in the wilderness for seven days, and came near starving. Governor McCormick and other civil officers of the Territory arrived at Tucson, December seventeenth. The citizens escorted them into the town, and gave a grand supper in their honor. The population of Tucson and vicinity, is rapidly increasing, and hopes of better times are generally indulged in.

DEBT.—The following paragraph will bear reading often. It is from an article by Horace Greeley:

"Hunger, cold, rags, hard work, contempt, suspicion, unjust reproach, are disagreeable; but debt is infinitely worse than them all. And if it pleased God to spare either or all of my sons, to be the support and solace of my declining years, the lesson which I should have most earnestly sought to impress upon them is: 'Never run in debt. Avoid pecuniary obligation as you would pestilence and famine.' If you have but fifty cents, and can get no more for a week, buy a peck of corn, parch it, and live on it, rather than owe any man a dollar."

LOCAL ITEMS.

THEATRICAL.—The "Huguenot Captain" and "Too much for good Nature" make a very attractive bill for this evening, and the performance will unquestionably be highly entertaining. We are favored, at our Theatre, with good playing, good pieces, and a variety sufficient to meet almost every shade of taste; and an evening passed in witnessing a good theatrical performance is pleasant and profitable, for it leaves recollections that are pleasing, and affords gratification during the time spent in witnessing it. The general desire expressed to see the "Huguenot Captain" indicates that a good house may be expected this evening.

TELEGRAPHING EXTRAORDINARY.—We are indebted to the gentlemen of the Union Pacific Telegraph Company's office in this city, for the following statement of telegraphing extraordinary, last night, between San Francisco and Valentin Bay, on the west coast of Ireland. The dispatch was sent and answer received in about five minutes, the distance is nearly a fourth round the world:

Salt Lake, February 1st.
At 11-30 p.m., last night, the lines were connected from San Francisco, California, to Heart's Content, Newfoundland; the landing place of the Atlantic Cable. Wishing to try the speed of the telegraph, the San Francisco operator, Mr. Lew Jacobs, sent the following dispatch to the operator at Valentin Bay, Ireland.

San Francisco, Cal., Jan. 31.
"To the operator at Valentin:—We greet you. Our time is 10:45 p.m. Beautiful night. Every thing lovely. Signed, Lew Jacobs, operator."

In less than five minutes the answer was returned.

Valentin, Ireland.
"Lew Jacobs, San Francisco:—Valentin returns compliments. Blowing hard; sea heavy; wind shaking our hut very much. Time 6:45 a.m. Signed, Operator."

New York then took San Francisco and received ninety words in three minutes. Considering the immense distance, this is one of the best feats of telegraphing ever known.

PREACHING.—To-morrow night Elder Erasmus Snow will preach in the 13th Ward Assembly Rooms.