

## AMERICAN JOURNALISM.

In *Good Form* for May there is a very interesting article "On the Creation of Newspapers." It relates entirely to the press in America, and shows in what manner the creation of newspapers here differed from the same work in Europe. Though the newspaper was virtually originally an importation, yet it is in this country it has attained its fullest development. Both in Europe and here the manuscript "news-letter" preceded the printed sheet. Nine such letters written by John Campbell in 1703 are still in existence.

The first newspaper printed in America lived but one day, and only one copy of the issue is known to have been preserved. It was entitled "Public Occurrences," and was published in Boston, Thursday, September 25, 1690, about seventy years after the landing on Plymouth Rock and two hundred and fifty after the invention of printing. The colonial authorities immediately noticed it, ordered its suppression, and strictly forbade "anything in print without license first obtained from those appointed by the Government to grant the same." Among its principal news items were a suicide, a fire, a smallpox epidemic, and matters concerning trade. There were no editorials, no comments, and no headlines.

In 1703 John Campbell issued nine manuscript news-letters. The demand for these satisfied him that a newspaper venture would pay. He issued the first printed copy of his *Boston News Letter*, April 24, 1704. As announced in that issue, the editor said that he was "thirteen months behind in giving the news from Europe."

The *News Letter* though without a rival for fifteen years, was not a financial success. Mr. Campbell spoke lugubriously to indolent subscribers, but they heeded him not. However, when the *Gazette* appeared December 21, 1719, he did not like it. Then commenced the first newspaper war in the history of this continent. Mr. Campbell said: "I pity the readers of the new paper; its sheet smells stronger of beer than of midnight oil. It is not reading fit for the people."

Philadelphia came next, with a newspaper in 1721, and Boston started its third paper under the *Franklins*. Boston now had three papers, and the latest *Courant* was the most aggressive. James Franklin, its publisher, was enjoined from printing it, and his young brother Ben took the tripod. But strange to say it was war that made those newspapers flourish. The *News-Letter*, which for fifteen years languished alone, amounted to nothing until its war on the *Gazette*.

Then the *Courant* opened on all, taking in the preachers for fun. The result was that all flourished, and the *News-Letter* lived seventy-two years.

This shows that American journalism was born in belligerency, and still maintains its chief characteristic.

A \$50,000 monument to Columbus, designed by sculptor Howard Kretschmar of Chicago, will be erected in Lake Front park, which has been termed the "Gateway to the Exposition."

## FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES.

THE proposition of Professor Mills-paugh to the Board of Education, to supply school books to pupils free of charge, we consider a good one in view of the free school policy adopted in this Territory. If free tuition is to be imparted, why not make it really and completely free? The school law provides that:

"Necessary text books and supplies may be furnished by the school board free of charge to indigent pupils."

This is a benevolent provision, but in most cases would be rather distasteful to parents who received its benefits. And it does not fully meet the necessities of general education. It applies to school districts generally. But that is a special provision in regard to schools in cities of the first and second class, which fully covers the ground. It is this:

"Sec. 117. The board of education in said city shall have power and authority to \* \* \* purchase, exchange, repair and improve the school apparatus, books, furniture, fixtures and all other school supplies in said schools; supply and loan to pupils in the several grades and departments of said schools free of charge all text books and supplies used by pupils of said schools, etc."

The power to do this is, therefore beyond legal question. It only remains to determine upon the propriety of its exercise. The committee on school work have the matter under consideration. There are many good reasons given by Superintendent Mills-paugh in support of his suggestion. Uniformity in text books, it is conceded, is eminently desirable. If the books are purchased and supplied by the board this would be fully secured. The expense would certainly be less than by individual purchase. There would be greater probability of care in the handling of the books and of their preservation than now. Books are often lost in conveyance to and from the homes of pupils. They are also discarded when the student advances to a higher grade and are often cast aside as useless. If kept at school, as the property of the district, they would be better preserved and they could be used by beginners in the lower grades. The cost to the taxpayers would be but nominal compared with the present outlay. According to the detailed estimate made by the Superintendent, about \$11,000 would cover the entire cost for present supplies for the whole city. This, included in the general tax, would scarcely be felt by the public.

The subject will no doubt receive due consideration, and we should think, viewing the matter both from an economical and an educational standpoint, it will be favored by the committee. It has been tried elsewhere with excellent results, and we believe it would prove beneficial in this city.

A glass punch bowl, made by the glass-blowers of Cork in 1825, and presented to Daniel O'Connell, the famous Irish patriot, will appear in the exhibit from Cork. One side of the bowl bears O'Connell's initials and the other a representation of Cork, as it then existed.

## THE CHINESE QUESTION.

No measure that has lately been enacted by Congress has caused such intense public interest as the Chinese exclusion bill. We give it space to-day, that our readers may be made conversant with its character. It is not to be wondered at that it provoked strong opposition on the part of some of the ablest statesmen in the country. Some of its features are invasive of established principles. Had it not been for the unpopularity of the class of people against whom it is aimed, it is doubtful whether it would have become law. We doubt if any clear-headed man who comprehends the nature of our institutions would seriously claim that the measure is not constitutionally defective. It can hardly be held consistently that principle had as much to do with its enactment as expediency.

A careful perusal of the act will show that it invades a principle of law long recognized in civilized countries, in relation to the rights of accused persons. Conviction must be based on evidence produced by the accuser, the burden of proof being necessarily laid upon that side of a case. Under this statute the position is reversed. A Chinaman accused of a breach of the exclusion statutes must prove that he has not violated the law. Should he fail to establish his innocence, the penalty is inflicted.

Unusual conditions and restrictions are placed upon the operation of the *habeas corpus* act.

One of the most notable characteristics of the new law is that it classifies Chinamen. Laborers of that nationality who are found in this country without certificates showing them entitled to remain, must prove that they have been unable to procure documents of that character, from some unavoidable cause, otherwise the penalty of the statute will be inflicted. Chinamen who are not laborers are to be treated in a more gingerly way. The reason for this distinction and "inequality before the law," is probably because those who are not workmen are not quite so objectionable, from a popular standpoint.

One of the features which brought out special opposition during the debates in Congress, was that portion of the law which gives remarkably wide discretion to the Secretary of the Treasury. If this part of the statute is closely scanned it will be seen to be indeed remarkable. It is understood that the "such other descriptions" of the holders of certificates refers to the attaching of their portraits to the documents. Some of the opponents of the bill, while it was pending, insisted that no class of people had ever been thus treated except slaves and convicts.

That a fuller understanding might be had of the nature of this legislation, what is known as the Scott law of 1888, is given space in connection with the measure recently formulated. It was supplementary to the original law (that of 1888) and both of them would have expired this year, but they are re-enacted by the latest law. A strenuous effort was made by the opponents of the new legislation to have the Scott supplementary act remain buried. The