NATIONAL DEMOCRAT.

Devoted to Local and General News, Politics, Literature, Humor, &c.

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The National Democrat.

L. P. STICKLE, Editor and Proprietor.

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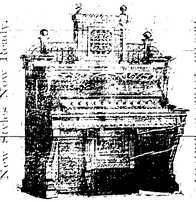

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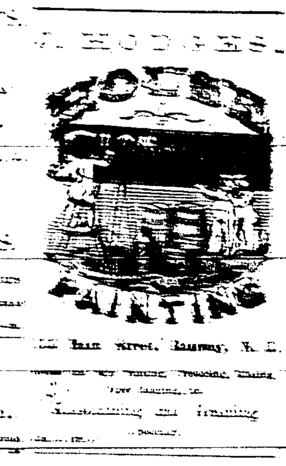

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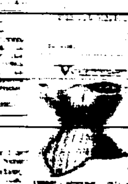

NATIONAL DEMOCRAT.

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The National Democrat.
L. S. HYER, Editor and Proprietor.
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Blackwell & Bro. Have opened a Store at 86 IRVING STREET, with a full line of FLOUR, FEED & MEAL! which will be sold at the LOWEST CASH PRICES. EXTRA FAMILY FLOUR, " GRAHAM " " RYE " FINE WHITE MEAL, " YELLOW " HOMINY, MIDDLINGS, OAT MEAL, SAMP, FLAX SEED MEAL, PURE GROUND FEED and COARSE MEAL, CRACKED CORN, SCREENINGS, OATS, CORN, and BRAN. Rahway, N. J., April 18th, 1877.

New Coal Yard. The subscriber, late of the firm of Chamberlain & Ayres, has opened a New Coal Yard on Milton Avenue, Adjoining the Drawbridge, where he will keep a full assortment of ANTHRACITE COAL of all sizes, which will be promptly delivered to all who may favor him with their orders. SAMUEL AYRES.

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ECCENTRICITIES OF THE SWORDFISH.

Visitors of New London, Block Island, or either of our fishing ports, have no doubt noticed that at the end of the bowsprit of the larger sized fishing boats there is often an iron cage or frame so made as to be safe for a man to stand in it. This is the place from which the fisherman throws the harpoon to capture the swordfish, and the swordfish is just now the subject of considerable discussion. Its ways have at least as much mystery as those of the shad, salmon, herring or any other unaccountables that we have. [illegible]

Prof. G. B. Goode is studying up the matter preparatory to a report to the government. [illegible] They come from the Mediterranean [illegible] ... swordfish are Mediterranean products. What mysterious ocean current guided them over here? ... One can almost imagine that the power of flight and pursuit kept up by these two species, starts at Gibraltar and is run to Block Island every year.

The swordfish darts upon a school of its prey, and by skilful use of its sword wounds those that it afterward captures and eats. Until this season nobody ever thought of catching it except by harpoons. This year, however, it has taken the baits of the trawl-bottom lines of the Cape Ann cod fishermen, and many swordfish have been caught in that novel way. What they come up and "sleep" for is one of the puzzles of their nature. They come and go as the mackerel and menhaden do, and from that it is naturally concluded that they spend their time chasing those small fish. What with sharks, swordfish, porpoises, bluefish, sea gulls, eagles and seines, and all the rest, after them, the life of the herring tribe have led such lives of flight and terror that it is no longer a wonder that the movements of them are always guided by an inherent bleep. It is less strange of them that they are all the while victims than that being caught by millions yearly, they should steadily increase. They were never more menhaden on our coast than this year.—*Hartford Courant.*

GREENLAND COURTSHIP.

When the Danish missionaries had secured the confidence of the Greenlanders, marriage was made a religious ceremony. Formerly the man married the woman, as the Romans did the Sabine women, by force. One of the missionaries, writing to his journal, describes the style of present courtship as follows:—

The suitor, coming to the missionary, said, "I should like to have a wife."

"Whom?" asks the missionary. The man names the woman.

"Has thou spoken to her?"

Sometimes the man will answer, "Yes; she is not unwilling, but thou knowest womankind."

More frequently the answer is "No."

"Why not?"

"It is difficult; girls are prudish. Thou must speak to her."

The missionary summons the girl, and after a little conversation, says:

"I think it time to have thee married."

"I won't marry."

"What a pity! I had a suitor for thee."

"Whom?"

The missionary names the man who has sought his aid.

"He is good for nothing. I won't have him."

"But," replies the missionary, "he is a good provider; he throws his harpoon with skill; and he loves thee."

Though listening to his praise with evident pleasure, the girl answers,—"I won't marry. I won't have him."

"Well, I won't force thee. I shall soon find a wife for such a clever fellow."

The missionary remains silent, as though he understood her "no" to have ended the matter.

At last, with a sigh, she whispers, "Just as thou wilt have it, missionary."

"No," replies the clergyman, "as thou wilt; I'll not persuade thee."

Then, with a deep groan, comes a "yes," and the matter is settled.

A MATTER OF CALCULATION.

Marriage brokers are quite important business men in Genoa. They have pocket-books filled with the names of the marriageable girls of the different classes, with notes of their figures, personal attractions, fortunes, etc. These brokers go about endeavoring to arrange connections, and when they succeed they get a commission of two or three per cent. upon the portion. Marriage at Genoa is quite a matter of calculation, generally settled by the parents or relations, who often draw up the contract before the parties have seen one another; and it is only when everything else is arranged, and a few days previous to the marriage ceremony, that the future husband is introduced to his intended partner for life. Should he find fault with her manners or appearance, he may break off the match on condition of defraying the brokerage and any other expenses incurred.

What householder who can get no recompense for improvements from a grasping landlord will not sympathise with the writer of this? "Wanted immediately, to enable me to leave the house which I have for these last five years inhabited, in the same plight and condition in which I found it, 500 live Rats, for which I will gladly pay the sum of five pounds sterling; and as I cannot leave the farm attached thereto in the same order in which I got it without at least Five Millions of Dockens, I do hereby promise the same sum for said number of Dockens. N. B.—The rats must be full grown and no cripples."—*Chambers' Journal.*

POLITENESS.

If, as the poet says, "beauty when worth not an effort," it may be said of politeness that it runs with very little effort. Politeness is worth cultivating, if only for the sake of policy. In every business it attracts and allures, while a rude manner repels and often drives away trade. Especially may this be said of any business which depends for success on the custom of ladies. [illegible]

... When politeness is inherent with some, the majority acquire that it should be taught to them along with other good lessons, while they are young. It is owing to the neglect of this early training that we see so much rudeness, especially among youths and men, even of what are known as "the better classes." In fact, the lacking man, who is never deprived of with the face of "gentleman," is often far more of one than he who wears the name because he dresses in broadcloth and lives in a mansion of brownstone. ...

"Pope tells us, "As the twig is bent, the tree's inclined," and it would be well for those who have the training of youth to consider this. We must bend the twig as we would have it grow, and we must rear the child in habits of politeness if we expect to see the polite man. This branch of early education is apt to be neglected, and the want of politeness which characterizes the child at home distinguishes him abroad. We are too apt to regard politeness as non-essential—something which can never aid us in fighting our battle of life. While the want of this quality may not prevent success, the possession of it sometimes ensures the boon, and even when failing to do this, it smooths the rugged ways of life, often making the desert blossom as the rose.

EDUCATION FOR THE KITCHEN.

Cooking schools are springing up in many places in this country and in England, and the English are taking the lead in organizing them as a part of their national and common school system. Of the importance, the imperative necessity of this movement, there cannot be the slightest question. Our kitchens, as is perfectly notorious, are the fortified intrenchments of ignorance, prejudice, irrational habits, rule-of-thumb and mental vacuity, and the consequence is that the Americans are liable to the reproach of suffering beyond any other people from wasteful, unpalatable, unhealthy and monotonous cookery. Considering our resources, and the vaunted education and intelligence of American women, this reproach is just. Our kitchens are, in fact, almost abandoned to the control of low Irish, stupid negroes, and raw servile menials that pour in among us from various foreign countries. And what is worse, there is a general acquiescence in this state of things, as if it were something fated, and relief from it hopeless and impossible. We profess to believe in the potency of education, and are applying it to all other interests and industries excepting only the fundamental art of the preparation and use of food to sustain life which involves more of economy, enjoyment, health, spirits and the power of effective labor, than any other subject that is formerly studied in the schools. We abound in female seminaries and female colleges, and high schools and normal schools, supported by burdensome taxes in which everything under heaven is studied except that practical art which is a daily and vital necessity in all the households of the land.

HOOKED HIM AS THE THREE B'S.

In his two volumes, "Fashion Now and Then," Lord William Pitt Lennox, in passing deserved criticism on the use of slang in fashionable English society, is authority for saying that such words as "pills," "muffs," "regular bricks," "dabbles" and "slow coaches" are actually in use, and relates an anecdote of a young lady who was asked to dance by an officer, whose name she did not hear. In making the entry on her card, she designated him as "the three B's." When the young man came up to dance with her he noticed the entry and asked what it signified. "Never mind," responded the girl, in sad need of parental [illegible] "I booked you as the three B's—bear, brandy and baccy." This, it appears, was an allusion to the color of the officer's face and the perfume of his clothes.

In England during King Ethelred's time, A. D. 866, the following prices were fixed by law: ... $7.50, a mare, $5, an ass or mule $1, a cow, $1.75, an ox, $1.50, swine, 30 cents each, sheep, 25 cents each, and a goat 4 cents.

Mankind worships success, but thinks too little of the means by which it is attained. —*Henry M. Field.*

RUDE, THE SCULPTOR.

A host of ... [illegible] ... *Popular Science Monthly.*

THE FIRST ARTIFICIAL PRECIOUS STONES.

The first precious stone reproduced, not only in its appearance but its real nature, and in all its component parts, is the lapis lazuli, the sapphire of the ancients, not to be confounded with our sapphire. This "ultramarine" stone, of a magnificent azure-blue color, was most highly prized by the ancient Hebrews, Assyrians, Persians, Jews, Egyptians, Greeks, etc., and there is probably nothing in the annals of the history of some archeologists that became almost unbearable to distinguish... [illegible] ... that the most beautiful blue colors could be artificially produced by heating argillaceous earth with soda, sulphur, and carbon, and now that Guimet, the French chemist, has practically introduced this process, Europe manufactures annually about 10,000,000 pounds of this pigment, most of which is produced in Germany.—*Popular Science Monthly.*

INSECTS IN MAURITIUS.

If only the daylight would last longer in these latitudes, where exercise is only possible after sundown. However early we set forth the end of the walk is sure to be accomplished stumblingly in profound darkness. Happily there are no snakes or poisonous reptiles of any sort one hears. I yet seen anything more personally objectionable than a centipede. ... [illegible] ... *Jessie Keeney.*

IN WINDOW.

[illegible] ... *Good Words.*

A lady traveler says that she never finds a newspaper or a book in the ladies' parlor of a hotel, but that she always finds a mirror.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Japan has a bronze statue weighing 450 tons.

The city of Paris gets $10,000 a year for the rent of its flower stalls.

A diamond weighing 8¼ karats has been found in Dutoitspan, South Africa.

A jury at Montpelier, Vt., has decided that a lager beer is not intoxicating.

The new Governor of Barcelona, Spain, has closed the gambling houses there.

At a Texas camp-meeting recently thirty-eight persons were baptized by torchlight.

The divorced wife of a Danbury man [illegible]

A Rochester physician is urgent against the tomato. He thinks that it is a source of cancer.

A colossal bronze statue of great beauty has just been unearthed on the banks of the Tiber at Rome.

A Rochester (N. Y.) woman stole a hat to be married in because she had no money with which to buy one.

From the spire of the Congregational church at Pawlet, Vt., over 125 pounds of honey were taken recently.

Death is the penalty in China for the authors of all anonymous accusations of crime, although the charge be true.

Scotland always has a larger preponderance of male births than England; 107 boys to 100 girls is the average this year, in England it is 104.

In 1791, there was to be a new church at Norridgewock, Maine, and it was "voted to buy one barrel of good West India rum to be used at the raising."

A Belgian murderer has been sentenced to death at the Brabant Assizes, and further condemned to pay 25,000 francs to the widow of the man he murdered.

A tavern keeper in Bristol, England, has extinguished swinging bars and strong liquors over his bar, and confines himself to milk. He does a good business, and has no license to pay.

A half-crazy inmate of the Newton (Mass.) Poorhouse, tried to poison her companions by putting about a pound of Paris green in a pan of milk because he was jealous of another inmate.

God Sahan himself is said to be the first tramp of whom we have any record. He answered the question, "Whence comest thou?" by "From going to and fro in the earth and from walking up and down in it."

At a large hotel in Scarborough it is said the landlord loses as many as fourteen hundred napkins a year by reason of the guests putting them in their pockets in mistake for pocket handkerchiefs.

Mayors in Italy do not appear to command a high price. The Mayor of Fasignano, near Bologna, was carried off by brigands a few days ago, but was released on paying a ransom of $120.

Between a Swiss watchmaker and a Swiss chemist a watch has been devised the dial of which will be phosphorescent, so that at night or in the dark it will distinctly show the hours.

The Wesleyan Methodists and the Primitive Wesleyans in Ireland had a quarrel in 1816 and separated. The two bodies have now united under circumstances indicative of great happiness and prosperity in the future.

Kellinar, Holstein, has just had the diamond wedding, or seventy-fifth marriage anniversary of two of its 1,400 parishioners. Two more such occasions are near at hand, and during the last fourteen years ten have taken place.

A juror in a San Francisco murder trial offered to insure an acquittal of a disagreement for $500. The prisoner informed the court, the fraud was exposed, and the rascal was put in jail. He is said to have made a business of getting on juries and selling himself.

A Boston lawyer has a letter written in 1840 by a New York firm, saying that they had placed in the hands of Daniel Webster a bill for collection, and stating that the financial standing of Webster be inquired into as they could not obtain any settlement from him.

A young couple married in England last spring, contrary to their parents' wishes, went to Australia in the hope that time would soften opposition. No remittances reached them, and utterly destitute in Sydney, they took poison and died.

A rosy-cheeked, fair-faced boy, dressed in girl's clothing, has for the last six months been running a loom in the Oswego Falls factory and living in the girls' boarding house. He had made himself such a favorite that half the girls in the factory wept when he was led away to jail.

So perfect were the Egyptians in the manufacture of perfumes, that some of their ancient ointment, preserved in an alabaster vase in the museum at Alnwick, still retains a very powerful odor though it must be between two and three thousand years old.

There has just died at the little town of Tenbury Wells, on the borders of Worcestershire, England, a woman named Robinson, who was 105 years and 11 days old at the time of her death. To the last she was in full possession of her faculties, and was able to read within a few days of her death.

A story is told by a friend of Campbell, the poet, that when visiting at the house of the family he and Thomas then about thirteen were speaking of getting new clothes, and discussing at great extent the most fashionable colors. You ... [illegible] ... "I have a snuff brown color, but he added, 'I have a suit in the Court of Chancery which has lasted thirty years, and I think it will never wear out.'"

Poverty is the test of civility and the touchstone of friendship.—*Hazlitt.*