

Berrien Co. Record.

JOHN G. HOLMES, Editor.
THURSDAY MORNING, DEC. 16, 1875.

The funny man of the Vicksburg Herald has withdrawn, the paper having changed hands.

The coming leap year has commenced its effect upon the ladies of Nauvoo, Ill., already. They have completed arrangements for a leap year party to be held Jan. 6th.

A decided shock of earthquake was felt, at Lincoln, Neb., about three o'clock on the morning of Dec. 11th. The shock lasted about ten seconds and sounded like the rumbling of distant thunder. There was no damage done.

In his will, Wm. B. Astor gave to various benevolent organizations \$40,000; to the American Bible Society, \$10,000; to the Society for the Relief of Aged and Indigent Females, the Institution for the Blind and the Ladies' Repository, each \$5,000. \$250,000 were appropriated for the endowment of the Astor Library. The remainder, which is estimated at from \$50,000 to \$200,000, was left to his children in life interest, the same as he received it from his father, with no liberty of disposition but appointment in his issue.

The following is a report of the disposition of public lands by the Secretary of the Interior during the last year, ending June 30th, 1875:

Cash Sales	745,081.80
Mill-land-warrant locations	167,000.00
Homestead entries	3,357,037.07
Timber-land entries	464,570.17
Agricultural land entries	4,832.02
Approved to States as swamp	1,721.53
Certified for sale	1,077,434.13
Certified for common schools	18,234.24
Certified for universities	29,343.01
Approved to States for internal improvements	\$614.23
Swamp-land entries	1,034.43
Chippewa half-breed-entries	11,181.64
Total	7,071,127.80
A quantity less by 2,450,001.03	
acres than that disposed of the preceding year. The cash receipts were \$1,770,610.27; a sum less by \$800,322.24 than that received the previous year. During the year 26,077,581.86 acres were surveyed, making, with the quantity previously surveyed, 690,253,084.21 acres, leaving yet to be surveyed 1,154,171,782.70 acres. The quantity of land disposed of under the homestead and timber culture laws was less by about a million and a half acres than that disposed of the year immediately preceding. Aside from considerations, however, which are temporary in their character, a steady diminution of such entries may hereafter be expected, growing out of the fact that the best lands subject to such entries have, in great measure, been already disposed of.	

The history of the Suez Canal Company, in which the British Government has recently become a partner, has been a checked one. Established about twenty years ago, under French influence, it was strongly opposed by Lord Palmerston on political grounds. After the conclusion of the Crimean war that statesman withdrew his objections, and the company was made an Egyptian one, subject to Egyptian law, and the large concessions of land which it held surrendered on payment of £3,000,000. Nearly thirteen years after the company was formed, the canal was opened for traffic. By that time, in addition to the share capital of £3,000,000, and the £3,000,000 paid by the Egyptian Government, the company had incurred debt to the extent of about £6,000,000. With other additional payments the cost of construction is estimated at about £19,000,000. The debt and share capital, however, are still only about £13,000,000, and for this sum the company has obtained a very valuable property, in which the English Government has now acquired a large interest. The construction of the canal was generally regarded as a blow to the maritime supremacy of England. The Canal Company have really made their profits out of English shipping trading between England and the East. Out of 1,264 vessels, and a tonnage of 2,424,000 tons, using the canal last year, about 70 per cent were English. At the rate of ten francs per ton, says the London News—which is, roughly speaking, the tariff fixed—English shipping pays in toll to the Canal Company nearly \$300,000 out of its gross income of \$1,000,000. They are the enemies of the cross of Christ; whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, whose glory is in their shame, &c. Phil. iii: 18, 19. "When the wicked spring as the grass, and when all the workers of iniquity do flourish, it is that they shall be (tormented) destroyed forever." Psalms, xcii: 7. What are we to understand by the above language? If it does not mean what it says, what does it mean? But says the objector, "If they are to be stricken from existence it would be no punishment." That depends upon how much we value life. Although Satan said, "All that a man hath he will give for his life," yet our own observation teaches us that it is true. If, then, we value this life, filled with its pain and many sorrows, so highly as to give all the hoarded wealth of many years to prolong our life, why would we not value far more our life, and extend it, and extend from all pain and sorrow. Yes, we would esteem it as the greatest reward God could bestow upon man. Then the opposite would be the greatest punishment or loss. The loss then will be as great to the sinner as is the gain to the righteous. "They shall be burned up." In speaking of the tares of the field, Christ, in reply to the enquirer, says: "Let both grow (the wheat and the tares) together until the harvest, and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, gather ye together first the tares and (torment them) burn them; but gather the wheat into my barn." Matt. xiii: 30. Do men gather tares to preserve them by placing them in the fire or to destroy

"WHAT IS TRUTH?"

Not long since we listened to a sermon delivered by a Mr. Potter, a traveling revivalist, upon the subject of the judgment and the state of man beyond. It being so far from the teachings of God's word, we feel that it demands a passing notice, and we wish to examine some of the statements made, and then give the word of God upon the same. We do not expect to present any new or original thoughts to the reader's mind, but hope to give light to some one who may read the article, who has not been so fortunate as to hear and see the truth. The speaker spoke as follows: "Prepare to meet thy God." Why? For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that every one may receive the things done in his body according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." 2 Cor. v: 10. And if prepared to meet God, eternal happiness above is ours. If not prepared, our portion is eternal misery in hell. Proof, Matt. xxv: 46. "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal." There are two points in the above declaration we wish briefly to examine, the nature of man's reward, and the locality. We now come to examine the first question, What is to be the reward of the good and bad? For man's faithfulness to God He has promised him a crown of life. "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation, for when he is tried he shall receive a crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." James, i: 12. "I have kept the faith, henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of life." 2 Tim. iv: 8. "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." Rev. ii: 10; i: Cor. 9: 25. But what of the unfaithful and the unprepared? Are they to be tortured in a burning hell to all eternity, as stated by Mr. P.? Is that the teaching of God? We will first give Matt. xxv: 46, the same one quoted by Mr. P., as teaching everlasting misery in hell, as a starting point in answering the question: "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal." Where in the above language are we taught that the ungodly are cast into a burning hell, to be tortured forever? Where, we ask? It simply gives the duration of time the wicked are to suffer their punishment, and not the nature of the punishment at all. We must therefore turn to some other portion of the word of God, to learn what the punishment of the ungodly is which Christ here declares is to be unending. Turn with me to 2 Thess. i: 7-9, and we there learn what that punishment is. It reads as follows: "And to you who are troubled, rest with us when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels; in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ; who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power." God's word, Matt. v: 22. "His punishment is everlasting misery in hell." Which will we believe? Again: James, i: 15, "Then, when lust hath conceived it bringeth forth sin, and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death, for the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Rom. vi: 23. "If the payment for sin is not death, as Paul here declares it is, how shall we understand his language? If death does not mean death, what does it mean? Again, they shall perish." "For we are in them that are saved and in them that perish." 2 Cor. i: 15. "A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall perish." Prov. xix: 9. "But the wicked shall perish and the enemies of the Lord shall be as the flesh of lambs; they shall consume—in a smoke shall they consume away." Psalms, xxxviii: 20. Not forever consuming and never be consumed. But into smoke shall they consume away. What is there left of the ungodly to be tormented to all eternity after they have consumed away into smoke? Is there anything left of your fire to rekindle after it has consumed away into smoke? We will let reason answer: "They shall be destroyed. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and many foolish and hurtful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition." 1 Tim. vi: 9. "Enter ye in at the strait gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction (not eternal misery) and many there be which go in thereat." Matt. vii: 13. "The Lord preserveth all them that love him, but all the wicked will he destroy." (not torment) Psalms, lxxviii: 20. "For many walk of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ; whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, whose glory is in their shame, &c." Phil. iii: 18, 19. "When the wicked spring as the grass, and when all the workers of iniquity do flourish, it is that they shall be (tormented) destroyed forever." Psalms, xcii: 7. What are we to understand by the above language? If it does not mean what it says, what does it mean? But says the objector, "If they are to be stricken from existence it would be no punishment." That depends upon how much we value life. Although Satan said, "All that a man hath he will give for his life," yet our own observation teaches us that it is true. 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them? "Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor and gather the wheat into the garner, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." Matt. iii: 12. Because the fire is unquenchable it does not follow that it will burn to all eternity. Proof: "But if ye will not hearken unto me to hallow the Sabbath day, and not to bear burdens, even entering in at the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath day, then will I kindle a fire in the gates thereof, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be quenched." Jer. xvii: 27.

In the year A. D. 66, this fire was kindled. But is it burning to-day? Would it resist fire to all eternity? "For yet a little while and the wicked shall not be; (then he will have no existence) yes, thou shalt diligently consider his place and it shall not be." Psalms, xxxvii: 10. He shall have no place. Surely he would be, and his place would exist if consigned to a lake of fire, there to suffer to all eternity. Suppose we were placed among the savages of the forest, and there witness their cruelty as they torture some captured victim. What would we do? We would cry out against it, calling them heathen for so doing. And yet we are taught from college halls and from the pulpit, and in a civilized land, that for the sin committed in this short life, if unrepented of, the great God will torture the sinner to all eternity in the flames of a burning hell. But we have shown from the word of God that they are to be destroyed—as if they had not been. Is not that punishment enough? Is it unjust for God to take from them a life which He gave and they have abused, remanding back to the dust from which they were taken? We now come to the second question: Where are the righteous and the ungodly to receive their reward? Man's word: In heaven above and in hell beneath. Bible: "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth." Matt. v: 5. Do they yet? "But the meek shall inherit the earth and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace." Psalms, xxxvii: 11. How long are they to inherit the earth, when possessed? verse 29: "The righteous shall inherit the earth, and dwell therein forever." Should the righteous shall be recompensed in (heaven) the earth, much more the wicked and the sinner." Prov. xi: 31. But to some, the thought of receiving this reward upon this earth, is revolting. But if the earth, in its present condition, with the curse of God upon it, filled with sin, crime, pain, sorrow and death, is so much to be desired as for man (as many do) to bend every thought and action, to possess as much as possible of it, how much more to be desired will it be when the curse of God shall be lifted from its fair bosom, and people with the good of all ages and generations, free from sorrow, pain, tears and death, as described in Rev. xxi: 1, 4. It will then be good enough for me. But when will man receive his reward? Man's word: At death. God's word: "I charge thee therefore, before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and kingdom, preach the word." 2 Tim. iv: 1. Does God's kingdom appear at the death of each individual? "And behold I come quickly, and my reward is with me to give to every man according as his works shall be." Rev. xxi: 12. "For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and then he shall reward every man according to his works." Matt. xvi: 27. Does Christ come with the glory of the Father, and with his angels each time a person dies? May we all so live as when Christ shall return to reward men, he may say unto us, "Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." L. S. BROWN.

Another Chapter of the Charlie Ross Tragedy.

Saturday afternoon a woman named Mrs. L. E. Burt applied to the police station and called the attention of Kendrick. When the Lieutenant appeared she said that she had been told to relate to him the particulars of an important matter, which she had kept hidden as long as she could bear the knowledge, and she must now reveal.

Mr. Kendrick expressed himself willing to listen to anything the lady had to impart. Consequently Mrs. Burt related the following astonishing story: She said she knew who had abducted Charlie Ross, where he had been, where he was two weeks ago last Thursday, and all the particulars regarding it. Under fear of her life which had been threatened, she had heretofore kept the secret; but she had borne it as long as she could, it was wearing her to death, and the truth must be told. She then told the following, and repeated the story to a Washington reporter this morning. Some little facts omitted in the first statement, but made in the second, are here inserted in regular order.

Mrs. Burt said that on the second day after Charlie Ross's abduction she left Philadelphia for Chicago; a man and woman, accompanied by a little boy entered the car; she had seen the man frequently in Philadelphia, but was not personally acquainted with him; the moment she saw the boy the thought flashed through her that it was Charlie Ross; in a short time, by certain signs, she found that the man and herself belonged to the same secret society; then she looked questioningly at the child, and looked so earnestly that the man and woman remarked it, and the man came over to her and said he wanted to see her privately for a moment, and mentioned that in a few minutes he would be smoking, and they could converse without being heard.

Mrs. Burt refused to go, at first but the woman leaned over and said she needn't be afraid of her husband as he wasn't as rough as he looked.

Mrs. Burt went into the forward car. The first question put by the man was:

"What are your impressions about that boy?"

Mrs. Burt answered, "I think he is Charlie Ross over again."

The man told her that she was right, but if one intimation of that ever left her lips there were enough interested in the matter to put her out of the way, etc.

At Crestline, Ohio, the man and woman got off the train, as people on the cars began to look suspiciously at them, and it was evident that something would happen before long.

Mrs. Burt says that from Crestline the people went to South Bend, Ind., then to a place in Iowa, then to place six miles from Ripon, in this State, and so on, from one place to another. She says the boy has been a source of annoyance to them, but they say they will not give him up without the \$20,000 for which they made the abduction. She says he has been very much altered in appearance, his hair being cropped short and his skin colored to a dark hue; but he has, of course, the same blue eyes.

Charlie Ross now is six miles southwest of Kalamazoo, a small town on the Allegheny river, in Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, about two hundred miles northwest of Harrisburg.

He is in the custody of a man named Joe Morrissey, who is one of the parties who abducted him, according to Mrs. Burt's statements. She says a detective in Philadelphia assisted in the abduction. The child was conveyed by carriage to the county line, and there the parties boarded the train. The object of the abduction was to secure \$20,000, one-half of which was to go to the detective. Mr. Ross was supposed to be wealthy to the time of the abduction. If he had immediately offered \$20,000, he could have had his child, Mrs. Burt says.

When she was in Ripon last winter, she felt that she ought to make the statement, and accordingly went before Christopher Harris, a justice, and made affidavit of the above facts; afterward she withdrew her statement, because the justice had published it at that time; this fall, she was again in Ripon, and Harris told her that if she did not publicly state the facts, he would. She said that her life was in danger, and she did not dare to do it; but now she has resolved to bear it no longer.

In his interview with her this morning, the Wisconsin reporter asked about the society to which the woman referred. She said it was a secret society, known as the "Know Nothing." Its object was to help its members, and the intimation was made that there were no particular scruples about how it was done. The society is large, having some members in every city. She claims that she virtually belongs to this society, but

list increases the burdens of tax-payers.

tens of millions of dollars, and the general revenues of the country would be deficient to that amount were it not for the fact that this amount which the church corporations do not pay is levied upon the general community in a proportionate increase of taxes. In other words, the churches are "dead-heading" upon the tax-paying public, and the church establishments of the country are supported by taxation of the whole people in a manner exactly equivalent to a church tithe. Under such a condition of things as this, it is for the interest of church corporations to accumulate property beyond their requirements, and to enter into a rivalry of show and display with each other, the effect of which is always demoralizing. There is no reason either in law or in common sense why the people as a whole should be called upon to protect church corporations, guarantee them in their rights, extend to them the privileges of accumulating wealth, and then be compelled to pay for it themselves. A church corporation has no more right to expect that the people will pay its taxes than a railroad or a banking corporation, and the President is wrong in the position he has taken.—Chicago Tribune.

Our Relations with Spain.

While the annual message of the President was calculated to allay apprehensions of any immediate trouble with this power, it is by no means certain that difficulties may not arise, if they do not already exist, which will lead to a disturbance of the present peaceful condition.

The language of the President, "Should the conflict [in Cuba] not soon be brought to an end by the act of the parties themselves, other nations will be compelled to assume the responsibility which devolves upon them, and to seriously consider the only remaining measures possible—mediation and intervention"—may be construed as a notice, so far as he is concerned, that the bloody butcheries on that island must cease soon, or other nations will take measures to stop them.

There is much sympathy for the Cuban patriots in this country. Spain knows that, and seems to take the words of the President to be a sort of threat; and the telegraph informs us that "the negotiations of Minister Cushing have not been as successful as expected, and that the proposals submitted do not so clearly furnish this basis [of adjustment] as had been hoped." Whatever this may mean, it is pretty clear that there is a chance of a rupture ahead.

War once begun will result in the independence of Cuba, or its annexation to the United States. No foreign power will be permitted to establish itself there; and war with Spain, feeble as she is, will be expensive and burdensome. It is indeed to be hoped that some peaceful solution of these possible complications may be arrived at.—Post & Mail.

Text of the House Postal Bill.

Special Dispatch to the Chicago Tribune.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 11.—The officials at the Post Office Department have spent much study and labor on the question of the rates of postage, and have made calculations which show just where the loss to the Government occurs. They find that the loss on second-class matter, which consists of newspapers, magazines and periodicals, is \$6,993,928.91, and the loss per pound is about 12 1/2 cents, being at the rate of 44 cents for each piece of mail matter, which includes books, pamphlets, engravings; and the loss on all miscellaneous matter is \$4,118,915.58, or about 9 cents a pound. The bill prepared by the Post Office officials and offered in the House by Mr. Starkweather, of Connecticut, is as follows:

A Bill to amend the law relating to postage on articles of mailable matter of the third class.

Be it enacted, etc., That on and after the 1st day of June, 1876, postage shall be charged on packages, including newspapers, magazines, periodicals, pamphlets, posters, unsealed circulars, and prospectuses, proof of sheets, and corrected proofsheets, at the rate of 10 cents for each two ounces or fraction thereof, and the postage on all other mailable matter of this third-class shall be and remain as now provided by law.

The Post Office Department does not expect to decrease its deficit by this bill, but the theory is that enough more matter will be carried at the reduced rates to keep the revenues as large as they are at present. Of course the Government can never increase the rate of third-class matter to cost, as this would compel it to charge at the rate of 20 cents a pound, while if magazines and periodicals were charged 6 cents apiece, instead of only 1 cent, as in the proposed bill, the Government would not make itself whole in the business. The profit on mail matter of the first class, including letters and sealed packages, was \$4,212,930.90 for the last fiscal year, this being the only class of matter which was not transported at heavy loss.

President Grant's Message in Cuba.

HAVANA, Dec. 11.—The *Voz de Cuba*, commenting on that part of the President's message which relates to Cuba, says: "Gen. Grant's language seems to have been chosen to wound the susceptibilities of the Spaniards. He seems to like playing with fire. He does not know the temperament of the Spaniards any more than Napoleon did."

The *Diario* censures the tone of the message which was published while negotiations were pending between the United States and Spain. It faintly praises the President's refusal to acknowledge the Cuban insurgents as belligerents, and says that the part of the message relating to Spain is studiously obscure. Finally, the *Diario*, at the conclusion of two columns and a half of criticism, says: "We believe Gen. Grant has disgusted the insurgents, and has wounded Spanish pride in his unfounded assertions. His entire message is contrary to the spirit of the American people, who eminently desire peace, and has satisfied no one."

CHICAGO & MICH. L. SHORE & R. R.

On and after Sunday, Nov. 21, 1875, tickets will be sold as follows:

ST. JOSEPH.

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THE COUNTY PRISON.

[Niles Democrat.]

The Elkhardt Daily Observer, of the 3d says: "Mrs. John Larkin fell down a flight of stairs last Saturday, and although she experienced no inconvenience for two or three days, she is very ill. Last evening her husband telegraphed for her mother." A young man was examined before Recorder Gilbert, on Thursday, on the charge of obtaining goods under false pretenses, and bound over in the sum of \$100 to appear at the Circuit Court. He obtained a bottle of whisky at one of our Drug Stores, claiming that his employer was sick and needed the liquor, to whom it was charged. His employer, it appears, was in excellent health at the time, and the spirits were all "absorbed" by the young man, and the probability is that he will be the most expensive dose of medicine he ever took. He has so far failed to obtain bail.

[Niles Republican.]

Mr. Aaron Bell, living two miles north of the city on the Berrian road, has laid upon our table some geological specimens that are worthy of mention. The specimens are pieces of calcareous turf, showing beautiful casts of beech leaves in great numbers, together with several varieties of moss. The pieces were taken from a full flowing spring, on Mr. Bell's farm, whose waters are so strongly charged with lime as to rapidly petrify vegetable matter exposed to their action.

[Berrian Springs Journal.]

A new project of a railroad is now in contemplation from some place south of Buchanan, in the State of Indiana, through this place to the Lake at the mouth of the St. Joseph. It is to be a narrow gauge with shifting axels on the trucks and coaches, and is estimated not to cost but about one-third or half of ordinary railroad, and is thought to give much better satisfaction. A very satisfactory correspondence has been going on between parties here and other places, and we find Buchanan, as well as other parties at the Lake, alive and in earnest about the matter. We congratulate our friends in their prospects, and only hope their enterprise may prove a success and the county sent be blessed and profited by the project as well as her sister towns that are especially interested.—The late Stephen Salee, who lived one mile north of Niles on the Berrian Springs road, a notice of whose death, together with a brief sketch of his strange and eventful life, was recently published in the *Journal*, was known to have considerable money, gold and silver, and other money, buried and hid away, which he had willed to his grandchildren; and, dying without leaving any communication thereof, his diligent search being made, since his death, to find a cache, Mr. Wm. B. Davis, of Niles township, son-in-law of Mr. Salee, had the impression, from what his father-in-law had previously said to him, that the hard money, spoken of, was buried in the cellar, and caused diligent search to be made in that direction, and they succeeded, at last account, in unearthing \$500 in gold and \$300 in silver, from the cellar bottom. Further search being made about the premises, they succeeded in finding \$1,200, in bank bills buried in a wheat bin in the barn; the same not having been entirely emptied for the last eight or ten years.

[St. Joseph Traveler and Herald.]

A plug came out of one of the flues in the fire box of a locomotive on the C. & M. L. S. R. R. the other day, and the escaping steam badly scalded a brakeman named Grossman, who happened to be in the cab.

[St. Joseph Republican.]

A young son of Mr. Shaffer, some 12 or 14 years of age, seriously injured one of his limbs by coming in contact with a fence post, while coasting with a young friend, who has finally resulted in amputation of the member, above the knee. On Sunday last Dr. A. K. Webster was sent for to attend the case, and found it necessary to amputate it immediately, which the Doctor accomplished successfully, assisted by Drs. Rockwell and Roberts.

Deaths.

DIED, Dec. 5th, 1875, in Buchanan, JONATHAN W. FLETCHER, 84, aged 75 years and 15 days.

DIED, Dec. 11th, 1875, in Buchanan, FRANK, son of C. B. and Louisa Reynolds, aged 4 months and 15 days.

BUCHANAN PRICES CURRENT.

Corrected weekly for the month of Dec. by the Record by KILPATRICK & VINCENT, Dealers in Groceries and Provisions, Buchanan, Mich.

These figures represent the prices paid by dealers, unless otherwise specified.

Wheat, per bushel, 1.50

Barley, per bushel, 1.25

Rye, per bushel, 1.10

Oats, per bushel, .90

Indian meal, per bushel, .

