

Special Notices.
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The Independent.
NEW YORK, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1865.
NUMBER 847.

My objections to the New York society are these:
1. It has an immense capital, and its publications are to be believed, sells its publications at a very handsome profit.

I feel, to-night, as the old saint felt, when he said, "What shall I render unto the lord for all his benefits toward me? I will take the cup of salvation, and will thank the name of the Lord my God forevermore."

Christian brethren, if we pass through such scenes as these through which we are now passing, without being made better, personally, by them, shall we be made worse?

I feel the most earnest desire, to-night, that we should move right up toward the gate of heaven; and that, instead of cherishing secular or political thoughts, we should find room for more religious and Christian ones.

I feel, also, that I hear God saying to us, "Make yourselves ready: prepare the way." We are entering upon scenes that are untried, and in which we are to be tried.

SOME TALK ABOUT TRACT SOCIETIES.
I WRITE from a cleft in Plymouth Rock. I'll solemnly affirm that my spirit often lingers about that hallowed stone, I am quite sure that multitudes in this superstitious age would unhesitatingly credit the assertion.

It is moreover not a little curious to note, that anti-slavery matter, which was excluded because it did not meet "the approval of all evangelical Christians," while the said Christians were simply manifesting their disapprobation by hard words, is entirely admissible as soon as their disapprobation becomes manifest by cutting out the names of the patrons, and sending out their own government! Pray tell us, men of Nassau street, have the "evangelical Christians" of the South changed their views since the war broke out, or are you reading your constitution with new spectacles?

My two objections then are, first, that this society is organized on a wrong and dangerous basis; and, secondly, that it has been so palpably mismanaged, according to the showing of its own acts, by the otherwise excellent men who have it in charge, as to demonstrate their unfitness for the work they have undertaken.

DEAD GRIEF.
Her husband is killed, so you say. The beautiful woman next door. Shot in battle; 'tis terrible! Nay, 'tis merely the fortune of war; and she only doth suffer to-day what hundreds have suffered before.

I am glad! I am glad! Why no; One grieves good as twenty, for doth, Her despair's red-hot heat will die out; Here's first burn quick, you know, North winds weary of blowing about.

There's a God who can comfort, for he is the God of the widow, He healths, Where he labors, he consoles; ah, He is merciful chiefly in death. Do his love and compassion agree With this death-in-life pining for breath?

ONE WORD OF DRUNKENNESS.
BY REV. THOMAS L. CUTLER.
Ten years ago, slavery seemed to be deeply rooted for a century; intemperance and the liquor traffic apparently "trembled to their fall."

Such consecration would be needed, were it to secure a more result than to keep one in the ministry. Never were there stronger inducements than now, not only to drive young men from the clerical profession, but also to entice them away after they have entered it.

PRAYER FOR THE COUNTRY.
The suggestion which we publish below is in a card from the prominent ministers of our city, calling for united prayer at the time of the coming presidential inauguration, it is a delightful and welcome one. We trust it will be generally observed.

THE UNDERLIED, PASTORS AND MINISTERS of the city of New York, beg leave affectionately to suggest to their brethren in the ministry, and to the churches generally throughout the nation, the practice of observing the hour from 12 to 1 P. M., on Saturday, the 4th of March next, as an hour of prayer for the country.

And such consecration of self is needed, not merely to keep one in the ministry, but also to make him happy in it. No one can be happy in any occupation into which he does not put his whole heart. It will be because he has not put his whole heart into it, that he will grow froward as his difficulties increase, and he will hardly wish himself out of it.

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.
WASHINGTON, Feb. 20, 1865.
THE House has a large amount of business on hand, but it passed the new Tax bill on Saturday, which is perhaps the most important measure before Congress.

THE newspaper publishers desire the tax on paper to be abolished altogether, and the paper manufacturers oppose the reduction of the duty. The pecuniary interest of "my constituents" defects earnestly absent in Congress.

CHARLESTON WAS EVACUATED by the rebel forces between the 14th and 18th, and so extensively freed that it is believed nearly two-thirds of the city have been destroyed, amid incredible suffering and most loss of life.

THE rebel journals in North Carolina announce a concentration of national troops at Newbern, under General Foster, and they are believed to have with them materials for repairing the railroad from that place to Kinston, and running-gear to put it in operation as soon as completed.

GENERAL FOSTER, having assumed the post of generalissimo of the rebel armies, has begun a vigorous series of operations. The 11th of the rebellion is issued an address to his soldiers, exhorting them to put forth new efforts, and adding that "the choice between war and abject submission is before them."

AN EXPEDITION OF THE SHERMANIAN.
The expedition of three hundred picked men of the First and Sixth Michigan cavalry started on an expedition into the Shermanian Valley last Wednesday, and destroyed the Charleston iron-works, on Water Lick Creek, which the rebels had in full blast, preparing iron for shot and shell.

MISCELLANEOUS.
The President has called an extra session of the Senate to meet on the 27th of March. The Constitutional Amendment has been ratified by the Indiana House, and by Minnesota, Nevada, and Kansas, making sixteen states thus far.

FOREIGN NEWS.
ENGLISH statistics, just published, show that the 1862 and 1863 seasons were the worst for the purpose of running the blockade of the rebel ports of the whole 11th century, 700,000 tons of goods were either captured or destroyed, leaving at the close of 1864, 20 still remaining, while 11 were on their way out.

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General News.
SHERMAN'S SECOND GRAND MARCH.
SHERMAN is literally a capital general. He aims at the capital of a rebellious state, drives governor and legislature like frightened sheep, blows the enemy's armed array out of his camp, occupies places, and makes the starting-point of a new enterprise.

THE WAR.
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