THE EASTON GAZETTE.

WHERE THE PRESS IS FREE—"Literature well or ill-conducted is the Great Engine by which all Popular States must ultimately be supported or overthrown—RELIGION purifies the Heart and teaches us our Duty—Morality refines the Manners—Agriculture makes us Rich, and Politics provides for the enjoyment of all."

VOL. XXXIV. EASTON, MD., SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 1851. No. 2.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY MORNING,

BY

GRAHAM & JOHNSON.

J. A. JOHNSON, EDITOR.

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All orders addressed to the publishers, post paid, will receive prompt attention.

TALK WITH TIME, AT THE CLOSING OF THE YEAR.

BY MRS. LYDIA H. SIGOURNEY.

TIME, Old Time, with the forelock gray,
While the year in its dotage is passing away,
Come sit by my hearth, ere the embers fail,
And hang thy scythe on yon empty nail,
And tell me a tale, 'neath this wintry sky,
Of the deeds thou hast done, as its months swept by.

"I have cradled the babe, in the church-yard wide,
From the husband's arms I have taken the bride,
I have claven a path through the ocean's floor,
Where many have sunk to return no more,
I have humbled the strong, with their dauntless breast,
And laid the old on his staff to rest.

"I have loosened the stone on the ruin's height,
Where the curtaining ivy was rank and bright,
I have startled the maid on her couch of down,
With a sprinkle of white mid her tresses brown,
I have rent from his idols the proud man's hold,
And scattered the hoard of the miser's gold."

"Is this all? Are thy chronicles traced alone,
In the riven heart and the burial stone?"
"No. Love's young chain I have twined with flowers,
Have awakened the song in the rose-crowned bowers,
Have reared the trophy for wealth and fame,
And paved the road for the cars of flame.

"Look to the child—it hath learned from me
The word that it lisps at the mother's knee;
Look to the sage—who from me hath caught
The kindling fires of his heavenward thought;
Look to the saint—who hath nearer trod
Toward the angel-host at the throne of God.

"I have planted seeds in the souls that bear
The fruits of Heaven in a world of care;
I have breathed on the tear till its orb grew bright,
Ask the diamond drops in the fields of light;
Ask of thy heart, hath it e'er confest
A germ so pure, or a tear so blest."

The clock struck twelve, from the steeple gray.
And, seizing his hour-glass, he strode away,
But his hand, at parting, I feared to clasp,
For I saw the scythe in its earnest grasp,
And read in the glance of his upward eye
His secret league with Eternity.

THE CREDIT SYSTEM.

BY MRS. SARAH H. HAYES.

THE PRINTER.

'How dreadful late you are my dear!' said Mrs. Grayson, the wife of the printer as he entered his own door at half past eleven at night. 'I have watched for you so long, that I began to feel uneasy.'

'Uneasy—I should think you would have become accustomed to irregular hours by this time,' replied her seating himself upon the chair, she had handed him, with a sigh.

'You are wearied out,' said his wife, mournfully, as he pressed his hand to his throbbing temples, 'you are working yourself to death, and what it is for I cannot conceive.'

'I wonder how I can help it,' he replied, in that despairing tone which proclaims one miserable alike, both in body and mind. 'I am half dead with fatigue, that is true; but there is no remedy which I can perceive, for with all my efforts I am behind and have been utterly unable to get the paper out to-day.'

'The job of advertising you did yesterday, I presume is the cause of your being so late,' said she. Pray, did Mr. Q pay you for it—five dollars was it not?'

'Yes, but he said I must trust him a while; as money was so scarce.'

'Did you ever hear anything like it?' cried Mrs. G. indignantly—'money so scarce!—why this is the hue-and-cry from one end of the country to the other. I wonder how the people think a printer is to keep up the expenses of his office—type, ink, paper, fuel, rent, workmen—and support his family, if every human being thinks the plea, 'Money is so scarce' a sufficient excuse for defrauding him of his honest dues.'

'Defrauding is a hard word,' answered the husband, musingly, 'and yet to put a man off with promise, and perhaps never pay at all unless compelled, seems very like it. Did Mr U. bring grain to-day?' he inquired, suddenly changing this unpleasant subject.

'No, I saw him hauling a load to Mr. ——'s but he brought none here. You were in hopes that advertising for necessaries would have the desired effect, but you see there is nothing more easy than to be mistaken.'

'I think I was mistaken when I selected my occupation,' resumed the printer bitterly. 'Half the talent and energy (not to mention the labor) expended in any other pursuit, would have placed me ere this on the high road to independence. My life is one of never-ending drudgery, and yet how little do those of our patrons who are rolling in wealth ever reflect on the printer's actual wants—his many privations, or the shifts he is obliged to resort to on account of their want of punctuality in making payments. But I must not sit here talking all night, as I shall be obliged to rise betimes in the morning in order to get the paper out as early as possible.'

'I wonder what's the reason the paper don't come?' said old Squire Burley, the Cœsus of the village of N.., as he sat toasting his feet on the polished fender before a huge fire. It is pretty near tea time, and it snows so fast there is no getting abroad I wonder what that lazy editor can be about to-day.'

'That is about the twentieth time this afternoon you have wondered the same thing, Father,' said his daughter Hester, who sat at the window occupied with her worsted work. 'I never knew that a newspaper was so essential to your comfort.'

'Essential to my comfort Miss?' repeated the squire, turning towards her, with some asperity, 'I wonder whoever said that it was! There is some difference in a thing's being essential to your comfort, and being punctual yourself and a lover of punctuality in others.'

'Just so I think my dear,' chimed in Mrs. Burley, speaking from the depths of a cushioned chair, where she sat like comfort embodied, her feet half buried in the tufted flowers of the stool which supported them and partially dozing over her knitting work.

'Just so I think, if a person don't get a thing when they look for it they won't want it at all, and as the paper is very irregular if I were you I wouldstop it. There is Mr. M. takes several city papers you can borrow them, I dare say, when he gets through with reading them.'

'I believe I will,' said the squire, beating the Devil's Tattoo with his foot, 'there is no use in putting up with everything.'

'I hope you won't stop it for such a trifling reason, Father,' cried Hester with a pleading voice—"why we could get no local intelligence whatever: and how do you know but Mr. G. or some of his family are ill, that he has been unable to get it out to-day? Poor man he looks as though he had the consumption already, standing over his case as he does, and in my opinion no one can be more industrious and try harder to do his duty. Printers have a hard lot of it anyhow—a life of ceaseless slavery, with little thanks and less pay.'

'People are not expected to thank and pay both, my dear,' observed Mrs Burley with a smile of self-satisfaction.

'Father, have you paid Mr. Grayson regularly?' asked Hester with a mischievous glance directed toward her parent.

'Me,' said the Squire, slightly blushing, and fidgeting on his chair, 'I don't know as I have. He hasn't been printing but three or four years, and ne never asked me for it but once or twice, I didn't happen to have the change at the time—however, I shall go up and pay him off and stop the paper to-morrow morning."

"Man's inhumanity to man
Makes countless thousands mourn."

repeated Hester slowly. 'Pardon, me, my dear Father,' she continued more quickly, as she noticed his rising anger, "pray allow me a few words—they are these: I do not think those persons possessed as you are of wealth and many sources of comfort and happiness, can sympathize sufficiently with one in Grayson's situation.—See how he is tied down to his occupation—what heavy expenses he is obliged to incur—and what care, and attention, what great mental exertion it requires to cater for the taste of his hundreds of readers—and this attention whether inclined or not is continued. The poor editor is allowed no respite, holidays and seasons of enjoyment may come to all but to him, for the public are alike the daughter's of the horse leach; their whole cry is "Give! Give!" and the slightest omission of what they suppose to be the duty on his part—or a single exhibition of the frailty, to which he as well as all others are subject—or the most trifling failure in what they consider the terms of agreement is followed by an immediate withdrawal of patronage; and while his wants are totally disregarded, their portion of the contract is broken with the greatest of impunity.—Patrons would do well, it seems to me, to consider that the obligation is mutual. A good newspaper is worth to any family treble the sum usually paid for it, and the editor who is wearing out his existence in the effort to instruct, interest and amuse his readers, is every way worthy of a support liberally and promptly bestowed.'

'I guess you must be thinking of taking one of the craft yourself or you would not defend them so warmly said the Squire, quite restored to good humor as he looked at his graceful child, and rather pleased than otherwise at the fluency of her language—"but, as we have already had a summons to tea suppose we adjourn to the supper table.'

'They certainly are the victim of the greatest possible injustice,' continued Hester as she arose to follow after. I recollect reading a notice in a country paper the other day where the editor says 'we are out of everything—bring on what you please in the way of payment, for nothing can come amiss. Yet I dare affirm, the most negligent among those subscriber's would be the first to cry out if their particular taste and wishes were not consulted, and to throw up the paper for any cause however trifling. The best method in my opinion for obtaining a good paper, and for insuring punctuality, is for all interested in its success to fulfil at a proper time their part of the obligation. Let each one at a stated period pay his subscription—his item of the means necessary to bring about a result so desirable—and my word for it, the printer would be weighed in the balance and found wanting.'

PILGRIM CELEBRATION IN NEW YORK.

SPEECH OF DANIEL WEBSTER.

The anual festival of the New England Society in New York, in honor of the anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers, which occurred on Sunday, took place at the Astor House on Monday night by a sumptuous dinner, which appears to have been attended by one of the most brilliant audiences that ever assembled on a similar occasion. The Hon. M. H Grinnell presided, with the Hon. Daniel Webster on his right, and Sir Henry Lytton Bulwer upon his left. The regular toasts were introduced by the President and responded to by the Rev Mr. Bellows, J. Prescott Hall, Esq., and Mr. Grinnell, who gave—"The Constitution and the Union and their Chief Defender," which was received with great applause.

Mr. Webster rose to respond, and was greeted with tumultous cheers. He commenced as follows:

Mr President and Gentlemen of the New York New England Society:—Ye sons of New England! Ye brethren of the kindred tie! I have come hither to night not without some inconvenience, that I might behold such a congregation, whose face-bear lineaments of a New England origin, and whose hearts beat with full New England pulse. (Cheers.) I willingly make the sacrifice. Not a young man,—with blood in my veins—not very young, but, thank God, yet pretty fully and freely flowing,—I came here to meet this present great offshoot of the Pilgrim Society in Massachusetts,—the Pilgrim Society of New York. And gentlemen, I shall begin what I have to say, which is but little, by tendering to you my thanks for the invitation extended to me, and by wishing you all, all sorts of happiness and prosperity.

Gentlemen, this has been a stormy, a cold, a boisterous and an inclement day.—The winds have been harsh, the skies have been severe; and, if we had no houses over our heads,—if we had no security against the inclemency of the skies,—if we were wan and worn out,—if half of us were sick, and tired, and really to descend into the grave,—if we were on the bleak coast of Plymouth, houseless, homeless, with nothing over our heads but the heavens and the God who sits above the heavens,—if we had distressed wives on our arms, and hungry, and shivering children clinging to our skirts,—we should see something, and feel something, of that scene which in the Providence of God, was enacted at Plymouth on the 22d day of December, 1620.

Thanks be to Almighty God, who, from that distressed, early condition, has raised us to a height of prosperity and of happiness which our ancestors neither enjoyed nor could have anticipated! Would to God my friends—would to God that when we carry our affections and reflections back to that period, we would arm ourselves with the stern virtues which supported them in that state of peril and exposure! Would to God we posessed—and I hope we may possess in some degree—the resolution which they possessed, stronger than brass or iron, that patience, "sovereign o'er transmuted ills," and, above all that faith, that religious faith, which with eyes fixed upon heaven tramples all things earthly beneath its triumphant feet!—(Cheers.)

Gentlemen, the scenes of this world change. What our ancestors saw and felt we shall not feel. The severer duties of life, and calls for the exercise of the severer virtues of life, were theirs. They were called upon for perseverance, for abstinence and for labor. They were called upon for the exercise of those austerer virtues, the exercise of which before they came here, made them, as they were, austere men—Things have changed. In the progress of society, the fashions of life, the habits of life, the conditions of human life have all changed. Their sterner virtues we are not called on, in every respect, to emulate or commend,—or rather to emulate, for we should commend them always when we consider the state of society in which they were exercised. They had that religious sentiment, that trust in Providence, that determination to do right and to seek, through every degree of toil and suffering, the honor of God and the preservation of their liberties, which we shall do well to cherish. In the progress of society, it may be, and it is, true, that the milder virtues belong more especially to us.

They had been great sufferers from intolerance; it was not unnatural that their faith and practice, as a consequence of that state, should be regarded as somewhat intolerant. It is to be hoped that the greater spread of the benignant principles of religion—of the character of Christianity, has to some extent improved the sentiments which prevailed then. No doubt they were attached to peculiar forms of public worship and tenets. No doubt they esteemed their religious tenets and the observance which they practised, to be all binding on the authority of the Word of God. It is true, I think, that in the progress of society, in the general advancement of human sentiment, we find what they do not seem to have found, that a greater toleration of religious opinion, a more friendly feeling towards all who profess reverence for God, is not inconsistent with the great principles of religion and of liberty, which they professed.

Mr. W. then discussed the happy condition of our country, the enlarged and comprehensive christian philanthrophy established by our fathers, alluded to the first voyage of the May Flower, and the constitution the Pilgrims first formed, and concluded as follows:

Now it is our duty, while we live on the earth, to cherish this sentiment, to make it prevail over the whole country, even if it should spread over the whole continent It is our duty to carry English principles—I mean Sir, (said Mr. Webster, turning to Sir Henry Bulwer,) Anglo-Saxon *American* principles, over the whole continent—the great principles of Magna Charta, of the English revolution and the English language Our children will hear Shakespeare and Milton recited on the shores of the Pacific. Nay, before that, American ideas, which are essentially English ideas, will generate the Mexican—the Spanish mind, and they will thank God that they have been brought to know something of civil liberty, of the trial by jury and of security for personal rights.

As for the rest, let us take courage.—The day-spring from on high has visited us. There is no longer imminent danger of dissolution in these United States.—(Loud and repeated cheers.) We shall live and not die. We shall live as United Americans; and those who have supposed that they could sever us, could rend one American heart from another, and that speculations and hypothesis, that secession and metaphysics, could tear us assunder, will find themselves dreadfully mistaken. (Cheers.)

Let the mind of the sober American people remain sober. Let it not inflame itself. Let it do justice to all. And the truest course, and the surest course, to satisfy those who meditate disunion is just to leave them to themselves, and see what they can make of it. No, gentlemen, the time is past. Americans north and south will hereafter be more & more united There is a sternness and severity in the public mind lately aroused. I believe that, north and south, there has been, in the last year, a renovation of public sentiment, of the spirit of the Union, and more than all, of attachment to the Constitution, and in regarding it as indispensal ly necessary, and if we would preserve our nationality, that this spirit of devotion should be largely increased. And who doubts it? If we give up that constitution, what are we?—You are a Manhattan man—I am a Boston man. Another is a Connecticut and another a Rhode Island man. Is it not a great deal better, standing hand to hand, and clasping hands, that we should stand as we have for sixty years,—citizens of the same country,—members of the same Government, united all,—united now and forever? *That we shall be, gentlemen.*—There have been difficulties, contentions,—controversies. But I tell you, that in my judgment,

"those opposed eyes,
Which, like the meteors of troubled heaven,
All of one nature and of one substance bred,
Did lately meet in the intestine shock,
Shall now, in mutual well-beseeming ranks,
MARCH ALL ONE WAY."

Mr. Webster resumed his seat amid enthusiastic applause

ARRIVAL OF THE OHIO AT NORFOLK.—*Fearful and Perilous Voyage—Passengers three Days at the Pumps.*—The U. S. Mail Steamship Ohio, bound to New York, from New Orleans and Havana, with a number of Baltimoreans and others on board, put into Norfolk, on Thursday week, in distress, after a most perilous voyage.

On leaving Havana last Wednesday two weeks, an accident happened to her machinery, which detained her a day in the harbor, whence she departed on Thursday, with the perfect use of only one of her engines.

On quitting Havana it was soon noticed by those skilled in marine life, that the Ohio was but badly prepared to encounter the risks of a winter approach to our Northern shores. Her single operative engine was, in all likelihood, unequal to the task of encountering the violent storms along those coasts, and her frail masts and light sails could afford but slender protection if she were forced to "lay to," or if her engine proved useless on a lee-shore or in the open sea.

However, all went fairly and prosperously until last Sunday night, when the breeze, which had all day been freshing, rose to a violent gale, in the midst of which the engine stopped on its centre, and the ship broached to in the midst of the tremendous sea that had been already raised by the violent wind. Skilful seamanship immediately rescued her for the moment, but from that hour until the morning of the 25th of December, the Ohio was forced to "lay to" under the scantest sail, and to bear the brunt of the hurricane.

Her immense size made her unmanageable by canvas. She lay like a log in the trough of the sea, rolling between the walls of waves that towered on either side of her, and threatened her immediate destruction.

Sad as was the plight of the gallant ship from these events, she was destined to encounter another danger. On Tuesday morning it was announced that she had sprung a leak, and that the rising water had extinguished the fires beneath the boilers! This dreadful announcement at once aroused the energies of the passengers who manfully organized in bands under the charge of Gen'l. Benj. C. Howard, of Baltimore, and from that moment until she passed Cape Henry, the Ohio was, under Providence, freed by their incessant, but patient labors, together with those of the officers and crew, and enabled to recover the use of her engines on the morning of the 25th.

There were several lady passengers on board the Ohio, but, throughout the perils, their noble fortitude encouraged and nerved all who were in a condition to labor for the vessel's safety.

The damage to the vessel will amount to $30 000, and will require her to be taken into the Dry Dock at Norfolk. It appears she sprung aleak at 2 o'clock on Tuesday morning, and leaked so fast that the passengers had to be called on to assist at the pumps, there being ten feet of water in the hold. Bailing was also resorted to, so that by these contrivances the water was sufficiently lowered by noon on Wednesday, to enable the crew to rekindle the fires in the engine room, which had been extinguished by the rapidity of the leak on the first day. Steam was thus got up again, but until reaching Norfolk on Thursday afternoon, the pumps had to be kept going to prevent the fires from being again extinguished. Her hull is greatly damaged and her furniture nearly broken to pieces

The Ohio has on board about 450 passengers, 250 of whom were from California. The Norfolk boat brought up to this city, yesterday, 150 of her passengers, and the California mails.

Among the passengers were the Hon Reverdy Johnson, Gen. Benj C Howard, and Brantz Mayer, Esq., of Baltimore.

THE NEW YORK FUGITIVE CASE.

The U. S. Commissioners refused to adjourn the examination of the case on Friday, in consequence of the writ of habeas corpus issued from the Superior Court; but at the request of Long's counsel, consented to do so until half past two o'clock.

In the meantime, Long was taken before Judge Campbell, when Mr. Western, counsel for the claimant, protested against the interference of that court, and denied its jurisdiction. "If," he said, "the State of New York, as represented by her magistrate, puts herself in collision with the U States authority, I will have nothing to say to it. Let N. York fight her own battles. A higher authority gives me the right to take my property, and if New York interferes, let her take the consequences." Mr. White asked, that until the court decide this matter, Long be transferred to the custody of the sheriff, and contended that the process by which he was now held in custody was nugatory, as Mr Hall was not a United States Commissioner. After considerable discussion, however, the Judge refused to remove Long from the custody of the Marshal, and the further hearing of the case, before the court under the writ of habeas corpus, was adjourned until Saturday, at 1 o'clock, P. M.

The examination was subsequently resumed befofore Commissioner Hall, and evidence for the defence adduced, Mr. Jay denying at the same time any power on the part of Mr. Hall to act in the matter

As soon as Judge Edmonds took his seat in the Supreme Court, special term, on Saturday, the U. S. Marshal appeared with Henry Long, in obedience to a writ of habeas corpus returnable before the general term of the Supreme Court. The writ being read, his honor said he would not act in the matter then, as the general term stands adjourned to the first Monday in January.

Long's Counsel had no objection to the writ being altered from the general to the special term; but this could not be done to suit all concerned; and the Marshal left the court with the fugitive in custody, and proceeded to the chambers of the U. S. Commissioner.

The prisoner, Long, and counsel, on both appearing before Commissioner Hall, Eliza Dickinson, a colored woman, was sworn. The substance of her testimony was that she knew the prisoner, Long, in November, 1847, when he lived with her, and since that period she has known him to reside in the city.

Mr. Western asked the Commissioner for a subpœna for a Mr. Barker, whom he said would testify to Long being a slave in Virginia two years ago. He, however, contradicted himself, and could actually prove nothing. Other witnesses were to be examined, and the case was still progressing on Saturday afternoon.

The New York Commercial, of Saturday, in reference to the case, says:—

Mr. Jay, for the prisoner, said that his object in the application to the Supreme Court of this State, in Banco, for a writ of habeas corpus was to have the whole proceedings under the fugitive slave law reviewed, and the constitutionality of the law itself tested by taking the case directly before the Court of Appeals and, if necessary before the Supreme Court of the United States. This would be the best course for all parties and is, in fact the only legitimate mode of settling the whole dispute about the recent act of Congress.—Let it by all means be carried to the supreme judicature which alone can decide authoritatively upon its constitutionality.

Mr. Western counsel for claimant, also made a proposition which we think is still better. He proposed that Mr. Jay, instead of taking out his habeas corpus to the Supreme Court of the State, should take it direct to the Supreme Court of the United States by which a long delay and we apprehend much expense as well as provocation would be avoided.

THE SLAVE CASE IN PHILADELPHIA.—The great objection urged against the fugitive slave law at the North is, that freemen may be taken and made slaves of—That mistakes might occur was considered possible; but in such case, that they would be immediately rectified at the South by the restoration to liberty of the party arrested, we never entertained a doubt. It seems that, in the recent slave case in Philadelphia a mistake did occur, and that the wrong individual was arrested and brought into Maryland. How the mistake occurred we cannot say; but so soon as the supposed fugitive was discovered not to be the person sought, he was immediately set at liberty, and he was sent back to his home in Philadelphia This proves what we have often asserted, that the rights of the colored people are as well protected in the slave States as elsewhere. Had an effort been made to reduce the man brought from Philadelphia to slavery, it could not have succeeded, as the courts of justice here are as open to claimants for freedom as they are to owners of slaves; and lawyers, judges and jurors are as prompt to protect them in their rights. We regret that the mistake occurred, though the correction was so instant; for it may induce evil minded persons to suppose that the law can be made to operate oppressively. In this case the man was subjected to temporary inconvenience, but he was restored to his rights immediately on the discovery of the error. We trust that owners will be careful to entrust the recovery of their slaves to persons who can identify them without mistake, as occurrences like that of which we have spoken are unpleasant.—*Balt. Clipper.*

COST OF THE MEXICAN WAR.

"Thus we have, as expenditures and liabilities; chargeable directly to said war, and the acquisitions of territory consequent upon the treaty of peace, the sum of $217,175,575 81.

"This does not include many claims presented and to be presented, arising indirectly from the war, their great variety forbidding even an approximation either as to number or amount."—*Secretary Corwin's Report.*

The enormous sum of *two hundred and seventeen millions* of Dollars has been paid, or is to be paid, as the cost of the late war with Mexico, yet, because a Whig Administration have demanded an additional amount of revenue to meet the interest to be paid on these immense expenses, and the claims daily presented, the cry of extravagance has been raised by the whole Locofoco press But here we have the true scource of all that is demanded by the Whig Secretary to meet the current expenses of the year. The Locofoco Administration of Mr. Polk could saddle the nation with an expense of the above appalling amount, and not a word of "extravagance" was breathed by their press.

During the coming year there must be enumerated as drafts on the Treasury the interest on the war debt; the claims yet due for services in the war; the Texan boundary stock with its interest; the value of the public lands bestowed as gratuities on the soldiers; the claims to be paid to our citizens under the Mexican treaty; the portion of the purchase money of California due during the year; and the charges for running the boundary line, for the survey of the western coast, and for the increased judicial and legislative expenses connected with an increase of territory. All these drafts on the Treasury are the results and necessary consequences of the Mexican war, an exclusive Locofoco measure, and they can never, with any degree of justice, be chargeable upon *Whig* extravagance

From this same war have arisen likewise the evils and dangers now threatening the perpetuity of our Government. No question of extensive slavery would have agitated our nation but for the territory acquired from Mexico. None of the evils of secession would have existed, or perils of separation have been feared, but for this war.

A more complete refutation of the accusation of Whig extravagance could never have been conceived. A more perfect exhibition of the recklessness of Locofoco expenditure could never have been presented. —*Connecticut Courant.*

ALARMING SCENE IN A THEATRE.—During the performance on Tuesday night, at Niblo's theatre, N. Y., Miss Adele Lehman, was ascending a short ladder, which had been placed too near the lights at one of the winds when her dress, being made of very light material, instantly took fire and in a moment she was enveloped in flames. One of the Ravels instantly seized a blanket which was fortunately at hand and wrapping it around her, extinguished the flames but not until she was very seriously burned. The lady will propably be unable to resume her duties for several days

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