

In the first ages of the world, vice, it is said, was unknown among the sons of men. The descendants of our first parents, for many generations, spent their days in the enjoyment of those tranquil and pure pleasures, which spring from innocence and love, and from gratitude to the beneficent beings, by whom these blessings were bestowed. The earth was then watered by innumerable streams, and covered with perpetual verdure. The forests were filled with lofty and majestic trees, whose shade invited to meditation or repose; while on their wide spread branches the feathered choir displayed the beauties of their plumage, and warbled throughout the day, either songs of joy, or solicitations to love. The fields and meadows were embellished by cornel's flowers, diffusing fragrance through the air; and produced, though not spontaneously, yet in abundance, those nourishing fruits, which imparted beauty to women, and health and strength to man. It was indeed the golden age; and the celestial beings, contemplating the felicity which was enjoyed below, designed sometimes to assume a human shape, and for a time, to make their abode on earth among the wife and happy mortal who then possessed it. But after the lapse of many centuries, man became tired of the pleasures which he had so long been permitted to enjoy. The Demon of selfishness, escaping from the gulch of Tartarus to which ages before, by a council of the Gods, he had been condemned, found his way to the habitations of men, and seduced the greater part of the human race from the allegiance which they owed to their celestial benefactors. The enemies of the invader were firm, and for a long time maintained an unequal conflict; but they were finally overpowered by numbers, and almost entirely destroyed. From that time, the Gods renounced all intercourse with men; and left the earth and its inhabitants a prey to those physical and moral evils which have since never ceased to afflict them.

Among those who had exerted themselves to oppose this humiliating revolution, Truth and Eloquence had borne the most conspicuous part.

Truth and Eloquence. It has been sometimes said, were of celestial origin. But this opinion is not correct. Truth was the legitimate daughter of Labor and Wisdom, the most venerable among the inhabitants of the Antediluvian world. Amidst the confusion and crises, which induced the Gods to abandon the earth, Labor had been seized by the passions of selfishness, beaten with many stripes, loaded with chains, and compelled to toil for the benefit of others. Wisdom did not experience equal cruelty, but she was banished by a decree of the usurpers. The place of her retreat has never yet been discovered. It is said that her footsteps have been sometimes traced in Europe, and that they have been distinctly perceived in America; but it seems most probable that Minerva, who respected her virtues and pitied her sufferings, soon procured her a seat in heaven, and thus placed her beyond the reach of men, who, in every age, and in every country, have proved by their conduct, their entire contempt for her character and counsels.

Truth has been the favorite of Minerva. Many of her most years she had spent under the immediate guardianship of the Goddess, and by her she was irrevocably confirmed, in those principles which she had been taught by her venerable parents. On her first acquaintance, her countenance shined gloomy and her manners austere. Her conversation was generally serious, and her language plain. The votaries of pleasure, awed by her looks, avoided her society; the advocates of vice trembled in her presence; but to those who knew her well, she appeared invariably graceful and benevolent; and even her worst enemies, after a few interviews, have sometimes acknowledged the injustice of their first impressions, and devoted their lives to her service, with unalterable fidelity and zeal.

The birth of Eloquence was not to be respectable. She was the child of Enthusiasm, and on her mother's side, was nearly related to some of the first families of the ancient world—to Taste, Fancy, Sensibility, Genius, Benevolence and Virtue. But who her father was, is yet unknown. Some have thought, that she displayed a strong resemblance to Ambition; others have been equally confident that she bore the features of Avarice. But however divided men might be as to her birth, they were unanimous in their approbation of herself. The expression of her eye, varying with every thought; the melody of her voice, whether in persuasion or command; the grace and dignity of her gestures; her prompt wit; her extensive knowledge, made her the object of univer-

sal admiration. But her fortune when young was not so auspicious as that of Truth. Her mother, though passionately fond of her, sometimes left her. Carried away by her own contemplations, she forgot for a time her darling child. It chanced that Mercury found her during the absence of her mother, and struck with the readiness of her infantine replies, he carried her away. He retained her in his hands for a considerable time, and did not return her to her mother, until he and his friend Proteus had amused themselves with teaching her some of the arts by which they had been accustomed to impose upon mankind. The impression upon the mind of the infant, produced by this dilatory event, was not, however, immediately perceived.

At the commencement of the conflict, which we have mentioned, Truth and Eloquence were in full maturity. In the age of innocence they had been inseparable companions. Eloquence had imbibed from her mother, the most ardent affection for Truth, and notwithstanding her own aspiring temper, had, for a long time, voluntarily acted as her attendant and handmaid. Beloved by the Gods, and for a long time reflected by men, they had exerted their united influence and powers, to avert from mankind the evils which they foresaw their enemies designed to accomplish, to overthrow them. But now, notwithstanding the united influence which they exerted, they did not succeed in their purpose, and with the approbation of the Gods, who had foreseen their departure from the earth, they joined their forces to live in mortal combat, in the prosecution of their respective good of mankind, and to the mutual difficulties of their contest. Truth, though she was not a combatant, continued to aid her friend, and though not a combatant, she was not a spectator. She knew it would be a vain effort, with her many or her few, to overthrow the Eloquence as a principle of evil. Her Eloquence seized upon the most profitable point of Truth's position, and her voice, sweet as the sound of her harp, touched by the hand of Apollo, congratulated herself on the fulfilment of a compact, which alone could justify a hope that she could be useful to the world. The celestial audience, impressed with reverence for the exalted character of Truth and delighted by the charms of Eloquence, gave them their benediction, and departed for ever.

Such were Truth and Eloquence, when they formed their compact. Truth reflected that this alliance would facilitate her progress, and that the aid of Eloquence would more effectually detect mankind, to receive from her these salutary counsels, on which the welfare of the whole race depended. On the other hand, Eloquence knew that victory as the world had become, her admirers, unless excited by her ally, they might be led with pleasure, could not long be regarded with reverence.

The treaty being thus formed, the confederates began their career together, with entire good faith. They adhered to their law, and endeavored to reclaim men, who had patience to hear them, from the brutality of ignorance, and the misery of vice. Truth, as being truly to her exalted principles, pursued an unswerving course. Without regard to wealth or power, in the guided passage, and she never built thrones to the tyrant and the slave; her manners and her language were the same. Pride was always offended by her sincerity. Power always felt uncontrollable terror at her approach. They therefore combined against her, insulted her in gross and barbarous terms, and often offered violence to her person. Upon occasions like these, Eloquence, stepped forth to rescue her friend from danger. She often succeeded in appeasing the wrath of those who had been employed to persecute her, and sometimes convinced them that she was worthy of their friendship and admiration.

In process of time, Eloquence began to perceive that she herself was acting only a secondary part. Truth was always treated by their mutual friends, with the most profound respect; while that which was paid to herself, seemed daily to be diminished—and what was still more mortifying, to be diminished exactly in proportion as their acquaintance with Truth increased. She never failed at first to receive the tribute of their fervent admiration; but in time this admiration subsided, and in some instances totally disappeared. In fact she discovered that she was still regarded merely as the handmaid of Truth, and that upon many occasions her presence was deemed not only unnecessary, but inconvenient; that she served no other purpose but to call the attention of mankind to the merits of her friend; of which, when her hearers were convinced, they gradually lost their respect for herself, by whom they were introduced. In the excess of her mortification, one day made a pathetic complaint on this subject, in the hearing of Truth. With the candour with which she always spoke, Truth told her, it was in vain to repine, as her unaided talents, brilliant as they were, however they might amuse the idle, could never permanently secure for her the respect or friendship of the wife. Eloquence, mortally offended at this reply, declared the treaty void and separated herself immediately from her friend. Truth, unmoved at this event, pursued steadily the same course which she had

before marked out; but finding herself sometimes impeded in her progress for want of her former associate, endeavored to recollect and to adopt some of the graces by which she had been distinguished. She learned, therefore, in process of time, to lay aside the awkward and negligent phraseology, which she was accustomed to use, and to express her sentiments, not only with the animation and firmness which she had before displayed, but in language which, though plain, was always correct, selected with care, and elegantly arranged. From the first moment of separation, Truth has never sought the society of Eloquence. It is true that she does not avoid her, but she never goes out of her way to seek her. The aid of Eloquence on any momentous occurrence is accepted, if offered, but it is never solicited, Truth is always content to rely upon herself. She is right. Her credit is daily rising, and she is now known to multitudes, by the simplicity of her manners, the plainness, perfectness and brevity of her discourse, the unflinching firmness of her mind, and her unconquerable attachment to every principle tending to promote the liberty & happiness of mankind.

Eloquence, after she had leisure for reflection, soon perceived that this separation, if generally known, would greatly injure her influence. She took therefore the utmost care to conceal it. When she was animated by the most deadly hate, she failed not to profess the most ardent veneration for her ancient ally, and often availing herself of what she had learned in her infancy, assumed her appearance, as well as her name. In this manner, and in this way, she has invariably succeeded in gaining an audience, and has not failed to advocate the most dangerous doctrines. She has not only deceived the ignorant, but the avarice, the has become occasionally the advocate of murder, of robbery, of perjury, of war, and of every act which injures individuals, or lacerates a world. To gratify her insatiable love of fame, and to satisfy her will, she will take any side, if any question, and at her own expense, she will contend that her principles shall be condemned. Such is her abundant generosity, that she has been known to denounce Truth herself, as an impostor and to claim in the name of Truth for herself, the homage and admiration of the world.

But this shameful prostitution of her splendid talents, is not without some interruptions. Sometimes, induced by her mother's spirit, she avows herself to the service of Truth with the zeal and the purity of her ancient friendship. Then it is that she assumes a new form. Her voice seems more than human. Her eyes seem to flash with the fire of heaven, & delivering only the precepts of Truth, she is heard with ten thousand emotions, which she alone is able to describe.

So profuse, however, has her conduct generally been, that she has excited the general indignation of mankind; and unless she will be content to be again banished from the earth, it is said, that a petition will be speedily presented to the Gods, praying that she may be forever banished from the earth.

Congress OF THE United States of America. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9.
The bill from the Senate concerning the ascertaining and adjusting titles and claims to land in the territory of Orleans, was read the first and second time and committed to a committee of the whole House, on Monday next.

Mr. Latimore reported on the memorial of the legislative council and House of Representatives of the Mississippi territory, which was committed to a committee of the whole on Monday next.

Mr. Latimore also reported a bill extending the right of suffrage in the Mississippi territory; which was read the first and second time, and committed to a committee of the whole House, on Monday next.

Mr. Cavanaugh, from the committee of commerce and manufactures, presented a bill making Plymouth, (N. C.) a port of call, which was read the first and second time, and committed to a committee of the whole House, on Monday next.

Mr. Southard reported a bill authorizing the secretary at war to issue military land warrants, which was read the first and second time, and committed to a committee of the whole House, on Tuesday next.

The memorial of sundry citizens of Delaware, praying that New Castle may be made a port of entry, presented December 26, 1863, and a report of the committee of commerce and manufactures, made at the last session were ordered to be referred to the committee of commerce and manufactures.

Mr. Claiborne, moved to refer the petition of Amy Dardin to a committee of the whole House, this day. Agreed to. The House concurred in the amendment proposed by the Senate to this bill making appropriations for the support of the military establishment for the year, 1865.

The House proceeded to consider the report of the committee of claims, on the petition of Peter Pedesclaux of New Orleans, when the farther consideration thereof was postponed until Monday next.

The memorials and petitions of Samuel B. Beall, James Bonnell, Seth Bowen, John Chamberlain, Eli Elmer, Jonathan Moore, William T. Smith and Moses Young, were referred to the committee to whom was referred the bill for extinguishing the debts due from the United States.

The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, and attended the trial of Samuel Chase, and after some time spent therein, the committee returned, and Mr. Speaker having resumed the chair.

Mr. Varnum reported, that the committee had attended the said trial and that progress had been made therein. Adjourned.

MONDAY, February 11.
The speaker laid before the House, a letter from the post master general, accompanying his report on the petition of sundry inhabitants of Newbern, (N. C.) Ordered to lie on the table.

A petition was presented from Anthony Benzet and others, which was referred to the committee of ways and means.

Petitions were presented to the House from Francis Duclax, of Swanton (Vt.) Rone t Simpson, Gloucester, (Virg.) and Peter D. Demorast, (N. Y.) which were severally referred to the committee of claims.

Petitions of John M. Faxon, and of John M. Faxon and Francis Johnson, of Baltimore, (Md.) were presented to the House and ordered to be referred to the secretary of the treasury.

Petitions of sundry inhabitants of the state of Pennsylvania were presented to the House for the establishment of a post road from Bethlehem to Berwick, &c.

Referred to the committee on post offices and post roads.

The House resumed the consideration of the report of the committee of Claims on the petition of Peter Pedesclaux, of New Orleans. When it was

Resolved, That Peter Pedesclaux have leave to withdraw his petition.

The House according to the order of the day, resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

Mr. Gregg in the chair,
On the petition of Amy Dardin; and after some time spent therein, the committee rose and reported the following resolution:

Resolved, That the prayer of Amy Dardin is reasonable and ought to be granted.

Ordered, that M. Claiborne, Mr. Elliott and Mr. Conrad do prepare a bill pursuant to the said resolution.

A message was received from the Senate, notifying that they had considered the bill declaring the assent of Congress to an act of the general assembly of N. Carolina and have resolved that it do not pass.

The House, according to the order of the day, resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

Mr. Gregg in the chair,
On the bill to establish the districts of Gloucester, of Blaine creek and of Miami; and to alter the port of entry of the district of Erie; and after some time spent therein, the committee rose and reported the bill without amendment.

Ordered, that it be engrossed for a third reading to-morrow.

Mr. Lowndes reported a bill declaring the consent of Congress to an act of the state of South Carolina passed on the 21st Dec. 1863, as far as it relates to authorizing the city council of Charleston, to impose and collect a duty on the tonnage of vessels from foreign ports, which was read the first and second time and committed to a committee of the whole House, to-morrow.

The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, and attended the trial of Samuel Chase; and after some time spent therein, the committee returned, and Mr. Speaker having resumed the chair.

Mr. Varnum reported, that the committee had attended the said trial, and that a farther progress had been made therein. Adjourned.

NEW-ORLEANS, December 21.
COMMUNICATION. Yeste day was celebrated here, the anniversary of the 20th December. The day was ushered in by Cannon.—In the morning the troops and uniform companies paraded in front of the Principal, where they were reviewed by his Excellency the Governor; the military then went through their manoeuvres and firing, in the presence of a great concourse of people assembled on this memorable occasion. It is with pleasure we notice the neatness and discipline exhibited by the United States' troops. Their appearance would do honor to the soldiers of any nation, and is flattering to the officers by whom they are commanded. Their firings were performed with an exactness, that excited admiration, and their appearance was highly military. The Cavalry and Volunteer companies fired in their turn, and displayed the military ardor and amor patriæ, which induced the formation of these corps. A federal salute from Fort Charles finished the military ho-

nors of the day. The windows on each side the place d'arms, were filled with spectators, and the beautiful figures of the Ladies passing to and fro, completed this interesting scene. A collation was given to the citizens by his Excellency, and a band of music, during the repast, played many agreeable and patriotic airs.

In short, view the commemoration in every part, it will be highly honorable to the American character. From the Theatre the inhabitants retired to a splendid Ball; the company in the Ball room was numerous and respectable; exhibiting throughout the evening, a cheerfulness, a love of order and decorum, which delights, and we are all anxious to see; the pleasure of the ball was not disturbed by a single murmur, and we trust the same harmony would prevail on the like occasions.

"NICKEL" shall appear in our next. His arguments in favor of Bell ringing are incontrovertible.

Proceedings of Congress.—Our readers will observe that in those proceedings, some irregularity as to dates has occurred in detailing them. It may be necessary to inform them that the cause of this apparent neglect must be attributed to an irregular receipt of the Intelligencer, for these few days past from which they have been uniformly taken.

COMMUNICATION. TO THE PUBLIC.

FROM necessity and the natural habits of their sex, it is well known that females cannot engage in those various occupations to which men can turn their attention, with so much ease as well as profit to themselves. Dependent females are almost limited to one branch of business—indeed, they may literally be said to be bound for life to the needle and thread. In this city, however, the remark applies with peculiar force; for here, this numerous class of women derive their daily support almost exclusively from such small pieces of work as can be had occasionally from the tailors, or on the very precarious employment to be procured from the shelves of the shopkeeper. But the sum which they receive for their work, when done, is of so small account as scarcely to defray their necessary and immediate expenses; so, that when any disappointment happens, or any interruption takes place in their business, every resource vanishes, as it were instantaneously, leaving them not infrequently reduced to the greatest poverty and distress. And who can doubt, that having failed in every honorable attempt to support themselves by honest industry, there are at this time many of those miserable objects of our daily charity, to whom, if at an earlier period we had extended only the hand of our protection, we might perhaps have saved from poverty and ruin, and at this moment, instead of regarding them as objects of our scorn or compassion, we might yet have looked to them as an honor to their parents and worthy ornaments of our society.

Reflecting thus on the present state of society in this city, it has occurred to many humane persons, that although with open hearts and open purses we fly to the relief of the poor whenever they want any relief of the common necessities of life; yet other and much greater distresses still exist, and we can still perceive that we have left undone much that it is yet our duty to do. Hence has arisen the idea of a society to protect and assist those dependent females, whose moral character yet remains unspotted, and to encourage them to pursue with undeviating steps the virtuous path of honest industry.

For this purpose let an association be formed by such benevolent persons as may approve of the experiment. Let them raise on loan a capital stock of \$5000 dollars in shares of 20 dollars each redeemable annually. This stock it is supposed will be sufficient for the society to carry on an extensive business in the making up of all kinds of wearing apparel. Let the society be governed by proper directors who would rent a house or store, contract for materials and dispose of all manufactures made up for the society. Let them also employ an active superintendent, and one or two assistants who can cut out and prepare as many pieces of useful needle work as will afford constant employment to any number of females their funds will admit. Let the society be punctual in their engagements, and pay customary prices, in cash, for all work done for them. But as a further incitement to industry, and to render every possible assistance to such females as may be esteemed worthy the care and protection of the society, let the directors quarterly, or as often as they may see fit, form an accurate estimate of all the work done, expenses incurred, and profits gained, by the society; the full amount of which profits shall be then divided amongst those who have been employed by the society, proportionally to the work which may have been done by them respectively.