

Miscellaneous.

From the Saturday Press.
All about Shakspeare.
William Shakspeare was born April 1st, in the delightful village Avon on the west side of Stratford-upon-Avon.

The Free Press.

BURLINGTON, FRIDAY MORNING DEC. 15, 1865.

President Johnson's First Message.
Few messages have ever been looked for with more interest than was this of President Johnson.

Trouble in the Penian Camp.

There seems to be a very lively little row in progress among the chiefs of the new Penian Republic. It is said that the extravagance of President O'Mahoney, and the way he was rushing things generally, has given considerable dissatisfaction among the Brothers.

U. S. ASSISTANT ASSASSOR.—The appointment of Carus Noyes Esq., as Assistant Assessor for this district is officially announced in another column.

Our account will be incomplete without notice of some highly enthusiastic and patriotic remarks made to the battalion after they stacked arms in front of the Hall, by Mr. John Stephens, Shoemaker in the employ of A. Prouty of whose speech we regret that we have not an accurate report.

The President does not own that his plan of reconstruction has failed. On the contrary he vindicates it, as far as it has gone. He owns it was risky; but he avers that he took the smallest risk, and he does not own that he has been disappointed thus far in its results.

In regard to the freedmen, the President believes he had no right to confer honors on them, and sustains his position by the avowal that if the Executive should confer special rights upon colored men in the South and Southwest, he must do likewise in the States of the North and Northwest.

Another of our friends is a certain Richard H. E., a Farmer from Gloucester, who was engaged in the career of striking like and smothering rebellion, to care up his family by an iron hand.

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The Convention of the Freedmen.
From the reports of the schools, from officers appointed by Government and others, alarming reports relative to the condition and prospects of the freedmen have reached our attention, and demand immediate action.

Having himself occupied the position of agent of the Irish, he tells a story of twelve hundred dollars per year is attached, and being perpetually ready for sale.

Wood Grower's Convention.
A National Convention of Manufacturers and Wood Growers was held at Stratton, N. Y., on Wednesday, Dec. 13, 1865.

Reception of the Ninth Vt. Battalion.
The Ninth Vt. Battalion, led by Richard on Sunday evening last, reached Burlington at noon, on the 6th—an unusually quick trip.

Another Nail.
Georgia, one of the original "Secession" States, has driven another nail in the coffin of slavery by ratifying the Constitutional Amendment.

Police Court.
MONDAY, Dec. 5, 1865.
The Court met pursuant to standing rule, the President in the Chair.

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The question of taxing the government securities, which form the largest capital of the national banks, is argued at length, as well as the proposed taxation of the national banks, and both these measures are believed to be inequitable with public policy and unconstitutional in spirit.

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Goliath. David says, "There is none like thee; give it me," showing that that upon a weapon was well adapted to his power, and just the thing for him for self defence. [1 Sam. xiii. 8, 9.]

Now as to his size. In those times of hand to hand fighting, personal prowess, great size and strength were the qualities for a leader; and for the Israelites, who were then in abject subjection to the Philistines, size and strength would be especially sought for in the choice of a king. Saul was evidently chosen for his great size by Samuel, and for the same reason the choice was ratified by the people with enthusiasm. "When he stood among the people, he was higher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward. And Samuel said to all the people, See ye him whom the Lord hath chosen; there is none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, God save the king. [1 Samuel, x. 23, 24.]

David was the armor-bearer of Saul, and he was from the shoulders upward higher than any other Israelite—probably more than seven feet; no "little" David could have carried his armor. When David volunteered to meet Goliath, Saul offered his own armor to him to wear, and gave him his sword, perhaps because no others were large enough for him. David put them on, but lightly took them off, not because they were too large, but because he was not used to armor. Saul would never have offered his giant armor to say "little" David, nor would a shepherd-lad have put it on. (1 Sam. xviii. 38, 39.)

He must have been as tall as Saul, and strong in proportion to his size. Goliath himself avows David because he was young, armed only with a staff, but does not speak of his size, or any other deficiency, except his having no arms, as rendering him unfit to accept the giant's challenge. "Give me a man, that may fight together."

The stratagem of David was characteristic of his sagacity and wisdom. To deceive the Philistines he went into the field as "behold and not as a man of war; he took his slings in his hand," he put his stones "in his shepherd's bag which he had," and his sling was "in his hand," concealed in his hand. Goliath was thrown off his guard. (1 Sam. xviii. 40, 42, 43.)

David's great strength and skill being considered, the overthrow of Goliath was to be expected. His death was certain. The sling, in those days, was a wonderful weapon in the hands of those who were skillful in the use of it, especially if they were men of great muscular power in the arms. The precision with which stones were thrown as well as the velocity, is almost inconceivable to us. The slingers were the sharpshooters of the early wars of the Jews. In the tribe of Benjamin alone there were "seven hundred chosen men, left-handed, every one of whom could sling stones at a hair-breadth and miss." (Judg. xv. 16.)

According to Piny, the people of Palestine were not only the first to adopt this powerful weapon, but were also the most skillful in the use of it, and from Diodorus and Vegetius, we learn that the inhabitants of the Balaeric islands (Majorca and Minorca) were also great slingers. They compelled their children to grow hungry till they could bring down game for their food, with their slings. A man of great strength would kill an enemy, encased in armor, at the distance of thirty rods, without shedding a drop of blood—so great was the shock—and they rarely missed. Engr. art. Fronte.