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THE EUROPEAN.

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THE POOR.

Poverty and Starvation in the United States.

[From the American Celt, New York, March 14.]

A Vermont Yankee on American and Canadian Hospitality.

"All we say is, that *no one*, however poor, need go to the poor-house in the United States, if he is only able to work. We have more than all who come can do. It is the cramped and depressed colonial system of Great Britain that we referred to as the source of what we call inhospitable in Canada."—*New York Freeman's Journal*.

The first sentence of this statement is as untrue as the last one is audacious. Within as many weeks we have had in this city alone three deaths from downright starvation. McDonogh poisoned himself in the delirium of hunger; William Keenan pined away and died in a basement in Thirty-fourth street from slow hunger; and a woman's lamp of life went out within a pistol shot of Grace Church, because she had nothing to feed it. To clinch the falsehood we quote from the *Erskerkian* an extract from the *Tribune*:

"We believe there are this day *one hundred thousand able-bodied persons* within sight our city, who would work if work were offered them, yet who are idle and needy because there seems nothing for them to do."

And to clinch it, doubly, we give a few specimens from two or three other papers just at hand:

"A Mrs. Michael Stocks was found lying, a few days since, in a house at Albany, dead from destitution; two children sleeping half naked on the floor beside her, and a poor infant, trying to draw sustenance from the breast of its lifeless mother."—*New York Weekly Dispatch*, March 1."

A correspondent of the *Evening Post* writes: "It is probably not generally known that an Episcopal clergyman died lately of want and starvation. It is nevertheless true, and the clergyman is Rev. Mr. Douglas, of Jersey City. He had suffered for some time from illness produced by the want of the common necessaries of life—a shame and scandal upon the diocese to which he belonged, and to the church at large."

The *Herold* of March 8th gives a letter with a contribution enclosed under the heading—"AID FOR THE STARVING FAMILY, CORNER OF WASHINGTON AND CANAL STREETS."

One would suppose that an editor writing with these details of destitution and death before him, would shrink from a wholesale panegyric upon the condition of our poor, or the hospitality of our prosperous citizens.

Mr. McMaster's estimate of the comparative hospitality of Canada and the United States is as incorrect as that on the condition of the "poor Irish" and others of New York. The so-called "cramped colonial system," the source of what he calls "inhospitable in Canada," is supple enough to favor immigration by liberal grants, and strong enough to protect those who take advantage of them, from midnight massacre. Besides, unless butchery be friendliness, the Canadian people (taking Irish grave-yards as a gauge of the feelings

entertained towards foreigners in Canada and this country) are, to say the least, Mr. McMaster, as liberals your countrymen. Reader, don't you think so?

[From the New York Herald, March 15.]

The Old Potter's Field. How the Dead Poor are Served.

People who believe in the sanctity of cemeteries and *averg-yards* would do well to pay a visit to Fourth avenue, near Fiftieth street, where the avenue is being graded, and see the manner in which the skeletons, skulls, and remains of ex New Yorkers are served by the contractors. This is a portion of the old Potter's Field, and every excavation made in the soil in this neighborhood brings to light the bones of some poor pauper. Stacks of old coffins line the sidewalks, and on the south-west corner of Fourth avenue and Fiftieth street there is a rough fence erected to prevent the pile of coffins tumbling from their somewhat higher position to the level of the newly made sidewalk; and here are coffins three deep, with the hairless skulls of the poor pauper occupants staring the passer by full in the face; while farther along, nearer the middle of the enclosure, is the remains of a coffin, and the thigh bones (the coffin and legs from the knees being chopped away) bleaching in the daylight. In one of the lower coffins, the matted and tangled hair, apparently of a female, is visible, but separated from the fleshless skull, and swayed by every passing breath of wind. Altogether the sight is not a very pleasant one, and it seems hardly right to treat the bones of the poor paupers in so careless a manner. The Corporation should have them all exhumed decently, and interred in some place from whence they would never be removed. However, we suppose it will never be done. It is customary for speculators to make money out of dead men's bones now-a-days, and the probability is that the *Times* newspaper people will be deep in Potter's Field lots before long.

What Shall be Done for the Poor?

[From the New York Dispatch, March 15.]

There is at present a fearful amount of suffering in this city, and among those most difficult to reach—persons who, too proud to let their wants be known, are waiting day after day, and week after week—fed only by hope, and starving while they are waiting—for that employment they are so willing and able to perform.

Lady visitors, who make it their duty and business to search in all the hidden corners of our city for objects of distress, whose cases will meet the calls upon the several benevolent societies of the city, are surprised and pained at finding so many of the nerve and sinew of our community—the working classes—out of employment, and actually suffering for want of the commonest necessaries of life.

A very intelligent lady, while soliciting aid from us in behalf of a poor family, the husband and father of which is a skillful artisan, with nothing to do, informed us that at no time had she found more actual destitution among the laboring classes than at present. Even in the families of many of the better class of mechanics, there is an actual untold amount of suffering for means whereby to live.

To reach the exigency of the case, something besides the mere folding of the hands, or the putting them into the pocket, should be done. We have tried do nothing, and mere giving, too long already, and to no avail. We have built immense edifices, and filled them with papers, but are the numbers outside of them in the least diminished? Is not our city and State crowded with starving creatures in spite of all the millions spent in *elemosynary* aid? The pauper statistics that come in to us in a yearly increased ratio, tell us plainly that something beside mere giving is necessary to check this growing evil.

In Northern New York there are millions of acres of

land which have never yet been disturbed by axe, spade or plough; which are sheltered by the same grand old trees, towering in their giant strength as proudly now as when echoing with the war-whoop of the primeval dweller of the soil. These lands might be obtained by the city at mere nominal prices, \$5,000,000 or \$6,000,000 expended in purchasing a portion of this land, and stocking it, would be sufficient to place those among the poor of this city—who are able and willing, who would be only too glad to work, who are now dependent on public or private charities, or who sicken and starve with no aid—in comfortable circumstances.

REMARKS.

It will be observed that the remedy proposed by the *Dispatch* is very similar to the plan favored by the speaker at the recent meetings of unemployed working men in London. We do not regard this plan as an available one.

The General Prevalence of Sickness amongst the Poor of this City. His Opinion.

Mr. Spencer appeared in the Senate on the 17th inst. a petition from physicians and surgeons in the New York Hospital for better health laws and a sanitary police. They say that long experience has shown that among the lower classes a great amount of sickness prevails on account of the absence of and non-observance of laws for the preservation of the public health; that there are treated in the various institutions with which they are connected annually more than 100,000 cases of various kinds of sickness, and that a large proportion of these are created by malarial causes that might be controlled by hygienic regulations, executed by capable men. They recommend sanitary health laws and an authoritative sanitary police. The petition is signed by Joseph M. Smith, Physician of the New York Hospital, Dr. Henshaw and others.

EMIGRATION.

[From the American Call, New York, March 11.]

Emigration to Canada from the United States. A London correspondent of a city daily writes as follows on this subject:

"In nothing the causes of the decrease of immigration into Canada from Ireland, Mr. Huxham, the American Emigration Agent at Quebec, includes among them the direct and prejudicial influence which the return of a great number from the United States must exercise on the minds of those disposed to emigrate, whether caused by the abandonment of employment or from the introduction of the religious element into American politics." Mr. Huxham's report from Toronto shows, on the other hand, that while Canada is thus deprived of a considerable immigration from this side of the Atlantic, the same cause has led to an increase of population directed from the United States. The number of settlers which Canada West receives from that source is steadily increasing, inasmuch that Mr. Huxham estimates them, with those who landed at Atlantic ports and proceeded direct to Canada, at nearly half the number which, during 1856, landed at Quebec. Many thousands of the state of Pennsylvania, many of them persons of considerable means, have, it appears, applied to the Emigration Emigration Office at Montreal for information as to price of land, &c., having seen in the dense population of manufacturing in Canada.

Mr. Huxham, however, says that he has the effect of a disincentive, after all.

Proposed Emigration of Non-Protestants.

The London *Times* writes to shew out all the expeditious labor and non-Protestants into Canada and Australia, but rather prefers Canada. The *Times* says:

"There is in the Colonies a region where thousands of women might be absorbed and become happy wives and mothers, while here they have before them no prospect but that of incessant labor and premature death. There is here in question of a passage to the Australian—a more healthy and a more extensive passage—although we mightly trust, as there wants an aid facility of communication increase, that English labor in the case of these poor existences may be largely converted into Australian happiness. The Colonies do, however, present a landscape of despair for many of them, and we would very sincerely press the point upon the

consideration of all benevolent persons who sympathize with their distress. We can have little doubt that if the conditions of the transit were made easy and secure, in a very few years a sensible effect would be produced upon the female labor-market in England."

The female labor-market is overlooked in America, as well as in England, a fact which the readers of the *European* must by this time be well convinced of. It is necessary to devise other and better remedies than the penance of the *Times*, for the evil of an overstocked labor-market.

Emigration to Virginia Opposed.

The Petersburg, South Side Democrat threatens the proposed emigrants with lynch law.

"The scheme pre-supposes that Virginia needs 'relief, reclamation and regeneration,' and that the people in this State are big enough fools to allow a hungry pack of abolitionists to congregated here, in order to change our domestic institutions. While we may admit that the agricultural, commercial, mining and manufacturing interests of Virginia are not being developed with that rapidity which is desirable, we, nevertheless, have to say that there is constantly increasing improvement going on in these several respects, and that we would never be ashamed, even if we needed it, from such a source as the leading spirit of the Kansas Aid Society—the Hon. Mr. Thayer. The Hon. Mr. Thayer, (whose ill the honorable come from) may rest assured that he will be able to carry out his grand Emigrant Aid project so much as the people of Virginia love their country, common sense and self-respect, but not before. That honorable gentleman, and his adherents and disciples, may receive this declaration as unqualified as if it was sworn to by each individual in this commonwealth, that any attempt by Emigrant Aid Societies, come from whatever quarter it may, to change the institutions of Virginia, will be met by a resistance that will put Northern philanthropy to rest in the twinkling of an eye. We dare the Hon. Mr. Thayer to the encounter. Let him muster courage equal to his ignorance and impudence, and we will meet him and his abolition minions the whole length of Hanover's gutter and the whole of the meaning of 'Hospitality given.'"

Reception of the Refugees in the United States.

[From the American Call, March 11.]

The Call quotes from the New York *Times* the following passages:

"The fields were wherever it is met with in its purity, in, and numbers more than here in America, we are sorry to say, the same for of equal rights and of civil and religious freedom. Intemperance, fanaticism, blind adherence to blind guides, suspicious readiness to meet the claims of the state and America, the state of the oppressed, are characteristic, no matter in what race they belong, which we shall never cease to detect and to denounce."

The Call makes the following reply:

"This must refer to the center of a majority of our constitution in the late election. It requires no reflection. They are just as much opposed to civil and religious freedom in the *Times* as the majority of Americans who voted with us supported the Democratic party. Notice the *Times* seems to support this individual in whom let it take the most out of the eyes, and the blink out of the intellects of its own supporters, of 'Satan's' origin."

[Continued from page 199.]

THE SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE UNITED STATES.

Testimony of European Tourists Received, and its general Worthlessness exposed.

BY AN ENGLISH EMIGRANT.

See Trullape's Memoir on the "DANGERS OF EMIGRATION."

One of the earliest works that we possess respecting the United States is Mr. Trullape's, entitled "Dangers of Emigration to the Americans." That lady came in the United States in the year 1847, with her family, intending to settle here, being, as she says, somewhat inclined to Radicalism. She landed at New Orleans and proceeded up the Mississippi. On her way she heard so much about Cincinnati, its beauty, wealth and unequalled prosperity,

that she resolved to settle there. She took a house in the neighborhood of the city, and her son as well as herself, caught fever and ague. She does not mention the fact in her work, but she was induced to erect a large building for a bazaar, supposing that various shops might as well be together under one roof. By this speculation she lost a good deal of money. She left Cincinnati in March 1850, went to Washington and Philadelphia, visited the Falls of Niagara, returned to New York and embarked for England.

In the preface to the fourth edition of her work, she says that her chief object in writing this book was to encourage her countrymen to hold fast by a constitution that ensures all the blessings which flow from established habits and solid principles. We do not, however, find much in the work calculated to damage the cause of democracy, although she expresses the opinion that if the leading English Radicals would pass a few years in the United States, they would learn to fear democratic power, and even although they might be Democrats would desire the continuance of the established Church in England, (p. 200, fifth edition.)

Our author has made an arrangement of the various subjects referred to by her, but has written in a humorous, sprightly style, a work, the form of which has extended from one end of the Union to the other, and which there is every reason to believe has had the good effect of producing a reformation in American manners in many respects. The work is by no means so unfavorable to the Americans as might be supposed from the unadorned abuse seen to this day showered upon the author in America. Upon abstracting and arranging the various remarks in different parts of the book upon each subject of importance, we find the substance to be nearly in the effect personally mentioned.

APPEARANCE OF THE COUNTRY.

With respect to the appearance of the country and the character of the climate, our author's expression her admiration of the scenery of the great Ohio, but pronounces the eternal forests to be detectable on account of the absence of vegetation and the trees. She says, (p. 81.) "In Pennsylvania, Indiana, Ohio, I never found the slightest beauty in the forest scenery. Fallen trees in every possible stage of decay and outgrowth of leaves that have been rotting since the flood, cover the ground and infect the air." In Ohio, (the State where she resided two or three years,) she says, (p. 101.) that except where there was a clearing, all was dense, dark, stifling forest. Also that there was no garden scenery in Ohio, and the flowers were few and insignificant. She never saw any turf in America. Notwithstanding this, she has the inconsistency to declare that America is "the fairest land in the World." The Alleghany mountains she declares to be beautiful, also various other parts of the country. In Maryland, she found wild scenes superior to the cultivated ones of England, and says that in the West your walk is, at a particular period of the year, through an almost empire of mosquitoes, (We have frequently found an atmosphere of mosquitoes but not of mosquitoes in the West.) This scenery from Ulster in Albany, and on the Hudson River in New York, called forth her unqualified admiration.

She compares the scenery of the Hudson with that of the Rhine, in which it has an resemblance whatever, and she indulges in the extravagance of declaring that the scenery from Ulster in Albany is unequalled in the World, the fact being that it is quite common there, and for the most part disfigured with ugly worn houses and chimneys.

CLIMATE.

As in the climate, she complains that there is no spring; also that walking in the sun must be avoided, (pp. 78, 188.) and that there is danger of "a chill" in being exposed in the evening air. All the picturesque remarks were unavailing. And she was, with her son, more than once reduced to the verge of the grave by the fever of the country.

THE CLIMATE AND TOWNS.

The cities and towns seen by her are on the whole favorably described. She found Cincinnati without drainage, and filled with abundant alleys, (p. 90,) in which state much of it remains to this day. Washington had a light, cheerful, and airy appearance, which reminded her of an English watering place, (p. 170.) (This is a more favorable description than most writers have given.) In Philadelphia there were many land-

some, but no very splendid houses. As to New York, she was delighted with it—never saw a city more desirable as a residence, (p. 280.) (She would have found it quite different if she had resided long there.) The dwellings of the higher classes were extremely handsome and richly furnished, and the society was good. She speaks highly, too, of several of the smaller towns in New York State, particularly Canandaigua and Geneva, (p. 285.)

PERSONAL APPEARANCE OF THE AMERICANS.

She speaks favorably of the personal appearance of the Americans, male and female, and yet adds that the women are the least attractive she ever saw, and that they never appear to advantage when in motion, although they have plenty of French dancing-masters, and that they use powdered starch to make their complexions look fair, also wear false hair. (Query as to false teeth.) They walk in winter time, she says, in summer bonnets and slippers. From this reference to dancing masters it is evident that although language quite general in its terms is used, she is actually speaking only of the comparatively rich in the populous towns.

RESPECT FOR AND ATTENTION TO LADIES.

The Americans had a great deal about their superior respect for and attention to ladies, but the revolutions of our authors on this subject do not support the claim. Thus on her journey from New Orleans to Cincinnati she found it was the practice for nearly all the principal male inhabitants at Memphis to dine at a large hotel, while their wives were left at home to cook for themselves, (p. 19.) At evening parties at Cincinnati the women invariably looked together at one part of the room, and the men at the other, (p. 48.) At a public ball in that city the gentlemen had a splendid supper by themselves, and a plate was handed round to the ladies, because the gentlemen liked that plan best, (p. 116.) At the latest dinner tables the ladies were usually at one end and the gentlemen at the other: ladies are not introduced by their husbands with money, (p. 218.) Our author was herself grossly treated by some male passengers in a stage coach because she would not get out to make room for a lady to be put inside, (p. 497.) She says that the reason why men and women seldom assemble together for amusement is that the delight of the men is in smoking and drinking.

AMERICAN WOMEN—MORALITY.

American ladies she says, are married very early. Her descriptions of their work morality are highly commendable. It appears that they carefully avoid certain words in common use in England, because they are supposed to be susceptible of an indelicate meaning, (pp. 108, 191.) But they do not object to looking up their eyes in the presence of a male slave, and in a common parlour for married people to have a female slave kneeling in their bed-room, (p. 501.) And although ladies never go with gentlemen to the Antique Market Gallery at Philadelphia, they go alone by evening, (p. 417.) and at Long Branch, New Jersey, gentlemen and ladies look together, (p. 240.)

CONDITIONS OF THE PEOPLE. AS TO THE EXTENT OF SLAVERY.

The country people appeared to her very prosperous, at least she says that almost every resident in the country had a carriage they called a conveyer, and she supposed there was not a house in the city of New York without one in the summer time, (pp. 247, 258.) She was deceived in these notions by the misrepresentations of the Americans. Very few people in the country have carriages, and a majority of the people of New York cannot afford, and are not accustomed to use one in their households, although it is hardly a luxury, being an article almost of necessity in this climate. Most of the farmers have but small farms, and when they own a vehicle at all it is usually a rough wagon.

Our author saw numerous symptoms of poverty and misery. On her voyage up the Mississippi she saw miserably huts occupied by the woodcutters, and the people looked sickly, poorly-dressed and emaciated. In Virginia she found the planters to be surrounded with a few of the refinements and comforts of life as the peaceful channels of England. In Maryland she found the farm-houses wretched, and the people living on paper, fish and corn bread, (pp. 186, 194.) She does not think emigration to the United States desirable for her country. Irish laborers in the mines were paid \$10 to

\$15 per month, and were furnished with a miserable lodging and whiskey. This enabled them for a time to stand the broiling heat of the sun in a noxious climate, but fever was sure to overtake them, and then they were thrown aside and neglected, (p. 284.)

Poor girls in America will not go to service, for slavery makes domestic service shameful all over the country. Half-broked girls will work in a manufactory for half the wages that could be obtained in service, being taught to believe that the most abject poverty is preferable to servitude, (pp. 40, 144.)

She considers the absence of poor-laws to be a blighting, (a great error,) and yet declares that the Americans are less charitable than other people, (p. 91.) She compares the English paucity with the country people in America, to the advantage of the former.

PROVISIONS, FRUITS, &c.

Provisions in general at Cincinnati she found to be good, but the fruits were inferior to the English—the markets of Philadelphia were good—prices much cheaper than in London, but much dearer than in Boston.

TRAVELLING.

Travelling by steamboat on the Mississippi was disagreeable. There was a total want of courtesy at table, and the passengers were dirty and coarse in their manners; but all the men were negroes and colored. Travelling by canal boat was excellent, and by stage coach very disagreeable. At times an equal complaint was to be had, (pp. 12, 98, 149, 278, 307.)

MORALS.

Amusements are treated with impudency. A slaughter-house was seated close to Mrs. Pringle's house, and she declares that "all the freedom enjoyed in America beyond what is enjoyed in England, is enjoyed solely by the minority at the expense of the majority."

LITERATURE—THE ARTS—NEWSPAPERS—ARCHAEOLOGY.

With respect to the literary attainments of the people, she declares that she seldom heard a sentence elegantly turned and correctly pronounced. But in a note in the fifth edition she says, this must be confined to the West at the period referred to, (p. 84.) The arts of Cincinnati were then utterly unacquainted with the fine arts. She declares the inflated tone of writings in which American authors are treated. She admits that the American newspapers contain more lies than all the rest of the newspapers in the world, and the subject is, England and the English. She relates several amusing conversations with the Americans, showing their ridiculous opinions about England, (pp. 78, 120, 148.) The Americans dislike the English, and never think English—the American newspapers pour forth a continual stream of abuse of England, its government and people, and in their Fourth of July orations this spirit is vigorously kept up, (pp. 100, 148, 224, 225, 231.)

Their vanity and egotism is unbounded—they fancy that they speak the English language elegantly—that they are superior in everything—that their way is better than the English—that American authors are with certainty and the English at random. Their sensibility, too, is ridiculous—they are not merely inhibited—they have no shame. The English laugh at the manners and habits of foreigners, but the Americans are engaged in the slightest disparagements of their foreigner neighbours. They charge Captain Hall with ingratitude, because he did not praise them as much as they expected. He calmly sought out things in admirer, praised with measure, and returned with regard. He acted with the best civility, saw the sources of great advantage—in full dress, and he has magnified his office. What he saw, however, had the effect of converting him and making him a Tory, (pp. 130, 222, 227, 228, 274.)

RELIGION.

The subject of Religion in America engaged the attention of our author. In a note in the fifth edition of the work she says: "That she used to think that the religious basis of America was secured by the want of an Established Church, but that since her return to England, she had seen reasons to give up that opinion having found much fanaticism at home. The prayers at some of the American churches were nothing better than low familiar jargon. She fully describes a Camp Meeting near Cincinnati—a religious assemblage of people in the forest, where they remained day and night for several weeks praying, weeping, ranting, and so forth. The description of this disgusting exhibition has given great offence, but to the personal knowledge of

the writer of this review, it is correct to the letter. At a religious conference held at Baltimore, the ostentatious and howling were of the most remarkable character; (pp. 28, 97, 128, 164.) There was a prodigious majority of females in the church which she attended at Philadelphia, and at New York few men attended church; (pp. 229, 234.)

ENTERPRISE—MORALITY. THE NEW ENGLANDERS.

Referring to some of the great canals and other public works in America, our author infers that the Americans are the most enterprising people in the world. (We do not think that the premises support the conclusion.)

She regards the moral sense of the Americans as remarkably blunt. In a note, however, to this passage in the fifth edition she says that England has lately become very like America in many points. The New Englanders are always described in other parts of the country as sly, grinding, selfish and tricky. She had heard some of them boast of their tricks, and was led to doubt whether they knew what honor and honesty meant. It is unpleasant to deal with them—they are too sharp, like Jews, (pp. 206, 248, 308.)

We must differ from our author on this subject. We believe that the New Englanders are very superior to all their countrymen in every State of the Union in the performance of their obligations, and in fair dealing. This, however, is but qualified praise, and we mean it to be so, for we do not regard the character of the New Englanders as standing very high for honorable dealing, although it is far above the national average.

TEMPERANCE.

As to the character of the Americans for temperance, our author says that although the gentlemen do not drink at the dinner table at hotels, they do at the bar, and she believed that hard drinking was more prevalent than in any other country, (pp. 220, 210.)

MANNERS AND CUSTOMS.

The manners and habits of the people our author censures and ridicules severely. The practice of bowing is condemned and its practice described, the want of domestic comfort strongly intimated upon, and its bad effects upon young wives exposed, (pp. 220, 221.) The habits of the Americans at table are condemned, their rapid eating, their mixing all sorts of things together in the same plate, eating half-broked hot rolls, and great meals generally wretchedly cooked, served up and served.

At the Theatre at Washington she saw men sitting with their legs hanging over the front of the boxes. At the Grand Theatre at Philadelphia she saw men in the lower boxes without their coats, and all the female men were hats and were smoking pipes. At the Grand Theatre the gentlemen sat without their coats, and a lady was seen sitting in the front row of the dress boxes performing the most hair-splitting of all possible, (pp. 120, 210, 220.)

She saw in a court of justice in Ohio the judges sitting on the bench without their coats, (p. 100.)

WEST OF THE MOUNTAINS.

At Cincinnati there was a general abolition of amusements. Cards were forbidden. There were no concerts or dance parties. The theatre was totally abandoned, it being deemed an offence against religion to go to see a play. There were no public gardens or laughing shops, but the pieces of warship were made in view of the passage of Niagara and Ohio, being reserved to let the youth of both sexes in good away the time. There was no rowing for amusement on the Ohio river. At Baltimore the population had no gaiety, and the theatre was approved by the clergy. In Philadelphia the dances of the people was unobjectionable. She never saw any thing extraordinary—was all over and all over, (pp. 84, 127, 128, 214, 241, 247.) There were no pic-nic parties.

EQUALITY.

Some symptoms of equality appeared in the West. Thus at Cincinnati the gentleman went to market with baskets, in purchase and carry home their provisions themselves. Our author, who lived in the country, was visited by her poor neighbors on a footing of perfect equality. She speaks highly of the Virginians, as well as of the society of New York, (pp. 28, 77.)

The practical effects of political equality she understands to be, that any man's son may become the equal of any other man's son; that this is a step to servitude, but she objects that it is also a step to coarse familiarity, (p. 91.)

CRIME.

As to crime in the United States, our author speaks of the frequency of murders, and the infrequency of capital punishment. A man who had committed two dreadful murders was convicted at Cincinnati, but was not executed. Scarcely any white people were executed except Irishmen. Two men were convicted for robbing the Baltimore mail; one was an American, the other an Irishman; the former was reprieved, but the Irishman was hanged, (pp. 126, 127, 181.)

SLAVERY—THE INDIANS.

Our author speaks indignantly of slavery in the United States, and contrasts that and the dishonorable treatment of the Indians with the high sounding profane-ness of the Americans; slaves how brutally the slaves are treated, and that even little children tyrannize over and beat the slaves around them. She was not in favor of emancipation, but desired the condition of the slaves to be ameliorated, (pp. 144, 176, 196 to 201.)

AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM.

The political system of America our author does not admire; the constant electing and re-electing of the whole system of society. She considers Jefferson's doctrine to be highly palatable to a people, "each individual of whom would rather derive his importance from believing that some are always his than from the consciousness that in his station he makes part of a noble whole," (pp. 206, 207.)

But she admits that the Americans are delighted with their government, and that it is fit for them, although it may be unfit for others. We cannot see, however, how it can be fit for them and unfit for others. The Americans, it is true, adopt that doctrine, to some extent, because it flatters their vanity. They believe that no other people are fit for liberty, and that their glorious institutions are adapted solely for themselves, the most wonderful people in the world.

[To be continued.]

THE SOUTH—STATE OF SOCIETY.

[From the New York Evening Post, February 21.]

The Beauties of Slave Society.

To the Editors of the Evening Post:

Gentlemen: As the *Rehoboth Enquirer* has a peculiar fancy for comparing free and slave society, the following description of the latter in its own city some sixty years since may prove sufficiently interesting to induce the editors to copy it.

Slave society has certainly one advantage over free. There is a certain class of public houses in the North, incidental, it is said, to most commercial cities, and which is liberally supported by southerners. At the South this is kept from the public eye, every slaveholder having his private establishment for himself and his sons.

But let us hear old Isaac!

[From Isaac Wolf's Travels in North America, 1796 & 7.]

Perhaps in no place of the same size in the world is there more gambling going forward than in Richmond. I had scarcely alighted from my horse at the tavern when the landlord came to ask what game I was most partial to, as in such a room there was a fern table, in another a hazard table, in a third a billiard table, to any of which he was ready to conduct me. Not the smallest croquet is employed in keeping these tables; they are always crowded with people, and the doors of the apartments are only shut to prevent the tables from coming in. Indeed, throughout the lower parts of the country in Virginia, and also in that part of Maryland next to it, there is scarcely a petty tavern without a billiard room, and this is always full of a set of idle, low-lived fellows, drinking spirits or playing cards, if not engaged at the table. Check-fighting is also another favorite diversion; it is, chiefly, however, the lower class of people who partake of those amusements at the taverns; in private there is, perhaps, as little gambling in Virginia as in any other part of America.

The circumstance of having the taverns thus infested by such a set of people, renders travelling extremely unpleasant. Many times I have been forced to proceed much further in a day than I have wished, in order to avoid the scenes of rioting and quarrelling that I have met with at the taverns, which it is impossible to escape as long as you remain in the same house where they are carried on, for every apartment is considered as con-

tinued, and that room in which a stranger sits down is sure to be the most frequented.

Whenever these people come to blows they fight just like wild beasts—biting, kicking and endeavoring to tear each other's eyes out with their nails. It is by no means uncommon to meet with those who have lost an eye in a combat, and these are men who pride themselves upon the dexterity with which they can scoop one out. This is called gouging. To perform the horrid operation, the combatant twists his forefinger in the side-locks of his adversary's hair, and then applies his thumb to the bottom of the eye, to force it out of the socket. If ever there is a battle, in which neither of those engaged loses an eye, their faces are, however, generally cut in a shocking manner with the thumb nails, in the many attempts which are made at gouging. But what is worse than all, these wretches, in their combat, endeavor to tear out each other's testicles. Four or five instances came within my own observation as I passed through Maryland and Virginia, of men being confined to their beds from the injuries which they had received of this nature in a fight. In the Carolinas and Georgia I have been credibly assured that the people are still more depraved in this respect than in Virginia.

Slavery to be Established on the Pacific.

[From the New York Tribune, March 1.]

To the Editor of the New York Tribune:

Mr. Your announcement that Oregon has been marked for slavery, will not startle those who have watched her slow development under her ex-Missourian rule. Had any other slave State than Missouri contributed as numerical strength, its manners and customs, Oregon, would have been swifter, though less certain to attain this end. But her border-ridden Indian wars, her hazy legislation, changes of capital, her lax squatter life, and her Indian concubinage, have disgusted and turned aside emigration from the States, even from States of congenial institutions and domestic discipline with Missouri. The Oregonians have discouraged emigration from the Northern States for some time past; and not later than February last, when their delegates in Congress were addressed by some gentlemen, who have since formed an association for the encouragement of emigration to the Pacific, asking his co-operation to secure the passage of the Wagon Road and other bills (since passed) to improve communication with California and Oregon, he maintained a judicious silence on the subject, as also did the present Governor of Oregon, Mr. Curry, formerly one of the editors of a St. Louis paper in the slave interest.

Not Oregon alone, but California and Utah are menaced by the slave power. It will be no news to your readers that the Senators Broderick and Gwin, recently elected to Congress from California, have, during her whole political existence, held the State divided on abstract questions of Northern and Southern policy; that the "Chivalry," or Gwin wing of the dominant party, have been seeking the geographical as well as the political division of the State; that Gwin, by a transaction said to be as perfidious as it was personally disgraceful, accepted his present seat in Congress subject to restrictions imposed by his rival, Broderick, who held the choosing of a seceded senator in the California Legislature. But though their chief is, as it is said, bribed to remain inactive, the party will not; and already we see the question of a Constitutional Convention to amend the Constitution, revived and discussed in the California journals. Not that they expect to carry slavery into California by popular vote, but by dividing and re-warding back into a territorial condition the lower half (already to a great extent jointly possessed by Southern lawyers and timid squatters who have succeeded generally to the ownership of the lands under Spanish title) under a plea of hardpan taxes. That this scheme will be attempted again there can be no doubt. Its success is by no means improbable. The Mormons of Utah, who have a large and flourishing settlement at San Bernardino, eighty or ninety miles from Los Angeles, are not averse to the plan. They aim to possess a seaport on the California coast—have already a line of coaches plying between their settlement and Salt Lake City, and draw most of their supplies from the Pacific. As they are believed to favor a constitution legalizing slavery for their own State, whenever it shall be formed, they may regard with just complacency the working of the plot slowly unfolding South California. Another, and the chief incentive to this act, is the slow

aggression—by emigration and settlement, by military posts and roads in process of construction and occupation, and by the Atlantic and Pacific railways to be built of the South upon New Mexico, looking to an outlet at San Diego, and the building there of an important Southern commercial city.

[From the New York Times, March 1.]

The Falley about Southern Chivalry.

Madame de Sevigne may justify the censure which she cherished for a most intemperate similitude, on the ground that he always praised whatever she did, and said to her at fifty-two the same compliments which he had offered her at twenty-five.

That mysterious lady vaguely designated as the "Chivalry of the South" ought to entertain similar feelings of regard for a large proportion of the Northern press and people. Forty years ago it was the common practice of writers on American society to laud the courtesy, the hospitality, and the manly bearing of the "Southern Gentleman." For this practice some shadow of reason might then have been found.

In the course of time and by the natural action of events, the conditions of American society at the North and at the South have been radically changed. The territorial expansion of slavery has essentially demoralized the Southern character, by converting the patriarch into speculators, and vulgarizing their venerable "Domestic Institution" into a mighty gambling house of the most simply sordid nature. The "Southern gentleman" no longer wastes his time on the elegancies of life and the amenities of an elaborate education. He has become a money-getter and a manum worshipper, whose greed of gain is still further inflamed by the intensities of political controversy, and of hopeless warfare with the moral sense of mankind and the inexorable laws of nature. The standard of breeding and of culture has been steadily sinking throughout the South, till we now find the assembled intellect of African States, practically confessing its inability to cope with the first questions of economical science, and the wealthiest of the Southern Universities languishing for want of a Professor, whose services it cannot secure, though it offers the temptation of such a salary as few Northern Colleges find it necessary to bestow upon a president.

As a legitimate consequence of this state of things, the tone of the public press and of the public men of the South is growing constantly more and more vulgar, barbaric and indecent. The most unscrupulous journalist of New York would shrink from speaking of any political opponent as the leading newspapers of the South habitually speak of the Senators and Representatives who are the accredited and authoritative organs of the Northern sovereignties. It is the custom of editors who claim to be heard in behalf of the "gentlemen of the South," not merely to misrepresent the views and to traduce the characters of distinguished Northern statesmen, but to pelt them with epithets so foul and vile that the person who should employ them upon any occasion, and under any provocation, at the North, would be forthwith relegated to the society of Short-buys and blackguards. Southern members of Congress continually exhibit on the floor of the House such a familiarity with the resources of Millington, and such an indifference to the most indecent intemperate, as have not been usually taken to indicate instinctive delicacy of character and exquisite refinement of breeding.

NEW YORK CITY.

[From the New York Times, March 14.]

Another Mysterium Disappearance. The Fourth from one Hotel within a short time.

We learn that Mr. John R. Vedder, of Chicago, who had been staying several days at the Metropolitan Hotel in this city, left that house on Wednesday, the 4th instant, ten days ago, for the purpose, as he told the clerk in the office, of going to Brooklyn to collect about \$10,000 which was due him there. This was about eleven o'clock in the morning, and nothing whatever has been heard of him since. His baggage still remains in his room. He did not give the names of any parties from whom he was to collect this money, nor is there the slightest clue to his whereabouts.

Mr. Vedder was a gentleman in comfortable circumstances, a very respectable man, and of perfectly correct and steady habits. He used to be concerned in the for-

wauling and freighting business on the Erie Canal, but for some years past has resided at the West.

Any information concerning him may be sent to the Metropolitan Hotel. This is the fourth mysterious disappearance which has occurred recently from that house alone.

REMARKS.

We have a miserably inefficient Police and a set of Police magistrates most of whom have been common constables. We want Police officers like those of London, where the magistrates are experienced lawyers aided by efficient clerks. These magistrates should be appointed by a Judiciary Committee of the Legislature, and good salaries should be paid. No case should be sent to trial without a previous examination before one of these magistrates—the evidence should be taken in writing, and the accused should be furnished with a copy. The fact is, that life and property will not be reasonably safe in this city, nor can innocent persons be protected from false accusations until we have a complete revolution in our system of administering justice.

Swindling with Impunity.

[From the New York Times, March 19.]

A Trying Roll.

We have published from time to time details of the manner in which strangers in this city are swindled by pretended agents for California steamers and for Southern railroads. The practice has grown into a regular and systematic business, and the extent and impunity with which it is carried on, is a disgrace to the city and to the men connected with its government. Regular offices are kept open by these swindlers; they personate the bona fide agents of the steamers and railroads; they give false names, claim false characters and rob men of their money by false pretences of the grossest and most colossal kind. They are well known to the Police, yet they are rarely or never arrested, and when they are, they are dismissed by magistrates on the pretext that there is no law which will reach their case.

This is absurd and ridiculous. Mayor Wood can find law for the arrest of women who are walking the streets or exhibiting themselves as model artists. Judge Russell sends thieves to State prison for life for robbing a man of six and a quarter cents. If a hungry woman or a starving child steal a loaf of bread, there is law enough to send them to the Penitentiary. And yet these ruffians can establish regular offices to carry on their nefarious robberies—maintain a regular corps of runners, bars and Peter Funks—assume false characters, give false information and resort to the most shamelessly false pretences for the open and avowed purpose of fraud, and yet they are allowed to go on with the most perfect impunity. The thing is utterly inexcusable and infinitely disgraceful to our city authorities. There must be some other reasons than those assigned for the perfect license which is extended to them by the executive and judicial officers of our city government. Their activity and usefulness as politicians, or some other cause equally discreditable, must operate for their protection.

The matter needs prompt and effective attention. The abuse is reaching gigantic proportions. Scarcely a stranger can take a steamer for California—or even the railroad for Washington and the South—without danger of falling into the hands of these harpies. The details we have already published of their operations should arouse the public to the enormity of the evil and the absolute necessity of a remedy.

What is the Best Society in this City.

[Correspondent of the New York Times, March 14.]

What is called the "best society" of the city is neither an excessively extravagant, nor an outrageously corrupt society. It is not our "best society" which flouts with Mrs. Potiphar at the watering-places; it is not our "best society," which ruins itself in the shops, and glitters with diamonds at noonday on Broadway. Our technically "fashionable" society is by no means remarkable for ostentation, or for immorality. Few, very few of those bewildering edifices which are supposed to have converted the Fifth Avenue into a "street of palaces," belong to the members of that society; and the careful stranger who shall look over the list of managers at any ball of admitted "fashies," will find

that of the names recorded there, but few are wholly unconnected with what is most active, most honorable and most humane in the life of our metropolis. The society which brings New York into disrepute with the country members, is the society which sits at the St. Nicholas and at Martine's for a season, then to vanish utterly into space—it is the society supported mainly by the marvellous system of gambling, which, under the name of "speculation" has been introduced into modern commerce. It is in no sense of the term a "fashionable" society, for it fashions itself upon others, and in its own fashion nothing.

The moral corruption of this class of our society is at once deplorable, and most difficult of cure, because most difficult of approach. It has its origin in the looseness and relaxation of all ties among the families which make this class, in the abdication, by the fathers and the brothers of those families, of all their domestic responsibilities and duties in behalf of the one occupation of money-getting.

More than quarrel with the wives and daughters of these men, for laying to dwell in boarding-houses and hotels, but how should they help laying to dwell in boarding-houses and hotels, or anywhere else on earth, rather than in solitary homes which are not and cannot be homes, because there is no home in the hearts of those who should inspire them with the life of home?

If a man devotes his whole time to Wall street or the exchange of the Astor House, and leaves his wife to grow away from him in frivolous associations of her own, into which his very necessities have driven her, by feeding her from the necessity of providing for her household, and so depriving her of the one sure resource of occupation conferred on her by her education; and leaves his daughters to be educated hap-hazard by every possible influence but a home influence; and leaves his sons to stray and drink their youth away before their boards are grown, what can we expect of him and of his—what of a world made up of such as him and his?

Unwary matches, in which half-educated girls snatch innocently at a shadow of romantic happiness, to seize a substance of prosaic misery; indiscriminate dancing and flirtings; clandestine correspondences, carried on with anonymous admirers—such are some of the natural consequences of the assumption of the responsibilities of married life, and of the paternal relation by men who mean to regard their wives mainly as the ministers of their own comfort, and to look upon their families chiefly as certificates of their own "respectability."

The Poisoning of the President and Others at Washington.

[From the New York Times, March 14.]

The fatal result, in several cases, of the mysterious malady which affected nearly all the inmates of the National Hotel at Washington, which at first was treated as a good joke, has naturally given rise to the most serious and painful feelings. Among those who were alarmingly affected was the President elect, who, it is said, is still suffering from the disease contracted while he was stopping at the hotel. From all the testimony which has been published, it appears to be quite certain that poison in some shape was infused into the food or drink of the inmates of the hotel, and that it was of a purely local character, seems to be established by the fact that none of the guests in the other hotels and boarding-houses were similarly affected. All attempts to discover the cause of the poison appear to have been ineffectual; and the mystery has naturally led to all manner of surmises. There have even been dark hints of a diabolical attempt at wholesale poisoning, for the purpose of removing certain political personages, whose offices were wanted by men who would by their constitutional successors. But we cannot for a moment entertain such a foul suspicion. The cause of the poison was doubtless owing to some local obstruction in the arrangements of the hotel, which the proprietors will, of course, endeavor to discover. If they should not succeed in doing so, they will be compelled to close their house, as no stranger would be likely to stop there while these rumors of poisoning there are in circulation.

Our Washington correspondent, it will be seen gives a satisfactory explanation of the matter. The rat-soup story, it seems, was without any foundation, and was the invention of a discharged servant. The sickness, however, is a serious fact, and our correspondent attributes it to the imperfect sewerage of Washington;

one of the drains which runs near the hotel has been obstructed, so that the mephitic vapors which it emits have most probably been the cause of the disease. It will, of course, be immediately attended to, or the consequences, when the hot weather sets in, might be frightful.

[From the New York Tribune, March 14.]

The Washington Hot Catastrophe. Death of another Victim.

It was hoped, when, a week or two ago, we informed our readers of the extraordinary rumor regarding the rat-poisoning case at the National Hotel in Washington, no further developments would manifest themselves beyond the mere sickness of the guests who had partaken so freely of the water provided for their use; but the Cleveland *Photographer* subsequently informed us that a Mr. Lomas, from the State of Ohio, who had been sojourning at Washington, and who was a guest at the National Hotel at the time of the excitement caused by so much sickness, "was taken sick, started for home, and died on the way!" and in our columns of yesterday was a notice of the death of the wife of a respectable citizen of New York, who, it is rumored, died a victim to sickness caused by participation of the water drawn from the tanks of the National Hotel at Washington. The following is the notice alluded to:

"On Wednesday evening, March 11, in the 27th year of her age, Susan Martha, wife of Jay L. Adams, and only daughter of Peter H. Warner."

This lady, according to the information received by our reporter, having been on a visit in Maryland, was returning home by way of Washington, where she stopped at the National Hotel. She was taken with a violent fit of sickness, presenting the same symptoms as the other victims, and upon returning home to New York became rapidly worse, until Wednesday evening last, when she died. Of course rumor at once gave the origin of the cause of her death a location, and put it down as the place mentioned above. Although an effort was made to suppress any fancy which would give such a rumor publicity and thereby have an impression of its validity upon the public mind, yet it transpired sufficiently to reach the ear of our reporter, who, upon inquiry yesterday, ascertained that a post-mortem examination had been made to determine upon the cause of death. At first the cause of Mrs. Adams's death had been set down as "inflammation on the lungs." This, however, it would seem, has been superseded by the result of the post-mortem examination, which, it is said, was conducted by four of the ablest physicians in the city. The statement made to our reporter was the following: "That the stomach was unaccounted to have been partially eaten away; the bowels manifested symptoms of violent inflammation; the lungs were congested, and the kidneys severely affected." These results were reluctantly narrated to two or three friends, who have named it over again; and, as there is no disgrace in being, accidentally, the victim in such a case as that at Washington, or in being related to a victim, we give this to our readers—not with any desire to parade before the public any thing of a revolting character, but rather as an incentive to care and watchfulness in any attempt to destroy vermin. There may be other instances in which death has ensued, in which a like care has been exercised to prevent publicity. While we deeply sympathize with those who are deprived of valued and beloved friends, yet we can see no reason why the public should not know the consequences of the want of foresight or calculation.

[From the New York Evening Post, March 14.]

"But more remarkable than the mysterious epidemic itself is the supineness of the Washington authorities in regard to it. Several people have died in consequence of a temporary stay at this house; multitudes of our most prominent countrymen, from the President downwards, are suffering seriously from the same cause, and yet it does not appear that a single coroner's inquest has been held, or any official inquiry instituted to relieve the public mind from its painful suspense in regard to this matter. Have the proprietors of the hotel, or clerks and servants, suffered from this disease? If not, in what respect have their diet and accommodation differed from those of the guests? How many slaves were there in the house? Have they suffered more or less than the whites, or none at all? How deep is the cellar, and does the water from the Potomac dampen it?"

There is more by this calamity than meets the eye; it is not a matter to be trifled with; if it is, we should not be surprised if its ravages were not confined to the National Hotel at Washington."

THE EUROPEAN.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1857.

Notice to Subscribers.—We request any subscriber who may not receive his paper punctually to inform us immediately of the irregularity. We have now put on two printing presses for the sake of obtaining greater celerity in our supply, and we shall use our utmost endeavors to prevent delays or irregularities in the delivery. Back numbers can only be supplied from No. 3.

Traveling Agent for the European in Canada, Mr. Angus McDonald.

U.S. Agent in New York, Messrs. Hunt & Phipps, 151 Nassau St. U.S. Agent in London, Messrs. Bardon & Co., 151 Strand.

SUMMARY.

The Board of Health of Washington City has taken possession of the National Hotel, and a thorough investigation is to be made as to the causes of the late sickness.

A great many of the people who were staying at that hotel just before the inauguration of the new President have become very sick, and some have died.

We have been credibly informed that some men who went from Baltimore to Washington on the morning of the inauguration offered large bets that Mr. Buchanan would not be inaugurated at all. This was supposed, at the time, to be the mere idle talk of a set of drunken rowdies.

The Senate at Washington has made several important amendments to the Dallas-Garretts treaty. We trust that the negotiation for the treaty will now be allowed to drop. The interests of humanity cannot be advanced by any treaty between England and the United States respecting Central American affairs—the Government of the United States, being influenced by the single desire to trample upon the rights of the natives, whether Indians, blacks, mulattoes or others, and to secure the establishment of slavery in that country.

Our extracts from the remarks of the German press on the late decision of the Supreme Court at Washington, pronouncing that all the Territories of the United States are slave Territories will be found interesting. A German editor's experience in the South, as described by himself, should be a warning to Germans not to emigrate to slave States.

The bad treatment of sailors on board of American vessels has at length aroused even the New York press to denounce the atrocities which have become so frequent. But we may add, that the tribunals here are not likely to do anything to check the evil. The complaints of sailors have to be brought before the slave catching Commissioners sitting under the authority of the Government at Washington, and these gentlemen have no sympathy for common sailors.

The subject of Emigration is one which we regard with especial interest. A large part of the German emigration could be directed to the British Provinces by the adoption of the measures referred to in our German extracts.

It will be seen from an article in our present number that there is already a large emigration from the United States to Canada. As to the proposed emigration to Virginia, we call the attention of our readers to the opposition raised to that project by the slaveowners who do not desire to have in their midst a host of Europeans who would be sure to be opposed to slavery.

We have commented on the theory of the London Times, that there is a demand in America for sewing-machines, and that the manufacturers of London should emigrate to this country. The fact is, that in the great cities of America, that class is in a most wretched condition.

This article on the Poor demands the attention of

all philanthropists. Vast numbers are out of employment; tens of thousands in this city are suffering from extreme poverty, and cases of starvation are of frequent occurrence. Projects of relief are proposed similar to those favored by the spokesmen at the recent meetings of unemployed working men in London.

A petition, lately presented from physicians and surgeons in the New York city hospitals, states that there are treated annually in the various institutions of this city, with which they are connected, more than one hundred and thirty thousand cases of various kinds of sickness; and they recommend peremptory health laws and an authoritative sanitary police. An example of the enforcement of such laws in London will be found in our British Items. The health and comfort of the people are much better provided for in the large towns of England than in those of the United States.

Our columns contain an exposure of the New York system of administering justice in criminal cases, which cannot fail to excite the astonishment of our European readers.

The fact that there have been four mysterious disappearances from one hotel in this city, all within a short time, proves clearly that the police system here is utterly inefficient. We have explained the reasons for this, and suggested the remedy.

Northwestern Position of the Free States: Disruption of the Union between the Free and Slave States.

The slaveowners of the South control the nominations to office in all the slave States, and the mass of the people there have only the shades of elections of one of two sets of office-seekers, all of whom are aware that it is the active and industrial few—the slaveowners—who are masters of the primary assemblies, the pulpit, the press, and the halls of legislation.

Public discussion on the subject of slavery is prohibited by the laws and usages of the slave States, under the false pretext that the slaves might be incited to rebellion. It is not a rebellion of slaves that is feared, but the rebellion of the poorer classes of citizens who do not own slaves. It is feared that these citizens will rebel against the authority of the aristocracy. Not one white man in half a dozen in the slave States has any interest in slaves; and there can be no doubt that if the poor whites in the slave States were made acquainted with the effects of slavery upon their own condition they would insist upon emancipation. Hence the hostility of the slaveowning aristocracy and their tools to the circulation of newspapers, tracts, &c., which show the poor working men of the South how he is victimized by the peculiar institution.

In all questions affecting slavery the political power of the South is all one way, but at the North there can always be found a sufficient number of office-seekers, lick-spittles and lovers of tyranny to side with the South. The North has an overwhelming preponderance in numbers, intelligence and wealth, and yet it is perfectly subservient to the politicians of the South. The North will be called upon, if the Union continues, to suppress insurrections not only of the slaves in the South, but also of the poor whites, impoverished, degraded and trampled upon by the aristocracy. The North must also fight the battles of the South in Cuba, St. Domingo, Mexico, &c., against the fleets and armies of Europe, all for the purpose of extending slavery and the slave-trade. Never whilst the Union lasts will the freemen of the North have the opportunity of rendering any assistance to the oppressed nationalities of Europe; but, on the contrary, they will be compelled to sustain the policy of the despotic powers of Europe. The little slave State Delaware has as much real influence in the councils of the nation as the great free State of New York, for it is the Senate which actually governs, and in that body Delaware, with less than one fortieth part of the

population of New York, has as many representatives as that great State.

The slavery propagandists will soon drag the nation into wars to serve their own vile purposes. The lovers of freedom may then find their opportunity, and insist upon being released from the clutches of the Southern oligarchy. In the meantime, hostility to that oligarchy, and to the extension of its power, should be encouraged in every possible form.

The law of Congress which prohibited slavery in the territory north of 36 deg. 30 min. having been repealed by the infamous Nebraska Bill, slaveowners will take their slaves into that territory. And as the rich are very apt to desire to have domestic servants and farm hands who can be forced to remain in their service, and to whom no wages are paid, we shall be sure to see slave States springing up in Kansas, Nebraska, &c. The evil example will spread, and we shall find a few slave-drivers controlling the politics of these States, just as they do in Maryland and Delaware, where there are but few slaves, and only a handful of slaveowners. Indeed, a hundred men, distinguished for their wealth and social position, and acting vigorously together through a common interest, have more influence over the government of a State than a hundred thousand laborers and mechanics.

In a word, it is too clear that we cannot maintain the contact with the slaveowners under the existing Constitution. Their progress to absolute dominion has been steady and unwavering, and invariably successful.

The free States derive neither strength, nor honor, nor profit from their political connexion with the slave States, but on the contrary that connexion is a source of weakness in a military point of view; it covers the free States with disgrace, and it causes them to be subjected to a foreign and domestic policy, prejudicial in the highest degree to their interests.

When the Union was formed, it was necessary for the purpose of self-defense. Moreover, at that time all the leading statesmen were abolitionists. Washington and Jefferson repeatedly advised general emancipation. Franklin was president of the Philadelphia abolition society. Jefferson drew up the ordinance of 1787, which prohibited slavery in the territory then belonging to the confederacy—to the northwest of the river Ohio; all parties then contemplated the speedy abolition of slavery. Now the case is entirely altered; the free States are strong enough to sustain themselves against foreign enemies—they do not need the support of the slave States, but the connexion with them is highly dangerous. At the same time the policy of the Southern slaveowners has been reversed—for some years past they have refused to allow a free State to come into the Union without a slave State to counter-balance it, and they have resolved to be masters of the Government. Slavery has been established in vast territories which have been conquered or purchased with the blood and treasure of the free States. The Union is propagandist, it is true, but it propagates and establishes the principles of despotism, and plants an odious oligarchy, instead of advocating and advancing Republicanism and the cause of human progress. The welfare of the working classes is never regarded by those who control the government of the Union, but all their efforts are directed to the aggrandizement of slaveowners and the fortification of their power. The Federal Government also exercises a most pernicious influence upon the several States—the popular leaders are reduced and enjoined into the support of slavery, and the great conspiracy against freedom and progress is making rapid strides towards the achievement of its diabolical object.

When a body of men in any country can command labor without paying for it, the condition of the poor citizen there must soon become deplorable indeed. The evil has been in some measure avoided hitherto, in the South, by emigration, great

numbers of poor whites having passed over from the slave to the free States. But when manufactures are established in the South, and the slaves are the operators and mechanics, the free white laborers will be in direct antagonism with the slave-owners, and the latter will insist upon a high property qualification for electors and a strong government, which will result speedily in monarchy and military despotism.

The slave-holding oligarchy are the enemies of progress and popular rights all over the world; they sympathize with the non-owners of Russia, and with despots and despotism everywhere; they hate and despise the down-trodden people of Europe, and would readily assist to tighten their chains.

The whole power of the Government of the United States is now used for the purpose of extending and perpetuating slavery, so that the oligarchy of the South may retain the permanent control at Washington.

If this policy be pursued much longer, we shall find that the great Republic of America, instead of being what it ought to be, a mighty propagandist of liberal principles, will commit political suicide, and betray the cause of Republicanism and social progress. The popular mind of Europe will be excited against the false Republic, and a universal desire will be felt to stop its barbarous course. There will be European crusades against the American slaveowners, instead of American crusades against European despotism.

It is time for the people of the free States to wake up from their delusion. If they examine the subject coolly and dispassionately, they will find that the union of the slave States with the free States is not only not necessary, but that it is destructive of good government in the free States, and must ultimately effect their ruin.

Prevalence of Wife-Beating in New York.

Last week we commented on an article in the New York Times which assumed that wives were never beaten in this country by their husbands unless they happened to be Englishmen, and we took occasion to observe that wife-beating was very common in New York, but that the magistrates had no power to punish the offenders, and could only commit them for trial by a Court and Jury. The process of indictment being slow, tedious and troublesome, and in practice, applicable only to aggravated cases, the consequence is, that in almost every instance, the wife-beater even if arrested on the complaint of the wife escapes punishment. An example just at hand will suffice to prove this, thus the New York Herald, reporting the proceedings before the Court of Special Sessions of this city on 16th instant, disposes of a great number of wife-beating cases in the following summary manner.

"A word or wives interceded in behalf of their other halves who had beaten them, and on promise of good behavior in the future they were discharged."

How Criminal Justice is Administered in New York.

Outragious Proceedings.

The following extract from the Report in the New York Herald of March 18, shows a state of affairs well calculated to astonish our brethren on the other side of the Atlantic:

COURT OF SPECIAL SESSIONS.

March 10.—Judge Russell tried over fifty cases this morning in the Special Sessions, but they were of the usual grade, mainly consisting of petty thefts and assaults and batteries. A host of wives interceded in behalf of their other halves, who had beaten them, and on promise of good behavior in the future they were discharged.

"GUILTY OR NOT GUILTY?"

A man named Campbell was charged with stealing twenty-two baggage checks from the baggage-room of the Stonington line.

Clerk.—Are you guilty or not guilty?

Prisoner.—I was drunk, sir; I don't know whether I am or not.

Judge.—I'll send you three months to the Penitentiary, and give you time to get sober.

A CITY SWILL.

Robert Patton, one of the swell mob, and dressed in unexceptionable apparel, was placed at the bar charged with having stolen three bottles of perfume valued at \$10, the property of George A. Inger & Co. One of the clerks of the above firm testified that the prisoner, in company with another man, asked to see some perfume, and after looking at various qualities they left without purchasing. The boy immediately discovered that some of the bottles were missing, and chased Patton as far as the New York Hotel and caused his arrest. Judge Russell sent him to the Penitentiary for six months.

REMARKS.

Sixty cases of petty thefts, &c., tried in one morning! How they were tried our readers may imagine. A drum-head Court Martial would mete out justice in a more orderly manner. It is for such rapidity as this in the "administration of justice!" (save the mark!) that Judge Russell has become so popular with the New York Herald and other so-called "democratic" newspapers in this city. A large proportion of the people would prefer Lynch law, and we question whether there would not be more fairness and justice under that system.

As to the case of the man named Campbell, it appears that although he did not plead guilty, and was not proved to be guilty, yet he was sentenced. And according to the above report of the case of Robert Patton, there was no evidence against him.

Such outrageous scenes as these are seldom if ever enacted under despotic governments.

A few days ago great praise was bestowed on Judge Russell by a portion of the press, because a woman charged with highway robbery was arrested, tried and convicted within fifteen days. The identification of the accused depended entirely on the evidence of the prosecutor who had never seen her before—an alibi was proved by one witness, and whilst the Judge was summing up, the counsel for the prisoner announced that fresh evidence had just come to his knowledge which would serve to impeach that of the prosecutor. No attention was paid to this, and the prisoner was convicted and sentenced. It is very probable that the prosecutor was mistaken as to the identity of the accused.

In a somewhat similar case tried on the 15th instant, the prosecutor made just such a mistake.

John Ballard, a colored man, was charged with robbing Francis Blewett, on the morning of the 6th of February. The complainant, who is a Spectator, stated that while he was near the corner of White and Church streets, the defendant, in company with another man, came up to him and caught him by the throat, threw him on the pavement, and the unknown person took a \$5 bill out of his pocket. They made their escape, and the plaintiff proceeded to the Chief's office to report his accident. He procured the assistance of two of the reserved corps and returned to the spot, and arrested Ballard contiguous to the scene of the robbery. The complainant positively identified the prisoner as one of the garrison.

The junior counsel for the accused opened the case. He paid an eloquent tribute to the administrative ability of Judge Russell.

After two witnesses were called, who gave Ballard an excellent character, the Assistant District Attorney said that the complainant was undoubtedly mistaken in the identity of the man. The jury immediately acquitted Ballard.

That "tribute to the administrative ability" of the Judge was adroit, and no doubt very serviceable to the cause of the accused.

The election of Judge Russell to the office of City Judge is a most unfortunate event for the city. That a worse choice could hardly have been made, was almost, if not quite universally acknowledged at the time, by those who had the means of knowing the qualifications of that individual. And yet he has suddenly become very popular, because he sentenced an alleged garrotter to be imprisoned for life! This is the case referred to in the following

letter published in the New York Daily Times of 17th instant.

Judge Russell's Sentence.

To the Editor of the New York Daily Times:

You are in error in stating that the crime for which Judge Russell sentenced young Nugent to State Prison for life, was robbing Vallaly of 64 cents. There was not the slightest proof that he robbed him of a penny—nor was he or his companion Hyde proved guilty of any offence at all.

Vallaly had been out for a priest to stricken a child, at about two o'clock in the morning, and stopped at a porter-house to drink, where he met these two young men. He treated them to beer, and drank largely himself. On going home he asked them to go with him, which they did. Vallaly was afterwards found in the snow drunk, and could give no account of himself. The boys had left him; and on this state of facts it was assumed that they were guilty of highway robbery—though Vallaly had not lost a cent—and they were convicted and sentenced accordingly.

They were convicted by the public alarm about garrotters, and were sentenced by a desire for newspaper puff: That is the whole story. Yours, Justice.

A large portion of the people of New York delight in the nearest approach to Lynch Law. The present Mayor of New York obtained his popularity through a high-handed outrage, i. e., the arrest and imprisonment of women found walking at night in the streets. His conduct in that respect, although clearly unlawful and subversive of the liberty of the citizen, was highly applauded by the greater part of the press of this city. We are sorry to add that the same organs of public information are generally ready to defend any act of despotism, the victims of which are only the weak, the poor, and the humble.

"The London 'Daily News' and 'the Hapsburg Loan Railway' System, Guiltibility of the London Press on American Affairs."

A special correspondent of the London Daily News has been giving that paper some information respecting American railways, which it estimates very highly, and observes:

"If we would but study the republican railways, in its contrasts with that of an autocratically or essentially governed country, we might not only save a great deal of money, and incalculably lessen our chances of loss, but learn some things which may possibly be of greater ultimate importance than a safe investment of capital."

According to the correspondent of the Daily News, the railways are built by the farmers as soon as the time comes "when they want a market for their produce."

"Formerly they organised a road traffic, or detained the Irish as they came along to dig a canal, for which they might or might not obtain aid from the State legislatures. At present they resolve on a railroad. There need be no delay or difficulty about it, for the distress by the roadside are the majority of the proprietors. The road is whigly made by them, and for their own purposes. Every man of them knows the cost of the wood and the iron and the labor, and the erection of the stations; and every yard of the line is made under the eye of some proprietor or another who is on the watch to see that there is no waste or faulty work. The directors are the agents; in fact, of a rigorous committee; and every bargain for land is made under a common desire to render the road as cheap as possible. Instead of a desire to obtain large dividends in return for a simple investment of capital, the main object with the proprietors is, the development of the district and the expansion of commerce. They care little about how much their rail pays in the way of dividend, in comparison with the value it adds to their estates and their produce."

This pretty theory, being a flattering one for the Great Republic, was invented by the special correspondent of the Daily News, who presumed on our cotemporary's guiltibility. The fact is, that the farmers, through whose hands the railroads run, are almost all too poor to be able to invest money in railroad stocks. The railroads are owned and controlled by city capitalists, whose object was and is

through the Germans, and has awakened in them a deeper appreciation of the danger to the Republic arising from the opposition between freedom and slavery.

Slavery is now established in the thirteen States, and in the eight Territories of the Union. We now dwell here (New York) in a slave State.

The New York Democrat says: The late decision proves that a majority of the Judges of the Supreme Court have sympathized with the administration in placing its control in the hands of the slave oligarchy.

The New York Christian Register says:

When the natural rights of men is wholly denied by the constitutional authorities, (as it has been done in this country,) they lose all moral weight, and retain only an artificial, hollow pretence because an imperative necessity. When a law has been enacted to direct the Constitution of its own nature, and to change it into a mere artificial freedom, the Republic is a mere illusion, and a mockery, and the Nation is infinitely degraded in it.

The Michigan Journal says:

What a strong national protestant must now intervene the United States of America and the monarchy of Great Britain! The celebrated decision of Lord Mansfield in the Somerset case proclaimed more than a century since, the triumph of liberty and the acknowledgment of the rights of man in Great Britain. But the late decision of the highest court of our beloved land of freedom denies the natural rights of freedom.

The signs of the times indicate the approach of great events. The reaction in America is now up a par with that in Europe. Possibly the coming century of the nation, not of tyranny, will awaken here and rear these dignitaries.

The opposition party of the New States is taken issue, and agrees in an appeal to revolution, for it will prove impossible to acquire by means of the ballot the necessary power of maintaining freedom in the New States.

The Wisconsin Democrat, speaking of the original intended in the decision, before that decision was pronounced, says:

Slavery can be abolished only by revolution, in its unqualified American independence in a great and independent Union and through power.

The Reporter (New Jersey) in commenting on the fact that Parliament refused to the North fully vindicate this resolution, says:

Indeed, it requires a high degree of discrimination to apply a standard in the North in relation to such a standard representation of the Republic as is intended in the decision of the highest tribunal in the land, and to be consistent, and faithful to themselves, the fact that the United States have become the great slave-holding nation, in which slavery is the evil, and freedom the exception.

In America and representatives of slaveholding would be looked out of American society, but they will continue, they will continue to be in the United States in every State, every Territory, and every Territory, in consequence of the fact that the United States have become the great slave-holding nation, in which slavery is the evil, and freedom the exception.

What security does justice against the hands of such a Court?

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Mr. Canham would obtain the same rights as emigrants from England.

The Minister obligingly replied in the following terms:

The Government of Canada professes the equality of the land, and is responsible to the Government.

A deed is given as soon as the conditions of the act (the building of a house and the cultivation of twelve acres) are complied with, whether that be done in any or in four years.

As Germans have the same rights as emigrants from England.

The Act of 1850 then details the advantages to settlers at great length, and concludes thus:

As the American Congress has taken the course of a National Bill, and professes to have given the land free as a matter of course, we believe that we have acted in the interest of our United States citizens, and in that of Canada generally by affording the above information in regard to the lands in Canada West.

THE SECURITY OF METROPOLITAN FREEDOM

(From the Canadian Democrat, Toronto West.)

We hope that it is proposed to send Agents to England, Ireland and Scotland, in order to point out to their counterparts the superior advantages of Canada. The same thing might be tried in Germany, also, if our government is favorable to the German cause. We are convinced that thousands who might otherwise remain in the United States would, if properly informed respecting things in Canada, prefer to come to this part of America, where in addition to an agreeable and healthy climate, they will find remuneration with and superabundant means of obtaining a good living.

We think the suggestion of Mr. Hoffman that Congress should draw attention to the proper quarter. The answer of the Minister of Agriculture to the Editor of the Free Press, never printed, shows that the government of Canada is in favor of German emigration, and that it will be done.

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"I am not a Democrat, you want for Freedom."

"You are a Democrat, you want for Freedom."

"He is an abolitionist, I wish I had him here."

Assured the American there was a British Jew, a clerk in the Post Office, as I was told. He was asked whether he could make an affidavit in the free language that of the above mentioned members of the paper. A few days later in the afternoon, they showed me the law, which prohibition issued with haste. I replied:

"I have never committed any treason, and I am not afraid of this law."

"Then they read to me another law, by which the prohibition of abolition meetings is prohibited with our country's participation in the Post Office, and here I said that I was not afraid of that either, and that I would abide the law regularly enacted."

A few days later I received a notice, they gave me in charge of a individual, who suggested me in the papers, in which they were published, with the remark that I was indicted over in the police for treason, and in a week further proceedings.

I had spent an hour in the prison, when two friendly correspondents of the Post Office, called on, and suggested me to their printing of light. They of them they were not to be kept secret, but they were printed. I said I was so glad a Democrat as Mr. (Catharine) I should be proud to have his place here."

To break up my correspondence with them, they took me to a rented apartment, where I was visited by another gentleman, but with whom I conversed freely. Three days passed, the gas was always lighted, and still no objection had been communicated to me. A little after six o'clock the American entered, and commenced again the proceedings of their constant inspection. After I had again expressed myself in favor of the non-attendance of slaves in the Metropolitan Parliament, they said:

"That's enough."

One of them, on leaving the room, said, "By the way, Valentine's Day, we shall soon have a little frolic."

The meaning of those words was clear to me; I saw it is indeed a little frolic, with my hands untrammelled with the gas always lighted, and I was not one of the abolitionists. We had a wonderful story I thought of my wife with and my own abolitionist, but they had no intention, and I was not my wife with indignation and indignation. It was a great relief when a individual entered and said:

"You are the only man who will not be afraid, but an abolitionist in the eyes of the law, and a free man, in your country, is a great blessing."

At the same time two gentlemen entered and said to me:

"You are the only man who will not be afraid, but an abolitionist in the eyes of the law, and a free man, in your country, is a great blessing."

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"I am not; I am an old Democrat of the Jeffersonian
school."

"You are no Democrat—you went for Fremont!"
"No I did."

"He is an abolitionist; I wish I had him here!"
Amongst his Americans there was a Polish Jew, a
clerk in the Post office, as I was told. He was asked
whether he would make an affidavit to the true transla-
tion of the above mentioned passage of my paper. After
he had read it in the affirmative, they showed me the
law, which punishes treason with death. I replied:

"I have never committed any treason, and I am not
afraid of this law."

"Then they read to me another law, by which the cir-
culation of abolition documents is punished with one
year's imprisonment in the Penitentiary, and hard labor."

"I said that I was not afraid of that either, and that I
would abide the law regularly enacted."

After some more questions and answers, they gave
me in charge of a policeman, who conducted me to the
prison, in which my name was registered, with the
remark that I was handed over to the police for protec-
tion, and to await further proceedings.

I had spent an hour in this prison, when two friends
—members of the Pocket—visited me, and consoled
me by their promise of help. One of them (the name
must be kept secret) told the police captain, "I wish I
was as good a Democrat as Mr. Ludwig; I should be
glad to take his place here."

He broke up my conversation with them, they took
me to another apartment, where I was watched by
another policeman, but with whom I conversed freely.
Three hours passed, the gas was already lighted, and
still no decision had been communicated to me. A little
after six o'clock five Americans entered, and commenced
again the proceedings of their modern legislation. After
I had again avowed myself in favor of the non-extension
of slavery to the Northwestern Territories, they said,
"That's enough!"

One of them, on leaving the room, said, "To-day is
Valentine's Day; we shall soon have a nice party!"

The meaning of these words was clear to me; I saw

outrages committed on board of American vessels, and also warns emigrants to the United States against embarking in American vessels.

Another German paper in this city, which is in the habit of puffing the United States as the "very best republic," has an article commenting on the brutal treatment of seamen, and asks:

"How is it that such devilries do not occur in other countries, although, even there, the life of seamen is in no school of humanity? It is the influence of the slaveocracy which makes the spirit of cannibalism flourish here as much as in the Kingdom of Dahomey."

KANSAS AFFAIRS.

Great Conspiracy to Assassinate the Governor. His Statement as to the Outrages Committed by the Pro-Slavery Party. The Governor's Correspondence Mutilated. Kansas to be a Slave State.

The Democrat publishes a statement relative to the affairs of Kansas, given by Governor Geary. From it it appears that the cause of Governor Geary's resignation was the failure of President Pierce to fulfil the pledges made at the time of his (Geary's) appointment. These pledges were to support him with an army of militia at the expense of the public Treasury, if necessary; but instead of receiving this aid he has paid \$12,000 out of his own pocket, the Administration having refused military support under the most urgent circumstances, while he was thwarted by the Judiciary of the Territory in every possible manner.

The Governor states that fifty men were under oath from the day he entered the country till he left it, to assassinate him; provided his official conduct did not meet their approbation. He regrets the step he has been obliged to take, but feels confident that had the promised assistance been rendered he could have administered the affairs of the Territory in a manner acceptable to honest settlers of both sides.

In relation to the outrages committed by pro-slavery men, he says one-half has not yet been told. He pronounces the murder of Buffum by Hays, the most cold-blooded and atrocious affair ever witnessed. His version of the Sherrard affair is similar to those already reported. He says, however, that the account published in the Republican, over the signature of Jones, is a tissue of falsehoods.

The Governor complains bitterly of the *abstraction and mutilation of correspondence*. He says the mail-bags are constantly opened, and all objectionable matter to or from him abstracted. The Governor thinks the establishment of a *Slavery Constitution inevitable*.

STATE OF AFFAIRS IN CALIFORNIA.

Popular Notion as to what Laws should be Obeyed.

[Correspondence of the New York Herald, March 15.]

The condition of things in this city, and even throughout the State, is by no means satisfactory. There exists an under-current of feeling among the people hard to define, yet of a nature that threatens the continuance of quiet. In the best-governed communities there is, at times, cause to complain of bad laws enforced, or good laws badly administered; but in California, from the spirit infused into the people by the events of last year, and the evil effects of which will, in a greater measure, be yet developed, the idea has become prevalent that *only such laws as coincide with their views should be obeyed*. The course of the press is, perhaps, the great cause of this unfortunate state of affairs. Instead of being conservative, and, in discussing public measures, calm, the writers appeal to popular prejudices, and, for arguments, threaten popular violence. Many causes combine to give good reasons to fear we are proceeding in a direction that will disturb the harmony that ought to exist between the citizens of the State and between the United States and California. The tenor of the press, with some exceptions, is, to create the opinion that *the only remedy for evils in the body politic is in the people themselves acting in an armed capacity*, and this is, in short, becoming the leading doctrine of the men and journals who acted with the Vigilance Committee. A member of the legislature, in debate, a few days since, said, "I wish to say boldly that the press of California is a disgrace to any civilized community. It is, perhaps, more licentious than any other in the world." An unnatural excitement is kept alive by the continual assaults on private character by some of the

newspapers, and these are of so gross and irritating a nature that some catastrophe like that of May last is not impossible.

Another element that is said to threaten danger, is the determination of the legislature now in session to show no favor to the men who were prominent or in any wise connected with the Vigilance organization. It need not be said the Governor and State officers are all committed, both by feeling and principle, to a like hostility. The Democratic party has from the first taken strong ground of opposition to the Committee, for the principal aim of the Committee was to break down its influence and accomplish its defeat, and the Democratic press has consistently contended against its policy and deprecated its existence. The legislature elected last November being largely of that party, by its votes has proved how much they disapprove of the Committee. A favorite measure of the Vigilants was an amnesty act, which they hoped to procure the passage of, but the chances of success have been dissipated by the frequent expressions of views unfavorable to such a proposition, drawn out by motions akin to this question in the legislature. There are many matters which will come before that body unpalatable to the Committee; and there are numerous dark rumors of a concerted resistance to legislative enactments, which is to develop itself in different parts of the State at the same moment. In fact, the past month has been prolific in reports of an early outbreak, wider in its scope and more comprehensive in its aims than the one of last May.

[From the New York Times, March 11.]

Cruelties on Board American Ships.

We must at last believe that there are tyrants on the sea, as well as tyrants on the shore; tyrants on the quarter-deck of our packet-ships, whose awful inhumanity out-shames everything in the histories of a Spanish Inquisition, and whose despotic cruelty has stripped our forecabin of every vestige of that manliness and nobility for which the sailor's profession was once proverbial. The stories recorded of the crimping and kidnapping which is practiced in New York to obtain crews for our Liverpool packet-ships, and of the tortures to which these crews are subjected by their officers at sea, are horrid enough to make the coarsest heart shudder, and are such a disgrace to civilized nature as to appear incredible to any one who has not the evidence of their truth before him.

Our attention has been called to this matter by the "Society of Friends of Foreigners in Distress," at Liverpool, whose managing committee has sent us a special report upon this subject, recently adopted by the Society. This report states that hundreds of seamen are annually turned ashore at Liverpool, in an utterly wretched condition, and ruined in health from the treatment they have received on board the American ships in which they sailed. During the past year the Society personally examined the cases of seventy-nine of these seamen, and, in the month of January last, the cases of twenty-seven others. Of all these men, only thirty-seven had shipped for the voyage of their own accord; the remaining sixty-nine had all been kidnapped and carried to sea against their will. Some of these had left parents, wives and children in this country; and all of them, save two, complained that they had been repeatedly and grossly assaulted and tortured during the voyage. The fact that eighty-two of them had to be sent to the Hospital, or to receive other medical attendance, on their arrival at Liverpool, corroborates the story of their sufferings.

But the cruelties practiced upon these seamen, on board their ships, would be incredible had the facts not been confirmed by proceedings in the Liverpool Police Court. In that Court the horrible fact has been proved that seamen on board the packet-ship *Ocean Monarch*, of New York, have been forced to *draw with their teeth, iron nails from the deck*, into which they had been driven, for that purpose, to the depth of two inches! It was also proved that a man on board this ship had been compelled actually to *lick up the dust from the cabin floor!* On board the New York packet-ship *Guy Mannering*, a man was beaten to death by the third mate and boatswain. The surgeon, who made the post-mortem examination of the body, deposed at the inquest "that the head presented an enormously confused mass, the face was completely battered in, and there were from seventy to eighty confused wounds upon the feet, legs, thighs and back!" After citing these particular cases, the report refers us to the records of the Liverpool

hospitals for instances of the lamentable condition in which most of these victims of savage ferocity, on board American ships, are brought into port. It, however, exonerates "the majority of the captains" from any personal participation in these cruelties; attributing them generally to the mates and boatswains.

In spite of the romantic aspiration "for a life on the ocean wave, and a home on the rolling deep," which delusive young ladies and gentlemen are wont, of a summer's evening, to chant to the breakers at Nahant or Newport—the proverb stands true, that a sailor's life is a dog's life. Yet facts lead us to believe that "a dog's life" is every way preferable to a life in the fore-cabin of many of our European packet ships. The report of this Liverpool Society, and the records of the United States Commissioner's Court in this City, show that humanity is the exception, and inhumanity the rule of discipline on most of these ships. Sailors have been beaten by brutal mates until they are maimed for life. They have been set upon by bull-dogs; have been stunned by slung-shot; have been degraded, persecuted, racked, tortured, and compelled to jump into the sea to escape a violent and horrible death from the brutal bullies of the deck! All this has occurred on board ships owned by the Christian citizens of New York!

But the worst chapter in these bloody records is the final one. If the sailor runs safely the murderous gauntlet of the voyage, and reaches port, the law rarely furnishes him any redress. And who is he that he should obtain redress? Only a foremast hand, without money, without friends, and perhaps without character. His testimony, and the testimony of his associates in the fore-cabin, is easily scoffed down by the influence, the dignity and the great respectability of the quarter-deck. The result is ever the same. When was a mate or a master of one of our packet ships punished by the law for barbarous cruelties to his crew?

In extenuation of these cruelties, it has been pleaded that these men ship as able seamen, and, proving to be only landsmen, are deserving of ill-treatment for their false pretences. If this were true, what apology is it for inhuman tortures? But the statement is not always true. More than half of these men never shipped at all. They were *impressed on board*, by the owners of the ships, through that landshark—the shipping-master—who enjoys the owner's confidence. This crimping villain has kidnapped these men, and has often decoyed them on board the ship in collusion with the officers themselves. It is stated in a recent case before the Liverpool Police Court, that two Germans and a Frenchman were decoyed on board the packet ship *Albert Gallatin* in New York. When the crew was mustered on deck, these men were objected to because their names were not on the roll, and it was proposed to send them ashore. But the mate interposed, saying he preferred these three helpless foreigners to three seamen already on the roll. They would be cheaper men. He could abuse them heartily, and turn them adrift at Liverpool without wages; which he did, as is always the custom in these cases.

The root of this gigantic evil is this system of employing shipping-masters and landlords to procure crews for our ships; and for this devilish system our shipowners are responsible. It is a system which is destroying our mercantile marine, is disgracing our civilization, and is making our seamanship a shame and a by-word among nations. In the name of humanity, let our legislature devise some immediate means for putting an end to it, and to its barbarous consequences.

[From the Philadelphia Ledger, March 14.]

Brutal Treatment on American Vessels.

The ship *Wandering Jew*, from New Orleans, arrived at Liverpool on the 28d ultimo, and three men had to be conveyed to the Northern Hospital, two being disabled from alleged brutal treatment. Their names are John Lyons, Edward Moore and William Harrison. All complained of having been kicked and beaten. These men allege that a man named Mackenzie, died from the effects of ill usage. Having been kidnapped, when at New Orleans, he became discontented, and was knocked down and jumped upon by one of the officers. He was next immersed in a large tub full of water, and then put in his bunk with his wet clothes on. The man died in two or three days and was thrown overboard.

Nearly every arrival from England brings an account of instances of similar brutality on board of American vessels. The Liverpool Society, for the Protection of

Foreigners has taken measures to bring the fact to the attention of both the British and United States Governments.

Judge Curtis' Dissenting Opinion on the Citizenship of Negroes.

Judge Curtis observed that, in five of the thirteen original States under the Confederation, free negroes were allowed the privilege of voting, as well as other rights of citizenship. That their political status as citizens was not changed by the adoption of the Constitution, to which they were parties, nor could any legislation of Congress deprive them of the rights which by that instrument were guaranteed to them. He entirely disclaimed the theory that the Constitution was made exclusively for the white race. The argument derived from the omission of Congress to include other races than the white race in the acts of naturalization, was rebutted by repeated instances in the practice of government, where the rights of citizenship had been conferred by treaty on Indians, half-breeds and negroes. And, in the opinion of Judge Curtis, the claims of native-born colored inhabitants were stronger than those of aliens.

Coroners' Inquests, Secret as well as Ex-parte.

[From the New York Times, March 14.]

A rival to Coroner Conroy has made an exhibition of himself in Chicago. At an inquest held upon the body of one Charles Seiffert, (killed in an election riot,) the Coroner refused to permit the publication of testimony. The City Attorney sustained him, asserting that the proceedings of a Coroner's Jury were like those of a Grand Jury, not to be made public; and the reporters were excluded. The Coroner, according to the report of the *Times*, accompanied the expulsion by angry comment, and paid no heed to remonstrances addressed to him by the Jury. The matter furnishes material to the Chicago press for lively discussions.

REMARKS.

The duties of Coroners should be performed by the Justices of the Peace.

Laborer's Dwellings in Liverpool.

[From the Liverpool Alton.]

Some time ago we drew attention to the admirable block of buildings then near completed in Northumberland street and George street, Toxteth Park; and, after stating the objects of the philanthropic gentlemen who had taken the initiative in their erection, we described the external appearance and the internal arrangements of the cottages. They are so planned that a judicious economy of space has been obtained, with a due attention to comfort, ventilation, and efficient drainage. They are now completed, and we have been furnished with detailed plans and a sketch of the elevation, which have been published by the proprietors, accompanied by the following address from the chairman of the directors, Mr. John Cropper: "The completion of the first block of forty improved model dwellings for the laboring classes seems a fitting occasion for again bringing under the notice of the philanthropists of Liverpool the fact of the existence of an association having this important object in view. This company was formed in 1854. It was originally under the metropolitan charter, but was subsequently registered as a limited liability company, under the act of the last session of Parliament. The originators of it were induced to undertake the work by the urgent necessity for improvement in the dwellings of the laboring classes; and were encouraged in the effort by the result of a similar undertaking, the Albert Cottages, in Frederick street, which had been previously erected, having conferred a great social benefit, and having proved satisfactory as a pecuniary investment. Nearly eight hundred shares, of £25 each, were taken. Considerable delay occurred from the difficulty of obtaining an eligible site, and the appropriation of land to such a purpose. As soon as the present very advantageous plot of ground was obtained, plans were prepared. They were submitted to the Health Committee of the Town Council, who approved of them, and made some valuable suggestions as to the arrangements. The buildings have cost upwards of £6,000. A part of the houses are now habitable. The architect has prepared detailed plans and a sketch of the elevation, which have been lithographed, and are now presented to the proprietors. The houses are various in the extent of their accommodation: they contain, besides the living room, one, two, or three

bedrooms. Gas is introduced into the living rooms throughout; each tenement is supplied with a scullery, sink, water-tap, shelves, plate-rack, ladder, coal-place, and water-closet; and there is a common dust-chest outside the door. The access is by a fire-proof staircase. Ventilation and drainage have been effectually secured. There are general washing-rooms in the basement for the use of the tenants, and drying-rooms in the roof, through which a current of air freely passes. Near the wash-house there is a bath-room, and a large room is appropriated to an infant school, the great advantage of which is too obvious to require comment. An inspection of the houses will satisfy all who are interested in the comfort and improvement of the people. They will find that advantages and conveniences have been ably planned and well carried out. If, with these benefits to the occupants, the proprietors can secure a reasonable return for the capital invested, the directors trust that such undertakings may be much extended, and it cannot fail to be a gratifying reflection that there are cheerful, healthy, and convenient dwellings, available to many a respectable family hitherto unable to obtain them; and that some alleviation has been successfully attempted to the now too prevalent evils of close, crowded, unhealthy habitations, which are alike injurious to the physical and moral well-being of so large a proportion of our population."

The Case of the Model Artists.

[From the New York Tribune.]

Our readers will remember that on one of the bitter cold and stormy evenings of this Winter, a detachment of the police went to the model artist establishment in Grand street, for the purpose of arresting the performers. This duty was executed under circumstances peculiarly outrageous, the women only being arrested. These poor creatures were not allowed to divest themselves of their stage attire, nor to put on any other clothes, but were dragged into the streets and through the rain, up Broadway to the Eighth Ward Station-house, followed by a gang of brutal fellows, who scoffed and jeered at their misfortunes by the way, and there confined all night. Some of their friends brought their clothes; but they were not allowed to put them on until after they had been paraded down Broadway next day to the City Hall, and, in official parlance, "shown up." They were then allowed to depart. An indictment having been found in this case, on a charge of disorderly conduct, their counsel, Judge Phillips, moved to quash the case on the ground of irregularity, the arrest having been made without a warrant. His motion prevailed, and he announced that the proprietor of the establishment was about to commence legal proceedings against the Mayor for his illegal arrest of the parties. Of course, no good citizen will defend the model artists, as such, no sooner than he would a policy backer; but there are legal forms for the suppression of all such nuisances, and Mayor Wood might have effected in the regular way the very thing he fails in doing by the exercise of "doubtful powers." If the parties aggrieved maintain the action for false imprisonment, the people may yet have the honor of paying a few thousand dollars smart money for the violation of law and gross invasion of personal rights indulged in against the "Model Artists" by the "Model Police," under the orders of the "Model Mayor."

[From the New York Tribune, March 12.]

Woman's Rights in Earnest. A Feminine Defence of Hoops. Letter from a Wife and Mother.

To the Editor of the New York Tribune:

Sir: During the cooking controversy which has especially raged in the weekly *Tribune*, I have kept silent and learned all that I could from you and the various individuals who have contributed their views and experiences to that important subject. But in the daily *Tribune* of February 21, a subject of equal importance is mentioned in a manner not to be patiently borne by womanly nature—I allude to "hoops." You do not like them; very well, you do not wear them, I suppose, consequently you know nothing of their convenience. If I tell you that a hoop-skirt relieves the hips and body of the wearer of a load which would be necessary in its absence, you will say, why necessary, either with or without hoops? In reply, I would ask you how you would like to see the streets of New York City ornamented with women in pantaloons? and do you not think that they (pantaloons, of course) would be quite

as becoming as drapery which shows the figure with every movement? No woman ventures, unless compelled by necessity, into the street when the wind blows if scant drapery be the reigning fashion. No true man would make remarks about the flying skirts, but there are plenty of miserable wretches who would; and but few high-minded women have independence enough to brave the jeers of such creatures. A person can walk with much greater ease with a hoop even if the same amount of clothing be worn; there is a buoyancy in the balloon-like structure which is a great relief to all who are unfortunate enough to wear skirts. You say that the Empress Eugénie, "for purposes of her own," first started the, to you, "terrible fashion." Pray, do let the Empress Eugénie's, and your wife's, (if you have one) and your neighbor's wife's, and everybody's wife's purposes alone. If women are foolish enough to get married, do please let their dresses alone. If they can contrive to appear in public one-fourth of a year at a time, do let them do so. Respectfully yours,
Lowell, Feb., 1857. A WIFE AND MOTHER.

Yellow Fever in New York.

[From the New Orleans Planxine, March 4.]

Keeping the Thing Dark.

They have an excellent way of keeping quiet about epidemic diseases in the city of New York. From a comparison of the city inspector's report, and from other documentary evidence, it is now ascertained that there were about one thousand deaths from yellow fever in the city of New York, during the summer of 1856.

REMARKS.

Such a state of things could not have been concealed in London. The business of New York would have suffered severely if the fact of the existence of yellow fever here had become generally known—hence various misrepresentations were resorted to.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE UNITED STATES ARMY—HOW RECRUITED.—Among the passengers in the *Illinois*, for San Francisco, on the 6th ult., were 250 United States soldiers, under command of Captain Underwood. Their destination is California and Oregon, where they will fill up the 4th and 9th Infantry regiments, which have been doing duty on that coast for the last four years, and their ranks are thinned by the time of the men expiring and desertions. Most of the soldiers who left yesterday were raw recruits from Governor's Island, and the dock was filled with their female relatives and acquaintances, weeping and bidding them farewell. The recruits were not sturdy looking men, and seemed for the most part to be poor fellows who were "hard up," and were compelled to take to soldiering in lieu of some better employment.—*New York Herald*, March 6.

THE OLIGARCHY.—The forms of our government are not democratic, nor was it ever intended that a democracy should here exist; but the spirit of the people is democratic, and revolts at the mere idea of an aristocracy holding sway. . . . Out of America—out of the United States—slavery has no defenders, and but few apologists. Cuban slavery is not so bad as ours, and the Brazilians have the disease in a mild form, comparatively speaking. Hence it is a wild conclusion to which Mr. Buchanan has come that "agitation" is about to cease.—*Boston Telegraph*.

PREVALENCE OF SUICIDE.—Suicide among women is getting to be quite common in Worcester county, three instances of it having occurred there within a very short time. Two of the women were married, and the third was a widow.—*Correspondent of New York Evening Post*, March 14.

PANAMA AND THE UNITED STATES.—The intelligence from Mr. Morse, at Bogota, does not warrant the belief that the Panama difficulty can be adjusted, and it is probable that this question will present the first serious issue to be considered in our foreign relation. The instructions leave no alternative between adjustment and collision, unless the present Administration retreats from the position taken by the last.—*Tribune*, March 18.

THE EMPEROR'S SPEECH.—The glowing picture presented in the Emperor's speech of the tranquil and secure state of France under Imperial rule is as unreal as imaginary, as any of the Utopias which formed the subject-matter of its author's correspondence with George Sand, when immured in the Castle of Ham. The notes of his song of triumph irresistibly remind the listener of the bodiful sounds which foretold Keates's *Lamia* the dissolution of her spell-built palace.—*London Daily News*, February 18.

For this article the *Daily News* was stopped at the post-office in France.

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GIFT LAND.

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS,
Toronto, Canada West, July 25, 1856

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Commences at a point on the Ottawa River, known as "Ferrall's," a little above the mouth of the Bonechere River, and runs in a Westerly direction, passing through the northerly part of the County of Renfrew.

It is intended to connect this road with a projected line of road known as "Bell's Line," leading to the Lake Muskoka and Lake Huron, by a branch which will diverge from the Opeongo Road in the Township of Bradenac, at a distance of about fifty-three miles from the River Ottawa, forming with "Bell's Line," a great leading road, or base line from the Ottawa to Lake Muskoka, 171 miles in length, passing through the heart of the Ottawa and Huron Territory, and opening up for settlement a vast extent of rich and valuable land.

This road, and the country through which it passes, now open for settlement, is easily accessible, and the Agent for the granting of Lands in this District is Mr. T. S. FERRALL, who resides at Mount St. Patrick, near Renfrew, on the Opeongo Road, a few miles from the Lands which are to be granted. To reach the section of country under Mr. Ferrall's charge, the settler must go from MONTREAL up to the Ottawa River to a place called Bonechere Point, and thence by land some twenty-five or thirty miles westward to the Township of Grattan, in which Mount St. Patrick is situated.

THE ADDINGTON ROAD.

Commencing in the Township of Angelsea, in the northern part of the county of Addington near the Village of Flints Mills, in Kilsdair, runs almost due north to the River Madawaska, a distance of thirty-five miles, till it intersects the Ottawa and Opeongo Road.

The Agent for the granting of the Land in this district is M. E. PERRY, who for that purpose is now resident at the Village of Flints Mills. The outlines of five townships of very superior land are already surveyed and ready for Settlement within the limits of the Agency, lying north of Lake Missisquoi, and between it and the River Madawaska. The Townships are called, respectively Abinger, Donigh, Ashby, Smitham, Angelsea and Barrie.

The direct route to this Section is by way of Kingston, Canada West, thence to Napanee, either by land or steamboat, and thence North to the Township of Kilsdair, and the Village of Flints Mills, where Mr. Perry resides.

THE HASTINGS ROAD.

Almost parallel to the Addington Road, and at a distance West from it of about thirty-two miles, is the *Hastings Road*. This Road, beginning at the northern part of the County of Hastings, and running a distance of seventy-four miles almost due north, also intersects the Ottawa and Opeongo Road, and its extensions.

The Government Agent is Mr. M. P. HAYES, who resides at the Village of Hastings, lately called Madoc, about twenty-eight miles north of the Town of Belleville. The Road, as surveyed, is in good order. The land to be granted by the Crown under this Agency extends from fifteen to seventy miles north of the Village of Hastings. The Road through this large extent of land is passable for forty miles, and money is now being expended to extend it thirty miles farther, so that Settlers can get in and out without difficulty, and find a good market for surplus produce, as well as convenient facilities for bringing in whatever supplies they may require—abundance of which can be had at the Village of Hastings, where the Government Agent resides.

The direct way to reach this Section, which is easily accessible, is by Kingston, Canada West, thence by Steamboat up the bay of James's Bay, fifty-six miles, and thence by a good road to Hastings, twenty-eight miles.

In order to facilitate the Settlement of the Country, and provide for keeping in repair the Roads thus opened, the Government has authorized Free Grants of Land along these Roads, not to exceed in each case *One Hundred Acres*, upon application to the Local Agents, and upon the following

CONDITIONS:

That the Settler be eighteen years of age.
That he take possession of the Land allotted to him within one month, and put in a state of cultivation at least twelve acres of the land in the course of four years; build a house (at least 20 by 18 feet) and reside on the lot until the conditions of settlement are fully performed; after which accomplishment only he shall have the right of obtaining a title to the property. Families comprising several settlers entitled to lands, preferring to reside on a single lot, will be exempted from the obligation of building and of residence, (except upon the lot on which they live) provided that the required clearing of the land be made in full. The non-fulfillment of these conditions will cause the immediate loss of the assigned lot of land, which will be sold or given to another.

The Road having been opened by the Government, the Settlers are required to keep it in repair.

The Local Agents, who know the names and places of abode already been given, will furnish every information to the intending settler.

The Log House required by the Government to be built is of such a description as can be put up in four days by five men. The neighbors generally help to build the Log Cabin for newly arrived settlers, without charge, and when this is done the cost of erection is small. The roof can be covered with bark, and the spaces between the logs plastered with clay, and whitewashed. It then becomes a neat dwelling, and warm as a stone house.

The Lands thus opened up and offered for settlement are in sections of Canada West, capable, both as to Soil and Climate, of producing abundant crops of winter wheat, of excellent quality and full weight, and also crops of every description of farm produce grown in the best and longest cultivated districts of that portion of the Province, and fully as good.

There are, of course, in such a large extent of country as that referred to, great varieties in the character and quality of land—some lots being much superior to others; but there is an abundance of the very best land for farming purposes. The Lands in the neighborhood of these three roads will be found to be very similar in quality and character, and covered with every variety of Timber—some with hard wood and some with heavy pine.

Water for domestic use is everywhere abundant; and there are, throughout, numerous streams and falls of water capable of being used for manufacturing purposes.

The heavy timbered land is almost always the best; and of it the ashes of three acres—well taken care of and covered from wet—produce a barrel of Potash, worth from £6 to £7 currency. The capital required to manufacture Potash is very small, and the process is very simple and easily understood.

The expense of clearing and enclosing Heavily Timbered Lands, valuing the labor of the settler at the highest rate, is about *Four Pounds Currency* per acre, when the first wheat crop, if an average one, will nearly repay. The best timber for fencing is to be had in abundance.

A settler on these lands, possessing a capital of from £25 to £50 according to the number of his family, will soon make himself comfortable, and obtain a rapid return for his investment. The single man, able and willing to work, needs little capital besides his own arm and ax—he can devote a portion of the year to clearing his land, and in the numerous lumbering establishments he can at other seasons obtain a liberal remuneration for his labor.

The climate throughout these districts is essentially good. The snow does not fall so deep as to obstruct communication; and it affords material for good roads during the winter, enabling the farmer to haul in his firewood for the ensuing year from the woods, to take his produce to market, and lay in his supplies for it; and this covering of the earth not only facilitates communication with the more settled parts of the district, but is highly beneficial and fertilizing to the soil.

In all the localities above named, where every settler has surplus produce, there is a good market for it near to him—farm produce of all kinds being in great demand by the lumber or timber merchants, who are carrying on extensive operations throughout those parts of the country.

According to the ratio of progress which Canada West has made during the last ten years, the value of property on an average doubles within that period—irrespective of any improvements which may have been made by the settlers.

In many countries the value of land once opened for settlement has increased *five-fold* in the period named, but the average value of each acre, according to the statistics of Canada West, *doubles every ten years*, in the mere lapse of time, exclusive of any expenditure thereon—and it is not too much to expect that this ratio will not diminish for generations to come.

The sections of country opened by these roads lie in and to the southern part of the Great Ottawa Region, stretching from and beyond that to the shores of Lake Huron, to Lake Nipissing and to the Ottawa River—an immense extent of country, whose resources are now seeking and will rapidly obtain development.

The *Ottawa County*, lying south of Lake Nipissing and of the Great River Ottawa, and embracing a large portion of the land offered for settlement, is capable of sustaining a population of *Eight Millions of People*, and it is now attracting general attention, as the *most western portions of Canada* are rapidly filled up.

The Parliament of Canada, in its last session, incorporated a company for the construction of a railway to pass through this Ottawa country from the shores of Lake Huron to the City of the Ottawa, and thence eastward.

A survey of the River Ottawa and the neighboring country has been undertaken, and will be completed in the present year; its principal objects being to ascertain by what means the river Ottawa can be rendered navigable and connected with Lake Huron, so as to enable vessels to pass by that route from the most western waters into the River St. Lawrence and Ocean. These projected works are alluded to, and in order to show that the attention of the Government, Parliament and People of Canada has been fixed upon his important portion of the Province.

P. M. VANSCOTTEN, *Minister of Agriculture.*

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