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THE BRITISH PRESS ON U. S. AFFAIRS.

The California Repudiation. Its Effect on American Credit in Europe.

[From the London Times, (city article,) January 30.]

It may be hoped that the news of the State debt of California having been declared unconstitutional and void will beget some extra caution on the part of the English public with regard to investments in American securities. It will be said, perhaps, that the condition of California is exceptional, and that no sweeping conclusion is to be drawn from anything that may happen in that State. But the event which has just occurred is merely a repetition of past experience. Mississippi, Michigan, Arkansas and Florida adopted a similar course nearly twenty years ago, and have maintained it ever since. Yet the two former are among the most prosperous States of the Union, and their conduct is rendered the more striking, since while, owing to the one being a Southern and the other a Northern State, they are opposed to each other on some of the broadest points of policy, they exhibit perfect unanimity on the question of repudiation. Again, although Illinois and Indiana have hesitated to follow these examples, and have been for some years allowed to class themselves among the respectable and paying States, it must not be forgotten that Illinois merely discharges a portion of her interest, and that Indiana forced her creditors to accept a compromise, under the threat that they must be content with that or nothing. These are matters of history, and it is due to New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and all the other States that properly fulfil their obligations, no less than to those persons on this side who may be disposed to seek American investments, that they should be kept constantly in view. At the same time, in doing justice to the more honest States, it is necessary to point out that, although these States are yet to be made responsible for the acts of their neighbors, over whose domestic administration they have no more control than England has over that of France, there still are reasons why the warning afforded by the losses that have occurred should be held in some degree to apply to all American securities. The public opinion of the whole of the States has a controlling influence on the appointment of ministers under the Federal Government, and when it is recollected that for the past few years one of the highest and most powerful offices in the Cabinet at Washington has been filled by the leading advocate of Mississippi repudiation, without a feeling being expressed in any quarter that such views should operate in the slightest degree as a disqualification, it is impossible not to see that there is no part of the country the financial reputation of which is not weakened by the circumstance. Setting aside, however, all arguments of this description, there is a *prima facie* reason for the constant exercise of prudence, which should always be kept in mind by investors, but of which many details of them are wholly ignorant. This consists in the fact that each State has a separate constitution, and that many of these constitutions contain conditions, in some cases distinct, and in others vague, limiting the borrowing powers, both of the executive and the legislative authorities.

In the principal countries of Europe the idea either of a written or unwritten constitution being brought forward to effect the evasion of a debt which had received the sanction of all the governing bodies for the time being, would be considered as too objectionable to be entertained; but in the United States, where the several constitutions are so compact as to bring their technical peculiarities within the knowledge of most persons, a different feeling has grown up. In the State of New

York no loan can be contracted beyond £200,000 without a special vote of the people. In Iowa the limit is £20,000, in California it is £60,000, and in Mississippi there are certain other definite restrictions. In how many cases do the English people, who are prepared to part with their money upon State bonds at the recommendation of agents, take the trouble to become acquainted with the letter of these constitutions? Perhaps it would be impossible to find a single instance. Even in the borrowing States themselves, when the mania for speculation and for raising money is going on, there is sometimes similar neglect, and American purchasers are thus occasionally deluded. In the present California case it was remarked by the Judges of the Supreme Court, in rather peculiar phraseology, that there seemed for a long time "to have been a general disposition to give the subject of the existing restrictions the go-by." Moreover, the various constitutions are constantly liable to alteration; and hence an edition printed in one year may be essentially different from that of the next. In future, therefore, it will be well for our people to understand the risks of this sort to be encountered. In dealing with a State which is able to borrow money through its executive and legislative bodies, and then to fall back on the clauses of a constitution, they are in the position of persons making loans to a corporation who entrust their common seal to directors, managers and secretaries, and who, when these persons have borrowed money for their benefit, can turn round and say that under their deed of settlement they had no right to borrow a shilling, and that consequently they must decline to pay. There can, in short, be no safety for lenders where anything exists that can override the simple fact of a loan having been made in good faith under certain open and avowed conditions within the acquiescence of the whole community. If even a vote of the people be obtained, how can reliance be felt that it may not be upset by the plea that some of the legal forums for taking it were neglected? If with a full knowledge of such risks capitalists choose to part with their money, there can be no objection. All that is urged is, that they should not be lost sight of. The majority of persons will be disposed to believe that, as regards New York and many other States of the Union, they may always rely that the equitable view will prevail over the legal or technical one, and it is not necessary to seek to disturb this impression. It cannot, however, be otherwise than beneficial to the solidity and permanence of the financial relations of the two countries, that every element to those relations should from time to time, when occasion calls, be temperately reviewed, especially as the laxity which prevails here with regard to the legal questions affecting State bonds is carried to a much greater extent with respect to those of cities and railway companies.

Ill-treatment of Sailors on Board of American Ships.

[From the Liverpool European Times, January 24.]

A case of considerable interest to the commercial community of this country came before the stipendiary magistrate, J. S. Mansfield, Esq., yesterday, at Liverpool. The chief officer (first mate) of the American ship, *Albert Gallatin*, was summoned for assaulting three foreigners, one a Frenchman named Millard, (but who had been recognised as William Williams,) and the other two Germans, named Zimmerman and Zill, under the circumstances described below. From the statement of Mr. Aspinall, barrister, who appeared for the complainants, it appeared that in consequence of the frequent outrages committed upon foreigners and others in the American ships, the Society for the Protection of Foreigners in Distress had instructed him to prosecute the chief officer for the ill-treatment the men above named had been subjected to at his hands. Mr. Aspinall then dilated at some length upon the brutal conduct of officers of the American ships generally, and complained

upon the guilt of the parties accused of the murder of Dr. Burdell, have been deterred from presenting themselves by the treatment which witnesses have experienced from the Coroner. We trust that all such persons will communicate freely with the Grand Jury, which now takes the matter in hand. We have received several communications on the subject from parties who state facts of decided importance, if they are true. As the names of responsible authors have been withheld, from the apprehensions we have referred to, we have not made their letters public. As the actual inquest remains still to be performed, we hope it will be as thorough and complete as possible.

THE BRITISH INDIAN EMPIRE.

That the people of India have derived very great advantages from British sway is generally recognised even by Americans who have made themselves at all acquainted with East India affairs. Peace has been preserved amongst the nations embraced in the British Indian Empire, and the most odious features of the ancient social system prevailing there have been abolished.

Blackwood's Magazine for December last, contains a valuable article—"Our Indian Empire," from which we make the following extracts:

Having thus surveyed the administrative machinery of British India, the question next arises, what has been done by us for the social and moral condition of the people? Our revenue system, while benefiting ourselves, has greatly benefited our Indian subjects, compared with the tyranny and corruption of the native princes; but, many social benefits and triumphs of civilization have been accomplished by the Company and its officers, at no little expense to the former, and personal risk and hardship to the latter, the history of which, as recorded in the graphic pages of Mr. Kaye's work, the world will not willingly let die.

No people in the world exhibit so many exceptional developments of human nature as the races of India. The most impressive of races, ideas and views of life take root amongst them such as would find no acceptance elsewhere. Supple and pliant in their bodily frame, they are equally so in their mental and moral constitution; and upon no other race has the force of circumstances, or the contagion of example, so potent an influence in determining them towards good or evil. "We had been nearly two centuries connected with them," says Mr. Kaye, "by ties at least of commerce, before we knew very much more about the natives of India, than that they were a race of black people, with bare legs, carrying the greater amount of their apparel piled up on the top of their heads." And when at length the scales fell from our eyes, no little astonishment awaited us. The awakening hardly dates farther back than a quarter of a century ago.

Extinction of Thuggee.

It was the revelation of the hideous crime of Thuggee that first fairly let in the light upon us. In 1816, we find an order issued by the commander-in-chief, cautioning the Sepoys about to proceed on leave to their homes against "a description of murderers denominated Thugs;" but it was not until twenty years afterwards that the secrets of the horrible fraternity became known, and active measures were adopted for its suppression. Then it was that the startling fact flashed upon the Indian Government, that there was a regular class of its subjects to whom murder was a profession, and not only a profession, but also a religion; and that a great brotherhood of crime, having taken a sacrament with all possible solemnity, went about the country murdering in cold bloodless style, by strangling, in remote places, unwary travellers whom they could reduce into their toils. All this was done with the most consummate art and profound secrecy; the murderers assumed disguises, and played parts, with the greatest address; they had also a secret dialect of their own, and secret signs by which they silently communicated with each other. These gangs had no permanent forms; the members assembled for a murdering expedition, and dispersed, vanished, when it was over. They belonged, for the most part, to particular villages, where they left their wives and children; and they outwardly followed some peaceful calling. The real cause of their occasional absences was often a matter of open notoriety; but they did not murder their neighbors—indeed, the

village benefited by the blood-money that was brought home; the Zemindar, or head-man, was paid a tribute or hush-money, and the police officials were likewise bribed into silence. "I and my fathers have been Thugs for twenty generations," said one of these professional stranglers; and they even believed that their patron goddess Davee had sent judgments and death upon all the native princes who had persecuted them. But in the Company they encountered a more redoubtable foe. Captured Thugs were got to turn approvers; the whole secrets of the craft were divulged; the laws were relaxed so as to meet the difficulties of the case; the gangs were hunted down in all directions; our jails were filled with Thugs; and a great and horrid institution which had existed for centuries was broken up in a few years. Davee was vanquished. "The Company's good fortune is such," said the discomfited murderers, "that before the sound of your drums, sorcerers, witches, and demons take flight; and how can Thuggee stand?" An occasional traveller may still at intervals be strangled by the wayside; but the system is destroyed—the profession ruined—the guild scattered, never again to be associated into a great corporate body.

Extinction of Dakoitee or Systematic Gang-Robbery.

Another crime peculiar to India, though less so than Thuggee, was Dakoitee, or systematic gang-robbery. The externals of this crime early forced themselves upon the notice of our Indian administrators, but it was not till recently discovered that Dakoitee was the normal condition of whole tribes born and bred to the profession—that there were robber-castes in India just as there were soldier-castes or writer-castes; and that men went out to prey upon the property of their fellows—and, if need be, on their lives—with strict religious observance of sacrament and sacrifice. Not that all Dakoitee was of this hereditary character; there were also lay members, as it were, of the profession, who troubled themselves little about presiding goddesses, and set about their work in a less scientific style; but these all rallied round men of the hereditary castes as leaders, and believed they could accomplish little without their agency. Like the Thugs, the Dakoites all have settled abodes, and ostensibly follow a peaceful calling, although the object of their frequent journeys is no secret to the rest of the villagers. Indeed, the head-man of the village and the police share the spoil with the successful robbers; and the former even supplies them with food and clothing in time of need, and makes moneyed advances to them. It was not till 1843 that special and vigorous measures were taken for the suppression of this widespread evil. Colonel Sleeman, who had succeeded so well against the Thugs, was appointed to the task, and accomplished a great deal of good. He and his associates struck at the robber-castes, which are now well-nigh extinguished. The hereditary feature peculiar to India has been destroyed, but Dakoitee, or ordinary gang-robbery, is not suppressed. In Bengal, as we have said, the crime has appeared in great violence; and probably nothing will suffice to put an end to it as long as the condition of the peasantry in certain districts is not improved.

Continuance of *Widow-burns*. Abolition of *Bemide Injuria*. *In the hands of the State of Women.*

The history of British conquest in the East has certainly a *Bengal* side. In its chapters will be found recorded the exploits of men striving and toiling under the very skies of the tropics, and sacrificing often life itself in their efforts to elevate the social condition of the people by whom they were surrounded. Look, for instance, at the case of Mairwara, the romantic tale of the civilization of which district has already been set forth in the pages of *Maga*.^{*} Thirty-five years ago we found there, in the very heart of India, a race of savage murderers—many of them fugitives from other states, men whom society had spewed out with little or no regard for human life or liberty, practising infanticide, selling their mothers, and committing every kind of atrocity without shame or remorse. In 1821 we subjugated the country of these freebooters; and as early as 1827, Captain Hall, the excellent officer to whom the work of improvement was confided, was able to report "the complete and voluntary abolition of the two revolting customs, female infanticide and the sale of women;" while the re-marriage of widows was provided for, and

the worst forms of slavery abolished. In 1835 Captain Dixon succeeded to the charge of the district, and under him the work of civilization went on with a success that has left nothing to be desired. And by what measures have those savage tribes been reclaimed? In Mairwara, as elsewhere, the Indian Government made the rude barbarians the agents of their own civilization. First Hall and then Dixon went amongst them, without any European assistance; a local battalion was raised from the people themselves, at once furnishing support for the authorities, and reducing to discipline and giving employment to men to whom war had become a habit. But the plough was the chief civilizer. Tanks were dug, wells were sunk, the jungle was cleared, and a regular supply of water was secured to the fields. Even a city (Nyanuggar) rose at Dixon's bidding with the rapidity of magic. In three months from the laying of the first stone, its spacious bazaar was opened for traffic; and in a short time two thousand families had flocked in from the trading towns of the adjoining provinces, and engaged in those manufacturing and commercial operations which were wanting to complete the well-being of Mairwara.

Civilization of the Bheel Tribes.

The civilization of the Bheel tribes is another work worthy of lasting commemoration. Candeish, in Western India, was the scene of this achievement. The Bheel tribes constituted about an eighth of the population. When the country was in a settled and flourishing state, these people had been principally employed as village watchmen—a class nowhere in India of unexceptionable character. Even at their best they appear to have been a lawless and unscrupulous people; but when the convulsions and misery of the country began, they formed themselves into robber-gangs, and became the Ishmaelites of that part of the world. At times massed by hundreds, at times triumphing over the Guicowar's troops sent against them—reckless and migratory, passing from place to place, throwing up a cluster of rude huts in the course of a few hours, and delighting not in mere permanent habitations—they would stream down from their mountain homes, sacking and firing the villages in the plains, driving off the cattle, and securing the "head-men" for the sake of ransoms they would fetch; so they existed. It is not surprising, therefore, that when the country first passed into our hands, not a few measures for the reclamation of these tribes were tried without success. It was reserved for James Outram—an officer who has since won for himself one of the most distinguished reputations in India, and who is now doing for Oude what Thomason has done for the Northwest Provinces, and Lawrence for the Punjab—then a lieutenant in the Bombay Native Infantry, to give successful effect to the philanthropic measures of the Government. Under his able management, a local battalion, the Bheel Corps, long despaired of as impracticable, at length began to take form. Outram brought his wild recruits into familiar contact with the high-caste Sepoys of his own regiment, and the conciliatory manners of the old soldiers went far to rivet the confidence which the bold frank manner of their young leader had already engendered. The work of civilization then went on rapidly. A careful surveillance of the people, preservation of the peace, and administration of justice, were inaugurated; their old profession of village watchmen was opened to the Bheels, and liberal encouragement was given to them to settle and devote themselves to agricultural pursuits. So great was the success which attended these efforts, that in 1843 it was officially reported that "the districts formerly the scene of every outrage, where neither life nor property was secure, now enjoyed tranquillity; the roads formerly hazardous for the armed party, were traversed at all hours by single passengers; the formidable list of crimes had dwindled down to a few petty thefts; and the Bheels, from outcasts, had become members of society, daily rising in respectability and appearance, and becoming useful and obedient servants of the State." Since then education has been made to lend its aid in the work of improvement. The schoolmaster has taken the young Bheel in hand, and has brought him within the pale of civilized life; and there is now no fear of a relapse.

Such is the beneficent work of reclamation which the Indian Government pursues in the more barbarous districts submitted to its sway. Its mode of dealing with larger territories long subjected to anarchy or native misrule—how it establishes in them a reign of order and justice, and how diligently it sets about developing ti

* See "Romance of Mairwara," in the Number for February, 1858.

agricultural resources of the country, thereby furnishing employment for the formerly predatory population—we have fully shown in a recent Number, by reference to the Punjab and the other provinces annexed during Lord Dalhousie's rule.* It remains for us to notice briefly some cruel and horrible customs and rites prevalent among the natives of India, which our Government has succeeded in either wholly or partially suppressing.

Abolition of Suttee.

India is the great land of inconsistencies. Nowhere, among certain classes of the population, is life, in all its manifestations, more venerated and cared for: yet nowhere, in the mass, is it less regarded—and that not from any sanguinary disposition, but simply from an indifference to its value. Suttee, or widow-burning, is one of those cruel rites of which we need not speak, the subject being so familiar to the British public. Yet what a striking spectacle was it—how indicative of the strange people we had found in India, and of the gulf that separated our sympathies from theirs—to see “a young woman—one, in our eyes, perhaps, little more than a child—ascend with heavenly composure the funeral pile of her husband, and with an unaltered countenance resign herself to a cruel death. You saw her calmly and gracefully performing the last offices due to the dead, and the last courtesies to the living; serenely decorating her person as for a bridal, and in an unbroken voice repeating the formulas of prayer dictated by the unpying priests; then walking with steady tread round the pyre, mounting it without a shudder of fear, and perishing without a murmur.† The belief was that the spirits of those heroines, thus purged from sin, ceased from their transmigrations, and rejoined their husbands in Paradise without further probation. The practice of Suttee was never universal throughout India; it prevailed most in Bengal and Hindostan Proper, yet even there was not general. The Court of Directors, as usual, were foremost in desiring the suppression of this horrible rite—the Indian Government hesitating for some time to interfere so greatly with the religious ideas of the natives. Thus supported at home, however, Lord William Bentinck, with high moral courage, issued a decree which banished the rite from the British territories; and such, since then, has been the zeal and tact of Colonel Ludlow and other of our officers at the native Courts, that an instance of Suttee is now almost unknown.

Abolition of the Meriah Sacrifice—the Immolation of a Human Being to propitiate the Earth-Goddess.

The Meriah sacrifice—the immolation of a human being to propitiate the Earth-Goddess—was another startling rite which met us in India. But, unlike Suttee, it was a rite foreign to the true Hindoos and the tribes professing the Brahminical faith, and was restricted to certain half-savage tribes in the mountainous recesses of the interior, remnants of a wave of quasi-aboriginal population that had spread over the land before the Hindoos rose to supremacy. It was amidst the pestiferous jungles on the Orissa hills that we first came face to face with the Khonds. For nearly a century we and they had dwelt within a short distance of each other, without the least contact or mutual knowledge. In 1835, however, the British troops occupied Goomsar, and after a brief but spirited struggle, the Khond tribes of the hills were subjugated. Then it was that Lieutenant Macpherson, when employed in the work of surveying at the foot of the hills, was struck with the strange religious and social life of these wild tribes, and, at the very outset, stumbled upon the painful fact that the tribes were in the habit of offering up to their deities human beings purchased or bred for the purpose! The Khonds believe that the Supreme being, or God of Light, the source of all good, created for himself a consort, the Earth-Goddess, who, rebelling against him, became the source of all evil. Having this much in common, the Khonds thereafter diverge into two great sects—one of which believes that the God of Light utterly overcame the Earth-Goddess, and has since held her in thrall, employing her as the agent of his will; whereas the other holds that the Earth-Goddess is still unconquered, and that whatever of happiness is vouchsafed to man, is only by the dispensation of blessings by her own gift, or by the withdrawal of their antagonism which could prevent their emanation from the

God of Light. It was among this latter sect that the Meriah sacrifice prevailed, as the only means of propitiating the evil goddess. The victims, “were furnished by a regular class of procurers, who either supplied them to order, or raised them on speculation. They were bought, perhaps, from their parents in hard famine times, or they were kidnapped on the plains; or were, perhaps, the children of the procurers themselves. Devoted often in their childhood to the Earth-Goddess, they were suffered to grow up as consecrated privileged beings, to marry wives, to hold lands, and flocks and herds, and other worldly goods—cherished and endowed by the community for whom they were to die, and in spite of the tremendous doom that overshadowed them, leading happy lives to the last.”‡ The means of reclamation employed by the Indian Government here, and the difficulties encountered by its officers, were the same as those which we have already described in the case of the Mairs and the Bheels. But the success of Macpherson was no less gratifying and remarkable than that of Dixon and Outram. Providence helped the good work, and two unusually good seasons and rich harvests followed the first trembling renunciation of their bloody rite by the sacrificing sect of Khonds. The neighboring Boad tribes, who likewise practised the sacrifice, viewed the result with wondering admiration. They called us “Boora Pennu's people”—agents of the God of Light: and the result was that in a short time throughout all the Orissa hills the Meriah sacrifice was abandoned, and the omnipotence of Tari Pennu, the evil Earth-Goddess, sank down into a delusion and a sham.

Abolition of the Practice of Female Infanticide.

Among those hill tribes of Orissa, we came in contact also with the practice of female infanticide—another vicious peculiarity of Indian society which the British Government has succeeded in suppressing. Female infanticide is a practice not confined to India: it prevails to a very considerable extent amongst the dense population of China; and in every country the general crime of infanticide exists as an occasional consequence of illicit love. But in China it is acknowledged to be a crime, and in other countries is punished as such: whereas in India it is regarded as an allowable and even commendable practice. Here again we find a striking anomaly in Hindoo character. The parental instinct is as strong in the people of India as in any people in the world; and even where no parental tie exists, the tenderness with which strong bearded men devote themselves to the care of young children, is as touching as it is remarkable. A childless woman, too, is a miserable woman—a hissing and a reproach: and she can only account for so great an affliction by fancying it sent upon her for some grievous sin committed in a pre-existent state. Nevertheless, in some parts of India female infanticide has for generations been a custom! The fact is the more remarkable, inasmuch as the Hindoo character represents the emotional rather than the calculating utilitarian side of humanity; and yet, as by a fatality, we find both the emotional and the rationalistic principles producing in this case a similar result. For, in truth, female infanticide is practised by two very different classes, and from two dissimilar sets of motives, in India. In China, in Europe, and in certain parts of India, it is among the lowest classes that infanticide prevails, as a relief from future burdens for which they deem themselves unequal. In Hindostan Proper, on the contrary, the practice is peculiar to the higher orders, and especially the Rajpoots. Among these, the custom which marriages must be contracted is determined by the exclusiveness of caste, and marriage itself is an expensive thing from the costly usages with which it is attended. Yet in India celibacy is disgraceful—the unmarried daughter is a reproach alike to her parents and to herself. Moreover, the Rajpoot assumes it as a necessary condition of unmarried life; and to preserve the purity of his daughters and the peace of his house, he “cleared away” his female children a few hours after their birth. When a messenger from the woman announced to him the birth of a daughter, the Rajpoot chief would coolly roll up between his fingers a tiny opium ball, to be conveyed to the mother, who thereupon rubbed on her nipple the sleepy poison, and the babe drunk in death with its mother's milk. In a country where polygamy is common, and concubinage not dishonourable, and where an unconnected man is rarely to be found, a widely diffused system of female

infanticide would be an impossibility. But in the localities and amongst the tribes to which the practice was confined, the sacrifice of life was terrible, and whole villages might be seen without a female child! To uproot this cruel practice was the most difficult task ever undertaken by our Indian Government. The evil existed alike in Central and Western India, among the high-caste Rajpoots, and among the savage Mairs and Khonds and Boads; and the undemonstrative nature of the crime, as well as the inviolable privacy which screens female life in India, presented obstacles all but insuperable to its suppression. Moreover, as the practice was most prevalent in native States, not subject to our rule, the greater part of the philanthropic work of suppression had to be accomplished by the tact and persuasion of our officers, rather than by the exercise of direct power. But there were men equal to the task; in due time success crowned our efforts; and the names of Sutherland, Ludlow, Thoresby, Willoughby, and others, will long be held in grateful memory as the zealous and able agents by which female infanticide has been terminated, and a new and happier regime inaugurated for the females of India, whether married or unmarried.

Educational Establishments supported by the Government.

In all its efforts for the moral and social improvement of the people, the Indian Government has proceeded on the principle that you cannot suppress a wide-spread vice without clearing away the circumstances which give it birth. If you would clear a field of weeds, you must, while uprooting them, put the soil in a position to grow something better. It followed this plan with the Bheels, and Mairs, and Khonds, and other wild tribes, of which we have been speaking. It is trying a similar course now upon the population at large by means of Education. It was in 1813 that the first movement by the Government took place in this direction; and in the Charter Act of that year, it was provided that a lakh of rupees (£10,000) should be annually “applied to the revival and improvement of literature, and the encouragement of the learned natives of India, and for the introduction and promotion of the sciences among the inhabitants of the British territories in India.” But it was not until 1823 that anything was actually done, and then not in the right direction. Down to 1835, all the larger educational establishments supported by the Government, with the exception of the Hindoo College of Calcutta, were decidedly Oriental—too Oriental—in their character; and the whole scope of the instruction tended to conciliate old prejudices and to propagate old ideas. The result was a dreary failure. But the Court of Directors were resolved to succeed, and their letters on the subject were singularly unreserved in expression, as well as enlightened in spirit. Frankly admitting that our assumption of the administration of India had so far been detrimental to the higher classes of the natives, in that it had deprived them of official employment, the Court urged that it was therefore our duty to afford them the best equivalent in our power, and that nothing better could be offered than such sound European instruction as would gradually qualify them for restoration to much of the official employment of which they had been deprived. These wise counsels were given effect to in 1835, by Lord W. Bentinck, in a minute which gave a deathblow to the Oriental system, by directing that all the educational funds “be henceforth employed in imparting to the native population a knowledge of English literature and science through the medium of the English language.” Notwithstanding these sweeping expressions, indigenous education was fortunately not neglected; and shortly afterwards it was directed that in all the Government colleges and schools the cultivation of the vernacular should go hand in hand with that of the English language—thus rearing an improved race of native schoolmasters, who, while teaching the vernacular, might quicken the quiet depths of the provinces with a little of the heaven of European knowledge. One great and avowed motive to these educational measures was the desire on the part of the Indian Government to have at their disposal a body of natives qualified by their habits and acquirements to take a larger share, and occupy higher situations, in civil administration, than had hitherto been the practice. But hereupon the natives, ever prone to lean with childlike helplessness on the strong arm of Government, thought that they saw something absolute (instead of merely

* See “India under East Dalhousie,” in the August number of the Magazine.

† Kaye, p. 591.

‡ Kaye, pp. 108-9.

conditional) in the promise of Government, and believed that they had only to conform to a certain test to secure official employment. This dangerous delusion is being checked. The students have been wisely cautioned not to imagine that the sole or main use of a liberal education is to fit them for the offices of Government—and reminded that, besides the public service and the pursuits of literature and science, there are open to them the learned professions—law, medicine, the office of teacher, and civil engineering. Medical colleges have been established for some time; but the teaching of civil engineering is now deservedly obtaining still more marked support from the Government—the object of these latter colleges being to instruct and train natives for every kind of work required in the service of the Government in its department of Public Works. Finally, crowning and eclipsing all that had gone before, on the 19th July, 1854, there went forth from the Court of Directors the great Education Despatch, containing a scheme of Education for all India—"far wider and more comprehensive," says Lord Dalhousie, "than any the local or the Supreme Governments could ever have ventured to suggest. It left nothing to be desired, if indeed it did not authorize and direct that more should be done than is within our present grasp." The main features of this great plan are, the establishment of vernacular schools throughout the districts, with Government colleges of a higher grade, and a university in each of the three Presidencies; while grants-in-aid to all educational institutions are sanctioned, subject to certain rules, and on the condition of Government inspection being at all times fully admitted.

NEW YORK CITY.

[From the New York Tribune.]

Life in New York. Grand Reunion of the "Fancy."

On Monday evening the Hall No. 22 White street, known during the past year or two as Kerrigan's Military Headquarters, was the scene of a disgusting exhibition given under the patronage of the "Fancy." The announcement of the affair was made by means of posters, which were extensively circulated in the rumholes where the sporting circles meet in their daily devotions.

At eight o'clock, the assembled multitude began to clamor for the entertainment to commence, and for fifteen minutes the stamping and yelling was continued in accordance with the "strict order" that was to be preserved. At the end of this time a slubby man in dirty clothes, and who looked very like an old pewter pot of 'arf and 'arf with a good share of froth, cleared the way to the stage and introduced a brace of third-rate rapsalcions in boxing-gloves, who were to initiate the "exhibition of the manly art of self-defence." They had removed their coats, vests and overshirts, and their undershirts were in a state of chronic filthiness. They squared off a few times, and after a while came into the work. But they proved to be "slow coaches," and fought shy. By sheer accident they would occasionally get hit by dodging the wrong way when a blow wasn't aimed at them. In the nomenclature of Johnny Ling, they were "snickers," and after a few invitations of an unappreciative audience to "dry up," they evaporated. A couple of rare specimens took their places. One was a fireman, with face closely shaven and hair cropped short. The other came under the title of "black muzzled," and his leading peculiarity of appearance was that his head presented nothing to strike at above the roof of his nose. They "went in lamons"—struck with greater rapidity, and with a telling force; they plugged each other's noses, and hammered each other's eyes. The boxing-glove antidote to the effects of human fist didn't "wash." Twice he of the "black muzzled" was sprawling, and once the short-haired champion was generously permitted to catch a glimpse of the sidereal heavens, by a stunning belt over his empty knowledge box. But both parties seemed to have a lively appreciation of the dignity of "striking from the shoulder" as an art, and a scintillating critical audience knew when to cheer and applaud. In the third act, too, one of the parties had his nose knocked out of joint, and from the organ in question the claret flowed freely. At this point the enthusiasm of a gratified audience knew no bounds. They whooped, hurrahed and yelled like a troop of devils in the height of their enjoyment.

The master of ceremonies announced that the eleventh act would be given by "two friends"—and forthwith the two friends took their places. One of the two

friends showed drunk at the first off. He manifested his friendly regards for his fellow by pitching him a clip over his mouth, which started the blood, and this amicable act was reciprocated by his fellow knocking him across the railing, and then, as if thinking that a man so drunk that he could hardly stand up long enough to be knocked down was unworthy of his blows, he left the stage. Left in possession of the field, the convivial individual regarded the fact as an acknowledgment by implication that he was "some," and walked the boards with the pride of a sporting Alexander, looking for new opponents to conquer. He refused to leave the stage until he had humbled somebody else. Twice he was, by the indignant multitude, pulled off the stage, and twice he got back again. In the meantime a party willing to take the starch out of the lion took the stage with a pair of gloves, and the set-to was begun. A brief squabble ensued, and the first round was closed by the drunken party being knocked under the railing and off the stage. In the second round, he was flung over his opponent's shoulder, and again laid sprawling on the floor. The scene now began to grow interesting. A half-dozen of the drunken man's friends jumped on the stage, and pitched his opponent over the railing; his opponent's friends pitched into the drunken man's friends. For three minutes party spirit ran high, and a general muss seemed to be inevitable. One man jumped forward and became a volunteer second, and again hostilities were renewed amid the yells of the delighted assembly, and the difficulty was only settled by the friends of the drunken man pulling him from the stage, amid his protestations, under oath, that he could lick any (here imagine a long string of profane and foul names) that they could bring along. After this interesting episode, Old Bill Tovee himself had a set-to, and though he knocked his man down three times, and drew blood from his face twice, yet the affair was too tame, after what had passed, to excite any interest. "Old Bill" made a speech in conclusion, and the audience retired to their rum.

FIRES IN NEW YORK.

Their Frequency—the Causes. Statistics. Report from the Fire Marshal.

The following report from Alfred E. Baker, Fire Marshal, was received by the Board of Aldermen on the 16th inst:

TO THE MAYOR, COMMON COUNCIL, AND POLICE JUSTICES OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF NEW YORK:

In again submitting for your consideration my semi-annual report, embracing a period of six months, from the 1st of June to the 30th day of November, 1856, permit me to refer once more to my previous suggestions in regard to the principles that should be enforced in the construction of buildings as precautions against fire. The act passed by our Legislature last April did not provide a remedy for unsafe construction in stores, dwellings, or other buildings already erected. The existing law is merely prospective in its operation, and confines itself to directing how buildings shall be put up.

In order to illustrate the necessity of an amendment to the law, which will bring within its provisions all buildings that shall be found to be in danger of taking fire from defects in their construction, I will just cite one or two instances in which its importance was forced upon my attention.

In West Twenty-seventh street there are two dwelling houses, Nos. 102 and 104, which are owned by Mr. Alfred Meeks. In November last Mrs. Colt, occupant of 102, being alarmed by the unusual heat thrown from the chimney flues, called my attention to the fact. In connection with Mr. John T. Harding, the Fire Warden of that district, I made an examination of the premises. I found two dwellings erected on a lot of twenty-one feet front, with merely a thin stud partition dividing them. From the dimensions of the lot some idea can be formed of the contracted appearance of the apartments. The twelve-inch wall of the adjoining house had been used for a party wall, the cross beams being inserted, and recesses cut into it sufficient to contain tin flues as conductors of the smoke from the fireplaces. These flues were thinly covered with plaster, and the wall papering put over it. The tubes did not rise directly upright from the fireplaces, but diverged some two and a half feet, so as to avoid coming in contact with the flues of the adjoining house. Of the danger arising from this reckless arrangement you can form some idea from the fact that Mr. Harding bilatered his hand on applying it to

the outside of the flue, at a distance of some fourteen feet from the fireplace. I found but six outlets on the roof for eight fireplaces, so that one flue must have been used for two fires.

To demonstrate more forcibly the foolish character of the economy sought to be effected by this cheap mode of construction, I will mention rather a ludicrous fact that occurred in connection with it. Mrs. Colt having engaged a sweep to clean the flues, the man, on ascending to the roof, found the tin conductors already spoken of and the stack of chimneys belonging to the adjoining house No. 100. Believing the tin flues to be nothing more than ventilators, he swept the neighbor's chimneys, for which service he was paid by Mrs. Colt.

The dangerous condition of the house having been thus demonstrated, the occupant was advised not to use the grates any more than was absolutely necessary, and then only to keep a very moderate fire in them. On the fact being made known to the Insurance companies, they cancelled their policies, and Mrs. Colt finally quitted the premises. Since then Mr. Meeks has built up brick flues, abandoning the tin flues altogether. In justice to this gentleman, I must add that he only became the owner of these houses since last spring. They were built, I understand, by Mr. Samuel W. Cronk.

Were these two houses the only examples of defective construction in this regard, it would not be necessary, for the purposes of this report, that I should call your attention to them; but when I find whole blocks of buildings almost as recklessly put together, and finished in a superficial style, merely to deceive the eye of an unsuspecting tenant or purchaser, it becomes necessary for me, as a matter of public duty, to recommend that legislative steps be taken to apply a remedy. It is no argument to use, that because dwellings or warehouses have escaped for one or two seasons, no danger is to be apprehended. In the cases to which I refer it is merely a question of time; for sooner or later these buildings must fall a prey to the flames.

Furnace Heaters.

In the lower part of our city, during the last two years, but more especially in the First and Third wards, many noble looking warehouses have been erected, nearly all of which are provided with hot air furnaces, and the smoke flues of which are built within a sixteen inch wall, leaving but one brick between the flue and the flooring. The intense heat generated from these heaters and flues after a short time chars the inclosing wood-work, and combustion ensues. Many fires have already been traced to this cause; the late fire in Warren street may be instanced as one, and in proportion to the adoption of the practice, more are to be anticipated. I would suggest, as some check upon it, that underwriters should charge additional premiums upon merchandise contained in warehouses where these modes of heating prevail. There is another peculiarity in the construction of our modern warehouses to which I would call the attention of our insurance offices. It has become the practice to erect buildings of fifty feet frontage, with iron columns and Virginia pine girders, the light being thrown from top to bottom through the centre of the edifice. When we take into consideration the heavy weight of goods usually placed upon each story, the strong drafts of air which the centre skylight creates, and the flimsy character generally of the building, it becomes evident that warehouses of this kind must be additionally hazardous. When a fire takes place on the basement or first floor, the girders become weakened, and the superincumbent weight on the upper stories brings the whole structure to the earth. It is only recently that we had an example of this kind, in the fall of an extensive warehouse in Murray street, burying in its ruins nearly half a million of property.

Specification of Buildings, &c.

I would recommend an early application to the Legislature, repealing the limitation clause, and securing the passage of an act giving the fire-wardens power to prosecute all violations of the building laws brought under their notice. I must also again press upon you the necessity of compelling all owners and builders to send in to the fire warden's office, carefully prepared specifications of building about to be erected; the same to be entered in a book kept for that purpose, and open at all times to the public during business hours. All infractions of these rules should be visited with fine or imprisonment.

A good deal of the blame attaching to defects of construction is frequently attributed to the master masons and

carpenters; but this, to a certain extent, is unjust, inasmuch as they are compelled to follow the architect's plan. Of late years the skill of architects seems to have been applied less to the substantial improvement of the old modes of construction than to the effort of reconciling work of the slightest and flimsiest character with the requirements of the existing fire law. If not closely watched, they will seek to glaze over the most defective and unsubstantial work by a profusion of ornament. To this fact may be traced many of the fires whose origin appears doubtful, and which there is but too much reason to anticipate will be of frequent recurrence.

Negligence of Builders.

There is another source of danger, arising from recklessness and negligence on the part of builders, which, although occurring more rarely, has yet to be guarded against. In the month of November last, smoke was seen issuing for several days through the upper floor of the building No. 598 Broadway, in the occupation of Mr. F. Vrede, cabinet-maker. An examination was at length made of the premises, and a portion of the flooring was cut away. No fire could be discovered, but still the smoke continued every now and then to make its appearance. The circumstance was brought to my knowledge, and upon investigation I discovered that a smoke flue leading from Mr. Perry's bowling saloon in the basement had not been extended to the roof. The builder had in fact erected the last flight of stairs over the flue, making use of the breast-work to help support the stairs. It was into this flue that Mr. Perry had inserted the pipe of his stove in the saloon, and the smoke and heat had been forced under the stairs, finding escape through the flooring. I caused this flue to be permanently blocked up, and directed Mr. Perry to insert the pipe into an adjoining flue, having an outlet in the roof. A fire occurred in the same premises in 1854 which carried away the two upper stories. The building was repaired by C. J. Ketchum, carpenter, No. 139 Duane street, and N. B. Frost, mason, of Brooklyn. Circumstances of this kind have more than once been brought under my notice, and it is unnecessary for me to add that they exhibit unpardonable negligence on the part of builders.

Tenement Houses.

When the legislature is in session, some effort ought to be made to carry out the suggestions offered in my previous reports for securing safe egress from tenement houses in the event of fire. The addition of iron stairs or balconies outside of these buildings would, as I have shown, go far to afford them protection. Unless something be speedily done towards enforcing these improvements, I am afraid that we shall have to lament some fearful calamity arising from their absence.

Burning Fluids.

During the last six months it will be seen that no less than twenty-six fires were caused by the careless use of burning fluids. Three females and two males have lost their lives, and eight men and six women have suffered more or less injury from this cause. Persons using these fluids do not, as a general thing, comprehend their dangerous character. Recent improvements in the construction of spirit lamps, in the shape of interior fittings, will be found efficient safeguards.

Incurtation.

The annexed tables exhibit a satisfactory diminution in the number of incendiary fires since the commencement of my investigations. My first semi-annual report shows ninety-four; my second, sixty-five; third, fifty-two; fourth, forty-eight; and my present report, thirty cases. Three arrests have been made on the charge of arson during the period embraced in the present document; two were discharged by the magistrates for want of positive proofs. The third was the case of a grocer, named Thomas Doolin, charged on the 4th of last September with firing his store, No. 122 Second avenue. He was indicted by the Grand Jury, and is now in the Tombs awaiting his trial. In the notes of references will be found a synopsis of the causes of many remarkable fires.

Aggregate Amount of Fires.

During the past six months the aggregate number of fires amount to one hundred and forty-two; exhibiting a decrease of twenty-two as compared with the corresponding period of 1856, and a diminution of twenty-five as contrasted with the preceding six months.

The losses paid by the underwriters exceed those of the preceding six months by some \$408,000. This is attributable mainly to the conflagration on the ninth of

November, in Warren and Murray streets—the loss on that occasion amounting to \$418,991.

Spontaneous Combustion.

My experience teaches me that many fires arise from this cause, and that from the ignorance of chemical affinities some of them are occasionally attributed to acts of incendiarism. Of the fires which occur in hay-lofts and stables, and which are generally supposed to be wilful, I believe that a large proportion are produced by spontaneous combustion. Hay, packed closely when damp, will become heated, and generate a gas of a combustible character, which only wants the introduction of carbon to produce fire. Hay, in bales, is particularly liable to this influence, and when exposed to the air and separated, will frequently burst into flames. Instances also occur in which fire breaks out in the solid bale itself.

Police Telegraph.

The establishment of telegraphic lines of communication from the Chief's Office to each police station throughout the city, has facilitated the means of ascertaining promptly where fires occur. By a special regulation it is made the duty of the captain or lieutenant of the district in which the fire takes place to announce by telegraph its exact position. By locating myself at the office of the Chief of Police each night, I am placed in possession of the earliest information, and am thus enabled to be more promptly on the spot than I could otherwise possibly be. There are three sergeants of police assigned to this bureau by his Honor the Mayor—Messrs. Chapin and Crowley by day, and Sergeant Owens at night. To these officers I have to return my sincere thanks for the efficient aid extended to me.

The city is divided into four sections of communication, denominated the North, East, South and West. It is to the ingenuity of Mr. Charles Robinson that we are indebted for this valuable auxiliary. This gentleman is also retained by the city to superintend the apparatus. An improvement on the present machinery has been invented by Mr. Robinson, which, as soon as it is put in operation, will greatly increase the facility of conversational intercourse over the lines.

In conclusion, I have to offer my grateful acknowledgments to his Honor the Mayor, the Police Justices, and the Police Department generally, for the cordial co-operation they have afforded me in my investigations. To the Fire Department my thanks are also due for the zeal and promptness with which they have always rendered me assistance. In fact, I may truly say, that nothing has been left undone by the city authorities to give the fullest effect to the inquiries with which I am intrusted. Your obedient servant.

ALFRED E. BAKER, New Marshal.

France and the United States.

M. Sarriges has recently represented to this government that a large amount of property belonging to French subjects was destroyed by the bombardment of Greytown by Captain Hollins. The French Government require that this Government shall make up the losses. The Secretary of State, I understand, is now engaged upon his reply to the French Government. What course will be pursued is not known; but if the demand is acceded to the English Government will also make a demand.—*New York Herald, Washington Correspondent, February 15.*

Outrages Committed by Walker's Filibusters.

[From the New Orleans Picayune, February 1.]

In the *Southern Official*, of January 3, I find the following private letter, written by a very respectable person, which I translate for you:

Walker is in Rivas, with 500 foreigners and a small body of Nicaraguenses, which he no doubt keeps by force. He has eight pieces of cannon. He has occupied the fortifications which the valorous General Canas constructed, by order of General Balleza, with so much labor. He has also fortified the Church of San Francisco, the only temple left us in which to worship the Saviour. All the furniture and sacred vases have been stolen. The bones have been flung into the streets. The large images still adorn the altars, but the filibusters have carried off the crucifixes, and sold them to anybody who would purchase. In fine, the temple is desolated, and the holy ointment has been used by these heinous men to grease their rifles and revolvers. It is said that Walker has determined to burn Rivas, which is completely deserted by its native inhabitants. The houses are tenantless, their doors broken down,

the streets filled up, and the people have fled to the mountains. Not even the haciendas are occupied; but all bear marks of the rapine and ferocity of the invaders. Walker has with him several of the clergy whom he keeps as prisoners. He has also a great quantity of plate and jewelry, robbed from private persons and the churches of Granada. In fine, you can have no idea of the horrible situation of the people of Nicaragua."

EMIGRATION.

"The working men of London have formed emigration companies on a large scale, to Canada and Australia."

REMARKS.

We are glad to learn that they are not coming here, for the poor fellows would find themselves woefully deluded if they expected to procure work more easily here than in London—the *London Times* to the contrary notwithstanding.

The Living Tide.

The *Liverpool Albion* gives the statistics of emigration from Great Britain during the year 1856. The total emigration was 136,000, of whom 97,000 emigrated to the United States. The *Albion* says:

"These figures show that while about one-half of the emigration to Australia and the whole to New Zealand are composed of Englishmen, more than two-thirds of that to the United States is composed of Irishmen. The Mormon exodus continues on the increase, the number who have sailed from Liverpool for American ports on their way to Utah during the past twelve months being upwards of 4,000. Accounts from the Great Salt Lake show, however, that considerable numbers are continually leaving the 'New Jerusalem'—some for California and others to more decent cities in the United States."

How the Consumers of Bread are Imposed upon. The Bread should be Sold by Weight. Causes of the present Iniquitous System.

[From the New York Tribune, February 12.]

In London and Paris, and indeed in New Orleans, and, we believe, other cities in this country, bread is sold by weight, as it should be everywhere. No honest baker can object to this course; and by this mode of sale the consumer will always know when he is imposed upon, for he can easily have recourse to the scales. A little effort and determination on the part of consumers will compel the bakers to give a certain weight, instead of a certain size, for a certain price. By instituting this rule, a greater benefit would be conferred on the poor than can well be imagined.

Our citizens are now paying over five cents a pound for bread. At this rate the baker is paid from \$6 to \$7 for baking a barrel of flour. In order to conceal these high prices and to keep up appearances, various devices are resorted to by bakers to cause the loaf to swell and puff out, so as to deceive the eye by the appearance of a large loaf, when an application to the scales would show that the consumer was paying for wind instead of bread. If our recommendation should be adopted, all motives to use the various deleterious substances employed to deceive would at once cease, and we should have pure and wholesome bread. While the Legislature are discussing the propriety of selling potatoes by weight, they would do well to extend the rule to bread also. If there is any article the sale of which should be regulated by law, it is bread. We do not mean that the Legislature should regulate the price, but they should insist upon the adoption of such a rule as would insure to the purchaser what he pays for. We understand that several of our charitable institutions are purchasing their bread by weight from Berdan's Mechanical Bakery, Brooklyn, and that they make a large saving by so doing. This is well; but why does not Mr. Berdan set the example at once and sell all his bread by weight? Such an example would be a public benefaction.

UNITED STATES MAIL-BAGS FOUND IN A JUNK SHOP.

Two or three officers of the Fourth Ward police, while in search of two hogsheds of sugar, which had been stolen from the dock, went into the junk shop of Timothy Moriarty, on the corner of Dover and Front streets. They didn't find the sugar there, but they did find several United States mail-bags hid under the junks. Moriarty was delivered to the United States Marshal, who committed him to the Tombs. Where did Moriarty get hold of the mail-bags?—*Leah's Illus. Paper, Feb. 21.*

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE EUROPEAN.

The *EUROPEAN* will contain all the information that can be gathered in Europe and America of especial interest to Europeans in the United States, and to the inhabitants of the British North American Provinces.

It will show the actual condition—moral, physical and mental—of all classes of the people of the various States of this Confederation, whether natives or emigrants, freemen or slaves; and it will contain the information necessary for Europeans who contemplate emigration, to determine whether they should select the United States or some other country for their future residence.

It will be opposed to the Anti-Republican, *alias* the Slavery-Democracy or Pro-Slavery party—the enemies of freedom and social progress all over the world.

It will oppose the propagandists of slavery, and will advocate the propagandism of liberty on this continent as well as in Europe.

It will set forth the various reasons why Republican institutions in the United States have hitherto failed to secure the well-being of the working-classes, and will advocate the legislative measures necessary to ameliorate their condition.

It will institute fair and honest comparisons between the United States and other countries, showing the progress made by each from time to time, and the justice of their several pretensions.

It will maintain the cause of the friends of liberty in Europe and elsewhere—a cause which should be supported by all parties in every country enjoying constitutional government, since the only real danger to those countries is from a combination of the military despots of Europe, aided by the Pro-Slavery government of the United States.

It will sustain the cause of Republicanism against those who sacrifice it to preserve the domination over the freemen of the North by the slave-owning aristocracy of the South.

It will contain all such facts as may assist the people of other countries in determining what are the true merits or demerits of American institutions.

THE EUROPEAN.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 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 *new* printing presses for the sake of obtaining greater clarity 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. 5.

Agent for the *EUROPEAN* in Canada, Mr. Angus McDonald.

THE PRESS OF THIS CITY AND THE BURDELL MURDER CASE.

Atrocious Conduct of the Press. Its Gross Misrepresentations, Rashness and Ignorance.

The Coroner's Jury, after an investigation which lasted fourteen days, rendered a verdict on Saturday, 14th inst., that Emma Augusta Cunningham and John J. Eckel were principals in the commission of the murder, and that George Vail Snodgrass either instigated them, or was an accessory before the fact, and that the daughters of Mrs. Cunningham had concealed some facts within their knowledge connected with the murder.

Public opinion was directed against the inmates of the house at the very outset, it being stated that the murderer or murderers had gone from the room where the murder was committed up to a small room on the third story, where spots of blood were found, and a shirt and other clothing with blood upon them—that a dagger with marks of blood upon it was found in Mrs. Cunningham's bureau—and that she falsely pretended to be the widow of the deceased. The public at once concluded that her marriage on the 28th October last was with some person who had personated Dr. Burdell—some man who had worn false whiskers. Mr. Eckel, a boarder in the house, was at once pitched upon as the sham Dr. Burdell. This assumed sham marriage, and the other circumstances of the case, invested it with an interest which no other murder case ever possessed in this city: nothing else was talked about for several days. A careful and scientific inquiry

resulted in the discovery that the marks of blood found on the third story were properly accounted for; that the only traces of the blood of the deceased were from the room where the murder was committed down to the exits into the street. The dagger was found to be rusty instead of being marked with blood; and it was the opinion of the medical men who examined the wounds that they could not have been made with this weapon. Then a small dirk or knife used for cutting corns was found, and it was contended that the murder had been committed with this; but a microscopic examination showed that it had not been recently washed—dust which must have been upon it for a long time being distinctly visible in the crevices. Moreover, it soon became evident that the murder had been committed at a quarter to eleven o'clock, in a room lighted up with gas, communicating with a room in the front of the house, one of the windows of which room was open; that nearly, if not quite all, the people in the house were awake at the time, and that Mr. Umanh, a boarder, might be expected to come in at any moment.

Still, the popular newspapers of the city were not to be driven away from the position which they had taken up at the outset against the widow of the deceased and Mr. Eckel, but in spite of all reason and probability continued to insist that Mr. Eckel had personated Dr. Burdell in the marriage ceremony—that the sham marriage was got up with a view to the murder, and that the sagacious conspirators had, after long and mature deliberations, selected the excellent opportunity for the commission of the deed, which was presented at a quarter to eleven o'clock, when Dr. Burdell was wide awake and fully dressed, and could, on calling out, be distinctly heard in the street, if not by some of the numerous inmates of the house.

The Coroner, a person of no legal knowledge or experience—who had until recently been a job printer in the office of the *New York Herald*, led off with this theory, and the press followed suit, abusing him, however, all the while for his blunders, incapacity, unfairness and indecency, but as regularly running before and outstripping him in all his absurdities. Never was there such a ludicrous and contemptible exhibition in a civilized community, nor a more apt illustration of the saying that "one fool makes many." The press kept up the excitement from day to day with all sorts of scandalous rumors and speculations—the evidence was distorted and misrepresented in "sensational" leading articles, and the Coroner openly applauded the witnesses who would say anything strong against the suspected parties. The press could easily have changed public opinion in favor of the accused after the facts above mentioned had been established; but the Coroner, having taken up a theory and confined his inquiries to the establishment of it, refused to alter his course, and to acknowledge that his previous conduct had been rash, stupid and brutal; and the press followed in his track.

The conduct of the press has been ten times worse than that of the Coroner, for the press has deliberately misrepresented the evidence and misled the public, who, of course, could not be expected to read the voluminous depositions, but relied upon the summaries and comments of the leading newspapers. How this reliance was betrayed we shall see presently. The summaries were false, the comments partial and ridiculous. The public confidence has been outraged by the press, and it would have been a wonder indeed, if the public voice had not been, as it undoubtedly was at the time of the rendition of the Coroner's verdict, almost unanimous against the accused. Of course the public could not be expected to correct the misstatements of the press, and test the editorial comments by a reference to the testimony at large.

It may be easily imagined that it was not difficult to get up proof of some kind against the accused on the Coroner's inquest, especially as a lawyer em-

ployed by the blood-relatives of the deceased claiming his property, conducted the greater part of the inquiry in the name of the Coroner, and these relatives deny the marriage of the deceased with Mrs. Cunningham.

The fact is established that the murder was committed before eleven o'clock—ten or fifteen minutes before. At that time, according to the evidence of the young man named Snodgrass, the whole family was assembled in Mrs. Cunningham's room on the third story, in the front of the house. The youngest daughter was going away from the city to school next morning, and preparations were being made for her departure. Snodgrass left the room at eleven o'clock—he looked at the clock. Eckel was there up to a few minutes before. Mrs. Burdell, the two young ladies, Mr. Eckel and Mr. Snodgrass were all examined before the Coroner, and all told the same story, although they had been kept apart from each other. The servant girl, who went to bed about half-past ten, and who heard Snodgrass go to bed, corroborates this evidence. Besides, the conduct of all the parties after the discovery of the murder was such as to be reconcilable only with their perfect innocence. How, then, was all this to be shaken? How could anything be got up to sustain the preposterous notion that Mr. Eckel and Mrs. Cunningham had planned the murder at the time and under the circumstances detailed above? Two pieces of evidence were fished up—that of John Farrell and that of Margaret Alvist—and plenty more of the same kind could no doubt have been obtained.

Farrell's Evidence.

Farrell's evidence is, that he was sitting upon the doorstep, a little before eleven o'clock on the night in question, tying up his shoe, when a man (who is assumed to be Dr. Burdell) passed him (without saying anything) and went into the house. Witness soon heard a cry of murder, and then a man came to the door and put out his head and shoulders, so as to give a full view of his person, and asked witness what he was about, and that this was Mr. Eckel. The theory is, that that gentleman rushed down, reeking with blood, to have that little colloquy with Mr. Farrell. Unfortunately for this hypothesis—which would be too absurd even for a bumpkin just caught for the first time in the city—there is not only all the testimony just alluded to, but we have the evidence of a gentleman named Ross, who saw the Doctor enter the house—passed the door just after—looked up at the door-plate—heard the cry of murder after proceeding a short distance, but assuming that it proceeded from some men at the corner of the street, passed on. The steps of the house are of white marble, the house is of red brick, and there is a gas lamp just opposite, so that it would have been impossible for Mr. Ross to avoid seeing Farrell if he had been on the steps, as he says he was; and Mr. Ross has asserted that Farrell was not there.

Moreover, another witness, Mr. Brooks, living in a house opposite, testified that on hearing the cry of murder, he looked over to this house, and looked to see whether garroters were about, and he saw nobody on the steps.

As to Farrell's evidence, it is most likely that he was sitting on somebody's doorstep in Bond street on the night in question, or about that time, and that he was ordered off by a man in shirt sleeves. It was announced by the Coroner after the close of the testimony, that a witness was ready to prove that he had seen a man sitting on the steps of a house in Bond street on the night in question, doing something to his shoe.

Farrell is a man who says he has frequently drunk thirty glasses of mixed liquor, and it is very probable that after reading the newspapers, and learning from them that there was a cry of murder, he mixed up what he had actually seen and heard whilst sitting on some doorstep, with what he had read in the papers. There is often, on occasions of great public excitement, a great desire on the part

of some persons to testify to something supposed to be important—an anxiety to make startling statements. This arises, in weak minds, from a love of notoriety and a love of excitement. Every police office in London can afford an abundance of illustrations of this peculiar idiosyncrasy.

The test usually applied in such cases is this—when was the wonderful story first told by the witness—to whom—and under what circumstances.

This test is decisive against Farrell's testimony. He says, that on the night of Friday, 30th January, he saw and heard what must, if he told the truth, have made a great impression on his mind, he heard the cry of murder, and saw a man come to the door whose "manners" were most extraordinary, and the house was not a strange house to the witness, for he had been in it himself, and had seen Dr. Burdell there when he was alive. That on some night in the following week, (as to which night it was, his evidence is inconsistent and contradictory,) he, witness, went to the house, and found it was the very house where Doctor Burdell was murdered, and yet he swears that even after that visit he did not tell his own family about it, but mentioned the circumstance to two men only, named James Reilly and Thomas Farrell. The former appears to have written an anonymous letter to the Coroner, dated February 9th, and the witness relates what he told Thomas Farrell which was very little indeed, and that not until 3d or 4th February. The witness swears positively that he had mentioned the circumstance to those two men only up to the night before giving his testimony, which was given on 10th February, so that if we are to believe him, he did not mention it to his family up to that time. Is this credible? The witness was not asked why he preserved this silence, nor was he questioned as to what he stated to the two men O'Reilly and Thomas Farrell, and the time, place, and particulars of all statements made by him to them, nor were they called up to be examined so that it might be seen whether they told the truth respecting the alleged conversation Farrell had with them, nor was the wife of the witness examined as to what her husband had said at any time about this matter to her. A witness was called to prove that he had not seen Farrell drunk often, but when it was announced that two witnesses were in attendance to prove that Farrell was a common drunkard, the Coroner refused to take their testimony.

Nor was Farrell asked anything about the statement with which he commenced his narrative before the Coroner, *i. e.* that he had been in Doctor Burdell's house in his lifetime. In a word, the proper efforts were not made to test the veracity of the witness, although his testimony was presented under a combination of suspicious circumstances.

This testimony of Farrell completely carried away our contemporaries, and they forthwith indulged in the most outrageous demonstrations. The *Herald* treated Farrell's evidence as decisive. "This positive evidence upsets all the theories formed upon the supposition that the murder was done by some person from without the house."

The Dagger Story.

Margaret Alviset deposed that a few days before the murder she sold to Snodgrass a dirk knife with a four-cornered blade, for eight dollars. She recognized Snodgrass because he had made some remark about her looking closely at the money. A similar knife remaining in the store was produced, and one of the physicians stated that such a knife as that might have been the weapon with which the murder was committed.

Another woman in the same store, Mrs. Agnes Smith, could not identify Snodgrass as the purchaser of the knife, but thought she had seen his face before; and she said that during the last three weeks they had sold in her shop upwards of two dozen daggers. Very little reliance can ever be

placed upon evidence of the identification of strangers seen only casually by the witness.

Margaret Alviset and Mrs. Smith had, no doubt, seen the published portrait of Snodgrass, taken from a daguerrotype, and both upon seeing him thought they recollected having seen him before; and one of them had the rashness to say that he was the young man who bought the dagger.

The whole theory about the dagger is the height of absurdity. There were two daggers already in the house—a butcher's knife could have been bought for a few shillings—Eckel had a great number of butcher's knives at one of his places of business, and one of these having a sharp point, had been before this ridiculous dagger-story was trumped up, ostentatiously paraded before the Coroner's jury as the weapon with which the murder might have been committed. And yet we are called upon to assume that a young gentleman of most respectable connections who had been shifting a few weeks at the house and who could have no possible motive for joining in a conspiracy to murder, was taken into the confidence of the supposed conspirators, and employed to go into Broadway and purchase a weapon for them, they having plenty of weapons already!

The Irish Coroner and the American Editors.

Let it not be said that all this is the work of a blundering Irish Coroner—he has not blundered more than, nor indeed as much as the editors of the principal papers in this city who are, we believe, not Irishmen, but native Americans, with the exception of the principal editor of the *Herald*, who is a Scotchman.

It is here worthy of remark, that long after it had been conclusively established that the murder had been committed before eleven o'clock, the effort was persisted in to show that opiates had been administered in certain candies and oranges to the younger members of the family—*i. e.* that great pains had been taken to put them to sleep not before but after the murder! This is all of a piece with the rest.

The Mystery of the Missing Trunk

As to the supposed absence of a trunk belonging to Mr. Eckel and for which a rigid search was instituted all over the city—it being suggested that it had been sent away from the house early in the morning after the night of the murder—the explanation of this matter was suggested by Snodgrass when he stated that he thought that the trunk called Eckel's trunk, belonged to Miss Cunningham. If the inquiry had been pressed any further it would have been found that Eckel had lent it to Miss Cunningham to put her clothes in, and that it had always remained in the house. But as further inquiries of this witness would have cleared up the mystery, and resulted in favor of the accused, the witness was interrogated no further about it.

Misrepresentations of the New York Times. Its absurd Theories.

The New York *Times* of February 18, after the conclusion of the Inquest, reviews the evidence at length. This review is one-sided, omitting many points of importance in favor of the accused, and misrepresenting the evidence in essential particulars.

Thus it is said, "There is no doubt that Dr. Burdell feared and hated the woman (nursing his wife) intensely." This wholly ignores the testimony of Dr. Roberts and of Mrs. Denison, the only lady relative of the Doctor with whom he was intimate, and who proves that on the Monday previous to the murder, the deceased was on excellent terms with his wife, and that she addressed him by his Christian name as usual. The *Times*' review also states that "Since last April, the quarrels between Dr. Burdell and Mrs. Cunningham had been frequent and violent." That in June last Mrs. Cunningham made the affidavit in the action for breach of promise of marriage; and that "on the 20th November, 1855, according to Hannah Conlan the cook, Mrs. Cunningham miscarried of a child, which she ascribed to Dr. Burdell."

This is a farrago of blunders. Mrs. Cunn-

ham did not get the house until May last. Hannah the cook, was not there in 1855—the miscarriage was after the marriage. The facts are, that the action for breach of promise was brought in October, was discontinued on the 22d upon the understanding that a marriage was to take place. The marriage was on the 28th of the same month, and Mrs. Cunningham was then in the family way by the Doctor. These facts are material, especially as, on the 18th of the same month, the Doctor declared in writing that he had not made a Will—a declaration apparently made for the information and satisfaction of his intended wife.

The *Times*' review has the following passage: "Dr. Burdell thought the deceased lacking in courage and without physical strength, so that a boy ten years old could have overcome him." The witness's statement is not so strong as that; and Dr. Smith regarded Dr. Burdell as a man of great muscular power. The point sought to be made out by this ridiculous suggestion that Dr. Burdell would have been overcome by a boy ten years old is, that the Doctor could have been overcome by a woman, and therefore that his wife may have attacked and killed him.

The *Times*' review lays great stress upon what it calls "the overthrow of the theory put forward by Snodgrass and the counsel of Mrs. Cunningham, that Evans, a convict since found to be under lock and key in the Maryland Penitentiary, was the perpetrator."

Snodgrass did not "put forward" any theory; he merely, in answer to a question put by the Coroner as to whether he had ever heard of any threats against Dr. Burdell, stated that he had heard of threats made by a man named Evans. The counsel of Mrs. Burdell put forward no theory at all. They did not cross-examine any witness brought before the Coroner, nor did they make any remarks on the evidence, nor did they offer any evidence. The Coroner and the counsel for the blood relations of the deceased had it all their own way.

The theory of the *Times*' reviewer is, that Eckel slipped out of the room where Snodgrass, Mrs. Burdell and her daughters were all assembled—went to the Doctor's room and killed him—then went to the front door to see whether the cry of murder had excited notice in the street.

"The traces of blood then indicate that he felt his way to the basement stairs, went down, and there probably washed from his person the blood that must have been upon it, and burnt up the blood-stained portions of his dress in the fire. This done, he crept back to his room, when Mrs. Cunningham, to ascertain his precise cause, came to the door with a note which he had probably already seen, and asked if it were accomplished. Such is the obvious drift of the evidence. It is but a theory, and by no means conclusive. We may still do well to bear in mind that the whole is inferential, and the parties charged may be entirely free from guilt."

This precious theory assumes the truth of Farrell's preposterous story, in the face of the evidence of Rosa and Brooks—overlooks all Farrell's contradictions, and the improbability of his concealing such a story as he says he did—assumes, too, that a murder which had been planned long before was resolved to be executed, as we have before observed, whilst all the people in the house were awake, and when Mr. Umann might be coming in; and that the place selected was a room lighted up with gas, communicating with another room having a window open to the street—the victim being, moreover, at the time wide awake and full dressed! Can childish credulity go beyond this?

Moreover, the theorist ignores the fact that Snodgrass looked at the clock on the mantel-piece in the third story, and found it was eleven when he left Mrs. Burdell's room, and that Eckel was there up to two or three minutes before, whilst the murder was committed at ten to fifteen minutes to eleven o'clock at the latest. It also overlooks the fact that the murderer went to the basement front door, as well as to the hall front door, and that there are no traces of

blood, except from the room where the murder was committed, down to the two exits to the street. There is a smear of blood in the hall, evidently occasioned by the skirt of the murderer's coat as he walked along towards the door, which shows that the murderer did not go to that door in his shirt sleeves. It is probable that the murderer intended to go out at the basement, thinking that he could look around him from the basement area without being seen, before going into the street, but that he found some difficulty there, and went out at the front door.

The rigid scrutiny in the house, aided by powerful microscopes, would not have failed to discover traces of blood to some other parts of the house, if the murderer had, instead of making his way for the exit to the street, gone to one part of the house to wash the blood from his person, and to another part to burn his clothes.

The Theory about the Stink from the Dowery.

As to the conjecture that the accused parties burnt up some woollen clothes on the night of the murder, and thereby caused a smell which was perceived in the street, this conjecture is advanced on the strength of a statement made by some witnesses, that they perceived "a smell like the burning of leather or woollen cloth, or horns," which smell did not come from any particular direction. The wind was very slight, and the air was very heavy. Some of the witnesses say that what little wind there was came from the direction of the Dowery, and if that was so the wonder would have been if a stink of some kind or other had not been perceived—bones are burnt in that quarter of the city, and every variety of disgusting odor is emitted in abundance.

Besides, it is proved by the evidence of Mr. and Mrs. Hatch that they were at the next house, No. 29, up to half past ten or a quarter to eleven on the night in question, and that on leaving the house at that time Mrs. Hatch perceived a strong smell as of burning leather. Mr. Hatch had a cold, and did not perceive the smell, but his wife complained of it. So that the smell was perceived before as well as after the murder was committed. Notwithstanding this evidence, the leading press continued to insist on the fact that a smell of burning woollen, horns, &c., was noticed after twelve o'clock, as raising a suspicion against the accused.

As to the Marriage.

It is highly improbable that Mrs. Cunningham would have got up a sham marriage with Dr. Burdell in this city, and given her address, as she did, 61 Bond street. Not only did the clergyman and his wife know who the parties were, but also the clergyman's two servants, who were present, and might have spoken about it at any time. A sham marriage would have been got up at a distance, if at all.

The marriage is proved by positive testimony. As to the statements made by Dr. Burdell to some of his friends respecting the Cunningham family, they are inconsistent with what he said to others of his acquaintance. The Doctor is proved to have been an incorrigible liar. His most intimate friend, Dr. Roberts, establishes that fact. His conduct, too, was erratic in the extreme. As to the papers shown round by him to his friends, to make them believe that he was not married, especially the release dated after the marriage, and purporting to be signed by Mrs. E. A. Cunningham, it is worthy of remark that he showed a paper to Mr. Allen F. Smith, which appears to be the paper in question, and asked him whether he thought the signature to it was a counterfeit. It is quite likely that Dr. Burdell wrote out this paper, merely for the purpose of hoodwinking his acquaintance, and either put his wife's name to it, or got her to do so. After the marriage, she signed another paper in her former name, but that was quite consistent with the arrangement that the marriage should be kept secret until June, when they intended to go to Europe.

The statement made by Mr. Marvino, that the man married to Mrs. Cunningham had more hair than the deceased, is explained by the following passage in Dr. Cox's testimony. After stating that he saw the deceased on the day of the murder, he says, "At this last interview, I noticed that his hair had been dyed; two-thirds of his hair was gone, and the rest was dyed."

Misrepresentations of the New York Tribune.

The *Tribune* of February 14th, after the close of the evidence, sums up the case in an editorial of three columns. We extract a few lines by way of specimen.

"Mrs. Cunningham produced at the Coroner's Inquest her marriage certificate, which corresponded with the register of the Rev. Mr. Marvino. The reverend gentleman, when before the Inquest, identified Mrs. Cunningham as the woman whom he had then married, but was unable to identify the corpse of Dr. Burdell as that of the man, and this, too, although his attention, either at the time of the marriage, or on the following day when the man came to him for the marriage certificate, had been directed to the peculiar appearance of the man's whiskers, which then led him to think that they were false. The clergyman's woman-servant, likewise, was unable to identify the man who was married as the same whose dead body was before her."

There are three mis-statements and one perversion in this single paragraph, and the rest of the article is of the same complexion.

1st. The certificate did not correspond with the register, for Mr. Marvino corrected his register after having seen the Doctor's name on the door-plate of his house in Bond street. The certificate was written "Burdell," the register is "Burdell." The fact that such correction was made is important, for it shows that Mr. Marvino knew who it was who had been married.

2d. The statement that Mr. Marvino, "when before the Inquest, identified Mrs. Cunningham as the woman whom he had married," is not correct. Mr. Marvino did not recognize her at all, but did recognize her daughter as the witness. His failure to positively identify the deceased would have been more important if he had identified the bride.

3d. Mr. Marvino did not think, when the man came to him for the certificate, that his whiskers were false. But an impression to that effect, which Mr. Marvino had received in his first interview with Dr. Burdell, when he applied for an appointment for the performance of the marriage ceremony, was afterwards dispelled. When Mr. Marvino saw the Doctor in the first instance, he thought he could see daylight through his whiskers. Mr. Marvino mentioned this to his wife, and she told him to look closely when the Doctor came again. Accordingly, Mr. Marvino did examine him very closely, but could discern nothing to support his first suspicion.

It is difficult to account for such gross misrepresentations as those of the *Tribune*.

The *Tribune* should have added that although the woman-servant could not positively identify the deceased, yet, on looking at his daguerrotypes, she thought the man who was married resembled him, and that Mr. Marvino thought so too, and after seeing Mr. Eckel, expressed his belief that he was not the man married to Mrs. Cunningham. The conclusion of these facts is a perversion of the evidence.

The *Tribune* makes a parade of the evidence given, to the effect that Doctor Burdell expressed his distress and fears of Mrs. Cunningham, but takes no account of the evidence *par contra* showing that the Doctor quarrelled with everybody, quarrelled with Mrs. Cunningham one hour, and made it up the next, and that the various statements made by him to his most intimate friends differed entirely from each other. And the *Tribune*, moreover, in laying great stress as it does, upon the evidence taken before the Coroner, forgets that it was all *ex parte*, and without cross-examination, and that it was taken with a view to support a foregone conclusion.

The *Tribune* referring to the refusal of Mr. Eckel and Mrs. Cunningham to testify a second time before the Coroner says:

"If Mrs. Cunningham and Mr. Eckel be void of guilt, they have followed legal advice, fixing the damning suspicion on their brows, by their course in suing out the writ of habeas corpus, which inevitably changed their positions from that of witnesses under arrest, whose testimony, if they were innocent, should have been eagerly proffered to clear away the doubt and mystery which they alone could dissipate, into criminals whose mouths are sealed, and who apparently seek thereby to shield themselves from giving evidence which must be fatal to themselves. The criminal fears investigation—The innocent man courts inquiry."

We do not see that an innocent man should court inquiry before such a tribunal as that of Mr. Coroner Conroy, which, according to the *Tribune*, was one of the most partial, ignorant and indecent that ever disgraced any country on the face of the earth. Mrs. Cunningham and Mr. Eckel were held as prisoners, and we do not see how, under such circumstances, they could undertake to override their counsel, who directed them not to answer the Coroner's questions.

Concluding Remarks.

The press has teemed daily with fresh slanders upon the character of Mrs. Burdell, (whom they persisted in calling Mrs. Cunningham,) and her daughters. It has been insinuated by some of the leading papers that Mrs. Cunningham had murdered her first husband; and they brought direct and positive charges against her that she had had criminal intercourse with Mr. Eckel, and that an illicit connection existed between one of her daughters and Mr. Snodgrass. The guilt of all the parties was treated as a fixed fact, and although the evidence from day to day removed all the original grounds of suspicion, new points, however ridiculous they might be, were eagerly seized by the excited and glib editors. They persisted, moreover, in talking about the smell of burning—the missing trunk—the bloody dagger—the candles and oranges, long after the evidence had dispelled all the illusions on those topics.

Mr. Eckel is a very respectable man carrying on a large and flourishing business in this city. Mrs. Cunningham is well connected, and her visiting acquaintances were persons in good society.

Mr. Snodgrass has been employed as a Clerk in a store since January last, and has given entire satisfaction to his employer.

Some of the leading papers in this city asserted, that at a party which was given by Mrs. Cunningham at her house on the 14th January last, there was a choice selection of the worst male and female characters in the city. This story passed current for a time, but the evidence on the Inquest disclosed the fact, that the Hon. David Wilmot, the chief of the Native American party in this State was present, and that he recognized at the party a number of highly respectable ladies and gentlemen of his acquaintance, and it, moreover, appeared, that the only female relative of the Doctor with whom he was on familiar terms was also present.

Never has the press of any city behaved so outrageously before. The public mind has been so misled and excited by it, that we should not have been surprised if the mob had torn the accused parties to pieces. We fear that the press will continue to persecute the victims—at all events there is a great anxiety on the part of the press to maintain the position it has assumed. The Coroner's Jury has rendered the verdict of the press—the Grand Jury is likely to do the same; and there is reason to apprehend that the misconceptions and prejudices engendered by the press may overwhelm reason and truth on the final trial of the case.

The slanders and misrepresentations of the Press in this case are more astonishing than the mystery of the murder itself. It might be imagined that Bedlam had broken loose, and that the most intractable and ferocious of its inmates had taken posses-

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sion of the editorial chairs in the offices of the New York Herald, Tribune and Times—the least rampant of the party, however, being in the last named establishment. The offenders ought to be indicted for their libels on the accused parties, and sent to the House of Correction, unless they could claim exemption from punishment on the plea of insanity.

THE GRAND JURY HUMBUG.

The Grand Jury system with its secret one-sided inquiries, is a monstrous humbug, which ought to be abolished immediately. The Grand Jury of the metropolitan county of Middlesex in England, has frequently presented itself as a nuisance. The general opinion in England now is, that preliminary investigations should be before a competent police magistrate, and that Grand Jury investigations are a mockery, a delusion and a snare.

The Case of George V. Snodgrass.

To the Editor of the New York Tribune:
Sir: Seeing many false statements in relation to George V. Snodgrass, I will simply say that he has been in my employment since the 1st of January, and he has always fulfilled his duties to my entire satisfaction, and was in my store at the time the dagger was said to have been purchased, which can be proved when called for by young men in my employment. Hoping that this will silence the many slanders against him and his family,
Yours respectfully,
DAVID McMURRAY, JR.,
Brush Warehouse, No. 252, Pearl street, N.Y.
New York, February 18, 1857.

Liability of Employers to Persons in their Employ, where they sustain Injury by reason of the Negligence of their Fellow-Workmen.

ENGLISH COURT OF EXCHEQUER, WEDNESDAY, January 14, (Sittings in Banco, before the Chief Baron and Barons BRAMWELL and WATSON.)
DENT v. THE MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANY.

This action, which has been twice tried at the Chancery, was brought by the plaintiff, an administratrix of one James Dent, to recover under Lord Campbell's Act compensation for death, which resulted from an accident on the defendants' railway. The matter now came before the Court on demurrer, and the question was raised, whether the declaration showed any cause of action, and, if so, whether the plea was an answer to it?

The declaration stated in effect that James Dent was assisting in the turning and removal from one place to another place of a railway truck upon the Midland Railway, and the defendants, by their servants, carelessly, negligently, and improperly moved some other trucks against the truck which James Dent was assisting in moving, without giving any notice or warning to him of their intention so to do, or taking any reasonable or proper precaution to prevent the damage to him, and that he was thereby crushed against a shed and killed. The plea stated that the other servants employed were persons of ordinary skill.

Mr. Serjeant Pigott (with Mr. Skinner) for the plaintiff, said that the facts as stated above showed that he was entitled to an action, and that it was immaterial whether or not the deceased was a servant of the company or a mere volunteer who was for the moment lending his assistance for the purpose of moving the trucks. *Respondent superior* was the maxim of the English law, and a master was liable for the negligence of his servants. Where spring guns were set on premises and injured a person who was trespassing, even he was entitled to an action; and a servant, or a volunteer helping a servant, could not be in a worse position.

The Chief Baron.—The law as to spring guns rests on this:—You leave on a certain spot a piece of mechanism which, being touched, will do an injury; that is the same as if a man were himself to point a gun at a trespasser as soon as he sees him on the particular spot, and shoot at him, and he has no right to do so. But a man may put broken glass on his wall, or if he surrounds his house with a moat he is not responsible if a person who has no business there gets up to his neck in water. A principle which prevents servants bringing an action against a master is, that if a person takes an

engagement in your house he takes the risk of the service, just as a sailor takes the risk of the sea, or of the captain getting drunk—they sail in the same boat. That principle, too, is extended to guests. If a number of persons are at a dinner party, and a servant were careless enough to spill a basin of soup down a lady's back, or if a flax carpet were left unfastened, and an elderly gentleman were to trip and break his leg, no action could be maintained against the host; the host chooses his guests, and the guests their host, and they are each subject to the risk of ordinary mistakes.

After a very prolonged and desultory argument, and the citing of a vast number of cases,

The Court intimated its opinion that it did not think it necessary to hear Mr. Keating or Mr. Phipson on the other side, and reserved its decision.

REMARKS.

It would not be reasonable to hold an employer liable in all cases to persons in his employ, for injuries sustained by them in consequence of the negligence or misconduct of their fellow-servants; yet it does not follow that the employer should be held irresponsible where he has engaged improper persons to do what requires care and skill. The owners of a ship who should knowingly employ a drunken captain, ought to be held liable to the sailors for any loss sustained by them in consequence of the incapacity of the captain. But for this liability, the owners might, being protected by insurances, be indifferent about the safety of the ship and the lives of the crew. The owner of a factory who should knowingly employ an unfit person to attend to the steam-engine and boiler, should be held responsible (civilly at least) for the consequences. The remarks of the Chief Baron are too general. The plea, stating that the other servants employed were persons of ordinary skill, presented the true question.

IRISH RIOT IN NEW JERSEY.

The Cause, How Arrests are made in such Cases, How the Military usually act.

(From the New York Tribune, February 11.)

Our yesterday's paper contained an account of a furious Irish riot on Saturday, at Hudson City, in New Jersey, in which several persons were seriously wounded—two, it is pretty certain, fatally. Though it had its remote origin in an old clanish quarrel brought from Ireland, its immediate impulse was purely American, to wit, the numerous whiskey shops which are invariably established on the outskirts of every Irish settlement, and under the influence of which the good-natured, industrious laborer of yesterday is converted into the furious fighting savage of to-day, and perhaps to-morrow into a prisoner, charged with the high crime of riot and murder. All the accounts that we have seen agree in fixing the origin of the riot, Saturday being Tuesday, and a considerable portion of the money received by the laborers being distributed to the gang shops.

The legal remedies applied to these cases are often almost as bad as the riot itself. They generally begin with a calling out of the military, who very often signalize their appearance on the field by shooting down a score or so of innocent persons, though we are happy to say that so far as the present case formed a striking exception, nobody, so far as is reported, having been killed by the military, and none of the militia men having been shot by discharges from their own guns—an occurrence by no means unusual. In the matter, however, of making arrests, the old procedure was followed. Every man found wounded and clapped with his own blood was seized upon as soon as a guilty party, and marched off to jail. This evidence of guilt, however inconclusive, is his own, according to our observation of such cases, to pass muster, not merely with the militia who arrest, but with the jury who try. It is quite as likely, to say the least, that the parties found wounded and bloody were the parties set upon, and that whatever fighting they did was done purely in self-defence; and yet these Irish riots generally end in the conviction and punishment of a number of poor fellows upon the fact mainly, that in the fight they had got a beating. Nor is it Irish laborers alone who suffer. The neighboring inhabitants are thrown into a state of terror, and the employers of laborers suffer serious losses from the delay and interruption of their work.

All this might be saved if the Irishmen could be kept away from the grog-shops or the grog-shops from the Irishmen; and why is it not just as reasonable to exercise legal restraint to prevent a riot as to punish it?

REMARKS.

Who is to Blame?

Whenever a great number of men are employed upon public works there should be a police force to preserve order, and any assaults that may be committed should be punished summarily.

In New Jersey common assaults may be committed by one poor man upon another, almost with impunity, so far as any legal remedy is concerned. The law of that State does not provide for summary convictions in such cases, and as to the slow and tedious process of indictment, it is practically unavailing for common working people.

If the men employed at Hudson in constructing the railroad, were all native Americans, we might confidently expect that quarrels, fights and riots would occasionally arise amongst them, just as they have done amongst the Irish. If a policeman be on the spot to interfere at the outset of a disturbance, and if the law affords a remedy to the party aggrieved, nothing serious is likely to happen. But it is otherwise when there is no peace officer present to arrest the wrong-doer; in that case, a fight between two persons may lead to a general combat, which can only be quelled by the intervention of the military. Experience has shown that in all places where great numbers of people are collected together, even for amusement, it is necessary to have peace officers present. All railroad companies should be compelled to employ a sufficient number of police in those places where multitudes of laborers are collected together. And such reforms should be made in the administration of justice as would enable the poor man to obtain redress for his grievances.

The blame for all other similar riots rests, not with the poor Irish laborers, but with the American authorities, who have neglected these measures of precaution which it was their duty to provide.

Wages—Recovery of, Proposed Amendment of the Law.

Mr. James S. Snyder introduced a bill which is particularly intended to reach all those persons who employ seamstresses and other poor laborers, and demand them of their wages. Its object is to secure the more efficient collection of the wages of labor. Its main features provide that short process shall issue on any demand for the wages of labor. The revenues derived by the law are to be used to guard against by providing compelling certain affidavits and proofs of defense to be made, before an appeal can be taken or judgment secured. Any judgment recovered under the act for labor actually done or services performed, may be deducted with the county clerk, however small the amount.

The Justice Courts and the Marine Court have concurrent jurisdiction in these cases, which gains time for all the parties, and is of especial benefit to seamen when compelled to sue for their pay from the owners or masters of vessels. The principal design of the bill is to afford ample protection for poor seamstresses, household domestics, day-laborers and seamen, who, under the delay of the existing law, are frequently unable to sue for and recover small amounts due them from their employers.

REMARKS.

The proposed amendment of the law will be of but little avail. Laborers, seamstresses and household domestics will continue to be unable to recover what is due to them until they are allowed to be witnesses in their own behalfs. These classes of persons have no difficulty in enforcing their rights in England; and the best thing for the Legislature of New York to do in the premises will be to follow the example set by the British Parliament. It is better to mend late than never, and although the interests of the working classes in this particular have been so long neglected, we hope to see a reform forthcoming.

[Continued from page 214.]

THE SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE UNITED STATES.

Testimony of European Tourists Examined, and its general Worthlessness Exposed.

BY AN ENGLISH RESIDENT.

Mr. Buckingham's Views of Democracy, its early Views and subsequent Correction of them.

Mr. Buckingham's views in favor of Democracy seem to have been somewhat modified after a short residence in the United States. At first he thought that universal suffrage could not lead any where to the selection of representatives from any other class than that which the voters believe to be a much higher one than the average of their own. (First Series, vol. 1, p. 447.) He contends that it is not the Democracy of the American institutions which leads to the mobs and riots that occur in the United States—that it is chiefly in the aristocratic States of the South and West, where the white race hold the black in slavery, that mobs and riots most frequently occur. Even when they happen in the North and East, the object is to put down freedom of discussion on the subject of slavery. It is, therefore, the Aristocratic party, and not the Democratic party, that originate most of these outrages. (First Series, vol. III, p. 55.)

How our author has run away from the question, that not being which of the two political parties gets up the riots. The fact stated, that the upper classes join in a public violation of the law, shows the laxity of the government, and tends to support the charge which he afterwards repels.

When our author saw any thing which he admired, he attributed it to Democracy, even although it might be peculiar to some particular State or district. He argues that striking benefits are the results of Democratic principles and practices, when all men have a voice in the management of public affairs—that amongst them are the universal encouragement of education, and the absence of all theatres, obnoxious, and similar places of dissipated entertainment, which have never been able to take root, for example, at Rochester, in the State of New York. (First Series, vol. III, p. 55.)

But if Democratic principles naturally resided in this way, how does it happen that education is neglected in so large a portion of the country? and elsewhere have the cities of New York, New Orleans, Philadelphia, &c., numerous places of "dissipated entertainment?"

This disposition to admire Democracy sustained a severe check as our author advanced into the country.

He found that there was an "almost entire disregard of the principles of moral rectitude in the selection of candidates for public office." (Third Series, vol. 1, p. 7.) That deception, bribery, intemperance, and all the other revolting exhibitions of depravity were displayed at popular elections—that fiducial was no longer that all confidence in party men and party statements was destroyed throughout the country. (Third Series, vol. II, p. 193.) He finds that by far the largest commercial majority of the nation speak only with one tongue and own of the rulers whom they themselves have chosen, and of the measures they produce. (Third Series, vol. II, p. 193.) He quotes from an American newspaper the following: (Third Series, vol. II, p. 194.)

"The total incapacity for self-government exhibited in our Halls of Legislation, will do more to demerit popular opinion in the estimation of mankind, than any thing which ever happened. It must be apparent to every rational being, that such a system is not worthy of being continued; it would be nearly impossible to change for the worse."

He concludes, "Yet these are the legislators of the people's own choice; for the suffrage is universal, the vote by ballot, and the elections are annual." He argues that equal ranklessness and violence have been exhibited in France, Spain and Portugal, under monarchial power. He deplores the tyrannical conduct of the majority—the disgraceful scenes in the Halls of Legislation, (Third Series, vol. II, p. 194.) and exposes the frauds and corruption at elections, (Third Series, vol. II, p. 192,) and the contumacious and wantonness of the press. With a few honorable exceptions, the newspapers appeared to him "to sacrifice truth, honor and courtesy to party feeling; hesitating at nothing to shake the character of a political opponent, though he should be of the most pure and spotless reputation; taking up the slander of by-gone years to serve a momentary purpose; and speaking

neither age nor sex—neither the living nor the dead." (Slave States, vol. II, p. 247.)

It is amusing to contrast all this with our author's early remarks, when he took American editors to task for complaining of the tyranny of the majority, the corruption of the government, and the distress of the country—the truth of all which complaints he testifies to himself in fifty different parts of his works. But at first he indignantly repels the charges brought by Americans against their own country, ridicules the assertion that corrupt practices had been resorted to, and as to tyranny, the despotism existed wholly in the imaginations of the defeated and disappointed party. Just as idle and groundless were their complaints about existing distress. (First Series, vol. III, pp. 386, 418.) He afterwards saw such symptoms of distress as these—almost universal bankruptcy, stoppage of the public works, depreciation in the value of property to one-fourth its former value, and the administration of justice suspended. By the suspension of the administration of justice, he means that laws were passed to stay or defer legal proceedings for the recovery of debts.

British North America—Whether the Colonies are valuable to the Mother Country.

With respect to Canada, our author advances the opinion, that when our colonies are strong enough to support themselves we should dissolve the connexion at once, instead of waiting for a quarrel. (First Series, vol. II, p. 271.) In the United States he met Mr. Bancroft and Mr. Popham, two of the Canadian rebels, and speaks of them as being punished for attempting to do what we honor in William Tell, in Hampden, Russell and Sidney, in Kosciuszko, Lafayette and Washington. (Third Series, vol. 1, p. 212.) But in the work on the British Provinces, (Canada, p. 42,) he says that his conviction was, "that there had not been a sufficient amount of grievance or oppression to warrant the taking up arms against the Government at all."

Mr. Buckingham found likewise that our North American colonies were of great value to the mother country, as so much land at her disposal for the benefit of what he calls the surplus population. We cannot concur in the opinion that the few settlers in British America have the right to claim and hold exclusively the whole of our vast territories there, upon the ground that they are able to govern themselves. The colonies have been acquired and retained at the expense of the mother country, and she has a right to use the recent lands for her people. Her blood and her treasure have been expended freely, and she has never contracted with the few settlers there that they shall have the power and right to exclude others. Mr. Buckingham says there is a diversity of opinion as to the value of these possessions. (Canada, p. 1.) As well might it be doubted whether it would be any advantage to have a vast and rich unoccupied territory adjoining the British Islands. What should we say to any project to cede it from our empire, or how should we treat the proposition that a few hundreds of people, to whom we had sold a few thousand acres, had the right to the government and control of the whole country? We can see no difference between the two cases, and yet that French Britain will never permit her North American colonies to be wrested from her so long as she is able to relax an arm to save them.

Mr. Buckingham speaks of the sum of acquiring the colonies, and the annual cost to the mother country, and asserts that "the most ingenious statesman would be unable to show that equivalent advantages had been derived from their possession." (Canada, p. 187.) We reply that the very means which we have expended on the colonies have been furnished by them untaken, and that without them we should have had an sufficient navy for our commerce—should have been without a large navy, and should have fallen a prey to the great military nations of the Continent. Besides, the ships that we now own worth millions of square miles of fine land, which are wanted for the use of the population of the British Islands—and this is an advantage that far outweighs all other considerations.

Condition of Society in England.

Mr. Buckingham's views of the condition of society in England, are hardly less remarkable for their unsoundness, than are his leading statements respecting the Americans for their inconsistency.

He assumes that no one will contradict his proposition that the land of Great Britain is insufficient to support

the present population, (Canada, pp. 435, 444,) whereas he must have often seen estimates showing that the land is capable of producing enough to keep in abundance at least five times the present number of people, with the present system of agriculture.—He talks of the decreasing trade and a falling revenue, (Canada, p. 434,) whilst he ought to have known that the trade of the country has been gradually increasing for many years past, and that the taxes had been materially reduced, which might reasonably account for a temporary reduction at all events, of the revenue. He asserts that England has her Union workhouses filled with unemployed laborers, (Canada, p. 442,) whereas he ought to have known that the number of able-bodied laborers in the asylums for the poor was very small. He says, (Canada, p. 449,) that at least ten millions of pounds sterling are "expended at present, in sustaining, in one shape or another, the surplus unemployed population of the mother country, who are idle and willing to get their own living if employment could be provided for them, independently of the old and infirm, who would then be the only claimants of parish support." Not one-tenth part of the sum mentioned was so expended. It is true that often many persons willing to work cannot get profitable employment, but the same is the case everywhere, and particularly in the United States, where there are many more persons in a state of idleness and poverty than in England. We are far, however, from being opposed to the colonization of our vacant territories, particularly if a good general system be devised and carried into effect; and we are inclined to adopt many of Mr. Buckingham's suggestions on this subject.

In taking our leave of Mr. Buckingham for the present, we would observe that we entertain a profound respect for that gentleman as a champion of peace and progress amongst the human race. We are willing to do honor to the purity of his intentions, although we have felt bound to endeavor to expose his fallacies and inconsistencies, because we believe that his works are calculated to foster and encourage injudicious delusions.

(To be continued.)

WHAT OUR OPINION IS—MAY 1857

The Acadian Recorder of February 7, says:

We have received several numbers of the Recorder, a weekly periodical recently started in New York. This journal, in appearance, in the principles by which it is guided, and in its mode of dealing with subjects which it takes in hand, is a novelty—at least in the United States. We cannot afford space for a programme at the principles upon which it professes to take a stand and to which it has thus far adhered with real consistency. Judged by the European standard it is the roughly Radical in politics; yet, throwing aside the "liberalism of political jugglers," it calls things by their real names and judges of them by their real merits. To its editors, despotism is despotism, whether manifested through the will of a European or Asiatic Aristocrat, or of a Yankee Slaveholder; and Republicanism and Liberty appear none the less beautiful when found combined with the Monarchical element in government. We believe that the politics of our new cotemporary are calculated to meet with a hearty response from a larger proportion of the people of British North America than of any other part of the world. One object which the Recorder has in view, and to which it devotes especial attention, is an exposition of the rottenness of United States institutions, from the Federal Constitution down to that of the lowest judicial or municipal organization in the land; their injurious effects upon the moral and social well-being of the people; and the consequent poverty of substantial inducements which that country holds out to the European emigrant. This it does in a masterly manner, attracting the Yankee readers by producing from the native press of the country most of the evidence required for that purpose. Whoever—himself well-informed upon the subject—has been in the habit, for years past, of reading the one-sided statements of European tourists in the United States, the respectful and flattering tone and false views of the grave portion of the British Press, and the lighter but more fallacious "soft sawdust" of the London Punch, towards that unscrupulous "land of liberty," must feel that it is high time for some person, having the ability to make himself heard, to undertake the correction of the erroneous impressions which have been thus produced, and which are still extending. Some members of the Re-

American press have, at times, addressed themselves to the work, but have not thought it worth while to keep up a sustained effort, owing to the limited sphere of their influence. With the EUROPEAN we trust it will be otherwise. The impressions hitherto conveyed abroad concerning those whom, for want of any other national name, we call "Yankees," their country, and their institutions, have been derived almost exclusively from their own ridiculously inflated estimates, made up especially for the amusement of foreigners. The EUROPEAN sets up for an impartial judge and a conscientious instructor, and has thus far ably sustained the character. We heartily wish it may long continue to do so.

The Daily News of Toronto says: The numbers before us are edited with a good deal of ability, and promise a valuable addition to journalism.

The Windsor Herald, (Windsor, Canada West,) February 18th, says:

We now receive the EUROPEAN weekly, and shall frequently read ourselves of its valuable contents by transferring extracts to our journal. The EUROPEAN will prove a valuable auxiliary to the New York Tribune in detecting the extension of slavery; but its chief merit consists in its impartial criticism of all institutions—both in Europe and America. Its neat and clean appearance as regards paper and typography, and the great diversity of its matter, will render it a general favorite.

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.

SPAIN.

Revolutions proclamations of a republican character are every day circulated in Madrid. The ministerial journals say that the Government is on the qui vive, and that if there were any outbreak it would repress it with the greatest energy.

ITALY.

Notwithstanding the great exertions of the Austrian Government to create an appearance of cordiality towards the Emperor and Empress on their visit to Milan, their reception by all classes of the population was chilling cold. The Emperor wore the Italian national colors (green, white and red,) and the Emperor proclaimed an amnesty to all political prisoners and refugees; yet no mark of approbation could be drawn from the Italians.

Revolution in Italy. Terror in Naples.

Impartial agents are very active. Phases of money have been discovered, newly coined, and stamped with the effigy of Louis I., (Murt,) King of the Two Sicilies.

A letter from Palermo announces executions throughout Sicily for political causes. Many students have been arrested.

A priest has attempted to assassinate the Archbishop of Palermo while he was giving his benediction to the people. The Archbishop was wounded, and a Chinamano, who attempted to protect him, was shot dead by the assassin.

At Palermo a court-martial had commenced in death the eminent Dr. Quarenarini. All persons who enter the town are carefully searched for letters in manuscript. At Naples the vicinity of the Royal Palace has been surrounded by officers of the engineers in connection that it is not allowed. The Palace is no longer lighted by gas.

SWITZERLAND.

The Swiss having sanctioned the treaty recognizing the Neuchâtel plot, supposed in their simplicity that the King of Prussia would fulfil in good faith his part of the obligation. Such, however, is not the case, and he now proposes terms which the Swiss cannot accept. The sympathy of England is with the Swiss—that of the Emperor of Austria and France is with the King of Prussia, but, being jealous of an augmentation of the influence and power of Prussia, they do not uphold the pretensions of that Government.

RUSSIA.

Though the suggestions and promises of Russia included the Persian Court to enter into a war with England, it is now evident that Persia will (as was the case with the Afghans and Meliks) be left to make her best way out of the scrape by herself. Russia is not so silly as to fight

England on that field. This abandonment of Persia in her hour of need will have a blighting influence on Russian intrigue in India.

SEPARATION OF THE FREE FROM THE SLAVE STATES.

Extracts from the Speech of Wendell Phillips, Esq., at the Disunion Convention, held in the City Hall, Worcester, January 13, 1857.

I think, when Massachusetts undertook to be the bloodhound of South Carolina, in order that there might be peace between two States, it was an exceedingly doubtful benefit. What else has the Union ever done? Some claim that she is the mother of Commerce. I doubt it. I question whether the genius and energy of the Yankee race are not the parent of commerce and the fountain of wealth, much more than the Union. That race, in Holland, first created a country, and then, standing on pilot, called modern commerce into being. That race, in England, with territory just wide enough to keep its eastern and western harbours apart, monopolized for centuries the trade of the world, and amassed continents only as treasure-houses wherein to gather its wealth. Who shall say that the main island, with only England for its anchorage, could not drag the wealth of the West into its harbours? Who shall say that the fertile land of Virginia and the Mississippi could not have been its wealth if they would to do so, and not because they were compelled? As long as New England is made of granite and the nerves of her sons of steel, she will live, as she always has been, the brain of North America, not to be shunted; and harnessing the elements, steam and lightning, to her car of conquest, she will double the wealth of every people now by her skill, ever mean with envious, and gather the wealth of the Western hemisphere into her harbours.

I dispute, then, the value of the Union; I do not believe in it. Grant all its claims as the parent of wealth, it has not produced any. Daniel Webster said that the virtue of the colonial institutions was, that they produced Wealth. The sin of the Union is, that it counteracted Wealth. [Laughter and applause.] Early says, the test of governments is the men they make. Where are our men? The colonies produced the Revolutionary war; the "full tide of successful experiment," we have resulted in Calhoun's leading and Franklin Pierce's Presidency, and the baseness of the present day. That is the full claim of the Union!

If liberty be the object of government—of high thought, high character, a noble party, a noble state, with noble impulses, be the test of government, this Union is a failure. For the character of this nation has been an indictment in fifty years, that we must look out from when we compare the Senate of to-day with that over which even Aaron Burr presided. Look at the outrage on Charles Sumner! Men have been assassinated before. If a man treats himself with gold in the pursuit of great office, he is very likely to be unscrupulous. One who quarrels with democratic institutions in the halls of vice, seeks assassination. But did you ever see before, in the Senate Chamber, the focus of a civilized State, the Capitol on which millions of eyes are fixed—did you ever see an assassination there, with half a score of what are called the "stalwarts" of the land looking on, all and silent? I undertake to say, that in view of all the circumstances, the average of a Napoleonic Empire is not so far removed in the history of civilized States. You never see the assassination, in your history, of an unlearned man, with masses of his peers, the foremost men in office, in a national assembly, present, and you are afflicted in his defence; and yet you now see a State, and perhaps one half of the whole country, doing its violence and applauding each in its turn. That is the barbarism to which the Union has brought these States. You know it stands out in all history as the atrocious crime which neither railed off the mantle of Moses Cromwell, that in undying glory to put his military boot on the Speaker's man in the House of Commons. Every man who has written history since has regarded that as the lowest point which English history has ever reached. That very act was repeated on the virgin soil of Kansas, and it hardly asked a ripple on the calm sea of American life. Such is the reach of a Union in which men are told to sacrifice justice, mercy and honour, the welfare of the slave, and an essential condition to the Slave Power! I do not believe in it. I would like to have those men who are ringing perpetual changes on the Union come here, and tell us what good the Union has ever done. It has made our large cities the scenes of riot and of fugitive slave sur-

renders; it has filled our pulpits with Deweys and Adamsons; it has filled our literature with Hilders and Pierponts, and Baneroffs. I curse the Union in behalf of the white man, as well as a friend of the black race. There never was a greater mistake than this idolatry of the Juggler of a Union, and never will we get loose from it shall we have any hope of a system of honorable government, or any right to respect ourselves.

I do not, then, tremble to approach the question of breaking up the Union. I have no faltering fear, no timid timidity of the arguments; my honest soul is penetrated with the conviction that it is a magnificent conspiracy against justice, and accursed of God. [Loud applause.] Every page of our history since '89 is black with the Union. There is not a page of it to which an American can refer with any pride or honour; and when a pen as impartial as that of Hildreth writes that history, you see it—every man must see it. It is nothing but the vain-glorious eulogy of Fourth of July orators; the swollen selfishness of Wealth eager for more gains; of Commerce crying "Hush!" in order to have customers; of merchants, in trudging deference to somebody out of whom they expect to make a dollar profit; it is only petty lawyers like Curtis, who juggle, because they can draw with their own nibbles with statecraft, [laughter and applause,] that have undertaken to show the value of the Union. It is often all over! It is no great word. It has proved on a magnificent scale, as it written by the finger of God "let Israel turn and be healed;" that Lincoln was right when he said, "Men never fastened one end of a chain round the neck of his brother, that God's own hand did not fasten the other end round the neck of his oppressor." [Cheers.] It is no great hardship of slave and slaveholder, with the North buying upward bound in order by dastardly silence, and vindictive "Up to the Union!" in return thick with blood.

You know that the policy has been always acted upon ever since Washington—and it has been openly avowed ever since Fillmore—that no man was to resolve any office who was not sound on the slavery question. You remember the debate in the Senate, when that was distinctly avowed to be the policy of Mr. Fillmore. You remember Mr. Clay letting it drop out accidentally, in debate, that the slaveholders had always closely watched the Union, and kept a majority there, in order to preserve the ascendancy of slavery. This is the policy which, in the course of fifty years, has built up the Slave Power. Now, how is the Republican party ever to beat that Power down? By reversing that policy, in favor of freedom. Charles Clay said to me, two years ago, "If you will allow me to have the patronage of this Government for years, and exercise it unreservedly, down to New Orleans—never permit any one but an avowed Abolitionist to hold office under the Federal Government—and I will revolutionize the six States themselves in two administrations." That is a scheme of office and politics. But the Republican party has never yet given preference any such policy. In my mind, I believe that a dissolution of the Union, even to reach speedily to the abolition of slavery, would be a lesser evil than the slow, lingering, advanced, gradual dying out of slavery, constantly poisoning us with the festering remains of this corrupt political, moral and literary state. I believe a sudden, complete, definite abolition, resulting in the abolition of slavery speedily, in the disruption of the Northern mind from all connection with it, all vengeance is it, immediately, would be a better, healthier, and more wholesome cure, than to let the Republican party, even if it could ever gain the power, exert this gradual influence through the power of the Government for thirty or sixty years.

We are talking about the best way of getting rid of a great national evil. Mr. Wilson's way is to put down the Union as a "dead fact," and then educate public opinion to a certain level. In that way we have got in Mr. Van Buren, with Cushing, and Choate, and Willard, and Hallist, and men like them, on our shoulders for the next thirty or forty years—with the Deweys and Pierponts and Laeds, and all that class of men—with the Harker School Committee approving George Hilders' school-books, from which no young man, even with a million-power microscope, would discern that Whittier ever wrote an anti-slavery line—all this dumb servility of the press—all this lack of virtue and manhood—all this corruption of the pulpits—all the fossil Hunkerism—all this selling of the soul for a mass of postage—in a language—working in the body politic for thirty or forty

years, and we are gradually to eliminate the disease! What a awful future! What a miserable chronic disease! What a wreck of a noble nation the American Republic is to be for fifty years!

That is Henry Wilson's cure—and why? Only to save a piece of parchment that Eldridge Gerry had instinct enough to think did not deserve saving, as long ago as 1789! He would leave New York united to New Orleans, with the hope (sure to be balked) of getting freer and freer from year to year. I want to place her, at once, in the same relation towards New Orleans that she bears to Liverpool. [Applause.] You can do it, the moment you break the political tie. What will that do? I will tell you. The New York pulpit is to-day one end of a magnetic telegraph, of which the New Orleans cotton market is the other. The New York stock market is one end of the magnetic telegraph, and the Charleston *Mercury* is the other. New York statesmanship! Why, even in the lips of Feward, it is sealed, or half sealed, by considerations that take their rise in the cane-breaks and cotton fields of fifteen States. Break up this Union, and the ideas of South Carolina will have no more influence on Feward than those of Palmerston. The wishes of New Orleans will have no more influence on Chief Justice Shaw than the wishes of London. The threats and party tactics of Brooks, Soule, Blair and Benton will have no more influence on the *Tribune* than the thunders of the London *Times* on the hopes of the Chartists. Bancroft will no longer write history with one eye fixed on Democratic success, nor Webster invent "laws of God" to please Mr. Senator Douglas. We shall have as close connection, as much commerce; we shall still have a common language, a common faith and common race, the same common social life—we shall intermarry just the same, we shall have steamers running just as often and just as rapidly as now; but what cares Dr. Dewey, in New York, for the opinion of Liverpool? Nothing! What cares he for the opinion of Washington? Everything! Break the link, and New York springs up like the fountain relieved from mountain load, and assumes her place among decent cities. [Applause.] We mean no special praise of the English courts, pulpit or press, by these comparisons; our only wish is to show, that however close the commercial relations might continue to be between North and South, and in spite of that common faith and common tongue, and common history which would continue to hold these thirty States together, still, as in the case of this country and England, welded still by the same ties, the mere sundering of a political union would leave each half free, as that of 1776 did, from a very large share of the corrupt influence of the other.

Then, if you ask me what influence this would have on slavery, I answer, it would have, in the first place, the influence of political economy; that, taking from the Government the support of Northern sympathy and countenance, the South would have to set about getting a government. Government is an expensive luxury. You must get taxes to support it. Where will you levy your taxes? They must rest on productions. Productions are the result of skilled labor. You must educate your laborer, if you would have the means for carrying on a government. Despotisms are cheap; free governments are a dear luxury—the machinery is complicated and expensive. If the South wants even a theoretical Republic, she must pay for it—she must have a basis for taxation. How will she pay for it? Why, Massachusetts, with a million workmen, men, women and children—the little feet that can just toddle bringing chips from the wood-pile—Massachusetts only pays her own board and lodging, and lays by about three per cent. a year. And South Carolina, with one-half free, and the other half slaves, doing only half the work of a free man—only one-quarter of the population actually at work—how much do you suppose she lays up? Lays up a loss! [Laughter.] By all the laws of political economy, she lays up bankruptcy—of course she does! Put her out, and let her see how sheltered she has been from the laws of trade by the Union. The free labor of the North pays her plantation patrol; we pay for her government, we pay for her postage, and for everything else. Launch her out, and let her see if she can make the year's ends meet. And when she tries, she must educate her labor in order to get the basis for taxation. Educate slaves! Make a locomotive with its furnaces of open wire-work, fill them with anthracite coal, and when you have raised it to white heat, mount and drive it through the doors of Oliver Whipple's powder manu-

factory, and you are safe, compared with a slaveholding community educating its slaves. [Laughter and applause.] But South Carolina must do it, in order to get the basis for taxation to support an independent government. The moment she does it, she removes the safeguard of slavery. What is the contest in Virginia now? *Between the men who want to make their slaves mechanics, for the enhanced wages it will secure, and the men who oppose, for fear of the influence it will have on the general security of slave property and white throats.* Just that dispute will go on, if ever the Union is dissolved. Slavery comes to an end by the laws of trade. Hang up your Sharpe's rifle, my valorous friend! The slave does not ask the help of your musket. He only says, like old Diogenes to Alexander, "Stand out of my light!" Just take your awkward proportions, you Yankee Democrat and Republican, out of the light and heat of God's laws of political economy, and they will melt the slave's chains away! [Enthusiastic applause.] Take your distorted Union, your nightmare monster, out of the light and range of those laws of trade and competition; then, without any sacrifice on your part, slavery will go to pieces! God made it a law of his universe that villainy should always be low; and if you will only not attempt, with your puny efforts, to stand betwixt the inevitable laws of God's kingdom, as you are doing to-day, and have done for sixty years, by the vigor that the industry of sixteen States has been able to infuse into the sluggish veins of the South, slavery will drop to pieces by the very influence of the competition of the nineteenth century. That is what we mean by Disunion! [Applause.]

The slaveholder says that the Union is his safeguard. Mr. Wilson is for preserving it at every hazard. I like to learn from the enemy. If the slaveholder loves the Union, I hate it; the love of so rascalous a tyrant is authority enough for my hate. [Applause.] If the slaveholder clings to the Union, it is instinct. "Instinct is a great matter," says Shakespeare. Every Abolitionist that ever got his head above water was saluted by the title "Traitor!" The slaveholder knew what he was about when he said so, for he felt that if the man ever got his head above water, he would feel that treason was his first duty. The Union has been too great a temptation for Northern liberty. The South has bought up our great men faster than nature could make them. [Applause.] It always will. It is true of our pulpit, of our literature, of our statesmanship—the temptation is too great. All the temptations of self-interest are on the side of slavery.

When you want an Irish donkey to go ahead, you put a bundle of hay before his nose. That is just what the South does with every politician—it has a bribe for them all. As long as men like Caleb Cushing can have seventy million of dollars per annum to bestow in patronage, I have no hope for the nation; and I do not believe there is but one Caleb Cushing in all Yankeesdom; Nature did not "break the die" when she had made him. [Loud applause.] Suppose such a man, with seventy million of dollars to spend annually, to go out into the highways and byways, and into the House of Representatives of an Anti-Slavery Congress, and do you believe that within our day there is any hope of such a state of immaculate virtue, of high-toned honor, as will secure such a momentous triumph as that of Liberty against Slavery? I doubt it. At any rate, the most hopeful method of getting out of danger is not to struggle valiantly against the Cataract of Niagara, but to get out of the sweep of the current. The Republican is forced to confess that the slave power is almost as omnipotent as the downward current of Niagara, and he proposes to go up the Falls.

THE POOR.

[From the New York Dispatch, February 15.]

Horrible Picture of our Public Institutions.

Public attention is attracted by the Report of a Special Committee of the Legislature to the charitable institutions of the State. According to this Report they are in a shocking condition. There are, as stated by the Committee, some fifty-five poor-houses in the State, exclusive of those of New York and Kings county; and they are represented as "badly-conditioned, ill-arranged, ill-warmed, and ill-ventilated;" with such an inadequate medical attendance that it is of frequent occurrence for the inmates to "sicken and die away without any medical attendance whatever."

Of their moral condition the Report says, that "by

day, their intercourse is common and unrestricted; and there is often no sufficient safeguard against a promiscuous intercourse by night. In one case, the only pretence of a separation of the sexes consisted in the circumstance of separate stairs being provided at each end of a common dormitory; and a police regulation, requiring one sex to reach it by one flight, and the other sex by another, appeared to be deemed a sufficient preventive of all subsequent intercourse." And again: "The evidence taken by the Committee exhibits such a record of filth, nakedness, licentiousness, general bad morals and disregard of religion and the most common religious observances, as well as of gross neglect of the most ordinary comforts and decencies of life, which if published in detail would disgrace the State and shock humanity. The Committee hesitate to record in the pages of their Report the particular instances which would amply justify their general condemnation of these misnamed charitable provisions for the adult poor. But with respect to children the case is far worse; and the Committee are forced to say that it is a great public reproach, that they should ever be suffered to enter or remain in the poor-houses as they are now mismanaged."

In many cases the food given to the paupers "consisted partly of tainted meat and fish," and was in quantity insufficient to nourish and support the system.

The treatment of lunatics and idiots in a number of these houses is represented as abusive in the extreme: "The cells and sheds where they are confined are wretched abodes, often wholly unprovided with bedding. In most cases female lunatics had none but male attendants. Instances were testified to of the shipping of male and female idiots and lunatics, and of confining the latter in loathsome cells and binding them with chains. In one county, where eleven lunatics were confined, six were in chains, some of whom were females." Many of these were not violent, but the inhumanity of their treatment is attributed, by the Committee, to the fears and ignorance, rather than intentional harshness of their keepers. In some of the county houses the Committee found "lunatics, both male and female, in cells, in a state of nudity. The cells were intolerably offensive, littered with the long accumulated filth of the occupants, and with straw reduced to charcoal long used as bedding, portions of which, mingled with the filth, adhered to the persons of the inmates, and formed the only covering they had."

The Report represents the State Lunatic Asylums, the various Orphan Asylums, the Idiot Asylum, those for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind, with the various Dispensaries and Infirmarys, as being well-conducted.

The condition of the State jails is stated to resemble too nearly that of the poor-houses; and that the "prisoners cannot be confined long without serious injury to their health; cold, damp, many of the cells below the surface of the surrounding grounds, with no means of ventilation, the inmates breathe the same foul atmosphere day after day, and are supplied too often with coarse and insufficient food, straw for a bed, no employment to help them pass their dreary hours, the old and hardened criminal associated with the juvenile offender, instructing him in all the tricks and devices of the most depraved."

That such a horrible state of affairs can be allowed to exist in the midst of a civilized community is shocking to every sense of humanity and a disgrace to our Empire State, and calls loudly for redress. Charity ceases to be a charity when doled out in such a pitiful andiggardly manner; and in ceasing to be charity it becomes nothing less than slow murder.

Destitution.

It is said that there are now in the limits of Cincinnati full three hundred colored families in a state of utter destitution and want. This does not include cases of individual suffering, but whole families, numbering from five to ten poor, miserable creatures, in each house. All of these are objects of charity, depending wholly upon the various charitable institutions in the city for their daily subsistence.—*Baltimore Sun, February 10.*

Moyamensing House of Industry.

By the monthly report of the Moyamensing House of Industry, it appears that a considerable number of persons enjoyed the advantages of this Institution during the period. The average every night was fifty persons, and the number of poor women employed about forty-five to fifty daily. This Institution found situations for a number of deserving women, who, but for it, would

have been destitute. They are now filling the situations with credit and satisfaction. The Soup Society during the week gave out 1,600 loaves, of 14 ounces each, 1,350 gallons soup, and 12 ewis meal.—*Ledger, February 2.*

Shocking and Fatal Cruelty to a Child.

In June last, Anna Hilton, nine years old, was adopted from the Five Points House of Industry, by Mrs. M. A. Decker, at Long Neck, Staten Island. On Wednesday last the child died, and a Coroner's jury found that she came to her death by being beaten in a brutal manner, from exposure, and from a want of proper nourishment, at the hands of Mrs. Matilda Ann Decker. Mrs. Decker is now in Richmond County Jail. The testimony shows that the child was made to do the family washing in an open yard, in the severest weather; that she had nothing on her feet, and but scanty clothing on her body; that her feet were frozen, and she put them in the oven of the stove, where they were burned to a blister; that she could not walk, but was made to do homework, still cowering about on her hands and knees until her knees were dreadfully lacerated; that she was habitually beaten with a broomstick, and treated with the utmost cruelty in every way—in fact, deliberately starved and poisoned to death. Of course, there is great excitement in the neighborhood. The Directors of the Mission have taken the business in hand, and the whole matter will be sifted thoroughly.—*Staten Island Chronicle, Feb. 14.*

Alms-House Department.

A short time ago the Ten Governors received a communication from the Warden of the Alms-House, asking that the food be supplied to that institution equal to what is furnished to the Penitentiary and Workhouse.

New York Churches—where the Poor are never Seen.

(From the New York Dispatch, February 16.)
Christian Charity.

The utter lack of this ingredient in the making up of modern Christians, is never more glaringly manifested than in the "Lord's House," on the "Lord's Day"—a place and a time when one might not be considered unreasonable in expecting the inhospitalities, vanities and other of the lesser vices should be laid aside, and a show at least of the "good will to men," so loudly talked about, actually put in practice.

A "stranger," in the columns of a contemporary, "returns thanks," with genuine zeal, "to the parson and proprietors of the same church,"—which happens to be situated not a thousand miles from here—"for the privilege of promissading up and down the broad aisle of the same on Sunday last—in search of a seat—unmolested." This is not the only "stranger" who has enjoyed the same privilege in the elegant aisles of our elegant churches, where an elegant divine, gracing an elegant pulpit, pours forth from his elegant lips an elegant discourse, sweetened to the taste of his elegant hearers, at so many dollars for each elegant sentence—where the poor, who also might be supposed to need the "bread of life," are never seen, for the reason that they have no place within the elegant sanctuary, which their presence would only disfigure and soil.

The Pretensions of Americans.

The *Revue des Deux Mondes* commenting on the views generally entertained by Americans about Walker and his band of robbers says:

Leave the Americans to their follies. They were born but yesterday, but vanity has already turned their heads. Proscribed by every civilized nation, they look upon themselves as the cream of humanity. They want the mastery of the world, but what have they done for the world to justify such demand?

If unhappily American dreams of dominion over the world should be realized, the whole earth would become a melancholy arena of selfishness, hypocrisy and rascaldism!

ARREST OF AN EDITOR.—*Baltimore, Wednesday, February 18, 1857.*—V. S. Ludwig, formerly an editor of a German newspaper in this city, was arrested at Savannah on Friday as an Abolition agent, and notified to leave the city under the penalty of a coat of tar and feathers.

REMARKS.

Suppose the editor of the *Pioneer* should try the experiment of a visit to the southern part of the great Republic, would he be likely to get fitted with suit of tar and feathers?

Shall Infidels be Witnesses?

The Massachusetts correspondent of the *Evening Post*, in that paper, February 12, speaking of the Massachusetts Legislature, says:

The legislature has been discussing the question of allowing "infidels" to vote. That such a question should be in a condition to be discussed here, shows that we are not quite so enlightened a community as we claim to be. For twenty years the legislature has had the matter before it, and so had the Constitutional Convention of 1853, all the whig pettifoggers being under great concern for heaven. The way the law works is this: Mr. A. goes into court to hear testimony in a certain case, and without his testimony the case must be decided unjustly. The opposing attorney objects to Mr. A. as a witness on the ground that he is an infidel. The court asks Mr. A. if he is an infidel, and on his answering yes, he is not allowed to go into the witness-box. Thus, you see, he is believed on his simple word, but he is adjudged unworthy of belief on his oath! If he had had, and said he was a believer, he would have been allowed to testify; so that the only means of getting at the truth in through falsehood! There is something expeditiously absurd in the whole thing. It is said that men have called themselves infidels, in order to get rid of testifying in cases where the truth's utterance would have made against their feelings. In other cases men have averred their belief in things which on every other occasion they laughed at, in order that they might hear evidence. The thing ought to be treated as something of the same kind in the cases of Quakers who are too conscientious to make oath, and therefore are allowed to affirm, the pains and penalties being the same, as they would be for perjury in the case of one of the world's people, should the Quaker give false evidence. Those who object to taking the evidence of infidels, because they are infidels, seem to forget that there is such a thing as punishing a man who swears falsely in this world. To judge from their talk, you might be excused for believing that infidels wish to be allowed to testify, only that they may have frequent opportunities for the gratification of a strong natural appetite for perjury. *Pictor.*

Kansas—Will it be a Free State?

The opinion prevails here that the Kansas Negro Legislature have so fixed things as to insure the adoption of a slave constitution by their convention, and the aspect of affairs denotes that Kansas will be admitted as a slave State next winter.—*Washington Correspondent New York Tribune, February 16.*

The opinion now prevailing in Washington on this subject is doubtless correct. We have constantly insisted that Kansas would become a slave State, notwithstanding the very general opinion lately entertained to the contrary by the leading press, republicans as well as sham-democratic, throughout the country.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ADULTERATION.—At the Head Police Office, Dublin, Mr. William Nolan, of Golden Lane, has been prosecuted by the excise for having on his premises a quantity of snuff adulterated with sand and yellow-ochre. The accused was convicted, and fined in a penalty of £200, on each of the counts charged.—*Irish News, Feb. 14.*

REMARKS.—Why cannot the vendors of spurious or adulterated articles be punished in New York?

THE SECTIONAL QUESTION.—The *New York Herald* of February 18, in an article on "The Signs of the Times—the Disunion Convention at Utica," says: "What then do these signs mean? they mean that, without some astounding and unexpected change, such as a war with England, we shall have, in 1860, the most terrible sectional contest that the Confederacy has ever endured—that the past old parties will disappear from that contest altogether, and make way for new ones, the triumph of either of which will and must be the ruin of the Union."

THE LAND OF STEADY HABITS.—On Wednesday last, in Boston, as a young lady was passing through West street, about half-past nine o'clock at night, a couple of men who were in a sleigh stopped, jumped out upon the sidewalk, threw a cloak over her head, and attempted to

put her into the sleigh by force. Her head and shoulders being smothered in the cloak, she could not cry out audibly, but she resisted their efforts with all her strength. The villains were near accomplishing their object, and would have succeeded, without doubt, but for intervention of two members of the Ravel Troupe, one of whom was Monsieur Paul Brilliant, on their way to the Boston Theatre. These gentlemen promptly interfered and rescued the young lady, who swooned away. The abductors sprang into the sleigh and drove off at a fast gait, and the lady was taken by her rescuers to the theatre by the stage entrance, where restoratives were applied, and where she received much sympathy from those present.—*Montreal Pilot, February 9.*

A correspondent writes from Boston to the *Springfield Republican* a singular statement. He says that the directors of a bank in the vicinity of Boston held a meeting within six months, and chose a committee of their number to burn a lot of old and mutilated bills to the amount of \$60,000. Of course the bills were burned—for that was the vote. Yet it is remarkable that, since the conflagration, \$14,000 of the same bills have been rebounded at the same bank.—*New York Man, February 11.*

IMPROVEMENT IN THE QUALITY OF INDIAN COTTON.

The circular of an influential Liverpool house says: The shipments of cotton from India are unusually large. The quantity now at sea is estimated at 100,000 bales, and it is thought that the Chinese difficulties must divert to the Liverpool market more than the usual proportion of the crop. The continued large purchases by speculators and exporters of India cotton to arrive are creating some interest. The improved quality of the crop, and relatively moderate prices, as compared with American, having induced speculators to contract for cotton that in all probability may not be shipped from Bombay before April next.—*Tribune, February 17.*

NEARLY VOTING IN THE SOUTH.—In the *Ohio State Journal* in a leading article, concerning a petition presented for the amendment of Article 5, section 1, of the Constitution of Ohio, striking the word "white" therefrom, we find the following: "In Tennessee and North Carolina, free negroes used to vote. The Honorable John Bell, the present Senator from Tennessee, told us not a month ago, in Cincinnati, that the first time he ran for Congress in his District, he received upward of three hundred negro votes. He was then a Jackson man, and the negroes who voted for him doubtless voted for the hero of New Orleans likewise."

THE WAY THEY MARRY, SOMETIMES, IN INDIANA.—Our Hoosier friends have a way of their own of indulging their passions and sentiments, even to the sacrifice, sometimes, of conventionalities. We have heard of an instance in which a father and son married two sisters—the young man marrying first, and the father, taking a liking to his daughter-in-law, sought the acquaintance of her sister, proposed, and was married to her. Thus, in addition to the natural sisterly connection which existed, one sister was made step-mother and the other step-daughter and daughter-in-law to her own sister. Each party having issue, it is a novelty to trace the relationship of the offspring to the "old folks" and to each other. The old gentleman was grandfather and uncle to his son's children, while his better half stood both as grandmother and aunt to the same hopeful souls. The young man became his father's brother-in-law, and enjoyed the same relationship to his cruel step-mother, while he was both uncle and half-brother to his father's children. The descendants of each have eventually become so entangled in the ties of consanguinity, that at last accounts the oldest son of one of the parties was endeavoring to prove, upon genealogical principles, that he was his sister's grandfather.—*Tribune, February 12.*

THE BILL FOR THE RELIEF OF KANSAS.—We must give the House of Representatives at Washington the credit of doing well yesterday. It passed by ninety-nine votes against seventy-nine—a majority of twenty—the bill for the relief of the people of Kansas, sweeping away the whole body of spurious ordinances promulgated at the Shawnee Mission by a few people from Missouri who called themselves the Legislature, and providing for the election of a Legislature properly constituted by the inhabitants of the Territory, with penalties against illegal voting and lawless interference with the rights of the voters. The bill now goes to the Senate, which will probably reject it.—*New York Evening Post, Feb. 18.*

THE LONDON COFFEE HOUSE, LUDGATE HILL, London: ROBERT CLARKE, Proprietor.—The capabilities of the above hotel in point of space and accommodation, as well as its advantages in being so central for mercantile engagements, have been known and appreciated for more than a century.

ENGLISH BIBLE WAREHOUSE. LYNNE AND SPOTTISWOODE, IMPORTERS AND WHOLESALE DEALERS OF THE STANDARD AND AUTHORIZED LONDON EDITIONS OF BIBLES, Testaments, Prayer-Books, &c. (Prayer-Books for Episcopal Churches in the United States.) No. 122 Nassau street, New York, and 150 Fleet street, London. N. B.—Bibles, &c., imported to order, in any style of Binding; also, a large and varied stock constantly on hand—some very costly—suitable for presentation, &c., &c.

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FRED. RICHARDT'S GREAT NIAGARA GALLERY and Collection of Scandinavian Paintings, is daily open at the Stuyvesant Institute, No. 659 Broadway, from 10 A. M. to 10 P. M. Admission 25 cents; Season tickets, \$1.

CANADA.—BANK OF TORONTO, INCORPORATED by Act of the Provincial Parliament. Liability of each Shareholder limited to double the amount of his subscribed Capital. Capital £500,000. Head Office in Canada, Toronto. Agency in London, the City Bank, Brokers, Messrs. Garden & Whitehead, Royal Exchange Buildings.

GIFT LAND.

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

To Emigrants and others seeking Lands for Settlement. THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HAVE RECENTLY OPENED OUT

Three Great Lines of Road.

Now in course of completion, and have surveyed and laid out for Settlement the Lands, through and in the vicinity of which these Roads pass.

The Roads, as advertised by the Agents of the Government, appointed to the respective localities to afford information to the Settler, are known as

"The Ottawa and Opeongo Road," "The Addington Road," and "The Hastings Road."

THE OTTAWA AND OPEONGO ROAD

Commences at a point on the Ottawa River, known as "Ferralls," a little above the mouth of the Bonchere 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 Muskako 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 the Lake Muskako 151 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. F. S. FUSSELL, 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. French's charge, the settler must go from MONTREAL up to the Ottawa River to a place called Bonchere 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 Kalaradi, 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 Massanoka, and between it and the River Madawaska. The Townships are called respectively Abinger, Demigh, Ashley, Ellingham, Angelsea and Barrie.

The direct route to this Section is by way of Kingston, Canada West, thence to Napanee, either by land or stageboat, and thence North to the Township of Kalaradi, 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 extension also intersects the Ottawa and Opeongo Road.

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 between these places 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 possible for forty miles, and money is now being expended to extend it thirty miles further, 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 stageboat up the bay of Quinte to Belleville, 60½ 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 15 feet) and reside on the lot until the conditions of settlement are duly 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 above-mentioned lot, and the fulfilment of the conditions 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, whose names and places of abode have 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 timbers of 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 Dollars per Acre, which, with 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 arms and tools, a portion of which he may wish to clear in his hand, 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 to lay in his supplies for the future; and this covering to 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 engaged on extensive operations throughout these 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 present decade, but the average rate of such an increase, 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 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 fertile and promising of Canada generally. 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. VANNOGHEM, Minister of Agriculture.

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