

War and its Swindles—Punishment of Dishonest Contractors.

We have all fallen somewhat into the habit, of late, of looking with a feeling at least bordering on contempt, upon the empire—at present, nominally, the republic—of France. But in some respects it will have to be acknowledged France is ahead of the United States. To a certain class of offenders she administers justice with a most unsparring hand. We refer to the detestable scoundrels who during war, are willing to speculate out of the flesh and blood—the lives—of their countrymen. These are the dishonest contractors who defraud at once the government out of its money and the soldiers out of their clothing. To make their own existence easy and pampered they sacrifice the lives of many and the hopes of their country. One has been sentenced to five years imprisonment; another to three years; and both were fined four hundred thousand francs.

This measure of justice contrasts strangely with the escape of similar miscreants in our own country. Men who cheated our government out of hundreds of thousands of dollars now loom up at our watering places, and in what is called "society," and expect to be classed among the elite.

So long as money in itself—the mere possession of wealth, however acquired—shall continue to be a passport to popular favor, a reward is in effect set upon fraud. Yet it is not a shame to see the honest, toil-worn, crippled, patriotic soldier, straggling along on foot, or fainting by the wayside, while the dishonest contractor grown rich out of wronging him and his more unfortunate comrades who perished in the army, flaunts his ill-gotten riches, and rolls past in his gorgeous carriage, drawn by gaily caparisoned steeds, prancing under the crack of the whip in the hand of his liveried driver? If a rope should ever be put around any man's neck, it ought to be around the neck of the dishonest contractor in time of war.—*New York paper.*

The Wreck of the "Metis."

The wreck of the propeller *Metis*, of the New York and Providence line, by collision with the schooner *Nettie Cushing*, off Stonington, just before daybreak on the morning on August 30, was one of the most dreadful calamities that has ever occurred on the sound. A fearful storm prevailed during the latter part of the night, and about four o'clock, while all the passengers were asleep, the propeller was struck by the schooner about forty feet abaft of the stem, nearly opposite the pilot-house. Captain Burton, of the *Metis*, unaware of the damage she had received, immediately turned his vessel about and started in search of the schooner. Not being able to find her, he resumed his course, the mates and pilot reporting that no serious injury had been sustained. A short time later, however, the engineer reported that the steamer was rapidly filling. The passengers were immediately notified of their danger, and the *Metis* was headed for the shore. But it was too late. The wind blew a fearful gale, it was raining hard, and the sea ran high. In about half an hour from the time she was headed for the shore she sank.

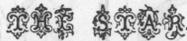
There was great confusion on board. Many of the passengers lost all presence of mind. There were plenty of life-preservers on board, but many persons seized two or three, depriving others of the means of saving themselves. There was great mismanagement in launching the life-boats, two being swamped as soon as they touched the water, and one leaving the steamer without a man, woman, or child from among the passengers. Providently, when the steamer sank, the upper deck broke loose, forming a substantial raft, on which between forty and fifty persons were floated toward the shore. The water was covered with debris from the wreck, to which men, women, and children were clinging in the desperate struggle for life. Many were washed off by the heavy sea; others, chilled and exhausted, lost their hold and sank. Among the sad incidents was the death of the two little Wierum children, who were lashed together with life-preservers, but who were unable to endure the drenching and cold.

Daylight dawned on a fearful scene. The sea was covered with the fragments of the wreck, with dead bodies, and with those who were still able to struggle with the waves for life. The Watch Hill beach was in sight, but a fearful trial was to come. As the hurricane deck and other debris of the ill-fated steamer neared the surf the watchers on the beach made final preparation for rescue. Safety lines were tied about the waists of the men who were to enter the surf, each line being securely held by several men who were to draw the rescuer and the rescued to the beach.

At the outer breaker the frail deck, floating broadside on, was seen to wave and bend like a field of rotted ice; then, lifted by a succeeding wave, the deck inclined toward the shore for an instant, a following sea capsized the deck, and crushed it to fragments. The life raft on which the women and children had been placed for greater security was washed ashore, and the occupants rescued.

The surf at this moment was filled with human beings struggling amidst fragments of wreck. Toward these the rescuers made their way, and succeeded by noble efforts in saving many who, but for this aid, must have inevitably perished.

At last account nearly 50 persons were either dead or missing out of a total of 155 persons.



HARBOR GRACE, OCTOBER 1, 1872.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT.

A RATHER serious accident happened on the occasion of the steamer "Merlin" starting for Labrador on Saturday evening, having on board T. H. Ridley and W. P. Munn, Esquires. The steamer fired a gun on starting; the mate, George Henry White, charging a second time without sparging or allowing time for cooling, and while in the act of ramming home the charge the gun went off, severely injuring both his hands and arms. He was obliged to be landed, his place being filled by another from on shore, the "Merlin" starting on her voyage at midnight. We are glad to learn that, tho' the mate is suffering a good deal, no arteries are injured, the damage being confined to flesh wounds merely.

The many dearly bought lessons among our people do not appear to have the effect of teaching them caution in the use of firearms; not a season passes without the record of casualties more or less distressing resulting from carelessness.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[FOR THE HARBOR GRACE STAR.]

Theatres.

There are people who disapprove of theatres. Some there are who do so conscientiously, believing that the tendency is hurtful to morals or injuriously affecting the minds of young people. Others again disapprove of theatres because of natural stultification. The world to them is designed to yield wealth or fame to A. B. A. B. says so—must be true; A. B. doesn't go—can't be right! For the sake of brevity, let us call this class *Stults*. Each member of the *Stult* family then has distinguishing characteristics. Demure long-faced visages, never guilty of anything beyond fifth cousin to a smile; "solemncholy" paced, and slow and low of utterance, as if afraid the cat, honestly prowling for mice in their neighborhood, might report them. One would suppose such men would be the opposite of those who approve of what they condemn—and perhaps they are in many ways; but we will find it difficult to trace their virtues beyond babbling protests. Take up subscription lists or con over the names of those aiding charitable enterprises, and you will find it hard to point out a member of the *Stult* family, or if to be seen the name is sure to be placed conspicuously or written in an odd fashion to attract attention. Possibly others beside those of this class may disapprove of these views, but we believe in the charity that is honest and reasonable. Theatres—as schools—have exercised a wide influence in training the mind to grasp of thought and in imparting the power of true delineation. What the painter is with his brush and canvas, the actor is on the stage. We are not interested in the tragedy or farce only, but are influenced by the natural ease and correctness of representation. This is not confined to mere utterances—as of a lesson well committed—but is reflected in the manner, attitude, gesture; doing the right thing—whether it be winking or kissing—at the proper time in a natural manner. We have seen men kissing girls as if they were taking a dose of medicine. In such a case it should require no peculiar inspiration to do the thing naturally. This is just one of the things that offends Mr. Stult! As if there is anything wrong in a kiss! But we have witnessed the operation performed in such a way as to make us wish ourself one of the actors; indeed on one occasion we nearly committed ourself by volunteering, but being known to the manager our youthful valor was excused. In point of fact the world is a stage and all who live in it are actors. This is a truism in a wider sense than people are willing to admit. The minister in his pulpit, the lawyer at the bar, the salesman behind the counter, the dairy maid milking her cows and the seamstress stitching her shirt, are all actors. Each in their station endeavour to attract attention in some way. Mr. Stult does the same—either in sanding the sugar or peeping the coffee. As long as Theatres are kept free of anything to offend modesty or good taste, their influences cannot be hurtful. We could have wished that the Company now performing in this town were more generally supported. It is a mistake to say that the money spent in this way is wasted, because we contend that a good play well performed, not only gives pleasure at the time but inspires to study and improvement. Apart from this view it must be evident that all the receipts are spent in the country. Now we hold that those who afford—as we say—in innocent amusement are entitled to something more than their expenses, and it seems to us a mistake that they are not better supported. Without making any invidious distinction we think Mr. Beattie's acting alone is worth the small charge exacted; and Mr. Wilson as Claude Melnotte in the "Lady of Lyons" affords a lesson not obtainable every day. Were the company to play thrice a week they would suit the community better.

A A E.



Latest Despatches.

MONTREAL, Sept. 24.—The Governor-General and lady passed through this city this morning en route to Toronto.

The report of Riel's election for Province is false.

The Provincial exhibition opens to-morrow at Hamilton.

The Reform demonstration to-day to celebrate the return of Mr. Laplummer in Jacques Cartier County, is largely attended and very successful.

PARIS, 24.—Thiers will propose to the Assembly the appointment of a Vice-President of the Republic, the creation of an upper chamber, and a new electoral laws.

STOCKHOLM, 24.—The funeral ceremonies over the late king, were observed to-day.

LONDON, 25.—Consols 92½. Markets steady. The opinion of Chief Justice Cockburn, disagreeing with the decision of his colleagues at the Geneva tribunal is published. It makes a pamphlet of two hundred and fifty pages.

NEW YORK, 25.—It has been snowing in Nebraska, on the Pacific railway, since Monday night.

Two new newspapers are to be started in Mexico to support Santa Anna, as a candidate for President.

The railway project of Rosocrans is meeting with much favor.

The English cricketers won the match at Philadelphia with the loss of seven wickets.

NEW YORK, 25.—Gold 113½. Exchange steady. Money 6 per cent.

The report of the investigation in the *Metis* disaster, resulted in revoking the license of the captain and first and second pilots.

A passenger in the steering of an ocean steamship, gives a detailed account of overcrowding, bad food, and outrages, suffered on a recent voyage.

LONDON, 25.—The Right Hon. Robert Lowe, visited Glasgow to-day, and received from the municipality the freedom of the city. In his speech, returning thanks for the honor, Mr. Lowe alluded to the result of the Geneva arbitration. He expressed the opinion that the Americans came out of the struggle very much elated, but that England's object was not to gain a legal triumph. He acted, therefore, not as a belligerent, but as a friend. The money, he declared should be paid without a murmur or delay.

At a recent meeting of the Roman Catholic bishops in Meynorth, although Cardinal Cullen opposed the principle of Home Rule, the majority of Bishops voted in its favor.

PARIS, 25.—Elections have been ordered for the 10th of October, in Algiers and other districts to fill vacancies in the National Assembly.

LONDON, 27.—Consols 92½. Flour 46s. 6d. Corn 30.

The rinderpest has appeared among the cattle in Lincolnshire.

The gales which prevailed on the coast yesterday continue to-day.

A large number of vessels are wind-bound. It is said that efforts are being made to require the Messrs. Laird, contractors of the *Alabama* to pay a portion of the amount awarded by the Geneva tribunal.

Mr. Lowe, Chancellor of the Exchequer in a speech in Glasgow, severely condemned Sir A. Cockburn for not signing the award on the *Alabama*, and for publishing the argument which opens up the question, and renews ill-feeling. He insists it was the duty of England to accept the award loyally.

NEW YORK, 27.—Gold 116½. Exchange 9. Money 7 per cent.

Five lives were lost, and half a million dollars worth of property was destroyed by the burning of the Ohio state lunatic asylum.

NEWS ITEMS.

A WONDERFUL PROGENY.—There is said to be a man living in Waco, Texas, who has been married five times, and is a father of fifty legitimate children—thirteen boys by his first wife; eighteen children, boys and girls, by second wife; ten by the third wife; six by his fourth, and three by the fifth wife. Twenty of his sons served in the Confederate army, eight of whom were killed; seven died natural deaths, and the remainder are still living.

WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR'S CASTLE.—It is stated in Paris that the old chateau of William the Conqueror, situated on the Normandy coast at Benneville, was put up to auction the other day, and knocked down for a moderate price. It was there that the redoubtable soldier planned his schemes of conquest, and a French paper says:—"The English coasts which he sniffed from there, though they were hidden from his eye, perpetually excited his appetite." The idea of the odour of England irritating the nostrils

of the warrior who afterwards conquered us has the merits of novelty. In later days the chateau was used as a prison by Richard Cœur de Lion. Under Francis I. it was a hunting lodge, and now it is a ruin.

THE QUEEN AND THE FISHWIFE.—During the late visit of the Queen to Edinburgh, advantage was taken of the excitement by a travelling circus company, who perambulated in costume the route her Majesty was expected to take. Among the crowd which collected in Brandon Street was a Newhaven fishwife, who was all anxiety to see the Queen. This magnificent cavalcade, with its glittering display of theatrical grandeur, turned the corner, and when Maggie caught sight of the gorgeously apparelled lady who rode at the head of it, she sprang forward, seized the tinselled riding skirt, and exclaimed, "Eh! ye'r Majesty, my dawtie, turn round and let's see ye'r bonnie face, its no often we get the chance o' seeing it." When loud laughter apprised her of her mistake, she indignantly inquired "Hoo she should be expected to ken the Queen, when she had never seen her, and that onybody wad expect a queen to come dressed in gold and silver."

THE FUTURE OF POLAND.—The Vienna correspondent of the "Nuremberg Journal" states that the Russian Government has recently been sounding the Austrian Cabinet "as to the opportunity of agreeing upon a common policy to be followed towards the Polish provinces of the three Empires." The Russian Government is naturally anxious that limits should be laid down to the concessions which might be made, particularly by Austria, to the demands of the national Polish party. According to the same correspondent, the German Government had not yet replied to these overtures; but the Austrian Government at once indicated its reluctance to tie its hands in dealing with the Poles of Galicia. There can, however, be little question that the coming meeting of the Emperors has caused not a little alarm in Polish patriotic circles. The great demonstrations that had been projected for the centenary of the first partition of Poland. Some of the Polish organs comment bitterly on the meeting regarded in this light. For the hopes of Poland continue to rest upon possible disturbances of the peace of Europe, and especially upon differences between the three great Empires whose rulers are about ostentatiously to proclaim their reciprocal feelings of friendship.

BRIGANDAGE IN SOUTHERN ITALY.—"An Occasional Correspondent" of the "Times" says that some friends of his have just returned from Paestum, which they visited by sea, and give the following report:—"They pushed into Amalfi and questioned the Maresciallo of the carabinieri as to the prudence of the visit. They were informed that their security could not be guaranteed; that it was possible some 'cattivi soggetti,' seeing the boat approach, might signal to their friends, and that some disaster might occur. The party, however, pushed on and returned in safety. Not a soldier, as my friends were informed, was within seven miles of Paestum. Now, a serious question presents itself. Supposing a foreigner to be seized and mulcted to the extent that poor Signor Mancusi is, would not the Italian Government be liable for the ransom? Visitors come South on the presumption that they are entering a civilized country, where life and property are guaranteed, and find whole districts unsafe, and declared to be so by the military authorities. Such a state of things either can or cannot be remedied; if it cannot be, then it must be treated as was suggested in the case of Greece. But who will assert this as regards Italy, which has an overwhelming force at its disposal? Yet it is the general feeling that the measures adopted to put down the evil are most inadequate. General Pallavicini, who did good service some years ago in repressing brigandage, has resumed his command at Salerno, but without any order to enter on his speciality—the duty is now confided to the carabinieri. Meanwhile, in spite of the exertions of soldiers of the line and of the carabinieri, Signor Mancusi is still in the hands of his captors. The original demand for 200,000 lire has been reduced to 150,000 lire, of which, according to the best authority, 75,000 lire have been already placed in Manzi's hands, and some articles of gold and silver which were rejected as of poor quality. As a set-off to this humiliating report, I may tell you that the first train arrived in Otranto a few days since, and that the Adriatic line is now complete. Roads and railways in the long run will be found to be the worst enemies of the brigand.

RECIPES FOR a handful of the same quantity of a sprig of the leafy of Don't-you Malice, a few well together, a hour over the fire a little Jealousy rag of Misconce bottle of Malice of street Yarn; few days, and a few drops be ta the subject will ner of evil and

This morning Revd. D. Falco bella, eldest da

At South Sid servedly regret tives and friend 42 years. On Saturday Capt. David Po

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Sept 30—Clara ber—W J S

Sept 30—Susan ballast—Dan

PORT

Sept 25—Ame Bowling Bros, Ranger, Jone, Meteor, Irvine, Miranda, McN. ers. G. J. Troop, B. Zores, Mercen cell. 26—Joven Ga F. Ansell— Josephine, Ga Delta, Keay, Linda, McKin Snow Squall, 27—Georgia, Palma, (sph.) & Co—boun Wm. B. McD Snipe, Percy,

Sept. 25—Wa Stewart. Samuel Jones Pitts. Georgiana, Gr Louisa, Sprac 26—Restinau Stewart 27—Charlotta Sons. Margaret, Lau Linda, McKin Tracy Jane, P Anciola, Drez Gertrude, L Stewart.

Passeng —Mr and Mrs ing, Mrs Tob Filter, Messrs Rogers, McD son. Second Carberry, Mis age.

75 Brls. 20 do. 20 Boxes 9 doz Opposite Oct. 1.