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E caris sumendum est optimum. - Cic.

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LAW RESPECTING NEWSPAPERS

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HISTORY OF THE CZAR.

THE PALACE OF PETERHOFF.

The Palace of Peterhoff, a few miles from St. Petersburg, is perhaps the principal abode of imperial wealth and luxury. It would not however, be an easy task to enumerate the various palaces of the Czar. Peterhoff is a pile of buildings compounded of every conceivable style of architecture. The saloons of that princely abode are filled with every contrivance which wealth and art can administer for human gratification. It is the throne of luxury. The pleasure grounds attached to the palace are ornamented to the extreme of what human ingenuity can effect. Artificial cascades and fountains, erected at an incalculable expense, astonish and bewilder the spectator.

During the annual festival in July this whole wide spread scene is illuminated with the utmost brilliancy. Tower and dome, grove and lake, fountain and cascade, suddenly emerge from the darkness of midnight into a scene of the most dazzling splendour. Millions of torches twinkle in every direction. Every twig, every leaf, and every drop of spray, sparkle with coloured lights. Rockets and fireworks of every conceivable variety give a magic splendour to place and tower, such as the visions of romance can hardly realize. Here it is that the famous artificial tree is reared, which has been so often described. It is so ingeniously constructed with root and trunk, and branch and leaf, and bud, as to deceive the most practised eye. Its shade and its beauty lure the loiterer through the grounds to approach. A seat, apparently of the natural velvet sod, invites him to sit down, and view the enchanting scene around. The pressure of the seat touches a spring, which turns the luxuriant tree into a shower bath, and from every twig jets of water are pressed down upon the astonished stranger.

This is one of the homes of Nicholas, if a Czar can be said to have any home. The poor probably look to him with envy. And yet often harassed with anxiety, he must almost covet the condition of the humblest peasant in his realm. The Czar's heart is the same every where; and in all abodes, he comes freighted with the burden of the imperial curse. The crowned families of Europe have seen as many days of darkness as any members of the human race.

THE WINTER PALACE.

The Winter Palace, in St. Petersburg, is also an abode of very unusual splendour. There are usually residing beneath the imperial roof, as members of the royal household more than one thousand persons. The most magnificent and extensive suite of rooms in the world, are to be found in connection with this palace. These apartments of grandeur are appropriated to the ceremonies of the court; ceremonies more imposing, and perhaps, of more rigid etiquette, than are to be witnessed in any other palace in Europe. Passing through the massive gateway, you are ushered into a hall of magnificent dimensions, some embellished with plants and shrubs of rare beauty and perfume, that you almost fancy that you are sauntering through the walks of a flower garden. Ascending a marble staircase, you are introduced to an apartment of princely grandeur, called the Hall of the Marshals. Passing through this, you enter another, and then another, and then another, all of great magnificence, until you arrive at the grand audience chamber, of still more majestic dimensions. This is the place of presentation to the Emperor.

THE COURT OF THE CZAR.

When the hour of presentation arrives, some massive doors from the imperial chapel are thrown open, and a crowd of military officers, often a thousand in number, in the most brilliant uniform, enter the apartment, the van-guard, as it were of the court of the Czar. These passing through the audience chamber, disappear in the unknown regions of the palace beyond. But still an apparently interminable throng, glittering in gala dresses, pours through the chamber. At last the grand master of the ceremonies makes his appearance, in a coat of gold, waving his insignia of office, followed by the royal pair. And thus the emperor or empress are ushered. They bow gracefully to the representatives of other courts, who are honored by a presentation to their august majesties. A numerous group of members of the imperial family, ministers of state, pages &c., follow in the train of royalty. No one is permitted to speak to the emperor or empress but in reply to questions which they may ask. Nicholas, stately and reserved, says but little. His spouse, more amiable, slips from her hand her glove, and presents it condescendingly to the person honoured by a presentation. The guest receives it, and presses it with fervor to his lips. Such is the scene of presentation in the court of Nicholas. There is always a very splendid hall given in the

palace on the 1st of January, and usually more than twenty thousand guests are present. This famous Winter Palace is almost a city of itself.

NARROW ESCAPE OF THE CZAR.

Notwithstanding, however, all this splendour, the lot of Nicholas is anything but an enviable one. The cares of his unwieldy empire weigh heavily upon him, and he is ever in danger of assassination. In the autumn of 1843 Nicholas visited Berlin. In returning, he left his carriage at a particular point, to proceed by the common route, while he, with a portion of his suite on horseback, turned aside to visit a veteran officer who resided at some distance from the main road. The carriage of the emperor proceeded with its customary escort. As the shades of evening came, there suddenly emerged from the road-side a party of armed horsemen in black masks, who surrounded the carriage, and discharged into it a volley of musketry. The leader then rode to the window of the carriage, and, looking in, to his surprise, saw that it was empty. Uttering a few words to his companions, they dashed away at full speed.

Nicholas consequently never dares to announce when or where he intends to take a journey. All his movements are conducted with the greatest secrecy. He almost invariably commences his journeys at midnight. He conceals his most sleepless vigilance to suppress all freedom of thought, and every tendency to civil liberty in his realm. He prohibits his nobles from residing abroad, lest they should inhale the atmosphere of political freedom; and if any noble ventures to disobey his commands, the confiscation of his estates effectually prevents his return, or exile to Siberia quenches the dangerous flame of independence in the snows of eternal winter.

THE CZAR'S DAUGHTERS.

The Czar's eldest daughter, Maria, a very beautiful woman, was married in 1839 to Maximilian Duke of Leuchtenburg, who died in 1852. It is said that the Duke during his lifetime did not enjoy the splendid prison in which, by his marriage, he had incarcerated himself, nor did he willingly submit to the domestic tyranny of his father-in-law. This produced many disagreements, and he was continually under arrest for persisting in the freedom of appearing in his Royal wife's boudoir in his dressing gown, for smoking in her presence, or for buttoning his military coat otherwise than according to the Emperor's regulations. So that not even the mutual affection between him and his wife prevented him from congratulating the Duke de Bourdeaux, when a proposition for his marrying another of the daughters of Russia was broken off, that he had "escaped the cage in which he himself was inclosed." The widowed Duchess of Leuchtenburg visited England last year. Olga, the second daughter of the Emperor, born in 1822, is said to be the most beautiful of this strikingly handsome family. She has suffered much from ill health, and is still very delicate. She married, in 1846, the Prince Royal of Wurtemberg. The fourth daughter, Alexandra, born in 1824, was married to Prince Frederic of Hesse. She died in 1851, to the intense grief of her parents. She was the youngest and best beloved.

LATER FROM CALIFORNIA.

ARRIVAL OF THE NORTHERN LIGHT.

NEW YORK, March 19.

The steamship Northern Light arrived off Sandy Hook last evening, and reached her dock this morning bringing San Francisco dates to Feb. 29, brought down to San Juan by the steamer Uncle Sam.

She brings 262 passengers, and \$92,000 in gold dust.

The news is highly important. Business was entirely prostrate, caused by the suspension of five banking houses.

The news of Messrs. Page, Bacon & Co's difficulties reached San Francisco on the 17th causing a great run on that house. They met the run and paid out half a million of dollars.

A meeting of merchants and bankers was held, and declared the house sound, restoring confidence and matters wore a better aspect. On the 24th, however Messrs. Page, Bacon & Co, suspended payment, followed on the 23d, by Messrs. Adams & Co, Wells, Fargo & Co, Robinson & Co, and Wright's Miners' Deposit. The excitement was intense. Adams & Co closed all their branches without paying a dollar, except at San Francisco, where on the 23d, they stood a run of \$200,000. Wells, Fargo & Co, closed here, but their country branches paid as long as the coin lasted were still paying as fast as coin could be obtained in exchange for dust and bars. They announced that they would resume payment in San Francisco on the 26th.

In Baltimore on Sunday evening, a fire broke out in a dwelling house on Harrison street, and the flames spread so rapidly that the occupants of the upper stories were cut off from all egress by means of the doors and stairs. Three persons jumped out of the second story windows, and escaped but with slight injuries. Two others, a husband and wife, who resided in the third story, was not so fortunate. The Baltimore Patriot says:

Finding all hopes of escape by the stairs cut off, and the flames rapidly spreading around them, they appeared at the front window, and by their frantic gesticulations, attracted the intense attention and sympathy of the persons who had collected in the street below who called to them to jump out and they would catch them. The woman prepared to leap forth from the giddy height. It was a moment of fearful, thrilling interest to those below who looked on, eagerly desiring to save the apparently doomed couple but with out power to aid them. The woman raised her hands and took the fearful leap. In falling her clothing caught in the tavern lamp, hanging on a level with the second floor, and moment suspended thus for a moment, she fell and was considerably hurt by the shock. The husband followed almost immediately after, but unfortunately not with the same exemption from injury as the wife had met. He fell upon his back, seriously injuring the spine, even if his back is not broken.

DEATH OF JOSEPH HUME.

The venerable Parliamentary reformer, whose death was noted in our telegraphic columns yesterday, had arrived at such an age that his decease might have been looked for at any moment, yet he was possessed of so vigorous a constitution, and was so active and energetic, in the last days of his life, that the tidings must have come suddenly and unexpectedly to all. We propose to give a short sketch of the life and character of the man so widely and favorably known to all who are acquainted, in any degree, with English politics.

Joseph Hume was born in Montrose, Scotland, in 1777, and was consequently 78 years old at the time of his death. He received a school education, studied medicine and surgery, and entered, in 1795, the service of the East India Company, as surgeon. He went to India, and on the breaking out of the Marhatta war, in 1803, was made interpreter, paymaster, and postmaster to the troops, without resigning his commission as surgeon. He acquired a large fortune, and in 1808, returned to England, making a tour of the United Kingdom, and continuing his travels to Spain, Portugal, and other continental countries. He was elected to Parliament from the borough of Weymouth in 1812; and continued a member, we believe, to the time of his death—a period of 43 years—representing, during that time, Montrose, Middlesex—the largest county in the Kingdom,—and Kilkenny. During all this time, he was a faithful and zealous reformer of all abuses—financial, political, and others; an enemy of monopolies; a friend to the extension of the elective franchise; an imperturbable, persistent, good-tempered man. He was always among the first to enter the House of Commons and the last to leave it.

There was nothing in his conduct, his speeches, or his views, that had the least "humbug" about them. He answered to "No little billy-headed baronet he, A great broad-shouldered general Englishman."

Through the rest of the description—
"Who spoke few words and pithy,"
can hardly be applied to him. He was a most indefatigable speaker,—full of "facts and figures." During some debate on the Estimates about 1835, he spoke no fewer than 40 times in one night. Figures of a rhinoceros rather than of rhetoric, were his speech into which he did not introduce more or less mathematical calculations. He was evidently a man who took a "pound, shilling, and pence view," of every subject. It is a little singular that one whose arguments were wholly of a monetary nature, should have been so zealous a reformer.

His kindness, good-humor, strong sense, and unyielding pertinacity at length made him an extremely popular member. During the latter period of his life he received many flattering proofs of the estimation in which he was held; and on the 5th of August last, his portrait was presented to Mrs. Hume, by a large number of his admirers, including four Cabinet Ministers, and several members of Parliament. The presentation speech was made by Lord John Russell. At the time of his death, we have no hesitation in saying he was as much respected, and as deserving of respect, as any member of the English Parliament.—State of Maine.

Men of the noblest dispositions always think themselves happiest when others share their happiness with them.

FATE OF SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.—An additional gleam of light has been cast over the probable fate of the Franklin Expedition, by an Equimaux, named Massikewin, who accompanied Dr. Rae's party, and who has been for many years a member of the Western congregation at Rossville, in Hudson's Bay. Dr. Rae has always considered this native highly efficient and trustworthy. On his return to Rossville, the Equimaux stated that he wintered with his party in a snow house, where they had six weeks' constant night. In March last (1854) they started, on the ice, to the north, and were thirty-seven days on their northern journey. They were 100 miles beyond the region inhabited by the Equimaux, but they all found the tracks of the musk ox.

Sir John and his party are dead; but perhaps one or two of the men may still be alive, and amongst the Benjamins. Sir John's watch, all in pieces, with his silver spoon, knives and forks, were found. The ship was a great godsend to these people; and they now all have good sledges, spears, canoes, &c., of oak wood. Dr. Rae and his party did not see any of the remains of Sir John and his party; but the Equimaux informed him that Sir John was found dead, with his blanket over him and his gun by his side. The probability is, that it is not more than two or three years since the party perished by hunger.

Such are the words of Massikewin's narrative, as detailed to the Rev. T. Hurlbutt, of Rossville Mission, Hudson's Bay. They are entitled to credence, because the narrator is a native of the country, acquainted with the language, and could have had no object in making a false statement. The various implements made of oak which were seen in the Equimaux encampment, prove that they must have had access to at least one of the ships of the missing Expedition.

THE TERRIBLE EXPLOSION AT CHRISTFIELD, VA.—A dispatch from Richmond gives the full details of an explosion at the Mathan coal pits in Christfield. Thirty-four persons were instantly killed—twenty eight negroes and six white men. Twelve negroes and five white persons were so badly burned that not more than three or four can recover. The pits were considered perfectly safe, but in making a blast, an old shaft striking from foul air, a volume of gas poured forth and ignited. The explosion caused the earth for miles around to wave and rock like a twig in the wind. Over one hundred white miners, fortunately were out of the pit at the time. Every effort was made to rescue those who were alive. Dead men were found with the flesh charred to the bones, holding shovels, picks and drills in their hands. The flesh on those still alive is burned to the bone as if it had been wasted. The pits are 770 feet deep.

ENLISTMENT FOR THE EASTERN WAR.—Recruiting offices have been opened at New York and Philadelphia by agents of the British Government for enlisting men for the "Foreign Legion," and large numbers were volunteering, mostly Germans. Each recruit receives \$30 bounty and \$10 per month after enlistment. It is reported that the agent at New York has more applications than he has means of conveyance of the men to Halifax, where they are to be forwarded. This is no doubt the reason of the recent application of the Home Government to the authorities at Halifax in order to ascertain how many soldiers he could accommodate in barracks there. After the men are drilled and properly equipped they will be forwarded to the Crimea. The Americans, however, do not appear to like this proceeding, and no doubt they will endeavor to prevent recruiting in their boasted land of liberty, where all men are not entitled to choose the calling they may deem most proper, as will be seen by the following despatch, which we find in the Boston papers:

New York, March 24.—The United States District Attorney has addressed a letter to the Marshal for this district, calling his attention to the fact that a recruiting office has been established in this city for the British army, which he considers to be a violation of the neutrality laws of 1818, and consequently directs the Marshal's attention to the penalties, and promises his co-operation in any measures that may be taken for the suppression of the office.

The official handbills for this enlistment are signed by Lewis M. Wilkins, Provincial Secretary of Nova Scotia, and the proceedings are understood to be connected with the visit of the Hon. Joseph Howe to the United States, from whence he has not yet returned. (New Brunswick.)

THE MURDER OF SPENCER IN CARLETON. We have satisfaction in stating, that the three men who stand charged with the murder of James Spencer in Carleton, named William Maloney, Maria Rieg, and John Rieg, and for whose apprehension a reward of fifty pounds has been offered by the Lieutenant Governor's proclamation, were arrested on

Tuesday morning by Capt. Scoullar and a party of the City Police, and are now lodged in the Gaol of this City and County, to await their trial.

We are informed that these men were found in a brush camp in the woods, about four miles from town, and about half a mile from the main road. Much credit is due to Capt. Scoullar for the manner in which he managed to capture them, an event at which every good citizen must rejoice. (H.)

THE BRITISH DESERTERS.—Andrew Upchurch and Thomas Casey, the deserting soldiers from the British army, who have been in jail in this city since July last, on the charge of larceny from the Queen's Treasury, at Sydney, C. B., are to be discharged next Monday. Some \$700 were stolen, but the evidence does not prove to be of the kind to detain them. A portion of the money belonged to a Mr. Twining, who is now in the Crimea, having been ordered there in December. A process was issued yesterday afternoon to obtain possession of the money. It is supposed the Commonwealth will be responsible for the board of the defendants. (Boston Transcript, Saturday.)

A Gallant Feat at Inkerman.

Corporal Finney, of the 49th, writing home to his wife, after describing the battle of Inkerman and the wound he got, goes on to say:

"I was down and tied a handkerchief round my wound. I loaded my rifle and picked up a patent revolver already loaded which had been dropped by a wounded officer, when, just about ten yards from me, I discovered four Russian soldiers and an officer creeping through the brushwood, and massacring all the wounded that they came across; fortunately only one of them had his piece loaded, as I found out by his placing his thumb on the lock of his firelock. Crack! went my rifle, and down he fell; one of the others noticing this, came running up with bayonet fixed, followed by the other two. I saw plainly that I had no chance with the whole, so I threw my firelock at the foremost like a lance, and struck the bayonet through his heart. I had three still to contend with—two were loading; that I had no time to do. I took the revolver, and taking advantage of the bushes, I succeeded in wounding the other two; the cowardly officer threw down his sword. I took him prisoner and marched him off to the right among the bushes, and got up near our lines, when I was getting weak from loss of blood which the officer seeing, snatched his own sword out of my left hand, and inflicted a slight wound on the fleshy part of my arm; he never dreamed of another shot being in the pistol, which was in him in less than a second.

The common happiness of the world is closely connected with, and dependent on, the exercise of natural benevolence.

Those who think that money will do anything, may be suspected of doing anything for money.

You can depend on no man on no friend, but him who can depend upon himself. He only who acts conscientiously towards himself will act so toward others, and vice versa.

Mary a fool has passed for a clever man, because he has known how to hold his tongue; and many a clever man has passed for a fool because he has not known how to make use of it.

In Canada it has been determined, by a majority of 90 to 5, that the sale of spirits shall be under severe penalties restricted.

Bread is now three times the ordinary price in Egypt, in consequence of the European demand for grain.

We understand that it is the intention of her Majesty to confer the vacant Blue Ribbon upon the Earl of Aberdeen. (Globe.)

A new siege-cannon, capable of being taken to pieces, and carried on men's shoulders into position, and there put together, has been invented by Mr. Williams, of Exeter, Liverpool.

Government are about to despatch a portion of the London Fire Brigade to Constantinople with necessary apparatus, to protect the hospital at Scutari from fire.

EMERY.—It is not generally known that although emery has been sought for in all parts of the world, it has only been found in two places—in the Island of Naxos, in Greece, and at a few spots in Turkey. The annual production is at present limited to two thousand tons of Naxos stone and sixteen hundred tons of Turkish. This material is largely used by the manufacturers of machinery and all iron and metal workers, as well as by lapidaries but it is especially required in the grinding and polishing of plate glass, and from the enormous increase in the consumption of the latter article, a corresponding demand for emery must be the result. (Mining Journal.)