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WEDNESDAY MORNING, MARCH 25, 1885.

A Lesson From History.

At this time, when a possible war with Russia is the most absorbing topic of the day, it may be well to go back some thirty odd years, and note what was going on then, when the question of peace or war with the same power was pending. First let us take the words of the London correspondent of the New York Times, who cables the following, under date of Saturday last:

The peace of Europe is no more assured today than it was during the anxious weeks of this same month thirty-two years ago, when Lord Aberdeen timidly fenced with the agents of the Czar Nicholas and Europe wavered from day to day between the fear of war and the hope of peace. The present temporary respite seems to the unthinking mind the equivalent of a permanent settlement, and the English press correspondents at Paris, Berlin and Vienna, who are careful always to reflect the current tone of London opinion instead of that of the capitals at which they are stationed, now chatter as if the whole affair had blown over. As a matter of fact, however, the situation could hardly be in a more critical and menacing stage than it is in now. I find among politicians that the better informed a man is the more firmly he believes that the outcome must inevitably be war. The only way out of it is an abject and complete surrender on the part of England, and that the country would not tolerate the bare thought of.

Next let us repeat a few lines from that portion of the London Times' summary of the events of 1855, which we printed yesterday. The Times is here speaking of the downfall of the Aberdeen coalition government, which came into power in December, 1852, and went out in February, 1855:

"The nation (end of January, 1855) was fearfully excited, and in the midst of that excitement parliament reassembled. Notice was given of a committee of investigation, and as soon as that notice was given Lord John Russell fled from the impending storm, leaving his colleagues to shift for themselves as best they could. The motion carried, and brought with it the first great event of the year—the dissolution of the coalition ministry—just two years after its completion. Looking at it with the knowledge we have since gained of its constituent parts, we can only wonder how it came to pass that it lasted so long. With the leadership of the house of commons in the hands of a statesman so slightly united to his colleagues, *with so strong a peace party engaged in carrying on the war*, its destruction at no distant period could not have been doubtful.

There is an ominous resemblance between the two occasions—that of the early part of 1853, when Lord Aberdeen was fencing with the Czar Nicholas; and the early part of 1885, when Mr. Gladstone is fencing with the Czar Alexander. In both cases we see the Russian autocrat pushing his schemes at a time when Britain's affairs are in the hands of a party, or of a set of men, whose policy it would be to concede everything to Russia, and who believe that empire—nay, even the nation's existence—is scarcely worth fighting for. Suppose that all attempts at accommodation fail, and that war does come, what then? Would the nation's interests be safe, "with so strong a peace party engaged in carrying on the war?"—to quote again the words of the Times. That they would surely be safer in some other hands is what any impartial observer would say at once.

The astounding inefficiency and mismanagement incident to the first year of the Crimean war, with the terrible losses and disasters that the British arms suffered in consequence, were the natural results of war carried on by a strong peace party. Are we not forcibly reminded of all this when we think of the blundering policy pursued in Egypt so far, the death of Gordon, and the fall of Khartoum? To enter upon a war with the great power of Russia, under the guidance of the same men, would surely be midsummer madness.

The coincidence in this respect between the two situations—that of 1853 and that of the present time—is really alarming. One hope we may indulge in—that if war should come, the queen would at all hazards interpose her authority, and compel the substitution of a real, live war government for the present divided and inefficient one. And the country would with a burst of patriotic devotion support her in so doing. The time has come to declare that for the safety of the state a change of government is required, and that without delay.

The Flour Duties.

We are assured by those who ought to know, that there is now upon the market an abundance of Canadian hard spring wheat, also of flour made from it, enough to supply all home demands, with a good deal left for exportation. It is the merest rot to pretend, as some do, that it is *necessary* to buy American flour for the use of Canadian bakers. There may have been some color of such a necessity before, but last year's big crop in Manitoba did away with it for good. In all probability next season's crop will render such pretence utterly ridiculous.

But we will not have to wait so long as until next fall for proof conclusive enough. In the C. P. R. elevators, at Port Arthur and points west, there are now immense quantities of good "hard spring" wheat, which, when lake Superior opens, will be rushed east as fast as the company's new steamers can carry it. Just a few weeks more, and those who are now arguing that this wheat-producing country is under the necessity of buying flour from the United States will find themselves "knocked out."

The Hamilton Spectator, though right in the main on this subject, makes one certain mistake. It speaks of the hard spring wheat flour as containing more starch than flour made from soft wheat, and therefore taking up more water. Precisely the reverse is the case; the fact that flour made from hard spring wheat will take up more water is due to its containing more *gluten*, not starch.

The chief difficulty with which Canadian millers have to contend lies in the low rates at which flour from Minneapolis and points further west is carried by the railways to points on the seaboard or near to it. To-day, as we are informed on good authority, Minneapolis flour is actually sold in Ottawa, freight and duty paid, at the same price as in the city where it was made. To American millers with large surplus stocks on hand, the duty of 50c. per barrel is a mere bagatelle.

The argument that it is necessary for this great wheat-producing country of ours to have flour from the United States is utterly ridiculous. And its absurdity will appear in a still stronger light from the day that the C. P. R. steamers begin landing cargoes of Manitoba wheat at Owen Sound. That, let us hope, will be ere many more weeks have passed.

Put Riel Down.

There is only one way to stop Louis Riel, and that is to hang him the first time he is caught in red-handed rebellion. He is a rebel by trade and by inclination and is in his glory when stirring up trouble in the Northwest. He has already cost this country millions and kept back the settlement of the prairies. He will cost us many more millions if he is not suppressed in the most summary fashion. Rebellion has got to be put down if the confederation is to be preserved; any trifling with insurrection will only increase the audacity of those who take part in the next outbreak. If the halfbreeds have a grievance right them, but put the rebels down. The fenians, the railroad rivals of the Canadian Pacific, and other influences adverse to Canada will make the most of this episode to damage the country and encourage the insurrection. If they see that Riel is suppressed, they will stop their plottings; otherwise they will do more damage than the Mahdi of the Prairies.

The Niagara Railway Job.

As far as we have observed, the Niagara Falls railway project has nobody on its side but the promoters and their particular friends in the Ontario assembly. Not a newspaper that we know of has said a word in its favor. The people of Niagara and neighborhood are all opposed to it. It is denounced on all hands as being simply a scheme to transfer the money value of certain public property into private pockets.

Over the signature of "Niagara," somebody writes to the Mail pointing out that no such railway can be built without consent of the department of railways and canals, inasmuch as a reservation is made of four rods in width along all navigable streams in the dominion, in order to prevent private parties from stopping the public use of such rivers or streams. It may confidently be expected that consent would at once be refused by the department. But it looks bad for Mr. Mowat that he should even appear to favor such a thing.

The French went into the Franco-German war "with a light heart," according to Mr. Ollivier, and after the first engagement at Saarbruck Napoleon talked flippantly of Louis' "baptism of fire." Lord Wolseley expected to eat his Christmas dinner with Gen. Gordon at Khartoum, and when the guards left for Suakim they talked of what they would do "after beating Osman Digna," as if that feat were a mere incident of an otherwise peaceful march. Their majesties the guards, although the cablegram did say that at a recent engagement they joked among themselves while waiting for the onslaught of the enemy, are finding "the walk to Berber" a trifle more difficult than they anticipated. Osman Digna and his plucky reckless warriors are not to be swept off their native soil with the same ease as a schoolboy cleans his slate. Instead of celebrating the birth of our Lord at Khartoum, Lord Wolseley, three months after that anniversary, is actually in retreat and seeking a place where he and his troops can rest their weary limbs and aching heads. The British discovered long ago that the mahdi was not to be run down as easily as a fox is chased to earth, and from appearances they will yet have reason to rejoice if the remnants that are left do not return as crestfallen from their contact with the Soudan as the French did from their collision with the Germans.

In giving an outline of the proposed clearing house in Toronto it seems we were premature in stating that a committee had been appointed to set the machine in motion. Although the scheme is under way no committee has been appointed. Every bank manager will be consulted and his views taken into consideration. At the same time Toronto will have its clearing house.

High Treason, Vide Sir John.

Editor World: Mr. Davies is reported as saying in the Ottawa house a few days ago: "I don't know that it would be a crime if a man honestly believed that annexation was preferable to the existing state of things in this country. I do not believe that myself." The premier replied, "It would only be high treason."

Has it come to such a pass that the people of this country cannot even entertain a belief touching the political condition of their country without being liable to arraignment for a crime, the possible punishment for which is death?

Sir John Macdonald is reported to have once declared to an after-dinner party of enthusiastic Englishmen that "Canada had four hundred thousand militia ready to defend the mother country if need be," and Hon. A. Mackenzie is also reported to have stated to an audience of his admiring countrymen that, "Canadians would, if necessary, be ready to shed their last drop of blood in defence of British connection."

Four hundred thousand and the last drop of Canadian blood—Canada's bond—prodigious! Now I beg to submit my belief that if the question of annexation to the United States or British connection was to be decided by a fair honest vote of the people of this dominion these ultra-royalists and loyalists with their entire following, both grit and tory, would perhaps be astounded, disgusted, you know, with the the array of ballots, with the magic X opposite that terrible word "annexation." They would probably be startled at the number of "Wandering Willies" looking to Washington.

Toronto, March 24, 1885. OBSERVER.

—A field of corns.—Thomas Sabin of Eglington, says: "I have used Holloway's Corn Cure with the best results, having removed ten corns from my feet. It is not a half way cure or reliever, but a complete extinguisher, leaving the skin smooth and clear from the least appearance of the corns."

From the great lamentations over the proposed visit of the heir of the British throne to Ireland he may well be called the prince of Wails.

WITH THE LATE GEN. EARL

EXTRACTS FROM A LETTER FROM LT.-COL. DENISON.

How a Zareba is Made—Sleeping in Full Battle Array—A False Alarm—The Day Before Earle's Death.

Extracts from a letter just received from Lt.-Col. Fred C. Denison from near Dulka island, written at several dates between Feb. 2 and Feb. 9.

Feb. 2.—We are getting more and more into the enemy's country every day. The natives have all left this neighborhood. We never see one. The mudir of Dongola's troops are moving up the right bank, burning the villages and generally playing "hob." I often see the fires. We are on the left bank. Gen. Earle is taking every precaution against surprise; wherever we camp a line of branches of the mimosa tree is laid round the camp. The mimosa is like our hawthorn, only much more prickly, there being great strong thorns all over them. They make a very good temporary fortification against a mob. The natives have to throw their shields on them or bring something to throw over them before they can get at you. It is called a zareba. The men sleep in their accoutrements with their rifles beside them and sleep in the form of a square, so that the moment the alarm sounds they jump up and are ready for action in an instant. They cannot even wear their cloaks. Some companies are told off for pickets and guards and of two officers one has to be awake all the time. The sentries are all double. A reconnoisance was made the other day and the enemy were seen in great strength, I hear 10,000 or 12,000. This was about six miles off. Shots were exchanged with them by our mounted infantry. This morning I was ordered on to look for another channel. I heard the enemy had gone on, so that I pushed on up the channel with my boat and twelve of my Canadians, one mile after another, till after six miles we came back to the main river, when we sighted some men and camels in the distance and a sentry on the hill. I did not know who they were, but we kept on and I got my glasses out and on getting nearer they turned out to be our troops, some of the camel corps and hussars, who had been sent on in advance up the bank of the main river. On landing I found Col. Butler. He was much pleased to see me, and to find that the channel was practicable. The 42d regiment had been toiling up the main river all day and were not in sight. I went back in the morning and brought up the staff and the 38th.

Feb. 4.—This morning we left with the two advanced companies of the 38th regiment and Col. Alleyne's boat, and we got to the front, so I was then in the position I like to be, leading the Nile expedition. Alleyne's boat and mine go together (as his men are armed) to show the others the way and pick out the best channel, as little or no dependence can be placed on the marks. They generally say a cataract where there is none and vice versa. I have not had my clothes off for a week except once for a wash, as we have to sleep fully dressed. I generally wear my sword and revolver all day, which is another bore, but it is being on the safe side. One feels more comfortable with his weapons at hand. I have had my hair cut with one of those clippers. We heard yesterday a rumor, started I think by some of the men, that the mahdi had surrendered and we were all going home. I was just thinking what my hair would look like by the time I reached Cairo.

Feb. 7.—Last night we had an alarm and I was awakened by a lot of men running past me, some interpreters, some soldiers, who were told off to guard the boats, and some others who I don't think were told off. I had my boots off (as I gave my ankle a little sprain the other day). I put them on and went over to the front, where the two regiments had fallen in. They were then ready for action. It is done so quickly, when they sleep all dressed, that all they had to do was to stand up, unpile arms, and then they were ready. It was a false alarm, and we were all asleep again in ten minutes. My ankle is about right again. General Earle rode up from the lower camp to-day with an A.D.C., and a couple of men as an escort, but gave us no orders to move on, so we are all speculating as to what is on the tapis.

Feb. 9.—Yesterday the 42nd regiment had church parade early, and the 38th at 9 45 a.m. I attended the latter. Shortly after it was over General Brackenbury arrived and we got orders to move on at once with the 38th regiment. We moved on about three miles and bivouacked at a place about 1½ miles below this. Col. Alleyne came on up the river with three boats of soldiers, and coming on the enemy they fired upon him, and he returned it. None of our men were hit. We have now the two regiments together again, and expect to have a fight to-morrow, but you will hear all about it long before this reaches you. I will now close this in case I get a chance to send it back.

Dentists' Charges.

Editor World: I would draw your attention to a charge made by a leading dentist of this city. My little boy went by himself to have a tooth extracted. He asked the dentist to administer gas. The gas was duly administered, but the dentist omitted placing a piece of rubber between the boy's teeth to keep his mouth open, and as a matter of course when he became unconscious the dentist was unable to get at the tooth. He then allowed him to revive a little and by that time he was able to force the boy's mouth open wide enough to insert the instrument. In fact the boy had become quite conscious again. The dentist, however, told him to be quiet and then pulled the tooth. The boy had forgot to ask the fee before having the tooth extracted and was surprised to find it was $2.00. Now, I think this is too much even if the gas had taken effect. Do you think this was a proper charge? If any person had gone with the boy do you think the dentist would have tried to impose? I have had two teeth drawn and gas administered for $1.50. I would think $1 quite sufficient in this case as the usual fee is 50 cents. JUSTICE.

—Do not delay in getting relief for the little folks. Mother Graves' Worm Exterminator is a pleasant and sure cure. If you love your child why do you let it suffer when a remedy is so near at hand.

Alexander Selkirk and a Mr. Friday were witnesses in a contested election case at Albany this week.

There are 20,000,000 of people in Austro-Hungary who never read a newspaper.

The Good Time Coming.

The joke on the gentle plumber
Now silently steals away;
And the jest on the new spring bonnet
Will linger along till May;
And through the long hot summer,
Like the curse of a fearful dream,
Will float the ancient chestnut
Of the girl that likes ice-cream;
And the joke of the boy and the apples
Through the autumn winds will sound;
But the joke of the wretched ice-man
Lasteth the whole year round.

Windy as a Drummer.

"Is March a drummer, mammal" said
A little girl, manners arch.
"Why, no. What makes you ask, my dear?"
"Because there's so much wind in March."

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL GOSSIP.

TUESDAY, March 24.

Oil opened in New York 84½, closed 83¾. Highest 84½, lowest 81⅝. In Oil City there was a sale at 84½.

Consols opened in London 97 11-16 for money and account, closed unchanged, although by way of Chicago Cox & Co. were wired that they were as low as 97⅞.

A cable to Cox & Co. quotes Hudson Bay unchanged at £18½, and Northwest Land company unchanged at 37s 6d.

The total sales on the Toronto stock exchange to-day aggregated 271. Bank stocks were more active than yesterday, Montreal sold up to 195½, an advance of ¾ over Monday's closing buyer quotation. In Montreal it sold up to 196.

The following failures were reported today in Ontario: S. D. Chatterton, hotel, Arnprior, offering 50c. on the $. J. K. Macdonald, tinsmith, Cornwall, offering 40c on the $. D. Hopkins & Co. grocers, Hamilton, assigned. G. Smith & Co., shoddy manufacturers, Lambton mills, assigned. T. H. Robinson, druggist, Orillia, compromised at 40c on the $. D. McMaster & Co., books, Sarnia, offering 33⅓ on the $.

The sales on the Montreal stock exchange to-day were—Morning board: 50 Bank Montreal at 195, 25 at 195½, 150 196; 100 Northwest land company at 35; 70 Montreal telegraph 120½; 100 Gas at 184¾. Afternoon board: 5 Bank Montreal at 195½, 1 at 196; 3 Gas at 184¾, 3 at 184½.

The farmers are beginning to come to town with their wheat. There has been so much cold weather lately, and so many European war rumors that they have been holding back. Five hundred bushels of wheat were sold on the street to-day.

The news from New York and Chicago is panicky. The European war news is the sole topic of the grain and provision speculators of Chicago and some big deals may be looked for any day in that city.

The improvements at the board of trade rooms are progressing. The boards flourishing. To-day five new members were received.

Pacific Mail was again the feature on the New York stock exchange to-day and further advanced to 52¾, being the most active stock of the day. It became weak about noon, dwindling off to 49¾, finally closed 50, against 52⅝ last night. The sales were 61,600. St. Paul was also largely dealt in, showing a weakness all day; sold up to 70⅞ early, touched 68¾, the lowest since last June, and closed 68¾, on sales of 48,900. Jersey Central sold up early to 74¾, broke to 31½, the lowest for many years, advanced to 33¾, back to 32½, closed 32⅝, on sales of 13,600. New York Central showed considerable strength, selling up to 90½, closed 89¾.

The visible supply of grain to-day, according to Chicago computations, was: wheat 48,460,434 bush., a decrease of 133,000 bush. from last week; corn, 7,161,464 bush, a decrease of 1 035,000 bush.

The report of the Union Pacific railroad for the last six months of 1884 shows a net surplus income of $3,346,000 against a deficit of $383,000 for the first six months. The floating debt has been reduced to $3,287,000.

THE DAY IN CHICAGO.

Cox & Co. received the following over their private wire at the close of business to-day from Milmine, Bodman & Co. of Chicago: "4.35 p.m.—Markets inactive, featureless, except the persistent pounding of pork by packing element. Trade in wheat moderate. Cable advices quote consols lower and political situation critical. Crop reports continue bad, and if half are true wheat will soon feel the effect. Some exports both spring and winter to-day. Our strongest local operators are still short, and of course give no support at present, but likely to turn any day. Corn decidedly lifeless, with scarcely change of quotations. Closing May wheat 79¾, corn 41¾, pork $11.85. Firm feeling.

Toronto Stock Exchange—Sales March 24.

MORNING BOARD.

20 Merchants bank	112½
50 Bank Commerce at	121½
20 do. do.	122
10 Federal bank	48½
25 Northwest Land Co	38

AFTERNOON BOARD.

10 Montreal bank	195½
20 Bank Hamilton (reported)	120
1 do. do.	119
20 British America Assurance	84
20 do. do.	83½
25 Canada Landed Credit Co	122

The Local Markets.

PRICES ON THE STREET—The farmers are again coming to market with their grain. This morning 500 bushels of wheat sold at 80c to 81c for fall and spring, 67c to 67½c for goose. Barley sold at 60c. Oats brought 38c. Peas 57c to 60c. Timothy sold at $12 to $17.50; clover at $9 to $12. Straw, $9 to $11. Potatoes are selling by the load at 40c, single bags 50c. Apples may be had at $1.50 to $2 per barrel.

ST. LAWRENCE MARKET.—Beef, roast, 11c to 15c; sirloin steak, 12½c to 15c; round steak, 12c to 13c; mutton legs and chops, 12½c to 15c; inferior cuts, 8c to 10c; lamb, per lb., 12½c to 15c; lamb chops 12½c to 16c; veal, best joints, 12c to 15c; cutlets, 15c to 16c; inferior cuts 8c, to 10c; pork, chops and roasts, 9c to 10c; butter, pound rolls, 20c to 23c; cooking, 12c to 15c; lard, 11c to 12c; cheese, 13c to 15c; bacon, 10c to 12c; eggs, fresh, 18c to 20c; cooking 12c to 15c.; turkeys, $1 to $2; spring chickens, 65c to 80c per pair; ducks, 80c to $1; geese, 70c to $1; heavy hogs are selling at $5.60 and light hogs from $5.80 to $6; forequarters of beef bring from $4 to $5.25; hind quarters, from $5.50 to $7. Mutton sells at $5.50 to $7 per cwt., and lamb at $7 to $8. Spring lambs per carcase $3.50 to $5.

Grain and Produce Markets by Telegraph.

NEW YORK, March 24.—Cotton dull and unchanged. Flour—Receipts 30,000 brls., steady; sales 13,000 brls.; No. 2 $2.25 to $2.80, rest unchanged. Rye flour and cornmeal unchanged. Wheat—Receipts 28,000 bush.; spot ¼c to 1c higher, options unsettled; sales 3,700,000 bush. futures; 135,000 bush. spot; No. 2 spring 80½c, No. 2 red 90c for cash, 89c April, 90½c May, No. 1 red state 98½c, No. 1 white 90c. Rye quiet. Barley active; No. 1 Canada 90c, two rowed state 65c. Malt dull. Corn—Receipts 193 000 bush.; spot and options shade higher, closing firm; sales 1,032,000 bush. future, 269,000 bush. spot; exports 6000 bush.; No. 2 49½c to 49¾c for cash, 50c April and May. Oats—Receipts 106,000 bush., higher; sales 255,000 bush. future, 120,000 bush. spot; No. 2 37c to 37½c cash, 37½c May; mixed western 37c to 38c, white state 38½c to 41c. Hay, hops, coffee, sugar, molasses, rice, petroleum, tallow, potatoes and eggs unchanged. Pork dull, mess $12.75 to $13. Beef quiet. Cut meats steady; pickled bellies at 8c to 6¼c, middles dull, long clear 6c to 6¼c. Lard active at $7.15. Butter and cheese unchanged.

CHICAGO, March 22.—Flour steady and unchanged. Wheat shade lower, closed 74¼, April 75c. May 79½c. No. 2 spring 74½c. to 76½c. Corn steady, cash 37½c. to 40c. March and April closed at 37½c. May 41½c. Oats quiet; cash 27½c. to 30½c. March and April 27½c. May 31½c to 31¾c. Rye and barley quiet and unchanged. Pork steadier; cash $11.75 to $11.80, May $11.85, June $11.95. Lard firm; cash $6.75c. to $6.80. April $6.80 to $6.82½. May $6.90. Boxed meats steady and unchanged. Whisky firm. Receipts—Flour 23,000 bbls., wheat 95,000 bush., corn 248,000 bush., oats 128,000 bush., rye 4,000 bush., barley 67,000 bush. Shipments—Flour 27,000 brls., wheat 41,000 bush., corn 181,000 bush., oats 118,000 bush, rye 4,000 bush., barley 30,000 bush. Afternoon board—Wheat and corn closed ½ higher.

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Old people like it for its wonderful power to restore to their whitening locks their original color and beauty. Middle-aged people like it because it prevents them from getting bald, keeps dandruff away, and makes the hair grow thick and strong. Young ladies like it as a dressing because it gives the hair a beautiful glossy lustre, and enables them to dress it in whatever form they wish. Thus it is the favorite of all, and it has become so simply because it disappoints no one.

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THE GENUINE PIANO,
Manufactured by Rainer & Co., Guelph, Ont.
The undersigned respectfully announce that on the 9th day of April, 1884, Joseph F. Rainer dissolved partnership with Frank Sweetnam and John Hazelton, as piano manufacturers, and that said Joseph F. Rainer, with his son, will continue to manufacture the original cross-scale Pianos, of which the said Joseph F. Rainer is the sole inventor.
Since the above dissolution, Mr. Rainer, sr., has greatly improved the small Cross-scale Piano by adding one string more to each note throughout the middle, making three strings to each note instead of two, thus giving the Piano a third more power of tone throughout the middle. There will be fifty-three notes from the treble down that will have three strings instead of twenty-four notes from the treble down as formerly. The undersigned will give to wholesale and retail customers the benefit of this improvement by letting them have these Pianos for the same price as the once formerly made with two strings.
These Pianos have now been before the public for 23 years, and have always ranked among the very best, and are celebrated for quality of tone, great power and durability of action, prompt elastic touch, fine finish and elegant style of case, combined with every known improvement. The most complete and unbroken list on record, embracing a period of 30 years, and made up of 23 first prizes, medals and diplomas, received at the principal exhibitions in Canada—Montreal, Kingston, Toronto, Hamilton and London. At the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia, in 1876, we secured a medal and diploma for our piano. The great favor with which the cross-scale pianos have been received for so long a period, and the reputation they bear, has induced others to imitate them. We therefore caution intending purchasers and dealers wishing to obtain the original cross-scale piano to see that the name of "Rainer & Co." is on each instrument. We make the Upright and Square Grand Pianos.
For further particulars, Price List, &c., address RAINER & CO., Guelph, Ont.
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And we cordially invite inspection of our New Silks, Dress Goods, Hosiery, Kid Gloves, Ginghams, Zephyrs, Prints, Sateens, Embroideries, Spring Underwear, Dress Buttons, Mantle Trimmings, etc., etc.
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By order of the Board,
CHARLES DRINKWATER,
Secretary.
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Alabama	$ 25,423 87	Mississippi	$ 20,251 00
Arkansas	6,945 67	Missouri	34,368 20
California	26,475 00	N. Hampsh'e	35,950 34
Canada	206,003 46	New Jersey	43,424 56
Connect't	201,439 28	New York	277,237 82
Illinois	149,047 76	N. Carolina	68,441 59
Indiana	35,879 98	Ohio	78,358 05
Iowa	14,634 78	Pennsylv'a	175,805 46
Kentucky	59,744 00	Rhode Isl'nd	17,010 00
Louisiana	22,190 00	Tennessee	67,824 00
Maine	30,195 00	Texas	26,166 00
Maryland	57,540 00	Vermont	25,786 00
Massach'ts	168,676 30	Virginia	96,060 00
Michigan	35,561 00	W. Virginia	19,012 00
Minnesota	9,366 00	Wisconsin	100,469 00

Ten others..... $38,436.

The Ætna enters upon the new year with brilliant prospects. With an improvement in all departments of its business, including increased dividends to its insured, the year 1885 must add another to its long series of years of successful experience.

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A RIFT IN THE CLOUDS.

BY P. D. ROSS.

"Marian, dear, how is the morning—fair or cloudy?" inquired Ethel Ray, turning on the invalid couch, where she lay day as well as night.

Marian swept the scant curtain back from the narrow window of their poor room.

"Dark and cloudy," she replied, the cold dreariness of the new day striking a chill to her sensitive, heavily-burdened heart. A tired, hopeless look swept over her delicate, noble face, leaving a slight droop at the corners of her mouth, a shadow in her eyes. Ethel saw the change of expression, and for a moment her own grew less cheerful and bright.

"Never mind; there will be a rift in the clouds by and by," she said, with renewed hope.

"I am glad you have such faith, pet," said Marian, still looking out on the street.

A poor beggar crept feebly along, his rags fluttering in the bitter wind, and in pity for a lot sadder than her own the girl lost some of her discontent. She turned from the window with a brighter expression and put on her hat and cloak to start out on that weary round of music lessons which were their support.

"I am sorry to leave you all day, Ethel, but it will be late before I can get through."

"Do not fret about me, Marian. Mrs. O'Malley will come in and give me my lunch and a fresh glass of water, and I have this beautiful lace to mend for Miss Constantine, and that magazine you brought me yesterday to read. Oh, I shall be fully occupied until you return."

"Well, well, it is comforting to have so brave and busy a little sister at home. I think of it often when I am out, and it gives me courage,' said Marian, bending over the couch with tender, misty eyes.

The crippled girl clasped the slender hand caressing her hair, and drew it down against her pale cheek.

"Am I a help to you, Marian? Oh, that thought makes me happy! I lie here such a helpless, useless creature; sometimes I have feared that I was only a burden to you."

"Never think that again dear one—never. If it were not for you—."

She broke off, and stooping, kissed the sweet, pale face resting on the pillow, but when she would have moved away, Ethel held her a moment longer.

"Marian, darling, do not lose your faith and hope. There will be clear sunshine after a while, and all the dark clouds will vanish."

"I will try to think so," she replied, with a smile—a smile that vanished the moment she left her sister's presence, and memory began to bring up one by one the events of the two years just passed.

The girls had been left orphans at an early age, but with property sufficient to supply all they could ever need, not only of necessities, but