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## Current Events.

### Ecclesiastical.

—The Omaha *Guardian* for this month says:—A Congregational minister of high standing has applied to the Bishop for admission into the ministry of the Church.

—The Diocesan Council of Wisconsin, will hold a special meeting on the 11th of February, to elect a successor to Bishop Armitage. Among the names mentioned in connection with the office are the following: The Rev. Drs. De-Koven, Kemper, Keene, Ashley and Hugh Miller Thompson.

—The following resolutions are to be moved at a public meeting in St. James's Hall, under the presidency of Earl Russell, on the 27th proximo:—"1. That this meeting desires to express to his Majesty the Emperor of Germany a deep sense of its admiration for his Majesty's letter to the Pope, bearing date September 3, 1873. "2. That this meeting unreservedly recognises it to be the duty and right of nations to uphold civil and religious liberty, and therefore deeply sympathises with the people of Germany in their determination to resist the doctrines of the Ultramontane section of the Church of Rome. "3. That the chairman, in the name of the meeting, be requested to communicate these resolutions to his Majesty the Emperor of Germany and to the German people."

—The last number of the London *Guardian* contains the following: Even ecclesiastical peace is no part of our Christmas news. Bishop Cummins of Kentucky lately seceded from our sister Church in the United States, on the ground of the increasing departure of both the English and American Churches from Evangelical Christianity. He has since gone a step further, and founded, on a very small scale, a "Reformed Episcopal Church." English Churchmen are sorry to hear of this; and American Churchmen, we may assume, will be in their turn sorry to hear that a meeting of the English Church Union an Archdeacon has expressed his opinion that the time has come for him, and some other clergymen who share with him a really embarrassing position, "to break with the Bishops." Our Bishops make mistakes occasionally, like other men, but we are not ready for an Archidiaconal, as contrasted with an Episcopal Church. Archdeacon Denison, of course, must be the master mind wherever he is. He gets on quite as well with Bishops as he would with either Pope or Presbytery.

—The last number of the New York *Church Journal* has the following: The *Christian at Work* says:—Dr. Cummins is exciting a world of comment. Some say he is a hero, a martyr, a Luther; others that he is a traitor and an outlaw. It will be demonstrated before long just what he is. "It will not be demonstrated" till the Day of Judgment. That is the view of a Christian, whether at work or at rest. The notion that success decides such questions, that applause, crowded and stamping congregations, hurrah in the newspapers and general bluster and blare, decide that a man is a hero, or a martyr, or a saint, is a poor foolish unbeliever's notion—the notion of people who have no grasp on realities, no faith in things not seen. The notion that what the world calls "failure," is real failure, and proves a man a traitor or an outlaw, that such failure is not the grandest success, sometimes is spiritual blindness. The notion that the eternal question of life, and time, and humanity, are decided by the morning papers, is a notion common enough, but hardly the notion for a Christian.

### Miscellaneous.

—Ship building has been active on Puget Sound the past season.

—Another barbarian war is threatened in the colony of Natal.

—There is much anxiety about a threatened famine in Bengal.

—A wealthy New York lady supports eight poor families at an expense of \$10,000 a year.

—It is said that fifty-two ex-Confederate officials occupy seats in the House of Representatives.

—The frequency of railroad accidents is again exciting the attention of the British press.

—Hon. Caleb Cushing has been appointed Minister to Spain in place of Daniel E. Sickles.

—The Railroad strikes still continue on a few of the Western roads, and there are threats of more.

—The Rev. Mr. Bonham, the 'missionary' of Central New York, was to

leave last week for Europe, to attend the mission in London.

—New Zealand has invited Joseph Arch to visit that country, with the view of inspecting its advantages for agricultural emigrants from England.

—The officers of the British navy have subscribed a large sum to be expended on a wedding present to the wife of their brother officer, the Duke of Edinburgh.

—The Commissioners of Emigration report that since 1789 there have landed at the port of New York 8,779,174 immigrants; during the year 1873 the number was 277,901.

—New Jersey had laws restricting the running of railroad trains on Sunday. Last year these were repealed. This Winter in the Legislature of that State a strong effort will be made to have the old law restored.

—Baltimore will not admit girls to the High School under twelve years of age. It thinks that below this limit the children would have to undergo a process of mental forcing which is very injurious, and quite opposed to the complete development of their minds.

—It is stated that Bishop Niles of the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire has just been made an American citizen. Though residing in the country for many years, he had not until lately been naturalized.

—The alleged reply of the English Government on the subject of an Arctic Expedition, as reported may convey an erroneous impression. Mr. Gladstone requested that he might be furnished, in writing, with the reason for the despatch of an Arctic Expedition, before receiving a deputation on the subject.

—The Halifax *Citizen* says: Mr. Carvell has issued a circular to all the railway employees, asking them to sign a pledge to abstain from intoxicating beverages after the first of the year, and to form themselves into a temperance society. This idea has been well received on other lines, and a large proportion of the men on our Provincial road declare their readiness to sign and keep the pledge.

—Shortly after the Boston fire, the employees of a large firm in that city, of their own motion, proposed a reduction of salaries. Their generous offer was accepted. Since then the business of the firm has prospered, and last week the partners presented each of their clerks with a check for the full amount of the pay surrendered, and announced that all the salaries had been put back to the old figures.

—It is asserted that since sentence was passed upon Marshal Bazaine rigorous measures have been adopted by the authorities to prevent his escape from the Trianon, and communication with persons outside has been greatly restricted. His hours for receiving his wife and family, his meals, and the time for taking exercise, are regulated by the police, and nothing can reach the Marshal—either letters, papers, or food—without having first been subjected to the strictest examination. It is expected that the prisoner will be despatched to his place of confinement without delay.

—Joseph Arch addressed a meeting of three thousand people at Birmingham Town-hall, last month. He said he had never advised his fellow-labourers to resort to violence, much less incendiarism. His object had been to bring down no single class in the country, but to upraise and elevate the agricultural labourers, and place them in their true position.—It was not long since England knew nothing about the labourer except when a paragraph appeared in the police news, saying that he had knocked a rabbit over. If the farmers had grievances they must look to the landlords to redress them, and if the land were rented dear the rent must be lowered. The lack of tenant-right had a great deal to do with the bad cultivation of the land. The labourers must be enfranchised, and then they would be educated, and some of the questions which now perplex the country would be nearer solution. If the farmers of England did not yield the just demands of the labourers, they would be brought to their senses when it was too late.

—The *Science of Health* says well and truly: "Precocity in children is to be deplored, not encouraged. A dull, sleepy child sometimes makes the best man. The business of childhood is to grow, rather than shrivel up in school and die. Would not a little physiological training be more useful than so much Greek, Latin and rhetoric? Precocious boys and girls should not be kept in school, but out-of-doors—in the garden, on the

farm, in the play-ground, rolling hoops, flying kites, riding horses, climbing hills—all in moderation—and, if properly fed, clothed and trained, they will learn enough later in life. They should also sleep abundantly. Children grow most when they sleep best."

—It is proposed in England to establish a national school of cookery, in connection with the annual international exhibition at South Kensington. An influential meeting recently held for the purpose of advancing the project agreed to the following resolutions: 1. That such a school should be at once founded, to be in alliance with school boards and training schools throughout the country. 2. That the aim of the proposed school should be to teach the best methods of cooking articles of food in general use among all classes. 3. That an association should be formed with the intention of making the school self-supporting. 4. That it would be prudent to secure a capital, say £5,000. The provisional committee, containing some very eminent names, were authorized to take the necessary measures to establish the school by means of shares, donations, and guarantees. In time it is expected that schools of this description will be established in all the great towns of the kingdom.

—The death of the Queen Dowager of Prussia is looked upon as a national loss, and a general mourning of six weeks is ordered, together with the closing of all theatres, music-halls, and places of amusement for a week. The deceased Queen was on a visit to her two sisters at Dresden, both of whom are also, curiously enough, Queens Dowager. The widow of the late King John of Saxony was a twin sister. Queen Elizabeth was a princess of Bavaria, born in 1801, and married in 1823,—first by proxy at Munich, and then by religious ceremony, thirteen days later, at Berlin, to Frederick William IV., the late King, and brother of the present Emperor. She was a strict Roman Catholic when she married, but, after six years of wedded life, she embraced her husband's religion. Her marriage was a childless one, and the Queen devoted herself to public works of charity, and her private benevolence caused her to be greatly beloved. She was very much respected by the present Emperor, and it was feared at first that the news of her somewhat sudden death would injure his recovery from indisposition. Since her widowhood in 1861 the Queen resided at Sans Souci, or at her castle at Stolzenfels, on the Rhine.

—The *Times* correspondent at Sierra Leone, writing on the 5th, says on the subject of the Ashantee war, that owing to the great difficulty found in obtaining transport at Cape Coast Castle, and to the impossibility of constructing the railway to the Prah in time to be of any service for the present campaign, a Control officer has been sent to Madeira with instructions to purchase as many bullocks trained to harness as he can obtain:—Yellow fever of a very virulent type has broken out at Bonny, and all the steamers which recently called at that port caught the infection. The Ambriz had fourteen deaths on board from yellow fever before reaching Sierra Leone. A strict quarantine has been established both here and at Cape Coast. The danger of those who may be returning sick or wounded from the Gold Coast is largely increased by this outbreak of fever. Captain Glover was at Adda, quite prepared for an immediate advance into the interior. Captain Sartorius, with a body of Houssas, and assisted by the forces of Attah, the King of the Eastern Akims, had been despatched to watch the north-western frontier of our eastern districts. He was also holding in check the turbulent Quowhoo tribe, who were inclined to assist the Ashantees. The Awoonlahs, a tribe dwelling on the eastern bank of the Volta, and who for some years past have given us much trouble, were openly assisting the Ashantees, and had supplied them during the war with large quantities of ammunition and salt. The Awoonlahs, and their neighbours the Awamloos, would probably be the first enemies Captain Glover would have to deal with:—If they attempt, as is expected, to stop his progress up the Volta, he will, with the force now at his disposal, be able to very summarily dispose of them. Captain Glover's camp at Adda has been joined by Tackee, the King of Acora, with all his forces, and by the Kreepee and Krobe tribes. These tribes, especially the Kreepees, suffered very severely from the Ashantees during the invasion of their territories in 1868, 1869, and 1870. They are now eager for revenge. When

Captain Glover advances into the interior he will have with him, independently of the disciplined force of Houssas which he has raised, at least 20,000 native allies.

—From the *Daily Telegraph* January 5th inst., we condense the following in reference to the trade of St. John N. B. The generally prosperous condition of the trade of St. John during the past year is very gratifying, and not the less so because there are no present indications of a relapse, but everything seems to indicate that during the current year our trade will be greater than ever before. In the first place, it will be observed that the exports of lumber for 1873 are largely in excess of those of any previous year. Our lumber exports to South America, show a gratifying increase over that of any previous year, being nearly double that of 1872, and for the first time, for many years, we sent three cargoes of deals to France. The most startling exhibit, however, of the trade of the year is that contained in the exports of our deals to England. We sent across the Atlantic in 1873 no less than 208,724 m. of deals, or sixty-two million feet more than we exported in 1872, and thirty million feet in excess of any previous year. Some idea of the magnitude of this enormous mass of lumber may be gathered from the fact that it would be sufficient to make a platform ten feet wide and nearly four thousand miles in length. The tonnage cleared with lumber for Great Britain during 1873 amounted to 258,148 tons, or about eighty-seven thousand tons in excess of the tonnage cleared for the same ports in 1872. Of the remaining shipping which cleared from St. John, lumber laden, during the past year, 36,912 went to the West Indies, 23,886 to the United States, and 11,391 to South America. Our South American trade, which has only been in existence for a few years, is growing with great rapidity, and must soon acquire large dimensions. There are also other markets for our lumber which we hope to see opened shortly, and in reference to which we shall have something to say hereafter. Our forests contain many useful woods which we have not hitherto made available for export to any extent, but which must in the future become valuable. There are also many wooden manufactures which we believe must shortly become articles of export. We can see no reason why our whole export trade in manufactures of wood should be confined to box shooks. Turning from our exports to our imports we may observe, that while the former during the past year show a large increase over 1872, the latter have fallen off very considerably. Those who are believers in the "Balance of Trade" idea will find great comfort in this. When the details for our imports for 1873 are placed before the public it will be found, that the falling off in imports is chiefly in articles of luxury, and that as regards articles of prime necessity, we have not imported less but rather more in 1873 than in the previous year. For instance, take the case of breadstuffs. In 1873 we imported more flour by 23,500 barrels, more corn meal by 10,000 barrels, and more oatmeal than we did in 1872. We also imported nearly as much corn. We have, however, the consolation of knowing that of our total import of flour nine-tenths grow on the soil of Canada. We imported last year 244,963 barrels of flour, of which 218,637 barrels were the produce of Canada. In 1872 we imported 62,524 barrels of United States flour, last year we only got from them 26,856 barrels. With improved facilities for communication with the Upper Provinces the necessity for our importing any breadstuffs whatever from the United States will entirely cease. We also hope to see the time when we shall require to import much less food than we do now.

—A correspondent of the New York *Times* at Santiago de Cuba thus relates how the remaining passengers of the captured steamer *Virginus* were saved from the Spanish bloodthirstiness. On the 7th of November the remainder of the passengers were to be executed—fifty in all; but on the morning of that day an English man-of-war, the *Niobe*, arrived in port. The captain on coming into the harbour, did not salute the Spanish forts. He was in his boat before his anchor touched the bottom, and on landing proceeded straight to the Governor's house, and peremptorily demanded that the executions should cease. The Governor at first declared that he had no right to interfere, but the captain said that in the absence of an American man-of-war he would take the responsibility of protecting Ameri-

can citizens, and guarding the honour of the American flag. It is said he gave the Governor-General his choice between yielding to his demands or having the city bombarded, and the Governor accordingly gave way. Only for the arrival of the *Niobe* there can be no doubt but that the fifty would have been shot that afternoon. All the Americans in port were loud in praise of the manner in which the captain of the *Niobe* acted. I ascertained a few days after his arrival that he came in answer to a telegraphic message from the American Consul, sent after the massacre of Capt. Fry and the crew, asking to have an American man-of-war despatched to Santiago de Cuba. There happened to be no American man-of-war at Kingston at the time, but the commander of the *Niobe* immediately got up steam, and even though he had not his full complement of men, many of them being on shore, without delay started for Santiago de Cuba. One of his first acts was to compel the Spaniards to remove the American flag from the place on the deck of the *Tornado*, where it had been thrown about and trampled upon for days, more like a rag than a flag. He also compelled the Governor of Santiago to furnish him with five copies of the official proceeding in regard to the trials—one for himself, one for his Commodore, one for the American Government, one for the British, and the remaining one for the American Commodore. When concluding his story, Mr. Coffin assured the reporter that the Spanish authorities somehow seem to have no respect for the American Government, and do not hesitate on the slightest pretext to insult the American flag.

—The *Daily News* correspondent describes a night in camp at Assayboo, in the Ashante War district. He was there with Mr. Commissary Baker, in charge of coming and going stores. These, says the correspondent, kept coming in to his address at a rate to demand twenty times the bearers he could hope to raise:—Four tons and a half did that unfortunate man receive betwixt daylight and darkness, beef and pork. With the last convoy came an explanation. Bearers to forward it were to come back from Akroful, the next station. Thus relieved in mind, though with direful foreboding, Mr. Baker retired to bed, as cheerfully as might be. The stores had overflowed his little rooms, and stood piled up in the street without. I made a bed of rice boxes, and lay on the top. Lieutenant Cockrane, R.N., whom I had last seen in the abandoned Ashantee camp, stretched his mattress blankets on the floor, and we sought forgetfulness of bile, headache, and sun-fever, in sleep. Need I say the night was black as velvet, that the ragged gaps called windows seemed to be hung with funeral palls, that the Assayboo hyena, a well-known beast, screamed himself hoarse in the clearing, and that the *cicadas* sang like charity children? About 10 p. m. their slumbers were disturbed by a soft rustle, which grew and grew, as one listened, louder and louder, shriller and quicker, until the rustle became a roar, and a deluge burst in upon them. It was an African thunderstorm with rain:—From point to point I dragged my bed, wading the swamp which once had been our floor. In vain—Mr. Baker and Mr. Cockrane had selected the only spots that made attempts to keep the water out, and under their pancake umbrella they drowsily bemoaned our common fate. Suddenly great commotion in the corner; Mr. Cockrane is cheyving a toad which was leisurely traversing his face. The toad is found, and pitched through the window. Exclamation on the part of Mr. Baker!—a lizard has fallen on his feet. All the foul beasts inhabiting our cracked walls are abroad, seeking dry quarters. We begin to discourse of centipedes and scorpions. I graphically describe that fearful creature, surely the most horrible of created things, the West African *taranula*, of which I killed a fine young specimen at Cape Coast last week. General shudders and sudden wakefulness. I catch a centipede approaching my bed with undulating wriggle. Irruption of a marine officer, flooded out, come to seek comfort in companionship. The unfortunate sailors are reported to be sitting desolate upon their clothes, with waterproof sheets wrapped around them. Oh, it was a night to recall those pleasant prophecies we heard in England from stay-at-home gentlemen, who declared the Ashantee campaign to be "a picnic." Again and again the flood came down, after a break. The thunder shook our walls, and the lightning! I want an epithet for the lightning; but no one could supply one who had not visited West Africa.