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The Standard.

OR RAILWAY AND COMMERCIAL RECORD.

Evangelium est optimum. — Cic.

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LAW RESPECTING NEWSPAPERS

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GLOOMY PROSPECTS AT ST. PETERSBURG.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 17.
The news of the treaty of the 21 of December has caused a great sensation in our political circles, and, together with the still dangerous state of the Empire, has thrown a gloom over the Russian capital which it is difficult to describe. The court is far from being in a humor to enjoy the festivities of the approaching Christmas, the aristocracy dare not give their usually brilliant balls and entertainments, the merchants find their commerce nearly ruined, the shopkeepers have no sale for their fancy goods and articles of luxury, and the prevailing fear of coming misfortunes extends down to the very lowest classes.
Never did the Czar apply himself more assiduously to business than he does at the present moment, working daily for sixteen hours, for he knows very well that, if he has no one to rely on, and that his orders, however energetic, are never executed, unless he sees them executed himself. The whole system of Russian bureaucracy is so written that no confidence can be placed in anybody, and no one is more conversant with this fact than the Emperor himself. Count Nesselrode is still in favor, and is clothed with his royal master for several hours every day. The general opinion here is that a war with all Europe is inevitable, although a part of the nobles affect to believe that Austria will never be powerful enough to draw the sword against Russia, and Countess are beginning to seriously entertain whether it will be possible even for Prussia and the States of Germany to maintain any longer their on-guard neutrality.
The last accounts from the Crimea are anything but encouraging. The army is decimated by disease, provisions are getting short, and in the present state of the roads there is no mode of sending supplies. Great fears are entertained that Sebastopol will not be able to hold out much longer, and Menschikov's driving despatches, with his poetical description of brilliant attacks and successful sorties, with the stereotyped loss of "one man killed and wounded," fail to inspire general belief any longer.
It is said that the Emperor has sent for the venerable Field Marshal Paskievitch from Warsaw, to consult with him on the best means of defending the frontiers on the Austrian line, and to concert measures for certain contingencies that may be shortly expected in that quarter.
That the nobility and mercantile classes devotedly wish for peace cannot be doubted for a moment, however unwilling they may be to clothe in words such an unpolitical sentiment. It is only the peasants who still entertain any enthusiasm for the Czar. The new levy to be raised in March, of ten men in every 1000 inhabitants, will drain the population of nearly a million of men—on paper; for nobody seriously believes the possibility of raising such an army by an imperial ukase, it being well known that the Czar must first raise the wind.
The ukase, which is dated Gatchina 1st (15th) December, decrees that the conscription is to have force in the eastern half of the empire, or, in other words, amongst the barbarous tribes of Asiatic Russia. The levy is to commence on the 15th February, and to be finished about the middle of March. The conscripts are to have, moreover, the supreme gratification of paying for their uniforms and outfit out of their own pockets, and the sums charged to each recruit are not to exceed the value paid by the commissariat department to the contractors, viz. 10 silver roubles, 30 copecks (about £1 10s.) per head, the Czar magnanimously renouncing all idea of making any pecuniary profit on the transaction—the logical inference to be drawn from which is, that in other cases he does make a profit.

ANTI-BRITISH FEELING ACCOUNTED FOR.
Count Fiquelmont, who has written so much against England, did us the honor of a visit at the opening of the Crystal Palace. His august form mingled with the crowds of sight-seers who staved their delighted eyes with the wonders of industry and art. As he mused on the objects before him, two dark spectres crossed his path and disturbed his pleasant dreams. These were Mazzini and Ledru Rollin, walking arm in arm about the galleries as though there were no monarchs, scaffolds in the world. Was it human nature that this should be endured? Count Fiquelmont's heart almost burst with indignation; his fingers itched to inflict summary chastisement on the two revolutionaryists and rebels. But he was obliged to restrain his emotions, and from that moment he lost all pleasure in visiting the Crystal Palace, which Lord Palmerston had just christened the Temple of Peace. Count Fiquelmont never set his foot in it again. "A nice Temple of Peace indeed," he said sarcastically, "in which such men are the worshippers!" He resolved to make a literary crusade against England; and he has faithfully kept his vow. He has powerfully contributed to produce that violent antipathy to everything English, and that absolute idleness of everything Russian which is so prevalent among the Austrian aristocracy. [English paper.]

THE SNOW OF AGE.

We have just stumbled upon the following pretty piece of mosaic lying amid a multitude of those less attractive:—
"No snow falls lighter than the snow of age; but none is heavier, for it never melts." The figure is by no means novel, but the closing part of the sentence is new as well as emphatic. Scripture represents age by the almond tree, which bears blossoms of the purest white. "The almond tree shall flourish"—the head shall be hoary. Dickens says of one of his characters, whose hair was turning grey, that it looked as if Time had lightly plashed his snows upon it in passing. "It never melts"—no, never. Age is inexorable; its wheels must move onward; they know not any retrograde movement. The old man may sit and sing, "I would I were a boy again," but he grows older as he sings. He may read of the exiles of youth, but he cannot find it; he may sigh for the secret of the alchemy which is able to make him young again, but sighing brings it not. He may gaze backward with an eye of longing upon the rosy schemes of early years, but as one who gazes on his home from the deck of a departing ship, every moment carrying him further and further away. Poor old man! he has little more to do than die.
"It never melts." The snow of winter comes and sheds its white blossoms upon the valley and mountain, but soon the spring follows and smiles it all away. Not so with that upon the brow of the tottering veteran; there is no spring whose warmth can penetrate its eternal frost. It came to stay; its single flakes fell unheeded, and how is it drilled there. We shall see it increase until we lay the old man in his grave; there it shall be absorbed by the eternal darkness, for there is no age in heaven.
Yet why speak of age in a mournful strain? It is beautiful, honorable, and eloquent. Should we sigh at the proximity of death, when life and the world are so full of emptiness? Let the old exult, because they are old; if any must weep, let it be the young. Welcome the snow, for it is the emblem of peace and of rest. It is but a temporal crown, which shall fall at the gate of Paradise, to be replaced by a brighter and a better.

QUAKER WIT.

A letter from a Baltimore correspondent of the Republican has the following, which is both new and good.
Quite a funny story is told of one of the eldest members of this brotherhood. On Monday, while one of the omnibuses was going down town, the driver was stopped by a plain-looking old gentleman in drab, who took a seat inside, with the intention of going to Fell's Point. The vehicle had not gone far when it turned up North-Gay street—quite a different direction. The friend inside observing that he was being carried to the north when he bargained for the east, told the driver that he was carrying him out of the regular route, and entered complaints.
"No matter," said the man with the reins, "we'll come out right at last."
"But I'll get out," said the Quaker.
"Not until you have forked over a five," was the driver's reply, pulling the strap that held fast the door.
Putting his hand into his pocket, the old man in drab said, "Friend, we will not quarrel, thy strap will cut," and applying his jack-knife, severed it, and walked out.
"There cannot swerve me from my course, but thou mayest go thine!" The driver looked rather nonplussed for a while, and after studying for a moment said:
"Well you are some pumpkins—I guess you can pass." The Quaker took the next omnibus and went on his way rejoicing, while the outwitted driver pulled ahead minus his five.
Dr. Beale, of Philadelphia, the dentist, convicted of having violated a young lady while under the influence of ether, has been pardoned by Gov. Bigler. Judges Black, Lewis, and Woodman, of the Supreme Court, having given written opinions as to the illegality of the verdict of the Jury.
It appears by a parliamentary paper that, up to October 10, 1854, the war with Russia had cost over twenty-one millions sterling—viz. army £7,060,882; navy £19,057,765; ordnance, £3,000,000; additional expenses, £220,000. Since October the cost has increased.
The disbanding of the Irish military companies by Governor Gardner of Massachusetts, meets with great opposition.

THE BIBLE.

This is a remarkable book—remarkable for its adaptability to the whole wants and condition of man. Well may we ask concerning the book, "Whence is it?"
Concerning as it does so much that dives down into the very depths of the human heart showing up its wickedness, and disclosing even its secret thoughts, we are involuntarily led to the conclusion that it was the production of a superior mind. Being then so infinitely superior to all human intellect, we are led to seek for its conception and authorship in the mind of that manifest Being who knoweth the secret of all hearts. We cannot resist the conclusion that the Bible is of, and from God.
Being from God, we also know that this relation was made to man for his present and eternal good, requiring on his part reception of the truth it contains, and obedience to the requirements it enjoy.
Having answered the question "Whence is it?" we are also led to inquire "What is it?"
It is a book of promise, sweet indeed to the sorrowing and mourning, the penitent, and the dying. It is the bread upon which the hungry may feed and receive food and nourishment for his famished soul.
It is the blazing star of heaven, to illumine the dark and murky path of him who is seeking to enter wisdom's ways, which are ways of plainness, and whose paths are peace.
It is the chart which displays to the eye of the seeker the boundaries of the promised land, pointing out the shoals and quicksands in his passage to the desired haven.
It is the Book of life, to the expiring saint; for he turns his dimming eyes to the glorious promises of its sacred pages, and feels that they are sure for they are founded on the verities of Jehovah.

ASTRONOMICAL DISCOVERY.—The universally accredited theory, that the Moon is uninhabitable because she has no atmosphere, has received from a recent discovery, a blow that will unsettle it at least. That the Moon, as far as we have yet been able to examine her, has no atmosphere, or at least none of sufficient density to conform to our optical laws, and the demands of any animal life known to us, is unquestionable. But this can be positively affirmed of only one side of our satellite; for, as will be remembered, although she revolves upon her axis, she constantly presents but one side to the earth. Now it has been discovered by calculation, and demonstrated as a geometrical fact, that the Moon's centre of form is eight miles nearer to us than her centre of gravity, through which of course, her axis of revolution must pass; or in other words, this side of the Moon is sixteen miles higher than the other. If, therefore, we suppose that the Moon has an atmosphere such as ours, it would be such extreme rarity on the only side exposed to our observation, that for optical effect and animal life it might as well not exist.
For mountains upon the Earth, none of which are over five miles above the level of the Sea, have ascended to a height at which life could be supported for any length of time, and still mountains have stretched above the panting traveller. What then must be the atmosphere at four times such an elevation. The conclusion seems inevitable that although that the higher side of the Moon is uninhabitable, the remote side may be perfectly adapted to animal life. It is at least certain that the mere want of an atmosphere perceptible to us is no longer conclusive as the uninhabitable of the planet thunders the night. We announce this discovery on the authority of one of the most eminent mathematicians and astronomers in the world. It will soon be formally declared in a scientific quarter. —New York Courier.

An express train came through from Montreal on Sunday, leaving that city at 8 A. M. and arriving at Portland at 6 P. M. The train stopped an hour for dinner at Island Pond, making the running time from Montreal to Portland, (292 miles) 9 hours.

GIGANTIC RAILWAY SCHEME.—A vast project has been started in Australia. It looks to the construction of a railway 1000 miles in length, to connect the three colonies of South Australia, Victoria, and Sydney. The plan as detailed by Sir Henry Young, the Governor of South Australia is that the necessary capital, which is estimated at £10,000,000, should be raised by a loan, the interest of which should be provided for by votes of the three colonies, and guaranteed at the same time by the Imperial Government, and that the land for ten miles on both sides of the line, amounting to 12,800,000 acres, should be placed under the administration of commissioners, with a view of being gradually realized, one-half of their proceeds to be applied to redeem the loan, and the other for introducing labor.

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A ROYAL MARRIAGE.—Persons most intimate at Carlton House, as well as many casual but attentive observers, have always assured me that the Prince of Wales was throughout the transactions of 1795 and up to the very day of his celebration—averse to the marriage. His behaviour even at that ceremony, as well as the significant looks and whispers of some of his household and attendants, confirmed the suspicion. He confessed to the Duke of Bedford, who attended, that he had swallowed several glasses of brandy to enable him to go through the ceremony; and the Duke observed in relating the fact, that he had taken so many, that he had nearly disqualified him from doing so; he (the Duke) could scarcely support him from falling. —Lord Holland's Memoirs.

A BENEDICK.—Shakespeare originated this word. In "Much Ado About Nothing" one of the principal characters is named Benedick—a young lord of Padua, whose spirited raileries with Beatrice form the most interesting feature of the play. In the first act we find them sharply assailing each other—each containing marriage and glorying in mutual independence; but, at the close of the third scene in the second act, a change appears and Benedick, in a half apologizing tone, exclaims—"When I said I would die a bachelor, I did not think I should live till I were married." The peculiarities of this character are so strongly marked, that the name has assumed a place in our language, as signifying a married man, or a man newly married. —N. Y. Sunday Times.

The Cedars of Lebanon have diminished from a forest to a sacred grove, guarded by a priest and protected by a superstition. The prophecy of Isaiah has long since been fulfilled, and "Lebanon is turned into a fruitful field," the rest of the trees of his forest are so few that a child may write them. The Cedars of Lebanon scarcely occupy a space equal to two acres of ground! But Lebanon is a fruitful field; the mulberry tree yields its luscious fruit and its more useful leaves with graceful luxuriance; and in its valleys the harvest waves spontaneously in autumn. —[New Quarterly Review for October.

A MAN, six feet high, standing in the middle of an extensive plain, can see the surface of the earth around him to the distance of three miles on every side; that is, he stands in a circle whose diameter is six miles. A man of equal size, standing outside of the circle could not be seen by the man stationed in the centre. The convexity of the earth interposes to prevent one from seeing the other.

A Southampton correspondent to the State of Maine writes: "Ladies are continually arriving at the Admiralty-office here in their carriages, with huge boxes and chests, directed to various regiments in the Crimea, and to Miss Nightingale. The number of boxes sent off from Southampton lately to Miss Nightingale might make the pile at Scutari think that the India mail has been landed there in mistake. One lady gets up a clothes chest, or creature comfort-box, for one regiment, and another lady for some other regiment. The gallant 93d Highlanders and the Royal Engineers are evidently not forgotten. The presents sent are comforts and luxuries which are not included in the regimental regulations. The names of the senders will probably never be known to the receivers. The whole of the chests and boxes for the British troops sent by private individuals are forwarded, free of charge, in the ships chartered by the Government to take troops, stores, or ammunition to the Black Sea."

POOR BOY'S COLLEGE.—The Printing Office has indeed proved a better College to many a poor boy, has graduated more useful and conspicuous members of society, has brought more intellect and returned it into practical, useful channels, awakened more mind, generated more active and elevated thought, than many of the literary colleges of the country. How many a genius has passed through these colleges with no tangible proof of fitness other than his inanimate piece of parchment; himself, if possible, more inanimate than his leather diploma! There is something in the very atmosphere of a printing office, calculated to awaken the mind and inspire a thirst for knowledge. A boy who commences in such a school, will have his talents and ideas brought out, if he has no mind to draw out, the boy himself will be driven out. —[New York Globe.

The number of Railroads in the United States at the close of 1854 was 4414 miles in operation 21,310; miles in course of construction, 16,975; cost \$621,316,303.

A CURIOUS INCIDENT.—A short time since a young lady in Roxbury trod upon a needle and ran it into the ball of her foot through an India-rubber shoe. Her mother immediately drew out the needle and nothing more was thought of it, though about a quarter of an inch of the point end of the needle was broken in extracting it from the foot. Some six or eight days after this the young lady felt a slight prickly sensation just above the knee, and upon her putting her hand up, on the spot found the needle just making its way through the skin. Thus, in about a week's time, the needle found its way through the foot, ankle and leg to the knee. —[Boston Traveller.

A Cambridge man, writing to the Cambridge Independent from Melbourne, says: "Wisdom Hodgson, who was M. P. for Rye two or three Parliaments, is keeping a public house here; a nephew of Dr. Whewell, Master of Trinity College, was walking the streets last week without a shoe to his foot, or a shilling in his pocket; and I can enumerate many instances of the kind. Gentlemen having left the University come to Melbourne to make a fortune, and in a few weeks are found on a heap of stones, studying stone cracking."

Mr. C. Richards Weld, a London barrister, is preparing for publication, a life of his uncle, Sir John Franklin, embracing his early naval career, which was chequered by many remarkable events, and his various Arctic explorations, with the measures taken to search for his last unfortunate expedition.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Provincial Parliament.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

FREDERICTON, Thursday 1st Feb., 1855.
This being the day appointed by Proclamation for the meeting of the Legislature, at Two o'clock His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor came in the usual state to the Council Chamber, and being seated on the Throne commanded the attendance of the House of Assembly, who being come, His Excellency was pleased to open the Session with the following

SPEECH:

"Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,
"Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,
"Your Joint Address of congratulation to Her Majesty on the success achieved by Her Majesty's Arms, and those of Her Allies at the Alma, has been laid before the Throne, and I have much pleasure in signifying to you, in accordance with the instructions which I have received, the gratification which Her Majesty has derived from this loyal and dutiful Address.

I have given directions that there should be laid before you, a copy of the Proclamation which, by the advice of my Council, I issued on the 11th November, for the admission into this Province, duty free, but under Bonds, of the articles specified in the Schedule of the Act for giving effect on the part of the Province of New Brunswick, to a certain Treaty between Her Majesty and the United States of America.

A simultaneous concession of a similar character was made by the Government of the United States with respect to the corresponding articles the production of this Province. The whole of the provisions of the Act were thus practically brought into operation without delay, and the Trade of this Province with the United States, was at once relieved from the uncertainty, which is necessarily attendant on a prospective situation of Duties.

Considerable inconvenience has for some time been experienced in this Province from the insufficiency of the supply of Copper Coin. I am happy to be able to announce to you, that this deficiency no longer exists. The Copper money, of the value of three thousand pounds, currency, which has been prepared for the use of this Province, under the directions of Her Majesty's Government, has been received, and this Coin now forms under Her Majesty's Proclamation to that effect, a part of the legal currency of New Brunswick.

I invite your attention, during your present Session, to the Laws which regulate the election of Members of the House of Assembly.

The number of instances, in which the validity of the return made by the Sheriff has been impugned and a scrutiny demanded, cannot fail to have attracted the notice of the Legislature. I recommend a revision of the law as will prevent a recurrence of the serious evils and difficulties now experienced.

The subject of Education is of vast importance to the moral and social well-being of the people of this Province; and I am sure that you will approach the consideration of it