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E variis deum est optimum. — Cic.

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LAW RESPECTING NEWSPAPERS.

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The following extract, from a little work on *The Advancement of Society in Knowledge and Religion*, by James Douglas, Esq. of Cavers, will, we are sure, be read with much interest at the present time. It was written upwards of thirty years ago; and it says much for the ability, and the enlightened and enlarged views of its Christian and accomplished author, that, when read in the light of European events within the last few years, it is more like a history of the past than a prediction of what was yet to come. The work itself will yield much profit and pleasure to the attentive reader.

"Throughout Europe there is no less a revolution in the relative position of the nations towards each other, than in the interior condition of each. The French and the Russians have changed situations in the political scale; Petersburg has become the centre of aggression, and Paris that of resistance and defence. The invasions which Europe has now to dread are from the north; and the hope of its ultimate freedom rests upon the energy and the prosperity of its southern states. The position of Russia is eminently favourable for successful and limitless encroachment, and possesses within itself ample space for ever increasing numbers. It has no enemy behind it to distract its attention, or divide its efforts; it is only opposed to a weak and broken frontier, without any one commanding defence, and with vulnerable points innumerable from the Baltic to the Sea of Japan. The Swedes, the Turks, the Persians, the Turcomans, and the Chinese, are unable to cope with the Russian armies, and must yield at the first shock of the invader. Austria and Prussia hold their Polish provinces, in some measure, at the mercy of Russia; and France is the only nation which, single handed, could afford an adequate resistance. As France has changed from the attitude of aggression to that of defence, England, the supporter of the independence of the Continental nations, becomes the natural ally of France, instead of being its 'natural enemy;' and henceforth it is manifestly the interest of this country, that the French should be great, powerful, and free. It is certainly for the advantage of England, that the seat of aggrandizement and danger should be removed from the banks of the Seine to the shores of the Baltic; and an Attila, whose troops are encamped in Poland, and along the frontiers of China, is less to be dreaded than an enemy of inferior power who has the occupation of Boulogne and Brest.

The wide separation between Russia and England leaves no adjacent field of combat on which they might measure their forces, and decide the contest; and England, it is now evident, can best preserve the independence and prosperity of Europe by preserving peace; and her surest weapon is the communication of her own knowledge and liberty; before which, barbarism, however potent, must bow, and stirred up by which, vassals, however depressed, will rise up and shake off the yoke. While Britain counterbalances the ascendancy of Russia in the west, she will divide with her the supremacy of the east, and have for her share the fairest, if not the most extensive portion of Asia. There are the two great antagonist powers in the old world, opposite in their nature as in their influence—the one physically, the other morally great—the one at present retarding, the other accelerating the march of European society; but both ultimately destined to be the instrument of political changes which will give a new face to the institutions of the ancient continent. As the balance of power is shifting among the nations that compose the European confederation, it is changing also in the component parts of each individual state; and the struggle for political liberty is begun, which can only terminate with the general acquisition of free institutions. This tendency to freedom is every day the interest of Britain to foster and protect. Despotism is truly her natural enemy, who must inevitably wish to destroy those institutions which are of so bad example to their own subjects; and it is only from freemen, actuated by a similar spirit, that she can expect cordial sympathy and co-operation.

Freedom, which far more than doubles the force of states, derives a new value from the energy it would communicate to the nations in resisting the attacks of every aggressor; and the new life and additional permanency it would infuse into the states of the continent, who require every aid in their present circumstances, and every amelioration in their condition, to enable them to resist pressure which they must soon feel from the vicinity and the growth of the Russian empire.

Rev. Andrew Marshall, the colored pastor of a Baptist Church at Savannah, was 99 years of age on Christmas last, and on Sunday the 8th inst. preached a sermon, having

among his hearers ex-Pastmaster Gen. Granger, of New York, and the Rev. Dr. Choules of Newport, R. I.

NEW REGISTRY LAW FOR SHIPS.—On Tuesday next, the 1st May inst., the new law for the Registry of Shipping, will come into operation throughout Her Majesty's dominions, at home and abroad. The system of measuring vessels and calculating their tonnage is much more complicated than either of the rules at present used for calculating old and new tonnage, and is known as Moorsom's plan. Under the present law for measuring Register Tonnage in a vessel 180 feet long, 14 internal measurements would be sufficient, but under Moorsom's plan it would require about ninety internal measurements to ascertain her tonnage. There is also a complete change in the mode of transferring shares of vessels and making records in the Book of Registry. The several forms required for a Bill of Sale, Mortgage or Power of Attorney, are entirely different from those now in use, and are specified in the Act, so that parties having any transactions in ship property after the 1st proximo should apply at the office of the Registrar of Shipping for instructions to make out their documents. In the case of a person here wishing to sell or mortgage his vessel in an English port, a certificate of sale or mortgage must be recorded at this port, previous to its being acted on. Every British registered vessel must have an official number by which she can be distinguished, and two British ships cannot have the same number. These numbers will be supplied from London, and it is probable the Governor will receive them by the English Mail now arriving; she will also have a port number. No bonds will be required under this Act, but every person becoming an owner of a British registered vessel must make a declaration that he is a British subject. This declaration can be made before a Justice of the Peace or Consul, if the owner reside above five miles from the Custom House. It is now no longer necessary that a ship should be registered at or near the port where the owners reside; so that a vessel owned here can be registered in London or any British port, if all the owners wish it, and the vessel will be deemed to belong to that port.

Joint owners can now be registered, although not partners, without specifying the number of shares held by each, but in selling, all the joint owners then living must join in the Bill of Sale. The certificate of Registry does not necessarily contain notice of all changes of ownership, and in no case does it contain an official record of any mortgages affecting the ship. The province of the certificate of Registry is to be a document always accompanying a ship, to indicate its nationality and tonnage, but not to be evidence of the interests of the owners or incumbrances; the entries on the Register Books will constitute the title to the ship. Mortgages rank in priority according to the date at which they are registered, and not according to the dates of the instruments by which they are created. Foreigners cannot hold British vessels although they may be mortgages. A British ship may now be manned and commanded by foreigners. On an entire change of ownership it is not now necessary that a vessel should be registered de novo. This may be done, however, if the owners wish it.

The Registry Book may be inspected at reasonable times on payment of a fee of one shilling sterling. The Registrar will also supply certified copies of any entries in the Register Book, or of any declaration or payment of a fee of one shilling sterling for each copy. —[Courier, April 28.]

The difference between a Christian and a cannibal is, that one enjoys himself, and the other enjoys other people.

Convince a wise man of his error and he will thank you; convince a fool and he will insult you.

A SOCIETY OF NEW-BRUNSWICKERS.—We have heard much discussion lately in private circles as to the propriety and expediency of establishing in this City a Charitable Provincial Society, to be composed of Natives of New Brunswick. It is argued that the natives of each portion of the United Kingdom have their Native Society, and their Annual Festival, a rallying point where all can meet on an equal footing, for charitable and other praiseworthy purposes. The New Brunswickers alone have no such rallying point, and the want of some organization is more or less felt each season, and on every public occasion. There are many matters of Provincial interest in which a Native Society might be expected to properly take a leading part, but yet we find they are often left in the back ground.

Highly approving of the views and propositions of our correspondent, "A New Brunswicker," in this day's paper, we will attention to this letter, and trust some movement will

be made promptly to carry out his proposal, so that the first festival may take place on the 18th May! —N. Bruns.

THE TIMBER TRADE.

From the London Mercantile Gazette.

All trades have their vicissitudes, their seasons of prosperity and adversity, according to the favourable circumstances or adverse causes raise or depress them; and one which has especially suffered lately, judging from the Trade Circulars, the Gazette returns, and advices from the North American Colonies, is the Timber Trade—a Trade with which the readers of this journal must necessarily be more or less identified. Two many serious losses have occurred among our Merchants and Traders in this staple article to admit of any attempt at concealment. Well-informed parties across the Atlantic attribute the disasters and present depressed condition of the Trade in some measure to the War, and its effect on private and public enterprise—to the languid state of the Australian trade so different from what it was in 1853—but more especially to the extravagant rate of freight paid early in last season, and to the expectations, but the supplies from the Baltic would be cut off, and prices be greatly raised, expectations which were miserably disappointed, and must at any rate have been rendered abortive by the subsequent stringency of the Money Market.

Periodical crises of this kind occur at intervals in all departments of Trade, Commerce, and Enterprise, and some firms must occasionally be overwhelmed by the tide, while others by foresight and prudence, are able to stem the torrent and recover from the shock. The fact of Timber freights in Liverpool having opened last season at 51s per load, and gradually declining to 25s; deal freights from £7 10s. to £3, while Quebec pine dropped from 2s. 3d. to 1s. 3d. per foot, and spruce deals from £13 10s. to £8,—was quite sufficient to disarrange the calculations of any party, and it is not therefore to be wondered at that many firms engaged in the Timber and Shipping Trades, in the face of such exorbitant fluctuations, were unable to meet their engagements.

When we find that many cargoes of Timber from the St. Lawrence only paid freight and charges, the whole of the first cost being sacrificed, we cannot wonder at the importers from Quebec, who were tempted by the exorbitant profits of 1853, having suffered severely. Nevertheless the prospects of the Trade are not entirely of a gloomy character, and an early termination of the War, with an easier Money Market, would have a beneficial effect. As it is, some compensating benefits have resulted, although disasters have been incurred. Australia has taken large quantities of Timber, and the area of consumption, generally, has been extended; the low existing prices having stimulated purchases—so that, while the sales were very large last year, the stock in hand in the Home Market is not in excess of the ordinary and increasing wants of Commerce.

Mr. Bliss, in his Statistics of the British American Colonies, many years ago pointed out the importance of the Colonial Timber Trade to this country. For fifty years it has given employment and wealth to Colonists, Emigrants, Ship-owners, and Manufacturers, enabling them to exchange labour and commodities with each other. The Timber Trade of Canada and New Brunswick has been enormously extended lately, and its progress is attended with the double benefit of clearing the land for culture, and affording a merchantable article of export. From Quebec the shipments of Timber have increased from 191 million feet in 1844 to 254 million feet in 1854. Deals in the same time have increased about half a million a standard. The value of the Timber exported from Canada is now at least £2,000,000 sterling.

The inward and outward Trade of the five British North American Colonies amounts to £16,000,000 annually. The entries and clearances to and from foreign ports, exclusive of local trade, further amounted, in 1853 to nearly 4,000,000 tons, and the aggregate tonnage owned and registered in these Colonies now reaches 500,000 tons. They built and sold in England, in 1853, 150,000 tons of new shipping.

The exports, the products of the forest, from the Ports of St. Lawrence, were stated officially at £2,355,255 currency, in 1853, of which the Timber shipped from Quebec was over £1,000,000. The ships built at Quebec in 1853 amounted to 49,615 tons, and in 1854 to 45,000 tons. The Timber Trade of the Colony, although employing an immense amount of capital, as far as regards exports, is confined to a few large Mercantile houses at Quebec. Of 1,150 timber ships loaded at Quebec, 920 were despatched by eight firms.

The whole lumber region of the Ottawa, which is generally regarded as a forest wilderness, totally destitute of other inhabitants than the lumbermen, is scattered over by a squatter population, who locate themselves

wherever good lands appear, and find a ready market for their produce. Last year there were at least 15,000 men engaged in lumbering in the Ottawa District. Comparatively little is known of this vast extent of country, and its clearances and improvements. A history of the Ottawa Valley and River, its tributaries from the Island of Montreal to Temiscaming, the details of the lumber trade, the mode of life in the shanty, timber rides, river driving and rafting, &c., remains to be written, and would be a most interesting subject for study.

The internal consumption of timber, must necessarily be great in the North American Colonies; for, excepting in the chief Cities, almost every building there is of wood, and shelter and fuel to the new settler is almost entirely supplied by the forests.

Within the last year or two, large investments have been made, in some parts of the British American Provinces, by Americans, in the purpose of whole tracts of Timber lands, with a view of diverting to the markets in the United States what would otherwise have been sent to Great Britain. About two years ago the Canadian Government threw open to competition a tract of territory consisting of about 2,000 square miles, covered with red and white pine, lying on the banks of the St. Lawrence, midway between Montreal and Quebec. It was divided into portions of 50 square miles each, and the right to cut timber for a number of years was sold by auction in Quebec in the month of July each of the last two years. The American Lumber Merchants have already nearly monopolized the whole of this territory, and have numerous saw mills erected, and at least 5000 men employed. An extraordinary impetus has thus been given to American Shipping, for more ships entered Quebec from United States ports in the last three years than had done so for the whole ten years previous.

The American vessels which loaded at Quebec and the lower ports of the River St. Lawrence, last year amounted to about 70 sail, in all 60,000 tons. The total arrivals at Quebec from sea increased from 1,064 vessels and 432,000 tons in 1849, to 1,315 vessels and 589,323 tons in 1854.

We have confined these remarks chiefly to Canada, but the Timber Trade of N. Bruns. is also of an important character, for in 1853 there was a quarter million feet of boards and scantling, and 57,000 tons of birch and pine timber, were shipped; 118 vessels measuring 73,612 tons, were also built in the Province, and the combined value of these was not under £2,000,000 sterling. Although we still obtain a great quantity of Timber from our own forests at home, we require fully as much more from foreign sources; and, considering the large amount of capital engaged, the immense quantity of labour it gives employment to, and the extent of fluctuation in prices and miscalculation in supplies must disarrange for a time all calculations, and react unfavorably on a variety of important interests.

A NAUTICAL INCIDENT.—During our recent war with Mexico, it was found necessary to call in the Marines and sailors, serving in the Pacific squadron, to serve on shore, and a large number of sailors were accordingly placed under command of Gen. Kearney. During one of their shore fights, as Jack termed it, a body of "Grenzers" were discovered firing from a stone barn, and it being necessary to get to the rear in order to effect an entrance, the marine officer in command of the party, gave the following order:

By the right flank file left forward.
The blue-jackets "tried it on," but could not do it; in fact they got all in a heap, as a spectator describes it; when Lieut. St.—w—y of the navy seeing some of his lads in confusion came running up with—
"What in thunder's the matter?"
"I can't get my men to obey me," says Mr. Marine.

Give the order "says S.," and I'll see that they do."
Accordingly, "by the right flank," &c., was yelled out, but worse and worse was poor Jack's puzzle, when S. sang out—
"Hang it sir, that's no way to talk to men—Luff, you lubbers, and weather that board!" You had better believe it was done in no time.

A TANK SNAKE STORY.—Mr. John Balcom, of Pepperel, killed twenty-six black snakes in the south part of the town, on the 15th inst. They were taken from one den. "Their average length was four feet and a half—making one hundred and seventy feet of snakes! Beat this, if you can." —[Boston Atlas.]

Mr. Langton has moved an address to the Governor General, for compensation to individuals who have expended capital in the erection of Breweries and Distilleries, in the event of any Bill for restraining the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors becoming law. —Quebec Chron.

THE LUNATIC.

A workman at a Lunatic Asylum in England, left a chisel, more than three feet long, on a recent occasion, in one of the wards. A furious patient seized it, and threatened to kill with it any one who approached him. Every one then in the ward immediately retreated from it. At length the attendant opened the door, and balancing the key of the ward on his hand, walked slowly toward the dangerous madman, looking intently at it.

"His attention," said the attendant, "was immediately attracted. He came toward me and asked—

What are you doing with that?"
"I'm trying to balance this key on my hand, said I, and I can do it; but you cannot balance that chisel in that way on the back of your hand."

Yes I can, said he; and he immediately placed it on the back of his hand, balancing it carefully, and extending it toward me.

I took it off very quietly, and without making any comments upon it. He seemed a little chagrined at having lost his weapon, but he made no attempt to regain it, and in a short time all irritation passed away."

INTOLERANCE.—An outbreak occurred on the 3d of February last among the inhabitants of the town of Coro, in Venezuela, which resulted, it is said, in some loss of life and the destruction of all the property of the foreigners resident there. The "Echo Radical" published in Santa Maria, says that the disturbance originated with a band of soldiers, who, headed by the military and civil authorities of the place, rushed through the streets, crying "Death to the Jews and long live their money," and finally proceeded to attack the foreign residents of the place, about one hundred and sixty in number, in their own houses, fired upon them, killing several, plundered their stores, outraged their persons, and drove them from the city. The "Echo Radical" condemns the affair in the strongest language, and says that it is regarded generally by the Venezuelan public as a disgraceful proceeding.

"An old woman," writes a correspondent from Leeds, New York, "not many miles from here, went to the store to purchase some crockery. There! was none, however, that quite suited her. There was one suit that would be just the thing, only they were so light-colored they'd show dirt. The merchant replaced his counterpane, despairing of suiting so fustianware a customer."

"What do you do to make you look delicate?" said one young woman, with an eruption on her face, to another who looked like one of the departed. "Why," said she, "sometimes I eat sand, bonnets and chalk, and then for a change, I drink vinegar and chew green tea. When these fail, I lace tighter and wear the thinnest solid shoes I can buy."

At the printer's festival recently held at Manchester, N. H., the following sentiments were offered:

Woman.—The fairest work of nature; the edition being large, let no man be without a copy.

Babies.—Miniature edition, issued periodically and displayed in small caps.

The Principal Powers.—Printing Press, Pulpit and Penicillin.

PLEASANT FOR THE ENGLISH.—In a pamphlet lately published in Paris, M. Girardin maintains that for the peace of Europe it is necessary that the Russian fortifications at Sebastopol and the English fortifications at Gibraltar be destroyed at the same time.

Long-Eared Musicians.—In the musical world of Germany there is a sect, of which Herr Wagner is said to be the leader, that has originated a new species of music, called "the music of the Future." Second sight has ceased in Scotland, but in Germany there are evidently pretenders to a second hearing. —[Punch.]

A horrid murder has come to light in Wabash, Ia. The bodies of a fatherly family of seven persons were found under the floor of their house, each with a broken skull. A man and woman named Hubbard, already in jail charged with another murder, are believed to be guilty of this deed.

Plant Early.—Preppare to plant early, while the soil is moist and light. Do not believe the doctrine that it is better to sow carrots late, in order to save weeding, for it is better to pull weeds than to keep plowing, and then find the seeds refuse to come up. We never fail of a good crop of carrots when they are sowed the last of April or early in May, as the season may be, and then taking good care of afterwards.