

European Intelligence

BRITISH RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

From the London Times, Feb. 2. The omission of the United States from the Queen's speech provokes the criticism of Lord Derby...

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DISCOVERY OF SILVER IN AUSTRALIA. The Ballarat Times says that on the banks of the river Lae, native silver has been found, and that a specimen was shown to them.

RUSSIA.

A letter from St. Petersburg of the 19th ult., in the Debats, says:—

Since the departure of the allied squadrons, all the gunboats which were built last year at Hiernborg have been able to cross over to Abo, and nearly 200 of them are now there. After the loss of Bomarsund, it is now necessary to give more attention to Abo, which is thought to be in a state to replace that fortress.

GREAT BRITAIN.

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TOO GOOD CREDIT.

BY T. S. ARTHUR.

'Let me show you one of the cheapest pieces of cloth I have seen for six months,' said a smiling storekeeper, to a young married man, whose income from a clerkship in the neighborhood of seven hundred dollars.

'Don't trouble yourself, Mr. James,' replied the customer. 'The silks and buttons are all I want.' 'Oh, no trouble at all. It is a pleasure said the storekeeper, drawing from a shelf the piece of cloth he had mentioned, and throwing it upon the counter.

'It's cheap enough, certainly,' remarked Jacobs, half indifferently, as he bent down to inspect the cloth; 'but I've no money to spare just now.'

'I'll trust you half that in my store,' was answered. 'Thank you, said Jacobs, feeling a little flattered by a compliment like this. But I've no wants in the dry goods line to that extent. A skin of silk and a dozen of buttons for my wife are all that I require at present.'

'You must have a hand-ome vest to go with this, of course.' 'My vest is rather shabby,' replied Jacobs, as he glanced downward at a garment that had seen pretty fair service.

'Can you think of nothing else?' inquired James. 'I shall be happy to supply whatever you may want in my line.'

'You can get a piece,' replied Jacobs. 'We won't have to pay the bill for it now. James will send the bill at the end of six months, and it will be easy enough to pay it then.'

'Oh, yes, easy enough,' responded his wife contentedly. 'So a piece of muslin was procured on the credit account. But things did not end here. A credit account is too often like a breach in a canal; the stream is small at first, but soon increases to a ruinous current. Now, that was found to be a supply of muslin, and some more garments that were bought on credit, did not order something from the store, but something from the shopkeeper's pocket. As to the income of Mr. Jacobs, it was not large. He was, as had been intimated, a clerk in a wholesale store, and received a salary of seven hundred dollars a year. His family consisted of a wife and three children, and he found it necessary to be prudent in all his expenditures, in order to make both ends meet. Some what independent in his feelings, he had never asked credit of any one with whom he dealt, and no one offering it previous to the tempting inducement held out by James, he had regulated his out-goes by his actual income. By this he had managed to keep even with the world though not to gain any advantage on the side of fortune. Let us see how it was with him at the end of six months under the new system. Let us see if this good credit had been of any benefit to him.'

It was very convenient to have things comfortable or for a little display, without thought as to the inducement drawn from the pocket of the storekeeper. He was, as the part of Jacobs, was gratified by the flattering opinions of his honesty entertained by James the storekeeper. His credit was good and he was proud of the fact. But the day of reckoning was approaching, and at last it came. Notwithstanding the credit at the dry goods store, there was no advance money in the round clerk's purse at the end of six months than at the beginning. The cash that would have gone for clothing, when necessarily called for additions to the family wardrobe, had been spent for things the purchase of which would have been omitted, but for the fact that the dollars were in the purse instead of in the storekeeper's hands, and temptingly needless expenditure. As the end of the six month's credit period approached, the mind of Jacobs began to rest on the dry goods dealer's bill, and to be disturbed by a feeling of anxiety. As to the amount of this bill he was in some uncertainty, but thought that it would not be less than forty dollars. That was a large sum for him to owe, particularly as he had nothing ahead, and his current expenses were fully up to his income. It was now, for the first time in his life, that Jacobs felt the high-pressure of debt, and it seemed at times as if it would amount to suffocate him. One evening he came home, feeling more sober than usual. He had thought of little else all day besides his bill at the store. On meeting his wife he said that something was wrong.

The Church.

LONDON BRANCH OF THE CHURCH SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Church Society was held in the School-house of St. Paul's Church, on Tuesday evening last. The attendance on the occasion was thin, and the majority, perhaps, of the meeting was formed of ladies. There was a comparatively large attendance of clergymen, several of whom came from a distance.

Our reporter failed to get a place in which he could conveniently take notes until the report had been read, and the first speaker, Mr. Lawrance, had concluded his remarks, in moving its adoption; nor in consequence of the absence of a gentleman from town, who had the report in his possession, were we able to secure a copy of it or of the several resolutions proposed.

We hope, however, to publish the document in our next. In speaking to it, Mr. Lawrance alluded to its several points, and before concluding, expressed his regret at the apparent want of interest manifested by the small attendance of people present. We subjoin a condensed report of the proceedings.

Rev. Mr. Bettridge, in seconding the adoption of the report, alluded to the thin attendance at the meeting, and proceeded to say that each person ought to pledge himself, or herself, and in a religious sense, to God, to do his or her utmost to bring five or six persons to the next meeting. Thus a great attendance would be in all probability secured. He recollected a small meeting for some very worthy objects, when the plan he proposed was agreed to be adopted, and accordingly at the next meeting for the same purposes desired, the object was effected.

Life bears us on like the stream of a mighty river. Our boat at first glides down the narrow channel through the playful murmuring of the little brook and the winding of its grassy borders. The trees shed their blossoms over our young heads, the flowers on the brink seem to offer themselves to our young lips; we are happy in hope and we are young; eagerly at the beauties around us, but the stream hurries on, and still our hands are empty. Our course in youth and manhood is alone a wider and deeper flood, and objects more striking and magnificent. We are animated at the moving picture of enjoyment and industry passing us; we are excited at some short lived disappointment. The stream bears us on, and our joys and griefs are alike left behind us. We may be ship wrecked, we cannot be delayed whether rough or smooth, the river hastens to its home till the roar of the ocean is in our ears and the tossing of the waves is beneath our feet, and then land lessons from our eyes, and the sands are lifted up around us, and we take our leave of earth and its inhabitants, until of our further voyage there is no witness save the infinite and eternal.

BEAUTIFUL SENTIMENT.

Shortly before the departure of the lamented Heber in India, he preached a sermon which contained this beautiful illustration:

'Life bears us on like the stream of a mighty river. Our boat at first glides down the narrow channel through the playful murmuring of the little brook and the winding of its grassy borders. The trees shed their blossoms over our young heads, the flowers on the brink seem to offer themselves to our young lips; we are happy in hope and we are young; eagerly at the beauties around us, but the stream hurries on, and still our hands are empty. Our course in youth and manhood is alone a wider and deeper flood, and objects more striking and magnificent. We are animated at the moving picture of enjoyment and industry passing us; we are excited at some short lived disappointment. The stream bears us on, and our joys and griefs are alike left behind us. We may be ship wrecked, we cannot be delayed whether rough or smooth, the river hastens to its home till the roar of the ocean is in our ears and the tossing of the waves is beneath our feet, and then land lessons from our eyes, and the sands are lifted up around us, and we take our leave of earth and its inhabitants, until of our further voyage there is no witness save the infinite and eternal.'

'I can't be so; he said in a troubled voice. James had made a mistake. 'So I thought, when I first saw the bill, replied Mrs. Jacobs, recovering herself, yet speaking in a sad voice. 'But I am sorry to say that it is all right. I have been over it, and over it again, and cannot find an error. Oh, dear, how foolish I have been. It was so easy to get things wrong when no money had to be paid down. But I never thought of bill like this. Never.'

Jacobs sat for some moment with his eyes upon the floor. He was thinking, rapidly. 'So much for good credit,' said a loud laugh, taking a long breath. 'What a fool I have been; that cunning fellow, James has gone to the windward of me, completely. He knew that he got me on his track. He would secure three dollars to one of my money, beyond what he would get by the cash system. One hundred and twenty dollars in six months!—Ah, me! Ah, me! I appear now, for the extra dry goods we have procured! Not a whit! Our lodges have been a little better clothed, and our love of display has been gratified. He would get the bill for this day of reckoning?'

'Four Mr. Jacobs was silent. Sadly was he repeating of her part in the folly they had committed.

'Ten times more, but neither husband nor wife could do much more than to look on. This bill for one hundred and twenty dollars had taken away their appetites. It might that followed, brought no consolation, them a very refreshing slumber, and in the morning they awoke sober, humbled, and little inclined for conversation. But one thought was in the mind of Jacobs—the bill of James and some feeling in the mind of his wife, which expressed her part in the work of embezzlement.'

'What will you do?' said Mrs. Jacobs, in a voice that was wretched, looking into her husband's face with glittering eyes, as she laid her hand upon his arm, beseeching him to pause as he was about leaving the house.

'I am sure I don't know,' replied the young man, gloomily. 'I shall have to say to James I suppose, and ask him to wait. But I'm sure I'll rat or take a horse-whisking now. Good credit! He'll sing a different song now.'

For a moment or two longer the husband and wife stood looking at each other. Then, as each sighed heavily, they together turned away and left the room on their way to the post office. It was past the store of Mr. James, but now he avoided the street in which he lived and went a whole block out of his way to do so.

'How can I pay this bill?' murmured the unhappy Jacobs, pausing in his work for the twentieth time, as he sat at his desk, and giving his mind up to troubled thoughts.

Just at this moment the senior partner in the establishment came up and stood beside him.

'Well, my young friend,' said he, kindly, 'how are you getting along?'

'You can get a piece,' replied Jacobs. 'We won't have to pay the bill for it now. James will send the bill at the end of six months, and it will be easy enough to pay it then.'

'Oh, yes, easy enough,' responded his wife contentedly. 'So a piece of muslin was procured on the credit account. But things did not end here. A credit account is too often like a breach in a canal; the stream is small at first, but soon increases to a ruinous current. Now, that was found to be a supply of muslin, and some more garments that were bought on credit, did not order something from the store, but something from the shopkeeper's pocket. As to the income of Mr. Jacobs, it was not large. He was, as had been intimated, a clerk in a wholesale store, and received a salary of seven hundred dollars a year. His family consisted of a wife and three children, and he found it necessary to be prudent in all his expenditures, in order to make both ends meet. Some what independent in his feelings, he had never asked credit of any one with whom he dealt, and no one offering it previous to the tempting inducement held out by James, he had regulated his out-goes by his actual income. By this he had managed to keep even with the world though not to gain any advantage on the side of fortune. Let us see how it was with him at the end of six months under the new system. Let us see if this good credit had been of any benefit to him.'

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would not be found expressing such a novel opinion, with regard to that excellent man. He has probably yet to learn that the author of 'Bleak House' is acknowledged, by the great body of the English clergy, and the English people, as one who has, in a great measure effected, by means of book influence and legislative enactment, the most moral reforms of the day.—Ed.

After some observations from the Rev. Mr. Jessop, which were very well received, Mr. A. Lefroy, rose and proposed a resolution to the effect, that the officers of the society for the past year should be requested to hold office for the ensuing twelve months. In reference to such a resolution as the present, he could not be expected to stick to his text, inasmuch as his text did not afford room for anything to be said. But it occurred to him that the speakers who had gone before him, left some room for a few observations. Unusual changes were lately taking place in Turkey. In that country the people detested the worship of idols, and as the Greek and Roman Catholic Church resembled one another much in this particular, its teaching had been lately that way. He learned, however, by his recent readings that the Protestants who had settled in Turkey, were well received, and Christianity by means of their influence was spreading. (hear, hear.) In Bohemia, too, great religious changes were taking place. In conclusion, Mr. Lefroy stated that their great objection, in every land, ought to be the circulation of the bible, and that they might rest assured that, wherever that good book was circulated, popery would gradually decay.—(applause.)

The Rev. Mr. Palmer referred to considerable length to details of the society's report and rules. They could not prevent the Roman Catholics from coming here. To attempt to do so, would be contrary to the principles of civil and religious liberty; but they could protest against the government giving them blocks of land in a particular district, and which would afford them an undue advantage towards strengthening their position.

All the resolutions having been unanimously carried, a vote of thanks was moved to the reverend chairman, and that gentleman, before vacating his seat, said it should be their duty to say to the Irish Roman Catholics, when they landed on these shores:—'Up guards and at them!' He meant this not in its literal signification; they should meet them, clothed with a spiritual armor, and with their bibles in their hands.—(applause.)

The meeting then adjourned.—London Prototype.

UNIVERSALISM IN NORTH CAROLINA.

We lately noticed a decision by Judge Manly, of the Superior Court of this State, that one who does not believe in a future state of rewards and punishments could not be a competent witness in North Carolina. For this, as might have been expected, he has been harshly denounced by a recent Convention of that sect; and the Wilmington (N. C.) Herald has a card from the Judge, in reply to their action, in which he contends that his decision is in perfect accordance with the letter and spirit of the Constitution.—Banner of the Cross.

'There are three forms of affirmation provided by which persons can be qualified to give testimony in North Carolina, viz: the one provided for Quakers, Mennonites, and Dunkers, the oath in the Holy Gospel, and (for those who have scruples of conscience about swearing) an appeal to God with uplifted hand. The witness in question, says the Judge, when offered, declined taking an oath upon the Holy Gospel, in the usual form, on the ground of conscientious scruples; and the clerk was about to swear him in the alternative form prescribed by the act of Assembly, when it was objected that he did not believe in a future state of rewards and punishments. Upon examination, he stated he believed 'all persons would be saved from their sins; and exempted from pains and penalties for their iniquities in the next world;—that sin had its punishment in this life, but none in the life to come.' By a reference to the terms of the oath which it was proposed to administer to him, it will at once be seen that he could not take that form of oath. It is in the following words: 'I appeal to God as the witness of truth and the avenger of falsehood; as I shall answer before the secrets of all hearts shall be made known that the evidence that I will give, &c.'

'Here the sanction appealed to is accountability at the great day of judgment. And he did not believe in that sanction, and declined taking the oath on the Gospel; and as there are only two forms in which persons (except Quakers, &c.) can be sworn in North Carolina, it follows that he could not be sworn at all without forcing his conscience.

'The judge observes that he had always understood that the characteristic feature of Universalism was the finite duration of punishment in the next world; and that all would ultimately be brought into a state of blessedness. Under that impression, no objection was made to their competency, nor does he think that any just objection could be made; but he adds, if the creed of the Universalist embraces a denial of all accountability and punishment in the next world for sins committed in the body, and unrepented of and unatoned for at death, he is not a competent witness as the law now stands in North Carolina, according to his opinion.

'The statement of Judge Manly is, not without point, and that it relieves him entirely from any suspicion of bigotry or intolerance, must be apparent to all.'

THE LATE DR. CHOWLES.—The N. Y. Examiner says that the Rev. Dr. Chowles was conscious throughout the whole of the last day of his sickness that he could not recover. He conversed freely of that event, and selected the text for his funeral discourse. He referred to his ministry, and dwelt with special interest on the fact that the theme of his preaching had been 'Christ crucified.' And it was while in the act of repeating the beautiful hymn, 'Jesus, Lover of my soul,' that he passed away.

FATHER MATHEW.—It is stated that the once famous Father Mathew of Ireland is now a priest at Rewa, one of the Feejee Islands.

Rev. Mr. Flood offered some observations, which were well received. Rev. Mr. Evans, in the course of a few observations, urged upon the meeting the desirability of a free circulation of the scriptures, and good works which would tend to the moral edification of the people. He was sorry to say that, when he went into the houses of many families in Canada, he found books lying about on the tables, or a description that ought not to be in circulation—books written by such men as Bulwer and Dickens, and other minor authors, who pandered to the evil passions of our nature.

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