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THE BRITISH PRESS.

Extracts from an article in the "North British Review," on the "British Press; its Growth, Liberty, and Power."

A free Press is a blessing which we have enjoyed so long in this country, and in so ample measure, that we are apt to lose sight of the extent and value of the privilege in the very fulness of our liberty. *Opera pretium est*—a service both of gratitude and of high utility, which will be its own reward—to take a retrospect of the rise of this great national institution, by which we are so favourably distinguished from most countries.

We have only to look across the Channel, at this moment, to learn by striking contrast the mighty boon we enjoy in the freedom, for instance, of our Newspaper Press.

Louis Napoleon has done right," said the man of office to us on Saturday, the 18th December, 1851, as we were receiving our passport at the Prefecture of Police in Paris, and were trying to draw the gens d'armes and officials into conversation on the great event of the week. "Louis Napoleon has done right," said the man of office to us on Saturday, the 18th December, 1851, as we were receiving our passport at the Prefecture of Police in Paris, and were trying to draw the gens d'armes and officials into conversation on the great event of the week. "Louis Napoleon has done right," said the man of office to us on Saturday, the 18th December, 1851, as we were receiving our passport at the Prefecture of Police in Paris, and were trying to draw the gens d'armes and officials into conversation on the great event of the week.

Such were the vehicles of intelligence—the teachings of philosophy—and such the fathers who restrained them, before the invention of the art of printing. That invention speedily wrought a mighty revolution; bursting the old letters which entangled thought and knowledge.

We have now reached the era of Newspapers. A paper called the London Gazette had long existed. From the time of the Commonwealth, indeed, the Government had been obliged to publish an account of their proceedings in self-defence. But these publications contained nothing but what the Minister of the day wanted the people to know; they were mere bulletins of the Court. A nearer approach to the newspaper proper, were those pamphlets of news already spoken of. Those budgings of the national life, like the early tree-buds which appear prematurely in a mild winter, were often tipped by frosty blasts, and the chilled life forced back again to its winter slumber.

But we are now to see these budgings now themselves in a stronger and healthier form; we are to see them expand in flower, and develop into fruit, under the genial warmth of the sun of liberty. The abolition of the Licensing Act in 1695 forms the propitious era. Within a few weeks newspapers appeared in London. Scotland followed more slowly. At first these journals which discussed politics were careful not to speak against the Revolution. It was in the reign of Anne that the newspaper first enjoyed that liberty of unfettered discussion which has been its glory ever since and which it owed to the trial of Sacheverell and to the change of ministry which ensued.

How have we acquired this liberty? Before the invention of printing the diffusion of thought was very limited. The lettered few committed their own thoughts, or the thoughts of others, to writing, usually in a dead language. Small was the liberty of the MS. volume. Sufficiently restricted by its own fetters, namely by the slow and laborious operation of penmanship, it required no repressive laws to restrain its freedom either of expression or of circulation. And yet, in that exceeding dearth of books, there were no prohibitory laws against multiplying copies of any work, which indeed had been something like forbidding the sowing of grain in a time of famine, even when a dark and jealous despotism did what it could and dared to do to conceal the contents of one book from the great majority of men. The Church kept the truths of God's Word locked up in a dead language, and forbade to the laity free access to the sacred volume; the very utmost permitted to the common people, even in this country being a book of rude woodcuts illustrative of Scripture subjects, with a brief written description underneath, and this generally in Latin. For the diffusion of religious knowledge, the pulpit was the great power of those times. It had the great advantage of access to the multitude. But if the sphere of its organ of enlightenment—its circulation, so to speak—was almost unlimited, its efficiency was miserably restricted, reduced to nothing, by the ignorance of those who wielded it; and in the case of the few more enlightened, by

the persecuting intolerance of the Papacy. If you brought forth in public the unadulterated truth in all its purity, direct from God's word; if you taught the doctrine of justification by faith, or any other doctrine which struck at the errors and corruptions of the Court of Rome, you would have been burnt at the stake, like William Sawtre at Smithfield, and like Wishart and Hamilton at St. Andrews. The light literature of those days was circulated in our land by the wandering minstrel, who perambulated the country, and, wherever his services were required, recited songs and ballads sometimes of his own composition, which contained the traditional history of his own or other realms.

These primitive *lit-tea-tours* were of different grades to suit the different classes of society; just as there is the penny sheet for the poor man in our day, and the splendid volume for the table of the rich. They had their price, too, as the newspaper, magazine, and book have their price; exacting a certain amount and style of entertainment from the house which they favoured with their recitations. These pleasant story-tellers, very active in their calling, and with the whole kingdom free to them, probably enjoyed a greater amount of liberty than any other laborers for the diffusion of knowledge in those dark times; a liberty approaching the nearest to our modern freedom of the press. Yet even this species of literature was not left, in England at least, altogether unfettered, as we learn from a story of Edward II., restraining the movements of the formidable ballad-singers. It directs that to the houses of great people no more than three or four minstrels of honour should come at the most in one day; and to the houses of meaner men, that none unless he be desired; and such as shall come, to hold themselves contented with meat and drink, and with such courtesy as the master of the house shall show them of his own good-will, without their asking of anything. In other words, they were not to have a free market for their literature.

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river Amoor, from thence in a Russian man-of-war to Japan, and finally here. He states that the Russian embassy had not yet arrived at Peking, and that they would have great difficulty in getting there; they would be treated like prisoners, watched by a large number of police. He states there are 100,000 men all about Peking living in tents, and that the soldiers of Tien-Tsing, are Tartar troops from the Amoor, commanded by a Tartar general of great skill. He states that there is no foreigner with them. He states that the Americans are gone to Peking by a round about road, which the mandarins wished them to go by; but this gentleman states that he doubts much if they will ever be permitted to go into Peking.

Near-Admiral F. T. James, C. B., has been appointed second in command of the East India and China station. Captain E. S. Sotheby, C. B., is appointed naval aide de camp to the Queen, in the room of Captain Robb, deceased.

Admiral Hope, who commanded and was wounded in the expedition to the Teiho, is brother in law to Lord Kin-naird.

A complete company of the Volunteer Rifle Corps has been formed in Birmingham, and a second is in course of formation. It is reported at Plymouth that the Defence Commissioners will recommend floating batteries for the fortifications of the coast.

Accounts had been received in England of a dreadful massacre in Australia. It appears that a party of two hundred miners started from Port Curtis on a prospecting tour; and after having arrived at their place of destination, two hundred miles in the interior of the country, they were attacked by the natives in large numbers, with whom they had some desperate encounters. Eighty of the miners were killed, and several others fell victims to disease, the remainder, escaped back to Port Curtis through great difficulty and peril. The details of this unfortunate expedition are heart-rendering in the extreme.

The building of a perfect squadron of men-of-war is being carried on with unremitting activity at Pembroke dockyard. The most important vessel on the stocks is the Howe, a magnificent three decker of 121 guns; she is over 4000 tons burthen, and is to replace her namesake broken up some years ago at Sheerness.

ADVICE GRATIS.—It should be the aim of a newspaper to become acquainted with the improvements and discoveries of the day, and to call the attention of its readers to all such as will be interesting and useful to them. In all such cases its conductors should feel as strictly bound in honor to speak in a candid and truthful manner, as if conversing with an intimate friend we have heretofore recommended Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for children teething, and we now take occasion to repeat that we believe it of more importance to mothers and their children than any other discovery for the last hundred years. A very large percentage of children annually die during the process of teething, and a very much larger number of those who survive are greatly debilitated or diseased so that they grow up weak, both physically and mentally, and incapacitated both for study and labor. Now, we appeal with perfect confidence to thousands of mothers who will read this article, to corroborate our statement, when we say that no such fatal consequences as those we have alluded to ever occur from teething, when Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup is used in time.

We are pleased to know that thousands of ladies have acted upon our suggestion, and have thanked us for it. Still there are many thousands of mothers who read our paper, who from prejudice against the flood of worthless nostrums that deluge the country or from neglect, have not availed themselves of the benefits of this most invaluable remedy. To such, we wish to say—this syrup is the result of thirty years' experience of one of the best female physicians the world ever produced; and is just the remedy needed by every mother who has a child teething. It softens the gums, reduces the inflammation, allays all pain and spasmodic action, corrects acidity of the stomach, and regulates the bowels. Moreover, we assure every mother, it is perfectly safe—no possible harm can come of its use, according to the directions which accompany each bottle. We speak thus confidently, from the fact that very many of our most valued friends have made use of it for years, and we have witnessed the most happy results from its use in hundreds of cases. If you never before had faith in a female physician, our word for it, you will have, after using the Soothing Syrup, Try it. Twenty-five cents will purchase a bottle. It is, therefore, within reach of the poor as well as the rich.—N. Y. Ladies' Vis-

As a European visitor to Peking.—The Daily News has published the following extract from a private letter from Shanghai:—"I have a gentleman living with me who is only six weeks from Peking he having gone there in disguise as a Russian from St. Petersburg, but the second day after he entered Peking the Chinese authorities found out he was not he was ordered to go back immediately. His stay was only three weeks and he came back through Siberia to the

Give us an old nurse for diseases incident to the period of teething in children. One old nurse is better than a thousand physician. Here you have that old nurse for 25 cents, in the form of Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup.

SEVEN FOOLS.—1. The Envious Man, who sends away his mutton because the person next to him is eating venison.

2. The Jealous Man, who spreads his bed with stinging nettles, and gets wet in it.

3. The Proud Man, who gets wet through sooner than ride in the carriage of an inferior.

4. The Litigious Man, who goes to law in the hope of ruining his opponent, and gets ruined himself.

5. The Extravagant Man, who buys a herring and takes a cab to carry it home.

6. The Angry Man, who learns the ophoeleide, because he is annoyed with the playing of his neighbor's piano.

7. The Ostentatious Man, who illuminates the outside of his house most brilliantly, and sits inside in the dark.—Punch.

Two sons of Erin were moralizing over the result of the election. "Bad new, Pat," said Mike.

"Faith, you're right there," responded Pat.

"Arrah, what would Gineal Jackson say to this, if he was alive now, Pat?" ejaculated Mike.

"Bogorra," replied Pat, "he'd say he was glad he was dead."

Not Bad.—A correspondent of the Cincinnati Times, from Burlington, Vt., relates the following:

I am reminded—speaking of cheese—of a little anecdote the stage driver told me yesterday. We were passing an old farm house, with an untidy looking yard, and dilapidated out-buildings, when he said—

A Boston man got off a pretty cut speech to the owner of that place, the other day. "What was it?" I asked.

"Why, he called at the house to buy cheese, but when he came to look at the lot he concluded he didn't want 'em they were so full of skippers." So he made an excuse, and was going away when the farmer said to him—

"Look here, mister, how can I get my cheese down to Boston cheapest?"

The gentleman looked at the stuff a moment, saw the maggots squirming, and said:

"Well, I don't know; let 'em be a day or two, and you can drive 'em right down!"

It seems to me that the answer was somewhat "pertinent to the occasion."

The Indian passed Father Point last night the 10th.

MEDICAL ADVICE.

DR. LA'MERT (Registered), L. S. A., Honorary Member of the London Hospital Society, M. D., of the University of Erlangen, &c., continues to be consulted on all cases of Debility, Nervousness, and the Secret Infirmities of Youth and Maturity, DAILY, at his residence, 37, BEDFORD SQUARE, LONDON.

Patients residing in the Colonies, with whom a personal consultation is impossible, can be successfully treated by correspondence, on forwarding a detailed statement of their cases, accompanied by the customary fee, either in English or Colonial notes. For more complete instructions they are recommended in the first instance to procure from the Local Agent, Dr. LA'MERT's recently published work, entitled

SELF-PRESERVATION.

A Medical Treatise on NERVOUS DEBILITY and FUNCTIONAL WEAKNESS, more particularly in reference to the INFIRMITIES and DISORDERS of the GENERATIVE SYSTEM, with numerous Engravings and Descriptive Cases.

CONTENTS.

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Section VI.—Treatment of Nervous and Generative Debility, Impotence and Sterility. Dangerous Results of various Novel Remedies. The Author's Principles of Treatment; Medical, Dietetic, and General, derived from Twenty Years' successful Practice.

"Self-Preservation" may be had in a sealed envelope, price one shilling, of Messrs. H. Cocks & Co., St. John, N. B., or the Author will forward it, free of charge, on receipt of Colonial postage stamps to the amount of eighteen pence sterling.

Oct. 1859

Issues in Poor Condition.

Best copy available