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## Grant on Navigation.

The international navigation doctrine which President Grant desires to see established would produce quite a revolution. He says 'the judgement of European jurists and statesmen is that the inhabitants of a country through which a navigable river passes have a natural right to enjoy the navigation of that river to and into the sea, even through the territory of another power.' It would be unparadiseable presumption on our part to question the correctness of President Grant's assertion; and yet it is difficult to reconcile it with world-wide practice. President Grant would like to secure the free navigation of the Lawrence, and it would doubtless be inestimable boon to his country to have in order to be of any practical use.

It would have to go with it. Would it not be rather too much for the United States to claim this as a 'natural right' of the canals are artificial. The abstract theory, as laid down by the President, is not altogether void of plausibility. But its practical application to some of the great rivers of the old world as well as of the new might involve serious questions. What about the Columbia River, for instance? It takes its rise in and passes through British Territory. President Grant expresses the hope that 'Great Britain will see the justice of abandoning the narrow and inconsistent claims to which the Canadian provinces have urged her adherence.' Let President Grant practice before he preaches. The United States can enjoy the free navigation of the St Lawrence, the right to fish in Canadian waters and various other rights, just so soon as they are prepared to abandon the narrow, selfish, unneighborly policy which they have pursued ever since the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty. Under that treaty they enjoyed the rights they now seek. Why did they abrogate the treaty? Great Britain has been ever ready to renew reciprocal relations, under which the so-called rights would be restored. But the United States have persistently refused. Why? Because they want to get all and give nothing. The right to navigate the St Lawrence and the right to fish in Canadian waters will never be conceded to bluster. A just and equitable treaty, negotiated between the two countries, will also attain that object; and until Uncle Sam is prepared to give Canada a fair equivalent for these privileges, he must make up his mind to do without them.

## The Science of Murder.

Yes; 'tis even so. Murder has at length taken its rank among the sciences. It is no longer a subject of comment that science has entered the field as the ally of the soldier, and that all skill, patience, tireless energy, scholarly attainment and scientific knowledge can do is done to aid the effectiveness of the work of death. Hydraulics, hydrostatics, acoustics, electricity, chemistry and the

mechanic arts have been grafted into the army, and all the peaceful servants of man have been pressed into duty in the ranks of war. Now comes Mr Henry Bessemer with the proposition to kill men by steam. He proposes to construct a steam fire engine, from whose nozzle, instead of a stream of water for extinguishing fire, shall flow a stream of bullets for extinguishing life. It is confidently asserted, nay it is said Bessemer has conclusively proved, that an ordinary steam fire engine possesses the power of throwing bullets as well as water, by a slight change in its machinery, that it could throw 2,440 Enfield rifle bullets a minute every minute, and that an increase in the weight of the projectile would insure an increase in range, say a thousand two ounce bullets per minute, having an initial velocity of possibly 1900, certainly 1600, feet per second, with a pressure of 150 pounds of steam. This is claimed that an engine of this description, with running gear similar to that of the Edinburgh road-steamers, would travel over very rough ground, carry its own fuel and ammunition, and could be utilized, when not in action, in hauling stores, dragging heavy guns and doing any useful work for which horses are now employed. It is proposed to construct an engine of sufficient power to throw three streams of two-ounce bullets from nozzles in front, at the rate of a thousand a minute each, with two side nozzles each throwing two thousand one-ounce bullets per minute. The engines and workmen would be securely protected behind a screen. Should this arm prove to be all in the field of experiment it will be a much more destructive engine than either the needle-gun, the chassapote, or even the mitrailleuse.

Chicago thinks that she has met the great desideratum of the age in inventing a motive power for street cars, which shall be free from the objections to steam power, and at the same time satisfactorily dispense with the expensive animal motion. A Mr D Myers of that city has patented a pneumatic street car driven by compressed air, which is said to meet all the requirements fully and satisfactorily. The car resembles an ordinary street car, excepting the peculiar formation of the roof, which looks like a palace sleeping car. The heavy top renders the car about twice as heavy as others, and is of great importance to the pneumatic car, for it contains the propelling power. It consists of four hollow tanks made of copper and brazen together, of sufficient capacity to hold 150 cubic feet of compressed air, and of sufficient strength to resist a pressure of 250 pounds to the square inch. These tanks are filled or charged by means of an air 'force-pump' worked by a steam engine. Beneath the seats on either side, at one end of the car, are two small machines operating precisely the same as the ordinary steam engine, connected with the wheels by cranks. The engines are controlled by the conductor on the platform by means of a wheel placed in juxtaposition with the brake. One hand is used in operating the engines, without interfering seriously with the control of the brake. It requires but a few minutes to fill the tanks, which are calculated to hold sufficient air to propel the car with an ordinary load for three miles, at the rate of one mile in ten minutes or less. A public trial of the car was made a few days since, in which many street railroad men and practical engineers and mechanics participated, and all pronounced the working of the machine to be perfectly satisfactory. If it shall prove to be all its inventor claims for it, it will be one of the most important and valuable inventions of this century.

The United States Commissioner of Internal Revenue has issued his annual report. He recommends no change of tax on spirits and suggests that the tax on tobacco be made uniform; also advises that the employment of spies or informers should be discontinued. It appears from the report that the comparative statement of several general sources of internal revenue from March 1st, 1869, to August 21, 1870, (18 months) is \$291,492,827. The following, in round numbers, contribute the most for revenue purposes: Income, (including salaries) \$63,000,000; tobacco, \$46,000,000; spirits, \$32,000,000; adhesive stamps, \$25,000,000.

INCORRECT.—The rumor which has obtained credence with respect to the promotion of a prominent member of the Executive and his removal to another colony, is incorrect—having not the slightest foundation in fact.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.—It is ardently to be desired that the public school of this city, and, for the matter of that, the schools throughout the Colony, may be opened on a more healthy and efficient basis with the commencement of the New Year. It appears to us that the Board for this city should at once confer with the Executive with a view to having proper provision made in the Estimates for educational purposes. The Board might possibly have a hint of what may be expected, so that arrangements for re-opening may be made at once. We must tell both local Board and the Colonial Government plainly that the country will not tolerate an attempt to tide over another year without some improvement upon the existing condition of things.

THE STRAITS OF THE CAPITAL.—In several instances, in a sad plight, some of them being actually impassable. His Excellency has hardly failed to observe this. The Corporation have the legal power to make Victoria all that it ought to be, as the capital of British Columbia; but, unfortunately, they do not happen to have the means at their command. It occurs to us to remark that the Colonial Government would be in the strict line of duty if it placed upon the Estimates now in course of preparation a liberal grant towards aiding the municipal authorities in the formation and improvement of streets. The whole Colony is interested in having its capital present a respectable and attractive appearance.

THE APPROACHING SESSION.—It is understood that the Estimates will be submitted to the Legislative Council almost immediately after the session opens, and that they will be closely followed by the Confederation scheme. Upon the Estimates there is not likely to be very much discussion. The question of Confederation proper can hardly be presumed to evoke any lengthened controversy. It is probably upon the question of Responsible Government that the great battle of the session is to be fought; and it is upon this question that the people must be prepared to back up the liberal members. Responsible Government, coupled with a safe franchise, must be the battery of the liberal party.

THE CARBONATE OF SODA, so popular with the housewife, is a very valuable article. A French writer recommends the soaking of the clothes in a solution of two pounds of soap to twenty-five quarts of warm water, to which add one tablespoonful of essence of turpentine and three spoonfuls of ammonia. The articles should be soaked several hours, and the tub covered. The articles are then washed in the usual way. The ammonia is said to exert no corrosive action on the fibres and the odor of turpentine escapes in drying.

SOMEBODY, who has the handling of the public funds of the United States, is not honest. A philosopher of Boston has been reckoning up the stealings of the public men, and this is the conclusion he arrived at—About \$460,000,000 are annually collected by the Government from the people. About \$325,000,000 per annum pay current expenditures, interest on the debt, besides leaving \$235,000,000 for the liquidation of the debt; so that \$135,000,000 disappear, and are 'knocked down.'

CHRISTMAS.—Business at the Public Offices, the banks and the principal business houses will be entirely suspended to-day. Commemorative services were held at most of the churches yesterday and were well attended; but the festivities incidental to the holiday were postponed until to-day. We wish all our readers' tables bountifully spread with the best things of this life, hearty appetites and good digestions.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH was filled with worshippers yesterday morning. The full service was performed by the Rev Mr Jones, rector, who also delivered a short sermon and after the close administered the Holy Sacrament. The choral service was very fine—the grand old Te Deum Laudamus and an Anthem being rendered with powerful effect.

ST. ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL.—The decorations of the interior of the R. C. Cathedral are of great beauty of design. Evergreens and the emblems and symbols of the Church are everywhere displayed—the effect being heightened by the superb arrangements of the chancel. Yesterday morning a Christmas Mass was performed by Rt Rev Bishop Demers, assisted by the rev gentlemen attached to the diocese and a very efficient choir. The Cathedral was densely crowded by worshippers, who appeared much impressed with the solemnity of the service.

FOR NANAIMO.—The steamer Grappler will sail to-night for Nanaimo, whence she will tow the bark Ada across to Moody & Co's Mills, Burrard Inlet.

BOXING DAY AND CHRISTMAS will be observed together to-day—two holidays in one.

TOMATOES.—Dr Dio Lewis proclaims as a mischievous error the popular opinion that tomatoes are wholesome. How the notion first obtained credence 's a mystery. They may be eaten sparingly as a relish, if well cooked. In no case should they be eaten raw. Dr Lewis quotes many cases of salivation from a too free use of the tomatoes, often loosening and not unfrequently destroying the teeth. Heartburn is one of the results, which may be suppressed by avoiding all soups and liquids at meals.

THE MASONIC BALL.—The annual ball under the auspices of the Masonic Fraternity will be held at the Alhambra to-morrow evening. A limited number of tickets have been disposed of to Masons and their friends, and a very pleasant evening is anticipated. The entrance to the hall—remember!—will be had through the Colonial Hotel main-entrance on Government street.

GRAND MATINEE.—There will be a grand matinee exhibition at the Theatre this afternoon for the instruction and amusement of children. Cinderella and her Glass Slipper, Jack and the Bean Stalk, Whittington and his Cat, and numerous other illustrations will be shown.

ORDERLY.—Notwithstanding the seasonal flow of genial feeling incidental to Xmas, not 'one single solitary' arrest was made by the Police officers on Saturday night or yesterday. This evinces either a sudden attack of morality or a severe fit of the hard times. Which?

THE STEREOPHON.—The last exhibition of the unrivalled views by aid of the stereopicture will take place at the Theatre this (Boxing) evening. Several new scenes will be introduced for the amusement and instruction of the audience. Go and take your children with you.

THE COMING TIDE.—We understand that there has been quite a moving among the dry bones of California since the news of the accession of Ominaga reached that State, and that there is no longer the slightest doubt about a tide of emigration rolling in upon our shores next Spring. There will be room for all, a fortune for each, provided they are of the right stamp.

GATHARINE MILLS'—The steamer Gatharine Mills will sail on Saturday morning. It will be regarded in the light of a cry to the Executive for the establishment of an insane asylum in which those who are so unfortunate as to be deprived of their reason may receive proper treatment, and we respectfully invite the Government to take that view of it.

FOR NANAIMO.—The ship Ocean Pearl sailed from San Francisco for Nanaimo on the 24th. The Ocean Pearl will take a cargo of stone from Newcastle Quarry.

EGG NOGS.—Peter the Great, of 'the Adelphe,' egg-nogged our staff yesterday. Peter is great, but his egg nogg is greater. Long may he wave at the Adelphe!

THE ENTERPRISE for New Westminster and the Sir James Douglas for the East Coast will leave on Wednesday morning.

## Patagonia.

LIEUTENANT MUSTERS' TRIP.—This gentleman has made the most memorable and adventurous trip on record in these countries, having started from the Magellan Straits, and after a year and a half's peregrinations amongst settlers and Indians, made his way by land up to Patagonia, exploring a land where hitherto no civilized man has trod. The following are the hasty particulars of his trip.

On the 17th April he started from Punta Arenas, having applied to the Chilean Governor of that place, Comandante Viel, who lent horses to take Mr Musters as far as Santa Cruz, nine days journey from the Straits. Mr Musters was accompanied by a guide and party of men as far as Santa Cruz. When about two days out, at Coinde, they met the Indians and there got an Indian guide.

Santa Cruz is an Indian trading station, and belongs to Captain Perdo Bueno an Argentine. Only three houses on an island; the land about is very fertile, and good for corn and potatoes. Hard by the coast is a large salt lake capable of supplying 1,500,000 meugas of salt per annum. The island is some distance from the mouth of the river Santa Cruz. There are few sheep there, but no cattle. It is about the best harbor on the South American coast, the tide rises and falls about 30 feet. The valleys and land about the sea coast are adapted for sheep.

Mr Musters remained at Santa Cruz for three months where he was hospitably cared by Sr Pedro Bueno, and his delay there proved highly useful to him inasmuch as he was enabled to make the acquaintance of the Indians. He also fell in with a party going up north.

On the 9th August we left Santa

Cruz; the whole country was frozen up; the snow was beginning to thaw; all the rivers were covered except the Santa Cruz. Twenty leagues from Santa Cruz was an Indian encampment, where I was received like a prince. I then followed the course of the Rio Chico to within ten leagues of the Cordillera to catch horses. Now I had two days very bad journey—no beef or water. At last we came out on fine plains well watered. On November 1st we joined the Northern Indians, and sent messages to gather up all stragglers; we also sent a message to a tribe of Indians hunting near, to have a general council for the purpose of joining all the tribes from Santa Cruz to Rio Negro under one banner, and placing ourselves under the Argentine protection. The meeting was held; all agreed to place themselves under Argentine colors for the purpose of protecting the Southern pampas. We then separated for the purpose of hunting young huanaos, agreeing to join again in January and march to Manzanos to visit the cacique Sraewayacke for free trade purposes, and also to have a council about the protection of Patagones. I spent now three months hunting young huanaos—splendid sport—and led a jolly life.

I made an excursion to the Cordillera to kill wild cattle, and nearly got to the other side opposite Chiloe. Here we had an accident with the cattle, which stopped our programme. The cattle here are very wild and dangerous.

We now proceeded to the Indian rendezvous, and then we were all joined together marched due North crossing the river Chupat. Here I sent an Indian chasque to the Welsh Colony to find out how were my countrymen there, and received no answer until when within a league of Patagones.

The Manzanos are on the side of the Cordillera, and called so after the wild apple-trees which grow in large forests. Here is the most permanent abode of the Araucania Indians. We were received well at the Manzanos, although at first there was nearly a fight. Several questions of importance were discussed and satisfactory resolutions arrived at. After stopping a few days here we started in the direction of Patagones; the Rio Negro we forded near the Cordillera, almost at the same spot where Mr Cox's boat was lost. It is a deep and rapid river, and the scenery very picturesque. We then took the Southern road to Patagones, the camp being more open for hunting. Our party was so large we were obliged to take this step. We all fell sick when four days out, a sort of influenza which carried off nearly all the children of the tribe. Billy Batton it is said, is still alive. The sickness passed over in a few days; after several tedious marches we arrived at a large, well watered plain. From there I took the opportunity to accompany a chasque to Patagones, where I arrived after eleven days' journey, having been amongst the Indians nine months and living as the Indians in the enjoyment of perfect health. The journey covered over 1500 miles and through a country entirely in the possession of the Indians, who treated me with every kindness and consideration. Osimiro, the head cacique of the Chuelchea, came with us from Santa Cruz, and deserves great praise for his successful efforts in joining all the Indians for the protection of Patagones.

The total Indian population of the territory through which I passed may be estimated at say two thousand, including women and children. Don Pablo Peero Bueno received me with open arms at Patagones, and treated me most hospitably, and as the steamer broke down I came up in a Dutch vessel to Buenos Ayres.

The other day a gentleman was waiting for a train at the Victoria station, London, when he noticed an old lady, respectfully dressed in black, faint on the seat next to him. He called at once for assistance for her, but she quickly recovered, and asked his permission to lean on his shoulder until she could reach a bus. This act of courtesy was readily accorded, and the gentleman placed her in a vehicle. On returning to the platform the gentleman discovered that the dear old creature had taken with her to remember him two sovereigns, which were loose in his waistcoat pocket, a pen-knife, a card case and an invitation to dinner. Nothing in fact could be more complete than the fell swoop made by the lonely and unprotected female.

CHRISTMAS SALES.—The sale of goods for the holidays has been very heavy. The stores were crowded from morning till night. We should not like to hazard an estimate as to the amount expended in toys and 'notions,' but it was very large.

GOOD ADVICE.—Dr Dio Lewis says: Never lunch nor sup. If you are thin and desire fat, cultivate a cool temper and take long sleep, which are great fatmakers. The Abernethian cure for obesity is infallible—'Live on sixpence a day and earn it,' that is, keep at work and do not sleep overmuch.

FILL'S COFFEE, superior to any other and manufactured on the Coast, may be obtained of all respectable dealers throughout the Colony.