

GLEANINGS FROM LATE PAPERS.

MELBOURNE IN 1854.

The City of Melbourne, the capital of Victoria, comprehending a municipality and suburbs, is situated on the banks of the river Yarra Yarra, and on the shore of Hobson's Bay in the harbor of Port Phillip. The municipality extends over 9000 acres, upwards of 3000 of which are public parks, squares, and reserves. The suburbs comprise about 7000 acres. Like Rome, Constantinople, Moscow, and other celebrated cities, Melbourne boasts within its precincts no less than seven hills. These are the Eastern and Western hills, Batman's Hill, Emerald Hill, St. Kilda Hill, South Yarra Hill, and Richmond Hill. Part of the municipality is divided into wards, these are Lonsdale, La Trobe, Bourke, Gipps, and Fitzroy wards. The first four form the old city, the last is also called Collingwood, or the New Town. The municipality likewise comprises East and North Melbourne, Sandridge, Emerald Hill, and St. Kilda. The three last will probably be formed into separate municipalities. The suburbs are East Collingwood, Richmond, and Prahran. At a greater distance, but still in a measure suburban, may be likewise mentioned the seaport town of Williamstown, and the thriving and beautiful rural township of Brighton, situated on opposite shores of Hobson's Bay. A number of villages, such as Hawthorn, Flemington, Brunswick, Footscray, &c., &c., may almost be said already to form part of the rapidly spreading metropolis.

The population of these various portions on 26th April, 1854, was as follows:—Melbourne Municipality, 49,722; East Collingwood, 8,738; Richmond, 7,061; Prahran, 5,667; total, 71,188.

The exact position of Melbourne has been recently determined. Batman's Hill, on the western boundary, is in lat. S 37° 49' 28", lon. E. 144° 58' 35".

Melbourne is a corporate city, and boasts of a mayor, alderman, and councillors; a town clerk with a large staff of minor officials. It is the destiny of most corporate bodies to be heartily abused, and that of Melbourne is no exception to this rule, as it is anathematized to an extent that would crush anything incorporate. But it may fairly be questioned whether the corporation is open to the charge of inefficiency. It can, at any rate, point with pride and satisfaction to the streets, well metalled, curbed, and side paths in course of being paved, so as to bear a comparison with any modern city. Gas will soon be supplied, the foundation stone of the company's extensive works having recently been laid with Masonic honors by the worshipful the mayor, and money has been voted and preparations are being made for a complete sewerage of the city. Would it be beneath the notice of the corporation to take into consideration the desirability of erecting public fountains now that a large supply of water is promised! In a semi-tropical climate like Australia, nothing more grateful and refreshing than public fountains can be imagined; and the hint is thrown out that the subject may be considered. Public markets, too are much needed. It is superfluous enlarging upon the necessity existing in a populous and wealthy city for such buildings. No one who perambulates the streets can fail to see and feel the necessity.

EFFECTS OF THE BALTIC BLOCKADE OF 1854.—The *Rosenhalle* of Hamburg is instructed by letters from St. Petersburg, that from the opening to the close of the navigation in 1854, only seven foreign ships entered the port of St. Petersburg, and there were only twenty-seven departures. The coasting trade was not interrupted. In consequence of the advance in the rates of carriage, 10,000 outpoks of tallow remained unsold, and prices have fallen greatly. The advance on imports is most felt in the article of cotton. Instead of some millions of poods, the importation of ordinary years, in 1854 only 900,000 poods imported, and many mills are standing still for want of raw material.

A grave event has just occurred at Moscow. The large bell of the tower of Ivan Velik, in the Kremlin, fell to the ground at the moment when the ceremony of swearing allegiance and fidelity to the new Emperor was going on, and by its fall crushed nearly 100 persons. For a people so superstitious as the Russians, this disaster has appeared a most sinister omen, and the letter which gives an account of the event states, that the effect on the public mind has been that of great consternation.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.—The anniversary of this society was held in Exeter-hall, London, on Wednesday, the 2d, under the presidency of the Earl of Shaftesbury, who, in opening the proceedings, congratulated the

meeting on the fact, that, notwithstanding the pressure occasioned by the war, the income of the society exceeded that of any former year, except on the occasion of the Jubilee, and the total circulation of copies of the Scriptures was greater than during any previous year of the society's existence. The secretary read the annual report, from which it appeared that the amount received during the year for the general purposes of the Society was £64,878, being £8221 more than the preceding year. The amount received for Bibles and Testaments was £59,600, making the total receipts from the ordinary sources of income £124,478. There had been also received £3,694, further contributions to the Jubilee Fund, and £7,860 to the Chinese New Testament Fund; making a grand total of £136,032. The issues for the year have been as follows:—From the depot at home, 1,018,882 copies; from depots abroad, 431,994 copies; total, 1,450,876; being an increase of 83,348 over the circulation of last year. The total issues of the Society now amounted to 29,389,507 copies. The expenditure for the year was £149,040, being an increase on the payments of £29,782. The meeting was then addressed by the Bishop of Meath, Lord Ebrington, Mr. Wylie, the Bishop of Melbourne, the Hon. and Rev. Mr. Pelham, the Rev. Norman M'Leod, the Rev. Mr. Farrar, the Rev. Mr. Harrison, the Rev. Mr. Gill, from Raratonga, and Mr. T. Farmer, and resolutions were passed, approving and commending the objects and operations of the society. A vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to the chairman, with whose reply the proceedings terminated.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

All the steamers for Europe are taking out large fares of passengers, en route to the Paris Exhibition.

Dr. Brown, wounded at the Norwalk bridge catastrophe, who sued the New Haven Railroad Company for \$20,000, has been awarded \$16,000 damages.

Mr. Soule, late U. S. Minister to Spain, has visited New Orleans where he met with a warm reception. He made a speech during his stay which was loudly applauded by the multitude present.

The Canadian steamer *Huron*, loaded with 4000 barrels of flour, for Montreal, when leaving Oswego, night of 19th inst., ran on shore and sank to the main deck. The cargo will be mostly saved, in a damaged state. The steamers plying between Oswego and Toronto are crowded with freights and passengers.

A party of two hundred Mormons, mostly Welsh and English, arrived in Pittsburg on the 10th inst., on their way to the city of the Latter Day Saints, in the valley of the Great Salt Lake.

A SUMMER TRIP TO SEBASTOPOL.—One of the New York steamboat Commodores is thinking of getting up a grand excursion to the Black Sea, to start (say) about the first of July, and return home by the first of November. Price of Tickets, \$500 each.

The entire edition of the *Albany Evening Journal* of 21st inst., was printed upon paper made from Bass wood. The paper is said to be fine, strong and handsome, but seems a little too stiff. A very slight yellow tinge is attributed to impure water in its manufacture.

A gentleman lately returned from Canada and the United States, had the happiness of travelling from New York to Niagara in one day, a distance of 500 miles, and the misery of being detained on the journey between Windsor and Halifax, 45 miles, about the same space of time.

A special commission has been instituted at St. Petersburg by the Emperor Alexander to consider all matters relating to the eastern question. It is composed of the Grand Duke Constantine, M. Nesselrode, Count Orloff, M. Kisselef, Count Bludoff, and Prince Dolgorouki. The war party has a majority in the commission.

The *Journal of the Academy of Medicine* at Turin, contains some curious statistics on human life, among others the statement, that married men live longer than bachelors, and great men longer than those of small stature. The two months of the twelve, in which most marriages are celebrated, are June and December.

A Russian eagle, a trophy captured near Balacava, brought to England by her Majesty's ship *Vengeance*, has been sent by Captain Lord E. Russell to London, as a present to Her Majesty.

The number of petitions presented to Parliament in the present session against the sale of intoxicating liquors on Sunday is 213, signed by 50,248 persons; and 81 petitions have been presented for a repeal of the Sale of Beer Act of last year, signed by 154,716 persons.

The emigration to the United States is falling off this year. There is a decrease of 8000 for this year up to the 27th March over the same period last year, at the port of New York.

UNITED STATES.

FROM CALIFORNIA.—The steamer *Illinois* arrived at New York from Aspinwall on the 7th inst., with the passengers that left San Francisco on the 16th of March, making the trip from that port to New York in 22 days. She brings \$710,167.27 in gold. Californians are slowly recovering from their late financial prostration; or rather, they are getting used to it. Page, Bacon & Co. are preparing to resume, but they do not say when. The other bankers do not even talk flatteringly. A bill prohibiting noisy sports on Sunday has passed the Legislature, and awaits the Governor's sanction. Another suppressing houses of ill-fame, and still another prohibiting raffling, gift enterprises, and lotteries, had passed, while laws prohibiting public gambling and the sale of liquor are very likely to receive favourable action. The House, notwithstanding great opposition, had passed a bill to fund the \$2,000,000 floating debt of San Francisco. Neither of the bills facilitating the obtaining of divorces will probably be passed. The Chinese are still coming. About 250 arrived on the 13th ult., in the ship *Alfred* from Hong Kong. Heavy freshets were swelling all the rivers, and the progress of the rising floods was marked with close attention at Sacramento city, in view of the great destruction done at the same period of the year 1852 by a flood. The American River had swollen with unexampled rapidity to a great height, overflowing the low grounds along its margin, and flooding the Sacramento River at Sacramento so, that the current became too rapid for the steam ferry boat to cross. North Front street was invaded by the flood, Carey's mill was surrounded, and threatened with destruction, and much other damage done. About twenty-five men were at work strengthening the levees in the weaker places with gunny bags filled with earth.

FOREIGN EMIGRATION.—During the first three months of the present year 15,677 emigrants arrived at New York from foreign parts, against 23,718 for the same period of the previous year, and 26,544 for a like period of 1853. During the month of March this year, the number arriving was but 2009, of whom 912 were Germans, 445 from Ireland, 335 from England, 102 from France, and 90 from Switzerland. According to the *Journal of Commerce*, a shrewd observer, who has paid much attention to the subject, and has recently returned from a European tour, calculates that during the whole of the present year the German emigration will be about 175,000, and the British 75,000, making a total of 250,000.

FOREST FIRES.—Recent advices from Texas mention that an immense conflagration was raging at the latest dates, in the cedar forests in the vicinity of Austin, and that many thousands of dollars worth of property had been destroyed.

SEAMEN IN DEMAND.—Seamen are so much in demand for the United States navy, that the head of that department has, with the approbation of the President, offered, in addition to the present liberal pay, a bounty of twenty dollars to all competent seamen who shall, within the next sixty days, enlist for three years service.

THE GERMANS ON KNOW-NOTHINGISM AND THE MAINE LAW.—A meeting of German adopted citizens was held at Washington Hall on Sunday last, when Know-Nothingism was denounced as anti-American and a resurrection of the dry bones of the Tories of the Revolution. They denied the existence of any "Native American," and resolved, that the true American was he whose heart is bent on promoting the common welfare and perpetuating the blessings of civil and religious liberty for all, and for such only would they vote. The Prohibitory Liquor Law was denounced as equally pernicious with Know-Nothingism, and both were to be resisted, "peaceably if we can, forcibly if we must." To these resolutions, they affixed their names, and in the words of the Declaration of Independence, pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honors to support them.

BURNED AT A THEATRE.—A dancing girl named Denham was very badly burned last night, at the Bowery Theatre, by her dress catching fire from the foot-lights. She will probably recover.

STARVATION AT THE FIVE POINTS, N. Y.—The ladies of the Home Mission in New York, have issued a stirring appeal on behalf of the destitute poor at the Five Points in that city. They say:

"It is well known to those who are acquainted with that locality, that hundreds of families have sold or pawned the last article of furniture or apparel to procure food, and are now left on the bare floor, without bedding or fuel, and not knowing where they may get the next mouthful to eat. Persons in these circumstances (many of them sober, industrious people) are thronging the mission-house daily, and from stern necessity many are denied relief. This state of suffering is increased daily, and the starving must be fed.—It will require not less than one thousand loaves of bread daily to keep the destitute from suffering with hunger.

"HIGH PRICES.—The New York Courier and Enquirer after enquiries respecting the present supply and quantity to come forward of agricultural products, hazards the opinion that prices may be maintained two or three weeks. The Courier bases its opinion on the fact, that there are one million five hundred thousand barrels of flour, to come forward before harvest from the Western States and the Canadas, which are waiting the opening of the canals in that State. Fifty thousand bushels of potatoes are on their way to the New York market from Nova Scotia, under the Reciprocity law. The crop of potatoes in Nova Scotia, last year was very large. Free trade has, within a few weeks, opened this market to consumers, and the chances are, that a liberal supply will come forward, under the present high prices. We hope, for the benefit of consumers, that these predictions may be realized. The high prices of food affect many kinds of business injuriously, as it takes nearly all the money the labouring population can earn to find themselves in food, which they cannot do without.—*Halifax British North American.*"

FLOUR.—A correspondent of the N. Y. Tribune makes the following estimate of the number of barrels of flour in the country at the opening of Lake navigation, reckoning five bushels of wheat as equivalent to one barrel of flour; Lake Michigan 656,000; Lake Erie 300,000; Canada 500,000; total 1,456,000. This affords little prospect for famine. The Tribune adds:

Suppose 450,000 barrels to be absorbed by the destitute points in the interior, and we shall then receive at tide-water one million barrels—enough at the rate of winter consumption, 8000 barrels per day, to last one hundred and twenty-five days, or until the middle of next September. With a favorable prospect of a good crop all over the country, there is not a shadow of reason for any alarm about a short supply.

The American papers all agree in stating that the Wheat Crop never looked finer, and that a large yield is confidently anticipated. This cheering news has already had a serious effect on the flour market.

THE FISHERIES OF MARBLEHEAD.—The People's Advocate says—"We shall send to the Banks this year about double the number that was sent in 1847, (the year following the great gale); the business has again won the confidence of the public, as a promising source of wealth and prosperity to the town. Seven vessels will be added to the fleet this year, most of them being new. We have been informed that some vessels stocked from six to eight thousand dollars last year; and if this be true, together with the fact, that no lives were lost, it, very gratifying to those who desire the prosperity of our citizens and the town.

A TOTAL WRECK.—On the first of January, 1854, a gentleman doing business in the city of New-York, was worth with what he had invested in business, a hundred and ten thousand dollars. At the same time he was blessed with a lovely and intelligent wife, beautiful and promising children. He was surrounded by friends who esteemed and respected him. His business was lucrative, and promised to continue so. Indeed, his position as well as his prospects were seemingly, all that he could desire, to render his happiness perfect. How complete the wreck which the year closed upon! The first misfortune was the transfer of merchandise to the amount of eighteen thousand dollars to a California dealer, for which not one cent was ever received. The next were two successive robberies, by which twenty-five thousand dollars were lost. Soon after this, the unfortunate man made an investment in real estate to a large amount. The next and crowning misfortune was a trip with his family to Europe. They embarked, on their return, with thirty-eight thousand dollars in goods, on board the steamship *Arctic*, and all shared her luckless fate! In settling up his affairs, his real estate was sold under the hammer at a sacrifice of forty thousand dollars, making the aggregate loss of his property during the year, one hundred and eighteen thousand dollars, eight thousand dollars more than his assets. His friends were obliged to make good the deficiency! Was ever destruction more complete! Father, mother, children, and fortune, all gone—swept from the face of the earth—nothing left to show that they ever existed! We doubt whether, among the many wrecks which the past year has witnessed, there has been among them one more melancholy than this.

A GREAT EVENT.—On Thursday, the 8th ult., a locomotive for the first time crossed the Niagara Suspension Bridge, having on board John A. Roebing, the architect and builder, and a few other persons. The engine was decorated with the flags of the two nations, now for the first time united with bands of iron; and upon reaching the centre of the bridge, it stopped above the roaring chasm through which, at a depth of two hundred and fifty-eight feet, were rushing the foaming waters of the Niagara, and mingled its wild shriek with the roar of waters and the cheers of the spectators. The engine then continued its

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