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A. W. Smith.
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The Standard,

OR RAILWAY AND COMMERCIAL RECORD.

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LAW RESPECTING NEWSPAPERS
Subscribers who do not give express notice to the contrary, are considered as wishing to continue their subscriptions. If subscribers order the discontinuance of their papers, the publisher may continue to send them till all arrears are paid. If subscribers neglect or refuse to take their papers from the office to which they are directed, they are held responsible till they have settled their bill, and ordered their papers to be discontinued. If subscribers remove to other places without informing the publisher, and the paper is sent to the former direction, they are held responsible.

REPORTING THE DEBATES.

It's pleasant to look over the papers in the morning, after having spent the night in the house. But how great the discrepancy between what you there heard and what you there read and what you now read! Here, for example is the horrible speech of the honorable member of North Yorkshire. For a full hour we had to endure the infliction of his insufferable, dull, and dreary oratory, and that too unfortunately at a time when, like another wedding guest, we could not choose but hear, the house being so nearly empty that all the noise the members present could make did not suffice to drown the dreary voice still dwelling in our ears. Well, here is that in print; and, besides that you can read it easily in twenty minutes, it really is very tolerable—sensible, pertinent, and with some points too. Whence all the difference then? Ask the reporter. Then, again, there is the honorable member for Topleton, who as he usually expresses himself in somewhat long and complicated sentences, finds great difficulty at times in getting fairly to the end of them; and occasionally, after backing and floundering about for a while in the endeavor to escape from one of these verbal intricacies, gives the matter up as hopeless, and bolts to the beginning of a fresh sentence—even he becomes quite a respectable speaker in the hands of the newspaper. His speech here in the newspapers, reads so smoothly and evenly as you could desire; there is not a broken or unfinished sentence throughout, and all the painful embarrassment, hesitation, and tedious repetition in its delivery give place to a steady and sustained flow of language such as no one could object to.

Two thirds of the speeches delivered in Parliament are similarly metamorphosed; they are corrected, condensed, and become so improved in character that even the makers of them must sometimes fail to recognise their own productions. [Household Words.]

Acoustics.—The velocity of sound is such that in a room of a moderate size the echo is not prolonged perceptibly after the original sound. In larger buildings, however, the echo is heard after the principal sound has ceased; and if the building be so constructed as to return several echoes in very different tones, the effect will be unpleasant. Sir John Herschel says it is mainly for this reason that in cathedrals the services are usually read in a sustained uniform tone, rather than singing than speaking—the voice being thus blended in unison with its echo. In churches and other large buildings the echo is sometimes productive of dissonance, when it is heard after the harmony of a chord has changed. In the performance of slow pieces or in a small room, it is rather advantageous than otherwise, inasmuch as it not only tends to reinforce the note. Sir John says that "when ten notes succeed one another in a second, as is often the case in modern music, the longitudinal echo of a room fifty feet long will precisely throw the second reverberation of each note on the principal sound of the following one, wherever the auditor be placed; which, in most cases, will produce—in so far as it is heard—only discord."

As regards the transmission of sound, there can be no question that the shape of the building has much to do with it, irrespective of its size. Sir John Herschel gives the following examples of remarkable echoes, illustrative of influence produced on the propagation of sound by the forms of buildings:

In St. Alban's Abbey church, the tick of a watch may be heard from one end of the church to the other. In Gloucester Cathedral, a gallery of an octagonal form conveys a whisper seventy five feet across the nave. An echo in the north side of Shipley Church, in Sussex, repeats twenty one syllables. In the cathedral of Gigen, in Sicily, the slightest whisper is borne, with perfect distinctness, from the great western door to the cornice behind the high altar, a distance of 250 feet—a fact which, occasioned some scandal a few years ago, by rendering the secrets of confessional audible to persons who sought to gratify their curiosity unknown to the confessor or confessed. In the whispering gallery at St. Paul's as well known to most country visitors in London, the faintest sound is faithfully conveyed from one side to the other of the dome, but it is not heard at the intermediate points. In the Mafroni Palace at Venice is a square room about 25 feet high, with a concave roof; a person standing in the centre of the room, and stamping gently with his foot on the floor, hears the sound repeated a great number of times.

PLAIN SPEAKING.—It was a laughable illustration of the ridiculous way and folly of the London Cockney sayings which took place at a dignified Court in Edinburgh, Scotland. A man was on trial for the abduction of a young lady, and she was herself examined. "Was your mother aware," asked the Judge, of your absence at the time? The

witness did not seem exactly to understand the question. "I asked," repeated the Judge, "did your mother know you were out?" Upon this a loud laugh arose in the Court, which "his Lordship," at once suppressed, threatening at the same time you speak of, did your mother know you were out?" Then came another vigorous burst of laughter, until one of the counsel explained to "his Lordship," the cant phrase he had used, and silence was restored.

A PECULIARITY OF COUNTRY.

It is said that almost all fruits, grains and vegetables which grow in the clear, dry climate of New Mexico, are remarkable for their extraordinary sweetness. The common corn stalk abounds in saccharine matter to such an extent as to furnish the native population with molasses, which although hardly as good as the inferior molasses of Louisiana might doubtless be much improved by a more perfect mode of manufacture than that adopted by the Mexican population. This molasses is purchased there by those who do not supply their own wants, at a rate of \$1.50 per gallon. The best of New Mexico contains so unusual a quantity of saccharine matter, that the manufacture of beet sugar is said to offer strong inducements to gentlemen of enterprise and capital to embark in the business. The only sugar which is brought to Santa Fe now, is transported from the valley of the Mississippi across a desert of nearly 900 miles in extent—and the cost of transportation increases its price about ten cents a pound, so that the most inferior kinds range from 19 to 25 cents in value. Labor in New Mexico is worth from four to eight dollars per month. The manufacture of sugar from beets has never been attempted there, probably because no one in the country has the slightest knowledge of the art.

THE FLOUR DUTY.

The exposition we gave last week of the views of the Hon. Mr. Gray, as to a rearrangement of the duty on flour, and the total remission of duties on the poor man's articles, such as tea, brown sugar, molasses, and corn meal, have met with almost universal approval in this community; and we have reason to believe that very strong representations will be sent from this City, to urge their being carried out. We have very little doubt, from the opinions already expressed, that a bill confined strictly to this matter, and not interfering with the rest of the revenue law, would meet with hearty support in the Assembly; and be carried by a large majority. It is only an act of justice to the country that this should be done; for as the matter now stands, and gives no protection, in fact, we cannot see in what way it is suited either to free trader, protectionist, or consumer. The other necessities of life, tea, sugar, molasses, &c., enter largely into the daily consumption of every family in the Province, however humble, ought under every consideration to be free of duty. To continue the duty on these necessities of life for another year would be a great injustice to the labouring man, who would cheerfully bear a nominal duty on superfine flour, if he is able to use that expensive commodity. Let us have this beneficial change by all means. [N. Brunswick.]

KALAFAT.—This place of which so much has been said lately, is a town of 2000 houses. It is surrounded by walls has a quarantine, a town hall, a custom house, three churches, and a cavalry barracks. It is the chief place of a sub-administrative district. The roads raised by the Turks are of great extent and very strong. They are partially raised on two high hills on the plain of Kalafat, about a mile distant from each other, and have a numerous artillery. All the neighboring country is commanded by these hills in such a way that no approach to the Danube can be made. In 1828 these hills were occupied and fortified by the Russians. Between Widdin and Kalafat the Danube is little less than a mile wide, and the course of it is very rapid. The island in which the Turks are fortified is situated near the left bank; it is partially covered with wood, and defended by strong entrenchments in earth, bearing large artillery. Above Widdin the Turks have constructed a new citadel, according to all the rules of art.—London Times.

AN ENGLISHMAN'S PARADISE.—An English paper says that as a party of gentlemen were admiring the great painting of John Martin, entitled "The Plains of Heaven," one of them, enraptured by the entrancing picture of the abode of the blessed, asked his companions if it would not be delightful to live in so glorious a place. "Why yes," replied a companion, it would certainly be a more lovely place to live in than Newcastle, but I should want the Times! Roast beef, plum pudding, and the London Times, seem to form the apex of the most ardent imaginations of John Bull.

DISPOSITION AND STRENGTH OF THE TURKISH ARMY.—Omar Pacha has divided his army into three corps. The first corps, about 45,000 strong, forming the left wing of the army, is commanded by Ismail Pacha, whose headquarters are at Sivas, and where he is watched by the Russian General Bellegarde; his flanks rest on Widdin and Orsova. The second corps, 48,000 strong, forming the centre of the army, has its headquarters at Sivas; and stands under the command of Mustapha Pacha so favourably known for his talents as a leader. The third corps, the right wing of the army, with headquarters in Kars, at the wall of Trajan, is commanded by the able Halil Pacha, and is now 40,000 strong. Mustapha has caused Said and Soliman Pacha to make reconnaissance of the Russian position from the line of the Danube, between Rustuck and Nicopolis, so as to guard against any grand attack mediated against Rustuck for instance.

Halil Pacha, with a similar purpose has placed 24,000 men in garrison at Silistra, in order to keep the two Russian divisions at Kallarsush in check.

The movements of Ismail Pacha in Florin, are also quite of a nature to keep alive the attention of the Russian General Aurep. On the other hand, Mustapha Pacha is observing from Rakova the Russian division that is operating between the Aluta and the Shyl. Selim Pacha now commands in Kalafat under the eyes of Musfir Omer.

The Russian army amounts at the present moment, both in the Principality and in Bessarabia to a total force of 156,338 men, 520 cannon, of which 72 are of large calibre.

THE BATTLE IN THE DARK.—On the 17th of February a conflict took place by mistake between two columns of the Russian army. The Turkish positions are extended in an easterly direction as far as the village of Cimperence, which is about a mile distance from Kalafat. For several days a Turkish corps, about 4000 strong, under the command of Col. Miralay, had been posted in front of this village, and in the direction of the Russian outposts. On this corps the Russians determined to make an onslaught during the night of the 16th. For this purpose two Russian columns were brought up from 4000 to 5000 strong, one by the road which leads to Kalafat from about the village of Scriezbe, and the other from the left side of it from about R. P. isan—Prince Milosch's property—to advance unexpectedly upon the Turks, to surprise, enclose them and cut them to pieces. The Russian columns commenced their march at 3 o'clock in the morning, and by 4 o'clock reached a position from whence they were only half an hour's march from the Turkish pickets.

The second column seems either to have missed the direction by mistaking the road, or to have come up long after its proper time. Be this as it may, the latter column, in the obscurity of a foggy night, concluded the former one to be a body of hostile Turks, and instantly opened upon them a terrific cannonade, which the others, who laboured under the same mistake, reinforced with yet more effect. Pressing toward each other, it came long to a close fire of small arms. This ill-omened combat lasted for an hour and a half, until when day dawned the combatants saw with horror the error they had committed.

The loss in killed and wounded in the course of the night's encounter is reckoned by themselves at hundreds.

The Turks were naturally alarmed at every point, and at Widdin, which is but a league and a half distant.

Omar Pacha, on hearing the cannonade, took all the requisite measures for defence. The Turkish corps at Cimperence stood to arms in readiness for action at any moment, but did not advance, as it was at a loss to imagine or comprehend what the Russians were about, murdering one another in that style. It was not till between 7 and 8 o'clock, A. M. that the Columns withdrew to their respective positions, carrying their wounded along with them.

SLEEPING ON SUNDAY.—A minister of the "kirk," in good old Scotland, once discovered his wife fallen asleep in the midst of his homily on the Sabbath. So, pausing in the steady and possibly monotonous flow of his oratory, he broke forth with this personal address, sharp and clear, but very deliberate: "Susan!"

"Susan opened her eyes and ears in a twinkling, as did all other dreamers in the house, whether asleep or awake. 'Susan! I dinna marry ye for your wealth, sin' ye ha'e'd none! And I dinna marry ye for your beauty; and that the hail congregation can see. And if ye ha'e no grace, I have made a sair bargain!'

Susan's slumbers were effectually broken up for that day. [Rev. A. L. Stone.]

FASHIONABLE DROWZINESS.—A beautiful and accomplished lady, who has recently returned from a thirteen years' sojourn in Europe, in expressing her disgust the other eve-

ning at the fashionable habit among our Fifth Avenue of getting "a little tight" at parties, remarked that such violations of decency were not tolerated in the upper circles of European society. To appear tipsy in the presence of ladies is there regarded as an unpardonable offence; and she mentioned the case of a certain elegant and dashing young nobleman, who was banished from the drawing rooms of Brussels for having been intoxicated at an evening party.

But it is very different here in New York. Nobody thinks of "cutting" young Brio who got so disgustingly drunk the other evening at Madame March's fancy ball in the Fifth Avenue that the servants were obliged to put him to bed, where he lay "in his swinish sleep" until three o'clock the next day. The hostess, we understand, even plumes herself upon the fact, as an illustration of the free and easy manner in which her guests "make themselves at home" in her house. [New York Mirror.]

STOLEN THUNDER.

In 1709, Dennis brought on the stage a tragedy, "Appius and Virginius," for which it is said he had invented a new species of thunder, which was approved of by the actors, and ever afterwards followed in the theatres. His play, however, was not successful, and, happening some night after he had been present at a representation of *McBeth*, he heard his own thunder made use of, upon which he rose in a violent passion, and exclaimed with an oath: "how these rascals use me; they will not let my play run, and yet they steal my thunder!" * * * Dennis's vanity is well illustrated by another story. In his tragedy of "Liberty Asserted," 1704, one of his few plays that enjoyed success, he had, as he conceived, been very severe upon the French nation, exposing unmercifully their frailties and vices. Louis the Fourteenth, he thought, would never consent to a peace with England, unless he was delivered up a sacrifice to national resentment! Under this impression, he waited upon Marlborough, to entreat his might not be given up. The Duke said, he did not consider the poet's case to be desperate. He had taken no care to give himself accepted in the articles of peace, and yet he could not help thinking that he had done the French almost as much harm as ever Mr. Dennis had done! [Carruther's Works of Pope.]

European Intelligence.

The steamship Pacific at N. York puts in possession of Liverpool dates to the 8th inst.

The Pacific experienced heavy weather and a tremendous hurricane on the 12th and 13th. Saw hundred of icebergs on the banks and a vast pack of field ice, which detained her several hours. She brings 70 passengers. The steamship Africa arrived at Liverpool on the 7th inst.

The steamship America arrived out on the evening of the same day.

The clipper ship Lightning arrived out on the evening of the 4th, having performed the entire passage in about thirteen days.

No battles had occurred on the Danube, except two columns of Russians had attacked each other in the dark in mistake for Turks, and killed some hundreds before the mistake was discovered. However, continued small skirmishes were going on between the Turks and Russians.

The British chancellor of the exchequer proposes to double the income tax, and the French finance minister to borrow 250,000,000 francs to meet the expense of the war. The war preparations are continuing to be made in England. The first division of the fleet for the Baltic was to sail in a day or two.

The Earl of Londonderry is dead. More difficulties had arisen at Preston with the operatives.

Messrs. Dickinson & Co., of Glasgow, have failed. Their liabilities were £20,000. Russia has prohibited the export of grain from Odessa and the sea of Azof. The announcement strengthened the English grain market.

Torin, March.—France and England are said to have decided to prevent any movement in Italy.

PARIS, March 7.—The loan of two hundred and forty millions is unanimously authorized.

MADRID, March 2.—There are vague rumours of a misunderstanding between England and Spain and of the probable recall of M. Isturiz.

Wednesday Morning, March 8.—The third edition of the Morning Herald, announcing the arrival of a messenger, who was immediately despatched with the Queen, bringing the announcement that the Russians had carried Kalafat and massacred all within its walls. The story is not generally believed, though the proceeding intelligence had an enormous effect on the Russians had opened their approaches. The story has, however, thrown the public into immense excitement.

Admiral Corby's division of the British fleet was to sail about the 5th of March for the Baltic.

The Austrian government has published an official document, expressing its views on the differences between Russia and Turkey. It regrets that the propositions sent by the Russian papers were of such a nature as to leave hardly a hope for a favorable reply, but admits their demands were just and in accordance with the interests of Europe. Austria is prepared to meet any dangers which may accrue from a great war in an availing country, and from subversive tendencies which may manifest themselves on the frontier of the empire during the continuance of the war.

BERLIN, March 7.—The Prussian government rejects the suggestion of Russia to forbid the entrance of the fleets of the west-run powers into Prussian ports.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Feb. 25.—Persia remains neutral but is fortifying her Turkish frontier.

The Afghans are attacking the Kingdom of Kandahar. Persia has offered her mediation.

The Khan of Khiva has taken refuge in Bokhara, and summoned the neighbouring nations to take part in the struggle against Russia.

LEONOR, March 2.—The Chronicle's Vienna correspondent telegraphs that new proposals had been received from Nicholas; Russia offers to evacuate the principalities the moment her draft preliminaries of peace is signed; the terms of which, however, are not more favourable than last overtures which the conference rejected.

A British courier, bearing a summons for the evacuation of the principalities, is already on his way to St. Petersburg.

It was reported that the Prussian minister, Maroncelli, had offered his resignation.

Her Majesty Queen Victoria was to review the fleet on Saturday.

SEVEN DAYS LATER FROM ENGLAND.

The steamship Canada from Liverpool arrived at Halifax on Wednesday last. The City of Manchester arrived at Liverpool on the 15th of March. On the 8th, she met many icebergs and field ice, and had to run southward 16 hours to find the passage. The steamship Niagara had returned from Malta. All the steamers convey troops had arrived there.

The Niagara will return with more troops. Also the ships Timandra, Paramatta, Buchanga, Star of the South, Margate, Wilhelmina, and Chander, which are all fitting out at Liverpool with troops.

The Conard steamer Taurus sails to-day with a Regiment for the East.

The steamer Baltic had not arrived, and much anxiety was felt for her safety.

MARKETS.—Cotton at Liverpool was rather dull, although prices were not lower. Indian Corn difficult of sale, and offered at 6d to 1s. reduction. Flour had receded from 8d. to 2s. per barrel.

THE WAR.

The Czar's reply to the last pre-emptory ultimatum of Great Britain and France was due on the 15th March, but no reply was returned. Numerous reports, however, were current of concessions on the part of Russia. These produced no effect on the Stock market and were regarded as intended solely to create conflicting discussion, and retard a complete combination of the European powers.

As regards hostilities, affairs remain nearly as they were.

On the Danube no movement of importance had occurred.

Nothing new from Asia.

Kalafat continues to be strengthened. Unimportant skirmishes continue along the banks of the Danube.

The Russians seem to have suspended their intention to attack Kalafat, and have menaced the Turks at Galatz and Braila. Omar threatens various points, thus keeping them on the alert. A part of the Russian force has withdrawn from before Kalafat, and has moved towards Arzoo.

The Greek instruction had not quite decided, but it was not considered formidable. The allied fleets were still at Brice. The Russian fleet remained at Sebastopol.

It is reported that the first operations of the Anglo-French army will be to attack Crimea. Troops will land at Balaklava to attack Sebastopol by land, while fleets will attack it by sea.

The Russians were fortifying the interior cities of Wallachia and Moldavia. Ten thousand workmen were strengthening the fortifications of Sebastopol, and also fortifying Odessa, and the entrance of the Dnieper.

Admiral Corby, in the Neptune, left of battle ship, had sailed to join Napier's fleet, and other ships were being despatched as soon as ready. Twenty seven sailing ships and six steamers were fitting out in England and Wales.

Much excitement prevailed at the Baltic coast. At St. Petersburg there is a great excitement.