

The Weekly Monitor.

BRIDGETOWN, FEBRUARY 26, 1879.

GLIMPSES ABOARD.

During the present century there was an era of peace which lasted forty years. When the last gun at Waterloo was fired on the 18th of June, 1815, the peaceful period commenced. The day of war was then chained, and great results in the material interests of the world followed. Civilization deepened and expanded in every quarter of our globe. Intellectual efforts were put forth in widening the circle of human knowledge. Art, science, literature, commerce and every department of activity and enterprise flourished. Social and political reforms indicated the tendency and efforts of the peaceful period referred to. Nothing occurred to disturb the general tranquility, to break the ties of amity between the nations, or to nullify existing alliances and treaties till Russia, like a hungry bear, rushed into the Crimean war. Since then there have been wars and rumors of wars. Battleships have met in conflict—hundreds of thousands have been slaughtered—national debts have been marvellously increased—the material interests of the world have been impeded—and evils of prodigious magnitude have fallen upon some of the fairest portions of our world. Perhaps one of the principal causes of the universally prevailing commercial and financial depression is traceable to national hostilities.

In taking a bird's eye glance at the world to-day, we must confess that the outlook is gloomy and disheartening. Even Great Britain, with all her vast accumulations of wealth, her manufacturing power, her world-girdling commerce—her colonial possessions, and the superiority of her governmental institutions, has to contend with formidable difficulties both at home and abroad. Hundreds of thousands of operatives, sailors, and the toiling classes in every department of industry are out of employment, and suffering the misery of destitution. Gaunt famine, in the midst of plenty, is practically felt. The strikes, now in full blast in most of the manufacturing and commercial centres, are alarming tokens of hard and calamitous times. Capital and labor—opulence and poverty—are in ruinous conflict with each other. Such a disturbance of the social elements and of class interests has not taken place in Great Britain for many years. This abnormal condition of things, if it may be confidently hoped, will soon be overcome, and returning prosperity ensue.

On the opposite side of the English Channel lies la belle France in the enjoyment of a season of internal tranquility and material prosperity. Only a few years ago she came out of her war with Germany, crippled, chop-fallen, and staggering under a crushing weight of debt. To-day her condition is superior to that of any other nation in central Europe.

Turning to Germany, that only a few years ago humiliated, and apparently crushed France under the iron hoof of war, we behold her, just now, contenting with popular discontent, battling with sedition, struggling with financial depression and languishing industries, and groaning under the pressure of an enormous national debt. Even Bismarck, with all his far-sightedness and immense administrative ability, is at his wit's end to know what to do.

Austria, too, is laboring under a complication of serious difficulties, which are increased by her occupancy of the Danubian Provinces. The accession of territory, she will find, will rather be a source of weakness than of strength.

Russia, the arch disturber of European peace, has gained no substantial advantage by the invasion of Turkey. She has been foiled in her ambitious designs, and has been saddled with a ponderous increase of debt and general financial embarrassment.

Turkey has come out of the war shattered and distracted, and may be regarded as a virtually wrecked nationality.

All the powers of continental Europe, great and small, with the exception of France, are more or less affected by the late war, as well as by the general business depression, which, like a cloud, is hanging portentously over the material interests of the world. To add to their other fears and difficulties, the apprehension of the approach of the spreading plague, is a terrifying source of anxiety.

In eastern Asia, within a comparatively brief period a severe famine has prevailed, and millions have died of starvation.

Looking at our immediate neighbors on this western continent, there are gloomy aspects. Even in the American Union, over which "the star-spangled banner" floats, universal business depression prevails; and notwithstanding the vast internal resources, and the energies of the people, commercial and manufacturing interests are far from prosperous.

Calamities are experienced by the peoples of South America, especially in the empire of Brazil. A terrible epidemic disease, similar in appearance and fatality to the Asiatic plague, is destroying multitudes every day.

The conditions of things abroad, which we have sketched out, should tend to make the people of Nova Scotia, and

indeed of our whole Dominion, contented with our comparatively better condition. Our hearts should be attuned to the singing of a grateful doxology.

GREAT STORM.

Thursday evening, the 20th inst., ushered in one of the most terrific storms of snow and wind ever known in these parts. During the day the weather was fine, and outdoor winter amusement was indulged in by old and young; but Friday morning told a vastly different tale. All night the wind blew a hurricane from the north-east, driving the snow before it, and piling it up in immense drifts, some of which were from ten to twelve feet high. When the morning broke the scene was one long to be remembered. With unceasing roar the gale swept on, hurling the snow with blinding force into the face of those hardy enough to venture out. All day long on Friday, and far into the night, the howling of the blast continued, denuding the fields and roads in some places of every particle of snow, and heaping it up in others, until impassable barriers were formed, which took hours to clear away. The railway cuttings on the Windsor and Annapolis Railway were filled level full. On Monday the snow plough succeeded after a hard fight in clearing the track, reaching Annapolis during the night, thus enabling the regular Tuesday morning train to run through to Windsor. No mails have been received here from the eastward since Thursday night. Elsewhere we give the effects of the storm in other places, from the accounts received it was evidently a circular one of about three hundred miles diameter.

On Thursday last a trotting match for \$25 a side, mile heats, best two out of three, came off on the river at Lawrencetown, between a horse owned by Mr. Jos. Buckley, of the Bridgetown Hotel, and one owned by Mr. S. Bowly, of Lawrencetown. Mr. Bowly won the money, beating in first and last heats. Considerable interest was excited by this race, and notwithstanding the bitter cold of the day, a large crowd was present. The same parties intend having another race on the river at Bridgetown, on Saturday, March 1st. We also hear rumors of a running match between two horses belonging to parties in this vicinity, to come off the same day. The ice is in first-rate condition.

ANNAPOLIS.—On Tuesday morning a fire occurred in an unoccupied house situated opposite to the store of Messrs. Pickles & Mills, which resulted in the total destruction, and badly damaging the adjoining one occupied by Captain Kenneth Atwood. Fortunately the wind was blowing from the north-west, sending the flames and sparks over to the marsh behind the town, or the probability is that a more serious conflagration would have taken place. Owing to the fire engine not being in proper working order when brought to the scene, no water was thrown upon the fire by the fire company. The house destroyed was partly burned a short time ago.

OBITUARY.—The unsparing hand of death has again been laid upon a stricken down, after a month's severe illness, one of our most useful townsmen, Abram Young, Esq. By his demise our County has lost one of her foremost sons—one who could ill be spared. Engaged as he was in addition to the marchant marine of his native county—noble specimens of his handicraft—and employing from time to time large numbers of men in his shipyard, his loss will be severely felt. We sympathise with the family in their bereavement.

The Barque *Cyprus* has again reached New York from Glasgow, after a rapid passage of twenty-three days. This vessel has crossed and recrossed the Atlantic four times since the 29th of August last, making the run every voyage in less time than the one spoken of above.

The upper portion of the north side-walk on Queen Street is badly obstructed by snow. Would it not be well for the householders and shopkeepers living in the parts obstructed to shovel it out, thus making locomotion through one of our most frequented streets more pleasant for foot travel?

DONATIONS.—The friends of Mr. Edward Sanders intend giving him a Donation visit on Monday, the 3rd of March. The donation to the Rev. Mr. Vidotte will take place next evening, the 4th inst.

BLOWN DOWN.—The horse-stable of Mr. David Wade, Granville, was blown down during the storm of Thursday night, and fell upon two valuable horses belonging to Mr. Wade. Strange to say they were got out unharmed.

We have received but slight response from the circulars sent to those indebted to us for the Monitor for over one year or more. Friends we need the funds. Please send them along.

A writer in the Philadelphia Press estimates the property of William H. Vanderbilt as yielding him an income of one thousand dollars per hour, or \$24,000 per day, or the interest on a capital of \$160,000,000. And yet, he is not free from care or worry, poor man!

ENGLAND AND THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

The distress among the working classes of Great Britain consequent upon the general stagnation of trade, appears to be increasing every day, and if this increase continues at the present rate, the suffering this winter will be appalling. Relief committees are being organized, and a heavy tax will probably be made upon the benevolence of the wealthy. The attention of Parliament has been called to the subject, and the matter will probably very soon be discussed with the best intelligence that body commands. It will be surprising if in the course of that discussion attention is not directed to the one great national vice which lies at the root of the whole trouble.

It is estimated that \$700,000,000 are spent annually for intoxicating drinks by the people of England. Estimating the population at 35,000,000 that would give \$20 to every man, woman and child in the country. Families in England are as a rule larger than in America, and if it is safe to estimate five children, who with the father and mother would make seven persons to the average household. The family would thus represent \$140 thus any of them would amount annually more than wasted for drink.

The working classes of Great Britain, by the force of tradition and custom, are not only very ignorant, but they are also very ignorant of diet, and afford them their money's worth of nutrition. They have never read, it would seem, the little tract on "Franklin's" wagers with the London printers, Franklin, on his first visit to England, was employed for a time in a large printing-house in London, and there he observed that the London printers, who were regularly with their meals, and chafed him in an annoying manner because he could not construct to do likewise. In the course of a discussion they said that beer gave them the strength necessary to go through their day's work, and that they could not do without it. Franklin challenged them to a contest, and made a wager that he would get through more work than they in any given time. He carried the heavy forms up and down stairs, and pulled the old-fashioned hand-press hour after hour without a sign of fatigue, and at the end of the allotted time had distanced them all, though he drank no beer. That was a hundred years ago. Yet in the latter part of the nineteenth century the London printers has not yet been dissipated that the British people cannot live or work without beer.

AROUND THE WORLD IN AN OPEN BOAT.

Lewis G. Goldsmith a Danish sailor, about 40 years of age, who served in the Union Army and navy in the rebellion, proposes to sail across the Atlantic from Boston to Copenhagen next summer accompanied by his wife in a boat 184 feet long. Arriving at Denmark, Goldsmith's next move will be a trip north, visiting the principal cities in Norway and Sweden; thence he proposes to cross the Arctic Ocean to Scotland. His stay at Scottish ports will be governed largely by the time consumed in reaching Leith by the roundabout route. Arriving at Leith, he will proceed to the Mediterranean by the Suez canal, he will stop at Aden in Arabia, at Zeylan, or Bombay in British India. If successful in safely crossing the tempestuous Indian ocean, he will sail for Penang, a British port in the straits of Malacca, stopping at Galega on the way. From Penang the adventurous voyager proposes to sail northward, and after touching at Singapore and the Malay Peninsula, to visit the Celestials at Hong Kong, Shanghai, Yokohama and Yeddo with his Yankee wife, and then return to Boston in the fall of 1881. From the Golden Gate he will come east to Boston by rail with his boat and crew. The boat is now being built by W. B. Smith of City Point. It is eighteen and one-half feet long, six feet beam, with three feet depth of hold, built of iron and steel. It is so constructed as to be a boat within a boat, having nine air-tight compartments or chambers on each side which will float the craft and crew in the sea if the hull is filled with water, is pink-lined, that is sharp at both ends; has a shifting bowsprit, and by a unique arrangement can be raised or lowered "at will" itself. Everything about the craft is compact, strong and convenient for the hazardous voyage contemplated.

THE STORM.

The gale, which is still increasing as we go to press, commenced Monday and has been blowing heavily more or less until last night, and to-day it became furious, with blinding drifts of snow. About midnight the schooner *Blake* dragged completely through the Public Pier and drifting about a fourth of a mile, stranded, and has become nearly a total wreck. The foremast went by the board while at anchor. The mainmast, with bowsprit, stanchions and top gear were carried overboard as she dragged through the pier; the crew barely saving their lives. The hull with lumber is now about half tide and will doubtless break up before high water.

The schooner *Lairy* which has been frozen up in Bear River some weeks is now in the offing at anchor where she has ridden out the gale till the present moment of our going to press, but it is feared she will break ground as the gale is still increasing. All the mails were compelled to return this morning after futile attempts to pass along the road, owing to the drifts and blinding sheets of snow. Mails from all directions arrived here all right last night—*Digby Courier*.

On Wednesday last, about four miles from Annapolis, one of the horses attached to the mail coach of Mr. E. Gates, dropped dead on the road. Another horse was soon obtained, however, and they arrived here a little behind time.—*Digby Courier*.

In New Hampshire last year 110 persons of all ages died, 38 men and 72 women.

A hotel proprietor in Boston recently paid one dollar and fifty cents per pound for a Penobscot saloon.

AMERICAN GOODS AT SHEFFIELD.

Some time ago we had occasion to call attention to a report by Dr. Webster, United States Consul at Sheffield, touching upon the subject of the sale of American hardware in that town, which he made. The same gentleman has now forwarded a further report to the State Department at Washington, the subject matter of which we are now sending to our readers. It is at first a good deal of prejudice against articles of American manufacture, it being alleged that, although they might do well for a time, they could not last. These suspicions, Dr. Webster says, have been proved to be wide of the truth by the testimony of large importers, who have none doing an increasing business. As a means of furthering the connection, the consul proposes that a committee be formed, consisting of the manufacturers of the town, as well as to hardware traders throughout the country. 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