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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1878.

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THE WEEK.

THERE has as yet been no abatement of the Southern pestilence. In fact, it has upon the whole rather increased than otherwise. At New Orleans especially, considerable increase has taken place. In the third and sixth districts every member of some families is prostrated, and even those in the most affluent circumstances are unable to secure competent nurses. Between the Gold Mine plantation and Armor Place, a distance of about five miles, there were in a few hours, 15 new cases and 5 deaths. Around Mobile, Thibodeaux, Jackson, Bay St. Louis, and in the country around Canton, the fever is spreading rapidly. Nurses are being sent in all directions as fast as they can be procured. A *fete* for the benefit of the afflicted of the South, takes place at the Trocadero Palace, Paris, on the 15th inst. At Chattanooga, one death, 17 new cases, 11 colored. There has been a thunderstorm, and the change to cooler weather inspires fresh hopes of an abatement. At Baton Rouge there are 111 new cases and 11 deaths, with one physician to hear from. There is no prospect of an abatement; the weather continues hot and oppressive. The cry for assistance is coming from every quarter. At Memphis, Tenn., the weather is turning warmer again. There is no decrease in the number of new cases reported; 21 deaths were reported on the 4th, including Sister Frances, in charge of the Home Orphan Asylum. The Howard Association warns all refugees that owing to the fact that the former have all they can do to nurse those who are here, if they come back to the city before the epidemic is officially declared over they will do so at their own risk, and with the almost certainty of having to provide for themselves in case of sickness. At Gretna the total number of destitute sick is 280; to attend to these there are but three physicians, who have 98 patients each to visit, besides their regular practice. The disease is spreading with frightful rapidity, attacking both white

and black alike. A Church clergyman, a Roman Catholic priest, one Brother, and two Sisters of Mercy are down.

The Marquis of Lorne, H.R.H. the Princess Louise, and the vice-regal suite were to have left England by the ironclad Northampton. It appears, however, that the arrangement was reluctantly abandoned on account of the lateness of the season; and it was afterwards decided that they were to sail by the Sarmatian on the 14th of November.

In reference to the recent Glasgow failure the *Times* says: Smith, Fleming & Co., East India merchants, are liable for cash advances amounting to £85,000, and acceptances for £900,000 altogether. The bank lent £5,828,000 to four firms, the reputation of one or two of which had been anything but good. The opinion expressed by bank managers is that a more reckless course of gambling with other people's money was never pursued. The bank, it is estimated, will show a deficit of £3,000,000 which to the knowledge of the managers had been accumulating for years, yet the dividends had been increased. The total liabilities of Smith, Fleming & Co. are estimated at over ten millions sterling.

The question of the administration of Egypt is likely to create some trouble; a fresh element of uncertainty being introduced by the action of Italy, in seeking for herself and the other Mediterranean powers the right to participate in the administration of Egypt. As soon as its Government was apprised of the intention to give an international character to the administration of that country, it sent representatives to the Khedive and to the Paris and London Governments, declaring that Italy should be considered in the arrangements, as she had many interests to protect in Egypt. The Khedive replied that the claim of Italy would be just if an international administration were really contemplated; but that the matter was simply that though some foreigners might enter the Cabinet, they would have no foreign official character, and he was determined to maintain the complete independence of the Egyptian administration. The replies of England and France were pretty much of the same character—that the appointment of English and French subjects was merely an act of courtesy and convenience, and had no political significance whatever. These replies, have not however, moderated the demands of Italy. She appears determined, if possible, to have some excuse for interfering in the affairs of Egypt.

The Afghan difficulty appears to be increasing. Some accounts state that fighting has already commenced, and that the troops occupy a strong position near Ali Musjid. Others state that the troops have not advanced beyond Jamrood. The latter report is considered most probable, inasmuch as it

is said that the attack on Ali Musjid was postponed for a short time in consequence of the strength of the force which the Ameer had collected there. Six thousand Afghan infantry with eighteen guns threaten Jamrood. The whole force of Peshawur will be required to advance on the Khyber Pass. It is reported from Umballa that fighting has commenced between the Afghans and the Khyberees. Several regiments were leaving Umballa for the frontier, and an immediate action was expected. The Khyberees have declared in favor of the British. There is said to be great enthusiasm in the Indian army, at the prospect of active service. The English Cabinet has expressed its entire approval of the course taken by the Indian Government.

That many of the strange accounts we hear of practices, either unauthorized or unusual, are misrepresentations made to promote the sacred cause of strife is a fact which every day receives additional confirmation. A recent case in England is that of the present Rector of West Hackney, of whom a writer in the *Rock* says: "I am quite surprised that no one should have alluded to the great improvements, which have taken place in the church of the late T. Hugo. The new vicar, Mr. Robinson, comes from Herefordshire, though born and bred a Hackney man. He is quite Evangelical; has done away with vestments, and wears the good old black gown in the pulpit; *Hymns Ancient and Modern* have given place to *Bickersteth's Hymnal*; there is no turning to the east, even at the Creed: no chanting (except the 'Gloria' at the end of the last Psalm at Evening Prayers); and last, though by no means least, the Evening Communion is substituted for 'Early Celebration.'"

In reply to this Mr. Robinson, the Rector, says that his acquaintance with Hackney is limited to the last eighteen months, and that neither the black gown nor any other unauthorized vestment is in use at West Hackney. He further adds that the Hymn book is unchanged, and that the practice of Evening Communion will certainly not be adopted until so flagrant an innovation has higher sanction than that of the *Rock*.

The Land of Midian is just now exciting considerable interest. Captain Burton, in his recent researches there has discovered an exceedingly interesting relic. On the southern brink of Wadi Haruz, a wild watercourse, he came upon the site of a beautiful little temple, built of white and variegated alabaster. Winter torrents in the Wadi had washed away the northern wall, and the Arabs had dug for treasure beneath the structure till it had become reduced to ruins; so the adjacent valley was strewn with fragments of columns, bases and capitals—all of the same precious material, taken from quarries not far away. Everything was designed and cut in the purest style of Greek art.