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## Arrival of the "Arabia" at Halifax.

HALIFAX, June 24th, 1862.  
The "Arabia" left Liverpool at 9.30, on the morning of the 14th, and Queenstown on the 16th, and arrived at Halifax at 5 o'clock this morning.

The "Borussia" arrived at Southampton in the evening of the 13th. The "Scotia" reached Queenstown at midnight 13th.

The "Great Eastern" was being exhibited at Liverpool and is advertised to leave Liverpool for New York on 1st July and again on 15th August.

In House of Commons on the 12th, Mr. Clay asked if attention of Government had been directed to repeated interference of United States cruisers with British vessels in West Indies, and particularly to case of steamer Circassian, in neutral waters, bound from St. Thomas to Havana, and within 20 miles of port.

Mr. Layard could not give answer at present; the case of the Circassian being under consideration of law officers of the Crown.

Lord Dunkellin asked if the Government had considered memorial of Atlantic Mail Company, Galway Line, and if they had determined on renewing postal service between Galway and America.

Lord Palmerston said subject was still under consideration. It was impossible to say what decision would be, or when it would be given.

During debate on Supply Bill the course pursued by the Government at Lagos towards suppression of slave trade, was called in question, but Ministers offered satisfactory explanation and vote was agreed to.

Exception was also taken to the vote of £40,000 for continuation of North American boundary commission, but upon Government explanations that little more would probably be required, the Boundary having been traced, it was agreed to.

In House of Lords, 14th, Earl Carnarvon called attention to Butler's proclamation relative to ladies of New Orleans, and condemned it in severe terms as without precedent in annals of war, and asked if Government had information of its authenticity and if it had protested against it. He also asked if there was any truth of rumours of mediation of France and England. The success of such mediation would depend greatly upon the manner in which, and the time at which, it was offered, but he trusted Government was in a position to give the subject a favorable consideration.

Earl Russell said that from Lord Lyons' despatches, Government believed proclamation was authentic, but with respect to any action of United States Government in way of approval or disapproval, they had no information. Lord Lyons had made no representations to American Government on the subject, and he did not appear to have any official information upon which he could do so. For his own part, he, Russell, hoped the American Government would for its own sake, refuse its sanction to, and disavow the proclamation. It was important to the whole world that usages of war should not be aggravated by proclamations of this character. He then gave the explanation of the treatment the proclamation referred to, but thought such proclamation addressed to force which had just captured a hostile town, was likely to lead to great brutality. He, therefore, thought this explanation was no defence for proclamation, and sincerely hoped American Government would disavow it. With respect to rumours of mediation, he was glad the question had been put, for rumours were likely to lead to much mischief. Her Majesty's Government had not made any proposal to France, and French Government had made no proposal to England. Therefore there had been no communications of any kind between the two Governments. Without however, giving any opinion as to the propriety of offering mediation at some future time, if circumstances prove favorable he must say the present time appeared to him most inopportune. He conceived that an embittered state of feeling in America, it would not only lead to no good but retard the time for such offer being favorable made.

Mr. Hopwood asked if there was any truth in the mediation rumours.

Lord Palmerston said no communication had been received from the French Government on the subject, and as to the British Government they had no intention at present to offer mediation.

Sir J. Elphinstone asked if the Government had any information of a Federal Steamer having fired upon an English and French Steamer, killing the captain of the latter, news to that effect having been received at Lloyd's.

Lord Palmerston had no information on the subject.

Sir G. Lewis stated that a 600 pounder Armstrong Gun was being constructed and would shortly be experimented with.

Sir J. Walsh made enquiries as to the authenticity of Butler's proclamation, and denounced it as repugnant to the feelings of the 19th century, and moved for any correspondence on the subject.

## THE NEW REGULATION.

To the Editor of the Standard.

SIR—In common with every wellwisher of education, I was much pleased to notice that the Board of Education, have ordered that after the first of July, the average daily attendance of pupils in the schools in rural districts must be at least ten, and in the schools in cities, towns and villages, the average at least sixteen, to entitle the Teachers of such schools to the Provincial allowance. I am satisfied that this will have the effect of curing an evil which inspectors know well exists, viz of reducing the number of poor schools and I may add incompetent teachers who take up the avocation for the purpose of obtaining an easy living, and shirking work. It will also have the effect of saving the public money, now so unworthily given to idle lazy people, many of whom are better fitted for mechanical employment and spying the needle, than teaching the future men and women of our country.

Another excellent Order of the Board states—"That from and after the first day of July, all Teachers be required to test the accuracy of their School Returns by affidavit, to be made before any Justice of the Peace."

This order will have the effect of partially correcting an abuse, which Trustees of Schools are aware of—making up incorrect returns. The number of scholars like the age of the teachers never increases. I said this order would only partially correct the abuse, and I believe it; for anyone who would be so base as to give in a false list, would not find the affidavit a very unpalatable dose to swallow. The truth is, I have it from good authority that, the Inspectors and Board have been deceived in many instances, and I trust that hereafter the money given will be bestowed upon those who are legally entitled to it. A most ridiculous system pursued in some of the schools, should be abolished, it is this—giving a child a column of words in a Dictionary to commit to memory for learning how to spell them and give their definitions. Professor Thayer in his Lecture on Spelling and Definitions delivered before the Institute of Instruction, condemned this stupid and useless practice. The following extract from his Lecture is to the point:—

"I have said nothing of the practice, once so common, of assigning lessons in spelling and defining from the columns of a dictionary sweeping through the whole, from the letter A to the last word under Z—if the pupil continued long enough at school to accomplish it,—for I cannot suppose it to have come down to this day. If it has, however, I should feel impelled to pronounce it one of the most stupid and useless exercises ever introduced into a school—compared with which, the 'committing to memory' indiscriminately of all the pages of an abacus would be agreeable, beneficial, and instructive."

To say that it would be impossible to remember the definitions thus abstractly learned, would be to assert what must be perfectly obvious to every one. And even if they could be remembered, they would be of little utility; for as the right application of a definition must depend entirely on the situation of the word to be explained and the office it performs in a sentence, the repeating of half a score of meanings as obscure perhaps as the word itself, conveys no definite thought, and serves rather to darken than illuminate the mind.

As a book of reference a dictionary is useful; although it must be confessed that, even with the best, one often finds himself obliged to make his own explanation, in preference to any furnished by the lexicographer; and the teacher or the pupil who relies exclusively on his dictionary—without the exercise of much discretion—for the definition of whatever words he may find in the course of his studies, will not unfrequently fall into very awkward and absurd mistakes.

Experience and common sense must lead to the aid—the former to teach us what is practicable; and the latter, what is appropriate and useful.

Yours HONESTLY,

June 28, 1862.

Four sailors who deserted from the Challenger were found somewhere up the River, (at Fredericton, we are told), and brought to the City yesterday.—Globe.

A sailor named Denis Catherine, who belonged to St. George, fell from the rigging

of a schooner at Pettingill's Slip on Monday, and was fatally injured. He died on Thursday morning at the residence of John Dick.—Courier.

## THE FLOWER-GIRL.

It was a fair spring morning when I first took possession of my room and its pleasant window. The sun beams were less bright than the eyes of the little maiden tripping on her way to school: the flowers less pure than the heart of the young damsel who bore them in her basket to the market. She was a peasant girl, from her rustic dress and simple awkwardness, scared at her own shadow on the pane, and coloring to the temples if her eyes encountered aught save the ground and her own flowers. "Violets! violets!" she raised her little basket as I spoke, and held it for me to choose a bunch of its fragrant ware. "Dust thou often come to the flower-market?" I said, as I gave the customary coin for those fringing of the spring. "No, not before." "Then God speed thee, and lead thee back untainted to thy home." The damsel curtsied, blushed, and hurried away, half-ashamed to have dared to answer the question of a stranger. She looked so modest and fair, so like one of her own violets, that, as I watched her pace the street, she might fade be and flung aside like those fragrant blossoms. For many a bright morning I saw the maiden with her flowers: roses replaced violets in her basket and in heart. She raised her crimson flowers and cheek unblushingly to the passer-by, and he often gazed, uncertain for a moment which was the flower, so beautiful were both. And then I saw her again, and she was pale and thoughtful, like her valley-lilies, but not as pure; her heart was tainted with the plague-spot of sin, and her eyes moved restlessly around. And soon she wore no more village dress; she had left its life and customs behind her. I saw her in a gay carriage; she was robed in satin, with flowers and feathers in her hat; but I saw that the flowers were artificial as her present life, and the feathers drooped sadly like her heart. She wore rouge; laughed aloud, and bought the flowers she once carried, with a feigned smile and a secret sigh. She passed my window often, and every day seemed to have added a year to her brow, for the deep lines were lying on that once smooth forehead and the eyes were sunk and dim. I had treasured her first violets; I said, "I will lay them on her grave." One day I missed her; the next she came not, but on the third day they bore her in a humble coffin to a lonely grave, where the beggar and the stranger rested side by side. I followed her, and I was alone, for the flower-girl had left none to weep for her; the companions of her giddy life were for the living, not the dead; her village friends had forgotten her, as a lost lamb, a cast-away, and she was alone.

DYING FOR LOVE.—The lovers who die for love in our tragedies die in such a vast hurry, that there is generally some mistake or some misapprehension about the business, and the tragedy might have been a comedy if the hero or heroine had only waited for a quarter of an hour. It Othello had but lingered a little before smothering his wife, Mistress Emilia might have come in and sworn and protested; and Cassio, with the handkerchief about his leg, might have been in time to set the matter of the valet Moor at rest, and put the Venetian dog to confusion. How happily Mr. and Mrs. Remond Montague might have lied and died, thanks to the dear good fairy, if the foolish bridegroom had not been in such a hurry to swallow the vile stuff from the apothecary's! and as people are, I hope and believe, a little the stage, the worms very rarely get an honest meal off men and women who have died for love.—Aurora Floyd, in Temple Bar.

THE FISHERIES.—We are sorry to state that there was but a very small catch of Herring and Gaspaux on our coast and in our river this Spring. During the week, we are pleased to hear that the run of Salmon in the Miramichi river was very large, and that the fishermen all along its banks have taken great numbers. A note from Mr. Wyse, at Mr. Loudon's Establishment, at Fox Island, dated Wednesday, informs us that on Monday evening they secured over 800 fish, and the writer says the men have been kept very busy ever since. The note was accompanied with three cans, contained salmon, lobster, and eels, for which we return him thanks. Mr. Williamson, at Bay du Vin, put up last week over 12,000 lbs. of fish. They were for G. E. Larson, at Neguac. Muir and Henderson, we understand, secured in one day this week, 1,000 fish.—Gleaner.

REPORT.—Madame D. had a magnificent cat. M. de C. amused himself one day by

shooting it, for want of something else to shoot. Madame D. caused to be sent in her own house, and in the houses of her friends, all sorts of mouse-traps; and when three or four hundred were caught she had them put into a box, which was forwarded to Madame de C. at her country-house. The lady eagerly opened the box herself, expecting to find in it some new modes; the mice jumped out and presently filled the house, while at the bottom of the box was found a note addressed to Madame de C. which contained the following words:—"Madame, your husband has killed my cat—I send you my mice."—Paris paper.

## FROM THE STATES.

BANGOR, June 25.  
Gen. Fremont will establish himself at Winchester or Middletown. The former could be made impregnable.

Jackson, it is believed, is at Luray. It is rumored that Jackson or Ewell captured Front Royal.

The Richmond Examiner says that 6,000 Federals advanced from Norfolk and Suffolk to a point fifty miles from Portsmouth and thirty from Weldon, and cut off railroad communication with Petersburg and Richmond. This explains Burnside's recent visit to McClellan.

Enthusiastic Union meeting at Plunkett, Tennessee. Hon. Neil Brown declared the Union a necessity.

The Provost Marshal at Washington seized \$10,000 worth of rifles, &c., supposed stolen property.

Flour, Superfine \$4.25 to \$4.40; Extra \$4.30 to \$4.70.

June 26.  
Yesterday McClellan made an advance of his right under a shary resistance and fully secured the advantageous position sought for.

On the right, Porter silenced the enemy's batteries in front.

The arrest of 50 citizens in the rear of the Federal army has had a salutary effect upon others.

Gen. Prince has arrived at Richmond. No mention is made of the whereabouts of Beauregard.

It is reported that Jackson is checked and Fremont, Banks and Shields have combined their forces to pursue him.

Four men were executed at New Orleans for robbing the citizens.

Corn Farragut was before Vicksburg with portion of his fleet, having routed the enemy from Grand Gulf.

White River has been opened up 170 miles, and Arkansas Government had fled from the capital on a flat boat.

Memphis, June 19.—The gunboat Conestoga has arrived with dispatches containing the particulars of the engagement at the rebel fortifications below St. Charles, 85 miles up White river. On the 17th the gunboats St. Louis, Mound City, Lexington and Conestoga, and transport New National, having on board the 46th Indiana regiment, Col. Fitch, which left here a week ago to open communication with Gen. Cuttle's army and remove the obstructions from White river, ascended that stream. The gunboat Mound City, Capt. Kelly commanding, was about a mile and a half in advance, in the bend of the river near St. Charles, when two concealed batteries opened on the Mound City. Her decks were immediately cleared for action, and as soon as the range of the works was obtained, the guns opened fire. Capt. Kelly signalled Col. Fitch to land his force below the fort, which was successfully accomplished. The gunboats Lexington and St. Louis shelled the works, under cover of which Col. Fitch gained the rear of the rebel position.

At this juncture a ball from a siege gun on the bluff struck the forward and port side of the Mound City, penetrating the casemate, and passed through the steam drum. The vessel was filled with escaping vapor. Nearly every one on board was sealed. Only 23 of the officers and crew, out of 175, escaped from injuries. The scene which ensued was horrible. Many of the crew, frantic with pain, jumped overboard, and some were drowned. The boats from the Conestoga, which was coming up at the time to support the Mound City, were sent to their relief, but the rebels fired on the men in the water with grape and canister from their field pieces, murdering most of those who were attempting to escape. Being apprized of the state of affairs in the river, Col. Fitch's regiment pushed forward and carried the fort at the point of the bayonet.

NO UNION FEELING IN NORFOLK.—A citizen of Norfolk writing to a friend in New York upon the state of feeling there with regard to a Union with the Northern States remarks:—"I will answer your question respecting the state of things here in a few words as I can. What I say being true in so far as my own knowledge and observation go."

First.—Almost half our able-bodied men are in the army—not forced in, but going of their choice. The troops raised in Norfolk are now at Richmond. The old men, women and children, form the resident population of Norfolk now. Second.—What little Union feeling among us at the time you left has disappeared, and judging from what I have seen here and elsewhere in Virginia I do not believe there ever was a people more thoroughly united and determined to be free than the people of this State are now. The white race must be exterminated before Virginia can be brought into Union with the North again. This is strong language, but I mean all I say. Third.—No man of any respectability in our city has yet taken the oath, though daily annoyed because they will not. The few that have taken the oath are despised and shunned by even the Union officers here.

The Halifax Colonist says, gold valued at \$2,500, is reported to have been taken on Thursday last, from the claim of the Chabuto Company, at Laidlaw's.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA.

We have Victoria dates to the 15th May, but they do not contain any news of startling importance.

A Bill before the Legislature of Vancouver Island to raise a revenue by means of stamp duties, was creating much discussion, and exciting general opposition.

Small pox is still fiercely raging in the Island chiefly among the Indians; and the Colonist urges that steps must be taken by the clergy and fathers of families to protect the town by banishing the Indians. This paper under date of May 13, says:

The northern Indians will be sent from the Reserve to-day to one of the islands in the Straits—there to rot and die with the leathome disease which is now destroying the poor wretches at the rate of six each day.

A small quantity of gold had been received at Victoria from British Columbia. Gold appears to have been discovered in small quantities at the Stickeen River, but provisions there are quite scarce. The rush to the Cariboo diggings still continues, and provisions are scarce there also.

We find the following in one of the papers:

A PROPOSITION.—In consequence of the scarcity of provisions in the Cariboo country it is proposed to secure the professional services of Prof. Bushell for the ensuing season.

It is argued that with the aid of mental alchemy the miners believe that they had full bellies, when in reality they had not got on the outside of a bean for a week, and cause them to imagine that a cup full of water contained tea, coffee, whisky or tangle-leg, according to the wants of the subject. By the employment of a series of innocent deceptions of the kind, it is said that there would be no scarcity of "grub" in the miners, would be like the horse man started to learn to live without eating—just as they got used to it, they might die.

A miner writing to the Colonist from the Salmon River diggings says:—

I do not wish to advise any one to stay away from or come to this region on a gold hunting expedition, but I do honestly believe that Salmon, John Day's and Powder River will, in a measure, prove humbugs. There are no doubt a few rich claims, but they have been greatly overrated. Yesterday I conversed with Mr. Bidger, who, it was said, had one of the richest claims on Salmon. He says that his and other claims were over-rated. He is on his way to Cariboo—pretty good evidence that Salmon is early "played out."

I have also seen men from Powder River who are bound for Cariboo. Their reports are very unfavorable. Some five thousand men have passed through this place for the diggings, and doubtless there are many more to come. This whole country is depending on the mines; but I will venture a prediction, that in three months from this date three fourths of the miners who have passed up will return to this place without the color in their pockets.

LINE.—To notice a libel is like digging round a hill of potatoes—you make it grow the faster.

Take counsel of him who is greater, and of him who is less than thyself, and then refer to thine own judgment.

## DIED.

At Portland, on Saturday, 14th inst. Robert Morrison, in the 48th year of his age leaving a wife and six children to mourn their loss.

At the Little Bridge, St. James, on the 9th inst. Flora Sinclair, relict of the late Mr. William Forsyth, aged 53 years and 6 months.

At the Basswood Ridge, St. James on the 11th inst. Mr. John M. Haskill, in the 65th year of his age.