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Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy Might.

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DISRUPTION OF THE AMERICAN UNION.

We take the following from an able article in the last *Blackwood*:

"It would be more consistent and more sensible if the contending parties were to place their quarrel on its true ground, which are amply sufficient to sustain it. The South would then plead that her feelings, her manners, her interests, her aspirations, are all at variance with those of the North. She would plead her discontent with the operation of the Union—her confidence in the advantages she would derive from independence, her power of launching herself by the mere act of secession, fully organized on her desired career. And admitting that formerly a number of single States might have experienced severely the evils of disunion, yet she would deny that the precedent could be quoted against the independence of such a powerful confederation as she now proposes to form.

"Nor would the North be without a strong rejoinder. She would argue that the seceding States would withdraw from the Federation not merely themselves, but important public works, constructed with Federal treasure, for the benefit of a State out of the Union; that the great material interests of the North were inextricably bound up in the South; that the settlement of a frontier would involve many questions difficult of solution, and would be always a subject worthy of dispute; that separation would diminish the strength and influence of the States which might still desire to adhere to the Union, destroy their coherence and falsify their most cherished creed. And it is, one of those interwoven and balanced cases where appeals to precedents are vain, where neither party can assert a positive and unqualified right, and which arbitration of some kind, with mutual concessions, must settle; and at first sight, the readiest and most natural, arbitration would be that of arms. It is impossible to blame the South for preparing to maintain its secession, or the North for attempting to retain its privileges. The hostile attitude of the South is a necessity; out setting the dictates of natural feeling aside, and speaking only of policy, the attitude of the North is judicious only in one or two cases. She may justly prefer to be armed while she treats for the rights which she will stipulate for in case she concedes secession, or she may believe that secession is the work of an organized faction, contrary to the desire of the general population of the South, whom, by military success she may set free to return to the Union. But though this has been frequently and confidently asserted, yet the evidence thus far is in favor of the unanimity of the South.

"But if, setting these cases aside, the Federalists propose to enter upon a career of absolute conquest, there is a consideration which ought to present itself to them, beyond the expectation of the most complete success. The contest cannot be settled at once. Neither the generals nor the troops on either side, have the experience necessary to perform great operations of war, swift and continued marches of great masses of men, ready to engage in full force on the point of collision. A decisive advantage by land can only be the result of a protracted contest, during which armies will be disciplined, and generals will emerge from the crowd. And even when the conflict terminates, an army of occupation will be necessary to retain the disaffected States in submission. The troops thus accustomed to arms will exchange the habits and feelings of the citizen for those of the soldier. They will have new interests and new ambitions. They will be unwilling to hide the glory they may have won in the obscurity of private life at the command of the State. It is not difficult to predict the fate of a republic whose principle is equality, and whose executive is weak, in the presence of such an army, led by an ambitious, able, and popular chief. The sagacious and philosophical De Tocqueville, writing of their constitution, says: 'When the citizens are all nearly on an equality, it becomes difficult for them to defend their independence against the aggressions of power. None of them being powerful enough to resist alone, it is only a combination of the strength of all that can secure liberty.'

"Such, then, are the dangers which war brings to America. The Union may ultimately triumph, but it may be with the sacrifice of its liberty. It is true that the military power which is so likely to become dominant may rest in the hands of another Washington, of a man popular, wise, and just, one who would maintain liberty while suppressing license, and would give the nation institutions more suitable to the development of its better qualities; but such a contingency cannot be calculated on. It is equally likely that a Harney, a Twiggs, or a Walker might control absolutely the destinies of the union. We hope, then, that the North, remaining armed to give weight to her demands, will concede secession. In return she will probably demand the free navigation of the Southern rivers, and compensation for the

public property in the South, to which no offset may exist in public property in the North to which the Southern States have contributed. This the South ought in honesty to agree to. But, however the dispute may be settled, we trust sincerely that the career of both may be so prosperous as to leave them no reason to regret the disruption of the Union."

OIL WELLS IN UPPER CANADA.—A letter from Sarina, C. W., dated the 31st of July, by T. S. Hunt, Chemist and Mineralogist to the Geological Society, on the subject of the Enniskillen Oil Wells, says:

"The late discoveries in the oil region in Black Creek, in Enniskillen, are very remarkable. Beside a great number of surface wells (i. e., wells dug from 40 to 60 feet through the drift to the rock of the country, and yielding, many of them large quantities of oil,) there are now numbers of wells bored in this rock to depths varying from 40 to 200 feet. In sinking this through the soft limestone and marls of the Hamilton group, irregular fissures affording oil are met with at varying and uncertain depths, but yielding petroleum in quantities unexampled on the continent. The most remarkable of these wells which have been opened a week (July 30) have afforded from 200 to 400 barrels of pure oil, and after extracting this amount the well has filled up again in a few hours to the surface, and in two is flowing over into the adjacent creek. It is impossible to say what amount of oil these wells would furnish, if wrought continuously, but the supply seems to be enormous. Meanwhile there is no market for the oil, and many thousands of barrels are stored up in tanks and pits awaiting purchasers. A plank road is about to be made to Wyoming Station on the Great Western Railway, 13 miles distant. It is hoped, from recent information from England, that a good market for the oil will be opened there. The results of the last ten days in this region have surpassed the dreams of the most sanguine as to the supply of oil, and judging from present appearances, the wells of Enniskillen will rival those of Burmah and Persia, which have for centuries supplied the East with petroleum. It is worthy of remark, that the oil-wells of Canada are in a much lower geographical formation than those of Ohio and Pennsylvania. These rise, for the most part, from the Upper Devonian limestones, which, with perhaps, the addition of the Silurian limestones, we conceive to be the source of petroleum both in Canada and the adjacent States. It is evidently connected with the undulations subordinate to the great anticlinal axis which we have traced through Western Canada, and which permits the accumulation of the oil elsewhere diffused through the rocky strata."

DEPARTURE OF THE GREAT EASTERN.—The *Great Eastern* steamed out of port about half-past four o'clock this morning, with 344 passengers on board, and a cargo consisting of 62,075 standard deals, 4636 ends, and 1090 barrels of herrings. As she left her anchorage, she fired two guns, and again when passing the city. The steamers *Napoleon*, *Jenny Lind*, and *Bay of Quinte*, with a number of excursionists, accompanied her out of the harbor, and such of our citizens as were collected on the wharfs and Durham Terrace, (and they were not a few, considering the early hour,) wished her "good speed" in loud and continued cheers. It is expected the voyage to Liverpool will be made in seven days at most, and we earnestly hope this will be the case, so that the superiority of the *St. Lawrence* route, for speed as well as safety, may be still further demonstrated in the case of the *Leviathan* ship. The passenger list includes the names of a great many Americans who have preferred crossing the Atlantic in the *Great Ship*, from our port, to taking passage in any of the Cunard vessels from New York or Boston; and this again is a circumstance which shows that the route to Europe via Canada is becoming more familiar and deservedly more popular. The visit of the "Great Eastern" cannot be regarded as of the greatest importance to Canada. The eyes of the world are upon this wonder of naval architecture, and wherever she is heard of it will be known that she has safely come up the *St. Lawrence* to Quebec, and for upwards of four weeks has swung at anchor in a harbor which though crowded with other shipping, is capable of accommodating many vessels of her immense size. It is important to add that the cabin passengers exceed two hundred in number.—*Quebec Mercury, Tuesday.*

THE ARMY WORM IN NEW JERSEY.—This destructive creature is making sad havoc in the crops in portions of this country. Wherever the hail storm travelled, they infest the corn and grain fields and meadows. Some farmers have had their crops entirely destroyed, and others are being devasted by the minute. The roads which

they cross with surprising speed, are, in some districts, literally filled with them. One farmer had his wheat crop entirely destroyed by the hail; his oats have been eaten up by the worm, and now they are busy with his corn, and have made considerable headway. Every experiment has been resorted to to check the progress of the destroyer—ditches have been dug around the fields, lime has been spread, straw burnt—but all fail. The steps of dwellings and the doorways of barns have been tarred, to prevent the worm from entering them. Fences and gate-posts, everything approachable, are black with them. If this state of things continues much longer, many farmers, who have no grain over from last year, will have to buy their bread. A singular feature, however, is that red clover and potato vines are eschewed by the worm, although they chew up everything else green that comes within their reach.—*Somerset Messenger.*

The *Montreal Gazette* says that "Yankee Doodle" was hissed down at a concert at Quebec. "Straws tell how the wind blows." It also says that the Commissariat Officers in Canada have received orders from the Home authorities to prepare for the reception of 10,000 troops in the fall.

There is a very decided change of opinion in the Canadian press in relation to the contest now being waged in the neighboring States. The *Toronto Globe*, which, perhaps, of all the Canadian press, sympathized most strongly with the North, gives the following reason for the change of tone:

The insolent bravado of the Northern press towards Great Britain, and the insulting tone assumed towards these Provinces, have unquestionably produced a marked change in the feelings of our people. When the war commenced, there was only one feeling of hearty sympathy with the North, but now it is very different. People have lost sight of the character of the struggle in the exasperation excited by the injustice and abuse showered upon them by the party with which they sympathized. It is not in human nature, long to maintain cordial sympathy towards those who are pouring insult continually upon you.

A strong military spirit is being manifested in Canada. The *Toronto Leader* says:

Throughout Upper Canada, a vague idea prevails that volunteering must henceforward be regarded as something more than a pastime. We have been accustomed to consider it as an affair to be attended to or neglected, as passing convenience may dictate. Epauletts, and soldierly designations have preserved a plentiful supply of militia officers; and a few energetic captains have organized companies, promoted practice with rifle and cannon, and enabled their men to go through a creditable drill. But of a hearty, general movement, both of the enthusiasm which has supplied great armies to the State, and which has given to England defenses more potent than iron or wooden walls, we have seen comparatively nothing. Now, for the first time these many years, Canada witnesses a disposition to cultivate a taste for volunteer organizations, and to familiarize her people with the use of arms. No doubt the example of the parent country has much to do with the change. The events which are transpiring amongst our neighbors, have exercised a yet greater influence in hastening exertion. And now we hear, on all sides, of meetings to promote the formation of rifle companies, under circumstances which encourage the hope that the heart of the people is in the effort.

A STORY OF SIR JAMES OUTRAM.—One anecdote is illustrative of the man. A magnificent tiger, "a man-eater," was hunted and struck, but not mortally wounded—the beast dashed away as only wounded tigers can, followed by the staunchest sportsmen of the party. At last it was found again, but to the disgust of all, the animal had gone to earth in a dark and ugly cavern, about the last place to close single handed, with such a "Shitan." Men who could have fought in the open like Spartans, would not go to be crushed like rats in a sewer, and the tiger appeared to have escaped, when out of the crowd came a short, thick-set Feringee, with a quick black eye and a pleasant smile upon his face. Merely asking where the beast was concealed, he, quietly mounted, grasping his rifle, stepped into the den, and passed from the sight of the admiring natives. Presently there was heard the sharp ring of the sportsman's rifle, and James Outram reappeared, a conqueror indeed of the "man-eater," but quite as much so of the impulsive Ishmaelites, who recognised in him honour and civilisation, associated with true courage.

The *Boston Commercial Bulletin* says the taste of the times is such that robes de nuit are now styled *nap sacks* by the ladies.

PARAFFINE OILS FOR LUBRICATION AND CARTRIDGES.—In the patent of James Young—the first one obtained for the manufacture of coal oils—he calls such coal products "paraffine oils." Perhaps this is really the best name which can be applied to the heavy oils so obtained, as they contain a great quantity of Paraffine. This peculiar substance is derived from the refined coal oils, by freezing them with ice, then submitting them to severe pressure in bags. The Paraffine is thus obtained in cakes, and, when bleached, is most beautiful white substance, resembling spermaceti.

Paraffine is almost unalterable in its character in contact with the atmosphere; hence it is perhaps the best substance which can be used to protect the surfaces of polished steel and iron. Paraffine oils may be retained in contact with polished iron without causing it to tarnish. In the machines employed at Woolwich, Eng., for making bullets for Enfield rifles, by compression, out of solid bars of lead, paraffine oil is exclusively used for lubrication of the dies, because it produces no chemical action upon the lead.

A patent has lately been taken out in England for the use of paraffine as a lubricating agent for army cartridges. The inventor states that the heat of the ignited powder completely volatilizes the paraffine, and it leaves no residue in the barrel of the rifle.

DON'T RUN FOR GOLD.—There are English foolish enough to do the maddest things, but we trust that our readers are too sensible to allow themselves to be carried away by the absurd idea that gold is to be found in Nova Scotia. We doubt if there is any money in the colony at all, or else they would have built something like a decent Hotel in Halifax long before this time. To prove how villainously deficient it is in accommodation of that kind, when the Prince of Wales visited the town, poor Lord Mulgrave had to turn out of Government House to make room for him. As for his Lordship, he was quite like an outcast in his own capital. For a whole week he slept on a billiard-table, without any covering, and had to put his toes in his pockets to keep them warm.

Won't some one please send Mr. Punch a nugget?—*Halifax Journal.*

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.—We learn that the petition in favour of Dr. Jesse Patterson, sentenced to be hanged for causing the death of a female in attempting to procure abortion, has been rejected, and that the law will be allowed to take its course. The execution takes place early in September next, at Montreal.—*Quebec Vindicator.*

A decoction made of tobacco has been used successfully in Fall River to kill the army worm. It is the same as that used for a sheep wash, and is manufactured by the South Down Sheep Company. It is stated that from a pound of the wash, costing only fifty cents, may be made fourteen gallons of this decoction, and that it can be applied either by digging trenches around the lots, and filling them with it or by sprinkling it over the worms on the plant.

M. Bonelli, of Milan, has invented and patented a new mode of transmitting telegraphic messages which is stated to be far superior to any at present in use, and possesses the great advantage of being so inexpensive, that messages can be sent and printed for sixpence. A company are laying down wires on M. Bonelli's system between Liverpool and Manchester.

The various insurance offices in London have decided to subscribe among themselves £7,000 to be invested in the names of trustees, for the benefit of the widow and children of the late Mr. Braidwood. The amount is to be contributed by each in proportion to its London business.

A private contribution has been sent to Turin for aiding the erection of a monument to the late Count Cavour. Among the subscribers are Lord Palmerston, the Duke of Argyll, the Earl of Clarendon, Lord Clyde, the Duke of Devonshire, Lord John Russell, Mr. Thackeray, and many others of note.

Barnum desires to discover and engage a young veteran. He presumes such a creature must be in existence, since the mention of an "old veteran" is frequent in newspapers.

The Nova Scotia and Literary and Scientific Society has offered a prize of \$400 for the best Essay on the Fisheries of that Province.

The less a man knows, the wider he wears his mouth open. It is as impossible for a fool to keep his jaws shut, as it is for a sick oyster to keep his shell closed.

GOOD ADVICE.—If you wish to keep your enemies from knowing any harm of you—don't let your friends know any.