

chant returned. In about ten minutes, M. Fontanes summoned a porter, gave him a number of letters, some for the post-office, others for delivery in St. Malo; and shortly afterwards, himself went out, saying, as he passed through the counting-house, that he should not return till the following morning.

Eugenie Bougainville, as she alighted at the notary's door in company with her father and Françoise her half-sister, looked charmingly, though very pale, and trembling with agitation. M. Fontanes had preceded her; and his respectfully kind and unpretending manner seemed, after a time, to soothe and calm her spirits, and the sweet, grateful, if faint smile with which she acknowledged his unobtrusive courtesies, was an earnest, that if the marriage should turn out unhappily, it would not be the fault of the wife, however reluctantly she accepted M. Fontanes as a husband. M. Bertin was apparently about to commence reading the marriage-contract, when an unceremonious and distressing interruption took place. Henri Jomard, spite of the strenuous opposition of a clerk, forced his way, in a state of wild excitement, into the office, and forthwith burst into a torrent of invective and entreaty, of bitter reproach and humblest solicitation, to which passion and despair lent fire and eloquence. Uselessly so! Eugenie was indeed terribly agitated by his frenzied violence, but did not for a moment swerve in resolution, and she was the first, though with white quivering lips, to request that the business which had brought them there might be proceeded with. M. Fontanes, who appeared both alarmed and angry, wished the audacious intruder to be expelled by force, but at a gesture from the notary, who had been silently observant of what was passing, he desisted, drew near the table, and seated himself beside Mademoiselle Bougainville; whilst Henri Jomard, throwing himself into a chair, wept aloud in the bitterness of unavailing grief and rage.

'Now Monsieur Bertin,' said M. Fontanes, who, spite of himself, covered beneath the keen derisive look, it so seemed, with which the notary, as he slowly unrolled the contract, regarded him—'have the goodness to proceed as quickly as possible.'

'I doubt, Monsieur Fontanes, whether I shall proceed at all. It seems to me, that the nuptial conditions, in a pecuniary sense, are grossly one-sided and partial.'

'Monsieur Bertin,' interrupted M. Fontanes, with dignity, and greatly relieved, 'this is my affair, not yours. The balance of obligation is, in my own opinion, greatly on my side,' added the young merchant with a respectful bow to Eugenie.

'That is precisely my opinion also,' rejoined the imperturbable notary, 'Mademoiselle Bougainville being at the present moment a rich heiress in her own right.'

A bomb-shell falling in the midst, could not have produced a more startling effect than these words, which caused every one of the auditors, Henri Jomard included, to start to their feet in various attitudes of astonishment and consternation.

'This information,' continued the notary, 'reached me only about two hours since, and, stringently enough, Monsieur Fontanes, from you. A letter, certainly in your handwriting, and addressed to me on the cover, but the contents of which were intended for Messrs. Smith & Green of New Orleans.'

'Malediction!' screamed M. Fontanes. 'Can it be possible—that I—that I—'

'That you misdirected the letters,' suggested M. Bertin; 'no doubt of it.—It appears, Mademoiselle Bougainville,' he added, 'that by your uncle's will, the contents of which the last American mail made known to your very disinterested suitor, that you are the absolute mistress of about seven hundred thousand francs! If, under these circumstances, you wish me to proceed—'

'Henri—dear Henri!' gasped Eugenie, turning with outstretched arms towards her lately despairing lover. 'Henri—believe'—'But I have no words for the description of the scene which followed; the reader's imagination can alone realize its tumult of rapture, bewilderment, and despair.'

Henri Jomard must, in his hurry and confusion, have changed the envelopes of the two letters: that addressed to Smith and Green being consequently delivered to the notary. I have only, in conclusion, to state, that Fontanes was arrested at Havre-de-Grace, on board of an American liner, and is now undergoing the punishment of a fraudulent bankrupt; that Eugenie is Madame Jomard, and a happy wife and mother; that the Sieur Bougainville still inhabits Plaisance with his two daughters, and to this day remains firmly of opinion, that the misdirection of the letter was due to the actual interposition of Eugenie's ever-watchful *ange gardien*!

A NATURAL BAROMETER.—They have in Germany a small green frog, termed by them the "leaf frog," which, when caught, is placed in a glass jar partly filled with water, and steps erected on which the little chap sits. If the weather is to be clear and fine, he reclines on the upper step; but if a storm is approaching, he goes down part of the way, and if the storm is to be a severe one, he goes to the bottom. He is seldom more than an inch or an inch and a half long, and his rations consist of one fly per day.

DEATH OF AN EMINENT LAWYER.—Late foreign papers announced the death of William Selwyn, a very learned and laborious lawyer, and the well-known author of Selwyn's *Nisi Prius*, who died on the 25th ult., at Tunbridge Wells, England, aged 81.

PRIMITIVE LEGISLATION.—In the year 1784, the Legislature of Pennsylvania, to abolish the practices then prevailing, passed the following resolution, after considerable opposition:—"That hereafter no member shall come into the chamber barefooted, nor eat his bread and cheese on the steps of the Capitol."

A RUSSIAN GIFT.—Ward, the jeweler, has, subject to the inspection of the curious, two of the most magnificent rings we have ever seen. The rings were presented by the Emperor and Empress of Russia to Colonel Colt of this City. One of the rings contains diamonds worth \$3000; each contains the cyphers of the imperial personages, Alexander and wife, set with very minute diamonds in enamel. The shank of one of the rings glitters with numerous *petite* diamonds, and the whole affair makes a gift worthy of one emperor to another chip of the same block.—*Hertford Courant*.

JAWISH CONVENTION IN U. S.—The ministers, rabbins and delegates of the Israelitish congregations throughout the Union, are called to assemble at Cleveland, Ohio, in October, to deliberate on all matters of importance in regard to Judaism, which may be brought before the Conference.

GAIN OF TIME.—The difference between rising every morning at six, instead of eight o'clock, in the course of forty years, amounts to 29,500 hours; or three years, 121 days and 16 hours; which is eight hours a day for exactly nine years; so that rising at six will be the same as if nine years of life were added, wherein we may command eight hours of every day for the cultivation of our minds and despatch of business.

POPULATION OF THE EARTH.—The latest estimate of the population of the earth makes it 1,150,000,000; viz:—Pagans, 676,000,000; Christians, 320,000,000; Mahomedans, 150,000,000; and Jews, 14,000,000. Of Christians, the Church of Rome numbers 170,000,000; the Greek and Eastern Churches, 60,000,000; and Protestants 90,000,000.

NEW MOTIVE POWER.—A bug factory, says the *State Tribune* is being driven in a street, Sacramento, California, by powers hitherto known as "laughing gas." It is said to be not so dangerous as steam, and better adapted to the propelling of light machinery.

NEW ORLEANS.—The yellow fever at New Orleans seems to be on the increase. The *Bulletin* says, the returns of deaths from yellow fever, for the present season are as follows: "Week ending June 30, 17; do. do. July 9, 32; do. do. July 13, 41; do. do. July 23, 119; do. do. 30, 173; do. do. August 7, 222; do. do. August 13, 291. By reference to the record of 1854, we find that the epidemic this season is precisely one month earlier than it was in that year; the yellow fever deaths for the past week being 291; against 284 for the week ending 10th of September, 1854.

THE HARVEST.—The corn now standing throughout the United States covers more breadth of ground than was ever sown before with some exceptions, is uniformly good, although somewhat later than usual. The oat crop is tremendous, and well secured. Potatoes cover an immense breadth of ground, and the yield so far as tested, is large, and free from any indications of rot. Hay and grass good every where. Farmers are yet engaged in sowing fall wheat and other farm work; but will soon rush with their wheat to the market towns and millers. The price of wheat varies, according to circumstances. The new flour that comes to market is of remarkably fine quality, and in a very superior condition. Prices are now about two dollars per barrel below the highest point of the season. The decline generally anticipated later in the season is about another dollar. The month of October, it is supposed, will probably be the time when prices will show the greatest decline in the year.

MONUMENT TO SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.—In the miscellaneous estimate just issued, credit is taken a sum of \$4000, to be devoted to a monument to the late Sir John Franklin.

COAL IN UTAH.—Brigham Young, during his tour among the southern settlements, discovered a bed of coal in the mountain range between Sanpete and Jueb counties. It is, he says, of excellent quality, and inexhaustible in quantity. The bed is about five miles distant from Fort Ephraim, and he designs, if possible, to have mining operations commenced speedily, so that the Mormons of Great Salt Lake City may be supplied with coal before the coming winter.

SARATOGA SPRINGS.—It is stated that Saratoga Springs has never been so thronged with visitors as during the last two weeks. The following articles were consumed in one of the hotels there last week:—Beef, 3,150 pounds. 2100 do. mutton, 1400 do fish, 5000 do. flour, 3850 do. butter, 3500 chickens, 175 turkeys, 37,800 eggs, 2150 quarts milk, 525 quarts pure cream, 140 bushels potatoes, besides hams, tongues, pork, corned beef, salt fish, ducks, geese, venison, and game of every description.

THE RICE CROPS.—The Southern journals represent that rice crops are unusually flourishing, and that the indications promise more than an average yield this season.

A MAINE LAW IN TENNESSEE.—On the 21st July, Henry T. Walls was killed at the town of Woodbury, Tennessee, in a drunken row, whereupon the citizens assembled together and adopted a most stringent prohibitory law. "They resolved that they would not sell liquor themselves, and would not rent their property to a man who would use it for such purpose. They then made up a purse and bought up all the liquor in the place, rolled the barrels into the street, poured out their contents, and set fire to them."

NEUTRALITY OF SWEDEN.—

Though the military ardor excited at the close of the Vienna conference has now in some measure subsided, yet we are here watching with breathless anxiety the movements of the allied fleets in the Baltic, and still hoping that the ensuing month of August may see some greater result than that of last year—the fall of Bomarsund. It is neither owing to the indifference of this nation for the cause of civilization against barbarism nor to the sympathies of our government for the Russian Autocrat, that the flag of Sweden does not already float beside the united standards of England and France, but so long as the pending question is called and considered merely Eastern, so long as endless protocols on the "four points" appear to be the only object of the great Powers, no one possessed of ordinary judgment can require of our rulers to expose the youth of Sweden to the horrors of war, and her growing prosperity to a sudden and inevitable check. What in truth matters it to Sweden, that the Bosphorus is closed while the Baltic is under Russian domination, and the port of Cronstadt contains a formidable and increasing fleet? Though the nation is warlike, yet a feeling of approbation of the King's conduct pervades all classes. We fully appreciate the line he has taken up, namely, to maintain a strict neutrality until the governments of England and France shall have given positive proof that they mean to oppose a boundary to the encroachments of Russia in the north as well as in the South. The future of Scandinavia should most particularly interest England, for if Russia succeeds in obtaining the mastery of the Sound, she will not be so powerful in the German Ocean as to be able to set Europe at defiance. Both the coasts of Sweden and Norway possess deep and spacious ports wholly free from ice, or freezing only for a couple of months, in the severest winter. The principal are Calserona, Landsrona, Carlstein, Norden (in the bay of Christiansa) Christiansand, Bergen, Trondheim, and the bay of Vareugen; the last mentioned has already excited the grasping spirit of our neighbour. Any one of these ports is capable of growing into another Sebastopol, within a hundred geographical miles of the British coast. Our forests afford inexhaustible materials for shipbuilding; the inhabi-

tants are either skillful carpenters or fearless mariners. The population of the coast furnishes at least 100,000 fishermen or pilots insured to hardships, and familiar from their childhood with all the details of navigation in these difficult seas. It is easy to draw a conclusion from this simple array of facts.

I most firmly believe that if the allies do not seriously grapple with this difficulty they will entail on posterity endless broils, and have Russia more powerful and still nearer than ever. In rejecting the last Austrian propositions the English and French governments have left themselves at liberty to propose another basis for future negotiations capable of guaranteeing the north as well as the south. It is impossible in the narrow limits of this letter to examine and compare the relative advantages of the aggrandizement of Sweden by reconquering her ancient possessions, or making Finland independent, or establishing in the Aland Archipelago a position to be held by France, England and Sweden, as is the case with the German confederation in some of the strongholds of Germany. We Swedes only desire to point out to England the danger to Europe of neglecting this point whenever peace comes to be made. It is my profound conviction that the success of the allied fleets can only be partial without the active co-operation of the Scandinavian army, but as I have already said, the Northern Powers cannot join in the leagues till the question takes an European character—in a word, till the interests of the north are as truly protected as those of the South, and till the objects of the war have become worthy of the two great nations that have proclaimed the champions of civilization and of the independence of Europe.

The fortress of Sweaborg is built on granite isles, about a mile in advance of Helsingfors, the Russian capital of Finland, as Abo was formerly its Swedish capital. The isles in question, eight in number, are mere rocks, connected together by a strong fortification, and in the centre is, situated, the port where the Russian flotilla is kept. The largest of the rocks is that called "Gustavus' Sword," on which is built the residence of the Governor, with a sort of garden formed of mould brought from the main land, and a vast cistern in which is heaped together a large quantity of snow in winter to furnish water to the garrison. Sweaborg has been called the Gibraltar of the North; it would seem, however, not with as much injustice as was formerly thought, since the late bombardment shows it to be anything but impregnable. The islands flank each other, and all have the granite cut perpendicular to a height of from 30 to 40 feet. The only passage by which the roadstead of Helsingfors, which is one of the great war ports of Russia, can be reached winds along these formidable isles, which are armed with 800 guns of large calibre. As Sweaborg only presents an unapproachable *ceinture* of granite, a siege of it could not be made by land, and the place could only be reduced by famine. But it might be attacked and demolished from the sea by means of a bombardment, and this is just what has been executed with full success by the Anglo-French fleet, a bombardment which must have caused immense material losses to the Russian Government by destroying the barracks, the different maritime establishments, and the arsenal of the fort. Sweaborg was constructed in the 18th century by the King of Sweden, Gustavus III. In the revolution which dethroned Gustavus IV., 1808, and which afforded Russia the long sought opportunity for invading Finland, the impregnable fortress was given up without resistance to the Russian General Barelay de Tolly by a traitor, who forgot what was due to his country in gratifying his political passions. Sweaborg has a population of about 3,400 persons. Its barracks can hold more than 12,000 men; and, besides its fine port, it has two basins to repair ships.

LEARNING A TRADE.—"Ah!" said a mischievous wag to a lady acquaintance of a proud aristocratic caste, "I perceive you have been learning a trade."

"Learning a trade!" replied the haughty dame, looking needles and pins, "indeed you are very much mistaken."

"Oh!" said the wicked wag, "I thought by the looks of your cheeks, that you had turned painter!"