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Evans sumendum est optimum. - Cic.

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"POSTPONING" A GOOSE.

I took passage in one of the packet ships that run between Mobile and New York. She was commanded by a sharp fellow who was interested in making the trip profitable as possible. As a general thing a meaner table was never provided in a cheap boarding house.

During the passage we were becalmed one day on a part of the coast which was excellent fishing-ground; and the captain with a view of saving a dollar or two, ordered the men to bring out their fishing tackle and try their luck. This was done; and a quantity of the finny tribe were soon transferred from their aqueous abode to the deck of the ship. The captain enlarged upon the delicacy of the fish, and closed by asking—"What say you to a fish dinner to-day, ladies and gentlemen?"

Everybody said, "Oh, by all means!" Attached to the ship was a negro cook, called Centaur.

"Centaur!" cried the captain.

"Aye, aye, sa!"

"Cook a mess of fish for the passengers' dinner; and d'ye hear, postpone that goose!"

"All right, sa!"

Centaur seemed troubled, and scratched his wool vigorously. "What did he mean by cookin' de fish and postponin' de goose? I ben on sebbelval voyages, if not more—I ben in big hotels and little hotels, man and boy, for eber so long, if not longer dan dat, and dis de fust time I eber hearn ob postponin a goose. Dere's pickin a goose, and drawin a goose, an stuffin a goose, an roastin a goose, an bakin a goose, an boilin a goose, but postponin a goose, I don't believe dat eben Mrs. Glass, de great cook dey talk about, eber hearn ob. It must be done, though. Wonder if Jimmy Ducks eber hearn ob it. He knows ebery ting."

Just as Centaur concluded, Jimmy and two others of the crew passed the galley door and the bewildered cook anxiously inquired of the oracle if he knew "how to postpone a goose?"

"De case is dis, you see. Cap'n says to mejis now, says he, 'Cook a large mess ob fish for de passengers' dinner to day, and 'postpone' de goose. Now dat is just what dis nigger can't git through his wool, no how what postponin a goose is."

"Oh," said Jimmy, winking at his companions, "that is easy enough. I thought ebery fool knew that."

"I thought so, too," said Centaur, "an so I says to myself, Jimmy Ducks'll know."

"Well, you see," said Jimmy looking serious, "it isn't a common way of 'cookin' de fish, but ven it is served up after fish, at de nobility's dinners, dey 'postpone' it. Now, this is de mode: After drawing de bird, stuff it with a mixture of 'ard boiled eggs, chopped fine; onions ditto; apples ditto; biscuit pounded into bits, and portions of a fish previously browned on de fire. Then put de goose into a pot, boil it for 'alf an hour; place it in de oven, and bake it for 'alf an hour; then put it on your spit, roast it until done, and serve it with gravy."

Centaur listened to it with attention, and, noting upon the tablet of his brain Jimmy's directions, started for the galley, highly elated.

Dinner time arrived, and Centaur won honor by the style in which he served the fish. Dish after dish disappeared; and when ebery one supposed the meal to be concluded, another dish was placed before the captain, who, on removing the cover, to his indignation discovered the goose! His wrath was not to be suppressed, and, in a passion, he shouted—"Send that infernal cook aft."

Centaur entered the cabin, very good-humouredly, having no suspicion of anything wrong, and was startled by the question—"What do you mean, scoundrel, by disobedience of orders?"

"Beyed orders, sa; done jes what you said sa."

"Obeyed orders, you rascal. Didn't I tell you to postpone de goose?"

"Course you did sa, and I did it."

"Did what?" shouted the captain.

"Postponed de goose, sa, 'cordin to directions."

The passengers saw the joke, and burst into a laugh. The captain was somewhat mollified, and requested Centaur to explain himself.

"Well, sa," said he, "you ordered me to cook de fish and postpone de goose. Now, I never postpone in all my life, an' on course didn't know nuthin bout it; but Jimmy Ducks lighten me on de subject, an I foller exactly his scripshon. I had trouble enough; don't want to postpone anoder, no how."

Everybody laughed at Centaur's explanation, and even the captain smiled.

"Be off, you blockhead!" and send Jimmy Ducks here."

The Darkey was off in a twinkling, and, there being some curiosity as to this new style of cooking, we tried the goose, but could not tell whether we were eating fish, fowl, or fowl. Jimmy soon appeared, and

was compelled to repeat the directions he had given to the cook, forgiveness being only extended to him on condition that he should eat the whole of the goose. The punishment was not very severe, for in fifteen minutes nothing but a skeleton remained of that goose.

"My heyes!" was his exclamation, when he had completed the task; "if that's a 'postponed' goose, I wish de captin ud ave one postponed ebery week. The dressin' ower, might be warded, so as to be a liddle more palatable."

European Intelligence.

ONE WEEK LATER FROM EUROPE

Arrival of the America.

The steamship America, which sailed from Liverpool on the 2d inst., arrived at Halifax at 10 o'clock on Saturday morning last.

Among her passengers were Lola Montez, the Countess of Landsfeldt, who was married to the Prince of Skulkofsky, of Paris, and suite.

She also brought out 142 soldiers and two officers of the 62d Regt. for Halifax.

The America experienced strong Westerly gales during the passage. On the 7th inst. off Tuska, passed the steamer Europa, and on the 13th passed the steamer Niagara.

The British Revenue Returns for the year show a decrease in the receipts for the last quarter of about £80,000 sterling, and on the year about £1,800,000. The decrease principally arises from reduced taxation, although commercial depression had a material influence towards the close of the year.

The official programme of the ceremonies to be observed on the marriage of the Princess Royal appears in the Court Circular. The wedding is definitively fixed for January 25th.

The London Times reviews the report of the U. S. Commissioner for Indian affairs, and endorses the policy which looks to the civilization of the Indians in America.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS.—In London on the 30th, there was a slightly increased demand for money, to meet the requirements at the end of the year; and more extensive enquiry had sprung up for silver to export to India, which gave rise to the impression that the reduction of discount would renew the drain of silver to the East.

The terms of the loan proposed to be raised by the Norwegian Government are understood to have been arranged with Baring & Co. The loan will be small, but the precise amount is not fixed on.

On Thursday some little disappointment was felt that a further reduction in the rate of discount was not made by the Bank of England, but was supposed the measure was postponed until after the payment of the January dividends.

There was only a slight demand for money at the Bank. No new failures; and the year closed more favorably than was anticipated.

The West India Mail steamer had arrived with over a million dollars in specie.

The Joint Stock Banks have reduced their rate of allowance on deposits to 4 per cent.

LATEST.

By Telegraph to Liverpool.

LONDON, Saturday.—The Times' City Article says:—The year has commenced favorably in all the stock markets, and consols have experienced a further improvement of nearly 3 per cent. over last price, to day being exactly the same as on the 1st of Jan. 1857, at the Bank. Notwithstanding the approach of the 4th, the demand for discount is very light in open market. The Rate for best bills ranges between 6½ and 7 per cent. This being New Year's Day, no business has been transacted in any of the Continental Bourses. At Hamburg the rate of discount has declined to 4½ per cent.

Only about £10,000 in gold was taken to the Bank to-day; the £45,000 from Australia by the Suffolk has arrived in London, and is expected to be sold to the Bank.

The Royal Mail Steamship Company have received telegraphic advices of the arrival at Suez on the 27th ult. of the City of Sydney with a further sum of £195,000 from Australia.

THE LEVIATHAN.—The process of working down towards the water will be formally commenced for the sixth time either to-day or Monday. No less than 11 presses are fixed against the aft cradle and ten against the forward one. One of the former is of enormous strength and dimensions.

The Court Circular reiterates the story, that the King of Holland intends to demand the hand of Princess Alice for his young Prince of Orange, although nothing official has yet transpired in the matter.

The Earl of Spencer is dead. Lord Althorp, just returned from the United States, succeeds to the Peerage.

Lord Harrowby has resigned the office of Privy Seal, on account of ill health. Lord Clarendon succeeds him.

INDIA.

The Bombay mails of December 4 had reached England.

The news of the relief of Lucknow is confirmed. The enemy fought desperately. The rebels had evacuated Lucknow.

Sir Colin Campbell asks for reinforcements, although his force is computed at 12,000 in fine order.

The women, children and sick were safely conveyed to Cawnpore.

The fighting before Lucknow was very severe. On the 16th the enemy suffered enormously. The fight on that day was one of the most severe ever witnessed. On the 19th, the enemy were flying in great numbers from Lucknow, and firing had nearly ceased. After the fight of the 16th, the bodies of 150 Sepoys were counted in one place.

The latest accounts are not very intelligible.

Two telegraph clerks have been murdered near Alumbagh, the news being thereby stopped.

When Campbell left Cawnpore, on the 11th, he rode 40 miles at one stretch. In his engagements he relied on his artillery as much as possible, thereby avoiding unnecessary loss of men.

Nena Sahib, with all his men and baggage, it is said has joined the rebels of Gwalior.

The Gwalior Contingent was still capable of division, counsel being said to be the cause of their inaction.

It is reported that the King of Delhi's sons and nephews, after being tried by military commission, had been shot.

The steamer Kheronesse had arrived at Madras last night.

The Daily News' Bombay correspondent says the rebels at Oude have placed a boy on the throne, and keep him in state at Tyzbad, a city of 100,000 inhabitants, defended by a large fort, with wall, ditch, round towers, and new entrenchments. Here the last great stand may be expected.

Three companies of 34th Native Infantry mutinied at Chittagong, had marched to Dacca. One hundred Europeans were sent to intercept them.

Jaunpore Territory is threatened by a large force from Oude.

Serious disorders are anticipated in Rajpootana, and European troops were urgently wanted.

The Calcutta markets were almost unchanged. The money market had improved. Exchange 2s 1d. a 2s. 2d. Freights unaltered.

WONDERFUL PRESERVATION OF A TROOP SHIP FROM DESTRUCTION BY FIRE.—EXTRAORDINARY COOLNESS OF BRITISH SOLDIERS.

The steamer Sarah Sands, while conveying troops to India, took fire November, 11th, and burned for fifteen hours. All the after part of the vessel was destroyed. She put into Mauritius for repairs. The troops showed perfect discipline. The preservation of all on board was extraordinary.

A letter from Capt. Castle, commander of the Sarah Sands, is published, describing the partial destruction of that ship, and the escape of the troops and crew. The fire was discovered at 3.45 P. M., and the flames burst through the upper deck about 9 P. M. An explosion took place in the port magazine. By this time, says Capt. Castle, the ship was a body of flame from the stern to the main rigging, and thinking it scarcely possible to save her, called Major Brett in command of the troops, forwarded, and told him my opinion, requesting him to endeavor to keep order among the troops till the last, but at the same time to use every exertion to check the flames.

No one can describe the manner in which the men kept the fire back: one party were below, keeping the bulkheads cool, several of whom were dragged up senseless, and fresh volunteers took their places, but were soon in the same state. At 11 P. M. the mainmast fell, took fire. Quartermaster Welch and 4 or 5 soldiers went aft with wet blankets, and succeeded in extinguishing it. About midnight we appeared to have made some impression on the fire, and after that drove it back inch by inch until daylight, when it had been completely subdued. The ship now appeared in a fearful plight, merely the shell remaining, the port quarter blown out by the explosion, 15 feet water in the hold, and the ship rolling heavily and taking in large quantities of water aft.

By great exertions the steamer was kept afloat and arrived at Mauritius, eight days after, without the loss of a single soul. She had a large number of the 54th Regt. on board, bound to India, besides several wo-

men and children. Nothing but the wonderful calmness and courage of the troops saved the steamer from utter destruction, as heavy gale was blowing at the time, and the ship was rolling and pitching very much. This is another proof of the energy which characterizes the British soldier under the most trying and frightful circumstances.

CHINA.

Hong Kong dates are to November 25th. The American Commissioner had arrived at Hong Kong in the ship Minnesota.

The fleet were about to move into Canton river. The French will co-operate with the English. Operations are expected to be commenced immediately.

The Russian Commissioner was at Hong Kong.

Lord Carnarvon, as soon as transports could be procured, would send 2,400 troops from India to China.

The persecutions of the Chinese against the Christians were increasing, several of the latter having fallen victims.

FRANCE.

The Senate is convoked for January 18th. The Council of State, presided over by the Emperor, has decided against the system of obligatory agricultural insurance.

The Times' Paris correspondent is assured that the exiled General have had permission given them to return to France, without condition of any kind.

The Paris Tribune boldly defends the system which the French Government have adopted of purchasing negroes on the coast of Africa, and carrying them to compulsory service in the French Antilles, argues that, in no other manner can prosperity be restored to them, and ridicules the opposition of English philanthropists. A despatch from Paris, however, says there is no doubt the Emperor will not renew the contract for supplying the French colonies with negroes. The French Government had recognized the charge d'affaires of Buenos Ayres—thereby disposing of the reports current of hostile feelings on the part of France towards Buenos Ayres.

On the 31st the plenipotentiaries proceeded to the ratification of the treaty relating to the new frontier of Be-sarabia. The Emperor had been unwell, but had recovered.

PERU.—The Monitor announces that M. Blondel, who was recently expelled by the Turkish government from his position as Belgian charge d'affaires at Constantinople, has been appointed Belgian minister resident to the United States, in the place of M. Bosch who goes to Constantinople.

SARDINIA.—The Sardinian Parliament is about to deal with clerical interference in the late elections, and will make moral pressure, as well as physical violence, invalidating defects in candidates.

SPAIN.—Letters from Spain say, it appears certain the Spanish government will consider the mediation of England and France in Mexican affairs as broken off, if Mexico does not accept all its conditions. In consequence of this resolution, preparations are being actively made both in the Spanish ports and Cuba, for an expedition against Mexico.

NAPLES.—The official report of the recent earthquake says, it was confined to the interior Principality and the Province of Basilicata. All the buildings in Potenza were in ruins. Twelve villages had nearly disappeared. 400 dead were found at Castella, and 30 at Palla.

Sicily altogether escaped.

Fresh shocks were felt at Naples on the 19th and 20th, but there were no accidents.

AUSTRIA.—The Emperor of Austria has authorized the Chamber of Commerce and trade of Trieste to form a joint stock Bank, with a capital of 1,000,000 pounds sterling.

TURKEY.—It is said that the Porte, before consenting to the cutting of the Suez Canal, demands the evacuation of Perum.

RUSSIA.—Navigation of the Azof is closed for the season.

The Circassian Chiefs have sent a petition to the Great European Powers, praying the Treaty of Paris, which forbids hostilities in the Black Sea and opens the commerce of Circassian ports, may be enforced against Russia.

MARKETS.

Money Market continues easy. Consols for account 91.

Cotton advanced ¼d. Total sales for week 40,000 bales.

Wheat firmer. Flour and corn dull, and slightly lower.

Sugar in good enquiry. Coffee firmer.—Tea improved—common Congou 13d. Rice active. Tallow quiet.

Timber—Yellow Pine, 151 a 204; red 144 a 151. Spruce 161 a 17d. Birch, 16d a 20d.

Deals, 47 10s a 28 10s.

Freights.—To Boston, 15s a 17s 6d; New York, 7s 6d a 9s; Philadelphia, 13s; New Orleans, 8s a 10s.

The sch'r Liverpool, Captain Kendrick, was burned at Barrington, N S on the night of the 3d instant. She had just arrived from Boston, and contained a cargo of merchandise valued at about \$12,000. No insurance. The fire is supposed to have originated from lime in the hold.

EXTRAORDINARY FRUIT.—We have been shown an apple of extraordinary size and fine appearance, grown and sent hither from California. It is a yellow pippin, and weighs 26 ounces. It was grown by a Mr. Swift, of Green Valley, near Vuelgo, and is of a variety known as the Gloria Murdock. —National Intelligencer.

TO MECHANICS.

With our Mechanics mark, and inwardly digest the following hints suggested by the following paragraphs which we copy from a late paper. They convey some useful information, which it would be well for them to consider.

"Evening Hours for Mechanics.—What late evening hours done for Mechanics who had only ten hours toil? Here are the following facts:

"One of the best editors, the Westminster Review could ever boast, and one of the most brilliant writers of the passing hour, was a cooper in Aberdeen. One of the editors of the London Daily Journal was a baker in Elgin; perhaps the best reporter of the London Times was a weaver in Edinburgh; the editor of the Witness was a stone mason. One of the ablest ministers in London, was a blacksmith in Dundee; and another was a watchmaker in Banff. The late Doctor Milne, of China, was a herd boy in Rhyme. The principal of the London Missionary Society's College at Hong Kong, was a saddler in Huntley; and one of the best missionaries that ever went to India was a tailor in Keith. The leading machinist on the London and Birmingham Railway, with £700 a year, was a mechanic in Glasgow; and perhaps the very richest iron founder in England was a working man in Morab; Sir James Clark, her Majesty's physician, was a druggist in Banff. Joseph Hume was a sailor first, and then a laborer at the mortar and pestle in Montrose; McGregor, the member from Westbury, was a ploughman in Haddington; and Arthur Anderson, the member for Orkney, earned his bread by the sweat of his brow in the Ultima Thule.

"Genius of Energy.—There is no genius of life, like the genius of energy and industry. You will learn that all the traditions so current among very many men that certain great characters have wrought their greatness by an inspiration, as it were, is a sad mistake.

"As you will further find, when you come to measure yourself with men, that there are no rivals as formidable as those earnest, determined minds, which reckon on the value of every hour, and which achieve eminence by persistent application.

"Literary ambition may inflame you at certain periods; and a thought of some great name will flash like a spark into the mine of your purposes; or dream until midnight over books; you set up shadows, and chase them down; other shadows, and they fly—Dreaming will never catch them. Nothing can make the 'scent lie well' in the hunt after distinction, but labor.

Naming a Town.

When a certain town in Illinois was about to be incorporated, the inhabitants had quite a discussion as to what name they should give it. In one of the preliminary meetings, some one proposed that of Moscow, whereupon old Gen. B. jumped up and said, Mr. Moderator, "suppose that I am the richest man in the town, and I think I ought to have my say about the name. Now I don't like the name of Moscow, for when I was a boy my father bought a cow of old Jim Morse, and I had to milk her, and she was the kickingest witch I ever saw; and I've hated the name of Morse cow ever since."

An English Pilot on a Bender.

The Adriatic, on her homeward trip, brought the English Pilot through to this port, having been unable to transfer him. He will return on Saturday in the Baltic, the Company having to pay all his expenses and second officer's wages, with the right to pilot the ship into Liverpool and bring her out again. His brother pilots of New York have taken him in tow while sojourning here. They located him at the Pacific Hotel, and on New Year's day put him behind ten horses to make calls. "Bless my eyes!" says Jack, "I never was behind so many horses in my life."