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# STAR,

## AND CONCEPTION BAY JOURNAL.

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HARBOUR GRACE, Conception Bay, New Zealand:—Printed and Published by JOHN THOMAS BURTON, at his Office, opposite Mr. W. DIXON'S.

**Soldiers and Sailors.**—One of the most curious parts of the evidence, taken before the committee respecting the Post-office, is that of Captain Bentham, of the 52d regiment, regarding the correspondence of Soldiers. It is provided by statute, and each single letter sent by, or addressed to, a soldier, shall be charged only 1d. provided the former is franked by the commanding officer of the regiment or detachment; and that, in either case, the penny is paid before the letter is posted. This privilege the soldiers valued very highly. Common sailors, in the merchant service, on the other hand, never write a letter at all, not having the privilege of sending them through the Post-office for a penny. Mr. Pearson, a witness, who has 200 sailors in employment, says—"I know they never think of writing to their friends. I know very well they would be very glad to do it, but they cannot afford it. The expense of a single letter to the north is very nearly equal to the wages of a full seaman, and exceeds the wages of an apprentice." It is remarkable that the only correspondence between common soldiers and their relations, or each other, for all the witnesses agree that any friendly intercourse which passes through the Post-office between any other class, is quite inconsiderable. The common soldiers are certainly much worse educated than the general body of the people; but assume that the adults in the united kingdom amount to 6,500,000, that one half are able to write letters, and that they write as frequently as common soldiers, no very exaggerated supposition, and we have 130,000,000 letters that never would be written under the present system, yielding a gross return to the Post office, even at one penny a piece, of considerably above half a million sterling, from a source, letters on friendship, which now yield nothing. *Tail's Magazine.*

**Horrors of War.** Allison, in his history of the French revolution draws the following frightful picture of the field of Elau the day after the battle in which Napoleon defeated the Russians with immense slaughter on both sides: "Above fifty thousand men lay in the space of two leagues, weltering in their blood. The wounds were for the most part of the severest kind, from the extraordinary quantity of cannon balls which had been discharged during the action, and the close proximity of the contending masses to the deadly batteries, which spread grape at half musket shot through their ranks. Though stretched on the cold sand, and exposed to the severity

of an Arctic winter, they were burning with thirst, and piteous cries were heard on all sides for water, or assistance to extricate the men from beneath the heaps of slain, or loads of horses by which they were crushed. Six thousand of these noble animals encumbered the field, or, maddened with pain, were shrieking aloud amid the stifled groans of the wounded. Subdued by loss of blood, tamed with cold, exhausted with hunger, the women lay side by side amidst the general wreck. The Cassack was to be seen beside the Italian; the gay vine-dresser from the smiling banks of the Garonne lay athwart the stern peasant from the plains of the Ukraine. The extremity of suffering had extinguished alike the fiercest and most generous passion."

**The Ballot in Ancient Rome.**—The Roman Commonwealth had lasted under its kings upwards of 200 years. Thence, to the introduction of the ballot, nearly 400; from the ballot to the Agarian insurrection, under the Gracchia, only six years; and then followed nearly eight years of internal troubles, usurpations, civil wars, proscriptions, massacres and anarchy, which could be, and only were terminated by the imperial despotism of the Cæsars: so that between the ballot and slavery, the nation did not enjoy one single day of internal tranquility or rational freedom. *Quarterly Review.*

**The Dutch.**—nothing can exceed the cleanliness, the personal propriety and the apparent comfort of the people of Holland; you do not see a house or a fence out of repair, or a garden not carefully cultivated, you meet with no ragged or dirty persons, nor any drunken man. Bastardy is almost unknown: and there are no beggars. The domestic and social duties are discharged with great constancy; a scrupulous economy and cautious foresight prevail among every class; and to spend one's whole income is accounted a species of crime. The same systematic prudence pervades every part of the community, agricultural and commercial, and thus the Dutch are enabled to bear up against the most formidable difficulties, and to secure a larger amount of individual comfort than probably exists in any other country.

**Clerical Wit.**—A witty clergyman had one day to unite a rustic couple in the holy bands of matrimony. The ceremony being over, the husband "began to sink in resolution," and falling as some husbands might do into a fit of repentance, he said, "Your reverence has tied the knot tightly, I

fancy, but under favour, may I ask your reverence, if so be you could unite it again?" "Wy no," replied the dean, "we never do that on this part of the consecrated ground." Where then?" cried the man eagerly. "On that," pointing to the burial ground.

**Our Better Halves.**—It being agreed, at a party of twelve, that a disputed question should be settled by the opinion of the majority; the six ladies expressed themselves opposed to the six gentlemen, and claimed the victory. A gentleman objected to this, as the number of votes was equal, saying, "they were half and half." "True," replied a witty fair one, "but we are the 'better halves.'"

**SELFISHNESS.**—Selfishness is the besetting sin of our fallen nature. It interferes with and adulterates the love of our neighbour; it excludes from bosoms the love of God. But self-love, so far from being an illegitimate principal, is an essential part of the constitution of every sentient existing and in the second great commandment is assumed as such, and constituted as has just been said, the standard of our love to others. The reasoning of the Apostle Paul is beautifully correct, when he says, "he that loveth another fulfilled the law. For this Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be no other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour; Therefore love is the fulfilling of the law."—In its heart-searching spirituality, its precision and simplicity, its readiness for application, its force of united appeal to the understanding and to the heart, its comprehensiveness, both as to the object it embraces, and the disposition and conduct it inculcates towards them, this precept is divinely worthy of the place it holds.—"Taking love of God and love of our neighbor together, well might our divine Master say of them, "on these two commandments hang all the laws and the prophets."

**ASIATIC ETIQUETTE.**—The Cochin Chinese are polite and punctilious observers of etiquette. At Vunglanc the chief mandierne questioned the propriety of one of his rank and numerous title holding intercourse with Mr. Roberts, who came from a country where he understood there were no titles, and all men were equal. Mr. Roberts, perceiving that unless this objecting were removed the object of their visit would be frustrated, replied that the mandierne had in some measure been misinformed. He told him if his Chinese secretary would take a piece of paper, he would enumerate his own titles, and convince him of his errors. The secretary selected a half sheet of paper, Mr. Roberts, requested him to take a whole one, as that even would be scarcely large enough. The American officers present were of course at a loss to imagine how Mr. Roberts would extricate himself from his seeming difficulty; but not so Mr. Roberts.—He dictated as follows: Edmund Roberts esq., special envoy from the president of the United States to the emperor of Cochin-China, citizen of the United States, citizen of Maine, citizen of New Hampshire, and continued enumerating himself citizen of each of the 25 states; for, being citizen of all, he was so of them severally. Before the sheet was

half full the mandierne exclaimed, "was unnecessary to go further, as his title already exceeds his own. Had he not been satisfied, Mr. Roberts intended to enumerate as many of the cities, towns, and villages as he could remember, not doubting the success of the ruse diplomatique."

The celebrated Dr. Antomarchi, so well known to the world as the physician who followed Napoleon to St. Helena, and remained with him while he lived, died on the 3d of April at St. Jago de Cuba. Dr. Antomarchi arrived about three years since at New Orleans, from France, and was received with distinguished attention. He afterwards traveled through Mexico; and on his return to the United States, he stopped at St. Jago de Cuba, to visit some relatives where he was seized with the yellow fever, and in a very short time, fell a victim to that disease. *New York Gaz.*

**TWENTY MINUTES.**—"When I was about leaving Liverpool for America," said Mathews, to a professional friend "I asked the Yankee Captain, as we were lying in the stream what detained us, that we were not off? He answered 'The mail, Sir. I inquired when it was expected? 'In about twenty minutes,' was the reply. In an hour or two the mail came on board; and when we had moved but a little distance, then there was another stop. 'What is this for?' said I. 'We are waiting for a pilot, quoth the master. 'How long before he will be on board?' was my next question. 'In about twenty minutes,' was the answer again; and so it was all the way over. If there was a gale, it never was calculated to last more than twenty minutes; that space of time was likewise the estimated duration of a calm; and one poor fellow, blue and white with active sea sickness, was told to keep a good heart, for it might not last more than twenty minutes? When I arrived at New York, after numerous provoking delays, and had become fairly established at my lodgings, there comes up a waiter, in hot haste, with 'Mr. Mathews! you can't stay here no longer, sa!' 'What is the matter?—the reason?—why can't I?' 'Cause, sa, the Sheriff has issued his *skash arrarar*, and the red flag is out o' the winder, and they're gwinn' to sell out, sa!' 'Well, when must I go?' 'Why, sa, I s'pect you'd better be gettin' away in about twenty minutes!' And thus," continued Mathews in his fretful, querulous manner, "was it, from the moment I set my foot in America. You'd hardly believe it, yet I had just returned from calling to see an old friend, who was very kind to me on my former visit. Where is Mr. B.?' said I, to the servant. 'He is dead, sir! Dead! dead! How long since did he decease?' 'I should think about twenty minutes, Sa!' was the answer. "In short," concluded the inimitably mimic, "there is nothing that cannot be and is not done, in the United States, in twenty minutes!"

According to what we hear from Milan, the preparations for the coronation there indicate that the solemnity will be attended with a magnificence never before displayed. In every part of the town, houses are being pulled down, and new ones erected; and all the public buildings are being repaired, and several streets widened; the triumphal arch and the cathedral will at last be finished. Mercadante is to compose two new masses. From Vienna alone orders have been received for the hiring of 250 apartments; and all the small towns in the environs will be