

WOLLESTOCK GAZETTE.

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Vol. I.

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No. 8.

EDITORS:
T. CUSHING, J. W. GALLIVAN, D. R. JACK,
A. W. MACRAE, G. G. RUELL.

SONG OF A VIVANDERE.

(Before the battle of Vittoria.)

Bid the shrilling trumpet rise,
Let the martial haut-boy tell
Our triumph to the wondering skies,
Bid the notes of music swell!

Let Europe's echoing kingdom hear,
From cottage thatch to palace dome,
Sounds of dread and tones of fear;
'Tis Gallia's host, they come! they come!

Moscow stoops, and Prussia yields,
Lusitania crouches low,
Conquest wastes Italia's fields,
Spain has rued the fatal blow.

Britain trembles in her isles,
Trembles at the victor's name—
Vanquish'd nations wait his smiles,
Sing the hero's deeds of fame.

SCENE.

I'll fare the day on Gallia's side,
Her eagle wept his fallen pride,
Ambition heard the fatal knell
That rang o'er her departing spell;
'Twas then, where rose a gilded fame,
She saw but a deserted plain,
Her hand that grasped an empire's chair,
Held nothing but the yielding air,
The song that flattered round the throne
Was drowned in the Frenchman's groan,
And Spain, the crushed, discerned on high
Britannia's star of victory!

W. S. (1813.)

* The writer of the foregoing lines (Capt. Wm. Swabey, R. H. A.) was present with his troop at the taking of Copenhagen in 1807, and subsequently at the battles of Ciudad-Rodrigo, Salamanca, Vittoria, (where he received a bullet in the knee), Toulouse, and Waterloo. He survived the final triumph of the British arms over Napoleon Bonaparte nearly fifty-seven years, and died in England in his eighty-third year, February, 1872.

To the Editors of the WOLLESTOCK GAZETTE:

Sir,—I am sorry to be obliged to say that, in my opinion, the Trustees of "The Grammar School" do not take sufficient interest in the comfort of the present generation of scholars, in regard to the provision of suitable chairs, desks and other furniture for our use. The desks we now occupy are too low for comfort, and are not at all suitable for a senior class. Most of the furniture appears to have been procured second-hand, and is not likely to hold together much longer, in fact every few days some part of it gives way. During a visit I recently paid to the "Girls High School" in the Victoria building, I was surprised at the comparatively handsome furniture used in that department, and I think, Mr. Editor, that it would be only justice to give us as good, for is not the Grammar school supposed to be the "top of the ladder" as regards public schools in St. John.

I think, and I am sure you will agree with me Mr. Editor,

that "The Board" might afford to give us better materials to work with, which would correspond in some degree with the fine rooms we now occupy.

Yours truly,

A SUFFERING STUDENT.

To the Editors of the WOLLESTOCK GAZETTE:

Sir,—Can you tell me what has become of the petition which was to be presented to the Common Council for the purpose of having a hill set aside for sledding. The winter has now passed, and the petition which started out with so much noise, has to all appearances been allowed to drop. However, the sledding has been as good as the average this winter, which must assuredly be some consolation to Chief Marshall, who was said to be favourable to the petition.

C O A S T E R.

The editors have much pleasure in announcing that at the end of the year, dating from the issue of our first number, they will give to the person who has been most successful in discovering the answers to the Historical Questions a handsomely bound copy of "Hannay's History of Acadia." The answers to be legibly written and sent, together with post office address of solver, to W. G., P. O. Box 578, St. John, N. B.

43. Where was Charles de St. Etienne de La Tour born, and where did he die?
44. Where was the "Coffee House Corner," St. John, N. B.?
45. When was the City of St. John established by Royal Charter?
46. When was St. John made a free port?
47. In what year was Partridge Island Light House destroyed by fire?
48. Into how many lots was the City of St. John originally divided?

AN ARTIFICIAL SUN.—The most powerful artificial light in the world has just been constructed by Messrs. Chance Bros. & Co., at Smethwick, near Birmingham, England, for the South Head Lighthouse, near Sydney, New South Wales. It is a first order dioptric, revolving light, with the electric arc. The lamp has a special arrangement of prisms for securing vertical divergence of the beam. It is over six feet in diameter, and the height is about nine feet, and it is said to be the first time such dimensions have been applied to illuminate by the electric arc. The lamp has a power of about 12,000 candles in the focus of light, and the margin beam has a luminous intensity exceeding 12,000,000 candles. The light will give flashes around half the horizon at intervals of a minute, and will make a complete revolution every 16 minutes. On an average, the light will be visible at a distance of 40 to 50 miles. At an exhibition of its power recently given at Smethwick, the light was so intense that it could hardly be endured by the naked eye.

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A FIVE MONTHS TRIP TO THE SUNNY SOUTH.

(CONTINUED.)

Talking aloud to themselves is a trait peculiar to the negroes of the Bahamas. As a proof of their love for large-sounding phrases, which are often used without the slightest idea of their meaning, I give a copy of a letter written by a soldier of one of the native regiments to his physician which was selected at random from a number of similar precious documents he had received:

"Feb. 23rd, 188—. Sir,—I, thy most worthy servant, have the honor, at this time, to implore and beseech thee, this 2d time to Pore this thy patient and impenitent hand Maid, for although it has pleased the Almighty to deal thus with her, as she at present is, still I trust that it may please him also to release her, out of her present pains and sufferings, to her former position again. And we trust that his Never failing providence may & will support thee to listen to the Tortures and cries of the afflicted, for his mercies sake. Sir the present positions of thy penitent hand Maid is thus, a severe and Protruberance pain in the back, and a cough in proportion to the pain in the back, & a pain in the stomach in proportion to the cough, and a standing weakness, and a stubborn faintness, with restlessness day and night, and Sir she stands at present in need of a good proportion of blood. for Sir she loose a good set, before she came to thee the first time. For Sir, she was loosing it from Sunday to Sunday, which was eight days, and it began to abate on the ninth day. And Sir by the help of God and thy assistance, I implore thee to try for her for

I am thy humble servant."

Sponge fishing is one of the principal trades carried on in Nassau and the vicinity. In quality the sponge will not compare with that of the Mediterranean. The principal kind shipped from these islands are sheep-wool velvet, reef and glove. The sheep-wool is a very soft tough sponge and excellent for bathing purposes. The reef and velvet sponge is used for surgical purposes. There is also a kind called grass sponge, which has lately been extensively used in the manufacture of carpets: an average of about 400,000 pounds is annually exported from the island. I think the charge of laziness against the negroes almost altogether unfounded, if one but considers the severe labour the negroes often accomplish, as for example, in the sponge fishery, which gives employment to the owners and crews of 500 licensed craft from ten to twenty-five tons burthen, and is carried on with some risk from the weather and much hardship, for the sponges are from two to three fathoms below the surface, and must be torn from the rocks with hooks attached to long poles. The position of the sponges is ascertained by means of a water-glass: on holding this perpendicularly over the water one can see everything through it as clearly as in an aquarium—fish, sponges, coral, or shells. The sponge-boats usually get in on Saturday, and the sponges are assorted in the markets, each boat lead and variety by itself. On Monday they are disposed of at auction—only members of the sponge guild and those making genuine offers are allowed to bid, which is done by written tenders.

Wrecking is another branch of business for which the Bahamas have long been famous, owing to their intricate navigation. At one time this was very lucrative, but it has been falling off of late years. Formerly everything saved from a wreck was sold at auction in Nassau; now all goods not of a perishable nature and undamaged, are reshipped to the port of destination. Collusion between ship masters and

the pilots was also frequent, but increased vigilance on the part of the insurance companies has interfered with this nefarious business, while the numerous light-houses recently erected by the Government, with noble self-sacrifice, have operated in the same direction. Benjamin, in his book on the Atlantic Islands, says:—

"The uncertainties attending money-making in this precarious way have their effect on the character of the people, as is the case when the element of chance enters largely into business: the prizes in the lottery are few, but are occasionally so large as to excite undue expectations, and thus unfit many for any pursuit more steady but less exciting. For months they will cruise around, watching and hoping, and barely kept alive on a scant supply of sugar-cane and conchs; then they fall in with a wreck and make enough from it, perhaps, to keep them going another year. It is not a healthy or desirable state of affairs."

One Sunday morning a commotion arose quite unusual in the uncommonly quiet and orderly streets of Nassau. There was hurrying to and fro, and the sound of voices shrill and rapid indicated some sudden and extraordinary excitement. The wharves of the little port were thronged and positively black with eager negroes, and great activity was noticeable among the sloops and schooners. Some were discharging their cargoes of sponges, shells, fish and cattle in hot haste; others were expeditiously hoisting their sails and heaving-up their anchors, while the crews, black and white, sang songs in merry chorus as if under the influence of great and good tidings. What could it all mean? It meant this, another vein in the Bahama gold mines had been struck, another lead discovered, and the miners were off to develop it, each hoping to be the lucky one to turn out the largest nugget, and to retire on it for life. In other words, news had just been brought of the wreck of a Spanish vessel on the Lavadeiros Shoal, one hundred and fifty miles away. She was none of your wretched colliers or fruiters, with a cargo valueless to wreckers, but a ship whose hold from keelson to deck-beams was packed with a thousand tons of choice silks and stuffs for the black eyed brunnettes of Havana, just enough damaged to oblige them to be sold at auction in Nassau where all goods wrecked in that archipelago must be brought for adjudication. Verily, we thought "it's an ill-wind that blows nobody any good." The misfortune which has wrung the soul and perhaps ruined the happiness of two or three in far off lands has made glad the hearts of several thousand darkies, mulattoes and whites in the Bahamas. But the branches of business which in past years have brought most wealth into Nassau have been buccaneering, privateering, and blockade running. The buccaneers were at one time in high feather there: they bought up or captured the governors, toasted and roasted the people when recalcitrant, and, hiding below the low keys or cays in their little vessels, spring out, spider-like, on any unwary trader quietly sailing by. Blackbeard was the most celebrated of the ruffian chiefs who at various times ruled over these islands. An immense silk-cotton tree stood until within a few years on Bay street, the principal business street in Nassau, under the spreading branches of which he administered high-handed justice. He was finally killed off the coast of South Carolina in a desperate fight, and the land had rest for certain years, the escutcheon of the colony bearing since that time the significant legend "Eapulis piratis, restituta commercia."

There is a well in the barrack yard, Nassau, about which

there is a tradition that whoever drinks of the water will never finally leave the Bahama Islands.

After the pirates came the privateers of the late American Revolution. But the most remarkable episode in the history of the Bahamas was the part played in the Southern rebellion, about which several volumes could be written. The blockade-runners were principally steamers, they were built low, with their hulls and smoke-stacks painted black. They burnt hard coal so that no line of smoke would betray their whereabouts to the enemy's cruisers. Thousands of tons of coal left by the blockade-runners are still to be seen on the islands near Nassau. There they are likely to remain as the owners of the ground won't allow them to be removed, and it is almost as cheap if not cheaper to burn wood, as the only thing fire is required for is cooking. There are only two steam engines in the whole of the Bahama Islands, one of these is used in the Royal Victoria hotel for pumping up water, and the other for the Marine Railway on Hog island, opposite Nassau, so the fuel used for manufacturing purposes is rather small.

On the 5th December, 1861, the first Confederate vessel arrived from Charleston with 144 bales of cotton, and between that time and the close of the war 397 vessels entered Nassau from Confederate ports, and 588 sailed thence for Southern ports. It is a curious fact, but nevertheless true, that of the clearances 432 were ostensibly for St. John, New Brunswick, and of the total number only thirty-two carried the Confederate flag—a pretty fair indication of the amount of complicity practised about that time by Her Majesty's subjects and officials in Nassau, and of the value of the British capital engaged in this questionable traffic. In nothing was this connivance on the part of a neutral power more evident than in the case of the Florida or Oreto, which was three times seized by the commander of the British man-of-war Bulldog, and three times released by the decision of the Insular Admiralty Court on grounds afterward wisely disavowed by the Home Government.

(To be continued.)

EXCHANGES.

RECEIVED — *King's College Record, University Monthly, Philomathean Review, Rouge et Noir, Sunbeam, Argosy, University Gazette, Astrum Alberti, Dalhousie Gazette and Queen's College Journal.*

The *Philomathean Review*, for March, contains a very interesting sketch of the life of Henry Ward Beecher. This article is embellished with a wood-cut of Beecher, which is one of the best likenesses we have seen. We quite agree with the *Review* in their statement that "as a lecturer Mr. Beecher has no superior in this country, and it is to be much doubted if he has an equal."

In its exchange list the *Rouge et Noir* has changed the name of the WOLLESTOCK GAZETTE to *Woodstock Gazette*. We forgive the *Rouge et Noir*, but we would like to have the benefit of our own name. The "Nineteenth Century Dream" is well written, and has a good moral.

We are glad once more to be able to acknowledge the receipt of the *University Monthly*. The *Monthly* has improved during its absence.

The *King's College Record* for February is an excellent number. The sketch entitled "The Widow's Third" is well written, and full of humor.

ART CORNER.

Hubert Herkomer has taken a studio in Boston where he is painting the portraits of several Boston gentlemen.

Frank Millet, the artist, was a skillful musician while at Harvard, and one of the members of the Pierian Sodality, as also in their day were John S. Dwight, Robert S. Winthrop and others.

Except a few pictures and statues, nothing at Windsor or Buckingham Palace belongs to the Queen personally rather than the crown; but nearly everything at Balmoral and at Osborne is her own.

The sculptor of the bronze statue lately unveiled at the Sandwich Islands, of the conqueror, Kamehameha I., was by the late Thomas R. Gould, called by some one the Shelley of sculptors. The chief wears a feather cloak and helmet which were the distinguishing marks of a Hawaiian prince.

One of the most beautifully decorated houses in Washington is that of Mr. and Mrs. Clark on Massachusetts Avenue. The frieze of the parlor of the library is painted by Mrs. Clark herself—one in a bay-window representing cat-tails, pond lilies, and other plants, and another, "When the swallows homeward fly."

NOTES OF TRAVEL IN ENGLAND.

OXFORD—(Continued.)

Leaving the Sheldonian theatre we proceeded to the University Museum, built in 1860 for the teaching and study of the Natural Sciences. The centre of this edifice is a large quadrangle covered by a glass roof, supported by cast iron columns. On the upper floor is the valuable Ratcliffe library of Natural Science.

Retracing our steps we entered New College, built in the 15th century by William of Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester. The entrance to this noble building is not very imposing, but once inside we were struck by the fine old cloisters, the walls and pavement of which are covered with inscriptions, setting forth the merits of ancient worthies. The windows of the chapel are beautiful, the chief figure representing the Nativity. Crossing the court we entered the gardens, bounded on one side by the only perfect remnant of the old city wall. Following a small path we came to what is called the "Slip," from which we obtained a magnificent view of the massive Belfrey Tower, and also of the fortifications to which a part of the wall has been joined.

Leaving New College we next came to the Queen's College, which was built in the 14th century, and named in honour of Queen Philippa. In the chapel are still preserved the curious old stained glass windows (date 1635) by Van Linge. In the buttery is preserved an ancient drinking horn, presented by Queen Philippa, besides other curiosities.

We then crossed High street to the new Examination Schools, now rapidly approaching completion at a cost of £150,000; the marble columns in the interior and the decorative carving throughout, are very fine.

We then proceeded down High street, by the advice of our commissionaire, past Magdalen College to Magdalen bridge. Here a most beautiful view of the college is obtained. "Magdalen College," says Lord Macaulay, "is one of the

most remarkable of our academical institutions. Its graceful tower catches, afar off, the eye of the traveller who comes by road from London. As he approaches, he finds that this tower rises from an embattled pile, low and irregular, yet singularly venerable, which, embowered in verdure, overhangs the sluggish waters of the Cherwell."

Retracing our steps we entered the college, passing through a narrow portal we came to St. John the Baptist's quadrangle, in one corner of which is a curious ancient pulpit of stone; the Muniment Tower and the Founder's Tower are very fine and adorned with statues. Going down stairs we visited the kitchen, a spacious building with a lofty roof. It is supposed by some to be the original kitchen of the Hospital of St. John. We then went into the gardens where, among the trees, some deer were quietly browsing. Crossing the Cherwell by a stone bridge we came to a delightful avenue known as Addison's walk, because frequented by that distinguished man when a member of this college. Returning along High street we visited the University college, a venerable looking building.

It now being pretty late we returned to the hotel, and after tea we took a walk on the banks of the Isis, this being the classic name given to a portion of the Thames which flows by the University. The moon was full and shed a mild radiance or glory over the scene, rendering the stroll highly enjoyable and long to be remembered. Next morning we were out early and passed through the markets, which were well supplied, proving that the citizens were fond of good things and had them within reach. We first came to Lincoln college; on entering we were shewed a large vine which covered the walls of the quadrangle. The story is told that at the founder's death his plans for the endowment of the college remained unfulfilled, and that on the visit of Bishop Rotherham, the Rector preached from Psalm lxxx: 14: "Behold, and visit the vine;" enlarging on the needy state of the college. It is said the appeal so touched the good bishop's heart that his munificent endowment was the result, and that in gratitude for the circumstance the vine is held in veneration.

We then crossed Turl street to Jesus college, remarkable as the first college founded after the Reformation, its charter bearing the date 1571; and passed on to Exeter college, entering the large quadrangle we were struck by the magnificent chapel, built in 1867 by Sir G. G. Scott.

After glancing at Balliol college, which claims precedence over all others as the oldest college in Oxford, being founded in 1260. We started down St. Algate street, anxious to see Christ's Church college before we left, built in the reign of Charles I. But as a college its origin is far more ancient, and tradition ascribes to King Alfred the first establishment of a University Hall upon that very spot. The chapel was beautifully renovated in 1862 by Sir G. G. Scott, but it still retains its quaint cedar wainscoting and oak screen.

We then visited All Soul's college, founded in the 15th century. The chapel is famed for its singularly beautiful reredos, and four windows of the anti-chapel still retain the original stained glass. The floor is paved with Purbeck and Devonshire marbles, exquisitely inlaid at the east end.

Passing down a narrow lane we entered Merton college. This college competes with Balliol for the honour of being the oldest college in Oxford, having been founded in 1264. The east window is of most magnificent design. The Hall is

one of the most interesting and most ancient refectories in Oxford, and the venerable library is said to be the most ancient in the kingdom.

(To be continued.)

THE BERMUDAS OR SOMER'S ISLES.

BY A GRAMMAR SCHOOL BOY.

The Bermudas or Somer's Islands which are now attracting a great number of people on account of their being at present the *winter resort* of Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise, are situated in the North Atlantic Ocean, lat. 42° 14' N, and longitude 64° 53' W. The nearest land is Cape Hatteras, 580 miles distant. The islands stretching north-east by east and south-west by west, are about twenty miles in length, and the area is about twenty square miles. They are almost everywhere surrounded by coral reefs, the channels through which are extremely intricate and can only be safely navigated by native pilots. The principal islands are those of Bermuda, St. George, Ireland and Somerset. The protection afforded to shipping by their numerous bays and harbours and their position in the track of the homeward bound West India vessels, have led to the conversion of the Bermudas into a maritime rendezvous, and likewise the British naval station in West Indian waters. The harbour of St. George's island is fortified, protected by a breakwater, and has water and space enough to float the entire United States navy.

The population, by the last census, 1881, is 14,314, of which 8,564 are colored, the rest being whites. The colored population will be found more intelligent and generally better to do than the corresponding class elsewhere. The majority are engaged in agriculture, but they are usually versatile and handy.

During the winter there are receptions at Government House, Mount Langton, and Admiralty House, Clarence Hill, at each, every alternate week, while the regiments have various entertainments at Prospect, near Hamilton, and at St. George's. Cricket matches, theatrical entertainments, Hunt Club meets, and various excursions and amusements will be found to avert any *ennui*. The walks, drives and boat courses will prove alluring, and to the visitor, replete with novelty. A glance at tropical vegetation—the very weeds are beautiful—is had under gratifying circumstances, and in an extraordinary compactness will be found an astonishing variety for the scientist and the lover of the beautiful in nature. Bermuda is a capital place for the American or Canadian to enjoy a complete rest and change, and there is no locality within the same easy access of the American continent that offers tourists the same great advantages. Bermuda is unsuited for invalids advanced in disease, but for incipient ailments it offers many benefits. The Bermuda season commences in November and ends in May, and throughout it may be found dry, uniformly warm and pleasant. Those who cannot endure the trying influences of a northern winter, will find in Bermuda an agreeable asylum. Bermuda may not only be considered as a winter rest but also as an agreeable early summer excursion spot in view of the delightful sea-voyage which may be made from New York and Halifax during June and July, and the rich exhibit of trees and shrubs at that time in flower. The wearied clerk, student or citizen whose holidays are limited, who may desire

a sea-voyage and a change in holiday programme, cannot in a fortnight or three weeks leave get better value in every sense for a reasonable expenditure. Bermuda being out of the range of the trade winds and beyond the cooling influence of northern breezes, the almost uniform temperature ranging from 80° to 90° F., day and night, and continued calms during August and September, render these months the most trying period of the year.

The products of Bermuda are onions, potatoes, arrowroot and tomatoes, which are the chief ones; others are melons, cucumbers, cabbage, cauliflowers, turnips, carrots, peas, beans, &c., &c. The onion and Irish potato season lasts from January till June and sometimes July. The sweet potato which is cultivated to a great extent is not so important a crop as the Irish potato and is not a great export. The arrowroot which grows there very abundantly is considered to be the finest that can be obtained. And on a summer's day it is quite refreshing to get a good "feast" of melons, especially those large musk melons which "fairly melt in your mouth," as the saying is. The other vegetables are all very nice and have a delicious savour. I forgot to mention the *bananas* and *plantains*, oranges and lemons, grapes and other fruits, which are among the principal products in the way of delicacies.

Bermuda is divided into nine *Parishes*, viz: Sandy, Southampton, Warwick, Paget, Pembroke, Devonshire, Smith, Hamilton and St. George, the principal being Pembroke, capital Hamilton, and St. George with a capital of the same name. Paget is where the Princess is staying, and there she occupies the beautiful residence "Inglewood," which was expressly given up for her use by the owner, Hon. Mr. Trimingham. Hamilton is also the capital of the island, but formerly it was St. George. At Hamilton is the seat of government. Here the Assembly meet in May and the session lasts till November. It consists of thirty-six members, four from each Parish. The Legislative Council is composed of the Governor and nine members and is the same as the Executive Council. The term of duration of the Colonial Parliament is nine years. St. George, the old capital, is noted for having one of the finest harbours in the world. It received its name from Sir George Somers, who was shipwrecked and afterwards died there, (1610). It contains the oldest church, (St. Peter), in these islands, the present walls being built in 1713. Ireland island, called the "Dockyard," is noted for containing the largest "Floating Dock" in the world, and as being a great naval station. This dock was thirty-five days in towage from England to Bermuda. Its length is 381 feet, breadth 124 feet, depth 75 feet, and total weight 8,340 tons. The flag-ship Northampton has been four times on the dock. In the Parish of Southampton and situate on Gibbs' Hill, 302 feet above sea-level, is a "Light House" exhibiting one of the largest and most powerful lights of that description in the world. It is a revolving dioptric lens of first order, with mirrors, with one centre lamp of three concentric wicks. It cost £5,500.

There are stationed at Bermuda troops to the number of about 3,000, besides Royal Artillery and Engineers. The present Governor commanding the troops is Lieut.-General Gallwey.

Education is not neglected in Bermuda. Schools cannot be said to be altogether free as parents have to pay a small

sum for the education of the young. A good Grammar school exists in Hamilton, known as the Pembroke Grammar school, conducted by Mr. C. E. Clay; besides this there are several other good schools in Hamilton and other towns. At St. Georges there are two Grammar schools, one under the direction of Mr. Alex. Penny and the other under that of Mr. W. B. Onkes.

I forgot to state that as it has (there) no lakes or rivers. Bermuda may be said to rely exclusively on rain for its water supply, which entails the cost of constructing large tanks and maintaining them in order. Every private house is required by law to have a tank provided, and once a year the roofs of nearly all buildings are whitewashed to preserve the purity of the water which is all the better of having some iron thrown into it by means of iron hoops being put in the tank. There are several wells through the island which are found of much service, especially in seasons of drought.

Nearly all manufactured goods, flour, meal, butter, &c., are imported from New York.

As I think that I have written sufficient for a new beginner, I now conclude by stating that the visitor to Bermuda must go prepared with various changes of clothing adapted for warm or moderately warm or even cool weather; and let the sojourn be ever so brief the visitor will carry away with him a store of many memories of beauty to which remembrance will afterwards recur with delight.

VARIETIES.

Nearly ninety thousand dollars is the amount of Mr. R. R. Springer's gift to the College of Music, Cincinnati.

The Czar's new throne for the coronation is of black oak, carved richly, costing about \$9,000. Its style is sadly suggestive.

The first telegram ever sent by a Chinese sovereign to a European court was read by the Crown Prince Frederick William on the anniversary of his silver wedding.

Nearly two hundred thousand acres of Mississippi delta land have been bought by General Gordon of Georgia. It is the richest and perhaps the most unhealthy land in the world.

The British squadrons belonging to the West Indies and North American stations are to make a search for the body of Sir Francis Drake, who nearly three centuries ago was buried at sea in a leaden coffin off Puerto Cabello.

Count Aquila, an old Bourbon prince, uncle of the last King of Naples, who lately visited the King of Italy, and excited Rome by asking to become an Italian once more and subject of the King of Italy, is an Admiral of the Brazilian navy, and his wife is sister to the Emperor of Brazil.

In the early days of California when the drinking water was very poor and scarce, Henry L. Goodwin, of East Hartford, Connecticut, angry at being charged half a dollar for a drink for his oxen, bored eighty feet into his own town lot and established a free drinking fountain for all passers-by. For other uses he sold the water, which proved to be the best on the coast, for a cent a gallon and realized a fine fortune from it.

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