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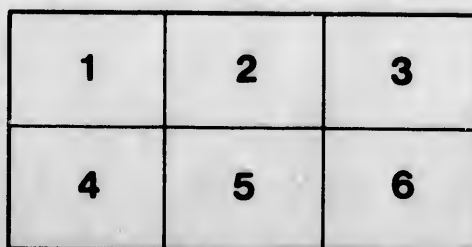
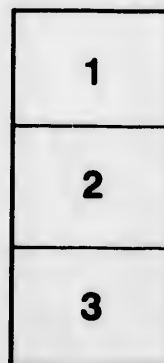
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Living Age  
Sept 25, 1846

OREGON AND PUNJAB.

THE Oregon dispute offers at the present small promise of a satisfactory solution. Neither party has proposed to the other terms likely of acceptance. And we must confess that the specimens of arbitration, and of the awards pronounced by royal arbiters of late years, are not such as to warrant or encourage any power to trust the decision of its rights to a probably ignorant or prejudiced judge.

We can therefore conceive, without altogether approving, the refusal of the Americans to submit to arbitration. Still their refusal to do so places their government in a dilemma. The motion has of course been brought forward to give notice for suspending the convention for the joint-occupation of the Oregon. If this, recommended as it is by the president, be rejected, it is a blow to him, an extinguisher to his zeal and efforts, whilst it takes the entire question out of the hands of both legislature and government, to refer it to the people. It will not improve or become more easy of solution in their hands. And we can imagine American senators, friends of peace, and caring little for the Oregon, who might nevertheless vote for giving notice, rather than risk the consequences of increasing public excitement and their own unpopularity.

On the other hand, such a motion passing the Senate will necessitate armaments and military precautions. The Americans may have no aggressive intention beyond displacing the Hudson Bay Company's establishments on the southern branches of the Columbia by military forts of their own, and at the same time organizing their own jurisdiction over their own people. But it is impossible not to foresee that it is in the power of any one malignant or fractious individual to beget cause of serious quarrels and grievance between the two governments. The state of nature, whatever it may be in civilized life, is, we fear, in a country of hunters and trappers, a state of war. And it is to this that we relapse by the simple abrogation of the convention.

In the present position of the question and of the two governments, it is pretty evident that diplomatic notes, be they ever so logical or cogent, will effect little. Neither is it likely that a plenipotentiary, tied down in his instructions, would bring matters to a satisfactory conclusion. And yet two rational men, really anxious for an accommodation, could not converse for two hours, we should think, without arriving at the means of adjustment. But on this head parliamentary papers or revelations will tell little. The great difficulty is evidently the Columbia river; and we fear much that our diplomatists neither know how to keep or how to abandon it: their proposals being of a mixed kind, neither doing the one thing nor the other, and consequently satisfying no party; conciliating no objection, and guaranteeing no interest. But on this subject it would be idle to expatiate without more data.

It may seem strange, yet it is the truth to say, that the news of our Indian victories will but aggravate our difficulties, and swell the tide of enmity towards us both in America and in Europe. In Washington and in Paris the cry is, that the English go on conquering and absorbing kingdoms; whilst they protest most menacingly against similar aggrandizements even in their own portions of the globe, by France or by Americans. We seem to

have a good case this time, the Sikhs having attacked us. But is it better than those of the Americans against Texas, or the French against Algiers and Morocco? The mere fact of armies of 70,000 and of 50,000 men meeting in deadly combat to end in the annexation of an empire—that empire, too, one of the great conquests of Alexander the Great—this is alone sufficient to stir French bile.

M. Berryer, a potent orator of the French Chamber of Deputies, has accused us of laboring to “check the moral and material development of those great empires, the United States and Russia.” The material development which he regrets to see prevented is, no doubt, the extension of Russia over the Balkan to Constantinople. The moral development must mean the extension of American slavery over Texas. One is surprised to find such aspirations breathed from the mouth of an eminent Frenchman in the nineteenth century, and that on behalf of a motion against an alliance with England, which motion was supported by upwards of 150 members of a French liberal opposition!

We would not, however, meet these outbursts of jealousy, whether on the part of French or of Americans, with corresponding hatred. We pay the natural penalty of greatness by exciting jealousy, and should not imitate the pettyness which is confessed by entertaining and expressing ill feelings. This hatred is, after all, not so profound as it may seem. The exigencies of party, the want of any other theme or weapon wherewith to strike at an obnoxious minister, the necessity of sailing before the popular breeze without inquiring whence it blows, may account for much of the Anglophobia east and west of us. We still entertain hopes, as well as belief, that it will be found more unamiable than dangerous.—*Examiner*, 7th Feb.

Spectator 14th Feb.

ARBITRATION OF THE OREGON QUESTION.

THE great obstacle to an amicable settlement of the Oregon controversy is not the importance which either Great Britain or the United States attaches to the possession of the territory. At least on this side of the Atlantic, the greater number do not know that it is of any value, and of the remainder many believe that it is not. It is less a desire to retain Oregon, than an apprehension of the consequences of giving it up to American dictation, that makes the English as resolute as the Americans—not to relinquish any territory to which they believe they have a just claim. National pride cannot bear the idea of being bullied out of lawful property; and regard for national security suggests, that to give up a right in order to purchase peace and quiet, would invite further encroachments. Admit, as in candor we are bound to do, that the Americans are as sincere as ourselves when they profess their conviction that Oregon of right is theirs; the mutual dread of the world's sneer—the mutual alarm lest concession should encourage extortion—is the real impediment to a pacific termination of the Oregon negotiations.

It is this that makes recourse to arbitration so desirable. In the hands of a referee, the most jealous national sense of honor may feel safe. Be the arbiter's award what it may, obedience to it is a point of honor. There needs be no shame felt under such circumstances at playing the losing



game. Again, obedience to an arbiter's award cannot encourage third parties to advance new and unreasonable demands. Judges are established to decide in the controversies of private individuals, because, where property is at stake, the will may remain stubborn after the judgment is convinced, and coercion is therefore necessary. Private citizens may safely and honorably acknowledge a sovereign, but independent states cannot. Between nation and nation there can be only arbiters, *pro hac vice*, appointed by mutual consent. But, as in private society the authority of judges is the only guarantee against anarchy or despotism, so in the great society of nations the appointment of arbiters from time to time as disputes arise is the only guarantee against analogous evils.

It is this conviction that has introduced among civilized European states the practice of referring their disputes to each other's arbitration. The growing frequency of this practice is perhaps the greatest triumph of reason in our age. It is a long stride in the march of civilization. Of course, when either of the nations parties to a dispute is rude, stubborn, and self-willed, it cannot be compelled to resort to arbitration. If the government of the United States refuse to adopt this method of terminating the controversy, England, having proposed that method in good faith, can do no more. But even then, war is not inevitable. Without declaring war, England can proclaim that all her diplomatic intercourse with the United States has ceased; that she will no longer be a party to the hollow mockery of going through the forms of friendly negotiation with a nation that sets at naught the comity of nations. This suggestion, along with a less practical alternative, has been thrown out by Mr. Sampson,\* in a pamphlet, which concisely states the pleas of the parties, and clearly shows the impossibility of settling the question on the mere ground of *paper rights*—

"England should protest in the face of the world against the barbarism of America, and at the same time treat that country as one with whom no relations whatever could be held. Without interfering with the private intercourse of the individuals of both nations, she could refuse to receive an American minister at her court; and this pacific but determined step (the necessity for which towards a nation which threatens brute force when it is proposed to refer a matter in which it is an interested party to the decision of a properly-constituted court of arbitration, would at once be recognized by the whole civilized world) would, by rendering persons unwilling to settle in a country which had thus been put out of the pale of intercourse with the leading nations of the earth, soon convey a lesson leading to a wiser course."

ENCOURAGEMENT TO FOREMEN.—In a Paris letter of the Boston Atlas, we find the following:—

"At a recent meeting of the Society for the Encouragement of National Industry, fifty-one medals were awarded to as many foremen, who were addressed by Baron Charles Dupin, (brother of the late Philippe Dupin,) in an eloquent discourse upon this useful class of artisans, whom he designated 'the non-commissioned officers of industry.'"

That is a very gratifying statement; and it is

\* "The Oregon Question as it Stands. By M. B. Sampson." Published by Highley, Fleet Street.

possible that such attentions from the scientific world will go far to increase the exertions of such men to make their own position more valuable to themselves and to others. It would check, in some cases, the disposition to leave the place of foreman, and take that of proprietor, before means are attained to sustain an establishment in the vicissitudes of business. The comparison of "non-commissioned officers" may be good. Frederick the Great, who cared very little for anything besides military matters, was wont to denominate the "non-commissioned officers" the "soul of the soldiery." Then the foreman is the soul of the workmen, imparting life, consequence and character; and most meet is it that such a soul should be saved from the condition of disregard of his importance, which often makes him restless and roving. The movement of the French society is eminently worthy of imitation.—*U. S. Gazette.*

NEW INDIANS.—The late Galveston papers state that a new tribe of Indians has lately joined the Camanches. They call themselves Congees. They say that they emigrated from the western country bordering upon the Mexican settlements, and that they have never seen any Buffaloes. They are at war with the Mexicans, and are allied to the Lipans, and to a large band of Indians residing in the mountainous districts near the Rio Grande. They have an immense number of horses, and appear to depend chiefly upon these for subsistence. The Camanches treat them with great kindness, and appear to be anxious to have them incorporated into their confederacy. The emigration of so large a tribe of Indians from their ancient hunting grounds to a distant country is a singular event in Indian history.

## NEW BOOKS AND REPRINTS.

We have to thank Messrs. Wiley & Putnam for a delightful package of books. What a delightful treasure this Library of Choice Reading would be to a lone man, or a lone family, or a lone settlement out in the west! We have noticed all of them before, except No. 59, which is the second part of the second series of Hazlitt's Table Talk: and Nos. 60 and 61 which are Thiodolf the Icclander, and Aslaugas Knight, from the German of the Baron de la Motte Fouqué. This was the favorite work of the author.

*Biographies of Good Wives.* By L. Maria Child  
—Author of Letters from New York, &c.—  
Published by C. S. Francis & Co.

It is almost superfluous to commend to the American public a book written by Mrs. Child, so accustomed are her countrymen to receive with delight her instructive writings; yet we may be allowed to call attention to this record of female virtue, hoping that not only our lady readers, but their lords too, will make a household, parlor-window book of this little volume, that the one may be reminded of what good wives should be, and the other to prize them when they have them. In the hurry of life both are in danger of forgetting—the one the sin of being a bad or indifferent wife—the other the shame of undervaluing a good one. Such a book as this—founded on authentic history, and written with no small degree of elegance—is the best possible reminder for both.—*New York Mirror.*

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