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No. 22.

"What do you refer to?" asked Crevier a faltering voice.

"It is useless to wear the mask longer, I am a man," said Mignon.

"My secret is discovered; alas!" cried Crevier.

"O, it required but a glance to penetrate disguise. He that loves, has sharp eyes," rejoined, with something of triumph in his manner.

"Let me entreat that you will not betray Monsieur Mariot," said Mignon, in supplicating tones.

"Ah, Mignon, had it been for my sake, should be the happiest of men; but I dare flatter myself that such is the case?" said Pierre.

"For his sake!" muttered Brien.

"Then you had another object in view?" asked Mignon.

"You persist in averring that you have regretted—that is that you have not changed your mind in regard—"

"To your proposal?"

"Yes."

"Should I have myself if I had no nobler object in view, Monsieur Pierre?"

"And very properly, too," quoth Brien himself whose heart was beating violently.

"That I had repented."

"But you see I have not?"

"Do you know Mademoiselle Bellmar, this frankness may injure you?"

"Explain."

"Do you not perceive that you are in power?"

"O, you are there?"

"As I command here. I sued at V. port."

"I forgot for the instant that I was talking a villain," replied Mignon with dignity.

"Excellent!" quoth the partisan. "She him there?"

"Mignon, reflect upon your situation. It is easier for the tongue to join, in every jovial jest, than it is for the heart to be true. You are a man of honor, and you shall preserve your own name."

"And if you were a gentleman, you would do so unconditionally."

"That your conduct has been bold and maidenly, I think you must own; with so much precedent before me, I may venture to be so ungenerally. What have you to answer such logic?"

"I am only your agent; but if by boldness mean physical force, I should say you never held."

"Be sarcastic, if you will; yet it seems to me that we meet under circumstances in which you would do well to abate your pride and hold language. You are at present situated, as to be under my authority."

"I do not acknowledge your authority, cannot without an unwarrantable usurpation restrain my actions, or control my movements."

"Your personal comfort shall be attended to as far as means will allow, and you shall be treated with respect by my men; but you know that you are not at liberty to leave party."

"Dare you thus presume to take from me freedom?"

"By what right, Monsieur Mariot, do you thus usurp authority over me?"

"By the right of might."

"That is well answered; but here my test. I will not submit to your tyranny. You must be used of honor in your party. I will not submit upon their generosity; they protect me."

"These men are in my pay."

"And my father's too; you forget that are the joint partners?"

"I remember everything that I wish to remember, Mademoiselle Bellmar."

"A rare faculty."

"Captain," said Mignon, in a low and marvellous tone, "let me tell you my motive for seeking you and running such a quixotic career?"

"That is a secret in my own keeping, for nately."

"Your motive must have been extraordinary. Your father will lose his reason when he hears of this name of a calamity!" exclaimed Mignon, with fervor.

"You do well to invoke the name of God after committing this fatal error! You should have reflected and departed yourself as becometh one of your sex and age. But this moment, I will waver my reputation, is all reserved."

"Don't wager your reputation, Monsieur Pierre—the stake is too great?"

"You sustain your part bravely, I'll admit; but assured I'll probe your secret to the bottom. Ah, Mignon, the time will come when shall redder with shame at the sound of your voice, it shall so remind you of your folly."

"It reminds me of everything absurd at moment."

Balaam rubbed his hands and laughed.

"You are his lip with vexation and called Callard, who was waiting his pleasure at the nearest house. He came and with him two persons—Gretchen and Kincaid."

"Captain Callard, 'you are to watch Mignon, and see that they do not leave the area; I have special reason for wishing them to remain with us."

Callard bowed and smiled.

"Captain," said Mignon, gently, "I hope shall be friends?"

"I trust so," responded Callard, considerably embarrassed.

"Here is my hand, captain," she added, extending that little member with charming grace to the leader, who could not refuse the token; while Pierre beheld the demonstration with ill-concealed anger and jealousy.

"And yet mad—Mr. Crevier, I mean—shall be obliged to restrict you to your limits; but my authority shall be mildly exercised, believe me."

"Heware, captain," said Pierre, with a smile, "you're upon dangerous ground. Mariot had advanced a little and now I am upon his arm. Callard, Kincaid and Gretchen are at the distance of three or four yards while Mignon and Balaam were left very well. What had just passed betwixt the captain and Mignon did not escape his eye but gave a painful sensation which he never forgot. Usually it was for Callard he left a happy hour to tempt the dangers of the mountain. Although the latter was unpleasant for a moment, he really enjoyed the captain."

"Fortunate man," he murmured. "If he were man, you have pressed that little hand of the partisan's brow was clouded; sorrow and indignation were contending within him. At that moment his limbs seemed losing their strength; another he appeared to be suffocating some new melody that pressed his heart, his chest to the throat. He beat forward, not a word might escape him so intensely as to forget his purpose—and walk off without him."

"This is all very strange," said Mignon, who the captain was out of hearing.

Crevier was about to reply when some object whirled through the air. Greiner threw up his arms, rolled his eyes wildly and fell upon his face. There were simultaneous cries of astonishment. The long, smoothly-wrought shaft of an arrow protruded from Greiner's head.

Mariot proceeded from the spot with absolute terror, as if expecting to feel the point of the steel bolt in his own brain.

"Mon Dieu!" he cried, with a shudder.

"Pierre Mariot," exclaimed Mignon, pointing at Greiner, "read your destiny; behold Heaven will punish your evil deeds!"

"Doomed!" muttered Kincaid, despairingly, dropping his chain upon his breast while Callard, with more presence of mind sprang into the adjoining thicket, rifle in hand.

"Come back," shouted Mariot; but Callard was already in the bushes. It was fortunate for Brien that the captain turned to the north instead of the western side, for it was from that quarter that the arrow had apparently been projected. After beating about in the thicket a few minutes, Callard returned having seen no enemy.

"Look at your misguided instrument, and tell me if you are prepared to go as suddenly!" said Mignon to Pierre.

"Instrument!" repeated Mariot, with a quickness that proved she had touched a sensitive spot. "You know too much, Mignon!"

"Now would it not be singular, Monsieur Mariot, if you should meet the fact of the man at our feet," she resumed, impressively.

Pierre looked at the dead man and breathed heavily; an indefinable awe was tugging at his heart—a phantom had menaced him.

Callard attempted to draw an arrow from Greiner's head; but it broke close to the skull, the steel point remaining firmly embedded in the brain.

Mignon and Balaam walked toward the encampment. Mariot followed in three minutes—the camp was astir, hunters and trappers running to the place where Greiner had fallen.

The partisan hurried away from the locality much excited by what he had seen and heard. Indeed it was to him a night of startling revelations; but being of a strong well-balanced mind, he regained his wonted calmness—to appearance—before he reached the encampment of his band.

Buckeye met him outside the corral, where he had been impatiently awaiting him.

"By the beard of Joe Smith," he exclaimed, "I've a nice bone for you to pick, and have been waiting to throw it to you for more than three hours."

"Well, give it a toss—I will catch it," quoth Brien.

"It'll grow over you, I'll warrant."

"I promise not to bite."

"Well here it is; there's mutiny in the camp—the trapper business is at a discount, and gold hunting in the Aztec kenya as at a premium."

"Ah!"

"Yes, so, cap'n, I reckon."

"So as to be at the head of the new enterprise?"

"Headly, of course; but not less fellar, the Frenchman, sprung the trap on 'em."

"Why, Headley apologized for his conduct?"

"Perhaps he will again; comes kind of natural to him, don't it?"

"I see, have made discoveries, Buckeye."

"Open your pack."

"If I possess any considerable tact in readings human character you are an honest man. May I reckon upon your friendship and assistance?"

The partisan then narrated the incidents already placed before the reader, reserving to himself the privilege of representing Mignon in a way as favorable to her as the case would possibly admit. Of his passion for her he said nothing; indeed he was not willing to acknowledge the existence of such a sentiment even to himself; and the name he took to conceal it served to awaken suspicions in the mind of the trapper, and point to the truth.

"A regular conspiracy; very curious consarn; lucky thing that you watched Monsieur Mariot. I concluded there was something wicked in him while I lay listening among the pines and cedars. Oh, my grand talk about gold discoveries and the castle of Montezuma, which is a humbug. The villain has used a good deal of natural cunning in laying his plans but the tables may be turned on him notwithstanding. The heathen rattle with the bow is arter him, and he'll leave some of his men behind him, even as you say. The devil takes care of his own, it is said; if it wasn't so, we might have heard some day that Monsieur Mariot had felt the sharp point of the steel arrow."

"He will return before morning, hoping his absence has not been noticed," said Brien, very earnestly.

"He will come back to conduct Healey and his friends to the Casa Montezuma, and the land of the treasure. How shall you receive him?"

"I have not matured my plan, yet, indeed, I am much disturbed and confused by the extraordinary things that have—rovidentially, let me believe—fallen under my observation. I need time to reflect, to resolve on a course of conduct that shall be the most judicious the best for my employers my men, and lastly myself; for self friend Buckeye, in an affair like this, ought to come last and not be made to occupy the first place in my thoughts. Danger excites me like a bolt; but men have been in more precarious positions and lived to tell the story of their escape; thus may it be with me. There are some veterans in my party that I can rely on; they will not fail me, I trust, in an emergency. We can deal with the Blackfeet warriors. A surprise would be disastrous to them; but that peril is now comparatively small. To know an enemy's order of battle is to know how to meet him. With your aid, it will be difficult for a war party of an hundred to approach our camp without discovery. I count you a dozen ordinary men; because you have much experience in Indian policy, and know how to look through the double sights."

"That's a compliment I'm proud of inasmuch as it wasn't said by a common man by way of flattery. Cap'n, I am at your orders from this minute; tell me to do this or that, to reconnoiter, to follow trail, to watch for an enemy by night, to fight till the last gasp, and I'll do it without questions. It's an offer I never made afore but there's something in it, I like."

The partisan smiled pleasantly and held out his hand. Buckeye gave it a rough and hearty grasp thus sealing the friendly compact which was to last as long as the lives of the parties.

It is now time that we return to Mignon, and take a casual glance at the passage of events somewhat in the regular order. Mariot speedily made Balaam acquainted with the fact that Mademoiselle Bellmar had repudiated the long-talked-of alliance. That gentleman received the information with some calmness than he had anticipated. He told Pierre to be patient; he would see his daughter; he trusted the matter would be satisfactorily arranged; there was no need of excitement; he had skill to manage it properly. Mariot was led to hope the alliance would be preserved, and he was not without some ground for his expectation.

Monsieur Bellmar at length broached the subject gently to Mignon who demanded to know why he was desirous of such a union. He replied that he was anxious for such a consummation for several reasons.

"Is Monsieur Mariot a man of honor?" she asked.

Bellaam was confused.

"As much so, perhaps, as the average of mankind," he answered.

"Is he positive of even common honesty?" resumed Mignon, taking her father's hand.

"What a strange question, Mignon!" he returned, crossly.

"Do you consult my happiness, only, in this alliance?" she demanded.

"What else should I consult?"

"Interest—would be advantageous in a pecuniary point of view, I admit."

"Do you fear the danger in case of my refusal?"

"Pierre, you remember inherited his father's property, which was worth at his decease far more than mine; Pierre wished to enlarge on his share, and he succeeded in his wish, and he has a considerable money, the savings of my late partner, he made an investment of capital beyond my means, so that, in truth, I am his debtor to a large amount, which might make it exceedingly awkward, should he wish for a dissolution of the house of Bellmar & Mariot."

"But all your resources are not invested; during the many years of your labors, you must have amassed enough to ensure you a competence."

"I have laid by something for you, my child, which you shall have."

"Well, then, my father, let us be content. Pierre is a villain, and I will not consent to be united to a bad man. Whenever you are closeted with him you should pray, 'Lead me not into temptation, but deliver me from all evil.'"

Bellaam changed color, and looked inquiringly at his daughter.

"One would think you had been listening?" he exclaimed, with displeasure.

"And correctly, too; for I happened to be in the room adjoining the library at the time of your interview with Pierre in regard to the American Fur Company."

"And you heard all?" cried Bellaam, much excited.

"All, my father. And I heard also, what you did not—the development of his nefarious scheme."

"The following day with three men?"

"Yes. Can you say to me, 'My daughter, I wish you to marry Monsieur Mariot for he is a worthy man?'"

Bellaam pressed his hands to his forehead and made no answer.

Mignon related circumstantially all that had transpired at the interview between Mariot, Greiner, Kincaid and Gardette, to which her auditor listened without once looking at her, or changing his attitude.

"Headly, of course; but not less fellar, the Frenchman, sprung the trap on 'em,'" with ingenious warmth, when the narration was completed.

"What can be done? Mariot will act as he pleases, said Bellaam."

"I see, have made discoveries, Buckeye."

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was drawing nearer. She arose to go, when a her horror, she discovered a serpent winding its ugly body into a coil, three paces from the partisan's head. To waste a long jagged and dispatch the loathsome creature, was the work of a moment only; she marvelled at her own promptitude and boldness as soon as she drew was accomplished. Excited and trembling she hurried from the spot to meet Balaam who was approaching. Balaam, she returned to the encampment, glad that her feeble hand had been the instrument of Providence in the preservation of the trapper.

It was after this partial failure that Mignon resolved on another experiment. As has been anticipated, it was through her agency that the hatchet had been left where it would fall into the hands of Brien, the dumb bearer of a concealed message. Balaam had been treated with that consideration, and despite the espionage of Callard, succeeded in discharging it successfully on admission. Mignon had enjoined on him to be careful that a portion of the slip of paper be left visible, that it might immediately be seen by the finder, an item which he so far overlooked, that he was obliged to search several days before it attracted the attention of the trapper.

To mystify the latter, Balaam had adopted the expedient of breaking the trail by grasping a mammoth twig that hung pendant from a tree, and swinging himself forward across a small gulch where the ground was soft; this was why the trapper was baffled.

By a skillful manoeuvre, Mignon evaded the vigilance of Callard, after the two bands had passed Fort Leavenworth, and joining the partisan, conversed with him in the manner before mentioned; but her warning had been read and understood; or, at least, sufficiently comprehended to make the captain so cautious as to frustrate the designs of his enemy. She was well on that occasion to speak to him freely; but unfortunately, she contended truckery with Gardette, who was acting for Mariot; and hence her silence on the subject ever uppermost in her thoughts.

While she was planning an expedient to rid herself of his presence, Balaam appeared in the distance, motioning her to return to camp, inasmuch as her absence was exciting inquiry—a series of signals previously agreed upon. We are now ready to tell what happened to Mignon after her unexpected interview with Monsieur Mariot.

MIGNON MEETS RAVENCLAW.

Nothing could be more repugnant to her feelings than the idea of personal restraint, especially when exercised by a man whose character she detested. To remain with the band and be subject to the authority of Pierre Mariot, was a contingent evil; abstractly to her notion, her own rights and privileges. It was also at variance with her instinctive delicacy to be brought again into contact with those who already knew or mistrusted her sex; who could neither understand her motives nor pity her confusion. To avoid being so awkwardly and painfully placed—an object, perchance, of rude comment and ridicule—was a consideration of no small moment. His domination became her ruling desire. In the event of success, should she draw herself upon the protection of Captain Brien, or attempt to return home across the wide prairies, attended by Balaam only, the first was not without objection, but the second was more so. Mignon believed it would be best to act upon her determination promptly, while she was still laboring under surprise, before she had actually deliberated, arranged his plan of action, and systematized his espionage over her soft eyes.

During her pilgrimage, Mignon had nightly been protected by a small tent, which Balaam had provided for that purpose, and which he was expert in putting up and taking down. The tent had two compartments, in the smaller of which slept Balaam, like a faithful watchdog, ever on the alert, ready to start up for his defence at the first approach of danger. He kindled and kept the fires also, when fires were needed, cooking with skill, preparing the choicest of venison for his adventurous young mistress. So it will be seen that Mignon passed the time, when not on the march, quiet by herself, apart from that motley mixture of men composing Callard's band. The services of Balaam were many and important. His advice was always seasonable; she trusted in his sagacity, anticipating protection from his strong arm in every emergency which might occur. He was proof of her confidence, which inspired in her any sacrifice that human creature could, to ensure her safety and comfort. Balaam was well armed, and rarely it would fall to his lot to have should have the tenacity to resist Balaam. He was not wholly indebted to those deadly implements in vogue, for the means of assault and vengeance, because nature had gifted him with hands of remarkable strength, with which to crush an adversary, and administer corporal punishment to a patient, gentle disposition. But when a quarrel was upon him, and his feelings were outraged, he was an antagonist greatly to be feared. His soft and unassuming exterior, and his calm, unobtrusive manner, and his care not to provoke his rage again.

Balaam was consulted in reference to the emergency that had arisen. She explained to him her reasons for not wishing to remain with the party; in his view, he was sufficiently cogent; indeed, her will would have been considered imperative, without a single argument. He said to her:

"We can escape more readily to-night than to-morrow, or any subsequent day."

"Dat am a fact," quoth Balaam.

"Come my friend," she continued, "how shall it be done?"

"I want to know just where yer gwine when yer git away; dat's de question dat 'quires splaining."

"Perhaps I shall throw myself upon the protection of Captain Brien."

"De man I—what, Balaam?" said Mignon, sharply, coloring.

"Nuffin of no consequence," replied Balaam.

"Don't stirb me; I'm thinkin' how it can be done."

"I'll wait patiently."

"Well, dis chole must crawl right out dar—mostest 'em, cut de side-lines, and lead 'em off softly, while yo' creep away in another direction."

"Yes."

"Den I jines yo' wid de horses, ober dar by 'em cotton-woods."

"Suppose you should be discovered?"

"Dis cussed feller light—git 'em. I'll jines yo' dare, sure 'twixt dis an' mor'n'—I'll jines yo' git dar."

"That I can more quietly. Look out and observe what is going on."

Balaam did as bidden, reporting that most of the party were gathered round the dead body

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.—No. 2.

THE PRESENT STATE OF THE LAND.

The dry land, including all the islands, covers only one quarter of the earth's surface; but it is much greater in amount than the entire area of the former geological epochs. At one time which is now dry land was all a cause of the waters of the ocean; it was, in fact, a portion of the bottom of the ocean; and we may consider it as the elevation of the bottom above the level of the water. If the bed of the ocean in any part of the globe could be exposed to our view, we should there see mountains and hills, valleys and plains, very similar to those that exist upon the land.

The elevation of the continents and islands, and the elevation of land in any former period, as remarked in the first number, has been slowly and gradually effected by the long-continued action of the earth's uplifting forces. For this reason, it is supposed that the present state of the globe is the result of the gradual increase and expansion of vast collections of gas or steam, or, it may be of both, pent up and compressed within the earth, and occupying a position between the yet molten interior mass and the solid crust that envelops it. It is not difficult to conceive that great quantities of water from the ocean might penetrate to the crust of the earth, and, coming in contact with the heated mass beneath, be converted into steam, and be driven in immense quantities between the molten matter and the solid material above it, causing, possibly, upheavals of the land, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. The great dryness of the land we call continents, and the smaller islands. Most generally we speak of the continents as two in number: the Old or Eastern Continent, comprising Europe, Asia and Africa, and lying in the Eastern Hemisphere, and the New or Western Continent, lying in the Western Hemisphere, and comprising the two Americas, together with other bodies of land, viz: Australia and Victoria Land, or the so-called Antarctic Continent, a vast frozen region in the Antarctic Ocean, probably extending to the South Pole, and of which very little is known. It lies about two thousand miles south of Australia, and is probably of much greater extent than the 'continent.'

The Old Continent contains about twenty-five millions of square miles, the Continent of America about twenty millions, and Australia about three and a half millions. The four largest islands, leaving out Greenland, are Borneo, Guinea, two hundred and sixty thousand, Madagascar, two hundred and twenty thousand, and Sumatra, one hundred and fifty thousand square miles. Hence we see that either of the continents has an immensely larger area than that of the largest islands.

Casting our eyes over that motley globe termed in the school books the world, we are struck by the greater amount of land in the north of the equator, the ratio of land in the northern and southern hemispheres being about four to one; and again, from the map of the world on an equal area, we see that the greater part of the land is located in the western hemisphere, the ratio of the land in the western to that in the eastern being about two to one. If we conceive the globe divided into a land hemisphere and a water hemisphere, the latter containing the greater possible amount of land, and the former containing the greater possible amount of water, the former would occupy the centre of the land hemisphere, and the latter the centre of the water hemisphere. The greatest amount of land in an important geographical consideration.

With the map of the world before you, your view is to observe some very singular facts.

relating to the position of the land. It exhibits a peculiar form, and is not more remarkable, the peninsula, almost without exception, point southward. This is true not only of those three great peninsulas, South America, Africa, and Greenland, but of Alaska, California, Alaska. This southwest tendency is a very striking phenomenon, and it proves the existence of a certain law of the upheaving forces that controlled the shape and direction of the peninsulas at the time of their elevation. The cause of such a law is yet entirely unknown.

Farsten, a companion of the celebrated navigator, Captain Cook, was the first to point out as an additional peculiarity of peninsulas, that their terminations were generally bold prominent, often the extremities of mountain chains, Cape Horn, the termination of South America, Cape Farewell, of Greenland, Cape of Good Hope, of Africa, Cape Comorin, of Hindostan, are all high promontories. Excepting all those of Europe, nearly all the peninsulas of the world belong to South America, and Hindostan have the regular form of wedges.

Finally, we observe, as another singular instance, that most of the Peninsulas have one or more islands near their extremities. This is the case, we see, with South America, Greenland, Alaska, Hindostan, Malacca, Italy and Greece.

The amount of sea coast, or, as it is termed, the "coast line," varies exceedingly in the different quarters of the globe. In Europe, we find the coast line extremely broken, the land being indented with numerous gulfs, bays and inland seas. North of this, the coast of Europe in this respect more than any other part of the world, while South America and Africa present the opposite type, especially Africa, which for its whole length, is remarkably entire.

As commerce and intercourse between nations have ever been among the chief promoters of civilization, this is probably one cause, though it may not be among the chief causes, why Europe stands foremost in human advancement. Isolated and benighted Africa, possessing the least amount of coast line, lags far, far behind.

**MOUNTAINS AND MOUNTAIN SYSTEMS OF THE OLD WORLD.**

Mountains are merely upheavals of the land, their elevation being due to the same cause as the elevation of the land generally, that is, to the internal upheaving forces, the simple difference in the two cases being that in the formation of mountains the forces exerted are immensely greater, so that they usually terminate in mountain chains which have been raised during the same geological period in which the land around them was elevated, or as geology beautifully proves, at some other period, before or after.

Mountain chains exist at the present epoch which were upheaved many ages after the great upheaval of the land in which they terminate. In such a case, we always find reclining upon the uplifted central mass of granite which constitutes the interior of the mountain, in most instances, the same series of strata that had been successfully deposited in the vicinity during previous epochs. Again in various parts of the globe, mountains which were usually raised long before the general upheaval of the land, these remaining for ages as great insular peaks, while the marine strata, afterwards to be elevated above the water as dry land, were slowly forming at their basis.

The Alps, separating France from Switzerland, the Apennine Mountains running through Italy, and the Pindus range, branching off into Greece, together with various other branches, are offshoots of the main range of Alps, and of inferior altitude.

Wholly independent of the Alpine system, we find a Europe several secondary ranges, the most important of which are the British system, the Carpathian Mountains, in Austria, eight thousand feet in elevation, the Scandinavian Mountains, the natural boundary between Sweden and Norway, seven thousand feet high, and the gold-bearing Ural range of Russia, four thousand feet in altitude.

The Sea of Marmora and the Straits of Dardanelles occupy, as it were, a valley of the great zone of elevations, which, entering Asia, spreads out into immense lands, upon which rise up majestic mountain ranges of sublime altitude, passing through Asia Minor, Persia, and Tartary, to the Taurus, the Elburz, and the Hindoo-Koosh Mountains, the latter terminating at what is called the Great Knot. From this point, which is situated in about latitude 36° north, and longitude 74° east, branch out in various directions numerous great ranges.

The highest chains are the Hindoo-Koosh and the Himalayas, the average elevation of which is probably eighteen thousand feet.—Several peaks of the Himalaya are twenty-five thousand feet high, and one or two of them twenty-eight thousand feet, or five and a half miles.

In the middle and eastern part of Asia, making off from the great ranges, are found innumerable branches and offshoots, many having a north and south direction, while the parent ranges follow a general easterly course. Lying between the Black and Caspian Seas, are the classic mountains of Caucasus, the Caucasus range. These belong really to the great zone we have described, and attain an immense altitude.

Our next number will be devoted to the mountain systems of the new world, and the plains and table lands of the globe.—Student and Schoolmate.

**THE COUNTY COUNCIL AND THE RAILROAD.**  
(From the Courier.)

On Friday evening last, an important discussion took place in the County Council on the reading of the Report of the Railroad Committee. The discussion was on the 6th clause of the Report, which recommended that the Warden pay to the Railroad Company a debenture for £200, to be used by the Company to pay £2400 interest which the Government had notified the Treasurer would have to be paid by the 1st of March next. The £2000 to be charged to the Company as the balance due on estimate presented for payment last year, and which the Warden and County Council at that time refused to pay, the Committee considered the estimate to be correct, and should have been paid when it was first presented. This clause of the Report two members of the Committee, Messrs. Matheson and McAdam, refused to sign, and entered a protest against it at the foot of the Report were agreed to unanimously; on the 6th clause being read.

Mr. Matheson stated that the reason why the minority of the committee dissented from this clause was, that they did not think it proper to apply the debentures in this way, and interest was due by us to the Government, and interest was due by us to the Government, and not through the hands of the Company. The Company had no right to interfere in the payment of this interest, when they should pay any more debentures to the Government, and the other Municipalities to the Company without first having an understanding with no right to this debenture on the estimate, and he would oppose the issue of it.

Mr. McAdam stated that he had opposed the clause of the Report, and would give his reasons for doing so. (Mr. McA. here read a letter from Mr. Watson respecting the payment of the debentures—which stated that the debentures were to be paid by the Counties with the placed to the credit of the Counties with the Company.) These debentures then were to be

put to them, and left the impression that all their affairs had been honestly and honorably conducted from first to last. The Directors acknowledged that they had been deceived in the Contractors, and their proposals had all been agreed to by the Council. Mr. Sherwood was a legal gentleman, and the question had been discussed with him, and on consulting his opinion as to the best course to be pursued, he suggested this very course. If any man stood in the way of the Company and the success of the Road, he should be sacrificed. The word "sacrificed" had been given that they would make the proper use of the debentures. The Receiver of Perth had said they ought to act with the other Municipalities—that they had common interests, and should all act together; but it was his (Mr. S.) opinion that this Council ought to pay the debentures according to contract, whether the other Municipalities did so or not. They were called to decide an important point—whether they should adopt the Report, or take the course suggested by Mr. McAdam. There was no time for delay, as before we could sell the debentures the Sheriff would be at our doors. The By-Law was clear that the debentures should be paid to the Company, and in other parts; the duty of the Council was therefore plain and unmistakable.

Mr. Matheson would like to know if the debentures could be applied to any other purpose but that of paying the cost of work done on the Road?

Mr. Scott stated that the debentures could be applied in any way to defray the expenses of the Road, as well as for work actually done on the Road. It was a mistake to suppose that the expenses of management were not to be considered part of the expenses of the Road, and should form no part of the estimate. We had no experience in the construction of Railroads, and were therefore liable to fall into error in estimating the costs. In all cases, every incidental expense is charged on the Road.—How could we get the Road built unless we adopted this plan?—It was a gigantic undertaking, and if we failed in the attempt, we should be trying to throw obstacles in the way. The interests of the debentures must be provided for, and no contractor would take the work on any other terms. By the terms of the Act, 8 per cent of the debentures had to be paid annually, and the Municipalities must comply with these terms.—The Company in the first place were bound to provide for the interest, and in giving out the work the obligation fell upon the Contractors, and the interest was charged on the Road.

Mr. Noonan wished to know who the Contractors should pay the interest to?

Mr. Matheson stated that if Mr. Scott's opinions were correct—if the items in the estimate were correctly given—the interest should be paid to our Treasurer 30 days before it fell due. But why this concealment? The Company had no authority to pay interest with our debentures. The debentures could only be paid on the certificate of the Engineer, to be expended on the Road. The present question of interest between the Government and us, and to the Government alone should we pay it. The adoption of the course proposed would be an acknowledgment of the old contract, and of our indebtedness to the Government. Then take another view of the case. What ever we do should be done simultaneously with the other Municipalities. If the contract had been broken by us, it had also been broken by them. £486 of interest was claimed, and we should adhere to the last mode of payment of this interest in a legal way. Last year the Railroad Company had sent to the County Council, demanding the issue of debentures to pay the interest, but the demand was refused, although Mr. Beckwith was in favor of acceding to the request. The Company had not fulfilled the contract, and it was the duty of the Council to take a stand in the matter, and give no loop hole for future chiselling. The course recommended in the Report would be establishing a bad precedent, and he would oppose it.

Mr. Young was of opinion that if there was any reason to consider the Contractors had failed, the present move was not right.

Mr. Scott stated that the arguments of the Perth Reeve proved too much, because if the proposed plan was not adopted, then we could not use a debenture at all. If any other tangible plan for meeting the interest, without resorting to taxation could be proposed, he would like to hear it. The Road never could be built unless the interest was provided for. No parties would contract to do the work unless they were allowed to do so. What would they do with the money after it was paid to them? The By-Law forbids paying money to our Treasurer—the money should be paid to the Company and no other. He (Mr. S.) held that no legal course was open to them but that recommended in the Report.

Mr. Shaw said that the Contract provided that the salaries of officers should be paid by Contractors. The cost of the road included all items of expense and these should occupy a just proportion of every estimate of work done. According to the bargain the contractors were bound to provide for the interest. The road could not be completed unless the interest was paid. £480 must be paid by the 1st of March and we had no alternative but to adopt the plan proposed or levy a tax.—£19,000 was due Sykes & Co. yet we were bound to pay our own proportion of this amount. If things went on well and there was no reason to believe they would the interest would be paid.

Mr. Beckwith said that if debentures were to be used at all, and if the course recommended by the minority were taken and debentures paid direct to the Government—(Mr. Matheson here interrupted the Speaker by saying that he was out of order)—The Warden here ruled that he was in order.—Mr. Beckwith continued by saying that the question was whether the Council should provide the means by negotiating a debenture or pay it over to the Company to be negotiated. How could our Warden negotiate a debenture in order to raise money to pay the debenture to the Company and then pay the debenture to the Government? We could not see how it was to be done. The simplest course for the Council to take was to carry out the By-Law—pay the debenture to the Company and let them pay the interest with it. If this were done, all would be right, and the money would be applied to the payment of the interest. He had confidence in the Company and believed they would act honourably and fairly in the matter. He expected that the Company would ever complete the Road and endeavor to help them along instead of throwing distrust and suspicion on all their acts.

Mr. Fraser said that the matter was a very simple one. Perhaps they were the Company and the question was whether we should adhere to the By-law, or assess the people?

Mr. Beckwith—That's the point.

Mr. Noonan stated that our liability was to the Government and not to the Company. If we should pay this debenture to the Company, they should neglect to pay the interest with it, the Government would still come upon us for the amount.

Mr. McArthur said there was one point he wished to mention. Have we confidence in the Company to trust them with the management of £2000? If not the sooner we cut ourselves with them the better. He believed the Company were in every respect entitled to confidence and would support the Report. The objections of the opposition were mere assumptions. They supposed the Company wished to attain some advantage over us, but could not tell what.

Mr. McAdam said that Mr. Scott had said

"The London News" says "all that can with certainty be said at present, is that if Russia is prepared in good faith to accept unconditionally the Austrian proposals, this is a proof that she already feels so severely the pressure of the war as to be hopeless of the future. The acceptance of such terms cannot but be most mortifying to the pride of the Russian Government.—At the outset of the war it asserted a right to arbitrate between the Sultan and his Christian subjects, and seized upon the Principality as a "material guarantee" for submission to its arrogant claims. At the end of the war, if the proposals are accepted, it will submit to have the protectorate of the Rarals wrested from it by other Powers, and will cede permanently a part of its territory. This will be all it has gained by the loss of its Black Sea fleet, the destruction of the labors of long years at Sebastopol, and the expenditure of much blood and treasure."

Meanwhile the course of the allies, if they are bent upon concluding a peace, is clear. Russia has been brought to terms by the losses she has already suffered during the war; by the preparations of the allies to resume hostile operations on an increased scale, and with more systematic plans, as soon as the season permits; and by the defensive alliance with Sweden. Fear alone has induced Russia to entertain pacific sentiments—fear alone can keep her in that mood. The war must not be allowed to slacken for a moment while negotiations are in progress. Victories won by the allies will be more effective negotiators than the most skillful diplomats.

FR.—The "Aylmer Times" says, on the night of Tuesday, the 29th January last, a fire occurred on the premises of Mr. Moore, hair dresser, at the corner of the street, and other outbuildings. As it was an act of incendiary, and the person being known, we trust that he will be brought to justice. He is a Canadian, and was in the service of Mr. Moore. We understand that they had quarrelled, and the Canadian threatened to be revenged,—therefore it is thought that he fired the buildings.

The "Pembroke Observer" records the death by drowning, of a young man named John Hall, a feaster, in the employment of Joseph Rowan. Deceased was going up to Deux Rivieres with a load, and on Thursday week, when about to water his horses, incautiously ventured too near the edge of the water, at a place where the current was very strong, a large gate way, and he fell into the rapids. His comrades made every exertion to save him, but without avail. His body was recovered at the foot of the rapids in about an hour afterwards.

DROWNED.—On the evening of Tuesday, the 29th ult., Michael Delaney, in returning from Ogdensburg, got into an opening in the ice, near the American shore, and was drowned. He was a shoemaker, and has left a wife to lament his untimely end.

The Toronto correspondent of the Pilot, says that the question of the Seat of Government is being much discussed at the present metropolis. Montreal, Ottawa and Kingston, have each their circle of zealous advocates, but Toronto and Quebec are left entirely out of the question. If there is to be a permanent seat of the Legislature, of course it cannot be either of these two latter cities. What we most fear is that the members of the two extremes of the east and west ends of the Province may agree to assist each other in keeping up the present system, and thus secure to themselves the profits of having the Capital 4 years each alternately.

It has been reported by telegraph, that certain Russian vessels transferred to citizens of the United States, since the commencement of the war, have been declared by the French Government liable to capture. It is supposed that difficulty may ensue upon this point.

The Railway between Toronto and Guelph, was opened on the 30th ult. His Excellency the Governor General having arrived at the latter place, by rail, from the Seat of Government, on that day. We believe that Guelph is about 70 miles from Toronto.

The telegraph from Quebec states that a True Bill for Forgery has been brought against John O'Farrell Esq., M.P.P. The circumstances are not stated, but we presume the charge is connected with Mr. O'Farrell's proceedings in the St. Sylvester murder case.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Tribune telegraphs that Mr. Buchanan has written to the Government that he will relinquish his mission on the 12th February, whether a successor be nominated or not. He will appoint Mr. Campbell, the Consul at London, to the post of Charge d'Affaires, there being no Secretary of Legation at the present juncture. This proceeding may temporarily embarrass United States relations as the intellibility of Mr. Grant's recall will occupy Lord Palmerston at the same time.

We learn that Mr. Dewe, Post Office Inspector has just returned from a visit from the north west where he has been established a number of new Post Offices on the Elora and Saugueno Road. The names of these offices are Tevotids, Harzow and Clifton, in the Township of Minto; Glenion in Carriok; Dunkish in Brant; Paisley in Elderslie; and Dunblane in Saugeen. Why are not the names of all new offices throughout Canada published, at short intervals for the information of the public? It is of great importance also, that when Post Offices are closed the names of their substitutes should be made known. Much unnecessary trouble would thus be avoided.

The Rev'd. John Middleton, of Perth, will preach in Carleton-Place, Sabbath, 17th February, 1866, at the usual hours, 11 in the forenoon, and 3 in the afternoon.

The Medical Specialist has been duly received, and each succeeding number read with interest and profit. The present state of Medical Science, in regard to the treatment of pulmonary consumption, is very unsatisfactory; and anything else-

advanced the Contractors upwards of seventy thousand pounds, which is likely to prove a head loss to the Municipalities concerned. Here the speaker read the following Memorandum, by Mr. Keefer, in reference to the present position of the Brockville and Ottawa Railroad:

1st. The length of the line from Brockville to Pembroke, including the Perth Branch, is about 130 miles, preliminary surveys extending over the whole distance, have been made. The location is completed as far as the Bonchere, 92 miles, including the Perth Branch, 50 miles has been set out for work, and the grading completed for 34 miles, for a double track, several of the minor culverts and bridges have been built, and some progress made at the long bridge, over the Rideau Canal, at Smith's Falls. The line has been grubbed and cleared the proper width for a double track for 34 miles.

Fencing material provided and distributed along the line for 41 miles. Sleepers provided and stacked for 62 miles, and right of way purchased for 62 miles, besides several lots at Brockville and elsewhere for station accommodation. About one-fourth of the length of the Tunnel at Brockville has been accomplished, but by a judicious change of location the heavy expense attending its completion, may be avoided. No work has been undertaken beyond Carleton-Place, 47 miles from Brockville. The Perth Branch 11 miles is about completed.

For the work herein enumerated, including engineering and preliminary expenses the contractors have received estimates in accordance with the terms of their agreement with the Company, amounting in all to £107,340 sterling, but deducting the 19 per cent drawback, they were to have received £96,000 sterling. The actual amount paid them was £88,080 17s 6d sterling, about 40 per cent of which was paid in Municipal Debentures equal to cash, and the remainder in the Stock and Bonds of the Company.

Their contract for the whole line when completed and equipped ready for use is £960,000 sterling, equal to about 7,400 per mile.

2d. It is considered that the grading as far as completed is pretty nearly a fair average of the whole line, and that no very serious obstacles are presented upon the portion not yet located, being 38 miles from the Bonchere to Pembroke. The difficulties at first anticipated at the passing of Chevaux Rapids, are not found to be very great. By making the best of the location here, and throwing out the Tunnel at Brockville, it is believed that the fourth part of the grading, which has already been done, falls very little below the average of the other three-fourths now remaining to be completed or 95 miles, the remaining 80 miles to be let out for work, 88 miles of right of way to be purchased, Sleepers to be provided for 58 miles, and fencing material for 89 miles, grubbing and clearing for 78 miles. No iron rails or Rolling Stock, has been delivered.

3rd. My estimate of the cash cost of this Railway, if built and furnished according to the specification attached to their Contract, for a double track and Iron Bridges throughout, is £2,300 per mile.

4th. A considerable reduction in the cost of the undertaking might be effected by (1st.) Grading the remainder of the line for a single track only. (2nd.) By substituting Wooden Bridges for Iron. (3rd.) By adapting the Bridges for a single track. (4th.) By building Wooden Stations instead of Stone, and (5th.) By diminishing at the commencement the amount of Rolling Stock.

I have not had time to go into the calculation very minutely, but, by a rough estimate, I think these reductions will come to about £700 Cy., per mile, making the cash cost of the portion remaining to be completed; modified in its construction, as herein suggested, about £5,500 Cy. per mile.

In the present restricted condition of the money market, I consider essential to the success of the undertaking, that the first cost should be reduced as much as may be consistent with the safe and efficient working of the Railway.

Mr. Sherwood thought that it would not be advisable to substitute Wooden for Iron Bridges. Any one that had seen the Iron bridges on the Grand Trunk Railway, would be at once convinced of their superior strength and durability, but he was in favor of the other reductions, suggested by Mr. Keefer, which would effect a saving of £200 Cy. per mile.

He then proposed that the Municipalities granting loans to the Company, should in future have a share in the direction, the want of which had been felt by the Municipalities, the proposal, he was happy to say, received the sanction and approval of the present Directors, and he believed would give satisfaction to the people. The mode by which such an arrangement could be effected; he proceeded to explain, and he had no doubt of their election for one year at least, but he could give no assurance that they would be re-elected although it was probable that such would be the case, while the work was constructing, and when the Road was finished there would be no use for them, meanwhile they would have a voice in the Direction, and form a medium of communication between the Company and the Municipalities, and thus serve to prevent for the future such gross misrepresentations being spread abroad to the discredit of the Directors and injury of the Road. Such a course, he felt persuaded, would gain the confidence of the people, for it was the wish of the present Directors, to have everything done openly, and above board. He further stated, that five parties had been making enquiries respecting the work, and there was a probability that more would do so, before the 15th instant, and the Directors wished the Municipalities to co-operate with them, if a suitable offer should be made, by a Company competent to finish the road.

## The Herald,

CARLETON-PLACE, FEB. 14, 1866.

The news which we publish to-day by the steamship "Pacific" seven days later from Europe, brightens the prospect of a speedy termination of hostilities, but the question—whether there is to be peace or war, is not yet easily answered. Many contend, and with much reason, that Russia is no more pledged now to make peace than she was a year ago. Then, she had accepted the famous "four points" as a basis of negotiation; now she has accepted other propositions in the same manner. The result of the conferences which were then opened was to afford Russia ample time to strengthen her position and prepare for the contest. A new conference will now probably open, and the result is quite uncertain. It may be designed and have a tendency to retard the gigantic preparations which are making for the spring campaign; or, it may result in the inauguration of a safe and lasting peace, which will be welcomed by right-thinking men in every nation in the world.

An "London Post" which may be regarded as the official paper, says "it will be the duty of the belligerents, before negotiations can be entered upon, to signify their intentions to Russia, and to require her acceptance of proposals totally free from the possibility of misrepresentation. These proposals, we trust, will have the support of Austria and the German Powers, and will, we are confident, meet with acceptance at St. Petersburg if Russia be really alive to her own interests and anxious for the welfare of Europe. If they are accepted, then negotiations will follow, but not at Vienna, nor Paris, nor London. All preliminaries being once satisfactorily adjusted, some more fit place will be appointed for the conduct of conferences. In the meanwhile we must keep our energies braced up, and relax not one iota of the prodigious exertions that are being made for the spring campaign. This, we are convinced, is the soul of successful negotiation. The voice of Europe is in our favor, our resources are immense—our armaments of greater magnitude than ever. Let us then hope that Russia will follow up the good course upon which she has entered, and that, recognizing the isolation of her position and the hopelessness of her cause, she may accept all that is frankly and no more than just; and that by freely yielding to our demands she may spare the nation the horrors of further bloodshed."

At the second sitting of the Council, Mr. George Sherwood was heard on behalf of Directors of the Company. He alluded to the misrepresentations, which had been so frequently circulated, to the prejudice of the Directors, and injury to the Road, by parties who seemed too anxious to spread feelings of groundless apprehension and distrust among the people, with apparently no other motive than to ruin an enterprise fraught with so much promise and prosperity to this part of Canada. But he believed that when the Council had heard the explanations he was about to give, that it would exonerate the Directors from the charges of fraud and intentional deception, so frequently brought against them, for he assured them, that the Directors had no other interests in the road, but what was common to the people of these Counties, as the members of the Council, they had no private ends to gain, more than others, and loss of time to them, with the addition of unjust expense and suspicion.

The learned gentleman then pointed out the disadvantages that countries labored under, who were destitute of Railways, and when he witnessed the steady and substantial progress that had been made, in material wealth and prosperity, by these Counties, and the Town of Perth, and compared them with places more favorably situated. He confessed that he was surprised at the result, and could only account for it by the proximity to the Ottawa, and if such had been the case, with so very defective means of communication through the Counties, what might not reasonably be expected where a Railroad united the St. Lawrence and the Ottawa, running through the whole length of the Counties, connecting them with the County Town and Brockville, and opening to them the markets of the world, and greatly facilitating the operations of the Lumber Trade. He then explained the nature of the contract, the mode of payment, and commented on the securities, assuring the Council, that in all their proceedings, the Directors had acted in good faith to the Municipalities, but that they had themselves been deceived, in the wealth and standing of the Contractors and their securities, for it afterwards became painfully apparent, that they were not so rich as had been represented, and engaging as they did, in the construction of other Railroads, in New Brunswick, and Lower Canada, and embarking in questionable speculations, and the loss of the principal partner, in the Arctic, together with the tightening of the Money Market, by the breaking out of the War, so embarrassed their affairs, that the work had to stop. The Directors had been cautious, and made no advance of Bonds to the Company, although solicited to do so; but upon estimates of the Supervising Engineer, and, in this respect, were in a safe position than the Montreal and Bytown Company, who had

advanced the Contractors upwards of seventy thousand pounds, which is likely to prove a head loss to the Municipalities concerned. Here the speaker read the following Memorandum, by Mr. Keefer, in reference to the present position of the Brockville and Ottawa Railroad:

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The Company had not yet got release of their contract from Sykes, DeBergue & Co., although Mr. DeBergue had given them a promise in writing that he would do so, last November, if he did not then go on with the work, and when that period had expired, the Company demanded the fulfillment of his promise, but he declined doing so, they then took the best legal advice in the County, on the question, they might give the work to other parties if they closed, all that Sykes, DeBergue & Co. could claim of the Company would be the amount now due them, they could not prevent another Company going on with the Road.

Mr. Sherwood invited enquiry into the proceedings of the Directors, and offered to answer any questions that Councilors might wish to ask. To the questions were the Officers of the Company overpaid for the duties they had to discharge, and were so many officers necessary; he answered that he thought that they were not paid too much, for if men are required to discharge important duties, suitable salaries must be given, but it was not the Company that fixed their salaries, it was Mr. Sykes, and that the officers never received anything for their services, and, were the work going on, all the officers would be required. Other questions were asked, and satisfactorily answered, but those parties in the Council, who were most forward in denouncing the Company, were silent upon that occasion, nothing was heard of the great amount of chiselling practiced by the Directors, and the frank and open manner in which Mr. Sherwood gave his explanations, contrasted strikingly with the conditions of our Railroad opponents, that all the unprepared part of the Council were fully satisfied that the Directors had been grossly misrepresented.

Mr. Shaw, M.P.P., of Smith's Falls, was also heard by the Council, he corroborated the statements of Mr. Sherwood, and expressed his earnest wish that the Road would go on, and on being questioned, respecting the conduct of the Directors, he heard reports charging them with improper conduct, but he had never seen anything of that part, he believed that the blame ought to be attached to the Contractors for all the difficulties that had arisen, and the stopping of the work.

Before I close, I may state that the Council decided upon assisting the Company in going on with the work, should the other Municipalities unite with them in advancing the loans, necessary for the completion of the Road. The other proceedings of the Council will appear when the Minutes are published, and your readers will then be in possession of the views and actions of the Council, on this important question.

PROGRESSIONIST.  
Ramsay, Feb. 11, 1856.

MODERN EMPIRICISM.

(For the C. P. Herald.)

MR. EDITOR.—One of the distinguishing features of the present age is the extent to which the sale of patent medicine nostrums is carried; and if we were to judge from the flaming advertisements which stare at us in every country store and way-side inn, we might well wonder that disease and death had not long ago relinquished their claims upon the human race. Who, that glances over the advertising columns of most of our newspapers, and reads there the flattering announcement of remedies for "all the ills flesh is heir to," and each of them professing to be infallible in its operation, and unaimed in its extension, can fail to wonder that any one should be found silly enough to be annoyed and frustrated by the petty infirmities of their clay tenements; still more, that any one could be found insane enough to "shuffle off this mortal coil," to part with the dear old body, which still might flourish on in immortal youth, the perpetual, inexhaustible instrument of the moving principle within!

Alas! that the "Philosopher's Stone" and the "Elixir Vitæ" should never have been discovered, save in the imaginations of the ancients, and the advertisements of the moderns; for "man still goeth to his long home," and the mourners still go about the streets; and man will never be found to ponder to the credulity of the public, so long as they close their eyes, and gulp down each successive cure-all, without pausing to estimate the true merits of these unblushing impostures. The people do not, or will not see, that in the first place, it is often extremely difficult to distinguish between different diseases, even by those who have made the subject the study of their lives. This is especially so where the person himself is afflicted, as, from prejudice, and the disturbing influences of disease, a wrong estimate of the person's real condition, is very likely to be formed. So generally is this principle acknowledged, that physicians prefer to place themselves under the care of a brother practitioner than to prescribe for themselves when seriously afflicted. How, then, can persons unacquainted with the nature of disease, or the principles of its cure, expect to judge correctly, regarding their own case or that of an afflicted neighbor. Place a man blindfold upon the brink of a crumbling precipice, and unconscious of his danger, he fears not; but could he see the abyss which threatened his careless movements, how would his heart quake. And could many who boldly tamper with human life, their own or others', boldly because ignorantly, see the pitfalls and the snares which awaited their feet, and the gleaming shadows which gathered round them, how would they tremble at the awful responsibility which attended their misguided and adventurous efforts.

But, again, few persons bear in mind, that, even the same disease, in different persons, or at different stages in the same person, require a medication as different as the countenances of the individuals. The constitutions and temperaments and habits of men are so different, that while the same leading principles are followed in the treatment of the same disease in all, a very great difference will exist as to the carrying out of the details, and it is here that the noble field is open to the physician of securing safety to his patient and credit to himself.

Alas! how often are his well-directed efforts rendered nugatory by the want of intelligent co-operation, or even the misguided prejudices of his patient!

As an example of the above principle, we might take the eye, which is composed of several distinct and different structures, each of which require a different mode of treatment in order to preserve its integrity and secure its safety, when disease assails that delicate organ. One or all of these numerous members may be attacked by inflammation, and so different are the means by which enemy must be opposed, that what would be beneficial at its onset,

would be injurious at its height, and useless in the chronic form; yet, notwithstanding this, the same patent "eye-water" is held up before public as infallible, not only in every variety of the disease, but in all its stages! I greater insult could be offered to the conscience of intelligent men and women.

I have much more to say on this subject, but must reserve the remainder for another time.

Yours, &c.,  
Hillsdale, Feb. 1st, '56.

SEVEN DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE PERSIA.

New York, Feb. 11. The Steamer Persia has arrived. The steamer Belgica has put back to sea. The Arago arrived at Stockholm at night. The Persia sailed on the 17th inst.

The Collins' Steamship Pacific sailed her regular day, January 23rd. She in 17 days out.

The chances in favour of a speedy completion are on the increase.

Russia's sincerity is as much a question as on former occasions, but appears to be far from straight forward.

The Czar has ordered his army in Crimea to cease hostilities without waiting for a finance armistice it is rumoured that an armistice is agreed on for 12 months.

France, England, and Austria continue in accord although it is foreseen that questions must arise during the negotiations. No place of meeting for negotiations has yet been decided on.

A despatch to-day from London says the meeting will certainly be either at Paris or London. Also that B. Brunow will be the Russian plenipotentiary. It will be the second Feb., at least all preliminary signatures are pending to the agreement to meet.

In the meantime, Consols keep up. They have reached 91, but closed at 90. They are slightly easier. Rates unchanged.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.  
Broadstuffs firm. Richardson & report Cotton the day the Pacific sailed was brisk since then steady and close one-sixteenth over last Friday's quote.

Paris, Orleans, 1/2; Madrid, 3/4; Fair M, 1/2; m. d. g., 5-1-10; fair upland, 5/8; d. g., 5-1-10.

Messrs. Kelly & Gilmore of Manche had failed.

SECOND REPORT.  
The Bank of England has made advances to government—selling stock the latter and this draws notes issued in payment of dividend. Owing to demand for money, against these sales, to meet to-day final instalments on Turin loan the money market on stock exchange was rather stringent. London could get six per cent on government securities out-drops, however, there was no tightness.

The London Times intimates that Clarendon will probably represent Great Britain at the conference, which will be held at Frankfurt after the preliminaries of peace are signed. B. Brunow and Count Orloff will appear the part of Russia.

The Persia, arrived at her dock at this morning bringing London Paper Friday, telegraphic despatches of Saturday.

The Belgica came near foundering sea having sprung a leak 200 miles west the Lizards, and only by the united exertions of the passengers and crew she kept afloat. The vessel, "Southampton" which was found afloat had 4 to 6 of water in her hold and one boiler broken out.

BREADSTUFFS.—Flour—slow sales; V. term Canal 4 1/2, Ohio 4 2/2. Wheat—rat improved demand at 13s 10d. A. H. 3s 7d; Yellow 38s 6d; White nominal 43s.

Provisions quiet and unchanged.

THIRD REPORT.  
LONDON, Friday.  
The Times' Paris correspondent writes that private letters from St. Petersburg dated the 1st inst., state that the Austrians have declared formally that the Aust proposals were to be the basis of pac negotiations and for the present may be considered as true preliminaries of peace.

Among the diplomatic body and court, peace was regarded inevitable unconditionally. The proposition had indeed considerable sensation in the capital with the exception of the officials.

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