

Evening Telegraph

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1867.

An Extraordinary Executive Message. In the late edition of THE EVENING TELEGRAPH of yesterday we published the message of Mr. Johnson relative to the propriety of Congress passing resolutions complimentary to General Hancock. When we first received by telegraph that extraordinary document, we had grave doubts as to its being a genuine message. We find nowhere in the history of Executive communications such a surprising exhibition of cool assurance. It must be remembered that General Hancock was the successor of General Sheridan, and that, in direct opposition to the spirit of the Reconstruction laws, he commenced to nullify all the acts of his predecessor, and to proceed in a policy directly opposite to that favored by General Grant, by Congress, and all the loyal people of the North. His late proclamation is a reflection of censure on the policy of his predecessor, and, in fact, is a severe criticism on the spirit of all the code of Reconstruction acts as passed over the President's veto; and this proclamation, breathing of a subserviency to the President and a friendliness to Rebels, is to be the ground on which he is to receive some public recognition of his services. Of course, Mr. Johnson does not suppose that Congress will pass any such resolutions as he suggests, and this fact but increases the insolence of the whole document.

The Message is penned in the true Johnsonian style—empty platitudes and high-sounding paragraphs, which would do honor to Dr. Ben in his most flowery humor. We are told that Hancock is a second Washington, that he presents the noblest exhibition of "the highest public virtue that human nature is capable of producing." Passing by the insolence of his recommendation, we have but to look for a moment at its object. It seems to be very generally conceded that it amounts to a declaration of the support of the Administration for General Hancock as President, next year. The whole document bears evident marks of such being the intention of the author. As it is, it is more calculated to damage Hancock than anything which has yet appeared. The people, both Democrats and Republicans, have no faith in Mr. Johnson, and his advocacy of any one is sufficient to place the chances of his favorite's success low on the list. As it is, General Hancock will feel but little satisfaction at the extraordinary document which declares him a demigod; and if the President persists, the unfortunate Commander of the Fifth District will have to call on the heavens to save him from his friends.

The Fenians.

"Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad," is a maxim which applies with peculiar force to those terrible fellows termed Fenians. From beginning to end, the present movement for Irish independence has been a series of the most ridiculous blunders which of that nationality, proverbial for their blunders, have ever perpetrated. Every measure which has thus far been concocted has tended directly to defeat the grand object which all true Irishmen have at heart—the liberation of their native land from the tyranny of England. The most reckless counsels have prevailed, and it would appear as if discretion had forever forsaken the unfortunate natives of the Emerald Isle. But a few days ago, a most diabolical outrage was perpetrated by the blowing up of Clerkenwell Prison, by which disaster the lives of several innocent persons were wantonly sacrificed, without the remotest chance of benefiting Ireland. And now we are informed by the cable that another attempt of a similar character was made yesterday, powder having been placed under the wall of Millbank Jail, in which several rampant Fenians are at present confined. Fortunately for all concerned, the explosion was averted by a defect in the arrangements, and a repetition of the Clerkenwell horror was thus providentially prevented.

The bearing of these explosions upon the movement for the liberation of Ireland cannot be mistaken. A little discretion on the part of the Fenian leaders would secure for them the sympathies of the civilized world, but a resort to such barbarous practices will tend to cast upon the whole scheme well-merited disgrace. We can only repeat the advice we gave a few days ago. The honest and patriotic Irishmen of this country who contribute their savings towards the furtherance of the Fenian cause under its present management are guilty of something more than folly—they become participants in the crime of sacrificing innocent lives, and of involving their fellow-countrymen in measures which will inevitably lead to a repetition of the Manchester tragedy.

"The Signs of the Times."

It seems as though nature was giving a grand opportunity to all the old women, whether male or female, to see cause for dolorous prophecies of coming wonders. That portion of the religious community who believe that 1870 will see the earth a cinder, have great encouragement for their views in the signs which continually come to us from various quarters. We are told that Vesuvius is in an eruption; that Mount Atna has again broken forth; that all the extinct volcanoes of Mexico, the West Indies, and some of the Rocky Moun-

tains are again exhibiting signs of life. This, in itself, is rather alarming. Then we have earthquakes. All the Gulf islands feel the tremble of the mighty convulsion. Italy is subjected to like excitement; while by telegraph, this morning, we are told that Vermont and Northern New York also experienced shocks, a thing never before known in that locality. In consideration of these convulsions, we have recently seen a pamphlet which advocates the doctrine that the world's end is approaching. And from its tone seems to seek to terrify all sinners into conversion. We would not speak in any way disrespectfully of those who honestly entertain this opinion, or of their well-meant efforts to do good; but we must deprecate the sensational style of religious literature which is now the fashion. We do not believe that the soul is reached through the nerves, and consequently have no faith in those predictions which are the result of physical terror. They are only calculated to injure the health of the susceptible, and do little or no good. Whenever we hear these descriptions of the approaching end of all things, we remember the remark of an eloquent divine on a similar statement being made to him:—"I feel no additional fear from that. I may die in an hour, and then, so far as I am concerned, all earthly things will end. If I am prepared to sustain this visit, to which all are susceptible, without fear, I have no cause for alarm at the possibility that the destruction of the earth is at hand." This is the sound common sense view of the case, and one which we would commend to all. We have been led to these remarks because of the appearance of several such pamphlets as that which we have received and perused, and we deem them but illy calculated to do ought but to terrify. We repeat, we mean no disrespect, but we see no cause for additional sensation because Vermont or St. Thomas feels an earthquake, or because Vesuvius opens again, as she has done since the days of the elder Pliny.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Kansas as a Fruit Country—Session of the State Pomological Society—Discussions upon Apples, Peaches, and Small Fruits—Fine Specimens of Fruit Exhibited.

LAWRENCE, KANSAS, Dec. 13, 1867. The session of the State Pomological Society, now being held in this city, and quite largely attended by prominent fruit-growers from this State and from Missouri, furnishes a fitting occasion for a few remarks concerning Kansas as a fruit-growing State. To get into a district adapted to the culture of fruit is an almost universal desire on the part of settlers going to a new country, and has, doubtless, turned the attention of many persons to this State. There is a constant influx of immigrants here from Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, as well as from the more northern of the Atlantic States, who come to get into a warmer climate, and one where they can raise fruit more surely and abundantly than in the sections they have left. A priori, Kansas was thought to be a good fruit country from the abundance of fruit raised in Missouri. There is probably no better apple district in the United States than Platte, Clay, and other border counties in Missouri, separated from Kansas only by the Missouri river, or by the State line. The apple in Kansas is proving equally prolific and excellent. I never saw finer specimens of that fruit than are now on exhibition here before the State Pomological Society; and at the Illinois State Fair in October last, some fifty or sixty varieties of Kansas apples, grown in various sections of the State, were exhibited, and exceeded in size any others on exhibition. They would doubtless have received the highest premium except that they were entered too late for competition. Dr. Buck, of Jefferson county, has raised this year several hundred bushels in his orchard of as fine apples as can be found anywhere. Mr. Brackett, of this county (Douglas), has raised quite a large crop, and I hear of similar success in other parts of the State. I spent an evening, a few days since, at a friend's house, where apples were set before me from trees of my own planting, seven years ago. I never saw finer fruit. These trees were planted in the spring of the "dry year" in Kansas, and yet nearly every one of them lived, and is now in full bearing—a fact which shows the capacity of this soil to resist drought. The success of the apple in this State I consider settled beyond a doubt.

The peach has been largely planted, but with varying success. The trees grow with great luxuriance, but the yield of fruit has thus far been precarious and unsatisfying. From the dimensions on the peach in the Pomological Convention, yesterday, it seems to be settled that the great difficulty is found in the premature swelling of the buds, caused by the very mild sunny weather which occurs so frequently during the winter, followed by a temperature which is so low as to destroy their vitality. Practical experience has shown that the fruit succeeds the best on high ground with a northern exposure. Protection against the fierce sweeping north-west blasts of winter by planting belts of timber was highly recommended by Mr. Coleman, of the Western Rural World, and other experienced peach-growers. Another fact of interest brought out by the discussions at this meeting was the almost universal failure of the budded peach in Kansas. Mr. Ross, an experienced horticulturist, living in this city, after trying budded peach trees for eight years without success, has each time down and supplied their places with seedlings. He got a fine growth of wood, but almost no peaches. The seedlings are more hardy and prolific. The Wyandot Indians, living in Wyandot county, have raised peaches successfully for twenty years past. There are all seedlings. Many of the varieties are very choice. On the whole, the true state of the case seems to be that by planting seedlings in well-selected localities, peaches may be raised here in sufficient quantities for the wants of the people. I may add that, in the more southern portions of the State, the peach succeeds much more generally than in the northern and middle portions.

Grapes succeed admirably in all portions of the State. Mr. Barnes, of Coal Creek, in this State, has one of the largest growers in the State. His crop this year amounted to several tons, and commanded remunerative rates. The chief varieties are the Isabella, Catawba, Concord, and Delaware. This branch of fruit culture is doubtless destined to assume large proportions here. Both soil and climate seem admirably adapted to it. The other small fruits, such as strawberries,

raspberries, currants, blackberries, etc., grow abundantly. The climate is rather warm for currents, but by giving them a shaded locality they do well. On the whole, then, we may set Kansas down as well adapted to fruit culture; but it is a branch of industry which here, as well as elsewhere, requires intelligent supervision. T. D. E.

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