

THE FAR WEST.

LIFE IN NEW MEXICO—A PRAIRIE ON FIRE—THE CHARACTERISTICS OF MR. LO. The following extracts from a private letter written by the wife of an officer of the army now stationed in New Mexico, contains some matters of interest. The letter is dated at the camp on Canadian river, New Mexico, February 18, 1871:— "We are camped in a delightful country, and are having such weather as May brings you home people. Although this southwestern country is more closely allied to utility than to beauty, remarkable and magnificent works of nature everywhere abound. You hear constantly of "grazing countries," but I don't suppose you have an idea of what grass is down here. I inclose a "blade" pulled up just back of my tent. It is folded to fit the envelope, but not broken as yet, though it may be by the time it reaches you. (This blade measures six feet!) Imagine, if you can, the grandeur of prairie fires, when this natural hay is burning before a steady breeze travelling at the rate of an ordinary trotting horse, moving in a line of battle, extending from horizon to horizon. One night, at the garrison, though to most of the people here it is as an old story of little interest, we all turned out and witnessed a pyrotechnic display that compared in immensity with any other I ever saw, as one of these prairies to a city grass plot. The hills on three sides, east, south, and west, were all afire, and the night air clear as crystal, with no moon to counterbalance the effect. It would be almost sacrilege to attempt a description, so I'll not attempt to bridge your imagination. Plenty of Indians down here—variety, too. The other day a band of Pawnees from the Northwest, visiting the Wichitas by permission, their leave from their reservation extending till April, passed the camp. They had on their gala paint and feathers, and really looked more like picture Indians than the old buck I saw, first entering the territory, with his piece of blanket, stove-pipe hat, and variegated umbrella. These Indians are an interesting people—if they don't carry their familiarities too far. They all know a few words of English, generally more of a Spanish, and condense about as much talk in a few words and gestures as can possibly be conceived. There was one here yesterday, and I wished at the time you could have witnessed the performance. Never think of knocking, oh, no! Walked in, stood just inside the tent about three minutes. Then after we had had a mutual stare for that length of time, he said "How!" "How are you?—sit down," and I motioned to a stool. He sat down; not a muscle of his face moved, and I continued reading. If he sat there two he sat twenty minutes without saying a word or acting as if there was an animate or inanimate object within ten thousand miles of him. About the expiration of this time he gave a grunt. I looked at him, said "Well?" and waited. He held up two fingers and struck his thigh. "Kill—how long?" I asked. Then he waved his hand majestically over his head from shoulder to shoulder, and held up one finger. "How much?" was my next conundrum. In reply to he which held up one hand, fingers extended, and said "bits," I gave him half a dollar. He got up and went out. I called Sam, and the two venison hams just outside the tent were carried to the kitchen. That's a sample. Sometimes, for amusement, I let off a string of jargon at them, and in return get most decisive information to the effect, "Heap talk, no sabe—"no sabe" being Spanish for "don't understand." Some of them are villainous-looking hounds; others the reverse. They are all the biggest beggars in Christendom, and the more you give them the more they want. Their ingratitude is the only quality that equals their rapacity. They think white men have of everything in the world, and as much of it as they want, so it's all right. Buck and squaw are their synonyms for man and woman. They dress and look so much alike it is impossible to distinguish them at less than speaking distance. So much for Mr. Lo.

THE LARGEST COTTON CROP IN THE SOUTH.—The cotton receipts of this port are already over 1,000,000 bales, and the cry is, still they come. Every boat comes into port loaded down to the guards, and almost hidden from view by the enormous piles of bales. Monday morning there were 30,000 bales on the levee, which had been brought in between Friday night and Monday. On Sunday 12,000 bales were on board steamboats making the whole day, waiting for space on the levee to deposit them. And from all quarters of the Southwest come reports of large quantities awaiting shipment. With all, too, there remain thousands of acres unpicker, whitening the fields for miles; there is not the labor to pick them, nor would it pay at present rates. The price of cotton now is reduced to the rates before the war, and with newly as large a product. The wonder is how this was all done with free labor, and the absence of the negro women from the fields, and in refutation of the prophecies and calculations of the most sagacious and far-seeing. The remarkable favorableness of the season will account for a great deal, but not for all of this immense production. Much is due to the newly-awakened enterprise and energy of the Southern people. It is now shown what our people can do; they have, however, other qualities and virtues to practice and cultivate, to prevent the effects of over-production, to save the losses consequent upon suddenly-reduced prices. Prominent among these are thrift and economy. The waste and carelessness on our plantations are lamentable. The engrossment of the planters in the production of this single staple, and the neglect of those arts of saving and management without which no industry can be made remunerative. It is not so much the large crops as the high cost at which they are produced that makes the cotton product this year so little remunerative.—N. O. Times, March 8.

—The women's petition against female franchise has more than 6000 signatures. —The present annual production of tobacco is estimated to be 4,000,000,000 pounds! —A muskrat made a hole through a Wisconsin farmer's trout pond, and 1300 trout escaped therefrom.

THE APPEL CULTURIST, by Sereno Edwards Todd, published by Harper & Brothers, is an exceedingly valuable practical treatise on apple culture by one who has been engaged in the business from boyhood. The book contains clear and precise directions for beginners upon all subjects connected with apple culture, and it will be appreciated by persons who have charge of orchards who desire a trustworthy manual, and who are not able to purchase any of the larger and more expensive pomological works. "Daisy Nichol," by Lady Hardy, also published by Harper & Brothers, is an entertaining English novel. "Pen Photographs of Charles Dickens' Readings," by Kate Field, published by James R. Osgood & Co., is a new edition of a very readable work, which the admirers of Mr. Dickens, and especially those who heard him read, will be able to derive much pleasure from. Miss Field is an appreciative if not a very well-balanced critic, and if she sometimes allowed her enthusiasm to run away with her judgment in discussing Mr. Dickens' performances, as she did previously in giving her impressions of those of Ristori, and subsequently of those of Fechter, she has the merit of being an attractive writer, and many of Mr. Dickens' admirers will probably appreciate her gushing descriptions of the little velvet-covered desk, the flower in his button-hole, the display of several yards of watch-chain, the manner in which the hair was arranged, and all the other peculiarities of the reader and his surroundings, more highly than they would a more dispassionate estimate of Mr. Dickens' performances. These "pen photographs," making all due allowances for the overflow of enthusiasm, are really very exact descriptions of Mr. Dickens' various readings, Miss Field, at times, being amusingly minute in her details, and they are at once entertaining in themselves and are valuable as records of a series of perfectly unique performances which will not be forgotten easily by any who attended them. Mark Twain's "Autobiography and First Romance," published by Sheldon & Co., is not an inspiration of the humorist's happiest moments. In fact, the fun is rather far-fetched, and Mr. Twain's reputation as a professional joker will suffer in its tenderest point if he does not put forth something a little more laughter-inspiring. —From Porter & Coates we have received "Homeward Led," by Jane R. Sommers, a religious story which has considerable interest, in spite of some crudities of style which seem to indicate inexperience in the writer. Porter & Coates also send us a paper-cover edition of Mark Twain's "Autobiography," which we have referred to above. —"Saratoga," which has been sent us by T. B. Peterson & Brothers, is a story of frontier life in 1787, in which a variety of exciting Indian adventures are narrated in readable style. —From J. B. Leppincott & Co. we have received "Irene," by Hathaway Strange, a powerful story of Southern life, which attracted much attention when it appeared in Leppincott's Magazine a few months ago. —The March number of The Sunday at Home, which comes to us from the American Tract Society, contains excellent Sunday matter for Sunday reading, from the pens of some of the best English religious writers of the day. —The March number of the Chicago Democrat contains several admirable articles on protection and free trade and a variety of statistical information. —The March number of the Penn Monthly, which has been sent us by Porter & Coates, has several interesting articles by able writers. —No. 15 of How's Musical Monthly contains twenty-three instrumental and vocal pieces. —"The Crystal Cascade" is the title of an attractive composition by Edmund Wolfeffer which has just been issued by Lee & Walker. —There are thirteen railroads terminating on the Illinois shore, opposite St. Louis. —"Rosemont," the late residence of Prince Arthur in Montreal, has been sold by Sir John Rose for \$20,000. —An Iowa school-teacher, a woman, has been discharged for forcing a big boy to show her how he kissed the girls in the wood-house. —A gentlemanly artist of West Stockbridge, Mass., who was engaged to fresco the Catholic church there, has made all the little angels club-footed, much to the sorrow of the congregation. —There has been presented to the State Historical Society of Connecticut a piece of the ancient cross erected at San Domingo city in commemoration of Columbus, whose remains were deposited there in 1536. —Mr. Jones, of Tennessee, would have been killed by getting caught in some machinery but for his presence of mind, which led him to hug the shaft tightly, and revolve with it at the rate of 100 times a minute. —Various mysterious "demonstrations" in a house in Norwich, Conn., a little while ago, greatly affected one of its inmates, a lady, who told her friends that she felt it "must be a call for her." So deep was the impression on her mind that even when the noises ceased she became ill, and a few days ago she died. —Jenkins has much to contend with. In describing a recent ball at Columbia, S. C., he attempted to speak of Mrs. Theodore Hammond as "exceedingly lovely in long train and short sleeves;" but the demoralized printer made him mention "Mr. Theodore Hammond exceedingly lovely on the fast train in his shirt sleeves."

RESOLUTION Relative to the Revision of Grades in the Twenty-seventh Ward. Resolved, By the Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia, That the Department of Surveys be and is hereby authorized and directed to revise the lines of Mechanical Street, in the late borough of Manayunk, between Terrace and Belair streets, so that the lines thereof shall be a direct extension of the lines of said street north of said Terrace street. And that the said Mechanical Street, north of Terrace street, shall hereafter be known as Roxborough Avenue. Attest— JOHN ECKSTEIN, Clerk of Common Council. SAMUEL W. CATTELL, President of Select Council. Approved this eleventh day of March, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one (A. D. 1871). DANIEL M. FOX, Mayor of Philadelphia.

RESOLUTION Relative to the Opening of Wood street, in the Twenty-first Ward. Resolved, By the Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia, That the Chief Commissioner of Highways be and he is hereby authorized and directed to notify the owners of property through and over which Wood street, in the Twenty-first ward, from Lehigh street to Grape street, will pass, that at the expiration of three months from the date of said notice the said street will be required for public use. Attest— HENRY HUHN, President of Common Council.

RESOLUTION Relative to the Revision of Grades in the Twenty-sixth Ward. Resolved, By the Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia, That the Department of Surveys be and is hereby authorized and directed to adjust the curb heights upon so much of the Twenty-sixth ward as is embraced within the triangle bounded by Passyunk Avenue, Broad Street, and Ellsworth Street, so that they shall conform to the elevations of the curb now set.

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LITERATURE.

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CITY ORDINANCES.

RESOLUTION Directing the Change of Lines on Markie Street, Twenty-first Ward. Resolved, By the Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia, That the Department of Surveys be and is hereby authorized and directed to revise the lines of Markie Street, between Manayunk Avenue and Terrace Street, as laid down upon Plan No. 230, so that they may conform to the following, to-wit: The westerly line as now located northward of Manayunk Avenue, shall be extended southward from the south side of Manayunk Avenue sixty-eight (68) feet and five-eighths (5/8) of an inch; thence in a direct line to a point in the westerly line of same street, as extended from the southerly line of Terrace Street, one hundred and ninety (190) feet three and seven-eighths (37/8) inches north of the north side of Terrace Street, as now located; thence in a direct line northwardly from Terrace Street to intersect the said Markie Street, as newly located: Provided, the city shall be at no cost for said alteration. Attest— HENRY HUHN, President of Common Council.

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SHIPPING.

FOR LIVERPOOL AND QUEENSTOWN.—The London and Royal Mail Steamers are appointed to sail as follows: City of Brussels, Saturday, March 18, at 2 P. M. City of Liverpool, via Halifax, Tuesday, March 21 at 2 P. M. City of London, Saturday, March 25, at 2 P. M. City of Washington, Saturday, April 1, at 2 P. M. and each succeeding Saturday and alternate Tuesday, from pier No. 45 North River. Rates of Passage: Payable in Advance, in currency. First Cabin, £10; Second Cabin, £7; Steerage, £3. To London, £10; to Liverpool, £7; to Queenstown, £3. Passengers also forwarded to Antwerp, Rotterdam, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, etc., at reduced rates. Tickets can be bought here at moderate rates by persons wishing to send for their friends. For further information apply to the company's agents, JOHN G. DALL, Agent, No. 11 Broadway, N. Y. Or to OTONIELL & PAUL, Agents, No. 49 CHURCH STREET, Philadelphia.

FOR NEW YORK, VIA DELAWARE AND HARBOR CANAL.—The steamships of the NATIONAL STEAMSHIP LINE, Steam to and from NEW YORK, LIVERPOOL, AND QUEENSTOWN, Steamers sail WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, and SATURDAY. Cabin, £7 and £5; Steerage, £2. Excursion tickets good for one year, liberally reduced. Persons sending for their friends can obtain tickets (Steerage) for £2. Tickets to and from Londonderry and Glasgow by this favorite route at the same low currency rates. Passengers booked to and from London, Paris, Hamburg, Havre, Bremen, etc., at lowest rates. Note.—The magnificent Ocean Steamships of this line are roomy, commodious, and are celebrated for speed, safety, and comfort. Owing to reduction, rates are now \$15 in Cabin and \$9 in Steerage. Check with other Liverpool lines. For passage, or bank drafts for any amount, payable at sight in all parts of Great Britain, Ireland, and in principal cities of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, France, Germany, and Italy, apply to W. H. WALLER & CO., Agents, No. 204 WALNUT ST., just above Second.

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CLYDE'S STEAM LINES.—The London and Royal Mail Steamers are appointed to sail as follows: City of Brussels, Saturday, March 18, at 2 P. M. City of Liverpool, via Halifax, Tuesday, March 21 at 2 P. M. City of London, Saturday, March 25, at 2 P. M. City of Washington, Saturday, April 1, at 2 P. M. and each succeeding Saturday and alternate Tuesday, from pier No. 45 North River. Rates of Passage: Payable in Advance, in currency. First Cabin, £10; Second Cabin, £7; Steerage, £3. To London, £10; to Liverpool, £7; to Queenstown, £3. Passengers also forwarded to Antwerp, Rotterdam, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, etc., at reduced rates. Tickets can be bought here at moderate rates by persons wishing to send for their friends. For further information apply to the company's agents, JOHN G. DALL, Agent, No. 11 Broadway, N. Y. Or to OTONIELL & PAUL, Agents, No. 49 CHURCH STREET, Philadelphia.

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