

Clearfield Republican.

"EXCELSIOR."

CLEARFIELD, PA. WEDNESDAY AUGUST 1, 1858.

NEW SERIES—VOL. III.—NO. 31.

J. H. LARRIMER, Editor.

VOL. VIII.—NO. 26.

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THE INDIANS OF THE PLAINS.
The special correspondent of the St. Louis Democrat, who accompanied Gen. Harney on his march to Utah, gives the following resume of events on the way home:

Ten days was the term which General Harney had agreed to wait for the Cheyennes, and on the tenth day they made their appearance, having travelled desperately to keep the appointment. They have the reputation of being the bravest tribe this side of the mountains, and the appearance and bearing of the delegation did not belie their reputation. The "talk" was conducted in the same style and with the same etiquette as the talk with the Ogalalas. They came up, one by one, in a manly manner, each shaking hands with the General, who sat in the shade of a tree, and those who were with him. They seated themselves in a circle, and proceeded to light their pipes. The orator of the occasion was a faithful to the rules of his art as if he had studied in the schools. He commenced by saying that the fame of General Harney as a great chief was known to them, and that they were all exceedingly glad to see him. The substance of the discourse was that they were desirous of being at peace with the whites; that the success of the mission of Great Bear brought happiness and peace of mind to the whole tribe; that they were also desirous of being at peace with other Indian tribes, but that the Pawnees were always robbing them.

"I thought Gen. Harney's counsel to them judicious and humane. He reminded them of their obligations upon the whites, but told them if henceforth they acted right he would ask the Great Father at Washington to forgive them. He had not come to make a treaty with them, as his business was to chastise white children of the Great Father, who had been acting badly, but that those white children, knowing the power that was arrayed against them, they submitted. The General's aim was to impress them with the idea that if they transgressed they could not escape punishment, and that they would receive justice if whites committed any outrages upon them. He promised to be their friend if their conduct continued good, but that otherwise they would find him a devil."

"In the progress of the talk it was learned that a party had gone out against the Pawnees before the return of Good Bear, and this the warriors present regretted, as the counsel of their grandfather (so they call Gen. Harney) inclined them to peace, with the Indians as well as whites.

"The talk was protracted for a considerable time, or rather there were two talks—one on their arrival and the other in the evening—the latter the more important. They were treated hospitably, and in addition to bread and meat, got weak grog to drink and tobacco to smoke; but the condition of the commissariat and the circumstances of the meeting did not warrant the giving to them of any presents. From what transpired, it is certain that they will not molest the whites this year at least, and that they have a salutary dread of Gen. Harney. It was noticed that the old chiefs laid the blame of past matters upon the 'young men,' just as Brigham Young and the apostles of Kansas rascalities lay the blame of all misdeeds upon the 'boys.'

"Next day (the 19th) Gen. Harney resumed his homeward march. He had been within sight of the crossing of the South Fork of the Platte, 400 miles west of Leavenworth, when the dispatch notifying him of the restoration of 'peace in Utah,' and the new disposition of the forces consequent thereon, reached him. On the 21st we reached Fort Kearney, and when approaching that uncomfortable place, heard that battle was raging between the Sioux and the Pawnees. It turned out that it was the Cheyennes—the war party which had gone out from the Republican Forks—and not the Sioux, who had the audacity to attack their enemy within sight of the flag of the United States. The Cheyennes, who had been hovering in the vicinity for two or three days, swooped down upon the Pawnees, while a branch of their nation, called the Loup Pawnees, were changing their camp. The assaults succeeded in stampeding three or four hundred horses, and the contest then was really for the spoils. The Pawnees, though taken by surprise, were soon mounted and in pursuit of the Cheyennes, who were not more than forty. As we passed out east of the fort, some of the attendant circumstances of Indian warfare presented themselves to our notice. Naked warriors armed with antiquated guns, or bows and quivers, galloped ceaselessly towards the Fort. These were all Pawnees. They were perjured, but not with fear, and in answer to all questions put to them, said the 'Sioux' had come upon them and took away a 'heap' of their horses. It was impossible to know the truth about the

battle until evening. It was learned that the Cheyennes had killed one Pawnee chief, named the French chief—a man beloved and admired by his tribe, who rode fearlessly among the Cheyennes and turned the stampeded horses, but who while thus engaged was speared to death. There were some three or four wounded, but none of them mortally. All the horses were rescued—at least the Pawnees say so. The Cheyennes did not even succeed in taking the scalp of the slain Pawnee, who was buried the same day with loud wail and lamentation, and as befitted the dignity of a chief, with many weapons and buffalo robes and vengeful vows, the last of which are destined to a speedy resurrection in bloody deeds.

"Gen. Harney had a talk with the Pawnees, also. He lectured them severely about their thieving, but they defended themselves by accusing the Cheyennes and Sioux of various murders and robberies. He also advised them not to retaliate upon the Cheyennes, as the latter were disposed to make peace. Their knitted brows and unbroken silence gave evidence that they did not much relish this advice, but yet in their reply they promised to remain quiet, although the perfidy and blood-thirstiness of the Cheyennes was the topic upon which they most elaborately dwelt. One of them, who had been at Washington, and who displayed the medals which he received there, urged with great skill the atrocious nature of the insult given to the whites by the Cheyennes in spilling blood under the walls of the fort. Indeed, Gen. Harney himself thought that the Cheyennes should have been prevented from attacking the Pawnees or any other nation in sight of the flag staff; and Col. May, who is now in command at Fort Kearney, promised that if the Cheyennes should venture to make war near the fort, he would chastise them. The talk with the Pawnees was the most formal and impressive of the three, and all the chiefs, without exception, gave manifestations of the weight which the General's counsel had with them, and of the fear with which they regard him.

"We remained a day at Fort Kearney, setting out on the 23d ultimo, and accomplishing the journey to Leavenworth in ten days. We heard that we should find a band of Arapahoes on Little Blue, but when we came here we found merely the traces of their camp. We learned afterward that they had entered into an alliance with the Cheyennes to make war on the Pawnees, but that they had not arrived at the rendezvous in time. The reckless bravery of the Cheyennes may be guessed at from the fact that forty of them provoked a battle with over a thousand Pawnee warriors, and in close proximity to the United States troops, both in fort and camp. It deserves to be mentioned that a Pawnee boy, fifteen years of age, was the person that rescued most of the horses."

THE TELEGRAPHIC SYSTEM.

On the sea-walls between Venice and the Adriatic, erected by the City of the Sea when she was yet a proud republic, Napoleon I. put the inscription "Aust Romane, are Veneto"—truly indicating that Venetian money with Roman enterprise had raised these remarkable bulwarks, rescuing the harbor, as it were, from being absorbed in the Lagoon. Without much straining of words or meaning, we might take some such similar inscription as a motto for the Atlantic Telegraph, which certainly is the offspring of English money and American science.

A considerable portion of the capital was English. But the suggestion, of carrying Morse's telegraph across the Atlantic, was wholly American, and Mr. Cyrus West Field is eminently entitled to immortal credit for the part which he has taken in it, with equal energy and perseverance. Four years have elapsed since he first devoted himself to this great project—four years of bodily as well as mental labor. He had the fatigues and peril of much travel to encounter; he had to persuade legislatures as well as individuals; he had to interest capitalists in his scheme; he had to engage the service of eminent men of science; he had to make contracts with General and State Governments; he had to superintend everything and supervise every body employed on or connected with the enterprise; worse than all, he had to sustain repeated failures. At last came that crowning consummation of success, which places his name, for ever, on the roll of fame. From the *New York Times* of yesterday, we take the following biographical memoranda, knowing how great and how natural must be the curiosity to learn particulars respecting such a man:

"Cyrus West Field, who will be remembered in all time for his connection with the Oceanic Telegraph, was born at Stockbridge in the year 1822. Upon arriving at a proper age he came to the city of New York, and commenced business under the training of A. T. Stewart, the eminent merchant. He subsequently became the head of one of the largest houses in the city engaged in the manufacture and sale of paper. Four years ago, in a social party, composed of some four or five of our eminent business men, the subject of connecting Europe with America was broached. Mr. Field at once became impressed with the idea of its feasibility, and turned the whole energies of his mind to bear upon the subject. He very soon, with others, formed an association in this city, composed of Peter Cooper, Moses Taylor, Marshal O. Roberts, Chandler White, S. F. B. Morse, and David Dudley Field, for the purpose effecting a communication between the Eastern and Western world. As a first step Mr. Cyrus W. Field, with his brother, David Dudley and Chandler White, went to Newfoundland, and after overcoming many legislative difficulties, procured a charter, under which they constructed a line of telegraph from

St. John's Newfoundland, across that island of more than 300 miles, through a sterile wilderness, composed of rock, forest, and morass. Then followed the submarine telegraph across the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the first one attempted to be laid, as our readers will remember, being lost. Hence it is that Mr. Field trained himself for future triumphs, for undimmed, he immediately ordered a new cable; then, against all seeming possibility of success, secured the one at the bottom of the Gulf, and thus finally received the company against any material loss. A telegraphic communication with Cape Breton was thus accomplished, connecting with the then existing lines in Nova Scotia. The company then procured grants and charters for lines from Prince Edward's Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Maine, and Canada. All these things accomplished, Mr. Field started for England, and there, unremitting efforts, succeeded in establishing the Atlantic Telegraph Company for the purpose of connecting the European and American continents. What Mr. Field has done to bring about this wonderful consummation is familiar to the world. Failure after failure never dampened his ardor, or lessened his enthusiasm, and on the memorable occasion when the cable, apparently without cause, untwisted as it was paying out from the Agamemnon, when all were despondent, it was stated that Mr. Field alone was sanguine and sure of success. Such energy, such determination to triumph, has creative power, and is only to be found in characters illustrated by Columbus, Franklin, and other discoverers, who have led the way in the advancement of civilization, and been the eyes, as it were, of the world in which they lived and had material association."

Ten days after the Telegraph Fleet had sailed, on the last and fortunate attempt to lay the Cable, the £1,000 shares of the Company were offered, on the London Stock Exchange, at £290 to £300 each—but there were no buyers. No one dreamed that this last effort would succeed. It will be singular should shareholders, who were compelled to hold on their stock because nobody would purchase, eventually realize largely by the enterprise.

We anticipate, as a matter of prudence and necessity, that early steps will be taken for laying a second cable. It will never answer to have the newly-established relations between the two continents depending wholly upon a single line, so attenuated as that which has now been placed. Nobody can say what unexpected accident may occur to undo, in an instant of time, what it has taken so many years and so much capital to complete.

The greatest reliance can be placed upon Lieutenant Mackay's statement, the result of numerous soundings, that the greater part of the plateau at the bottom of the Atlantic, between Newfoundland and Ireland, is smooth, and that it is too deeply placed to be disturbed by the influences of currents or winds. But the whole route is not thus favorable. The two or three hundred miles nearest to Ireland are of variable depth, and certainly not even smooth or undisturbed at the bottom. We can readily fancy the cable placed upon the jagged summits of the sharp rocks which abound in that part of the Atlantic, and the thought naturally arises, is a single telegraphic line, which may so easily be chafed, strained, or cut upon these rocks, to be the sole connecting link between the Old World and the New? It is evident that a second cable must be laid, and the sooner the better. If not, we may awake some fine morning and find that, from some cause or other, the Atlantic Telegraph is *hors de combat*, and that we are thrown back, for an indefinite period, upon the old communication of "ten days from England by mail-steamer." It is satisfactory to add that hitherto the submarine telegraphs have invariably worked more reliably than those upon the land.

It is astonishing to find how much has been done by the Magnetic Telegraph within the last one and twenty years. In 1837, Professor Morse filed a caveat for what he called the American Electro-Magnetic Telegraph, took out a French patent in 1838, and an American in 1840. The first telegraphic line, actually in practical operation, was that between Baltimore and Washington, completed in 1844, and extending forty miles. From that small commencement arose a system of intercommunication so great that, in the United States alone, there are now 33,000 miles of Telegraph communication, all of which will be connected with the Atlantic Telegraph. In the whole of Europe there are only 38,000 miles of telegraph—viz: Great Britain 28,000; Germany and Austria, 10,000; France, 8,000; Prussia, 5,700; Italy, 2,500; Switzerland, 1,500; Spain and Portugal, 600; Holland, 600;—and Belgium, 500.

The Atlantic Telegraph is nearly two thousand miles in length, an unbroken line. All over the rest of the world, submarine telegraphing is not one thousand miles. The earliest was that between Dover and Calais, established in 1850, and only twenty-four miles long. The longest across the Black Sea, is under four hundred miles—it was on this line that Lord PAMENIER, War Minister of England, conveyed that message about young Downing, his nephew, "Take care of Downing." The triumph of American science and skill is perceptible in the Telegraph system. Morse would seem the successor of FRANKLIN, who snatched the lightning from heaven, just as FULTON completing what Watt had done with steam, applied that great power to the purposes of navigation. That STEPHENSON should subsequently have applied the same motive power to land travelling was but an indication from FULTON's application. The wonder is that it did not follow earlier. But the telegraphic system, put to actual work, is undeniably American, and we may be doubly proud of it, as such. *Philad. Press.*

Frazer River—The New Eldorado.

A correspondent at St. Paul, Minnesota, writing to an exchange paper in reference to the Frazer River gold discovery, says:—The recent gold discoveries at Frazer River have awakened quite a lively interest in this community, as we believe the feasible route to be through St. Paul, for that region of country, as another season will make evident.

That part of British America lying north of this, and extending to the Pacific, has, until within a late date, been a terra incognita to most intelligent people, owing to the care which the Hudson's Bay Company has exercised in suppressing all information of the richness, fertility and exuberance of the soil and salubrity of the climate of the large territory over which their chartered rights have extended.

From the little knowledge gained of that tract, the desire to know more of it has been quickened, and has thus far resulted in the organization of two exploring expeditions by the British Government, one of which will proceed from the east and the other from the west. The excitement occasioned by the discovery of the rich auriferous valley of Frazer River in British Oregon, will very much hasten the development of the vast resources of the most favorable route to the Pacific coast, for either rail or wagon road.

With a desire to give to the public the most reliable information in regard to the country over which emigrant trains from this point to the gold bearing portions of Oregon will have to pass, several meetings have been held in this city, and reports made which give to any one wishing information all the knowledge they can desire.

From these reports we learn that the distance from St. Paul to the Gold Mines on Frazer River is as follows:

St. Paul to Pembina,	450 miles.
Pembina to Carlton House,	600 miles.
Carlton House to Edmonton,	400 miles.
Edmonton to Thompson River,	400 miles.
(a branch of the Frazer,)	200 miles.

Total, 1650 miles. It is estimated that in view of the facilities afforded by the face of the country, and a continuous line of Hudson's Bay Company posts, this journey can be accomplished in seventy days, at an expense to a company of ten persons of \$180 each.

There are many reasons why the above mentioned route is the best from the valley of the Mississippi to the Pacific. One is, it has more water, timber and game than those which start from the Missouri. Another is, there is no danger of molestation from the Indians on this northern route. Another, and a very important one is, that the ridge of the Rocky Mountains, which, west of Missouri, branches up like a camel's back, gradually flattens out so that transit on the northern route is comparatively easy.

The fact must be kept in mind, also, which is verified by "Blodget's Climatology," that there is a rapid increase of heat in going westward from Minnesota on a line of latitude, and this, even where the elevation increases, so that the climate of St. Paul is carried far north into the valley of the Saskatchewan, to the Rocky Mountains, beyond which we find a climate very similar to that of England, mild and humid.

The region of country through which this route to the Pacific passes, besides being well watered, well timbered, and abounding in game, as well as being most easy in crossing the mountains, is also the healthiest of any which has been traversed. In the report of Gov. Stevens to the War Department, of the route he surveyed for a railroad to the Pacific, taking this point as our terminus, is the report of the Surgeon of the Expedition, in which he says the climate on the line of this survey is so highly salubrious that the average amount of sickness, with all the exposures incident to a constant march, are far less than when the troops are in garrison. Such, in tenor, is also the report of the explorers, surveyors and voyagers on the northern route.

It would not be at all surprising if the Frazer River gold tract, which Gov. Stevens states extends into our possessions as far down as Southern Oregon, be found the richest on the continent. The discoveries and yield thus far warrant such a belief. Then, there must of necessity be some direct communication with the Pacific than we now have with California, and as an enthusiastic railroad projector once said of another route, "The finger of the Almighty has indicated the route" by way of St. Paul, the valleys of the Red and Sackatchewan Rivers, over the great depression of the Rocky Mountains, in about the 52d deg. of north latitude, as the most feasible, and in all respects desirable, to the auriferous regions of the Pacific.

THE GREAT COMET COME AT LAST.—The *New York Herald* makes the following interesting announcement, of which we see no confirmation elsewhere.

"We learn from our despatches by the Arago that the great Comet of Charles V. as it is some times called, but better known to Astronomers as that of Fabricius, has at last made its appearance, and will very shortly be visible to the naked eye. It has been seen from the Paris Observatory through its telescopes, and is pronounced by Arago the genuine article. A sharp lookout has been kept up for it for a year or two past by the European comet seekers. It is not yet known whether it will appear as it once did, like a very large and bright star, or with a tail one hundred degrees in length. The curious hope that it will its 'wondrous tail unfold.' Its first appearance was in 1554, and its disappearance took place on the 2nd of October of that year, the day on which Pope Urban IV died, and as the world thought, in strange coincidence. In 1556 it re-appeared, and was observed by Paul Fabricius, astronomer to Charles V., who executed a

map of its path, which was published in November of that year. The Emperor considered it as a special omen of his own approaching death; but he lived for some years afterwards. It was then described as a great and brilliant star. Its course was "through Virgo and Cassiopea." The celebrated Dr. Halley calculated its elements more than a century afterwards, and several others after him. The calculations of Mr. Boume of Middleburg, of the Netherlands, of recent date, are more precise, and more generally supposed to be reliable than those of his predecessors. This astronomer finally came to the conclusion that in the year 1254 its eclipse had a period of 302.92 years, expellited by planetary disturbances by 4.077 days, and that in 1856 its mean motion corresponded to a period of 308.16 years. Its present revolution he calculated would be shortened by perturbations 10.48 years, and the comet should reach its perihelion about the 2nd of August, 1858.

POWER OF A BOA CONSTRICTOR.

From the Sporting Scenes among the Kaffirs of South Africa, by Captain A. W. Drayson, R. A., we take the following:—"His mode of attack gave me an insight into the method by which this species of snake destroys animals. The teeth of the boa constrictor being long, bent and turned back, something in a fish hook shape the snake darts out and seizes hold of its prey.—Then drawing back again, it pulls the animal to the ground at once, and coiling round it, it commences the crushing process. This power of squeezing must be enormous. On attempting to skin this reptile, the muscles inside had the appearance of a string of rope extending from the head to the tail; these he seems to have the power of contracting or extending, so that a part that might be three feet long as he coiled himself round your body, could be instantly reduced to about a foot, by this means giving any one in his embrace a very tolerable squeeze. I have before remarked that these snakes are not considered dangerous to man, as they are not poisonous; and if those attacked have a sharp knife and managed to keep their arms free, Mr. Snake would get the worst of it. If one happened to be asleep, and a boa constrictor then became familiar, he might so wind himself round arms and body as to prevent a knife from being used. I have no doubt that they have power sufficient to crush, in man to death in a very few seconds, did they once get themselves comfortably settled round his ribs but I never heard of such a case during my residence at Natal, although I made every inquiry from the Kaffirs. Formerly there was a great superstition among the Kaffirs with regard to this snake, and a person who killed one had to go through a quarantine of purifying; now however, the Kaffirs do not seem to care much about them. I saw an old fellow near Umbilo river pinning a large boa constrictor to the ground with several assagies to prevent its wriggling; he had about a dozen different ones dove into his body, and seemed to think a few more would do him no harm. He told me that the snake was a great rascal, and had killed a calf of his sometime before; that he had long watched for an opportunity of catching it out of its hole, and at last found it so, when a smart race of some yards ended in the Kaffir's assaying the veal-cater.

An Interesting Discovery.

We see it stated, upon what may be considered reliable authority, that thirty thousand Christians have recently been found upon an island north of Celebes. It has been rumored for a time that there was a Christian people forgotten and forsaken, which however, yet possessed three bibles, and continued steadfast in the faith. When missionaries first landed on the island, they met with a school-teacher and his pupils, who repented in the Malay tongue, "As the heart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O Lord." No Bibles were found, but the most precious promises of the Bible were written upon the bark of trees. They knew the Apostles Creed, and the Heidelberg Catechism customs. Twenty churches and schools yet existed. Through the instrumentality of Pastor Heddinger, founder of the Magdalen Aylm at Lienboek, and chief patron of Inner Missions in Holland our missionaries, who had been educated under the venerable Gossner, were sent out, and three thousand persons baptised. This is certainly a most interesting discovery. The Island on which these Christians were found belongs to the East Indian Archipelago. The Dutch have for years had political rule in these regions. This may account for the original introduction of Christianity among this people, and for the fact that the Heidelberg Catechism was still found in their possession. But still the particular time and circumstances in which this introduction took place call for special attention.

and elicit investigation from those who have the leisure and facilities for prosecuting it.—[*German Reformed Messenger.*]

CURIOS FERTILE.—Prominent among the curiosities at the Hermitage, once the home of General Jackson, is a wooden pitcher remarkable both on account of the artistic skill displayed and the celebrity of the tree from which the wood was procured. It was made of the wood from the elm tree under which William Penn made the celebrated Indian treaty. The pitcher was presented by the coopers of Philadelphia; and, although it is no larger than a common cream-jug, it contains seven hundred fifty staves. The hoops, lid and handle, are of silver; the bottom is a magnifying glass, by looking through which one is enabled to see the joints, which are invisible to the naked eye.

GIGANTIC SKELETONS.—Wm. D. Frazer writes to the Cincinnati "Gazette" from Winchester, Indiana, that half a mile north of that place, there is an old fort, including about thirty acres of ground within the fortification. The mound in the center is about twenty five feet high, while the fort or breastwork is only about fifteen feet. Directly east and west of the mound are openings or gateways, around which are other forts. A quarter of a mile northwest of the fort is the burying-ground, where bones have been exhumed, of men that were perhaps ten feet high. Any one who doubts the latter statement, the writer says, can call at his office and see the evidence.

A Female River Pirate.

The Cleveland Plaindealer, of the 19th, says:—"The notorious Maria Keys, alias Faulkner, was arrested on last Saturday by Marshal Gallagher and his aids, on a charge of stealing some \$700 worth of extra gin from the warehouse of Mix & Morris, River street, a few months since. She was ordered to give bail in the sum of \$1,500, which she promptly did. This Maria Keys is the Queen of a gang of about twenty dock pirates. Her hovel on the west side, near the Old Exchange, is their rendezvous. There the dock pirates secure their 'swag,' there Maria gives orders, plans thieving expeditions, and is Queen. Frequently, the police tell us, she leads the landitti in person, dressing herself in men's clothes. She has an extensive wardrobe, and can appear in any character that she deems necessary for the successful consummation of her plans. She has been known to rig herself up in the character of a sailor, a canal boatman, a vigilant young man from the country, an old gray haired and decrepit man, &c. All alone she has 'cracked' many a warehouse along the docks in the night. She is, in short, a regular female Jack Sheppard, and would make a splendid heroine for one of Ainsworth's novels.

An exchange says a divine out west is trying to persuade girls to forego marriage. It says he has succeeded so far as to persuade one, and she is about 70 years old.

A Physician once advised Sidney Smith to take a walk on an empty stomach. "Whose stomach?" asked the wit.

A man in Kentucky killed a cow a few days since, in whose stomach were found a large brass ring, a hair pin, and a quantity of hooks and eyes. Brindle had probably swallowed the milk maid.

A suit for divorce is now pending in Rochester, which originated in a dispute between Mr. B. and his wife as to whether they should have broiled beef-steak or fried oysters for breakfast.

Our young friend John A. Grier has been promoted to the rank of second assistant engineer in the U. S. Navy.—*Even. Chronicle.*

PUFF FOR A POSTMASTER.—A contemporary noticing the appointment of a postmaster, says: "If he attends to the mails as well as he does to the females, he will make a very attentive and efficient officer."

FASHIONS—NOW AND THEN.—An old gentleman furnishes the Philadelphia 'Evening Bulletin' with the following interesting reminiscences of fashion:

"In 1798 the ladies wore a single hoop, which was as large as the lower one now is worn. The hoop was worn as high as the hips, and below it depended a train five or six yards long, that was carried by waiting-maids or boys. The old gentleman recollects seeing Mrs. Robert Morris walk along Broadway, New York, in company with Aaron Burr, while he train was carried by six mustee women, richly dressed, and with turbans on their heads. The women all wore stays, and shoes with heels two or three inches high—immense silver buckles being on the shoes. Silk dresses were not then common, and muslin ones were, were admired according to the size of the flowers on them—roses as large as one's hat, being considered most elegant and tasteful. At that time, enormous head-dresses were worn, towering far above the head of the wearer. The head-gear for the street was a sort of cap, which was placed upon the top of the head-dress, with a curtain of crape to the sides and back, which hung down to the shoulders."