

The Freeman

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In 1830, many persons were sent to Siberia for life. Their destination was principally to the Altai Mountains where they were incorporated in the mining districts into which this whole region is divided. But no hard labor was imposed upon them. They are counted or are inscribed as prisoners; most of them, however, being supported by their relatives at home; they look for means of gaining additional wealth to the cities. As a general rule transportation to Eastern Siberia is considered somewhat more severe punishment than to Western Siberia.

Wives and children following the exiles, lose all their status and privileges enjoyed in Russia. The bulk of the Russian population in Siberia, by which the rudiments of civilization have been introduced, consists of merchants trading there, whose communities extend from the Ural Mountains to the mouth of the Amour. They are established in boroughs and cities, or in agricultural districts, but perform military duties and those of internal police. There are also many Cossacks with some Mongolian tribes, Manchus, who have immigrated from China, and who preserve their customs and manners—some becoming Christians, others not. These are called Buryats by the Russians. The dissenters and descendants of convicts from the rest of the population. The Russians, as we have said, are traders, merchants, mechanics, operatives, miners and agriculturists. But if the natives, of which the government takes special care, intend to devote themselves to agriculture, they are allowed to select the best lands, being considered in principle the original owners of the country.

The distinction of the social organization of Siberia is, that no kind of serfdom exists, or can be introduced there. Otherwise, the inhabitants enjoy, comparatively more liberty and independence than those of Russia proper. The requirements of the government from the population are insignificant, and its pressure, therefore, is less heavy. Thus slowly, but uninterruptedly, augmented grain by grain, a State is growing up on political and social foundations wholly different from the mother country.

The New York Tribune contains the following very interesting sketch about Siberia, a region of country much spoken of, but very little known, of a reliable character, by the world at large. This sketch is richly worth all the space that it occupies in our columns, and all the time that it will require to attentively read it:

The Asiatic possessions of Russia, enclosed between the Ural Mountains, the North Pacific Ocean, the North Pole and Chinese Tartary, are generally called Siberia. This whole region is divided, for administrative purposes, into two parts—Western and Eastern Siberia—each with several counties or departments, under the control of a special Governor-General.

Siberia is watered by some large rivers—the Irtysh, the Ob, the Jenisey, and the Lena—all issuing from the Altai Mountains, and debouching in the Polar Ocean. They are navigable nearly through their whole extent; but being frozen seven or eight months during the year, and traversing regions comparatively uninhabited, no great use is derived from facilities which they would afford. The population scattered over Siberia amounts to over 3,000,000, nearly six-sevenths of which are Russian—the natives being of Mongolian, Finnish and Kamtschatkan descent, the latter called Yakouts by the Russians. Averse, almost all, to agriculture, they are nomadic hunters or fishermen. The conquest of Siberia was made in the sixteenth century, by a band of Cossacks of the Volga and their motley adjutants, under the lead of a certain Yeremak, and these equestrian tribes became its first European and Russian settlers.

In the course of the seventeenth century, and more especially of the eighteenth, the Czar began to transport thither convicts and criminals. The gold-washing, and the character of the various dissenters from the Russian Orthodox Church. Whole villages or communities were thus transported, receiving in different parts of Siberia vast tracts of land. These colonists formed communities in the same way as they were organized in their mother country, having equal privileges of self-administration, but the crown exacts, on paying a small tribute to the Treasury. Their return to European Russia is strongly prohibited; but they enjoy perfect liberty of worship, according to their doctrines and usages. Some of these sectarians live according to the communism attempted by some Socialistic theories. When the riches of the Altai mountains were first discovered, and the transportation thither to the mines took the place of capital punishment; this punishment having been abolished in 1740, under the Empress Elizabeth. Disgraced favorites, official defrauders, and finally political offenders, were sent thither for life, or for the term of their punishment. Among the first in the eighteenth century were Menshikov and Biron—both of whom had unobscuredly ruled the empire and the field—Marshall Munich, and several others. At present, transportation to Siberia is in a penalty administered for all kinds of crimes and offences; for burglary, theft, smuggling and violations of the exchequer. According to the Russian penal code, these condemnations are variously graduated. The punishment is hard labor for life, or for a certain number of years; after which the felon becomes a colonist, receiving land, a house, and some cattle, and being attached to some rural community or borough, and enjoying the rights of this class of inhabitants. Smaller offences are punished with transportation for a lesser number of years, with a privilege of returning to Russia. Serfs condemned for any offense whatever never return to bondage; and thus Siberia becomes, to them at least, a land of emancipation.

Political offenders are distributed over Siberia according to the decision of the Senate, and of the courts martial by which they are condemned. Such offenders are generally incorporated into battalions, forming the corps of the Siberian army. If, by the verdict does not define the exact number of years of their service, they remain in the army 20 or 25 years, and then resign to become colonists and members of some community. Such a convict very rarely obtains an ordinary exception, can be promoted to the grade of a commissioned officer, or to organize such a primitive country. Not long since the country south of Lake Baikal, was organized into a government, called Trans-Baikalan. It is the richest country for mineral purposes in northern Asia. Irkutsk is the seat of the Archbishop for the whole region. The natives are gradually converted; and, as far as possible, the clergy selected from among them, the rites of the church being performed in their own dialects. Various languages, Greek, for the Poles, Latin, Russian, Mantchou, and so forth, are severally employed for this purpose in Siberia.

These vast Asiatic possessions have been of late increased by the late annexation of a very extensive territory destined to form the jewel of Siberia. Russia has taken possession of the entire left bank of the Amour, that is, from the junction of the river Shilka and of the Arann, which form the Saghalien, down to its mouth, at that part of the Pacific called the Sea of Okotsk. Some time since we gave some particulars of this portion of the Russian Empire, and of these we now add some further details, as well as the mode in which we derive possession of. These facts we derive from sources not easily accessible to European writers. The Mantchou country, situated on the left side of the Amour, is occupied by a few nomadic bands of Tartars, no fixed settlement of any kind of cities existing there. Although nominally considered under the supremacy of China, it was, in fact, a region without a master. The Chinese really never claimed it. Many years ago Russian traders descended the river Shilka, and some other streams running and debouching in the Amour and visited the Chinese authorities, as well as the inhabitants, spoke of the left bank of this river as naturally belonging to Russia. The regular occupation of the territory took place in 1843. It was prepared with care and foresight. Two small iron steamers were built in Shilka, a mining establishment situated on the river. The territory was divided between an engineer and an engineer, leaving at their disposal only crude materials and raw workmen.

The steamers laden with guns, arms, ammunition, stores and implements of all kinds, served to convey the Governor-General, his staff, and some infantry soldiers. The latter, accompanied by about a hundred dragoons and hark filled with Cossacks. The river, carefully explored and sounded, proved everywhere navigable, without rapids, or any other serious incumbrance. At the end of thirty-three days, the expedition reached the mouth of the river, and a permanent establishment was planted there. The territory on the opposite side situated a Chinese town, and a good understanding exists between the two banks. The natives made no opposition whatever, to the expedition or the occupation. The Russians do not interfere with them, nor does the government limit their roving life, or exact any kind of service. The territory is very deep and extensive, being nearly shut out from the winds by Island Keratia or Saghalien, which was seized by Russian navigators years before the expedition. The whole land is covered with meadows and forests full of the best kind of lumber, and excellent oak for naval constructions. The soil is capital, and fit for all kinds of culture, but is yet unworked by the creative hand. In all Siberia, Amour is spoken of as the land of promise; and so it will become when agriculture and industry shall take into general life. The river Amour teems with fishes of all kinds, the most delicate kinds, and some said to be strangers to other waters. The forests are full of game of all kinds, and the mountains are full of game. We were unacquainted to the natives, who now eagerly seek the latter in their barter with the Russians.

The acquisition of this part of the Mantchou country, and of the mouth of the Amour, is the most valuable made by Russia during the reign of Nicholas. It gives completeness and vitality to Siberia. When the territory is settled, the Irtysh, the Ob, the Jenisey, and the Lena, and the East will be independent of supplies from St. Petersburg. Trade will be opened with China, Japan, and California, as the empire comes to take full advantage of its new outlet on the Pacific.

J. G. Moore, Surgeon Dentist, continues his office at No. 10 North Duke Street, directly opposite the Court House, Lancaster, Pa. He has been practicing for over 20 years, and has a large number of patients. He has a large stock of teeth, and is prepared to make any kind of dentures. He has a large stock of teeth, and is prepared to make any kind of dentures. He has a large stock of teeth, and is prepared to make any kind of dentures.

W. T. McPhail, Attorney at Law, has removed his office to No. 10 North Duke Street, directly opposite the Court House, Lancaster, Pa. He has been practicing for over 20 years, and has a large number of patients. He has a large stock of teeth, and is prepared to make any kind of dentures. He has a large stock of teeth, and is prepared to make any kind of dentures.

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To Vendors of Merchandise,
The following is a list of the Vendors of Merchandise in Lancaster County, with the amount of their sales for the year ending on the 1st of January, 1855. The amount of their sales for the year ending on the 1st of January, 1855. The amount of their sales for the year ending on the 1st of January, 1855.

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