

THE FIRST SNOW-FALL.

The snow had begun in the gloaming,
And busily, all the night,
Had been heaping flat and highway
With a silence deep and white.

Every pine and fir and hemlock
Wore ermine too dear for an earl,
And the poorest twig on the elm-tree
Was ridged with deep-winter pearl.

From sheds new-roofed with Carrara
Came Chanticleer's muffled crew;
The stiff rails were loosened to swans-down,
And still wavered down the snow.

I stood and watched from the window
The noiseless work of the sky,
And the sudden flurries of snow birds,
Like brown leaves whirling by.

I thought of a mound in sweet Auburn,
Where a little headstone stood;
How the flakes were folding it gently,
As did robins the Babes in the Wood.

Up spoke our own little Mabel,
Saying, "Father, who makes the snow?"
And I told of the good All-Father
Who cares for us here below.

Again I looked at the snow-fall,
And thought of the leaden sky
That arched o'er our first great sorrow
When that mound was heaped so high.

I remembered the gradual patience
That fell from that cloud like snow,
Flake by flake, holding
The scars of our buried woe.

Then with eyes that saw not I kissed her,
And his kisses took, I thought,
That my kiss was given to her sister,
Folded close under deepening snow.

THE LAST OF THE BOURBONS.

Spanish Abolitionism and the Coming Revolution—The Action of the Cuban Delegates in Favor of Emancipation.

(From the London News, November 21.)
It has passed into a proverb that the Bourbons never forget nor learn. The present condition of affairs in Spain supplies a forcible illustration of this dynastical aphorism, for neither Queen Isabella II. nor her political advisers appear to have forgotten the traditions of their country nor to have learned the smallest particle of wisdom from contemporaneous events.

These personages dream of the possibility of governing sixteen millions of people in the middle of the nineteenth century precisely as their predecessors ruled in the dark ages. It would not be surprising were an attempt made to revive the Inquisition. Is this moral blindness peculiar to the Bourbon race, or is it simply an idiosyncrasy of despotic power? In either case the result is the same, for oppression and misrule usurp the place of freedom and liberal institutions. Ignorance and misery at home, and loss of credit and political consideration abroad, are the inevitable consequences of such a policy.

At this moment the whole country is under martial law. Narvaez rules by the sword, and no man's life is safe. The press is gagged; meetings for the discussion of political or other subjects are prohibited under the severest penalties; opposition is silenced by many of the leading politicians have fled the country, and those who remain yield a reluctant acquiescence to the decrees of the powers that be, or maintain an ominous silence. Meanwhile the army is swollen and discontented to an extraordinary degree. Many of the regiments must take place, and no one is bold enough to predict that it will not overturn the throne of Isabella II., and terminate the rule of the Bourbons in Spain.

This system of misgovernment caused the colonists of the Spanish possessions in America to revolt, and if Cuba and Porto Rico yet belong to Queen Isabella, it is not that the people are satisfied, but because, under the pretext of preparation for a possible negro insurrection, a large army is maintained there, ready at any time to suppress political excitement or the smallest manifestation of dissatisfaction on the part of the Cubans and Porto Ricans. In spite, however, of this Damoclesian sword, the colonists of the Spanish Antilles have from time to time asserted their right to be governed as citizens, not ruled as slaves. Many of their leaders were in consequence driven into exile and poverty, but their speeches and writings found their way into the islands and continued to produce fruit by raising up new champions and a political party, and began to carry the movement of the slave trade and slavery was mooted as an indispensable preliminary to all other reforms.

The slaveholders' war in the United States, and its relation to this struggle of the colonial reform movement, a significance not to be mistaken, and probably with a view to postpone indefinitely the solution of this grave question the Narvaez Cabinet, assuming the initiative, promulgated a decree on the 25th of November, 1866, which announced the attention of the government immediately to consider what political, financial and social reform should be conceded to the citizens of Cuba and Porto Rico. In accordance with this decree they were required to send delegates from the various districts of these islands to meet an equal number of representatives of the government, selected from among those of its officers who had been personally engaged in the administration of the colonies, the two sections to form a Commission of Inquiry to confer as to the reforms to be instituted, and the means of carrying them into effect. This commission assembled at Madrid on the 30th of last month, and has held three meetings.

The opening address of the Colonial Minister, Senor Canales, del Castillo, was redundant with professions of the intention of the government to deal frankly with the question before it; all the information that the delegates desired to tender would be gratefully received; every point should have the most respectful and attentive consideration; the government had no prejudices, and had come to no foregone conclusion, and only pledged itself to do justice to all parties.

The Commissioners received these assurances with every manifestation of satisfaction, and forthwith prepared themselves for their work. It was not, however, a very encouraging fact that the government consisted of individuals pledged to maintain the present order of things. On the other hand, of the twenty-two delegates from Cuba and the six from Porto Rico only six are of the same view as the government, the remainder being all firm abolitionists.

If any of the colonial delegates were deluded by the honied words of Senor Canovas del Castillo into the belief that the government really intended to accede to its protestations, the printed "interrogatory" of twenty-six questions, under the separate heads of "negro slaves, free negroes, Asiatic population, and immigration," which the Minister placed in their hands, must at once have snatched the veil from their eyes. The effect produced upon them may be judged of by the result. The Porto Rican delegates, with one exception, entered an energetic protest against the course of the government, declaring it to be flagrantly inconsistent with the terms of the royal decree. They stated that the tendency of those questions was to perpetuate slavery indefinitely, and as such an intention was not only opposed to the views of their constituents, but antagonistic to the propriety of the island, they declined to answer any of the queries. They also demanded on behalf and in the name of their constituents, the immediate abolition of slavery, with or without compensation, to the slave owners, and with or without any regulations respecting the introduction of immigrant labor. They declared that the social reform involved in their demand was of primary importance, and that while they reserved the right of pressing for those administrative changes which the circumstances of the colony rendered imperative, they should insist to the end upon the abolition of slavery as an indispensable preliminary.

This noble protest proved contagious. The Cuban delegates, at first surprised, presently announced their adhesion to it, and, in principle, to the demand for immediate emancipation might safely be conceded to Porto Rico, the circumstances and the condition of Cuba were so different that they preferred preparing a plan of emancipation more suitable to their island, which they should submit as soon as the discussions on Cuba were opened. Thus stood the question on the 18th of the present month.

The action of the government has now to be seen. It can no longer daily with the question of emancipation. The abolitionist party in Spain has sprung into existence in a most marvelous manner. Two years ago it had no existence. The "Progressistas" are unanimously in favor of emancipation, and until Narvaez stifled the press upwards of eighty newspapers were devoted to it. The Spanish Anti-Slavery Society, of which Don Salustiano Olceaga is President, inaugurated on the first of April last year, has held three numerous attended public meetings on the question, and numbers among its supporters the most eloquent orators in Spain, and some of the most distinguished members of the Cortes. The reign of terror has alone checked its progress, but, sustained as it is, and strengthened by the attitude which the colonial delegates have assumed, it would seem impossible that anything short of extinction by the iron hand can prevent the solution of the important question which it has been instrumental in raising.

Thus do great principles make their way. "What is it? Where does it come from? What is it made of?" I think five hundred times I have heard these and similar questions asked about the pleasant, palatable paste used in confections and pastoral compounds, and doubtless there are hundreds of thousands of people somewhat familiar with the commercial jujube paste of all civilized countries, who have no more definite idea of what it is made of, than a Hottentot has of a hymn book. This universal ignorance of *jujube*, and the tree that produces the genuine material, is scarcely creditable to us, who grow so many thousands tons of noxious tobacco, and make so many million gallons of murderous rum.

In reply to the question, what is *jujube* paste made of, I have to reply, that three-fifths of all we buy and use as pure *jujube* is a compound of poor gum Arabic, damaged flour, and cheap sugar, tinted with some villainous chemical liquid. The little pure *jujube* paste we get it made from the fruit of the *jujube* tree—(*Rhamnus Ziziphus*)—a common East Indian tree, or more generally, a large shrub, growing also in the majority of the islands of Japan, and on the coast of the Northern mountains of China, and north into Tartary, where the winter cold is so intense that no other fruit trees exist. The tree resembles most to appearance and habits of growth, the money locusts of the United States, while the fruit is very like, in size, shape and color, our smaller purplish damson plums, with a pit something similar, only smaller in proportion, rounder and more pointed. Eaten when quite ripe the fruit has a pleasant taste, and slightly aromatic flavor. From the setting of the blossom to maturity, the fruit requires about three and a half months, though two or three pretty sharp frosts, either on the flowers or ripe fruit, does not appear to injure it.

The paste is easily made, exactly as the housewife manufactures marmalade from pears, or other fruit, simply by stewing, straining and boiling down at a very low heat. There are few of the *jujube* trees growing and bearing fruit in the United States, but considering that it will thrive and bear fruit wherever the apple, peach or pear will, and in some places where they will not; and considering also the very many purposes in confections and cookery to which it may be applied, as well as its valuable medicinal properties, a great many thousands of our people who have gardens ought to cultivate the *jujube* tree.—The Guardian.

A Gorilla Captured.
M. de Langle has forwarded the French Academy the following account of a young gorilla, recently captured:
"Gorilla, THE ZENOBIA, 20th July, 1866.
My subject is a female. It was found in a black who brought it to me that the mother was in a palm tree when he carried off the animal. It was eating the palm fruit, those from which the palm oil is made. The Gorilla's head is always suspended from its mother in front in such a position as to be able to look at her at any moment, and it always takes up this position when the mother gives it a morsel. It is very restless, but it is very cunning, and it is very quick to let go its hold. The sailors manage to strip off their jessys, and in this way to let the poor Gorilla fight with the garment. Great is his astonishment when it finds the people it has fallen among can get rid of their skin in the cast off garment. This does not last long, and it begins its rounds over again until it finds a new friend. It likes bread in fact, is very fond of it, and often prefers to fruit, which makes me hope that it will survive the passage to France."

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A liberal reduction made to wholesale buyers.
A full stock of Wagon, Shaker, and Fan
Dishes, Knives, Scissors, and Table Cutlery,
Gloves, Suspenders, etc., in great variety.
P. L. JACOBS,
No. 125 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA.
del-2

Watches and Jewelry.
English Plated Wares,
Fine Watches, Clocks,
London Pearl Sets,
English Cutlery,
Bronzes, Porcelain,
Coral Jewelry,
Precious Stones,
Gilt Goods, &c.
Always on hand a large assortment of
FINE JEWELRY AND
SILVER WARE.
NEW DESIGNS FURNISHED AND GOODS MADE
TO ORDER, AT SHORT NOTICE.
SILVER WARE FOR
BRIDAL PRESENTS,
IN GREAT VARIETY.
CHRISTMAS, HOLIDAY
AND
Bridal Presents.
WM. WILSON & SON.
S. W. cor. Fifth and Cherry Streets,
SILVERSMITHS
AND
MANUFACTURERS AND IMPORTERS OF
SUPERIOR PLATED WARE,
Have on hand a large and general assortment of
Silver and Plated Ware.
Of their own MANUFACTURING, suitable for
WEDDING GIFTS AND SILVER WARE.
Presentation Sets on hand or furnished at short
notice. del-10

BONBONS DE PARIS.
Nouveautés Four Etrangeres.
C. PENAS,
CONFECTIONER, FROM PARIS,
No. 830 Walnut Street, Philadelphia
A splendid variety of Fancy Boxes and Bonbons, of the newest styles, just received from Paris. del-12
DRESSING CASES—IF YOU HAVE A DEAR FRIEND
a present of an ACOUSTIC INSTRUMENT
to assist the hearing and preserve the hearing.
Also, A FINE ASSORTMENT OF CHOICE CUT
LITTLE TABLES, AND OTHER ARTICLES
POCKET KNIVES, PEARL AND STAG HORN
DRESSING CASES, GENTS' TOILET CASES, AND
SILVER CASES. Also, A FINE ASSORTMENT
OF LADIES' TOILET CASES, AND OTHER ARTICLES,
at the lowest prices, and in the best manner. del-11

OLIVER PRESS,
No. 44 N. Sixth Street,
Between Market and Arch streets, Philadelphia.
As a full assortment of
GENTLEMEN'S WRAPPERS,
SHIRTS, COLLARS, STOCKS, &c.
del-14
GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS.
SHIRTS MADE OF NEW YORK MILLS Malmal.
Only \$2.00, usual price \$3.00.
DELIVERY BY W. A. MITCHELL, 10th and Arch streets.
A liberal reduction made to wholesale buyers.
A full stock of Wagon, Shaker, and Fan
Dishes, Knives, Scissors, and Table Cutlery,
Gloves, Suspenders, etc., in great variety.
P. L. JACOBS,
No. 125 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA.
del-2

RETAIL DRY GOODS

GREAT FALL IN DRY GOODS.
Having purchased largely at the late sacrificing
prices we are prepared to sell 25 per cent. below old
prices.
Williams' Muslin at 25c.
Forsyth's Muslin at 25c.
Wamona Muslin at 25c.
Brown Sheeting at 30c.
Large assortment of Flannels from 25 to 50 cents per
yard.
Heavy Canton Flannels 50c.
Cottons for Collars and Cuffs from 17 1/2 to 20, very
cheap.
Grand Velvets and worsted goods warranted all Silk.
Dresses from \$10 to \$15 per yard.
Household Furnishings Goods in great variety at
prices below competition.
McCURDY & DUNKLE,
140 NORTH EIGHTH STREET.
1024 CHESTNUT STREET.

IN ANTICIPATION OF
REMOVAL TO
N. W. cor. 11th and Chestnut Sts.,
LACES AND LACE GOODS,
Silk, Cotton and Linen, every variety,
VERY CHEAP.
WHITE GOODS, LINEN COLLARS AND
CUFFS.
Embroidering Novelties adapted for
the Holiday Season, at
REDUCED PRICES.
E. M. NEEDLES.
J. CHAMBERS, 410 ARCH STREET,
HOLIDAY GOODS—BARGAIN
Valencianas 40c
Pointe Lace Collars, from 30c
Valencianas Collars, from 50c
French Embroidered Handkerchiefs, from 75 cents
Grand French Hem Handkerchiefs, very cheap.
Thread Yells at \$10, worth \$12.
A choice stock of Trimming Laces, and Pointe
Lace Appliques, Valenciennes, Gimpes, and
Black Thread Laces, in all widths, under regula-
tion.
J. F. JREDELL,
No. 17 NORTH EIGHTH STREET,
Just below Chestnut Street,
has now on hand a full line of FALL and WINTER
Goods, at reduced prices.
Ladies' Merino Vests and Drawers,
Gent's White, Clonded, Grey and Red Merino Shirts
and Drawers,
Ladies' Merino Gowns and Drawers,
History, Gloves, Suspenders, Ties, Scarfs, &c. A perfect
fit guaranteed. del-12
CHRISTMAS! CHRISTMAS!
O'Clocks and Pe Laces for Christmas,
Mills and Shawls for Christmas,
Popins and dresses for Christmas,
Ladies' and Gents' Gloves for Christmas,
Gent's Buttons and Embroidered Hatters,
We will sell our entire stock at low figures, to suit
purchasers making Christmas Presents.
STOKES & WOOD, 72 Arch street,
Heavy Colored Silks,
French and German Poplins,
Black and Red Cashmeres,
Broad Long and Square Shawls,
del-12

PICTURE, FRAME, & CO.
GEORGE C. REUKAUFF,
MANUFACTURER OF
LOOKING GLASSES, GILT PHOTO
GRAPH, PICTURE FRAMES, GILT
MIRRORS AND ORNATELS,
No. 223 ARCH STREET, PHILADELPHIA.
Chromolithographs, Paintings, and a great va-
riety of Engravings and
FRAME-MAKERS AND
WREATHS AND SEWING MACHINES.
del-12

LOCKING GLASSES.
A large assortment of Ornamented GILT and WAI-
NUT FRAMES.
J. COWPLAND,
53 South Fourth Street, near Chestnut
del-12
LOOK! LOOK! LOOK!—T. EDWOOD WALTON,
No. 45 N. SECOND STREET, and a Location for
Picture Frames, Photograph Frames and Albums
Picture than any store in the city. Call and
select. No. 45 N. SECOND STREET, above Chestnut Church,
Philadelphia. P. O. Box 1028 supplied. del-12

FURNITURE AND BEDDING
A Merry Christmas and a Happy New
Year.
GOULD & CO.,
UNION FURNITURE DEPOTS, CORNER NINTH
and MARKET STREETS, and Nos. 57 and 59 NORTH
SECOND STREETS.
Invent all their old customers and many new ones
as well as to see their elegant and large assortment
of FURNITURE, suitable for Presents or otherwise.
del-12
CLOTHS, CASSIMERES, & CO.
LADIES' GARNETURES AND VESTINGS,
JAMES & CO. invite the attention of their friends
to the large and well assorted stock of
Goods, adapted to men and boys' wear, comprising
Black French Cloths,
Blue and Black Cloth,
Colored French Cloths,
OVERCOAT CLOTHS,
Colored French Heavy
Black, Blue and Black
Colored Equinox Beavers,
Blue and Black Flocks,
Ries and Black Flocks,
PANTALOON STUFFS,
Black French Cassimeres,
Black French Dressing,
Mixed and Solid Cassimeres,
Fancy Cassimeres,
Suits, all qualities,
Cassimeres, &c.
At wholesale and retail, by
No. 11 North Second St., Sign of the Golden Scale.
del-12

EDUCATION.
DE LABBERTON, CLASSICAL AND MATHE-
MATICAL TEACHER, has returned from Europe
and can be seen at his residence, 38 SOUTH
FIFTH STREET. He will resume his private lessons
on December 15th, and his lectures on History and
physical geography on January 7th, 1867. del-12
THE PHILADELPHIA RIDING SCHOOL
is now open for the Winter season. Ladies and gentlemen
will find every provision for comfort and safety. It
is a thorough knowledge of this beautiful season
cannot be obtained by the most kind. Saddle horses
trained in the best manner. Saddle horses
and vehicles to hire. Also, carriages for sale
and repair.
del-12

EXPRESS COMPANIES.
A DAMS EXPRESS COMPANY—On and after
TUESDAY, MAY 1, the PHILADELPHIA DEPARTMENT
of this Company will be RECEIVED to the
Company's Building