

# Daily Evening Bulletin

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## FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE

### LETTER FROM ROME.

**The Tributes of St. Peter's Eve—Account of the Ceremony and the Tributes.—The Festival of St. Peter's Eve—Preparations for the Great Council—Fireworks, Illuminations, &c.**

[Special Correspondence of the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.]  
PIAZZA DI SPAGNA, Rome, Italy, Tuesday, July 27, 1869.—Every year in Rome, during the month of June, a certain placard is placed on the corners of the principal streets and piazzas, also on the outside of churches and public buildings. It is an edict which invites all the tributaries of the Apostolic Chamber to come to the Vatican on the Eve of St. Peter, and pay their annual dues; if not, they subject themselves to ecclesiastical censure and other canonical punishments. This edict is signed with the name of the Cardinal Camerlingue, of the Holy Roman Church, and sealed with the arms of the Apostolic Chamber, which arms are the Pavillon (that little parasol figure), and the keys, placed on a scroll—that is, in the form of a St. Andrew's Cross.

Cardinal De Angelis is the present Cardinal Camerlingue of the Apostolic Chamber. His position is a very responsible one; he not only presides over the Chamber, he is Arch-Chancellor of the Roman Curia, and administers the properties and revenues of the Ecclesiastical States; but it is he who first declares, formally, the death of the Pope, breaks the Fisherman's Ring, receives the attendance of the Swiss Guard during the vacancy of the Chair, issues money which bears the arms of the Apostolic Chamber, and shares the Government, during the interregnum, with three other Cardinals, one of whom is a Cardinal Bishop, the other a Cardinal Priest, and the third a Cardinal Deacon.

Each year there is published in Rome a book called the *Liber Centum*. It contains over four hundred pages in quarto; its contents are the names of all those who ought to be present, either in person or by proxy, in the Hall of Tributes at the Vatican, on the 28th of June, to pay their yearly debts. These names are alphabetically arranged.

On the afternoon of the Eve of St. Peter the Cardinal Camerlingue, with the officers of the Chamber, sits *pro tribunali* in the Hall, to receive these tributes or rents. This year, as Cardinal De Angelis could not be present, Cardinal Antonelli took his place. We were told by a prelate friend last Monday afternoon that there was a chance of our being admitted to the ceremony, but when we reached the door the servant in livery, or doorkeeper, told us that ladies are never allowed to be present. Our companion, being of the stronger and wiser sex, could have gone in, but, unfortunately, was not in full dress. We had a peep at the ante-chamber, however, which was crowded with the "Jeemes Yellow-Phishes" of the Cardinals; and after a good description was given to us of the business performed.

The ceiling of the ante-room is painted in fresco, with the arms of the Apostolic Chamber. On the walls are frescoed maps of all the tributary fiefs, domains and territorial possessions of the Holy See. In this room the prelates of the Apostolic Chamber sit on their *capras magna*—large mantles of red silk without silk hoods.

The Tribune Hall has on its wall two pictures—one the Crucifixion, the other a portrait of the Pope. On the ceiling is an allegorical fresco representing the Church receiving the tributes of nations. In the centre of the room is a round table, covered with a cloth. At the end of the Hall are arm-chairs for the principal officers, the Cardinal Camerlingue, Vice Camerlingue, Auditor-General and Treasurer-General of the Chamber. At the side of the room, right and left, are the seats of the prelates, clerks of the Chamber and civil officers. Before each one is a copy of the *Liber Centum*. Some benches are placed for the masculine public.

After the officers take their seats, an invocation to the Holy Spirit is recited. On Monday an usher then read the power of attorney from Cardinal De Angelis to Cardinal Antonelli; after this began the alphabetical roll of the tributaries. Those who are present respond *Adsum*; those who are absent have the words *Non sum* inscribed on the register against their names. As the names of these tributaries and their tributes fill over 492 pages of the *Liber Centum*, I will not inflict them on you, although the reading of them is really interesting.

The tributes named in the *Liber Centum* consist of chalices, euboes (the vases in which are preserved the Holy Eucharist), gold and silver dishes, and money. These are paid as a nominal rent for the enjoyment of certain titles; the use of houses, lands and territories which belong to the Holy See; water privileges; fishing rights; passage over rivers; working of mines; the erection of mills, factories, &c. These tributes are not at all in proportion to the value of the rights granted; they are simply a sign of government ownership, and if the tribute is not paid the privilege is supposed to be revoked.

I will mention a few of the tributes, to give an idea of their amount and the character of things held subject to tribute. The Chapter of St. Peter's Church obtained many years ago the right to use a portion of water for the beautiful fountains which are such superb ornaments to the Piazza in front of the Church. For this they pay yearly a pound of white wax. The Chapter of the Church of St. Cross of Jerusalem—the Basilica near St. John of Lateran—pay ten crowns a year for the use of the land on which their conventual houses are built. Many of the noble Roman families are tributaries of St. Peter. The Borghese pay many petty tributes; among them is a silver dish yearly for the Marquisate of Monte Cesi; also, one gold crown or scudo for the use of the land on which they have a house at Porto d'Anzio.

Prince Bandini, head of the Roman Hunt (also Lord Naudary of the English Peacocks), pays, among other things, a pound of white wax yearly for his Castle of Varano.

Pfince Donaparte pays annually a pound of white wax for the county of Castro (paviano). Duke Casarini, whose palace at Genzano is described in my *Infinito* letter of 2d June, gives two pounds of white wax a year for the Duchy of Citta Nuova, and a silver basin weighing a pound for another duchy; and so on.

Industrial societies are treated very liberally. I see, on running my eyes over the pages, the following:

"Large mill of Monte Sclero, near Ancona, for the use of water, on the American system, concession of 1845; tribute, a chalice to be worth 100 crowns, yearly."

"A marble and alabaster factory, company at Civita Vecchia and other cities, send 30 balques (cents) a year. The Ripetta boat pays three crowns a year for the right of crossing the Tiber; and the baths on the Tiber are taxed sixty cents or balques a year."

There are two articles in the *Liber Centum* which I must mention. One concerns the Duchy of Parma and Piacenza; the other, King Victor Emmanuel.

In 1545 Paul III. (Alessandro Farnese) conceded the Duchy of Parma and Piacenza, under the title of fief, to the Farnese family, on condition of an annual tribute of 9,000 crowns of gold. For nearly two hundred years the Dukes of Parma fulfilled this obligation, until the extinction of the direct line in 1730, when, by the Pragmatic Sanction, the Emperor of Austria obtained Parma and Piacenza as an indemnification for ceding Naples and the Two Sicilies to that young hero, Don Carlos, son of Elizabeth of Parma and Philip V. of Spain, and grandson of Louis XIV. Since that date, from 1730 to 1869, the Austrian and Spanish Governments, who have by turns held this fief, have omitted to pay their tribute, but the Holy See has never yielded its rights. At present this debt amounts to over two millions of crowns, exclusive of interest, a nice little sum.

In 1741, by a bull of Benedict XIV. (Prospero Lambertini), the administrations of the Principality of Massera, the County of Crevecoeur and several other pontifical domains were conceded to the King of Piedmont for the annual tribute of a chalice of gold, worth 2,000 crowns. This tribute has always been paid on the Eve of St. Peter, punctually, by the King of Piedmont. Victor Emmanuel is the first King who has omitted the performance of this obligation.

The whole amount of the tribute of the Eve of St. Peter is comparatively small. Leaving out the tributes of Parma and Piacenza and Piedmont, it does not amount annually to more than \$12,000. It consists of twelve chalices, twenty-five euboes, nine basins of gold and silver, four hundred pounds of white wax and 9,000 crowns in current money.

After our ineffectual attempt to see the tribute ceremony on Monday afternoon, we went to hear *vespers* at St. Peter's, and enjoyed the fine procession and grand old music. The blessing of Palliums concluded the service.

After *vespers* we returned to the carriage, for which our coachman had kept a place on the piazza from whence we could see the illumination of the church, dome and colonnades to advantage. It was as splendid as it is always; and after the change from the silver to the gold lights took place, we drove to the Piazza San Giovanni, the Lateran entrance. The walls were brilliant with blossoms, scarlet and pink, and the stately white blossoms of the Capers vine with its beautiful violet stamens, was scattered in the greatest profusion over the grim old stones. The Alban and Sabine hills and Appennines were draped in every celestial shade, and the Campagna was fresh and luxuriant. The hay and wheat harvest is nearly gathered in, and is reported to be of the best quality.

On Sunday the crypt of St. Peter's was open to women and illuminated; the only day in all the year may sex are allowed to enter it! If we go on any other day we are excommunicated! Our masters, the men, can go any time! I spent six hours studying in the curious vaulted old aisles, among the tombs of the Popes, but my letter is already too long for me to give an account of the beautiful day's work. I have only room for one bit of art news. Miss Foley has finished her group of the Boy and Goat; it will now go into the marble, and be ready for next season. Lucardi, whose group of the Deluge took the prize at the last French Exposition, says of this group of Miss Foley's "that it is the prettiest and most original work of the kind that has been made this last season in Rome." Of Miss Foley's beautiful fountain I must speak another time. ANN B. BREWSTER.

### Death on the Railroad.

[From the Pittsburgh Commercial of July 29th.]

Yesterday morning, an old gentleman named John A. McAlpin, formerly a resident of this city, and ten or twelve years ago a member of the firm of Leech, McAlpin & Co., wholesale grocers, was killed by a train of cars on the Cleveland and Pittsburgh Railroad. The circumstances connected with his death are thus stated:

"On Tuesday the deceased got on a train of cars on the Pittsburgh, Fort Erie and Chicago Railroad, and came to this city. His conduct, on the way up, was remarked as unusual, and passengers who observed him concluded he was insane. He got off the train at the Union Depot, and while there attracted the attention of Lieutenant Woolridge, who asked him where he was going. His reply was 'I am going to the office of the Union Depot Hotel, when he requested the lieutenant to register him as John McAlpin, from Illinois. He then went to his room, but at two o'clock in the morning was again seen on the platform, when he attempted to throw himself under a locomotive, which was about leaving the depot. Mr. Keagy, the night dispatcher on the Pennsylvania Railroad, prevented him from executing his intention, and he was again sent to his room. At about six o'clock yesterday morning he was seen making an attempt to get on the Cleveland and Wheeling passenger train, after it had commenced to move off, and was held aboard by the locomotive. As the train approached Sewickley, he went to the door of the car in which he had been seated, and either fell or threw himself between the two cars. His body was dragged along the track for a considerable distance, and terribly mangled—the ties, for several yards, being marked with his blood. The remains were conveyed to Sewickley, and in the afternoon Coroner Clawson went down to hold the inquest. Mr. McAlpin was a good business man, and was well and favorably known to many of our merchants and others, having resided here for a number of years. On retiring from the business, he went West to Kansas and invested largely in real estate. He subsequently returned to this city. His previous conduct leads to the belief that he committed suicide. Some of his clothing was marked with his name. He left a small school at the Union Depot. The Coroner's jury merely viewed the body and adjourned to meet to-day. The remains of the deceased were placed aboard a train and brought to Dover's undertaking establishment on Grant street last evening. We have been informed that the Coroner and his jury were charged with, and also that the conductor of the train on which the remains were brought up charged for the body.

## FROM CRESSON, PA.

(Correspondence of the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.)  
MOUNTAIN HOUSE, CRESSON SPRINGS, 28th July, 1869.—Come up to the Mountain! Invitation to the readers of the BULLETIN is almost synonymous with invitation to the universal city. There is room for everybody here, and for a select few beside! And yet a world in miniature is in actual occupancy of the Mountain, and "brave men and fair women"—men of mink, of character, of deed; and woman, in all her loveliness and grace—give super-added attraction to the peculiar beauties and impressive sublimities of our Alleghenian surroundings. Apart from the grandeur of this magnificent altitude, which challenges comparison, in character and salubrity, with any of the summer resorts of the country, the approach over a region that abounds with prospects bewildering to an artist in attempt at choice, far more than repays the "toll of the ascent of high Parnassus," if that may be termed "toll" which consists in sitting, homelike, in luxuriously furnished cars for a few hours, and looking thence abroad upon scenes, as they fly swiftly by, that defy description and fill the heart and mind with adoration and awe.

I am writing this without the knowledge of any of the parties in interest here, and I give in my name a sufficient guarantee of disinterestedness and candor.

As Pennsylvania journalists will recognize and discharge the duty of informing Pennsylvanians that it is within, rather than necessary, that tempts them beyond their own borders in search for the jewel health and summer relaxation. None to whom pure mountain air can minister in such case would fail to find here, for their extreme needs, all that any section can afford. Accommodations are ample and complete in all appointments, both at the principal "Mountain House" and in the numerous beautiful "cottages" connected therewith—all under a management so competent and admirable as to preclude all further requirement, and which has secured for Mr. Mullon the well-earned and universally-acclaimed title of the prince of hosts.

Among the brilliant company we have, as I have said, a fair quota of men who are men of the highest type of social and public character; of all political parties—whose gentle breeding insures freedom from all disturbing elements in general, intellectual intercourse. Judge, of Philadelphia, known to all distinguished for professional eminence and social status—is here; and Judges Hampton and Street, of our sister city of Pittsburgh, no less distinguished for high attainments and engaging qualities of mind and heart; for professional learning and purity of character; favorite and trusted sons of Pennsylvania; and Senator Morton, of Indiana, one of her political gladiators—of worthy of the manliness of Western mental vigor and physique; and our own Colonel Scott, late Assistant Secretary of War, and lately of the Pennsylvania "Railway Power," reaping through perfect kindness, winning liberality, and graceful thoughtfulness, golden opinions from all sorts of men; and Treasurer Firth, with whom is inevitably associated blissful anticipation of liberal dividends, "paid promptly on demand!"

A befitting chapel, erected by the company, is always open for religious services, always well attended and devoutly conducted. The general air and character of the guests indicate intelligence, refinement and substantive respectability; and they are here from every section of our broad and once again happy land, representing its culture, refinement, and domestic energy of enterprise, and abounding prosperity. And there is no lack of healthful amusement.

Cricket parties sport the lawns; tennis and billiards, and the certain dance; excursion parties, reading parties in the forests, parties to the iron, alum and magnesia springs, and to coal mine, three-quarters of a mile, tunnel, into the mountain-hill. The "hops," as they must be called, it seems, when at sea-side or upon the mountain, are of nightly occurrence; and the band, ever on hand, does certain credit to its specialty.

We sent you a telegraphic greeting on occasion of the state ceremonies of the Fourth of July, in front of Independence Hall, and received with enthusiasm the happy response of His Honor, the Mayor. We thought you would appreciate duty, and thrill, perhaps, at hearing a voice, per lighting, from the clouds, in approbation of a Washington's statue in Philadelphia, albeit in Chestnut street, and not upon the ancient foundation laid by Lafayette, before the flood, in Washington Park! *Sic itur ad castra*. Come up to the Mountain and see for yourselves! Professor Jackson made Tuesday night more glorious still, and eclipsed the heavens, far surpassing any of his of which we have read, who presides, with his captives, over the pyrotechnics below. The success and gratification were complete, while

"Scenes of ladies whose bright eyes  
Bathed influence, and adorned the prize!"  
to the accomplished Professor, who surpassed himself, over all other possible competitors.

Come up to the stars and drink in the stuporous health and mental vigor from the life-restoring fountains of this mountain perch, and when you shall return to the strife and struggles—dominion of all who dwell upon the "exhausted" hills of life—you will do so with renovated spirit to work, to the end, in the cherished interests of those for whom it is your life happiness to toil.

DELAWARE CITY AND PARKESBURG RAILROAD.—CONTRACT FOR ITS CONSTRUCTION.—Information from the gentlemen at the head of the proposed railroad from Parkesburg, Pa., to Delaware City, states that a contract was made on Monday for the construction of the road. The amount of cash subscription required to be first made, \$300,000, had been raised, and the Pennsylvania Central Company then assumed the work. The contract embraced everything necessary to place the road in complete running order, and we have no doubt the enterprise will now be rapidly pushed forward. One of the directors in a letter says: "Push on the Wilmington and Western road, so that we may make connection with Wilmington—Wilmington Commercial."

A boy who heard the quotation, "A little learning is a dangerous thing," wished to stop going to school, because he was afraid he should not live long enough to get past the dangerous part.

## SCIENTIFIC.

### The Philadelphia Expedition to Photograph the Eclipse of Next August.

Most of our readers are no doubt aware that on the 7th of August will occur an eclipse of the sun, which will be total along a line some 140 miles broad, and reaching in this continent from Alaska obliquely across to North Carolina. It will besides stretch across the northern part of Siberia. The actual time occupied by the centre of the shadow in traveling over our continent will be about one hour and three-quarters; but since in apparent time the same instant which sunset sees on the coast will correspond with a much earlier hour at the far west, we find that while the centre of the eclipse will come at about 11 o'clock A. M. on the western extremity of Alaska, it will be seen on our eastern coast, at Newbern, N. C., at about 6 o'clock P. M., or near sunset. With reference to the duration of the total phase, there will be a maximum of about three minutes and forty-seven seconds at a point north of New Archangel, in Alaska, to a minimum of two minutes and twenty-eight seconds on our coast. The duration of the entire phenomenon, from first to last contact—i. e., from the moment when the bright disk of the sun is first indented by the advancing moon until the last dark trace glides off from his disk—will be about two hours for all places. The reason of the variation in time of the total phase is evident. The shadow of the moon is traveling in a general direction from west to east; so is the surface of the earth. At noon these motions are in the same direction, and thus the earth's surface, running forward with the shadow, keeps longer in it than if it stood still. In those places where it is near sunrise or sunset at the time of encountering the shadow, however, the motion of the earth does not coincide with that of the shadow, but only moves at right angles to it, simply carrying any point away from or towards the moon or sun, and thus not prolonging its immersion in the darkness.

It is therefore evident that the most desirable place for observation, especially for photography, would be Alaska, where the duration of the total phase is longest, and occurs when the sun is highest in the heavens, and most likely to be free from haze and cloud.

Conditions of transportation and of time must, however, also be considered; and it has accordingly been determined in the case of the party of fifteen photographers, with their apparatus, organized in this city by Prof. Henry Morton, under the authority of Prof. J. H. C. Coffin, of the Nautical Almanac office, and with the government appropriation for the purpose, to establish their points of observation at Burlington, Iowa, and its vicinity.

The telescopes employed for this purpose are the High School Equatorial, of six inches aperture, and nine feet focal length; the Gettysburg Equatorial, from the Pennsylvania College of that place, also of six-inch aperture, and eight and a half feet focal length, and a smaller but very fine instrument of four inches aperture, from the University of Pennsylvania. These instruments have been erected in a temporary building put up for the purpose in West Philadelphia, on ground kindly placed at the disposal of the expedition by Mr. John Sellers.

Here, during the last two weeks, active operations have been in progress, day and night, in the adjustment of the instruments and practicing of operators. The method of operation in the case of the sun is as follows: The telescope is directed towards the sun, and its clock-work is set in motion so that it may follow that body in its apparent diurnal path. Any error in this motion is immediately detected by means of the "finder," or small telescope, mounted on the back of the large one, like a little dog riding on a horse, which is provided with a small screen, on which the sun's image is projected, and it is at once corrected by an assistant who has charge of this special work.

In a "dark room" at one side, plates are being prepared, and are inserted one after another in the camera which is attached to the telescope, and then the exposure is made by allowing a plate of brass, with an opening in it but *one-fourth* of an inch wide, to be drawn by a screw spring across the tube. Notwithstanding the exceeding shortness of the time during which this minute opening is flying across and allowing the light to pass to the plate, so sensitive is this that it was found necessary in addition to shut off all but one-sixteenth of the lens with a diaphragm or cap.

After this truly "instantaneous" exposure, the plate is removed to another dark room, where it is developed, and then appears as a negative likeness of the jolly sun, with every "spot" on his face faithfully if not flatteringly depicted.

With the moon longer exposures are required, and are secured by a very ingenious device, which, like the instantaneous one above-mentioned, is the device and construction of Mr. Joseph Tentmeyer, our able optician, so favorably known both in this country and abroad for his microscopes and photographic lenses.

Several good pictures of the moon have been taken with exposures of one minute; and since De la Rue's experience indicates that the luminous prominences seen during the total phase have an actinic force 180 times greater than the full moon, it seems that one-third of a second would prove a sufficient exposure for this part of the work.

Although the appropriation made by our Government was the starting point of this expedition, it owes much of its completeness to Mr. Thomas Scott, of the Pennsylvania Central Railroad, who, by securing free transportation for the party and their instruments, has in effect doubled the efficiency of that grant, and made it possible to secure the highest degree of perfection in all the arrangements.

Similar acknowledgments are due to Mr. Robert Harris, General Superintendent of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, for his generous response to the request made to him for transportation of this large party and their valuable freight over the road which he represents.

The precise title of the Viceroys of Egypt has excited some curiosity. The exact designation is Khidiv Misr. The Gothic Alms-house for aged, gives the incorrect orthography; Kider-el-Misr. Khidivi is a Persian word, signifying sovereign; Misr is the Arabic word for Egypt. The title Khidiv Hind, or Klug of India, was also formerly in use.

## FACTS AND FANCIES.

[From the Overland Monthly for August.]  
**Portia's Cross.**  
Pious Portia, journeying by land,  
Keared high a cross upon the heathen strand,  
Then far away  
Dragged his slow caravan to Monterey.  
The mountains whispered to the valleys,  
"Good!"  
The sun, slow sinking in the western flood,  
Baptized in blood  
The holy standard of the Brotherhood.  
The timid fog crept in across the sea,  
Drew near, embraced it, and streamed far and free,  
Saying: "O ye  
Gentles and Heathen, this is truly He!"  
All this the Heathen saw; and when oncomere  
The holy Fathers touched the lonely shore  
Then covered o'er  
With shells and gifts—the cross their witness bore.  
—Queen Victoria goes to Ireland next year.  
—The favorite tune of Packer's supporters—his fortune.  
—Eight hundred visitors are at the "White Sulphur Springs."  
—The Queen of Portugal, who is at Baden, has the most pronounced red-hair of the season.  
—A large portrait of Longfellow appears in the *London Illustrated News*, and a whole page is devoted to him and his work.  
—Auber's new opera is to be called *Un Récit d'Amour*. His last one was *Le Premier Jour de Bonheur*. Gay subjects for a youthful 88 summer.

A Democratic paper says that Asa Packer's "great heart beats in unison with the tolling millions." Who ever knew before that fifty-two million were tolling?  
—Eugenie wanted a homeopathic physician, and she wanted him to come up the stairs to spare the feelings of the regular allopath. He refused, and Eugenie is as high as such bold liberalism.  
—An armed Roman body called the "Legion of St. Patrick," which has long held its existence, is now organizing more publicly its members are pledged to go to Ireland arms in hand, and fight for freedom.  
—In buying eggs by the dozen we have to pay as much for small as for large ones. An elderly lady avoids being cheated in this way by carrying to market a board, with a card measuring in it, and will buy no egg that passes through it.  
—A valuable bed of bloodstone has just been discovered by Professor Shepherd, one mile from St. Mary, St. Genevieve county, Mo. There is only one other place in the United States (a small deposit in Ohio) where it has been found.  
—Four villages in Maine make two-thirds of the spoils for the whole country. The spoils made from the white pine forests in New England, and the "scars" of the trees are used extensively in cities for building wood.  
—An Albany paper says: "The sky rocket salute is a new idea, introduced in the city of the Seventh Regiment at their collection. It is very effective; far ahead of the 'tiger,' which has been upon the stage so long." Phil—hang—

—A woman at a dispensary applied for medical aid, stating her disease to be the "distention of the heart." "Not an uncommon ailment with young men," said the doctor, "but with a twinkle of the eye, 'but it is not dangerous if the proper remedy is applied."  
—The gradual disappearance of a strip of land, about 25x100 feet, covered with trees, &c., near Fort Wayne, Indiana, has excited considerable comment. There is supposed to be an underground river or lake causing the slow washing away.  
—A great many members of that extraordinary Russian sect, the Skopzists, who mutilate themselves "for the kingdom of Heaven's sake" have been brought to trial at Tambov and found guilty. Their sentence consists in the loss of all civil rights and banishment for life to Siberia.  
—The Czar of Russia has decreed that all parents forcing their children to marry or to take monastic vows or convents shall be liable to a punishment of from four months to a year's imprisonment, besides any punishment that may be inflicted by the religious authorities.

A rumor was current and believed by many in Quebec, last Saturday, that a fight had taken place between a British and an American frigate in the Mediterranean, and that an American war was imminent. We can assure the credulous "Kamiks" that there is no truth in the report.  
—A Saratoga belle treated a member of the Seventh Regiment very shabbily. Her mother reproved her for her conduct, "for by wounding two millions." The girl started off in great trepidation, to apologize for her weakness, and spread the net of her golden hair for the glittering "twigs."  
—Governor Waller of California was wrecked on the Golden Rule, and on arriving at San Francisco he remarked to a friend: "Lost everything, sir; everything but my reputation." "Governor," replied the friend, "you travel with less baggage than any one I ever saw."  
—At the village of Combes, France, the inhabitants recently observed, with appropriate ceremonies, the hundredth anniversary of the birthday of Mme. Mounier, a widow, born there on June 28, 1768. This old lady actually saw Louis XV., and speaks of him with a very clear and distinct memory. Louis died in 1774. She must have been a precocious child.  
—Cats and dogs are now prohibited at Wesleyan Grove, Springfield, Vermont. A correspondent of the *New Bedford Standard* suggests that one more rule would raise the establishment a little nearer Heaven, and that is, to prohibit the eternal puffing of tobacco by snuff and sniffer, within the sacred inclosure. By all means, let cigars go with the cats and dogs and lager.  
—A Saratoga exquisite is profoundly enamored of the male type of the beautiful blonde, and sets himself up as a model hero. He daily elaborates his hair and parts it exactly in the middle, carrying his hair in his hand from feet of disarranging the work of the barber, and goes through the form of the gloves, exercise and dress-parade on Major Leland's piazza with astonishing precision. A fearful suspicion as to the identity of the girl is the only drawback to the amusement of spectators.

A street bully in San Francisco, who thought it safe sport to knock John Chinaman down, tried it the other day on a celestial man without the customary effect. John, instead of fleeing, knocked the coward down and beat him till he cried lustily for quarter. When the fellow regained his feet and was about to snarl again, "John" said: "You speak Chinaman do too much. You want to knock Chinaman down, you come see me; me like fight, you see?"  
—A young enthusiast was talking to his intended, a few evenings since, urging upon her speedily marriage, and a sign to spend the honeymoon in California. "I tell you," said he, his face glowing with enthusiasm, "California is the paradise of this earth. There's no use talking." "No use talking!" exclaimed the lady, with a look of some surprise. "No use talking!" he repeated. "Well, if there's no use talking," said the lady, "what in the name of sense do you want of women there? I don't go."

## FROM CRESSON, PA.

(Continued from page 1.)  
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Most of our readers are no doubt aware that on the 7th of August will occur an eclipse of the sun, which will be total along a line some 140 miles broad, and reaching in this continent from Alaska obliquely across to North Carolina. It will besides stretch across the northern part of Siberia. The actual time occupied by the centre of the shadow in traveling over our continent will be about one hour and three-quarters; but since in apparent time the same instant which sunset sees on the coast will correspond with a much earlier hour at the far west, we find that while the centre of the eclipse will come at about 11 o'clock A. M. on the western extremity of Alaska, it will be seen on our eastern coast, at Newbern, N. C., at about 6 o'clock P. M., or near sunset. With reference to the duration of the total phase, there will be a maximum of about three minutes and forty-seven seconds at a point north of New Archangel, in Alaska, to a minimum of two minutes and twenty-eight seconds on our coast. The duration of the entire phenomenon, from first to last contact—i. e., from the moment when the bright disk of the sun is first indented by the advancing moon until the last dark trace glides off from his disk—will be about two hours for all places. The reason of the variation in time of the total phase is evident. The shadow of the moon is traveling in a general direction from west to east; so is the surface of the earth. At noon these motions are in the same direction, and thus the earth's surface, running forward with the shadow, keeps longer in it than if it stood still. In those places where it is near sunrise or sunset at the time of encountering the shadow, however, the motion of the earth does not coincide with that of the shadow, but only moves at right angles to it, simply carrying any point away from or towards the moon or sun, and thus not prolonging its immersion in the darkness.

It is therefore evident that the most desirable place for observation, especially for photography, would be Alaska, where the duration of the total phase is longest, and occurs when the sun is highest in the heavens, and most likely to be free from haze and cloud.

Conditions of transportation and of time must, however, also be considered; and it has accordingly been determined in the case of the party of fifteen photographers, with their apparatus, organized in this city by Prof. Henry Morton, under the authority of Prof. J. H. C. Coffin, of the Nautical Almanac office, and with the government appropriation for the purpose, to establish their points of observation at Burlington, Iowa, and its vicinity.

The telescopes employed for this purpose are the High School Equatorial, of six inches aperture, and nine feet focal length; the Gettysburg Equatorial, from the Pennsylvania College of that place, also of six-inch aperture, and eight and a half feet focal length, and a smaller but very fine instrument of four inches aperture, from the University of Pennsylvania. These instruments have been erected in a temporary building put up for the purpose in West Philadelphia, on ground kindly placed at the disposal of the expedition by Mr. John Sellers.

Here, during the last two weeks, active operations have been in progress, day and night, in the adjustment of the instruments and practicing of operators. The method of operation in the case of the sun is as follows: The telescope is directed towards the sun, and its clock-work is set in motion so that it may follow that body in its apparent diurnal path. Any error in this motion is immediately detected by means of the "finder," or small telescope, mounted on the back of the large one, like a little dog riding on a horse, which is provided with a small screen, on which the sun's image is projected, and it is at once corrected by an assistant who has charge of this special work.

In a "dark room" at one side, plates are being prepared, and are inserted one after another in the camera which is attached to the telescope, and then the exposure is made by allowing a plate of brass, with an opening in it but *one-fourth* of an inch wide, to be drawn by a screw spring across the tube. Notwithstanding the exceeding shortness of the time during which this minute opening is flying across and allowing the light to pass to the plate, so sensitive is this that it was found necessary in addition to shut off all but one-sixteenth of the lens with a diaphragm or cap.

After this truly "instantaneous" exposure, the plate is removed to another dark room, where it is developed, and then appears as a negative likeness of the jolly sun, with every "spot" on his face faithfully if not flatteringly depicted.

With the moon longer exposures are required, and are secured by a very ingenious device, which, like the instantaneous one above-mentioned, is the device and construction of Mr. Joseph Tentmeyer, our able optician, so favorably known both in this country and abroad for his microscopes and photographic lenses.

Several good pictures of the moon have been taken with exposures of one minute; and since De la Rue's experience indicates that the luminous prominences seen during the total phase have an actinic force 180 times greater than the full moon, it seems that one-third of a second would prove a sufficient exposure for this part of the work.

Although the appropriation made by our Government was the starting point of this expedition, it owes much of its completeness to Mr. Thomas Scott, of the Pennsylvania Central Railroad, who, by securing free transportation for the party and their instruments, has in effect doubled the efficiency of that grant, and made it possible to secure the highest degree of perfection in all the arrangements.

Similar acknowledgments are due to Mr. Robert Harris, General Superintendent of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, for his generous response to the request made to him for transportation of this large party and their valuable freight over the road which he represents.

The precise title of the Viceroys of Egypt has excited some curiosity. The exact designation is Khidiv Misr. The Gothic Alms-house for aged, gives the incorrect orthography; Kider-el-Misr. Khidivi is a Persian word, signifying sovereign; Misr is the Arabic word for Egypt. The title Khidiv Hind, or Klug of India, was also formerly in use.

A boy who heard the quotation, "A little learning is a dangerous thing," wished to stop going to school, because he was afraid he should not live long enough to get past the dangerous part.