PITTSBURGH GAZETTE

The Dead Sea.

[From Notes of a recent Traveler.]

After lingering on the banks of the Jordan three quarters of an hour, we remounted our horses. We had now reached, in the plan of our travels, our farthest Eastern destination, and were nearly eight thousand miles from home—"sweet home." A desert was yet to be crossed, and other continents and seas traversed, before we even reached that wide ocean that intervened; yet distance and surrounding scenes of gloom and desolation seemed to clothe with new charms home's attractions, that even here waked up emotions of delight at the suggestion, as we slowly turned our backs upon the river, that thenceforward our destination was to be *Westward* and *homeward*.

From our visit here we have gathered some impressions concerning John at the Jordan, to which, on another occasion, Providence permitting, we may ask the attention of the reader. We now proceeded on our way to the Dead Sea, diverging considerably to the west of the path of the river, which enters the sea considerably inclined to the Eastern mountains. Our track was over a region of utter desolation. Much of the ground was thinly covered with a white incrustation, which on tasting we found to be a nitrous deposit, doubtless caused by the precipitation of the saline ingredients which combine with the atmosphere while passing over the Red Sea in times of sirocco storms. A ride of an hour and a quarter, under a burning sun, brought us to the Northern shore of that strange sea, whose heavy waters cover, as well as commemorate, the dire catastrophe of "the cities of the plain."

We opened our Bibles and read in the 19th chapter of Genesis the account of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them, "condemned with an overthrow, making them an example unto those that after should live ungodly;" 2 Peter 2: 6. We were affectingly admonished of that sorer ruin which impends those thousands who, in our own highly favored land, truly exalted to heaven in her privileges, yet live and die in neglect of the glorious Gospel. Sodom and Gomorrah shall rise up in the judgment and condemn them. Our prayer was here raised that we and ours to the latter times might heed this note of warning. When shall the church arise from her apathy and hasten the lingerers around her pale, saying, in the language of heaven's ministry: "Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed."

Here, at one o'clock, P. M., we dismounted from our horses, and spreading our cloth on the sandy shore, ate our lunch. Immediately before us a narrow peninsula extended 7 or 800 feet into the sea. It is spread out in its southern extremity, and covered with a mass of unhewn stones, which at some early period may have composed an edifice. A gloomy silence reigned over the scene. Not a living thing was to be seen in or out of the water, and its salt, bitter and heavy volume lay like a molten sea before us. The water was so remarkably clear and transparent, that one might well be tempted to suppose its taste as delicious to a thirsty traveler as its aspect was beautiful to behold. On scooping up my hand full, and taking a respectable quantity of it into my mouth, all such impressions were quickly dissipated. The sensation on the skin, too, is particularly stinging and unpleasant. This had to be endured till I found fresh water for washing, in Jericho. The Dead Sea is 40 miles in length from north to south, its average width being 10 to 12 miles. We had a fine view down a large part of its extent, as the atmosphere was perfectly clear. The higher ridges of the peninsula which from the eastern shore project into it, some 30 miles distant, appeared like two men-of-war anchored in the midst of the sea. The high and frowning ridges which border it on the west are barren and desolate, the western hills being 1,500 feet high, while the mountains of Moab and Ammon on the east rise less precipitously 2,000 to 2,500 feet high.

Dr. Robinson and Mr. Smith explored the southern and western shores, and Lt. Lynch and his party sounded the sea in its whole extent, from which it is ascertained that this northern portion of it is deep, corresponding somewhat with the height of the western hills, while at its southern extremity the waters are very shallow. In his narrative he remarks, "the inference from the Bible that this entire chasm was a plain sunk and overwhelmed by the wrath of God, seems to be sustained by the extraordinary character of our soundings. The bottom of this sea consists of two submerging plains, an elevated and a depressed one, the first averaging 18, the latter 1,300 feet below the surface. Through the northern and largest and deepest one, in a line corresponding with the bed of the Jordan, is a ravine which again seems to correspond with the Wady el Jeib, or a ravine within a ravine."

We had no inducements to prosecute our journey in this region further. While exploring the southern extremity of the sea, and in close proximity to the salt mountains of Usdum, Lt. Lynch came upon a remarkable "pillar of salt," which he thus describes: "Soon after, to our astonishment, we saw on the eastern side of Usdum, one-third the distance from its northern extremity, a lofty round pillar standing apparently detached from the general mass, at the head of a deep, narrow and abrupt chasm. We immediately pulled in for the shore, and Dr. Anderson and I went up and examined it. The beach was a soft, slimy mud, encrusted with salt, and, a short distance from the water, covered with saline fragments and flakes of bitumen. We found the pillar to be of solid salt, capped with carbonate of lime, cylindrical in front, and pyramidal behind. The upper or rounded part is 40 feet high, resting on a kind of oval pedestal from 40 to 60 feet above the level of the sea. It slightly decreases in size upwards, crumbles at the top, and is one entire mass of crystallization. A prop or buttress connects it with the mountain behind, and the whole is covered with debris of a light stone color."

On all the old maps that I have met, not excepting those published by the Am. Sunday School Union, the Jordan and Dead Sea, as some other localities, are very erroneously exhibited. "The Cerographic Bible Atlas of S. E. Morse," furnished by the N. Y. Observer to its subscribers, is compiled from Dr. Robinson's map and other reliable authorities, and on it they are correctly delineated.

We made search around the shores for bitumen, but found none. It is rarely seen in this northern extremity of the lake. We found specimens of a black fœtid limestone, strongly impregnated with sulphur. This stone is procured here, and used at Jerusalem for ornamental cups and vases, which are sold to the pilgrims, and where we afterwards procured them wrought with considerable skill.

We noticed driftwood on the shore, some of it deposited high up in times of severe sirocco storms. A taste of the water will quickly convince one that no living thing can exist beneath its surface. It has been said that birds do not fly around or over the sea. That is doubtless a mistake, although we saw none. As the sea has no visible outlet, and the Jordan pours its unceasing volume into it, the inquiry is often made, what becomes of the water? The rapid processes of evaporation in this deep and heated chasm, is doubtless the true solution. Corking up with care a quart bottle of the water, that we might allow our friends personally to test its qualities, we re-mounted our horses at half past 2, P. M., and returned to our encampment at Jericho, which we reached at half past 4, P. M., and remained for the night, from which place indications of an impending storm hastened our departure for Jerusalem on the following morning, by the same route we have before described in our journey to Jericho:—*N. Y. Observer.*

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NEW YORK WARE ROOMS at 333 Broadway, where will be found a large assortment of Pianos, such *and without the much admired Æolian*, always for sale at wholesale and retail, at prices same as at the manufactory. By an experience of twenty years in the manufacture of pianos, we have brought the Æolian Piano to a degree of perfection attained by no others. Instead of the harsh tone of the seraphine, it produces one equal in purity and richness to the parlor organ. Either may be used separately or together. The Æolian is also an excellent parlor organ, and is always a standard by which to tune the Piano. The Pianos are warranted for five years. Persons at the south or in Europe wishing for a Piano Forte will address HORACE WATERS, as above, who has the management of the New York ware rooms.

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The gratifying approval of the character and style of Hats emanating from our establishment, as manifested in an extensive and rapidly increasing popularity, is unmistakable evidence of their merit.

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THE subscribers would respectfully invite the attention of those who are about furnishing their new and beautiful styles of ENAMELED COTTAGE AND CHAMBER FURNITURE, to examine their establishment built expressly for the proprietor, and opened in the spring of 1850, consists of the *Finest*, such of which is of itself "a complete display," and the *Cheapest*, combined together, one of the most perfect and comprehensive Wholesale Clothing Establishments to be found in the city of New York. Garments of every description suited to the Southern and Western trade, can be obtained ready to fill the largest orders at an hour's notice.

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(SECOND STORY, OPPOSITE MASONIC HALL.)

HAVE received their Spring Fashions and Goods and will continue to receive by every arrival the latest styles.

Persons visiting the east are invited to call. All business of the late firm of Lewis & Baggs, will be settled by the undersigned.

Philadelphia, March 22, 1852.—[mar26d1y

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IMPORTERS OF FRENCH and ENGLISH DRUGS, CHEMICALS, PERFUMERY, AND VOTHECARIES WARES, &c.—Having been for several years the agents for the importation of the above, we are prepared to supply the Trade with an extensive variety of the articles in these lines in English and French goods, which are selected with the utmost care, and warranted genuine, which they offer at the lowest cash prices. Strict and special attention to the importation of Essential Oils. Still keeping the agency of those only that we know to be pure, and can warrant to be such.
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P. Lorillard,
SNUFF AND TOBACCO MANUFACTORY, No. 42, Chatham street, New York, is now selling Snuff and Tobacco at reduced prices. Full Price Current sent by application by mail.

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ART REPOSITORY AND GALLERY.

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The attention of purchasers is respectfully solicited, as we believe every article will be furnished of a superior quality, at the most reasonable terms.

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THE SUBSCRIBER, who now owns a large portion, and controls the whole of Foltz's Patent India Rubber Car Spring, cautions the public against infringement, as he is determined to enforce his rights. He has put to the test of STEAM GROPE, sustaining all purchasers a quality that will stand the test of time.

Orders from any part of the United States, giving the number and length of the springs, with the rise of the Bolster, will be promptly executed, and forwarded. Opposed to swindling combinations solicited.

The subscriber at the office of the American Institute award of the subscriber the premium for the best Car Spring in October last. HORACE H. DAY,
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SUCCESSORS TO MARQUAND & CO., Manufacturers and Importers of SILVER AND PLATED WARE, Diamond Rings, Watches, Jewelry, and of the Golden Eagle, 247 BROADWAY, south corner of Walker street, opposite the City Hall, N. Y.

B. B. & Co. invite an inspection of the largest and most complete assortment of Silver and Plated Ware, Watches, Clocks, Diamonds, and other Jewelry, Fancy Articles, Silver Spoons, etc. ever offered in the Union, which the advantage of having a partner in Europe enables them to offer at less prices than any other Manufacturer; and have carefully selected the Goods and the public in general to call and examine his large assortment of Goods, before purchasing.

On hand, ROSEWOOD, WALNUT, MAHOGANY and GILT MOULDING, of every description, and all lengths.

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