

VIEWS OF AMERICA FROM EUROPE.

SWITZERLAND, January 29, 1846.

Believing that a few lines from the part of the world would prove interesting to your readers, I take the liberty of forwarding the enclosed communication. Thus far the south of Germany and Switzerland have been blessed with a very mild winter, which, at this time may, in reality, be called a blessing, when the enormous high prices of provisions and fuel are taken into consideration. People could labor out of doors all winter, and up to January 3, we had hardly a frost, after that time a little colder but no snow, whilst I am writing, fine spring weather. Of course the mountains, and particularly the Alps, are covered with snow. Actual snow will not be experienced in these parts, and particularly in Switzerland, where the governments of the different cantons have made ample provision for the emergency. Large lots of grain have been purchased by them in the early part of the fall, sufficient to last next harvest. Impression is, that the present high prices of grain cannot be sustained much longer, although in some parts of Germany scarcity, if not actual want, is already experienced.

Excitements of different kinds are agitating this country, which has a tendency to keep people and opinions in perpetual motion. The religions (for Ronge Excitement) has taken a new impulse by the mainly and humane action of the Baden Chambers. They have come forward and proclaimed to the world, that in their country (small as it is) people should be permitted to worship their Creator as they thought proper, and if I mistake not, the rest of Germany will follow suit, although some of them will 'die hard.' The eyes of all Europe are turned upon Baden as being the most enlightened and most liberal chamber on the continent of Europe, and will set the ball in motion, which will proclaim civil and religious liberty to the whole of Europe.

There are, however, some exceptions, as only last week one of its members made a most illiberal and ungenerous attack on the government and press of the United States, on the occasion when the question of abolishing the censorship of the press was before that body. Every word he uttered was false, and for his authority he quoted Dickens celebrated work on America! The slave question was of course dragged in, and the whipping and branding of the poor blacks was portrayed in the most glowing colors. All the evils existing in the United States were described as arising from the liberty of the press. This ignorant being does not belong to the Volks Parthies (liberal party) as they are called, but to the government or ministerial party; which are however, in the minority of this session.

The President's message has occasioned considerable excitement, but, with the people of Germany and Switzerland is generally approved. The incoherency of Guizot's course in the French Chambers was plainly shown by an examiner. Mr. Guizot in connection with the English government, opposed the annexation of Texas on the ground of the United States becoming too powerful, &c. Yet on the Oregon question, he says that the French government will preserve a strict neutrality! His remarks in reply to the President's message were not approved by his government, nor by the people. At this time all kinds of prejudices are brought to bear against the United States and lately the Duke of Richmond, at a meeting of those who are opposed to abolishing the present corn laws of England, made use of the following language: "The greatest evil he could name for happy England was that they would be obliged to solicit breadstuffs from Americans! Happy England, I should think, ought to rejoice that there was a country which could raise sufficient produce for their starving population. Glorious the greatest part of the continental papers have come to the conclusion that America is destined to become the granary of the manufacturing countries of Europe."

Mexico is also the topic of much discussion in the papers; and in one of them a letter was lately published from a distinguished individual in that country, saying: "As Mexico cannot exist much longer as a republic, it can have but one form and one origin of government, it must be in connection with Europe—the form monarchical, the origin Spanish and the king one of the everliving Czarburgs, is, however, the great centre of attraction—not a paper is opened, no matter how small and trifling, but a column or two are devoted to Czarburg and the United States. The action of Congress is watched as if the country was part of the United States. Speeches of members are translated, and papers have taken sides, such as in the States. The government papers of Germany generally approve of Mr. Webster's course, and particularly his speech in Boston, where the more liberal papers, (those which are among the abolishing the censorship of the press) are pleased with the speech and motion of Gen. Cass.

This country is far from being quiet Switzerland in particular, is like a 'swarming beehive'—not only are the Catholic cantons in commotion but the Protestant ones also, particularly Berne, Vaud, &c. In some instances the form of government, although called republican, is highly aristocratic, and people are desirous of having a change. Elections, meetings, and speeches, are the order of the day—both parties. The moneyed aristocracy has a powerful influence in this country—the old constitutions were formed by them, and they cannot be brought to believe that any alteration is necessary. The other party, or 'Radicals,' as they are called, think different, and cannot be made to believe that 'riches bring wisdom.' In the Protestant cantons of Vaud, the government and clergy are at odds. The majority of the latter have resigned, or were dismissed. All private religious meetings are prohibited. Lately such a meeting was dispersed by order of government with water being thrown on them by fire engines!

The late visit of the Emperor of Russia in Germany, Italy, &c. has created a good deal of talk. At Rome his Majesty embraced the Pope, and promised to be more liberal to the Catholics residing in Russia than he had been heretofore. He also visited Vienna and witnessed a great parade got up expressly for him and, before leaving distributed some thousand of ducats among the poor of Vienna. I should call this 'robbing Peter to pay Paul,' as, no doubt, this money comes out of the pockets of the poor of Russia. Whilst attending this grand review, where about 30,000 military were assembled, and as the cavalry was making a charge in full gallop a little boy, who had strayed too far in front, and would inevitably have been crushed to death by the thousand of horse, had not a private while under full gallop, stooped down, caught him by his clothes and drew him on his horse, and with the boy before him went through all the manoeuvres, not missing a single hit, or step. This humane, and at the same time most daring feat, was witnessed by thousands and also by the Emperor of Russia, who, after the review went up to the soldier and shook him by the hand, at the same time presenting him with a considerable sum of money.

The long talked of marriage between an Austrian prince and Princess Olga, of Russia, (the favorite daughter of the emperor) although a female is a colonel of a regiment and called one of the best riders in Russia) is broken off; and report says that the crown prince of Wurtemberg is to be the happy man.

France is quiet. In the chambers, the ministers have it still their own way. It is thought that this will be the proper time for Louis Philippe to urge his darling project, that the nation should pay his 'pension,' the Duke of Nemours, an outfit of some millions of francs. This being the last wish of his majesty he will then 'die in peace.' Report says he is failing fast, and that a crisis for France must soon take place.

When I say that the Baden chambers are the most firm, I can also say that those of Saxony are the weakest. The poor Saxons must dance in every respect to the Russian fiddle. In the Bavarian chambers the catholic prince Wrede has created quite a sensation—the abandonment of the convents or cloisters in that country and also the dismissal of one of the king's ministers. The affair lies over for some time, during which they are engaged at their favorite business regulating the price of beer.

The long promised Prussian constitution has not yet made its appearance and I presume it will be delayed till after the death of Louis Philippe, when, no doubt the cry of war will again be raised on the banks of the Rhine.

A political conspiracy has been discovered in the Prussian city of Thion, in the province of Baden. Many arrests have already taken place and the military is kept in perpetual motion.

Several of the small princes are furthering emigration, whilst the king of Prussia is opposing it. One of the former being asked why he did it, replied that he thought it would prevent the increase of debt in his dominions! They even furnish them with money.

A decree has just been made public, that on and after the 24th inst., all kinds of grain coming from abroad are to be admitted free of duty into the Rhenish Prussian provinces. The squabble between Holland and Belgium is proving to be of vast benefit to England. They are supplying both countries with articles which were never procured from there before. Although France is trying to adjust the affair, England, no doubt, will prevent it by all possible means. In other parts every thing remains quiet.

DEMOCRACY AND ARISTOCRACY.—L'Espresso, a French publication, says that of 23 million people in France, 27 millions do not drink wine, 31 millions never taste sugar, 20 millions never eat meat, 18 millions eat no wheat bread, and 4 millions are clothed in rags. Let us state these facts in a different mode. Of 33 millions, 15 millions only, or less than half, ever eat wheat bread, 13 millions only ever wear shoes, 6 millions only ever drink wine; 2 millions only ever eat meat, 2 millions only ever taste sugar, and only seven eighths are clothed in anything better than rags, or drink wine, or wear shoes, a portion can command such comforts, or as Americans would call them, necessities, only occasionally; for we must suppose many gratulation between those who consume such things constantly, and those who never consume them at all. Hence some procure one, or more, or all of them, only on Sundays, others only on holidays. Some, not occasionally procure meat, without the rest; some both meat and wine; still fewer, meat, wine and sugar. Some who never taste meat, wine or sugar, or wear shoes, or whole clothes, occasionally find a luxury in wheat bread.

We ask Americans to think of this. Where, even among the miserably poor of our commercial cities, do we find those thus habitually destitute? Echo answer where? And who are the majority of the French population who never eat wheat bread, or meat, or sugar, or drink wine, or wear shoes? They are the agricultural population! The tillers, sowers and owners of the soil, farmers and third men of Pennsylvania! Think of that! Think, on sitting down to your well loaded tables, with appetites sharpened by toil, and just pride inspired by freedom, think of 33 millions of people, more by sixty per cent. than the whole population of the United States, of whom seven eighths, and a majority of them female, never touch wheat bread, or meat, or sugar, or wine, or wear shoes! Can you even imagine such poverty? Another portion of these destitute sufferers are the mechanics of the great cities, 'Old timers' of Philadelphia, and many more, and Reading, and Pottsville, and Pittsburgh, and Allegheny, and Birmingham, and York, and Chambersburg, and Bethany, and Meadville, think of that.

And what is the other side of the picture? France is the richest portion of Continental Europe. Its natural wealth of fertile soil, sea coast, mines, will support more people in comfort than that of any other 200,000 people, and as a consequence, it has a large army of 250,000 men, and an army of 250,000 men. It has a throne, or royal executive, of great magnificence; and its government is elected by only 250,000 voters, and these the richest, from an adult male population of five or six millions. And why does it maintain this great army to keep on the bread of the people? To maintain a king on his throne, and to maintain a frontier against contiguous nations occasionally treating on their spears! And such will be the condition of these United States, when they are surrounded by the nation of Canada, the nation of Oregon, the nation of Mexico, and divided upon Mr. McDuffie's sublime project, into three confederacies! Give us, Mr. Webster, your independent nation of Oregon give us, Mr. McDuffie, your three confederacies of North West and South West, Mr. Mangum, your independent nation in Canada give us, Sir Richard Pakenham, your guarantee of Mexican independence under British protection, give us, Mr. Guizot, your independence of Texas and your

balance of power among these nations, and all ye, gentlemen, give us things, standing armies & what is necessary to maintain this system, and then every 23 millions of people on the continent, seven eighths will never taste wheat bread, or meat, or sugar, or wear shoes! But give us the continent, the whole continent, and nothing but the continent, under one confederacy, and every 23 millions of people upon it will fare as well as the twenty millions do now. American voters think of these things.—Public Ledger.

DEMOCRACY
"TRUTH WITHOUT FEAR"
BLOOMSBURG
SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1846.

The communication from 'A Columnist Democrat,' is deferred for the present.

THE NEW COURT HOUSE.
Last Tuesday was the day of letting, and a large number of proposals were handed in by contractors from abroad. The contract was awarded to L. B. Crist & Co. of Lewisburg.

VOCAL CONCERT.
The celebrated Baker's family, consisting of five persons, will give a Vocal Concert in the Academy, in this place, on Wednesday evening, the 25th inst. The programme consists mostly of Glee's, with few Songs. Tickets 25 cents—children, if accompanied by parents, or guardians, half price. Doors open at 6 o'clock. Concert to commence at 7.

The Baker family are renowned for their good singing, and a rich treat may be expected to the lovers of good music.

THE FLOOD, IN COLUMBIA COUNTY.

The freshet in Fishing Creek on last Saturday was certainly greater than any since 1817. This fact was clearly ascertained by permanent marks on the bank back of rocks facing the stream at this place. The 'pumpkin flood' in 1785 and the 'August flood' in 1817 are the only high water events, since the settlement of the country, that can be claimed to compete with the monster flood of Saturday, and some of our old citizens declare that there was a greater body of water in the river this time than upon either of these occasions.

The canal Aqueduct over the mouth of Fishing Creek is about half torn away. The wooden portion of the structure had just been rebuilt at an expense (including repairs to the piers) of about \$3,000, and the canal agents were congratulating themselves upon the economy and durability of the work. But the old piers were not so rebuilt, and two of them being crumpled and torn away by the tremendous rush of water, the works above necessarily broke down. This was before any considerable rise in the river. Had such rise taken place in time it would naturally have checked the force of the creek at its mouth, and probably have preserved the Aqueduct from injury. Mr. David Baber, of Catskill, had a very narrow escape being upon the Aqueduct when it broke down. He ran as the crash took place—the timbers literally clanking upon his feet—and the last leap caught the head rolling but an inch or two ahead of where it fell and fell along with other portions of the structure into the building stream.

The canal is much torn and injured between this place and Catskill. The canal banks are broken through at Egg-town by the small stream that passed undisturbed by a culvert and the stone arch road bridge over the same stream is also gone away. The canal is otherwise, we believe more or less injured from the amount of Fishing Creek to Gerwick and the opening of navigation upon it, we fear will be delayed far into the summer. A number of bridges on Fishing Creek have been carried away. The bridge over it between Bloomsburg and Mount Pleasant, commonly called the Mullick Bridge, went on Saturday morning. The valuable bridge at the mouth of Huntington Creek, built but a few years ago, is gone, and the Boston Bridge higher up Fishing Creek. The bridge at Light Street, or Siderown, Vanes Bridge near Orangeville, and the one below Bloomsburg are injured and will require repairing. In Fishing Creek township bridges at Judge Macks and at Berj Jones are gone.

The only bridge over the river left in the county is at Berwick. The Danville Bridge and five out of six arches of the Catskill Bridge are gone, the remaining one being the abutment one on the Catskill bank. That Bridge Company is said to have a sinking fund of about \$1,000.—The country.

COMMODORE MANVILL AND ISLAND.

Great anxiety was felt in the community for the fate of Commodore Manvill, during the late freshet, as it was well known that he never abandoned the Island as long as he found a part left above water to resort to. But we are happy to announce to his numerous friends, that he is alive and kicking, & safe on the main land, having been brought off with his family, on Sunday morning by a boat from Esopus. He would not consent, however, to leave, until his much loved Island was covered with six feet water and his house in danger of destruction from the floating drift wood and ice. His loss is considerable by the way of flour, meat, and other stores, that he had laid in for the accommodation of the waterman.

THE FLOOD ABROAD.

Having had no mail, the past week, we are unable to give any positive accounts of the damages occasioned by the late freshet, in other parts of the State. Report says it has been very destructive both up and down the river.

The Bridge over the North Branch of the Susquehanna, at Northumberland, has been entirely swept away.

The State bridge at Clarks Ferry, and the old Bridge at Harrisburg, are also gone.

The Canal aqueduct, over Penns Creek, and the bridge over the same stream, a short distance above Selinsgrove, are gone, as well as several other bridges on Penns Creek.

The Canal below Northumberland, particularly in the neighborhood of Penns Creek is much damaged.

Since writing the above, we have received Harrisburg and Philadelphia papers. We learn from them that the Schuylkill canal has received but little damage, but in the neighborhood of Harrisburg the destructions of property has been great. All accounts, however, agree, that the damage to the Main Line of Canal and Susquehanna Divisions is much less than was at first anticipated. It will be seen by the following extract from the Harrisburg Telegraph, that a part only, of the Bridge at Clarks Ferry has gone.

Between 10 and 11 o'clock on Saturday evening, the piers of the old Harrisburg bridge (that celebrated structure, the first built over the Susquehanna—built by Burr of the arch principle, at a cost of \$145,000, commenced in 1813 and completed in 1817) which had withstood many a raging flood, began to give way on this side of the strand and to yield to the mighty current and its towering ram of ice and on Sunday morning, between three and four o'clock, two of the middle span of arches fell and were swept down the stream; these were soon followed by two others, leaving but a single span, next to Harrisburg which still held about two o'clock and floated majestically away.

The West part of the Harrisburg Bridge, extending from the Island to the Cumberland shore is still standing—but whether it has sustained injury is yet unknown.

Of the new Railroad Bridge, which was being constructed by Mr. Kirkbride, all the piers were finished and four spans of the frame work was erected on them. Two spans of this went just before the Harrisburg Bridge, and the two other spans were swept off by the Duncan's Island bridge, floating against it in its descent. Thus the Harrisburg side of the river is completely stripped of all bridges or viaducts of them, the piers being mostly washed away, and their places being only discernible by the white of the waves as it passes over where they were.

The West part of the Harrisburg Bridge, extending from the Island to the Cumberland shore is still standing—but whether it has sustained injury is yet unknown.

Of the new Railroad Bridge, which was being constructed by Mr. Kirkbride, all the piers were finished and four spans of the frame work was erected on them. Two spans of this went just before the Harrisburg Bridge, and the two other spans were swept off by the Duncan's Island bridge, floating against it in its descent. Thus the Harrisburg side of the river is completely stripped of all bridges or viaducts of them, the piers being mostly washed away, and their places being only discernible by the white of the waves as it passes over where they were.

The West part of the Harrisburg Bridge, extending from the Island to the Cumberland shore is still standing—but whether it has sustained injury is yet unknown.

Of the new Railroad Bridge, which was being constructed by Mr. Kirkbride, all the piers were finished and four spans of the frame work was erected on them. Two spans of this went just before the Harrisburg Bridge, and the two other spans were swept off by the Duncan's Island bridge, floating against it in its descent. Thus the Harrisburg side of the river is completely stripped of all bridges or viaducts of them, the piers being mostly washed away, and their places being only discernible by the white of the waves as it passes over where they were.

BLOOMSBURG IRON WORKS.

Much fear was entertained during the late freshet as to the effects it would have upon these works, but we rejoice to say they have received no material injury. The water wheels, although washing in eleven feet of water, were not stopped for a moment and the only injury sustained by the works is the carrying away of a small portion of the embankment extending across the stream at the dam. This, however, can be repaired without interfering with the operation of the Furnaces. The dam and race, we have now proved itself able to withstand any freshet that any probably ever happen in Fishing Creek as this was 25 feet higher than any other ever known upon it by the oldest settlers.

It may well be a subject of congratulation at this time, that the State has the services of competent men upon the public improvements. The various injuries upon the canal in this quarter will require prompt efficient attention, which we have no doubt will be given by the Canal Commissioners, & their appointees along the line. Amid abounding disaster, it is a comfortable reflection that we have not been fitted for the emergency—where best effort will be directed to repairing the injuries sustained.

TEXAS U. S. SENATORS.

The New Orleans Jeffersonian learns by private correspondence that General Houston and General Rank have been elected to the Senate of the United States, each having received 51 out of 55 votes.

NEW FRAUD.

Notes purporting to be issued by the 'Farmers' Bank' of Genesee county, Le Roy, N. Y., are circulating in the West. There is no such Bank in existence.

GOOD!

J. M. Spear, one of the 'radical reformers' of Boston, comes out in favor of having clergymen, who approve of capital punishment, appointed hangmen. Rev. Mr. Morris, of the Olive Branch, intimates that he should have no objection to the office; but increase of his appointment he cautions Spear to look out.

LYNCH LAW!

A man—or puppy, rather—in Washington, having insulted a young lady by the goodness of the conversation which he addressed to her, she armed herself with a good cow-whip and gave him a splendid whipping. If there be any right kind of lynch law, what's the sort!

A NOBLE BEQUEST.

John A. Lowell, Esq., of Boston, has made a liberal donation of one hundred classical volumes to the Massachusetts Historical Society, to be awarded in premiums at the discretion of the Society.—The Patriot.

THE PLEASURES OF ROYALTY.

The Emperor of Russia steps upon a leather mattress, stuffed with hay, with a pig-tail and a pair of pants beside him. The fear of a violent death seems to be always present to him—no one is only by preserving the strictest etiquette that he is able to take solitary walks for what he loses so much taste.

REVOLUTIONARY.

The Emperor of Russia is said to have been taken into Siberia a professor of Astronomy in the University of Moscow, because he had written and published a book under the title of 'The Revolution of the Stars.'

WHEAT.

A vessel lately arrived at New Haven, says when there was a heavy passage from Ogdensburg. The distance is usually performed in five or six days.

LETTERS FOR TEXAS.

The Postmaster of Baltimore has received instructions from the Postmaster General informing him that letters for Texas—since its admission into the Union—may be sent to any other part of the United States, and that the passage regulations are the same.

POST-OFFICE PROSECUTIONS.

It is said that Mr. White, M. C. from New York has been prosecuted for \$20, for two violations of the post-office act, in franking two letters for Ex Governor Sewell.

LETTERS FOR TEXAS.

The Postmaster of Baltimore has received instructions from the Postmaster General informing him that letters for Texas—since its admission into the Union—may be sent to any other part of the United States, and that the passage regulations are the same.