

THE STAR OF THE NORTH.

E. W. Weaver Proprietor.

Truth and Right—God and our Country.

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THE STAR OF THE NORTH

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For the Star of the North.
NEW YORK CORRESPONDENCE.

MONDAY, May 21, 1855.

The beautiful back summer suit or flannel, by which the Chevalier Wikoff has thrown himself into the embrace of James Gordon Bennett, is provoking a shower of satirical articles from the city press. Among all the foes of the proprietor of the *Herald*, not one—with the exception, perhaps, of the late Major Noah—has been so bitter, so personal, so direct in the attacks, as this same Wikoff. He not only accused Bennett of receiving bribes from Fanny Elsler, but specified the articles and their cost. Soon after Fanny's departure from this country, he opened his budget of facts, and with the precision of his charges, and the corroborative testimony by which he sustained them, bothered the "Napoleon of the press" pretty considerably. But the proprietor of the *Herald* is a man who bides his time. Sometimes he floors his enemies by incessant and unpromising persecution in print—sometimes by unexpected acts of forbearance or kindness. He seems to have brought Mr. Wikoff down by abstaining from availing himself of the *lex talionis*, while the Chevalier was "under a cloud." It seems that he met Mr. Wikoff in London, soon after the release of that personage from the Italian prison where he had been immured for making love to Miss Gamble against her will—Bennett, who, as everybody knows, has a heart attuned to the softest sympathies, consoled and comforted the love-lorn and penniless Wikoff. Perhaps he lent him money. At any rate, he won good opinions from the Chevalier; and as good actions never go unrewarded, he has reaped the fruits of his generosity, in the shape of a most abject apology from his old antagonist. Of course the Chevalier cannot deny that he charged Bennett with black-mailing Fanny Elsler, but he gets over the difficulty by expressing his belief that the presents were delivered to the ladies of the family, and that Mr. B. himself would never have consented to take them. But this statement conflicts on the one hand with Wikoff's denunciation of the *Herald* proprietor as "the craving shark of the press," and on the other gives Mrs. B. a wife, which must be very galling to a chivalrous and devoted husband. We can hardly think that Mr. Bennett will allow his wife to be made the scape-goat for his own alleged offence. Should he do so, we may yet have an interesting appendix to the story from the lady herself. As the case stands at present, the *entente cordiale* which formerly subsisted between Mr. Bennett and Mr. Wikoff may be considered as restored.

It is well for wine drinkers that the successful cultivation of the grape in this country will soon enable us to draw a sufficient quantity of the article for home use; otherwise our *bons vivants* would stand a fair chance of being poisoned. The quantity of unadvised wine produced in Portugal last year was enormous, and as the disease of the European grape seems to be as incurable as that of the potato, a like result may be expected every season. The French chemists, however, have devised a method of disguising the evil as far as flavor is concerned, and we are likely to be flooded with an wholesome Port, which cannot be distinguished by the taste from the pure article. Information has been received here, that about thirty thousand pipes of wine have recently been thus treated at Oporto, and that a large amount of the vile trash will be exported to this country. The best thing we can do is to stick to our own *Catawba*. We can make as good wine in the United States as ever ran from a French, Portuguese, Spanish, or Rhenish vat.

The latest fashion in Bonnets, as received from Paris, by the last steamer, indicates that the *diminution* movement in this branch of ladies' costume has not yet reached its ultimate. The Parisian bonnets are now so very light and small that they have more the appearance of in-door head-dresses than of out-door gear. The most fashionable material is white crepe, trimmed with bouquets of feathers, or with a long feather, entwined around the crown. At the side of the bonnet, as a fastening to the forehead, is a bow of ribbon or blonde, the ends of which fall upon the shoulders. The inside is trimmed with a profusion of delicate rosettes, mixed with *coquilles* of blonde. From the deception, it would seem that this is a very ethereal and vapory sort of a summer bonnet. Its front edge is about an inch above the ears. By next spring it is supposed that the Paris hat will barely cover the top-knot.

On Saturday last, the day on which, by Millen's calculation, the world was to be destroyed by fire, we were deluged by a north-eastern rain storm.

Stringer and Townsend are putting tremendous puffs in the *Herald* of a "very important biography" that they are about to publish. They say they are disgusted with the

base means generally resorted to by book-sellers to get books into notice; but they insist that the transcendent merits of this work are such, that the most extravagant praise bestowed upon it would fall far short of what it actually deserves, as a history, and a work of truth. The work alluded to is "the Life of Judas Ghoul Bennett," by Isaac C. Pray, who, say the publishers, is every way the most accomplished man in the Union. Mr. Pray is an oily genius, formerly connected with the *Herald*, but who, falling under the displeasure of the "sole proprietor" of that remarkable sheet, wandered round for some time, until he became converted to spiritualism, and was appointed by the spirits to the management of a paper devoted to their interests. After a while they dismissed him for laziness and general incapacity, and he then determined, like the illustrious Wikoff, to reestablish himself in the good graces of Judas Ghoul Bennett, at all hazards. Hence the biography now under consideration. It will have an immense sale. No scoundrel's library should be without it.

GOV. GARDNER'S VETO OF THE PERSONAL LIBERTY BILL.—Governor Gardner, of Massachusetts, in giving his reasons for vetoing the bill which imposes penalties for returning a fugitive slave, says:

"I have taken a solemn oath to support the Constitution of Massachusetts and the Constitution of the United States. No earthly power or influence should induce me to be knowingly disloyal to that sacred obligation. Those oaths of office, the sober convictions of duty, and the fealty of an American citizen conspire to forbid it.

"Unconstitutional enactments tending to an armed conflict between our State and National systems of government which must result in the submission of one, alike fatal whichever it is, should be equally shunned by judicious statesmanship, as well as patriotic duty. In such delicately balanced organizations, the integrity of the one should be preserved as zealously as the humiliation of the other should be avoided.

"The legal adviser given me by the statutes of the Commonwealth pronounces the bill now before me unconstitutional in some of its provisions. The Supreme Judicial Court also, in an opinion signed by all its Justices, in reply to a question propounded to them by myself, state as follows:—'When any person, either citizen or stranger, has rendered himself amenable to the legal process of both governments, (the Federal and State,) the one which, by its process and its officers, first obtains the lawful custody of such person, acquires a priority of jurisdiction which cannot be rightfully or legally defeated by the other, until the process first attaching shall have been satisfied or discharged.'

"But these opinions are clear and unmitigable, and there are no higher authorities known to our laws or to our judgments. Being unwilling, therefore, to lead Massachusetts into a position hostile to the harmony of the confederacy, which is essential to the permanent interests of the Commonwealth and the Republic, no course is left me but to withhold my sanction from this bill."

The Legislature has since passed the law, over the Governor's head: It will very likely place Massachusetts in the same position South Carolina found herself, in General Jackson's administration.

WOMAN'S RIGHTS.—The Legislature of Wisconsin has recently passed a law relative to the rights of married women. It is as follows:—

"Any married woman whose husband, either from drunkenness, profligacy or from any other cause, shall neglect or refuse to provide for her support or for the support and education of her children, shall have the right in her own name to transact business and to receive and collect her own earnings and the earnings of her minor children, and apply the same for her own support and the support and education of her children, free from the control and interference of her husband or any other person claiming the same, or claiming to be released from the same by or through her husband: Provided, That if it is denied by plea that either of the causes enumerated in this act as entitling the married woman to sue in her name exists in point of fact, then the issue upon this plea shall be tried and determined by the jury trying the case with the other issues submitted."

OPPOSITION TO EXTORTION.—The Lyons (France) papers tell the following: About a year ago, Mr. Flemming, a merchant of London, stopped at a hotel in Frankfurt, Germany, for two days, and when about leaving found his bill amounted to 250 florins, which he refused to pay, as exorbitant. By the law of Frankfurt, he was arrested and locked up—the same law compelling his creditor to support him, and furnish him with clothes and other articles suitable to his condition in life. At the expiration of eleven months, the landlord finding himself minus nearly 20,000 francs, let his debtor free, who, immediately on his release, gave a sum equal to double that expended by the hotel-keeper, to the poor of Frankfurt. Mr. Flemming's countryman at Lyons gave him a dinner on the 18th ult.

TO BOUNTY LAND APPLICANTS.—A divorce cannot restore a woman to the right or condition of widowhood. In other words, the Commission of Pensions has decided that the widow of a deceased soldier having married again, and having been divorced from her second husband, is not entitled to bounty land in right of the first husband.

Sale of the Main Line.

Pursuant to the act of the Legislature, the Governor has advertised the Main Line of State Works, to be sold at the Exchange in this city. The property to be sold includes the whole Main Line of Public Works, between Philadelphia and Pittsburg, consisting of the Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad, the Allegheny Portage Railroad, including the new road to avoid the Inclined Plane, the Eastern division of the Pennsylvania Canal, from Columbia to the Junction, the Juniata division of the Pennsylvania Canal, from the Junction to the Eastern terminus of the Allegheny Portage Railroad, and the Western division of the Pennsylvania Canal, from the Western terminus of the Allegheny Portage Railroad to Pittsburg, and including also the bridge over the Susquehanna at Duncan's Island, together with all the surplus water power of said Canals, and all the Reservoirs, Machinery, Locomotives, Cars, Tracks, Stationary Engines, Work Shops, Water Stations, Toll Houses, Offices, Stock and Materials whatsoever and whosoever thereunto belonging, or held for the use of the same, and together with all the right, title, interest, claim and demand of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to all property, real, personal and mixed belonging to the same, on the terms and conditions prescribed by the said Act of Assembly, copies of which may be obtained on application, at or letter addressed to the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

THE MASTER SPIRIT AT SEBASTOPOL.—The head engineer at Sebastopol is a young man named Todleben, who at the commencement of the siege was a captain and almost unknown. When the siege commenced, Prince Menschikoff, it is said, asked the then head engineer how long it would take to put the place in a state of defence. He answered, "Two Months." Todleben stepped forward and said he would undertake to do it, if he had as many men as he required, in two weeks. He did it in twelve days, and was made colonel. Since that time he has had the direction of everything in the way of building batteries, defences, &c. The other day the Grand Duke called upon his wife, who is residing in St. Petersburg, to congratulate her upon her husband's promotion; for he is now General and Aid-de-Camp to the Emperor. The Russians adopt the common sense practice of taking the man who will do the work best and they got it best done.—This is the practice in well-conducted private business; it is still more necessary in public service, where the consequences of mistake through incompetency and ignorance may affect a whole nation.

TEMPORAL SOVEREIGNTY OF THE POPE DENIED.—Archbishop Kenrick, in his pastoral letter, just published in Baltimore, makes the following allusion to the temporal power of the Pope:

"To the General and State Governments you owe allegiance in all that regards the civil order; the authorities of the Church challenge your obedience in the things of salvation. We have no need of pressing this distinction, which you fully understand and constantly observe. You know that we have uniformly taught you, both publicly and privately, to perform all the duties of good citizens, and that we have never exerted of you, as we ourselves have never made, to the highest ecclesiastical authority, any engagements inconsistent with the duties we owe to the country and its laws. On every appropriate occasion, we have avowed these principles, and even in our communications to the late Pontiff, we rejected as a calumny the imputation that we were, in civil matters subject to his authority."

Sir David Brewster makes the following remarks relative to the structure of the sun. So strong has been the belief that the sun cannot be a habitable world, that a scientific gentleman was pronounced by his medical attendant to be insane, because he had sent a paper to the Royal Society, in which he maintained that the light of the sun proceeds from a dense and universal aura, which may afford ample light to the inhabitants of the surface beneath, and yet be at such a distance as not to be among them; that there may be water and dry land there; hills and dales, rain and fair weather, and that as the light and seasons must be eternal, the sun may easily be conceived to be by far the most blissful habitation of the whole system. In less than ten years after this apparently extravagant notion was considered a proof of insanity, it was maintained by Sir William Herschel as a rational and probable opinion, which might be deducible from his own observation on the structure of the sun.

FROM BAD TO WORSE.—Mr. Hiss, the expelled member of the Massachusetts Legislature, has been trying to get his case before the Court, and had himself arrested for debt. The Court refused to hear the case, unless affidavits were made that the case was a true one, and not made up to get into the Court. Hiss backed out, and subsequently finding he did owe somebody, had himself re-arrested. But the Judge refused a habeas corpus, and Mr. Hiss has to remain in jail. This was an unexpected result.

COMPLIMENTARY—WERRY!—At a lecture of Bayard Taylor's, lately, a lady wished for a seat, when a poorly handsome gentleman brought one, and seated her. "Oh, you're a jewel," said she, "oh, no," he replied, "I'm a jeweller—I have just got the jewel!"



FRANCIS JOSEPH, EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA.

For the "Star of the North," EUROPE IN 1855.

BY E. W. WEAVER.

(CONTINUED.)

Until the year 1826 the Janizaries ruled Constantinople like the old Praetorian Guard once ruled Rome, when it made Emperors mere puppets to execute its decrees. In 1807 these Janizaries gained their last victory, and under Mahmood, the father of the present Sultan, they were annihilated. That prince was elevated over the murdered corpse of his brother Mustafa, who, at the command of the Janizaries, had himself given orders to destroy Mahmood; for, as in degenerate Rome, might made right, and the sword measured justice between brothers. The rebellious Janizaries were summoned by the Sultan to appear before the banner of the prophet as a sign of submission. They refused to obey. Thrice was the summons repeated. They not only refused obedience; but put to death the grand vizier and two other high officers of the crown who had borne the royal mandate. All hope of treating with this array of ruthless barbarians was now abandoned—the final order was given to the artillery to march upon them; and as soon as they were driven into their barracks, a destructive fire of bomb-shells and cannon-balls was poured in upon them. Those who escaped from the burning barracks were smitten down by shot or sword, without stint or quarter. The same course was followed throughout the provinces, so that in a few weeks not a Janizary was left to rehearse the story; the order was strictly destroyed, the last spark of its life was trodden out in the remotest corner of the land, and from that day Turkey, having abjured the spirit of her old Moslem policy, arose to make good her claim to an honorable position in the realm of European civilization.

Mahmood continued as he began this work. He encouraged literature, developed the physical resources of the country, established common schools and schools of agriculture, adopted the latest improvements in naval architecture under the eye of an American ship-builder, and welcomed men of genius from all the world. A new impulse now drove the blood through those sluggish veins, and even Religious Liberty fled to the shelter of the crescent for protection when bloated and hypocritical hierarchies became the persecutors in Western Europe. The true Crescent shamed the feeble Cross; and the exiles of Freedom fled to the star in the East for repose and safety. And Turkey has continued faithful to her sentiment. She has protected those American missionaries and teachers, whom surrounding nations would have persecuted. She threw the shield of her power over the brave Kosuth and his companions in the hour of peril, despite the frowns and threats of her allies and her enemies; and for these deeds of moral heroism America stretches out her hand to the Moslem in the spirit of brotherhood, and bids him God-speed in his career of magnanimity, charity and honor.

We should be able to reciprocate the spirit of the benediction in which the Sultan Mahmood once greeted one of our countrymen, as detailed by an American traveler. It was called forth by an occasion of great interest to the people of Constantinople—the first launch of a vessel of war built by an American architect. At the appointed time, while this superintendent, Mr. Rhodes, was preparing for the launch, the Sultan Mahmood, with his attendants arrived at the navy yard. After the lapse of several minutes, a pacha approached Mr. Rhodes, and informed him that the Sultan had sent him to inquire whether more men would not be required to assist in the work. Mr. Rhodes replied, "No; he had men enough." The Sultan was surprised when the answer was reported, inasmuch as he supposed that a body of a hundred men or more would be needed to start the vessel, by dragging it from its place with ropes after the old Turkish fashion. Thinking it quite impossible that so few

men as he saw at work were sufficient for the purpose, and that the question of the answer had perhaps been misunderstood, he sent the pacha back to ask if it would not be agreeable to Mr. Rhodes to have a body of soldiers ordered up from the barracks. Mr. Rhodes in his haste replied rather abruptly, that he needed no help, and wished to be let alone. This answer was also reported to the Sultan, who seemed rather more astounded than before. But just then the blocks were knocked away, and the noble ship glided forward majestically "like a thing of life," as if hastening to be embraced by the placid waters of the Golden Horn. Mahmood could not restrain his emotion, and lifting his hand toward heaven he exclaimed, "God is great! God is great! God help him, if he is an infidel!"

From Abdul Mejid humanity and civilization have much more to expect than from the serrated horse of Hapsburg. Francis Joseph is a representative of that class of young men whom we find in all countries, educated to believe that the poverty and suffering of the unfortunate brethren of the human family are for the diversion and entertainment of the well-born who are destined to rule. If these "nice young men" sometimes travel in Europe, instead of garnering up treasures of science, and suggestive food for moral reflection—instead of studying political philosophy and mental philosophy—instead of elevating the intellect, correcting the passions and refining the sentiments: all they bring back to give you as the fruit of their travel is the remembrance that Rome is a large city rather worse for the wear, and that the wine was very sour. They sleep luxuriously, lounge negligently, dress expensively, eat fastidiously, read carelessly, talk senselessly, play desperately, sing screechingly, waltz divinely, drink intemperately, swear shockingly, live peacefully and die hopelessly.

But there is one thing that has happened in our country, before our eyes, in reference to which all national men agree. It is the course and conduct of the State of Massachusetts. When the historian takes his pen in hand to record the events of which we speak, he will not be at a loss for the material wherewith to compose that history. The records of the present Legislature will be sufficient.

These records will inform him that that Legislature has taken, not one, but many step backwards: That it has gone back, not only to the horrible and revolting blue law days; not only to the scarcely less revolting period, when crepeated covenants alternately howled and prayed, but to times more distant and more miserable than those, when priestcraft asserted dominion over men, both spiritual and temporal, and when superstition, that curse alike of the ignorant and the over-learned, taught men to cultivate vines for virtues, and to worship devils for gods.

In that sanctity and scholarly Massachusetts Legislature, there are, we believe, two score and ten casting parsons. Not God's ministers. Not Bible ministers, but wolves in sheep's clothing, who are infected with every ill in politics, and who burn with every fierce passion that man is subject to. They are not the meek disciples of their humble savior, but severe and loud-mouthed sons of thunder. Not content with preaching religion, they must needs preach politics. When the Bible is in their way, they construe it out of their way. When the constitution imposes a barrier to their insane progress, they boldly break it down. These men, we believe, are all know-nothings and all abolitionists.

Besides this canting crew of reckless and wretched hypocrites, the Massachusetts Legislature contains a vile set of scrub politicians and gutter demagogues, who have risen by exposing some ascendant aims and by pandering to some prevailing caprice.—Bedlam exhibits no crazier assemblage.—Five Points, no more vulgar ruffianism.

From a legislature thus composed of Abolitionized know-nothing fanatics, and hypocritical religious dissenters, nothing good could be expected. Yet, in the sunlight of this enlightened nineteenth century, so much of evil could hardly be expected as is exhibited in the proceedings of the body.

It has passed resolutions setting aside the fugitive slave law, and making any citizen of Massachusetts incapable of holding a State office who recognizes it, or aids in its execution. It has resolved against the admission of any new slave State into the Union, whether the people of such State desire slavery or not. It has protected vile Emigrant Aid Societies designed to send leprous vagabonds to settle Kansas; and expelled slaveholders and their rightful property. It has passed an address praying the Governor to degrade Judge Loring by expulsion from the judicial bench, because, in conformity to his oath as a United States Commissioner, he sought to give efficiency to the Constitution and the laws passed in pursuance of it, in the case of the fugitive slave, Anthony Burns. It appointed a Nunnery Committee to persecute, vex, and insult Catholics, men, women, and children. It sent that committee out on its disgraceful mission, charged with high powers, and armed with all the authority of law.

able concessions. They had no faith in the charity and pretensions half-measures or no-measures of Russell, and his ministry fell. They had no faith in, or friendship for, the Derby incubus, and at the first opportunity broke that down. Palmerston only professes liberality, and has neither disposition nor nerve to act against the aristocracy.

But throughout this whole course of deception, little-by-little has the cause of the people gained concessions. The franchise has been enlarged by several Reform Bills—the Catholic emancipation bill was forced over the head of the "Old Iron Duke," and the cry for "cheap bread" shook the very throne of royalty into submission.

[TO BE CONCLUDED.]

A Brief History of the Acts and Doings of the Massachusetts Legislature. Roxbury, Mr. Hiss, Mrs. Patterson, Know-Nothingism.

Few histories are reliable. Old histories are for the most part, made up of stupid fables and absurd superstitions. They were written long after the occurrence of the events they narrate, before printing was discovered, and made up from dusty scrolls and wretched parchments. The sources of all ancient histories, to say the least, are suspicious.

The truest histories are those written by men who are eye-witnesses of the events they relate. Yet such histories, even, are not beyond criticism and not free from suspicion. Events oftentimes occur in the presence of a number of men, it may be a small or a large number. It rarely happens that all of the number concur in their narratives of such events. Conflicts and contradictions usually distinguish their statements. Even in courts of justice, where men are put on oath, respectable men, and where the issues of life and death are involved, it seldom happens that two men give the same testimony. This is a sad commentary on the value of human testimony.

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