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☞ ADVERTISERS are earnestly requested to hand in their favors before 5 P. M., and as early in the day as practicable. Advertisements not inserted for a specified time will invariably be charged until ordered out.

FOR LATEST Commercial Intelligence, Domestic, Market, River News, Imports, Money Markets, &c. see third page.

See next page for Telegraphic News.

CHRISTMAS.—We wish, in all sincerity, all our readers a "happy Christmas," and many returns of them. In accordance with custom, and to give our workmen the privilege of enjoying the festivities of the day, no paper will be issued to-morrow

IMPORTANT TO PENNSYLVANIA.—On Monday last, Mr. HAMPTON gave notice to the House of Representatives at Washington, of a bill granting a portion of the public lands to the State of Pennsylvania for the purpose of aiding in the construction of the Pennsylvania Railroad, the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad, and the Pennsylvania and Ohio Railroad.

On the same day Mr. Hampton offered the following resolution, which was passed:

Resolved, That the Committee on Public Lands inquire into the expediency of granting to the State of Pennsylvania 1,000,000 acres of public lands belonging to the United States, to be appropriated as follows, viz: 500,000 acres for the construction of the Pennsylvania railroad; 200,000 acres for the construction of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville railroad; and 200,000 to the Pennsylvania and Ohio Railroad, to be expended within the State of Pennsylvania; and that said Committee do further inquire into the expediency of making a just and equitable division of the public lands amongst the several States of this Union, and that said Committee report by bill or otherwise.

The above movement on the part of our Representative is of more importance than may appear at the first blush. There appears to be a strong disposition in Congress, to donate large bodies of land for the purpose of promoting the construction of various lines of internal improvement, which will have a tendency not only to improve the country, but cement the bonds of the Union. This we are glad to see, for we think the proceeds of lands ought to be appropriated in this way, in which they will benefit succeeding generations, and not all be spent for the current expenses of the present. There is a sort of injustice, and a great improvidence in squandering the proceeds of the lands for the present support of the Government, instead of employing them in such a way as permanently to benefit the country. We are glad, therefore, that there is a growing sentiment in favor of appropriating large bodies of these lands for purposes of internal improvement—the construction of railroads, canals, plank roads, &c.,—and we hope that much will be done in this way; but we have observed that nearly all—if not all—the lines for which lands are proposed to be given, are either in the Southern states, or their direction is towards a Southern seaport. Thus: the Mobile and Ohio, the Alton and Louisville, the Galena and Cairo. All these are intended to benefit a Southern port,—New Orleans, Mobile, Charleston, Richmond, &c.

Their tendency will be, when built, to attract the trade of the North west, to the South and South east, and especially from the middle route, through this State, and from our eastern metropolis, Philadelphia. Now we wish it understood, that we do not object to the appropriation of land to any of these projects. We hope the land will be donated and the roads built. All we ask is, that roads whose direction is through the middle states, and whose tendency is to bind the great West to the East, shall share also in the common fund,—for the lands belong equally to all. Let the land be appropriated to all these works—let the Union be bound together by hooks of steel—there is room enough for all; there is prosperity for all.

We hope, therefore, that the Senators and Representatives from Pennsylvania and Ohio will insist upon having their share of the lands in any distribution for railroad purposes, and to make their vote for the objects proposed, depend upon the amount of justice meted out for improvements either within, or whose connections are to be within their borders.

DONATIONS TO IRELAND.—We have had the opportunity of examining the report of the Central Relief Committee, of the Society of Friends, in Dublin, to whose charge the donations from America, for the relief of starving Ireland, were principally sent, and derive from it the following facts, which may be interesting to the donors, and friends of Ireland generally.

The whole amount received by this Society from all quarters, from the time of its organization, in November, 1846, to the first of May, 1848, is £193,862 4s. 10d. Of the amount received from America, £15,730 5s. 10d. was in cash, and £133,780 0s. 7d. in provisions—showing that America contributed three-fourths of all the donations received by the Society.

The Society had on hand, at the date of its report in May, £34,276 1s. 2d.—the remainder had been distributed in the counties of Ulster, Leinster, Connaugh, and Munster. The Society is still actively engaged in its benevolent work; but has changed somewhat its mode of action, having very much discontinued gratuitous issues of food, for purposes of general relief, and confined its grants chiefly to some suffering districts; and is applying the residue of its means to such objects as are most likely, while affording present relief, to have a direct bearing upon the permanent improvement of the condition of the people, in promoting productive industry, and developing the resources of the country. To this end, it is giving encouragement to fisheries, advancing money towards an improved system of land cultivation; making grants of turnip, and other green-crop seeds, to small farmers; and in making donations of clothing to the industrious poor.

The Committee state, that no portion of the Irish community labor under greater difficulties and privations, than those whose occupation of land exceeding one quarter of an acre has excluded them from poor law relief, and who cling to their little holdings as the only means of future subsistence. Several instances have occurred, in which persons thus circumstanced have suffered individuals of their family to die of want rather than surrender their land. Encouraged by the experience of last season, and as a means of the most useful assistance to this suffering class, the Committee have this year allotted the sum of £5000 for the purchase of turnip, and other green-crop seeds, which they have distributed to those unable to purchase.

This report, our readers will recollect, was published last May. Great changes have taken place since then. The potatoe crop has since failed, and Ireland is again, at the commencement of winter, in a state of frightful destitution of provisions. Much dreadful suffering must be the consequence, and doubtless the Committee will soon expend, in staying for a moment the rolling tide of want, all their remaining resources. Should any of our citizens again feel like stretching out the hand of relief, they will find the Committee of Friends, in Dublin, ready to distribute, with a judicious hand, their donations.

THE PURCHASE OF CUBA.—*Fustian.*—We have already stated, says the Baltimore Sun, the positive denial by the Spanish papers of the portentous 'disclosures' which the New York Herald has been for some time past indulging as to the negotiations by the U. S. Minister at Madrid, for the purchase of Cuba. The Herald also took the liberty of connecting the name of Hon. John M. Botts, with a knowledge thereof, actually asserting that he had received a letter from Madrid, containing the information, and that he intended making a call on the subject in Congress. Unfortunately, however, the column upon column which the Herald has thus devoted, have been quite as recklessly thrown away as much other of the 'sound and fury signifying nothing' which appears in that journal. Mr. Botts, in a letter to the National Intelligencer, states that so far as his name is concerned, "there is not the slightest authority for the statements made," and that he has "received no communications from the embassy at Madrid, or any other source, on the subject of the purchase of Cuba," his only "information" being the veritable rot: [illegible] of the Herald itself.

THE NEW ENGLAND SUPPER.—We are unable to give a particular account of the sayings and doings at the Yankee Supper, on Friday evening, and we presume it is not of much importance, as those most concerned were present. We confess we were too much interested and delighted—we entered too heartily into the spirit of the scene,—to perform the dry work of reporting. This would have destroyed all the pleasures of the evening to us, and it is so seldom we have an opportunity of relaxation, that we had not the self denial to deprive ourselves of the enjoyments of the occasion. Enough, as an apology. Suffice it to say, that if our reporter had not been necessarily absent, we should have lost none of the fine sentiments and pleasant speeches of the evening.

The festivity was one of a strictly temperate and social character. About two hundred Ladies and Gentlemen sat down to the table, a great many of them strangers to each other, and yet there was no lack of life, spirit, and animated enjoyment, during the four hours the company remained seated. Short addresses, toasts, vocal music, the telling of stories, &c., filled up the time without any lagging. If we may be permitted to particularize, we should say the company were greatly indebted to Judge Shaler, the President, and Mr. Livingston the Vice President, Professor Stephens, Professor Holmes, and Dr. Sterns, for much of the amusement of the evening. Dr. Dyer was very happy in some of his sallies, and in a toast; and Dr. Riddle and H. Williams, Esq., made some very eloquent remarks. The latter gentleman's remarks, in reference to the genius of the New England people, were very eloquently presented: and Prof. Stephens' observations on the birth of true liberty, on board the Mayflower, were stirring and beautiful. Some of the ladies, as well as gentlemen acquitted themselves with great credit, and added much to the pleasures of the evening, by their fine and appropriate vocal music. Professor Holmes' imitation of the singing of 'Old Russia,' with the genuine nasal twang of our Puritan ancestors, and Mr. Stephens' song of 'Nantick Pint,' were most exquisitely ludicrous. No genuine Yankee, of forty or fifty years of age, but must have recognized how true to the life was Professor Holmes' imitation. Of the sentiments offered, we recollect but few—they were generally very appropriate to the occasion. The following, by Professor Stephens, is very fine:

THE BIRTH OF AMERICAN LIBERTY—It was off the coast of Cape Cod, on the 22d of November, 1620, that the child of Liberty was given to the world. The storm rocked cradle of the Mayflower was its cradle, and forty one Puritan pilgrims pledged their names as its god fathers.

The following, by Dr. Dyer, expresses a sentiment which cannot be too much cherished.

PLYMOUTH AND JAMESTOWN—May their descendants know no rivalry but to provoke each other to love and good works.

It is a pleasant thought, that not a drop of any kind of intoxicating liquor was drank, or a word offensive to any one, or to the most fastidious taste, was uttered. There was more hilarity than might have suited some of our Puritan ancestors, but otherwise there was nothing that showed that the stock, has in the least degenerated from the 'steady habits' of their forefathers.

SAD AFFAIR.—The Picayune thus describes the mortal affray at Baton Rogue, between Dr. Bird and Dr. Skillman. The cause seems to have been the seduction, by the former, of a lady related to the latter:—

Dr. Edward Skillman, a most worthy and excellent young man, a native of West Feliciana, but at present residing at Onachita, hearing of the insult offered to the family of which he was one of the props and defenders, came to Baton Rouge to save that honor which was dearer to him than life.—shortly after his arrival Dr. S. was introduced to Byrd, and then requesting his introducer to leave them alone for a few moments the door of Byrd's office was closed.

From the subsequent dying confession of Doctor Skillman, it appears that he asked Byrd if he was ready to make the only atonement which the nature of the injury he had done his familie's peace and honor allowed. To which Byrd returned a negative answer. Skillman then drew a pistol, and fired at Byrd, who retreated into a back room, the door of which he closed on the inside. Skillman struck at the door, and endeavored to force it, when suddenly Byrd opened it, and Skillman being forced forward, Byrd, who standing near to the door as it opened, sprung upon him with a knife, and inflicted no less than seven wounds up on Skillman's body.

The latter defended himself as well as he could with his pistol, with which he inflicted several severe wounds on Byrd's head, and finally succeeded in throwing Byrd down, and taking away his knife. he was in the act of stabbing him, when some person rushed in and pulled him off. Skillman died of his wounds shortly after the affair and Byrd left the town, and passed through this city to Mobile. From what we hear of the infuriate state of feeling pervading the large and respectable family aggrieved in this unhappy affair, we shall be surprised if this ends here.

Fourth Ward Public Schools, Allegheny City.

To the Editors of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

Having a leisure hour to spare, on Wednesday and Thursday evenings last, I availed myself of the opportunity of witnessing the examination of the pupils in the 4th Ward Public Schools, Sandusky Street, Allegheny City, and I must say I was truly delighted. The schools went into operation on the first of October last, and from the manner the scholars acquitted themselves, one would be led to conclude the school had been in operation for years.—How five or six hundred children, of all ranks, rich and poor, could be taught and disciplined in the manner these have been, in the short space of three months, is beyond the calculation of numbers who were present and witnessed the examination.—Too much praise cannot be bestowed on the teachers—nine in number—for the manner they have performed their arduous duties, and, also to the intelligent Board of Directors, for the admirable selection they made, and the splendid school house they have erected—and the comfortable manner in which they have every thing arranged for the benefit of the scholars and teachers.

I would just say in conclusion—and without any exaggeration—that a more respectable and talented Board of Directors—a better qualified and worthy set of Teachers—and a better disciplined number of Scholars, is not within the range of my acquaintance. A SPECTATOR.

December 22, 1848.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

POLAND, Dec 21, 1848.

Messrs. WHITE & Co.—

I send you an extract from a letter from Prof. Kirtland, of Cleveland, on the subject of Cannel Coal, from the Darlington (Pa.) banks.

"CLEVELAND, Dec. 18, 1848.

MR. EDWIN MORSE—

Dear Sir:—I have submitted specimens of your coal to the examination of Professors St. John and Cassels. They pronounced it equal to the best *English Cannel Coal*. So far as its qualities are concerned, I have no doubt it will prove to be of the highest value. The only points remaining to be decided are, 1st, the production of the bed; 2nd the capability of getting it into the *Lake market*, at a saving and profitable advance. These are points you can decide better than I can.

J. P. KIRTLAND.

We copy, from that able and influential Whig paper the Rochester Daily American the following tribute to our distinguished townsman, A. W. Loomis, Esq.

"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.—We learn that the Hon. Andrew W. Loomis, of Pittsburgh, is spoken of by the Whigs of Western Pennsylvania, as likely to be the Attorney General in the cabinet of Gen. Taylor.

Mr. Loomis was formerly a distinguished member of Congress, and has held other high public trusts. He is one of the very ablest lawyers in that State. In 1844 he was a candidate for Presidential Elector; and he is now one of the Taylor and Fillmore Electors of Pennsylvania.

ENGLAND AND IRELAND.—We publish extracts from able correspondents, from both those countries to-day, which show a great amount of destitution and human suffering. With what gratitude should we enjoy the plenty which God has given us, during these holliday seasons, when we contrast our situation with that of the thousands of our race, who are actually pining from want of the mere sustenance necessary to sustain life, and whose whole existence is a constant warfare with want and starvation.

We understand that Mr. Clay will arrive here from Ashland on the steamers, *Blue Wing*. After remaining in Louisville a day or two, he will start for the South on the steamer *Alex Scott*. On his way to New Orleans, he will stop at Baton Rouge for the purpose of paying a visit to Gen. Taylor, at whose house he purposes remaining about one week. His health is such as to require Mr. Clay to remain in the South all winter.—*Louisville Courier.*

OHIO.—Our readers will learn, under our telegraphic head, that the House of Representatives of Ohio, is at length organized so far as to be able to proceed in a legal form to examine the credentials of the contestants, and to decide who is entitled to seats.

THE ROMOR circulated that Mr. Fegely, one of the Representatives from Berks county has had an attack of paralysis proves to be incorrect. He has been afflicted with rheumatism from which he was recovering at the last accounts.

Correspondence of the New York Courier.

IRELAND—ITS PRESENT STATE.

DUBLIN, Nov. 16, 1848.

I have lately been travelling through Ireland, and have been more or less into half of its counties, and all of its four provinces. In conformity with the original plan of my correspondence I will give your readers some of the general results of my observations and inquiries, without any attempt to chronicle, my own personal adventures.

THE PHYSICAL CONDITION OF THE IRISH PEOPLE.

It is undeniably true, that Ireland, for years and for centuries, has been a scene of penury and wretchedness, whose like no other part of the civilized world has exhibited: but I am convinced that in some respects the picture of her misery has been too darkly portrayed by travellers. Unwarrantable generalization, the traveller's besetting sin, has been freely indulged in; and the worst specimens of Irish life have been held up as fair illustrations of the physical degradation of the entire people. The Irishman is generally described by your book making Linneus as a creature belonging to the *genus homo* indeed, but covered as thick with rags as is an ostrich with feathers, and burrowing with pigs and poultry in a miserable mud hovel, floored with earth and roofed with sods, without window or chimney, with little other furniture than a stool and a potato pot, and no other bed than a lair of straw, where he and his whole family promiscuously nested together as regardless of all the decencies as they are ignorant of all the comforts of civilized life. Now this is true only of compare tively a small fraction of the inhabitants of Ireland. The province of Ulster, which contains nearly one third of the population of the country, differs but little in its general features, from the rural districts of England and Scotland. The people are as well housed, as well clad, and in ordinary times as well fed as their Saxon or Gaelic brethren. In the other less favored provinces, the greater part of the dwellings are not hovels, but cottages.—They are small, to be sure, but substantially built of stone, securely thatched with straw, provided with one or more windows, and with a good serviceable chimney, and externally are rough cast with plaster, and white washed. In many parts of the country it is true that only houses made of earth are to be seen. But the great cause of this is the scarcity of stone and timber; and it is regarded by the occupants themselves as no great misfortune, since such tenements, by being rough cast are easily made impervious to the raid, and are unquestionably warmer than those composed of any other material. Peat, which is good fuel, is remarkably cheap all over Ireland; and hence there is little physical suffering from the cold—as little as in England, and incalculably less than in France.

There are not many houses in which are not to be found all of the absolutely necessary articles of furniture and a decent bed with suitable bedclothes; and the cases are comparatively few, and confined only in the poorest sections of the country, where the cow, the pig or any other part of the farm stock are admitted under the "family roof tree." The people generally are comfortably clad as the lower classes in other countries of Europe. It is not very often that a man is seen who has not a substantial overcoat of woolen frieze, or a woman who has not a homely yet comfortable cloak. Shoes are somewhat expensive; and though the men almost universally have them, the women are very frequently without them; but more generally than is the case in the colder climate of Scotland. At least one woman out of every four that I used to meet on High street, Edinburgh, in the wettest and coldest weather, was barefoot; and in Trongate, the finest street in Glasgow the portion was considerably greater. In regard to the Irish towns, and cities, many of them are as well built and as attractive to the eye, as any in the sister island. The public buildings of Edinburgh are on a scale of unmatched magnificence, and its private residences are spacious and elegant.

Belfast, the capital of the North and Limerick, the great inland city of the South of Ireland, are the *fac similes* of the best class of English towns.—It is true that these, like all other Irish cities, have their "liberties" and suburbs, which are the repository of filth and the abode of squalor; but they are no worse than the "closes" of Edinburgh, the "wynds" of Glasgow or there that labrynth of lanes present reading at Onachita, bearing of the insult offered to the family of which he was one of the props and defenders, came to Baton Rouge to save that honor which was dearer to him than life.—shortly after his arrival Dr. S. was introduced to Byrd, and then requesting his introducer to leave them alone for a few moments the door of Byrd's office was closed.

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Correspondence of the National Intelligencer.

LONDON—ITS POOR.

LONDON, Nov. 30, 1848.

* * * *

But there is a greater nuisance than even these annoyances of dirt and fog, and crowd; and that is, the misery and degradation which assail you at every step, to the destruction of every comfortable sensation, and a sense of mingled pity and disgust, causing you to rebel against the order of things which has thus brought such masses of human beings together, to fester in dirt, vice, poverty and starvation. These are the annoyances of a ramble in the East or city end of the metropolis. A walk in the West End is free from the dirt and crowd, and much of the misery of street pauperism which trouble you in the East. Even here you have, however, from November to April, excepting at intervals "few and far between," to breathe a pollutted atmosphere, and to live in fog and smoke. Nor do the passers by, the equipages, the gay apparel of the passers by, the spacious and costly edifices, and all the other appendages of wealth, make amends, by showing the comfort and the luxuries of hundreds, for the misery and want and vice of thousands. But it may be asked how is this to be avoided, unless by the establishment of some of the plans of French Communists or Socialists. We are certainly no advocates for any of these nostrums, because we consider them as founded upon wrong principles, and, could they be adopted, they would not remove the evils of which we are complaining unless by the substitution of still greater ones. We have no plan of our own to remedy this great, this almost only pressing grievance which prevades English society. We can only lament its existence, and wish that the wise and powerful men of the land would undertake its cure.

To such a degree has mendicity increased in the streets of London, through the means which have been taken to suppress it in the *city*, that it is almost distressing to sit by your own fireside, on account of the piteous objects that place themselves before your windows, exhibiting every mark of wretchedness and wo, and whose cries and looks reveal the extreme of human suffering. Much of this may be assumed; no doubt, with too many, begging as a trade, and a good trade, realizing more than can be earned by honest industry; yet reduce the number of beggars by every reasonable amount of supposed imposture, and there is still a mass left behind which makes the heart sicken at the contemplation. Nor must it be forgotten that the obtrusive and clamorous part of this suffering class bears but a small proportion to those who sit in silence by the cold hearth and the unspread table. So destructive is the presence of beggars in the streets of all chance of comfort and composure, that I have known families prefer living in the back rooms of their houses to avoid it. A great number of the itinerant venders of small wares are literally paupers of another description; their little stock in trade is probably worth only two or three shillings, and they urge your purchase of their goods with a pertinacity and an earnestness which indicate that their very subsistence depends upon their disposing of them. Necessity has sharpened men's wits, and ways and modes of getting a precarious living have been hit upon, which, in more prosperous communities, would scarcely be credited. Passing through London street the other day, I had forgotten the number of a house of business at which I wished to call, and asked information of a decently dressed man, who stood at a corner of a cross street. He replied, that he would tell me "if I gave him a penny, for he had no other means of getting a living than by answering such questions."

But this is a painful subject, and were it not so prominent a one, and one which is vitally connected with the future prosperity and peace of England, I would not have alluded to it; but is sapping the very foundation of her social system, it is the very head and front of all her difficulties. It is the point to which her legislators must promptly and efficiently turn their attention, ere the amount of suffering and misery becomes too great to be any longer stung to madness by the lanche of the populace, and one mighty avalanche of the populace, and one mighty avalanche of the populace, and one mighty aval