

Condition of England.

The starving condition of Ireland has engrossed attention to such an extent that but little regard has been paid to the other portions of the British Islands. But it is impossible to conceal the startling fact, that both Scotland and England proper are fast becoming what Ireland is; in other words, that the awful shadow of beggary and starvation approaches with a sure and stealthy step.

There is no other nation on the globe situated exactly as Great Britain is. There never was one in a similar strait. Not more than two hundred thousand persons own the whole personal and real property in England; while eight millions have no property whatever, but subsist entirely on daily wages, which they cannot always obtain, and which, when obtained, barely supply the scantiest and poorest food. Three millions of the population are paupers, one half of whom live partially, or wholly on the charity of the State. Every year the evil increases, by the number of the poor extending. A few years ago, one man in ten was a beggar, now one man in nine is the proportion. The whole population increasing at the rate of sixteen per cent. every ten years, and three-fourths of this increase being among the laboring classes, some idea may be formed of the frightful rapidity with which England is approaching the present condition of Ireland.

It cannot be said, with any justice, that the soil of England is insufficient to support its population. This is the favorite doctrine of McCulloch and those political economists who favor an aristocracy; but the experience of Flanders, Switzerland and France, where a far larger number of persons to the acre is supported comfortably, proves the mistake of these writers. Even Ireland, which is far more crowded than England, is not yet peopled to the full extent of its capacity to support human life. The present population of that island is nine millions, half of whom are almost beggars; yet it has been estimated that the soil, if properly worked, would support twenty-six millions. At present, twice as much food is raised on the island as is required for the consumption of the entire population; but the largest portion of this food is paid to the landlord in the shape of rent, and exported by him. A late writer says forcibly:—"The princely incomes of the Duke of Devonshire, the Marquis of Conyngham, the Earl of Kenmare, the Marquis of Waterford, and others, are made up by taking from each of their peasants the pig, the whole crop of grain, and part of the potatoes which he has raised during the year—the laborer himself and his family being left to eke out what remains with boiled sea weed, to beg, or to starve."

What Ireland is now, England proper is fast becoming. The accumulation of immense fortunes goes on simultaneously with the increasing destitution of the masses: luxury, clothed in purple, rolls by in its gilded coach, while the grim skeleton starvation runs by its side, vainly extending its fleshless hands for alms. There is but one way in which England can be saved, and that is by a more equitable distribution of the soil. We have stated the number of persons owning real and personal property at two hundred thousand; those who own real estate do not, it is estimated, exceed thirty thousand. Of course, the land is generally held in immense farms, which are cultivated indifferently by hired laborers, so that but one-fifth of the population is engaged in agricultural pursuits. Yet, in Queen Elizabeth's time, quite three-fourths of the people lived by cultivating the soil; and we believe that is the proportion occupied in this, and in all other nations with a healthy, social constitution. Within forty years the agriculturalists of England have decreased one-half. History presents no parallel to this condition of things, except in the declining days of the Roman empire, when alike inequality of fortunes prevailed, and when the rural districts became almost depopulated. Who can wonder that, under such a condition of things, the supply of food is not adequate to the wants of the people? Restore the old yeomanry of England, let her soil be cultivated by small proprietors, and we shall see, as in Flanders, the land supporting in comfort thrice its present population. Experience, too, has shown that while a nation of beggars, despair makes the inhabitants reckless of their increase, in a community of independent yeomanry, the fear of a loss of position acts as a check to prevent a redundant population.

A more equitable distribution of the soil would, therefore, afford a radical cure to the approaching destitution of England. But how is this to be effected? When, in 1786, France found herself in nearly a similar crisis, the people rose in revolution, massacred the aristocracy, confiscated most of the large estates, and became small proprietors, instead of tenants at will. But God forbid that the English people should ever find it necessary to emancipate themselves in a similar manner! Yet, as the British parliament is entirely in the hands of the two hundred thousand persons who monopolize the whole wealth of the country, we cannot expect this privileged class to pass laws for its own spoliation. On the contrary, the whole legislation of the kingdom, as well as the entire working of its financial system, tends to concentrate wealth—in a word, to make the rich richer; and the poor poorer.

What can be done? Things have gone on getting worse for half a century; and they have now come to a pass when a crisis seems inevitable. And yet the Brit-

ish aristocracy never appeared stronger than now, when it has just quelled rebellion in Ireland, awed down the chartists in England, & seen Republicanism checked on the continent. It is a terrible problem: it is the mystery of the age.

Hemp & Musketoos.—Steamboats have their troubles as well as other folks. Like printers and doctors, they have to turn round very often for nothing. The 'dear people' have been told that it was 'no trouble to show good,' till they believe it. See what it's coming to.

On her last trip up the Missouri, the obliging Henry Bry was hailed by a green looking customer at an obscure landing, and rounded to, supposing he wanted to take a passage. The boat swung round, puffing breeze, and impatient.

'Halloo, Capt'n!' 'Coming aboard?' 'No, but I thought maybe somebody there might be travelling up to buy hemp, and I'd jest ax you.'

The Henry Bry gave a snort & a lunge on her keel, and got under way again—the 'great hanged' hemp man swearing that she had no accommodation about her.

Capt. Luke had nearly forgotten the incident, when some distance from Glasgow—deponent saith not where—a man was observed standing on the river bank, beckoning, as it seemed, most seemingly, first with one hand and then with the other, beating the air before his face and looking intently towards the boat. Again the polite Henry Bry fetched a circle of some half a mile, and came to.

'Halloo, stranger, what do you want?' 'Nothing!'

'What in the — (using a bad word this time) did you make signs for?'

'Only to keep the musketoos off to see what boat that was!'

Somebody gave a toast that evening—'Hemp and musketoos—the worst taken on the river.'—Glasgow News.

RIOT AT A FUNERAL.

The Honeedale Democrat gives a long account of a riot at that place, about a week ago. A Protestant young man married a wife whose parents were Catholics. The wife dying, a dispute arose as to whether she should be buried in Protestant or Catholic ground. The husband insisted that she should be buried where he could rest by her side at his death. The parents expressed their fixed determination to have her interred in Catholic ground. Each party sought legal advice, which resulted in the decision that the husband had the right to direct where his wife should be buried. Matters were then compromised so that the Catholic service was allowed to be performed over the body at the house, and she was to be buried in Protestant ground. But on the day of the funeral, just as the body was placed in the hearse, the father came forward and loudly claimed that the body should go to Catholic ground. Thereupon, a fearful riot ensued, in which a large number of people participated, and the coffin was tossed about carelessly. The Sheriff finally quelled the outbreak, and the interment took place in Protestant ground.

ITEMS.

POSTAGE TO THE PACIFIC.—The Postmaster General advertises the following rates of postage for the Pacific: half ounce letters, 12 1/2 cents to Havana, 20 cents to Chagres, 30 cents to Panama, & 40 cents to any port north. No inland postage is charged on them. Newspapers & pamphlets pay three cents, sea postage and inland postage.

Good.—The New Orleans Delta is entitled to the credit of the following capital hit:—

The result of the late Presidential election shows a tie between Gen. Taylor and Gen. Cass—in the vote of the States—each having carried 15. There is also a tie between Gerritt Smith and Van Buren, neither of them having received an electoral vote.

Latest from the Gold Region.—A letter has been received in New York from a young Gothamite, who went out in Col. Stevenson's command, who states that, though the high price of provisions, he had already contrived to amass \$5,000 worth of the "dust," and had a fine prospect for more. The letter is dated October 2, and is thus about the latest news we have from the "diggins."

COL. FREMONT.—A writer in the Buffalo Advertiser expresses the conjecture that Col. Fremont, who recently resigned his position in the army and left St. Louis with a numerous but carefully picked party for California, on his own resources, was well aware of the immense gold deposits on his route, and goes with the intention of enriching himself and his party therefrom.

CALIFORNIA.—They say that Col. Jonathan D. Stevenson, of New York, commander of the expedition which went to California in the fall of 1847, has become immensely rich, & has already sent home a fortune.

The Grave.—It buries every error—covers every defect—extinguishes every resentment. From its peaceful bosom springs none but fond regrets and tender recollections. Who can look down upon the grave of an enemy, and not feel a compunction thro' that he should have warred with the poor handful of earth that lies mouldering before him?—Irving.

Governor's Message next week.

The Dead Sea Expedition.

The Washington Union, of a late date, contains the following very interesting letter from Lieutenant William F. Lynch, under whose command the perilous expedition to the Dead Sea was so successfully prosecuted:

To the Editor of the Union:

With the consent of the Hon. Secretary of the Navy, I beg leave, through your columns to redeem a promise I have made.

When the small party, just returned from the Dead Sea, first entered upon its waters, its members came, one and all, to the conclusion, that having undertaken what others failed to accomplish, the honor of the American name was at stake, and that it were better to die like men than return unsuccessful.

On the evening of the 9th day, however on the southern sea, we were prostrated by the hot blasts of a simoon, sweeping from the desert of Arabia, which was followed by five days of intense and stifling heat. On the afternoon of the 24th day, on the coast of Moab, to our surprise, we were greeted by a deputation of Christians from Kerak, the Kerjath Moab of the Bible.

The joy of this people at meeting us was unbounded. They caressed us, brought us water and leban, (sour milk) all they had, and some of them spent nearly the whole night hunting a wild boar, wherewith to regale us. When told that our forms of worship in America were different from their, they replied: 'What matters it? Christ died for all! Do you not believe in him?' When told that we did, they said: 'Then what are forms before God? He looks to the heart!—We are brothers!' And brothers they continued to call us to the last.

We could not trace their origin, but concluded that they are either the descendants of one of the last tribes converted to Christianity, who in the fastnesses of the mountains, had escaped the Mohammedan alternative of "the Koran or the sword," or the crusaders under the Christian Lord of Kerak.

They number about 150 families, and live in the town—the only one now left, in the once populous country of Moab.—Within the walls are also the huts of 100 Muslim families, and outside are the black tents of the fierce tribe Mera Meyeh, numbering 750 fighting men.

The Christians gave us an invitation to visit their town, about seventeen miles distant in the mountains; but, while hospitably urging us to go, they did not conceal the perils of the visit; for they confessed that they were outnumbered and overawed, and in emergency would not dare openly to assist us.

I determined, however, to accept their invitation at all hazards; for it was evident that, unless recruited by a more bracing atmosphere, we must inevitably perish. In this opinion the lamented Mr. Dale concurred with me.

I will not tire you with an account of the visit—the treachery with which we were threatened, and our return, in battle array with the hostile Sheikh as prisoner—but simply express my conviction that, but for the timely information given by the Christians, we should never have seen our boats again.

These poor Christians are much tyrannized over by their Muslim neighbors.—Their only place of retreat, when threatened with violence, which can scarcely hold 20 families. Their account, which in its narration bore the impress of truth, seems confirmed by the circumstance that in the centre of their little church there is a well, which supplies them with water until their provisions are exhausted, or the restless nature of their persecutors takes them elsewhere. The object of all their hopes is to build a church sufficiently large to hold all their wives and children; for, with all their intolerance, the Muslims respect the house of Him whom they call "Issa, the Prophet of the Christians."

The foundation and a part of the walls of a church have been built, but the work is discontinued for the want of means—the locusts and the locusts having swept their harvests for several years. They gave me an appeal to their Christian brethren in America, which I promised to deliver. With many apologies for its phraseology they begged me to write it out more fully for them; but I prefer sending it forth in its own simple and touching brevity. I will only add, that little should be given, and that discreetly, so as not to excite the cupidity of the Muslims. The Board of Foreign Missions at New York will doubtless receive what may be given, and forward it either to their brethren in Beirut, or to the Anglican Bishop at Jerusalem, for distribution. One cent from each person in this land of charity will be more than sufficient.

APPEAL.

By God's favor: May it, God willing, reach America, and be presented to our Christian brothers, whose happiness may the Almighty God preserve: Amen.

[8642] BEDUAH.

We are in Kerak, a few poor Christians, and are building a church.

We beg your Excellency to help us in this undertaking, for we are very weak.

The land has been unproductive and visited by the locusts for the last seven years.

The church is delayed in not being accomplished, for want of funds; for we are a few Christians, surrounded by Muslims.

This being all that is necessary to write to you, Christian brothers in America, we need say no more.

The trustees in your bounty, ABB'ALLAH EN NAHAS, [Shekh.] YAKOB EN NAHAS. Kerak, 27 Jamad Awak, 1264.

Democratic Banner.

CLEARFIELD, PA. JAN 4. 1849.

The Democratic Standing Committee is requested to meet at the Banner of

office, on next Monday evening, the 8th of January. The following are the names of the Committee: Dr. W. P. Hills, David Litz, C. Pottarff, James Wrigley, S. H. Shaffner, Wm. Brown, & D. W. Moore.

Our Dollar Paper—again.

We continue to receive good encouragement in our contemplated Dollar Newspaper. That is, every person tells us to "go ahead. Such an undertaking should be encouraged—and no citizen of the county will refuse his dollar." Perhaps the very man who thus talks, will, at the same time refuse to put down his name, and say that he will wait awhile. Now this very conduct may defeat our undertaking. We ask no money—nothing but your names—until we are in operation. We therefore say to one and all—now is the time to subscribe—and the only time. Then, fellow citizens of Clearfield county, if you want to benefit your county—and particularly your children—hold back no longer.

We have heard of some respectable citizens, who belong to the political party which we have always opposed, withholding their support "for fear of some Loco Foco trick." We speak plain, and say positively, that we want not the support of any person whose suspicions are so base. We have declared plainly, the course we shall pursue; and to violate those promises, and attempt any political manoeuvre thereby, would be a fraud of the blackest character—and we hope no man—Whig or Democrat—will even suspect us of such degradation.

For two years, at least, we can safely lay aside our partizan character. Further than that, we shall not promise. We are all over for Clearfield—and, if circumstances at the end of that time, render it probable that we can do her more good by again hoisting the Banner of Democracy, than by a neutral position, we will do it with a right good will. Of this, however, we will give timely notice, so that no one can say there is any "trick" about it.

IMPORTANT FROM EUROPE.

We are so unfortunate as to have failed in receiving our most reliable city papers by last mail, so that we have not a copy of the late foreign news. The gist of it is, that Louis Napoleon is elected President of the French Republic—and that the Pope of Rome has been compelled to flee from Italy.

NEXT SENATOR—SPECIAL ELECTION.

The Legislature met day before yesterday. As soon as the Senate would organize, the resignation of Governor Johnston would be sent to the Speaker, who would immediately issue his proclamation for a special election in this district—and who will no doubt appoint it on the day of the Spring election.

Postage.

We ask especial attention to the following communication. In our opinion it suggests a more equal and just scale of postage—on letters and newspapers particularly—than any other yet presented. Let our law makers, both at Harrisburg and Washington, examine it.

For the Banner.

Moore & Hemphill.

Sirs:—I see by the papers that there is quite an excitement on the subject of Cheap Postage. I think the following would be more efficient than any of the propositions I have seen, and it would bear the expenses of the Department before it shall have been in operation two years:

All letters of half an ounce and under, 100 miles 2 cents if prepaid, if not pre-paid 3 cents. All over 100 and less than 400 miles 4 cents if prepaid and 5 cents if not. All over 400 and under 2,000 miles, 7 cents if pre-paid, and 10 cents if not. All over 2,000 miles 20 cents if pre-paid, and 25 cents if not.

The last I think high enough for any letter, even if it should go by the Isthmus of Panama to California and Oregon.

The above prices are low enough to stop the private expresses.

Newspapers addressed to persons in the county where they are printed, free, even if the post-office should be over the line of the county. Small newspapers, such as are printed in our thinly settled counties, half a cent each, and large ones one cent each, if under 2,000 miles by post route. All papers over that distance two cents. Scattering papers two cents if under 1,000 miles, and four cents if over that distance—always prepaid.

Post-masters to send and receive all letters on their own business free, under a penalty of \$50 if they frank one in which any other person is concerned. Members of Congress to receive all letters free whilst in session, but have no power to frank any thing. Documents printed by order of Congress, sent by members to their constituents, marked as such, with the member's name on the

outside, to go at newspaper postage, under a penalty of \$500 for each and every offence that a Congressman is detected in sending any other than such documents in that way. If documents are not worth the postage at a cent a sheet to those that receive them they are not worth printing; and certainly the business men, who seldom receive any, ought not to be taxed on their correspondence to run mair to carry political documents for politicians free.

Pamphlets as they are at present.

The principle of saying that every letter shall be prepaid, as proposed, will never do, as many letters are written by persons on business in which the writers have no pecuniary interest, and of course could not be expected to pay the postage in addition to the trouble of writing.

A FRIEND TO CHEAP POSTAGE.

Slavery Question in Congress.

By a short extract from the proceedings of the House of Representatives, on our first page, the reader will see that their representatives, instead of attending to the legitimate business of the nation, are spending their time in an unnecessary agitation of the slave question—Maryland and Virginia, both slave States, ceded but of their territory what is now the District of Columbia, to the General government. Does any person suppose that those States would have done so, if they had thought that Congress would have deprived the citizens of this ceded territory of any rights they enjoyed previous to the cession? Certainly not. Then why agitate this question? Why not strive to strengthen, rather than weaken the attachment of all our people to the Union?

We are sorry to see the member from this district, Mr. IAVIX, give his first vote of the session on the wrong side of this question. Will he cease his Congressional career without giving a single Democratic vote? Surely there were enough Democrats voted for him to warrant at least one. But, alas! Ephraim is still joined to his idols. Our District will do better hereafter.

The Democrats of Armstrong county have appointed A. J. FALK, Esq. delegate to the next State Convention and recommended Col. G. R. BARNETT, of this county, as Senatorial delegate.

The Wonderful Mathematical Genius.

Our readers have doubtless heard of DESHONG, the wonderful mathematician. His invention should be patronized in this section. It would be a great convenience to Lumbermen. They had better learn this system. It may be to their benefit.—He has politely addressed us the following letter.

LANCASTER CITY, Dec. 28, 1848.

Messrs. Moore & Hemphill.

Sirs:—Wishing to extend my new mode of computing numbers, among business men generally, induces me to write you a few lines on the subject. I will give you a brief statement concerning the wonderful rules I have discovered, and which can be imparted to others. First, if a Ledger be opened, and a column of figures presented, I will give the sum total in less than 5 seconds of time. It matters not how long the column is, or what breadth, the rule performs them in the same manner.

Second, let a sum be written in multiplication, with any number of figures in the multiplier and multiplicand, and I commence writing the product at an one line with great rapidity. Unlimited numbers in Division and Fractions, are performed with the like result. Interest at any per cent, and for any given time, is performed by this rule in a second.

These rules can be learned in one half hour, by any person having the printed rules. Any person enclosing \$3 to me, through the Lancaster Post Office, will receive a full set of these rules by return mail. Post masters on sending three subscribers will receive a full set of these rules gratis.

Please insert this in your paper, & send me one copy of the same, and I will send you a full set free of charge.

Yours truly, P. M. DESHONG, Mathematician.

Orphans' Court Sale.

In pursuance of an order of the Orphans' Court of Clearfield county, held at Clearfield on the sixth day of December, A. D. 1848—there will be exposed to

PUBLIC SALE

at the court house in the borough of Clearfield, on Monday the twenty ninth day of January, 1849, all the interest of the heirs of William Hartshorn, deceased, (said interest being the undivided one-third part) in a certain tract of unimproved LAND containing THREE HUNDRED acres surveyed on warrant to John Doughton, bounded as follows, viz: Beginning at a birch north 50 degrees east 155 perches to a post, south 40 degrees east 320 perches by James Ross to a cucumber, south 50 degrees west 155 perches by John Drisler to a hemlock, north 40 degrees west 320 perches to a birch and place of beginning, surveyed 21st September, 1828, on warrant or application of 1773. The said tract is situated in Ferguson township in the county of Clearfield.

Terms of Sale:—Cash on confirmation of Sale.

ROBERT ROSS, Ex'r of Wm. Hartshorn, dec'd. January 2, 1849.

CARPETS.

COTTON and Linen Carpet chain.—Cotton Yarn, of all numbers—Wadding, Candle Wick.

BLANKETS at CRANS & BROTHER'S, Nov. 14. Curwensville

BLANKS for sale at this office.