

Mountain Sentinel.

"WE GO WHERE DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES POINT THE WAY;—WHEN THEY CEASE TO LEAD, WE CEASE TO FOLLOW."

BY JOHN G. GIVEN.]

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MISCELLANEOUS.

The Brothers Montesquieu, and the Homicides at St. Louis.

The deplorable and almost incomprehensible event which produced so much sensation in the public mind at St. Louis a few weeks ago, and so much grief in several families, seems to have excited equal sensation and grief in France. The last steamer brings out from Mr. Rives, our minister at Paris, a letter of his own to Senator Benton, with many letters and official documents from himself and others to Senator Benton, Senator Cass, and the Hon. Hr. Winthrop, on the subject of this most melancholy occurrence. These letters make known the fact that the father of these young gentlemen (the late Count Montesquieu) labored under insanity, and destroyed his own life two years ago, and that their elder brother is now insane in Paris; and hence raise the irresistible inference that inherited insanity must have broken out in the two brothers at St. Louis.

All the letters speak of them in the same terms, as being remarkable for the amiability of their characters and their "mild and inoffensive manners;" that they came to the United States for information recreation, and especially to see the western country, and with ample means and credit. They descend from a family in France, not only of great historic name, but distinguished for private virtues. The celebrated Duke de la Rochefoucauld Liancourt, author of the "Maxims," is their grandfather on the mother's side; the present Duke de la Rochefoucauld writes in their behalf as his nephews. The Gen. Oudinot (Duke of Reggio, and General Arrighi, Duke of Padua, also write in their behalf as relations. The Count Montesquieu himself belonged to the distinguished and amiable family of that name. Many Americans in Paris, among them Mr. Wm. H. Aspiwall, of New York, also write, and with all the deep feeling which the view of the agonized condition of the unhappy mother and relations so naturally inspires. These letters and official attestations are all forwarded to St. Louis, to have their effect in explaining a transaction which seemed to be incomprehensible.

We believe the trial has not yet taken place at St. Louis. These papers will show it to be a deplorable case of inherited insanity, breaking out in a strange land and leading to a most calamitous event.—A calm and unprejudiced trial is assured by the character of our population, and by the particular conduct of the inhabitants of St. Louis at the time of the dreadful occurrence, and where the circumstances were so exciting. Two amiable young men killed, two others wounded, all in their own rooms, by strangers just arrived and between whom and themselves, not even a look had ever exchanged; the crowded hotel and the neighborhood raised by the loud report of the firearms, and rushing to the ghastly scene; yet the arrests were made without violence, the unhappy strangers conducted to prison without harm and, upon some fear of an attempt on the prison, conducted to the military barracks fifteen miles distant, and there militarily guarded and protected. This was honorable to the population and to the character of the hotel, *Barum's*, one of the most respectable in America, and whose proprietor was the uncle of one of the young men killed. This calmness, moderation, and regard to justice and decorum at the moment of the catastrophe, give assurance of an unprejudiced trial at the time it shall take place, and that these unfortunate young men will be dealt with precisely as if they were our own citizens.—*National Intelligencer.*

A Touching Incident.

Many beautiful and eloquent incidents took place during the sojourn of the Hungarian refugees in New York, but the following, which occurred on Monday morning last, is among the most touching evidences of fraternal devotion which we have ever read:

"Among the vast crowds who thronged to pay their respects to the illustrious Hungarians, were three sturdy Germans, evidently workmen. They were introduced, and remained some time in conversation with Gov. Ujhazy and family. Finally two of them withdrew and left the third, who continued to talk, but seemed to have something to say which he could not easily get out. At last addressing Mlle. Clara the daughter of Mr. Ujhazy, he said that exiles, who were remote from country and friends, and whose property had been confiscated in consequence of their devotion to freedom and the people's rights, they must be in an embarrassed condition. Then drawing from his pocket a bank note, he said: 'Fraulein, this is but little for I am a poor man, and have only what I earn, but I

could not refrain from giving the tribute of my mite to you. Receive this I beg you as the heart offering of a workman to the defenders of liberty.'

Mlle Ujhazy who had not expected anything of this kind; and was rather embarrassed, replied in tone of emotion that she was deeply grateful for such kindness, but that they were not in a condition to ask it, when her father said: 'Take it, my daughter, and feel thyself and us all more honored than if a monarch had bestowed millions upon thee!' at the same time warmly pressing the hand of the noble laborer, and assuring him that they could not forget him. The effect of this incident may be better conceived than described. There was not a dry eye in the room; while every heart beat a response to the sympathy of the noble German laborer. Such evidences of devotion speak more eloquently than the achievements of heroes on bloody fields; and liberty cannot long be withheld from a people who display such glorious attributes of heart and mind.—*Pennsylvania.*

Hungary.—State of the Country.

The *Tribune* translates from the correspondence of the *Kolnische Zeitung* the following letter dated Nov. 19:

The unfavorable result of the Pesth fair has destroyed the last hopes of the merchants and working men, and losses will be incurred by all who deal with Hungary—and especially by the Vienna houses—which must produce serious consequences. The people with the best inclinations, cannot pay, since they have lost a great deal of their money by the executions of Wundischgratz and Haynau, and the plunder of individual soldiers. The Jews of the small city of Raab alone have been forced to pay 200,000 florins, and in general the whole race of Israel has suffered beyond measure.—Landed property in Hungary was formerly cheap, it is now almost given away merely to escape taxation, and because there are no means of the minute cultivation which is necessary for a crop. Near the Neusiedler See, grow the fine grapes of Ruster and Odenberg. A farmer in Odenberg, when I was there, offered his vineyard for 20 florins an acre, but could not find a purchaser. In the most blooming district of Hungary the vine-covered soil is of no higher price than the primitive American forest. Between Gongo and Raab, three places are pointed out on the map—three heaps of ruins, where there is not a single house to show the spot.—The inhabitants who barely escaped with their lives, hitherto found shelter of some sort, but the severe weather which has prevailed for several days drives them forth again to seek a better protection.—The appearance of these unfortunates strongly reminds me of the scenes of Irish wretchedness. They are only old men, women and children. The youths and men have either fallen in battle or have been pressed as soldiers. It is a part of the reorganization of Haynau to place in uniform the few powerful hands who could again cultivate the land to some extent and support their families "in order," as they say, "that the spirit of insurrection may disappear from this generation." Certainly the best means of doing this is to make the whole generation disappear.—And yet I am told that it appears well here in comparison with the northern borders of the Carpathians, and especially with Southern Hungary, in the districts from Arad and Temesvar, to the Platten Sea. Regions of several square miles in extent are deserts; the population has generally died out, and if it were possible to take a census, the deficit would cause the greatest astonishment. If it is not possible to send off large detachments of emigrants, and with sufficient pecuniary means the population will diminish every year, swept off by disease and misery.

The California Acquisition.

The London *Chronicle* refers to the case with which the adventurers from the United States have constructed a State government. It says an American emigration carries along with it the seeds of its national institutions, which begin to germinate as soon as ever it has found a permanent resting-place in a new soil. It contrasts this with the trouble experienced in the British Colonies and the difficulty that British statesmen experience to work out a satisfactory system. On the expansion of the Union it adds—

"Experience only can convince us that the world is destined to see, for any lengthened period of time, the unprecedented spectacle of a united Federal State—we will not say embracing the whole North American continent, but stretching from the banks of the St. Lawrence and the Columbia to the head of the California Gulf. Time must show whether the railroad and the telegraph, which have

already done wonders in linking the Western States to the Atlantic sea-board, will be able permanently to bend together the far-extended limbs of so colossal an empire. California will not be "tapped" quite so easily as the Mississippi valley. The Pacific affords her a ready outlet on the west, and her highways of communication with the Old World will be cut, not across the Rocky Mountains, but over the Isthmus of Panama. With her face to the West, and her back to the American continent, she seems destined to be the centre of a new commonwealth, or group of commonwealths, on the shores of the further ocean."

From the Republic.

English and French Intervention in behalf of the Hungarians.

We copy below an article from the *New York Express*, in which the opinion is expressed that the late movement of England and France in favor of the Hungarian refugees in Turkey was a feint, intended to appease the popular feeling at home. We do not endorse this opinion fully, although we are constrained to admit there is some reason for it, especially as the French Government was supposed to give a hesitating assent to the movement of the combined fleets, and never promulgated its ulterior policy with respect to the Hungarians and the Porte:

The London *Chronicle*, remarking on the fact that Kossuth is still a prisoner in Turkey, follows up with the language which we here quote:

"One day brings us the intelligence that Russia has conceded the question of the Sultan's right to protect them; another, that she insists on the perpetual consignment to a military prison. One day we are assured that the Czar will consent to nothing but this; the next, that he will have them driven out of the Sultan's territories. Now we are told that the Porte will listen to no terms but such as are consistent with the highest honor; another, that he is treating his unhappy captives with a severity and indignity that are despicable. This mail brings us word that the Divan is rejoicing in the assurances of England's countenance and promise of active aid; the next, that Prince Demidoff has arrived in Constantinople, and is sowing jealousies between the ambassadors of England and France. Meantime—and all this time—one thing only remains certain, that Kossuth and his brave comrades continue prisoners. The people of England should look to this. It is plain that there is something wrong at the bottom. With the prompt declaration of hospitality and protection on the part of the Sultan, with the prompt assurances of the sympathy and support of England and France, there should, as a natural result, have been as prompt a liberation of the prisoners.

"Kossuth ought, ere this, if there were no domination on the part of the Czar, no cringing fear or treachery on the part of the Sultan, to have been in London, in the midst of a free, sympathizing, and admiring people."

No doubt of it! Public sentiment has been "hushed up" pretty effectually by the imposing display of a combined French and English fleet in the Dardanelles. We undertook to show a while ago, when the press was exhausting its eulogiums upon these two Powers, for what was believed to be real and not stimulated sympathy for the Hungarian prisoners, that neither Lord Palmerston nor Louis Napoleon cared a fig for Kossuth, so that the popular feeling in London and Paris was soothed a little, and Russia, by some means or other, kept out of the Mediterranean. And if we are not mistaken, the sequel demonstrates that our showing was correct. Sir Stratford Canning, and a half a dozen French seventy-fours, have kept the Russian bear from pouncing upon the Turk, and cutting his way through the Golden Horn into the Mediterranean. This we always looked upon as the real object the French and English Governments had in view when they sent off their fleets to the Dardanelles. No demand was made for Kossuth, nor any stipulations entered into for his release, or the safety of his life even. The threatened war was blown over, and all being quiet again, we presume it has been mutually decided that, after all, it is wisest to keep Kossuth where he is. Were he to go to England or America, his restless spirit and fiery eloquence might reanimate the sinking spirits of those who would follow them into exile, to some issue perhaps prejudicial to those whose sworn enemy he is. If this is not the motive of his imprisonment, what is it? As the *Chronicle* remarks, "There is something wrong at the bottom." There is treachery and collusion in this matter, we suspect, in a quarter where the world, perhaps, is least disposed to look for it.

We are not to be understood to say,

that we do not entertain a high opinion of the sympathy and solicitude the British people, and some portions of the people of France, have shown for the helpless outcasts of Hungary. Indeed, we believe they feel as deeply their sufferings and privations as our own countrymen do; but we cannot help thinking that the great flourish of trumpets both Governments have been making, on behalf of Kossuth and his companions, is but a miserable ruse to obtain credit for what it never entered their heads to perform. It looks very like it at present, does it not?

Cumberland Coal.

The *New York Herald* of Wednesday says:

It appears, from recent experiments on the Camden and Amboy road, that Cumberland coal had fully sustained its character as a superior fuel for the use of railroads; and, following the experiments of the Camden and Amboy, similar examples are in progress on the Reading road. It has been ascertained that Cumberland coal will create more steam than any other species of coal, and when compared to wood, the difference, in point of economy, is not less satisfactory. The official reports of the Baltimore and Ohio and Camden companies have proved that a ton of Cumberland coal is equal to two and a half cords of wood; consequently, coal at \$6 would result in a saving of fifty per cent., wood being at \$4 the cord. It is not, however, very probable that the Erie company will use Blossburg coal for several years, as wood will be abundantly supplied at a price not to exceed one dollar and twenty-five cents.

To the above we may also add, that E. K. Collins, Esq., has made several valuable experiments, with and without blowers, which have resulted in the conviction that Cumberland coal is the best fuel for steam purposes.

Answering a Fool according to his Folly.

The American Messenger for August has the following:

During the month of November, 1843, a clergyman and an atheist were in one of the night trains between Albany and Utica. The night being cold, the passengers gathered as closely as possible around the stove. The atheist was very loquacious, and was soon engaged in a controversy with the minister. In answer to an inquiry of the reverend gentleman as to what would be man's condition after death, the atheist replied: "Man is like a pig; when he dies, that is the end of him." As the minister was about to reply, a red-faced Irish-woman at the end of the car sprang up, the natural red of her face glowing more intensely with passion, and the light of the lamp falling directly upon it, and addressing the clergyman in a voice peculiarly startling and humorous from its impassioned tone and the richness of its brogue, exclaimed: "Arrah, now, will ye not let the bastie alone! Has he not said he was a pig? And the more you pull his tail the louder he'll squeal!" The effect upon all was electric; the clergyman apologized for his forgetfulness in attempting to make any reply to such an assertion, and the atheist was mute the remainder of the journey.

Professor Webster.

Hon. Franklin Dexter has ceased his visits upon Professor Webster. It is rumored that the Hon. Rufus Choate will be employed as senior counsel. Mrs. Webster, with three of her daughters, visited her husband a few days since, for the first and only time since his imprisonment.—The scene was a most interesting and affecting one. Yesterday, Judge Fay, of Cambridge, visited the Professor, and was for some time under lock and key in private consultation with him. The Professor has been making arrangements to have the series of lectures continued at the College, which he commenced before the unhappy circumstances occurred which resulted in his imprisonment. His cell is on the same floor with those prisoners who are committed for offences of a similar character. He is lively and free to chat, and seems very much interested in the perusal of books devoted to the science of which he is Professor. Many individuals have been admitted to see him and converse with him in private as well as public.—*Boston Times*, Dec. 20.

The Boston papers state that the trial will not take place earlier than May next. We conceive this to be a judicious decision; for by that time the excitement will have calmed, and the question of guilt or innocence can be much better discussed and determined.

Many men forbear doing ill because they will not do it—others because they cannot. Many refrain out of conscience, but more out of shame. Some are kept under by reputation, but more out of fear.

FOREIGN NEWS.

ARRIVAL OF THE HIBERNIA.

The steamer Hibernia arrived at Halifax on Saturday morning.

Prussia.

A Telegraphic despatch from Berlin announces that the Austrian Cabinet had made a formal protest against the convocation of the German Parliament at Erfurt—that the Austrian Government alluded to the probability of armed interference by Austria in the affairs of Germany.

The same despatch states that the Prussian Government had answered the Austrian protest by declaring that Prussia would maintain her rights. These accounts have been partially confirmed.

The Cologne Gazette, in a telegraphic message from Berlin, announces that the King has signed a law for the election of representatives to the German Parliament, to assemble at Frankfurt.

France.

The personal quarrels of the members of the Legislative Assembly terminated in some half dozen duels. M. Pierre figured in three or four of these encounters. None, however, terminated fatally.

Measures for modifying the constitution are still discussed. It is now suggested to change the Legislative Assembly into a constituent body—to be invested with the power of electing the President, and of extending the term of his office to such a period as may avoid the necessity of frequent appeals to universal suffrage.

Turkey.

From Constantinople, nothing has transpired to change the previous pacific course of events. It is confidently stated that the British fleet has orders to withdraw from the Dardanelles.

Nothing further has been heard respecting the whereabouts of the Hungarian and Polish refugees. The Russian Ambassador has once more been admitted to an interview with the Grand Vizer.

The diplomatic relations between Russia and the Porte may be presumed to have been renewed.

The Ionian Islands have been restored to perfect tranquility.

We have official information that the dispute between the French Government and the Emperor of Morocco is satisfactorily adjusted.

Austria appears satisfied with what Turkey has done, by transporting the Hungarian refugees to the interior.

Russia demands that the Polish refugees be expelled from the Ottoman Empire, and that the chief should be imprisoned.

Mexico.

By the arrival of the brig Titi, Captain Rodovich, we have been put in possession of files of Vera Cruz papers to the 3d instant, and of Mexico to the 29th ultimo. The Titi had on board \$12,964 in specie.

A proposition signed by 12 members, has been submitted to the Mexican House of Deputies, for the adjournment of Congress on the 1st of December.

The insurrection of Sierra Gorda being quelled, the Minister of War of the Republic has ordered the National Guards who served under General Bustamante to be disbanded and sent back to their respective States.

The Minister of Finances has been authorized by Congress to contract for a loan of \$1,500,000, to be paid back from the amount which will be due by the American Government at the end of the month May next.

The cholera has considerably abated in every part of Mexico. There are still a few cases at Salina, in the State of San Luis Potosi. The whole number of deaths in that city, from the 8th Oct. to the 19th Nov., is 91.

On the 10th of October, the Indians had besieged the Presidio of Janos, in the State of Chihuahua, and made 29 Americans prisoners. The Government of the State in order to release the latter, had offered to the enemy an interchange of prisoners, which they accepted. The Governor of Chihuahua stated that if he could not get a sufficient number of Indians to tally with that of the Americans, he would give whatever the enemy might ask to have our citizens set at liberty.

A coach going from Puebla to Mexico, was robbed at noon by 12 banditti, at a place called Llano Grande, in the vicinity of Rio Frio. An escort of soldiers was at a short distance.

The news from Yucatan is rather gloomy. Another Indian outbreak is hourly expected. Gen. Micheltorena, has been appointed military governor of that Peninsula. He left Mexico a short time since with the sixth battalion of infantry.

The Montplaisirs have met with an enthusiastic reception from the dietanties of Vera Cruz.—*New Orleans Bee*, 10th inst.

LATER FROM CALIFORNIA.

ARRIVAL OF THE EMPIRE CITY!

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.

The Empire City has arrived from Chicago, with two weeks later news from California.

The steamer Panama had arrived at Panama.

Two hundred and fifty passengers, and half a million of gold, and a large number of passengers.

Among the passengers is Hoff, a bearer of despatches to government.

The Empire City did not bring the California mails.

The gold continued as plentiful as ever.

The election for the ratification or rejection of the new Constitution, was held on the 10th of November. At the same time, a Governor, Lieut. Governor and two Representatives in Congress were chosen. Also, members of the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of California.

It is certain that the Constitution has been adopted by an almost unanimous vote.

It is the general impression that Peter H. Burnett has been elected Governor, John M'Dowell, formerly of Indianapolis, Lieutenant Governor.

The returns from San Francisco and elsewhere, indicates the election of Redman Price and George W. Wright as Representatives to Congress.

The entire Democratic ticket succeeded in San Francisco.

Col. Sutter was the Whig candidate for Governor.

He ran on the People's ticket.

It is now clear that T. Butler King will not be elected to the United States Senate.

It is manifest that the Legislature will be largely Democratic.

The chances are in favor of the election of Wm. K. Gwin and Charles J. Fremont as United States Senators.

The overland trains which left the States last spring and summer, across the mountains, had all arrived safe in California.

Col. Russell, of Missouri, who headed the vanguard left Independence on the 24th April, and arrived at Sutter's Fort, on the 8th August. His company broke up before he reached California. The gallant Colonel is now at Puebla, practising law.

Edwin Bryant, formerly editor of the Lexington (Ky.) *Intelligencer*, had realized the snug sum of \$100,000, by speculating in lots in San Francisco. He will return home in June.

Carpenters' wages \$16 per day. Buildings are going up with a tremendous rush. Both San Francisco and Sacramento were rapidly filling up from the mines.

Living is getting more costly, daily.

The rainy season was prevailing.

The Wheeling Bridge.

It is evident that the Wheeling Bridge Company will have more trouble than a little. The fact that our boats for a second time have been stopped on account of the lowness of the Bridge, will furnish additional evidence that the structure is a nuisance and should be abated. The *Journal* of Wednesday says:

"We cannot scarcely imagine by what pretext the Wheeling Bank and Bridge Company will neutralize the Hibernia's compelled stoppage and return in this instance. On a former occasion they executed the bridge by charging that the Hibernia would have 'gone under' but for a diabolical counsellor in the person of Edwin M. Stanton, Esq., who has charge of the case against the Bridge Company.—That gentleman, most unfortunately, is confined to his bed by an injury, which will defer the trial of this case. As he was not on hand to advise, what will the Wheeling folks do to explain away the damage done the Hibernia this second time? Will they charge it to spite or the Bridge? Perhaps we shall hear that the boat could have proceeded on her voyage, with chimneys intact, by waiting only a few days. We believe that, too."

We have understood that some of the citizens of Wheeling were particularly pleased when they heard of the accident that happened to Mr. Stanton, and they even boasted that the case in the Supreme Court would be abandoned. But they will find themselves sadly mistaken. The interests of Pittsburg, we feel authorized in saying, will not materially suffer in consequence of the illness of Mr. Stanton; as Thomas J. Bingham, one of the most eloquent members of the bar, will see that Wheeling obtains no undue advantage over Pittsburg, on account of the unfortunate accident that befel the senior counsel in the case.—*Pittsburg Post.*