

JOHN A. RENSHAW, Family Grocer and Tea Dealer,

My Wife's Last Care. Another day will pass away, Another sun in beauty rise; But ere its light shall greet thy sight, Death will have closed thy mother's eyes; And thou wilt weep to know that sleep Is set and sealed forevermore; Yet think 'mid all the tears that fall, Life's pang as well as joys are o'er.

The Missionaries Safe. In noticing, a short time ago, the Indian massacres in Minnesota, we remarked that it was feared that the missionaries were killed. It is now ascertained that they are safe. One of them, Rev. Dr. Williamson, thus writes to the Presbyterian:

TRAVERSE DES SIOUX, Aug. 28, 1862. MR. EDITOR—Ere this, many of your readers have been informed of the terrible war waged by the Sioux against our country, and feel anxious about the missionaries. Thanks be to God, we and our families are all safe. I will give you a few particulars of the beginning of the war and of our escape.

On Monday, 18th inst., about 7 A. M., a party of the town or Milekanton Sioux, having returned from murdering several German families, one or two days journey North-east of their residence, made an attack on the traders and others living about the Lower Agency, and soon killed all they could find. They then returned, and third made their escape by fleeing to Fort Ridgely, about thirteen miles distant. A detachment of more than fifty soldiers, sent to the relief of the people there, on arriving at the ferry near the Agency, were surrounded, and more than half of them killed. The same day they began an attack on the fort, and on some part of the settlement not far from New Ulm. The news of these things was quickly conveyed to us, thirty-three miles distant, and of several things we read even before this occurred.

Early in the evening, one or two of the traders at Pajutazu were shot, when they all fled, and many of the Indians spent the night in seizing their goods. Other unfriendly Indians at the same time were attempting to seize the horses belonging to and about the mission stations, and did seize all except one belonging to myself, and one of Mr. Cunningham's. Most of the Christian Indians staid near us all night to guard us and our property, and urging and assisting us to leave. One of them acted as a guide across the prairie to the employees of Government and their families, in all probably fifty persons, who fled during the night. Others conducted the families of Mr. Riggs, Cunningham, and Pettijohn, to an island in the Minnesota river, where they concealed them till the afternoon of Tuesday. About day-break two men, who were living about eighteen miles above Pajutazu, were attacked, one of whom was killed, and the other escaped with a severe shot in the shoulder, and musket ball in the lower part of his body, and during the day joined Mr. Riggs' party, which now amounted to twenty-two persons, with only one horse and buggy to convey them more than one hundred miles.

On the morning Mr. Hunter and family, with the younger members of my family, started with one wagon, drawn by two horses, and another by a yoke of oxen, and on the 21st, were conducted by Christian Indians to a ford in the river, and thence to Mr. Riggs' party; and on the 22nd, in the afternoon, they started across the prairie in a drizzling rain. Avoiding all roads as dangerous, they walked on till night, and then lay down in their wet clothes, without fire and with little food. Having been fully informed of what was going on, myself, wife and sister, concluded that it was best for us to leave also, which we did early on Wednesday. The Christian Indians did every thing in their power to assist us, one of them furnishing the wagon and oxen, and accompanying ten miles on the way, at the risk of his life. Just before I left the Indians, I was informed that Mr. A. W. Higgins, Government teacher at Saqui Park, was murdered. Friday afternoon, having followed the trail of those who had preceded me, we overtook them, and that night we drew up to Fort Ridgely, and Mr. Hunter and wife and sister could get into it spoken of. We were within two miles of it, and said that he had more than five officers, who advised them, and the soldiers they had already five days' and nights' hunger and cold, and the burning stables of the fort. I took and my wife and sister, to the settlements in safety. A part of us came to St. Peter last night, the others having gone to Henderson. It made us sad as we travelled for about thirty miles of densely settled country, to find but a single family in their own homes, and not daring to sleep in it, and to see thousands of acres of fine wheat as ever green, in the shock, being destroyed by cattle and birds; and still sadder, on our arrival, to learn that Fort Ridgely is not yet relieved, and hundreds of individuals, with many of whom some of us were acquainted, have been murdered. More than one-third of the population of the State, have left their homes, but I hope many of them will soon be able to return, as fifteen hundred men have left here today, going to Fort Ridgely.

New Discovery in Iron-Clad Ships. A new development in the history of iron-clad ships has been made, for which the country is indebted to the genius of Commodore Porter, the gallant destroyer of the once formidable rebel ram Arkansas. By the official report to the Navy Department of his daring attack, single-handed, upon the Arkansas, under the heavy batteries at Vicksburg, on the 22d of July, we learn the following important facts: The Essex, although clad with iron plating only one inch thick at the thickest part, was for her size, and a half under her of seventy heavy guns in battery, twenty field pieces, and three heavy guns on board the ram. The fire was indeed terrific. In the intrepid Commodore's words, "so rapid was this fire that for half an hour the hull of the ship was completely enveloped by the heavy jets of water thrown over her by the enemy's shot, shot and balls." At one time this cannonading was so short a range that he says: "We were so close that the flashes of the enemy's guns through my gun-holes drove my men from the guns." These astonishing results are due to the scientific skill of Commodore Porter in constructing the now famous Essex. She was completed under his own eye, and according to his own plans. Unable to adopt for service in the Western rivers the heavy plating used upon the Monitor and the Ironsides, Commodore Porter conceived the idea of constructing the Essex in such a manner that most of the shot would be received at an angle, and be compelled to glance off by an elastic backing to the plates.

By careful experiments upon targets he found that, by using a peculiarly prepared lining of India rubber between the iron plates and the wooden backing, an iron armor of only one inch thick would not be affected by a shot that would penetrate five inches of solid iron. The immense saving of weight and of expense effected by this important discovery will at once be appreciated. Indeed, it is the only method by which the use of iron-clad guns on our Western rivers is practicable. Gunboats plated in the ordinary manner, with inch iron, have proved worthless, and the experiment will no longer be repeated. For patriotic reasons we do not propose to describe, in detail, the mode of construction adopted by Commodore Porter; it is enough to announce the great fact. The success of this practical experiment of the Essex, for two hours and a half under the impregnable batteries of Vicksburg is decisive.

The result of this terrific fire from "a battery not over one hundred feet off," is thus described in the official report: "A heavy ten-inch shot from the nearest battery struck my forward casemate about four feet from the deck, but fortunately did not penetrate. A rifle seven-and-a-half inch shot from the same battery struck the casemate about nine feet from the deck; it penetrated the iron, but did not get through, although so severe was the blow that it started a four inch plank two inches thick and eighteen feet long, on the inside. A conical shell struck the casemate on the port side, also, as we were rounding, penetrated the three-quarter inch iron, and came half way through the wooden side; it exploded through, killing one man and slightly wounding three." During the heavy cannonading most of the shot glanced from the sides of the Essex, but "during that time this vessel was heavily struck forty-two times and only penetrated twice." This penetration was by the rifle seven-and-a-half inch shot and the conical shell above described. We believe that the means of the war record no exposure of a gunboat to a cannonading so severe as this, and the results are regarded by military men as perfectly conclusive and satisfactory.

We learn that our Navy Department have already adopted some of the features of this plan in the new iron-clad steamers, and that the thin plating of the decks is protected by an under sheathing of India rubber. This will remove one of the great sources of annoyance which has been found in the Monitor from the leaking of her decks, and it will effectually prevent any further mortifying occurrences like the penetration of the deck of the Galena from the fire of Fort Darling.

Manufacture of Saltpetre. The successive Governments of France have, for many years, encouraged every invention and improvement in the production of nitrate of soda, to render them, if possible, independent of England for the necessary supply to the gunpowder works. The artificial niteries or nitre beds collected for this purpose, consist of animal matter, the rubbish from the walls of old houses, stable litter, refuse of plaster works, &c. The decomposition of the animal matter produces carbonate of ammonia, which dissolved in water, in connection with the air charged with oxygen, is transformed into nitrate of ammonia. This product, under the influence of the solar ray, and the action of time decomposes the calcareous and magnesia carbonates in the plaster rubbish, forming nitrates of lime and magnesia, and reproducing carbonate of ammonia, which, set at liberty, serve anew to form the nitrates. According to this theory, the nitrate of soda part serves to reunite the elements of the atmosphere to produce nitric acid, and it causes this acid, formed under its influence, to act on the insoluble carbonates, to form nitric acid, and to change them into nitrates. But this action is not the only one; for Kuhlmann discovered that in most instances the ammonia itself was decomposed, and that its nitrogen, combined with the oxygen of the atmosphere contained in the water, is thus transformed into nitric acid. These calcareous and other earthy nitrates dissolved in water are decomposed by sulphate of soda, thus forming nitrate of soda and sulphate of lime by double decomposition. (Sulphate of soda is then heated with iron salt, potassium and nitrate of potash Saltpetre is chloride of sodium (common salt), which is in the Mammoth mine of 1812. It is a fine ore derived from the excretions of bats, &c. chiefly manufactured by our gunpowder works in India. It is not known whether any saltpetre is now obtained from natural sources in the Southern States. If the secessionists were deprived of this substance entirely, they could not carry on war. The nitrate of soda is very abundant in many parts of the world, and were it so deliquescent, it would never just as well for making gunpowder as the nitrate of potash (saltpetre).

The formation of natural saltpetre is a very slow process, requiring about two revolutions of the globe. During the French war in Paris, and was made in one out off, twice this quantity of foreign supplies in the same space of time, it is made in New-York with its present number of in-

habitants. In Sweden, each peasant who owns a house is bound by law to make a certain quantity of saltpetre every year for the use of the State. In Spain, Egypt, Persia, and especially India, vast quantities of this salt are made annually; and it is not only a source of great profit, but of warlike power to Great Britain.

My Bird. Ere last year's moon had left the sky, A birding sought my Indian nest, And folded, oh so lovingly, Her tiny wings upon my breast.

New-England Orthodoxy. DEPARTURES from the orthodox faith on the part of ministers in New-England, is not confined to recent times. In a sermon preached by Dr. Increase Mather, in 1701, on "The Glory Departing from New-England," one of the divisions treats of this topic, viz.: "There are ministers who are not principled nor spirited like their predecessors." The following is the whole paragraph under this head, capitals, italics, and orthography the same as in the original: "So far from being so, as that Sunday of them have in Print Mock' and Scoot' of the holy Covenant, and other Holy Practices which have been the Glory of these Churches of the Land. Now one of the greatest tokens for good unto New-England, is, That God has raised up Young Men in the Ministry (and Blessed be God that there are so many of them) who are true and faithful to the Interest of Christ and to those Holy ways which have been professed and Practiced in our Congregations. So it is an Evil Omen and does not bode Progress to us, to see that Young Ministers shall Despise that Glory, which their Fathers had such a value for; under such a Specious pretence of peace, they will part with Truth and Holiness, and yet at the same time by new Notions and Practices make Divisions. Do not some of them Cry down the Truths as little things, Small matters not worth Contending for, which with Judgment of the first Ministers in New-England, were of weight and worth, as they were willing to suffer Suspensions, Imprisonments, and a Voluntary Exilement out of their Native Land, in bearing their Testimony thereunto. Are not some, yea and some who are not the Youngest Men, introducing Innovations which our Presbyterian Brethren in England and the Reformed Churches beyond Sea, have condemned, and which the English Church itself approacheth not of. As Innovations not warranted by Scripture gradually creep in upon us, the Glory will gradually depart."

Growth of Cotton in India. It is one of the stern retributions which follow this wicked rebellion, that it is gradually stripping the South of the elements of power by which it hoped to create a great empire and to take a place among the nations. The two great fabrics of the fabric of its hopes rested were SLAVERY and CORRUPTION—slavery as furnishing the labor needed in its own territory and in those tropical regions over which the new empire was to expand, and cotton as affording the material of unbounded wealth. But gradually both these props seem to be knocked away. Slavery is getting hard blown, and with the advance of our armies enforcing the sweeping Confiscation Act, seems likely to perish utterly before the end of the struggle. And the withholding of cotton by the South, which was to compel the whole world to recognize the new empire, seems on the contrary to have had the effect to stimulate the growth of the plant elsewhere, so that it will soon make the world independent of its former sources of supply. A correspondent of the Evangelist, writing from Northern India, thus speaks of the impulse given to cotton-growing in that country: "You can have little idea of the increased activity in the cotton market in this country in consequence of the civil war in America. The cotton is brought to this place (Allahnuggur) in great quantities from places three hundred miles farther in the interior, and much of it changes hands here. All through the dry season long lines of carts loaded with cotton were to be seen constantly passing along the roads, making the travelling on those lines of road extremely unpleasant. Each cart would have on it ten large bundles, which the native merchants are constantly on the look-out for news from America. The news of some great success of the Federal troops was reported at one time, and it was said that the Rebellion was at an end. That day cotton was sold here at very low rates, and holders of cotton lost thousands of rupees by forcing sales. A few weeks ago a native trader brought me a telegram just received from Bombay. He could not read English, and he wished me to read it to him. It was to this effect: 'Fear not! Be glad! Cotton is advancing!' A state of things in America has brought prosperity to merchants in this country, inasmuch as they are in part for the favorable merchants have not been so. Some past year by trading small fortunes the those who have realized them, among be reckoned an American, and profits may be the head of which is a son of the Bombay, of one of our American colleagues, and whose influence in Bombay is all on the side of Christ and his cause."

Wholesale and Retail. The late Philip Kearny was born in the city of New York, on the 2d of June, 1815. He was of Irish descent, his great grandfather having settled in Monmouth County, New Jersey, in 1715. From his earliest youth Philip Kearny was imbued with a military spirit, but at one time, in deference to the wishes of his mother, he studied law. The moment he was freed from the restraint imposed upon his natural tendencies for a military life, he joined the United States First Dragoons, commanded by his uncle, Stephen Watts Kearny, the conqueror of New Mexico and California, who died a Brevet Major General, in 1848, at Vera Cruz.

After the Mexican war, Major Kearny was sent to California, and commanded an expedition against the Indians of the Columbia river. In 1850 he resigned his commission and returned to Europe. During the Italian campaign of 1859 Major Kearny served as volunteer aid to Gen. Morris, a distinguished officer in the French army, and the Emperor Napoleon bestowed upon the American officer the Cross of the Legion of Honor.

He was Brigadier General of the New Jersey forces. Gen. McClellan wept when he gazed on the dead body of the hero, and, when questioned as to who should take the command of the departed, replied—"Who could replace Phil. Kearny?"

Soldiers Cared For. Out of one thousand soldiers, one hundred and four are sick; this is the constant proportion, as reported by the Sanitary Commission. The Autumn always increases the number, by reason of the hot days and cool nights, causing diarrhea and dysenteries, of every shade and degree. One yard and a half of stout woolen flannel, fourteen inches broad, worn, from August to November, tightly and constantly around the abdomen, in such a way that it will be double in front, with the top strongly sewed on the end, and about one yard from the other, according to the size of the person, for convenience of tying, would do more toward preventing bowel-complaints among our brave and self-denying soldiers, than all known human means besides. This simple device arrested the onset of the cholera, in three days, in one of the largest divisions of the Prussian army, when the terrible scourge last visited Europe. Let every family who has a member in the army, forward such an article on the instant of reading this; if you can do no better, send an old worn petticoat, for, by reason of its softness and pliability, it is better than any thing else. Let every mother who reads this, and who may have a son or other relative bravely battling for the perpetuity of our noble Union, send one abdominal-bandage, to be given to some worthy soldier who has no mother, no sister, no wife, to exercise these kindly cares for him. And let the generous rich, of whom there are so many among us—the Astors, the Aspinwalls, the Minturns, the Stuart Brothers, and those like them—be assured that it is impossible to spend an amount of money in afflicting any, in any other way. One man who has been in the army twelve months is worth now two raw recruits; hence one dollar's worth of good woolen flannel for one of them, or even an old petticoat, by keeping such soldier healthy in the field, is worth more than the fifty dollars bounty paid for the two recruits, under the present exigencies of the case.

Winter is coming; let the sisters and mothers of the soldiers begin to knit two or three pairs of thick woolen socks, to be forwarded to each son and brother by the first of October; let the toes and heels be double knitted, or sheathed with the blue cloth of some worn-out coat or pantaloons, cautioning the soldier to keep the toe nails closely trimmed, so as to prevent the cutting of the feet.

The Opium Trade. We call the attention of our readers to a letter on the next page from our correspondent in India, discussing the finances of that Government, in which he presents some startling facts in regard to the Opium Trade. He states that the Indian Government derives from this source alone an annual revenue of \$4,000,000, or twenty millions of dollars. The amount of opium so much, the whole amount of the trade is more than double this sum. All this is wrung from the miserable and degraded Chinese. The Finance Minister of the Indian Government calculates with the utmost coolness and satisfaction on the prospect that China will require one hundred thousand chests of opium a year, for which it will be prepared to pay twelve or fifteen millions of dollars, or from sixty to seventy millions of dollars!

The effect of such a constant and enormous drain of the precious metals (for the great object is to get hold of the Chinese silver), must be to render a kingdom already poor yet more impoverished and wretched. It takes away the very life-blood of trade and commerce. It paralyzes home industry, and yet far more terrible is its effect on the physical and moral stamina of this miserable population. John Chinaman is not a giant at best, but the free use of opium destroys the little manhood that he has left. Its effects on the system are too well known—not only in Asia, but in Europe, and even in America. It is the worst form of intoxication. It has been prepared to pay twelve or fifteen millions of dollars, or from sixty to seventy millions of dollars!

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gate income last year, derived from voluntary contributions or from dividends on money bequeathed or invested in consols and other stocks, reached a sum which, translated from pounds, shillings and pence into American money, amounts to \$12,200,385.

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