J. L. Wolf

The North Carolina Whig.

"Be true to God, to your Country, and to your Duty."

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Poetry.

From the Jacksonville, Fla., News.

Song of Marion's Men.

I

From the sandy pine barren, the mountain and moor
From the halls of the wealthy, the huts of the poor,
We are gather'd a resolute partizan band,
To strike for the cause of a suffering land.
Our home is the forest, the swamps and the glade,
Our dwellings, the pine and the palmetto shade,
And the note of the bugal thro' morass and fen,
Is the signal of battle for Marion's Men.

II

Our best blood may crimson the tide of Santee,
Ere we cringe to a tyrant, or cease to be free;
And though our sand barrens be fertile with gore,
We tread them as freemen, or tread them no more;
Cornwallis and Rawdon, we laugh them to scorn;
But when the wild music of Marion's horn
Wakes the shades of the forest, hill, valley and glen,
Echo out with the answer of Marion's Men!

III.

A host of bold spirits, a grove of bright blades,
With charges all clashing, drawn up in the shades
Are waiting the signal that bids them away,
All ready and eager, to dash in the fray,
Let the legions of Tarleton beware, as they ride
On their merci'less errand, inflated with pride,
For the weapons of vengeance gleam terrible, when
Peals out the dread war note of Marion's Men!

IV.

Yet, there once was a time, when this foe-dreaded land,
Were artizans, tradesmen, and tillers of land,
Were peaceful and harmless, aye! that was before
The ruthless marauder had [illegible] on our shore
Hurrah! for the contest, no [illegible] must we know;
'Till our own Carolina be rid of the foe;
Sullied be our weapons, and fiercely 'till then,
Be sounted the war cry of Marion's Men!

W. K. C.

Jacksonville, Nov. 1854.

Miscellaneous.

THE DIAMOND RING;
OR,
THE ASTROLOGER'S STRATAGEM.

A TALE OF BOSTON IN 1775.

BY OLIVER OPTIC.

CHAPTER I.

THE GOLDSMITH'S SHOP.

In the year 1775—a year memorable in the annals of our country—there was located in Newberry Street, a large wooden building, the ground floor of which was occupied by a jeweler's shop. Over the door, in what would now be termed rude letters, were inscribed the name and occupation of the inmates—"*Dewrie & Waldeck, Goldsmiths.*"

It was the day after the battle of Lexington. A few excited colonists had gathered in the shop, discussing the particulars of the affray, the details of which were slowly spreading through the town. The affair had a startling effect. The fires of patriotism, which burned brightly in a thousand hearts, were all ready to burst out. It needed but such an act as that at Lexington to multiply events for the page of the historian.

The group in the goldsmith's shop seemed to be of one mind. The vigorous proceedings of the "Committee of Safety" were warmly approved. All were eager for the strife which should inform the mother country that her American Colonies were the homes of men, and not of servile vassals, who would patiently submit to be scourged.

Behind the counter stood the senior of the partners, silent, but listening with intense interest to the discussion. Some brooding care seemed to have gathered over his mind, and closed up the deep channels of his heart, for it beat not in unison with those of the group.

John Dewrie was no patriot. His soul was too narrow to admit any sentiment higher than the love of self. Ten years of stirring times had added but one care to his bundle of worldly vexations. He was rich—his mind and heart were absorbed in his money bags. The fear of being despoiled of his treasure was a source of more anxiety to him than the invasion of his country's liberties. His sordid soul was unmoved by the oppression and tyranny which had roused his countrymen to action—to arms. He was identified with no code of principles—neither those of liberty. His money bags were his all and all, and he was willing to escape the cause of the party which promised him the best protection in the possession of his wealth. Thus far, in his inability to decide the question satisfactorily, he had remained neutral, or rather had avoided a rupture with either party. With anxious solicitude he watched the signs of the times, and having no prejudices either way, he was impartial in his judgment.

While the group were thus discussing the question, they were interrupted by the entrance of a young man, scarcely twenty-one years of age—a nephew of the senior partner. His dress was disordered, and he was apparently exhausted by the fatigues of a recent jornney.

The young man received a hearty greeting from the excited group, but his uncle appeared to regard him with a timid reserve.

"Well, Rob," said one of the group, are you from Lexington?"

"I am; the first blow has been struck, the country is all in arms."

"Tell us about the fight, Rob, the fight! Did the militia do their duty like men?"

"Ay, soldier and civilian," replied the young man, who proceeded to relate the particulars of the affair, which are as familiar as household words to every American.

"Hurrah for the militia of Massachusetts!" shouted one of the more enthusiastic of the listeners, when the young man had completed his narration.

"Gentlemen, gentleman, let me entreat you to be cautious; you forget that the town is full of British soldiers," said the prudent John Dewrie, beginning to tremble lest the enthusiasm of the group should compromise his own standing with the loyalists.

"So it is—a curse upon them! But if there is any meaning in the public sentiment of Boston, they will soon be driven out."

"Very likely; but you know there is nothing to be gained by imprudence," returned the goldsmith.

"You are overcautious, Mr. Dewrie."

"It is necessary to be very careful in these troublous times."

"Too much prudence will make you a traitor to the liberties of these colonies," and the speaker bestowed a most unequivocal sneer upon the timid goldsmith.

"I wish well to my country," replied Dewrie, in a fawning tone; "and I only ask her sons to use a little prudence and forethought. Yes, I wish well to my country."

"But not to your king," exclaimed a tall, elderly man wearing the uniform of a British officer, who at this moment entered the shop. "So this is the head-quarters of rebellion!" and the speaker cast a look of stern inquiry at the group.

"No, God forbid!" exclaimed the goldsmith, raising both hands in a deprecatory gesture. "We are all loyal citizens, Colonel Powell."

"Ay, loyal," said one of the group, "but liberty or death! the liberty of the English subject, or the death of the patriot martyr!"

"Beware, citizens! your speech savors of [illegible]" said Colonel Powell, with a menacing gesture.

"Is it rebellion, sir, to insist upon the natural rights of the English subject?" said Robert Dewrie, with modest firmness.

"Ah, young man, did I not see you at Lexington yesterday?" exclaimed the officer, fixing a gaze of surprise upon the goldsmith's nephew.

"It may be you did; I was there," fearlessly replied the young man.

"And in arms against your King?"

"In arms against tyranny and oppression!"

Colonel Powell regarded the young man with astonishment. The haughty servant of the crown was not accustomed to hear his master thus bearded, but either from prudence or some other motive, he refrained from chastening the insolence, as, in his opinion, it merited. Turning towards the goldsmith, he drew from his pocket a ring, which he handed to him.

"Here is a ring, Mr. Dewrie, I have brought to be repaired."

"A glorious gem," exclaimed the goldsmith, as he cast an admiring glance at the brilliant diamond.

And a valuable one," added Colonel Powell. "Have a care with it; it belongs to my daughter, who values it next to her own soul. It was the gift of her deceased mother."

"Do not fear: I will be very careful with it," and the goldsmith continued his examination of the brillant.

The ring was peculiar in its construction—so much so that the artizan was entirely engrossed in the survey of its strange and exquisite workmanship. Now, he admired the chaste and beautiful design, and then mumbled over a technical criticism of its superior finish. Turning it over and over, he examined in various positions the hue and brilliancy of the daimond. As if to ascertain the mould of the fair hand it was wont to adorn, he slipped it over his lean, attenuated finger. It would not pass over the joint, and the goldsmith, in the abstraction of his thoughts, carelessly turned it round until he crowded it over the bone.

"What are you about sir?" said Colonel Powell, as he saw the ring pass over the joint. "Is this your care?"

"It was quite accidental, quite," replied the jeweler, endeavoring to take off the ring.

"By heavens! Mr. Dewrie, you have got it over your drumstich of a digit, and it will never come off until your finger comes with it."

"No fear of that, sir," and the goldsmith struggled in vain to remove the ring; the conformation of the joint effectually prevented its removal.

Colonel Powell, in his anger, used sundry undignified expressions, which added to the goldsmith's confusion. It was in vain he twisted the unfortunate finger; it refused to yield its treasure. Robert Dewrie and others of the group made an effort to remove it, but without success.

"My finger is smelled, Colonel Powell; and I shall not be able to get it off tonight," said John Dewrie, exhausted with his efforts, and the pain which had been produced by the unceremonious twistings of the officer.

"Very well; but if you do not remove it before to-morrow morning, your finger shall be chopped off. Is your partner, Mr. Waldeck, within?"

"He is; Robert, show Colonel Powell into the back parlor."

The young man obeyed, and in a moment returned to the shop.

"Now, uncle John, I want one hundred pounds this very night," said Robert, as he re-entered.

"One hundred pounds! Why Robert, are you mad? I have not seen half the sum this many a day."

"But you can see it if you desire. I want to assist in furnishing provisions for the militia at Cambridge."

"Bravo!" exclaimed several of the group which still remained in the shop.

"You are crazy, Robert; you are crazy—you've lost your senses entirely," whined John Dewrie.

"Not at all, uncle John. You are my guardian, and I want the money."

"But, boy, you are under age."

"I shall be twenty-one is less than two months."

"I could not possibly raise such a sum, if I would."

"But you *must* raise it."

"And I *will* not," said the goldsmith, whose anger was rapidly supplanting his prudence.

"My country needs it, and have it I will, if I break into your strong box."

High words ensued, and the danger of violence seemed to be apparent to the listeners, and they interfered. Robert Dewrie's was evidently roused to a high pitch of excitement, and with an oath he withdrew to an inner apartment.

The little knot of patriots soon after withdrew, to discuss the domestic brawl they had just witnessed. John Dewrie's reflections on the scene were far from agreeable. Remembering the threat to invade his strong box, the goldsmith opened a trap-door behind the counter, and descended to the cellar.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

The addition of a new dogma to the tenets of the most numerous of the religious denominations of Christendom is one of the remarkable events of the day. The Pope has thought fit to collect the opinions of the Bishops of the Catholic Church on the question of the immaculate conception of Mary, the mother of Jesus, and a large majority of their voices being in the affirmative, he has proclaimed, as the doctrines of the church, that the blessed Virgin was conceived without any stain of original sin. What was heretofore a matter of doubt and dispute is now to be a matter of faith. A dognia which the councils of the church hitherto had left open to question, which was not regarded as settled by the Scriptures, as the fathers, or tradition, is now inserted in the Catholic creed, and all who do not accept it are to be considered as heretics. Of the Bishops of the Latin Church thirty-two only gave their voices against the proceedings as unseasonable, and four objected to adopting a tenet of religion without holding a General Council, in which it could be first discussed. All Rome is represented as rejoicing that the list of incontrovertable points of doctrine has received this important addition.

Of course, this declaration of the sinlessness of the Virgin from the beginning of her existence is not made without regard to its bearing upon the doctrines and practice of the church that adopts it. To the adoration of the Son is is not in any manner necessary, or even auxiliary. The character ascribed to him by that church is too exalted to admit of any addition of eminence or honor, or purity or sanctity.

The Latin Church, however, prescribes the worship of the Virgin, and any view of her character by which it is exalted and brought nearer to the Divine would of course increase her claims to reverence, and so far lessen the difficulty which some of the faithful might feel in offering prayers to a human being. This doctrine of her immaculate conception places her beatification far above that of the Saints in the calendar. It places her in a state of exemption from all human frailties, from all liability to sin and error throughout the course of her life, and elevates her to a height of sanctity which no other of the children of men ever occupied. The new dogma is, therefore, auxiliary to the adoration of the Virgin. Henceforth it is not permitted to any member of the Latin Church to admit the possibility of her having fallen into sin by any proclivity or infirmity naturally inherited from her progenitors. If any man hereafter shall seek to lessen her claims to the reverence in which she is held by speaking of her as liable, by original constitution, to the defects of our common nature, he blasphemes and renders himself subject to the censure of the church. In this manner the new dogma aids and fortifies the practice of praying to the Virgin.

Among the Prelates who objected that the doctrine of the immaculate conception should not be made a tenet of the Latin Church without the intervention of a General Council, the Archbishop of Paris is mentioned. The Gallican Church has hitherto shown itself somewhat intractable in the relations which it has maintained with the Pope; and from a letter written at Paris, it appears that there is some dissatisfaction with the late proceeding among the French Catholics. It would be rash, however, to predict anything but eventual submission to the Papal authority in regard to this question. The tendency to liberalism in the Latin Church has had its day, for the present at least, and now the movement of the religious mind is in the contrary direction.—*N. Y. Evening Post.*

IMPORTANT TO EDITORS AND NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS.—Judge Oakley ruled in the Fuller Libel case, which has just been tried in the Supreme Court of New York, that if the paper making statement derogatory and damaging a man's reputation should merely say that there is a rumor abroad to the effect spoken of, the paper would be exonerated in the event of legal proceedings being taken against it, if it could be shown that there was such a rumor was false. This ruling is founded in justice and common sense both.

We shall stick to the "*rumor abroad*" expression.

From the New York Spirit of the Times.

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

WASHINGTON, (on a wide avenue,) Jan. 2, 1855.—"*Dear Spirit*"—Here at Washington among the *combined wisdom*; didn't stay long in Philadelphia (treated with coldness)—to rain-hail-snow-ice, and sleet. Yesterday a fine day here; went hob-nobbing and egg nogging—saw ladies smiling—hours beguiling—met Doesticks among dough-faced babies and dough nuts—in a narrow street—met Bishop Bunker at his *devotions*; recognized *Aaron*, his *beard* anointed with canvass back *grease* (not Russian grease) [illegible] spake affectionately of the Tall [illegible] York—with his *usual blessing*. York's Tall Son's got a rival here—saw him looking over the Washington Monument, surveying the city—will apply for the offices of Surveyor General—*Long John* (of Illinois) may contest the appointment—got *longer claims*.

Fine fishing and hunting here among the concentrated representation of all the big and little fish of the Union, without going out of the *House*, and exposing yourself to the weather. Dress in *Tweed*—take the *Grey* of the morning, before the *Bright* sun is up—the air balmy from the effects of the *Shower* last night—take a *Butler* with you, and for lunch let him procure *Rusk*, *Ham*, *Fish*, and *Rice*—a *Cook*. Then by *Cutting* an *Ashe* pole without *Sapp* in it—for bait procure a *Bugg* or a *Miller*; *Gamble*, and play them for a *Trout*—in the *Brooks* of South Carolina, and you will find him *Ready* to *Peck* at it; be careful to keep out of the *Eddy*, and while in smooth water, don't disturb the *Lilly* of New Jersey—you will make a *Good-rich* haul—or if you use a sinker you may catch a *Drum*; when off soundings take a *Wade* and pull the Boat, and Peter (no relation of Simon Peter, the ancient fisherman) but Peter! *Rowe*, who will be serviceable at the oars.

If you prefer hunting—take a *Hunter* on a *Hunt* and start the *Chase* across the *Green* after a *Badger*; you may come across a *Lyon* and a *Lamb*, lying down together in *Bliss*-ful innocence—then leave off animal hunting and shoot *Robbins*—if shot's too large you'll be apt to *Riddle* them.

Went to the *Patent* office—see the rappers—asked for the *Spirits* (not blue, white and gray,) but the spirit of Mr. Otard; considerable *body* in the *Spirit*—and his spirit into my body. Left the *side-board* for the *board table*—saw nothing—*nobody*—pulled on one *string*—heard a bell at the other end (not the chap that killed Cain)—Paganini answered the *one string*—he was door-keeper—asked for Gen. Jackson—couldn't come—busy teaching Packenham rifle shooting—*Indians about*, looking on—he expected to see Sam soon—understood him to say *Psalm tune* (corrected)—enquired if there were any *Know Nothings* there—no answer—perfect silence reigned around—didn't like to be alone with spirits invisible—no scruples to take a dram of spirits *visible*—bottle imps—did it—fortified myself—Know Nothings—not talking spirits—visions appeared—mutes—signs—recognized Ben Franklin—tired of flying kites, and was explaining House's telegraph—(by letters of the alphabet) as the *living mediums* do—*Pilgrims* of the *Plymouth Rock* discussing the fishery question, and *Know Nothings*—Brewster said something about Freedom—"worshipping God according to the dictates of their own conscience." *Increase* Mather *Cottening* up to Maria *Cotton*. *Increase's* son was there (Cotton Mather), in a discussion with Whitney on *gin houses*—saw gins and other saws (not spirits)—called for Julius Cæsar—no answer. Wm. Shakspeare spoke for him—Julius had *no spirit*—'twas burnt out when he became a *Brick*—Wm. quoted from his own writings.

"Imperial Cæsar *dead*—and *turned* to clay,
May stop a hole to keep the wind away."

Said he'd been chisseled in a game of marbles there, and beat him (marvel not). Should read,

"Imperial Cæsar, dead but turned to stone,
May stop the sighing wind, silence its moan."

Called for Emperor Alexander—son of Philip of Macedon (no relation to the one that bottles cider)—was told by Commander Elliott that he was in a Sarcophagus—down in the cellar of the patent office, *where old spirits are kept to acquire age*; went down—found Jackson (had got through exercising Packenham)—and was disputing with Aleck, about conquests—Christopher Columbus was there laughing at him about *his crying*, when on earth, about "no more worlds to conquer,"—and how his "dug out" got over here in an undiscovered country. Jesse wanted Jackson to get into Alexander's nest—Jackson stubborn—he could "paddle his own canoe" or "dug-out"—as he did in Florida (and didn't like stone ones), and his stone dug-out was acquired (by the *Constitution*)—saw a difficulty, to come off. Old *Miltiades* pitched into Jesse Elliott for taking his door steps from *Marathon*—saw Jackson go up stairs, and put on that sharp-tailed blue military coat—get his pistols from the case—(the *Eagle* in the *glass case* opposite screamed.)

I sent for the spirit of Washington to stop the muss. Martha wouldn't let him go—Washington city was so *corrupt now*, was afraid George would become contaminated. (Why, when George was President, he used to send *around robbing*)—(a-round-robin.) Sent immediately for the *Spirit of Punch*, across the water, (not *Scotch* whiskey punch,) as the spirit of Bob Burns would object, (superstitious about crossing the stream,) (spirit of Tam O'Shanter nodded assent,) but London Punch, such as Power spoke about ("barrin the water.") Spirit of Punch entered (funny fellow,) pitched right into the English nobility. "The *arms* of English always victorious." Wanted to know why they sent Lord Raglan to Sabastopol, unless they relied on ONE GREAT BRITISH ARM *of defence*.

Sent for *Moses*—no go—was busy making a "new clearing"—burning brush—had been engaged on an Artesian well, boring for water—succeeded. Was going in partnership with Aaron in the Jewelry business—intended selling mint juleps, at the Halfway House, this side of the town of Purgatory, *Dives*, barkeeper—had made a contract with Sir John Franklin for ice. Called for Ferdinand—asked after the Spaniards—said there was only the spirits of a few inside the gates—habits bad—would smoke cigars and eat garlic before the angels—got them out by *diplomacy*. Sent Gabriel out with a horn: proclaimed a bull fight outside—Spaniards went to see it—shut the gates on them—which accounts for Gabriel's living in the body in New York.

Spirits got mightily mixed—came away with a throat full of the dust of ages—vision deceptive—mind on the *spirits*—*spirits* in the keeping of the *Times*. HAL.

CONGRESSIONAL.

WASHINGTON, January 19.

The Senate passed a bill to-day for the relief of the representatives of BARON DE KALB, appropriating $66,000 for that purpose. The House bill to erect a light-house at Cape Race was taken up, discussed, and passed by a large majority.

Mr. GWIN introduced a bill to establish a weekly press mail between New Orleans or St. Louis overland to California. The Bounty Land Bill was discussed. The Senate went into executive session.

In the House, Mr. FAULKNER asked leave to report a bill for the suppression of Indian hostilities. Objection was made thereto by Mr. Edgerton. The House then took up the Pacific Rail Road Bill. Mr. Bayly wanted the house to read the history of the South Sea Bubble in reference to this bill. After much discussion, Mr. Davis, of Indiana, moved the previous question. The House refused to second the motion by a vote of 81 to 83. The friends of the bill are not agreed as to what plan shall be adopted—some wanting three roads, and others one grand trunk with two branches. A motion to refer the subject to a special committee of thirty-one, as proposed by Mr. Benton was rejected. The struggle will be resumed to-morrow.

January 20.

The House of Representatives to-day, resumed the consideration of the bill granting the right of way and making a donation of the public lands to aid in the construction of a rail road from the Mississippi Valley to the Pacific Ocean.

After some debate, the amendment of Mr. DAVIS, of Indiana—to strike out all that portion of the bill which provides for the construction of a central road, to commence on the western limits of the Mississipi States, somewhere between the 30th and 43d parallels of north latitude, and to pursue the most practicable route to the city of San Francisco on the Pacific coast; and for two branch roads, diverging from the main road, at some point, east of the Rocky Mountains, to run through the Territories of the United States, the one in the direction of the State of Tennessee, and the other to some point upon the western shore of Lake Superior—was adopted by a vote of 104 to 91.

The bill, as amended, appropriates also, public lands equal to alternate sections for the space of twelve miles on each side of the road from the eastern to the western terminus, and provides for the publication of advertisements inviting proposals for the construction of the road and a line of telegraph.

The bill was reported to the House, and read a third time, and passed by a vote of 104 to 97. Pending, however, the consideration of its passage, the House adjourned.

AN IMPORTANT ENTERPRISE.—They are earnestly at work in California to establish a stage route between San Francisco and Missouri, the cost to be $2,000,000. It strikes us that the enterprise must succeed. It is proposed to settle western families at convenient stations on the line of the route, and to make two through trips weekly. We are satisfied that some such successful enterprise will pave the way for the construction of the proposed Pacific Railroad. Any company that will run such a line for a year, and then satisfy the country of their general ability and reliability for the construction of the proposed railroad, will, ten to one, become the company to construct it. The success of such an enterprise will vastly hasten the time when Congress will appropriate in aid of the construction of a railroad to the Pacific.—*Washington Star.*

It was Bishop Horner's opinion that there was no better moralist than a newspaper. He says:

"The follies, vices, and consequent miseries of multitudes displayed in a newspaper, are so many beacons continually burning to turn others from the rock on which they have been shipwrecked. What more powerful dissuasive from suspicion, jealousy and anger, than the story of one friend murdered by another in a duel? What caution likely to be more effectual against gambling and profligacy than the mournful relation of an execution, or the fate of a despairing suicide? What finer lecture on the necessity of economy, than the sanctions of estates, houses and furniture? Only take a newspaper, and consider it—*pay for it*—and it will instruct thee.

A singular railroad accident occurred on the Boston and New York Central Road on Thursday, caused by the forward axle of the tender breaking. The result was remarkable. A piece of the axle, nearly four feet in length, and weighing about two hundred pounds, passed under the tender, coming up through the floor of the forward part of the car, passed over the head of all the passengers in that part of the car, and dropped safely beside the stove in the middle of the car. The car was full of passengers, but not one was injured. One of the detached wheels of the tender passed under the train, and came up through the floor of the passenger car, tearing a hole in the floor and shattering a seat, but doing no other injury. The escape is a marked instance of preservation.

"Papa, do people buy snuff?"

"Yes, my dear. Why?"

"Well, then, why do people say they take it?"

From the N. C. Standard.

LETTER FROM PROF. EMMONS.

I had occasion in 1805 to visit the Northern and settled parts of Maine. The part of the country in which I was more directly interested is situated high upon the waters of the Androscoggin and Marigolloway rivers. These rivers unite about seven miles above Errol, and their united waters form a river rather larger than the Cape Fear, after its junction with Deep River. The country is rough, broken and rocky, and yet it has but little geological interest. The prevailing rock is gneiss. Of this country, it may be said truly, that certain large tracts are perfectly denuded and destitute of soil; the surface being so studded with rocks that in passing over it the traveller steps from rock to rock, instead of walking over a smooth trail or path. Other parts of the country have been deeply excavated, and these depressions are lakbasins whose forms are irregular, and whose shores are usually rocky. One of these lakes which I had occasion to cross is the Umbagog. It lies near the Androscoggin a mile or two below its junction with the Marigalloway. On the river side of this lake, the shore depressed and formed of soil and soft materials, and does not rise more than six or eight feet above the usual level of the lake and river water. Through this low and soft material, a channel has been cut through which the waters ordinarily flow, but so sluggishly that a boat is easily paddled through in either direction. The flow, of course, is usually outward into the river. When, however, rains have fallen copiously on either branch of the river, and waters have risen so as to be flush, the current flows inward into the lake, and this is especially the case during floods and freshets. The water at these times continues to accumulate in the lake basin until its banks are nearly full, when the outward pressure forces the inward current back, and those accumulated waters begin to flow quietly down the river channel. The inward current frequently continues three days, and during this time the swell in the river is increased, yet so much water is diverted into the great reservoir, the lake, that no dangerous flood is created; bridges remain safe, meadows uninjured, and mill dams are secure. The security from injury thus provided, results from the diversion of water into the lake, whereby the flood takes up several days in passing, instead of rushing down at once through the river channel in torrents.

What takes place *naturally* in the Androscoggin through the instrumentality of the side channel into the Umbagog, may be effected *artificially*, upon all rivers by the erection of suitable reservoirs.

In North Carolina, the Roanoke, Dan, Tar, Neuse, Yadkin, Catawba, Deep, and Cape Fear rivers are subject to floods, by which an immense amount of property is annually injured or destroyed. If now upon their upper and main branches reservoirs by dams were constructed, those floods would be rendered comparatively harmless.

Other advantages would follow from their construction—the water would be preserved for manufacturing and navigation purposes during a time of drought, and instead of losing the supply of water in consequence of its immediate discharge into the ocean, its flow may be regulated to meet the demands of the interests I have stated. The debris of rocks, and sand and soil too, which is every year carried down to make shoals will be greatly diminished, and when the flood-wood has been burned to supply a fertilizer, there will be no danger of the development of miasm, or poisons which will generate fevers and sickness. Even the dams upon Deep river, low down as they are, will be found to exert a salutary influence in diminishing the damages by high water. But observation will more fully show this hereafter. This kind of improvement indicated in the foregoing communication is especially adapted to those rivers whose navigation requires dams and locks or a slack water navigation, in a country where the rains are assuming a periodical character. One of the main objects in these improvements is to save the surplus water which goes directly to the great reservoirs the ocean until a time of necessity arrives, when it can be gradually discharged so as to meet the wants I have indicated. No one can fail to be impressed with the importance of this system of improvement, if he will inspect the map of North Carolina. The State is traversed by five rivers, two of them with navigable branches, by which the productions, both mineral and agricultural, may find their way to market, and upon which the necessary supplies of such articles as are necessary for home consumption may be returned. This mode of transportation has great advantage, over every other, and these are increased in consequence of the mildness of the climate. These communications with the ocean will rarely be interrupted by ice during the winter. If therefore, the supply of water may be husbanded, the navigation of all the rivers may be preserved the whole year. At a time when railways have become so popular in consequence of their imposing and showy results, the more humble river transportation is liable to be lost sight of, and fall thereby into unmerited neglect. The scheme, however, proposed of maintaining a supply of water by means of reservoirs upon the upper and main branches of the rivers can be shown to be feasible and practicable; and a sufficient amount of enterprise be awakened in its behalf and the means of transportation than any State in the Union. In conclusion, I repeat, that it is not simply navigation and an increase of the means for manufactures, which will follow from the improvements proposed, but the preservation of property upon the rivers refered to, the latter of which would go far to justify the necessary expenditure.

E. EMMONS.

Smithfield, Dec. 24, 1854.

Why is the squeeze of the hand like a well-known implement of the typographical art? Because it is a hard-press!

ARRIVAL OF STEAMSHIP CANADA.

The Royal Mail steamship Canada arrived at Halifax on Wednesday afternoon, the 17th inst., bringing dates from Liverpool to Saturday the 6th inst.

Among the passengers by the Canada are Bishop O'Connor and Archbishop Kenrick.

The steamer Union had arrived at Southampton.

NEGOTIATIONS FOR PEACE.

At the Vienna Conference of the 28th the Austrian, French and English plenipotentiaries met and drew up and signed the interpretation of their governments on the four points. The Austrian Minister then carried the document to Gortschakoff, who was in company with Count Arnin and Mantedfel, the representative of Prussia.

The Austrian Minister explained the propositions to Gortschakoff, and asked if he was prepared to accept without modification or reserve. Gortschakoff replied that his intention did not go so far. His orders were to negotiate only on four points. A fortnight was then granted him to communicate with his government.

Meantime hostilities will continue. The terms proposed to Russia are understood to be neither hard nor humiliating. The Russian interpretation, it is said, differs a little from that of the allies.

Prussia is still in diplomatic concert with the allies, and even engaged, under certain eventualities, to military co-operation.

It is stated that a treaty has been actually signed between France and Austria, the former guaranteeing Austria's possession of the Italian province. The London Times disbelieves the report.

Austria has called on Prussia to place her army on a war footing. The Prussian semi-official journal says that Prussia will not consent.

THE SIEGE OF SEBASTOPOL.

The siege operations of Sebastopol from the 12th to the 31st were unimportant. Frequent sorties and repulses were occurring. Gen Canrobert says, officially, under date of 21st, that sorties had been made against the British and French lines, but they were repulsed and pursued by the French with considerable loss.

On the 22nd General Canrobert, in his official report, says that, notwithstanding the bad weather, the siege continued, scarcely a night passed without some portion of of the French lines being attacked, costing the assailants dearly. The French works extend to the bottom of Quarantine Bay, and the enemy manly disputed every inch of ground.

The works advance steadily. A reconnoisance reports only pickets on the left bank of the Tshernaya, the main Russian army having moved probably towards Eupatoria.

The officers of the garrison of Sebastopol are to have each month's service recorded as a year.

The Czar's sons Michael and Nicholas, were to return to the Crimea on the 7th inst.

Eight thousand French reinforcements arrived at the camp between the 13th and 20th, besides others at Constantinople. The French on the 22d had only 1,400 wounded and 1,300 sick. A heavy snow storm prevailed.

On the 25th of December, Gen. Canrobert writes that he shall soon be able to take the offensive, and make good his losses more promptly and more solidly than the enemy can. The army was full of confidence.

The Allies on the 25th had opened fire. The plan of operations is that the fire be continued without cessation for forty hours, followed by a general assault by both the French and British.

A letter from the Sultan, dated the 25th, orders Omer Pasha to go immediately to the Crimea, to concert measures with the allied Generals. On the 26th Menschikoff telegraphs that bteween the 20th and 26th, nothing remarkable occurred, with the exception of two sorties on the 21st, in one of which eleven officers and thirty-three soldiers were taken prisoners, and a considerable number killed. That both the English and French were preparing to assault the south side of the city.

On the 28th, considerable Russian reinforcements reached Odessa.

Admirals Dundas and Hamelin were at Constantinople, on their way home. Admirals Lyons and Druet were in command of the fleets. General Cardigan has also left for England. Sir Lacy Evans has resigned in disgust.

The Constantinople News says the siege works have advanced so far, that direct communications are prevented between the garrison of Sebastopol and the Russian forces near Balaklava.

Although the works of attack are in a very forward state, the correspondent of Le Presse believes that nothing serious can be attempted before the 15th of January.

The Turkish government was using great expedition in providing supplies of ammunition, &c., for the Allies.

PRUSSIA.

The Prussian government has issued a notice calling attention to a law forbidding Prussians to enlist in foreign service.

ITALY.

A riot broke out recently among the laborers at Barara, and the city was placed in a state of siege. All the arms in the hands of the rioters were ordered to be delivered up.

The promulgation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception had been celebrated throughout the Italian States with a fortnight's festival.

RUSSIA.

An imperial manifesto has been issued on the 25th of Dec. calling on the nation to make every sacrifice for the prosecution of the war. And additional revenue is to be raised on salt and tobacco. The export of furs from Poland is prohibited.