

# TEACHING "AMERICAN" IN JAPAN.

FROM THE JOURNAL OF COMMERCE.  
U. S. FLAG-SHIP POWHATAN.

Sea of China, March 12, 1850.  
\* \* \* After running down to Shanghai, we returned the first of September, and spent that month and October in this charming bay, and among this simple and most attractive people.

Already the Japanese officials had got the idea of the superior value of the English language over the Dutch, as a medium of communication with foreign nations. A very considerable number of Japanese had got a mere smattering of the Dutch language, being able to speak a few words and sentences, as the shabby little colony of Dozima, consisting of a dozen or two Dutchmen, and three or four dozen Japanese ladies, with the petty Governor at their head, had carefully and perseveringly inculcated the idea, that the Dutch was the most important language to be learnt. In this way they succeeded in keeping the Japanese ignorant of our "outside barbarians," and at the same time in perpetuating their own influence, and continuing to engross all the commerce. This game, so selfish and unmanly, had been played most successfully for more than two hundred years, the Japanese all the while believing the Dutch were the greatest nation in Europe, and the most to be courted and trusted. New ideas, however, were at once awakened by the arrival of the American fleet—the Powhatan, the Minnesota and the Mississippi—all of them splendid men-of-war, as is universally conceded here, a Russian Lieutenant frankly and laughingly saying that the Russians were mortified to see their superiority, and that the English were mad. They threw the poor Dutch vessels at once into the shade, and the poorer Dutchmen with them; and with the superiority of the American ships came the idea of the superiority of the English, or, as my scholars called it, the American language. Before we left, on the first of November, several English men-of-war had come in, on board one of which was Lord Elgin, and then a Russian frigate, bearing Count Poutatine, the Russian minister and Admiral; and a little later two or three French men-of-war, with Baron Gros, the French minister to China and Japan. Most of the Russian and French officers could speak English with fluency. None of them, however, spoke Dutch, and hence the impression was deepened upon the Japanese mind, that the Dutch language was good for nothing, while the English, as my young interpreters and scholars were wont to write in their exercises, was "universal." With admirable good sense and sagacity, the Japanese governors saw the utility, and, indeed, the necessity, of a knowledge of the English language in reference to future intercourse with America and Europe, and the demands of that commerce and intercourse which were destined immediately to spring up. In this fact may be seen at once the good sense of the Japanese and their truly liberal feelings. They saw the use of the English language and put the Japanese at once to learning it.

No sooner had we fairly anchored upon our third visit, before the Governor sent an interpreter to the ship with the request that the Commodore would allow and designate some one to undertake the task of teaching his interpreters the English language. The post was offered to me, and gladly accepted, not in the expectation of remuneration; for none was offered, or even intimated, but in the hope of something better.

I was conducted to the Russian Bazaar; there is another on Dozima, called the Dutch Bazaar. A neat room in the second story of a new building had been provided, the lower story of which was used by the money exchangers, and other officials. The floor was covered with the nearest mats, and the walls with handsome Japanese paper, while one large sliding window, also of paper, opened to the bay, and the green hills, and the innumerable temples, or the groves and the area below, with the crowds walking to and fro, or engaged in making purchases. Which was the more charming sight, I could not tell—nature in the hills and the groves, or nature in these kind-hearted and guileless mortals whom I saw before me. A square table was set in the middle of the room, with neat benches around it, by the side of which I took my seat, and opened the first English school ever opened in Japan. In honor of my Alma Mater, I called it Dartmouth College, Junior.

When my school was thus fairly inaugurated in the fine chamber in the Russian Bazaar, I commenced my labors in earnest. Nine young men were in attendance, the Governor's interpreters, one of whom was intrusted with important business, as at times he had been commissioned to go to Jeddo to transact matters with the Imperial Court. Another was either a native of the most northern island, Jesso, or had resided there; for he was familiar with Hakodadi, and gave me an interesting account of the climate, relating, with shivering, and contortions of face, the extreme cold, and saying that he had seen the snow nearly feet deep. They were from 18 to 25 years of age; one of them was married, and another had been, but had lost his wife, and was left with a child. All were of manly form, but not tall, and, excepting two, rather slender. Of a dark complexion, the black hair, and black eyes, their faces are better formed than those of the Chinese, being more open, honest, and kind in their expression, their noses sharper, and thin lips, never growing out to the disgusting thickness and flabbiness of many of the Chinese. The hair is shaved from the front of the head by all the Japanese, and the rest brought together from the back and sides and fastened in a queue on the top of the head, where a piece about four inches long, thick as a finger, and made solid and stiff by thread and pomatum, is bent forward at a right angle with the collected mass of hair, and projecting forward over the naked front looks like a little pistol aimed at the heart of a foe. Belonging to the higher class of Japanese society, the interpreters were dressed in handsome style for the country, wearing the loose under-garments of the East, with a silk, or silk and cotton gown over the whole. Their stockings are of cloth; for the art of knitting was not unknown in Japan, or else is not approved; while their shoes, made of a certain braided grass, covered with blue and finely colored, were always taken off and left at the door. Like all the Japanese they wore no hats, however hot the sun; though sometimes in walking they hold a fan over their heads. The wearing of a sword is a privilege and an honor; and as learning is held in honor, my scholars were permitted to come into the school each with a sword at his side. The higher officers are allowed to wear two.

Nothing could equal the uniform politeness of the young interpreters to their teacher and to one another. Upon entering the room they uniformly made the most graceful as well as profound obeisance, and, coming forward, offered their hand, having learnt that this is an American and European fashion, though not Japanese; and when one of their number came in late, all would rise from their seats, and, advancing to meet him, make the same profound obeisance, almost bringing their heads to the floor. During the whole two months of the continuance of the school, not an angry or unpleasant word was uttered between themselves; not one angry feeling for a moment, so far as could be judged, entered one breast. Their faces almost uniformly sparkled with smiles; often they were innocently joked with each other, always delicately, and sometimes quite facetiously; and whenever any one made a palpable mistake or blunder

in his reading or composition, he was the first to break out into a loud laugh. One, however, seldom smiled; he was the deepest thinker, and fit to be made judge. Such a new world burst upon him—subjects so new, so strange, so profound, and interesting, that he always seemed serious, and lost in the reflections awakened. Some brought their pipes with them at times, the steel bowls of which were less in size than a lady's thimble, which they filled with the weak Japanese tobacco cut as fine as thread, and which was consumed with three or four puffs. This, however, was done only by two or three, and by them rarely.

The ambition of the young men was excited, as they often remarked verbally and in their communications, that their learning would help their positions, that their learning would help their "promotion," meaning official. The officers of the government often came in to see the working of the school, and never departed without expressing their thanks and satisfaction, while the governor himself was often at the trouble of sending me kind and encouraging words. As the young men had obtained a smattering of Dutch from the Dutch residents in Dozima, they were not ignorant of the Roman alphabet, and the first labor was in teaching the sounds of the letters. And truly, "the labors are not in vain," as I never knew or imagined before; nor can any one appreciate it without a similar experience. Hours were spent, from day to day, in this effort, either the ear of the students being unable to catch the slight differences of sound in certain cases, or else, as is more probable, the organs of speech being too rigid and fixed by use and time, and becoming unable to give the nice modulations which would have been easy at an earlier period. At length, however, the sounds of the letters were all mastered, vowels, consonants, and diphthongs, except the single letter, *t*, which defied all efforts. For two long months this task was repeated day after day, and at last abandoned in utter despair, the young men often bursting into a loud laugh at their own grimaces, and distorted countenances and unearthly sounds, as they attempted to pronounce this letter, but more frequently mortified, and ready to burst into tears. The Japanese have not the sound of that letter, and uniformly pronounce *t* like *k*.

Thus they proceeded from the alphabet to monosyllables, and from monosyllables to polysyllables, and at last to easy lessons in reading. Then came the most serious difficulty—labor which at first was most exhausting—becoming a living dictionary in imparting ideas to words which to the interpreters had no meaning. Help, however, was not wanting in the time of need. A few copies of a small and wretchedly composed book in Dutch and English, were hunted up, and besides these two or three Dutch and English Dictionaries, and one or two in Japanese and Dutch. The interpreters understood a few Dutch words and phrases, while I was utterly ignorant of the language; but having some knowledge of German in other days, it was often available in sliding into Dutch, while many words in the language betray so much of a Latin or English relationship, that it was not difficult to reach the meaning. Of course the Japanese and Dutch Dictionary could be of no direct profit to me; but when the Dutch of an English word could be found in the Dictionary, and was pointed out to the interpreters, they at once had the English words with Japanese at its side. This was quite a circuitous route to a given point, and exceedingly tedious and laborious, but it was inevitable, and even thankfully accepted. Still it was often necessary to resort to the primitive language—the language of signs.

The next labor was upon the English Grammar, where no difficulty was experienced except in the verb, which in conjugation, in moods, tenses, inflections, and auxiliaries, is so unlike the Japanese verb, that it seemed to the students "impossible." But persistently insisting upon the mastering of it, and requiring the regular and auxiliary verbs to be repeated every day *memoriter*, advising the students at the same time to repeat them aloud in the intervals between school hours, as they walked or sat in the house, they satisfactorily mastered the hard task before the faculty entered. The next study was arithmetic, which was no study at all; for they seemed to understand it by intuition. Like the Chinese, the Japanese use a calculating machine, with which they solve questions with astonishing rapidity and accuracy, leading me to suspect they would be prejudiced against the Arabic figures and system of computation, or if they were willing to adopt them, that they would work with them awkwardly and reluctantly. To my surprise and delight, they needed but little instruction, when they "walked through" the arithmetic like old experts! They had never seen slate or pencil, and when they were given to each of them, and they saw the economy, as well as the convenience, above the calculating machine, and hair-pencils, ink, and paper, they were as happy as though they had received a fortune.

Geography next came up, which was the more interesting to them from having in my possession a good supply of the best maps, which were spread out before them as the study was pursued. Babel had given them the most extravagant ideas been heard of, or if heard of, only under the name of *Holland*. I spread out my large map of the United States. I compared it with England, with France and with Holland; I pointed out California, and Oregon, and Washington Territory, *so near to Japan*, and directing their eyes to New York and Boston, told them of the population, and commerce, and wealth of those and other cities, then exultingly saying, "That is the United States! That is my country!" new and grand ideas of the greatness of our country instantly seized them, and pointing to Holland, which the early Dutchmen had taught them to regard as the greatest nation in Europe, they laughed outright at its insignificance, and in scorn of the dejection which had been practiced upon them. They next compared Japan with the territory of the United States; nor can I ever forget the feeling of mortification and despondency, painted so legibly upon their faces, when they saw the disproportion. It was a noble feeling—one of patriotism and human nature, and I could not but respect it and be touched by it.

Still more was I touched, when on one occasion in the school hours, one of the interpreters asked me the meaning of the word *uncivilized*, and whether the Japanese were uncivilized; and handing me the Dutch dictionary, and pointing to the word *uncivilized*, the only definitions given were "brutal; beastly." He had caught up the idea that Europeans and Americans did not regard the Japanese as civilized; and if not, then they regarded them as *beasts and brutes*, and the Dutch dictionary was authority. He saw the inferiority of Japanese civilization to European, but was profoundly sad and mortified to learn that he and his countrymen were thought to be *brutes!* I explained, pointing to their fine town, their gardens and terraced hills, their schools, their books, their beautiful porcelain and lacquered ware, and their quiet, good order, and humane government; and assured him they were a *civilized* nation, and an *honorable* nation, and that the education they were obtaining, and which should be diffused throughout the empire, would elevate the nation to a still higher civilization and greater honor. This seemed to relieve him, and his face brightened up with new smiles.

# Abuses of the Franking Privilege.

If the abuses of the franking privilege could in some way be gathered together and their enormous result presented in bulk to the view of the public, the popular indignation would be excited to such a pitch that no Congress would have the hardihood to refuse the extirpation of this great incubus upon the postal system, and immense provocation to national dishonour. The true purpose of the franking privilege is to enable those to whom it is granted to transact their official correspondence free of charge, but the privilege has been extended and abused until it has been made to cover not only all kinds of correspondence, but to transport their family supplies, and any or every article that could possibly be smuggled into the mail bags. Members of Congress use it indiscriminately for their private, their political, and official correspondence, and distribute their franks as freely as if there was no question of their right to do so, and the mails groan with a mass of rubbish which is of no use to anybody. We presume we receive at the *American* office, in the course of a year, five hundred pounds weight of documents, speeches, &c., four hundred and ninety pounds of which pass immediately into the waste paper basket as utter trash with the examination of which we refuse to burden ourselves. And this experience is paralleled by thousands of newspaper offices throughout the country. Yet this trash costs the Government large amounts for printing, and other large amounts for its transportation, burdens the postal system and prevents it becoming the self-sustaining, cheap and efficient system that it ought to be. On the platform at the Relay House may be seen, day after day, even now when Congress has adjourned, huge piles of this unproductive stuff on its way to the West; great bags containing boxes and books, papers and speeches, which we venture to say not one man in a hundred would receive if he was required to pay only the postage upon it. So great is this mass, seeking distribution through this one route, that it is no longer possible to carry it in the mail trains, and it has to be forwarded as freight.

Baltimore American.

Pure Air Versus Medicine.—Doctors disagree very frequently about the proper treatment of diseases. Some favor what is called "active treatment," that is, they recommend the plan of filling the sick man as full of foreign "bodies" in the form of pills and potions, as he will hold, and add blisters, cups and leeches externally, to keep up the balance. Other members of the faculty call this sharp practice, and insist that it is bad policy to use a sledge hammer to kill a fly, especially when the insect happens to be reposing on a costly mirror. The death of the fly does not compensate for the damage to the furniture. They accordingly advise milder measures, such as restriction in diet, moderate exercise and avoidance of exposure, and thus virtually throw physic to the dogs. Another school finds in water the long sought Cathartic, the remedy for all the ills that flesh is heir to. All sorts of baths, at various temperatures, take the place of "doctors' stuff." The cure for one ailment is a sea in a tub of water at a temperature of 60° for twenty minutes. The contrary infirmity is remedied by the same treatment prolonged to forty minutes. One patient is ordered a course of plunge baths; another is encased in dripping sheets from top to toe. The man who dies under the hydropathic system has at least the satisfaction of dying clean.

Children in the present age get a good deal of hydropathic treatment, and no doubt the daily baths, which they generally regard with horror, conduce largely to the maintenance of their health and their vigorous development. We know one little boy, who declines to believe that he was made of dust, arguing that he would have "turned into mud" long ago if his doctrine were true, and who has been subjected from his birth, to what his parents phrased the theory that these incessant ablutions are contrary to nature, at least to the nature of children—and that the youngsters are not in their normal condition when clean. According to Arctic navigators, the Eskimaux belong to this school. They have no word in their language to signify dirt, but when it accumulates so as to be in the way, it is called an "inconvenience." Fortunately for them, they manage to tubulate accidentally into the water once or twice during their short summer, and thus get rid of the winter's incrustation.

But medical men generally agree that pure air, (and plenty of it,) is necessary to health. The old system of shutting the patient up in a close room, excluding the outside atmosphere, is exploded. And for children especially, the almost universal recommendation is abundant exercise in the open air.—*Balt. American*.

Power of the French Guns.—In the late battle of Montebello, the new French guns threw their bullets more than ten English miles. The effect was so terrific upon the Austrian ranks, that the centre was obliged to fall back upon the reserve. It would seem that the Austrian guns do not equal those of France, and that Francis Joseph will be obliged to force his antagonist into close quarters. When the fighting shall fairly commence in Lombardy and the mountains of the Tyrol, it will matter little how far a gun will carry. In pitched battles, Austrian cannon and rifle will destroy life; nothing more is required.

Pet. Express.

Garibaldi, the white-haired leader of the Italian volunteers in the army in Sardinia, was exiled from Italy in 1849, and found refuge in the United States. A Western exchange says that he kept a coffee-house in Cincinnati a few years ago and retailed liquor by the dram. He is now a General in the Sardinian service, commanding fifteen thousand men, and to a great extent controlling the destinies of States.

At the late session of the District Court in Wharton Co., Texas, a negro woman, emancipated by Alex. Moore, Esq., some years since and sent to New York, provided with ample means of support, but now returned, presented her petition, praying to be permitted to select her a master, and return to Slavery.

After the customary examination by the Court, the Judge finding her determined to re-enslave herself, her petition was granted, and she became a slave of her own free will and accord.

# A ROMISH MIRACLE AT NAPLES.

Correspondence of the Baltimore American.

Learning that the semi-annual miracle of the liquefaction of the blood of San Gennaro was to take place on Saturday, being the last day of its eighth repetition, we repaired at an early hour in the morning to the church of Santa Restituta, and so great was the crowd that it was with difficulty we could gain an entrance. The ceremony of liquefaction is the greatest religious festival in the kingdom, and such is the importance attached to it by the ardent imaginations of the city have considered it a necessary piece of State policy to respect it. Before proceeding to give an account of the ceremony, I will explain what is meant by the liquefaction. In the right aisle of the Cathedral of Santa Restituta, is the chapel of San Gennaro, in which are preserved two phials said to contain the blood of the saint. The ceremony of liquefaction takes place twice in the year, and is each time repeated for eight successive days. The tradition of the church represents that when St. Janarius was exposed to be devoured by lions in the amphitheatre of Pozzuoli, the animals prostrated themselves before him and became tame. This miracle is said to have converted so many to Christianity, that Dracontius ordered the Saint to be decapitated, which sentence was executed at Salafaria in the year 305. The body was buried at Pozzuoli until the time of Constantine, when it was removed to Naples and deposited in the church of San Gennaro. At the time of this removal a woman who is said to have collected the blood with a sponge at the period of the martyrdom, took it in two bottles to St. Severus, the bishop, in whose hands it was said to have immediately melted. The iron tabernacle which contains the phials is secured by two bolts, one key being kept by the municipal authorities, and the other by the arch-bishop, and is only opened in the presence of the people.

The ceremony of the liquefaction commenced on Saturday in the church of Santa Chiara, from whence after mass an immense procession with bands of music, choristers, bishops, priests and soldiers bearing crucifixes, banners and candles, proceeded with the phials of blood to the cathedral. This procession was three-quarters of a mile long, and in it were soldiers bearing large silver statues of saints, presenting one of the most imposing spectacles I ever witnessed.

At the Cathedral, some time before the ceremonies commenced, a number of old women, of the lower orders, who claim to be the relations of Saint Janarius, collected around the balustrade of the altar, exhibiting the most wild and uncontrollable excitement. Some of these women were very old, and exhibiting countenances shrivelled and wrinkled beyond anything in the form of humanity I have ever seen. Immediately after the first mass was finished they commenced a fearful howl, repeating in a hoarse and croaking voice to the extent of their lungs, *Paterosters, Aves and Credos*. When the saint delays the liquefaction too long they even claim the right and often do heap imprecations on him with all the fervency that accompanies their prayers.

The relics were exposed in one of the side chapels, called the Chapel of St. Gennaro, which was magnificently decorated, the altar being brilliant with gold ornaments and diamonds and precious stones. The face of the altar is of massive silver, set in statues of bas-relief, representing the history of Cardinal Caraffa's bringing back the head of the Saint to Naples. All the dukes and princes were also present in the robes of royalty; and soldiers, with muskets and bayonets, were scattered throughout the immense edifice, their plumes waving over the heads of the people in every direction. The Saint's head, with a rich mitre upon it—it being fixed in the statue of the Saint—with an archbishop's mantle about the shoulders of the statue, and a rich collar of diamonds and cross about the neck, was the first sight that attracted my attention. The phials containing the blood, one of which appeared like pitch, clotted and hard in the glass, were then shown to the people and turned upside down to show that the blood in it was hard and insoluble. They were then placed on one side of the altar, one appearing like a smelling bottle, and only had a mere stain of blood, whilst the other was larger, and seemed to hold enough to fill a wine glass. They were shown to the persons admitted within the balustrade, among whom were a considerable number of English Protestants. After being placed on the altar a glass case was put over them through which they could be seen by all present.

A series of Masses was then commenced, at the conclusion of each of which the old women set up a most fearful and unearthly howl, the drums and trumpets joined in the discordant blast, and it was difficult to imagine such a horrible clamor to be intended for Christian Worship. They, however, seemed almost frantic with religious fervor, as did also the priests, and a large portion of the people present, the cries, screams and sobbing pervading every part of the edifice. These Masses were continued from nine o'clock in the morning until 5 o'clock in the afternoon, without cessation, except for another procession in the afternoon, during which thirty-five large, solid silver statues of saints and martyrs were carried by the soldiers. At the conclusion of the procession the Masses were again resumed with all the accompaniments of excitement and clamor that prevailed in the morning, without the desired liquefaction of the blood taking place. At 5 o'clock, however, the glass was again removed from the bottles, the blood in the larger one was found to be as limpid as water, and was shown to the people amid the greatest rejoicing, the beating of drums, the clapping of hands and the blasts of trumpets. The old women were perfectly wild with excitement, and many of them fell down exhausted, while the roar of cannon from the Castle of Almo announced to the people that the miracle was consummated.

Wherever there was any number of English or Americans in the Cathedral during the ceremony, soldiers were stationed near them, with special instructions to allow no one to molest them. This rather surprised me; but on inquiry I ascertained that on several occasions, when the liquefaction has not taken place as soon as was anticipated, the ignorant portion of the people had attacked them, under the belief that the presence of heretics had prevented the accomplishment of the miracle. If the liquefaction takes place soon it is regarded as an evidence of happiness and prosperity to the country, and if it is retarded, as indicative of trouble and evil to be anticipated.

The agricultural bureau of the United States Patent Office has just received a case of tea seed from Hong Kong; another is on the way. Great hopes are entertained that it can be successfully planted throughout the South, and numerous experiments with it are being made there. The plant, it is said, may be cultivated as far North as the Southern portion of New York. A new brick building for the accommodation of the Agricultural Bureau is to be constructed for the preservation of plants.

# BROOKLYN CITY COURT.

June 10.—Before the Hon. E. D. Culver, City Judge.

*Incapacity of Slave Marriage.*—The People, on the complaint of the Rev. B. N. Warrick vs. Jane Richardson, Emma Robbins and Winnie Warrick. Yesterday morning the Court rendered the following decision in this case:

The complainant in this matter alleges, and the evidence supports the allegations, that the defendants have charged in substance that the complainant, who is a Bishop in the Methodist Episcopal Church, Williamsburg, is guilty of bigamy, in that he has two wives now living.

The defendants attempted to justify this charge on the following statement of facts, which have been proved before me on this examination:

That Warrick and Winnie, one of the defendants, were both slaves in North Carolina, owned by different parties. They agreed, as far back as 1841, to live together, and a colored Methodist exhorter read over the discipline on marriage, the parties saluted each other as bride and groom, jumped over the broom-stick in the kitchen, and were pronounced married.

No license seems to have been obtained from the County Court, as required by the laws of that State, nor was the consent of their respective owners obtained.

The parties, however, cohabited together, as best they could, under the circumstances, and after some seventeen years, twelve children had been born to them, as the fruits of such cohabitation. In 1828, however, Warrick was made free; but he continued to live with Winnie till 1831, when, in consequence of the laws of the State, touching free colored people, he was obliged to leave and did. After ten years' absence, he returned to North Carolina, found his woman, who was still a slave, passed one night with her, whereupon he was notified by the sheriff to leave in three days, or be again reduced to slavery. He left; Winnie consenting and advising him to do so. He came to Williamsburg, where in 1843 he was duly married to his present wife, Winnie, his former woman, remained in slavery till about 1854, when she came North, and found her man the husband of another woman. She now claims him as her rightful husband.

Out of this claim the whole controversy has arisen. It is due to the claimant to say that she is shown to be a sincere, plain, blunt, honest-hearted Christian woman, believing both in the merit and equity of her claim.

Had she left North Carolina with Warrick, or had she obtained her freedom before he contracted his last marriage, he admits that he should have felt morally bound to have made her his legal wife, but as he heard nothing from her and had no reasonable expectation of her being made free, he seems to have contracted the second marriage in good faith.

Under these circumstances, I am called upon to say whether Warrick can be charged with the offence of bigamy; in other words, whether the defendants have made good their declarations touching his having two wives.

From the facts disclosed in evidence, I have arrived at the following conclusions:

1. That as marriage is a civil contract, the parties must in law be capable of contracting.—2 Phil. Eng. Rep. 19.
2. Slaves cannot in law contract marriage, nor does cohabitation confer any legal right on the parties or their children.—21 Ala. Rep. 719; 5 Maryland Rep. 91; North Carolina Equity Rep. 177.
3. Warrick's first marriage being in law a nullity, he was at full liberty, if his moral sense allowed it, to contract the marriage with his present wife, and has violated no law in so doing.
4. It follows that the defendants, in uttering the charges against Warrick have themselves violated the law; and if repeated after this intimation from the Court, will become liable for damages.

The defendants must be held to bail in the sum of \$100 each.

Ordered accordingly.

*Effects of the Late Frost.*—Sufficient time has now elapsed to enable observers to form a tolerably correct opinion as to the extent of damage occasioned by the severe frost of last Saturday and Sunday; and from a careful examination of the numerous accounts furnished by the newspapers, covering the whole ground from Western New York to St. Louis, we come to the conclusion that the representations first received by telegraph were generally much exaggerated.

The entire belt of country extending from the North-Eastern States to the extreme North-West seems to have been more or less affected, though very unequally, even at places but little distant from each other. In isolated spots most kinds of vegetation were killed outright; but as a general rule, the crops have not suffered beyond recovery. Corn and potatoes, when but little above the ground, will bear a severe frost without receiving permanent injury; and even from those occasional instances where they may have been cut off, the crop can be restored by a fresh planting. It is, therefore, reasonable to conclude that corn, at least, will suffer no essential decrease. Wheat does not appear to have been much affected. According to one authority, the weevil and grasshopper suffered most.—*Cor. Jour. Com.*

*Cotton Blossoms.*—The blooming of cotton this year, says the N. O. Crescent, may be recorded as unusually early. We learn that there were several blooms in different parts of Texas as early as the 20th of May—that there was a full and perfect bloom received in Galveston on the 23d May. Promising expectations of a good yield are favored, though it is altogether premature to consider of the results. We are, however, pleased to observe that planters are in good spirits; they, one and all, prefer good crops to poor ones, even if a short crop is made up by enhancement in price.

*More Trouble with Indians.*—The Overland Mail, with California dates to the 20th, has arrived. Passengers report that 3,000 Texans were occupied near Fort Belknap, for the purpose of exterminating the *Caddo* Reserve Indians.

The Governor of Texas had called upon United States troops for assistance in quelling the disturbances. Major Van Dorn had arrived in the vicinity with three companies of dragoons, on his way from Fort Washita. Maj. Van Dorn had encountered a large body of Apache Indians, and killed and captured some forty or fifty.

# RANDOLPH CROPS.—Letter to the Editors of the Observer, dated

NEW MARKET, June 14, 1850.

It is now harvest-time up here in the back country. Wheat is good, and upon the whole promises a good yield in this (Randolph) county. Oats promising, grass good, corn small, but growing,—can't speak of the corn crop with any degree of certainty for some time to come.

*The Crops.*—Never, within the recollection of "that oldest inhabitant," did the earth give promise of a greater wheat crop. In this section, however, it matters but little whether a big crop or no crop at all is made—Flour is held so high that a poor man can only reach a barrel with a ten foot pole, standing tip-toe.

The oat crop, though backward, is doing well, the recent rains have touched it, as it were, with the magician's wand.

Corn, so far, promises well. The only regret is that more of the article was not secured.

Tobacco has made a pretty start, and if the season holds good the biggest crop that ever helped to starve the world will be made. In view of the heavy crop and low prices that must follow, some intelligent planters begin to regret that they did not plant less tobacco and more corn.

Garden Vegetables look fine. Beets over 13 inches in diameter, may be seen at the Cherry Hill farm, thus early.—*Milton Chronicle*.

*The Prospect.*—The editor of the Rutherfordton Enquirer, speaking of his travels through Rutherford county, says:

"Peaches and apples we noticed were growing in abundance, and other fruits were in a flourishing condition, (especially the persimmon and whortleberry, those necessities of life in eastern N. Carolina where it is said the boys wear off their trousers, as they wear off their buttons climbing the trees for *simmons*.) The wheat crop looks very fine, and we predict that a large amount will be made, notwithstanding the injuries by frost and rust. Corn looks very well, and if only properly cultivated a great deal might be made for the purpose of *home consumption*, besides what is wasted for bread. We learn that corn is quite scarce in the northern and eastern part of the county, and that it is almost impossible to get a bushel to still up into whiskey and for other necessary purposes."

*Raleigh Female Seminary.*—The Commencement Exercises at the Raleigh Female Seminary took place the past week. The sermon on Monday evening by the Rev. C. P. Jones, is said to have been a very able and interesting one, and the Address of W. W. Holden, Esq., Editor of the Standard, on Tuesday evening, is spoken of in the highest terms on all hands. On Wednesday evening, the exercises closed with a Concert which was very numerously attended. The young ladies acquitted themselves in a very praiseworthy manner. Several compositions, chastely and beautifully written, were read during the evening, by some of the young ladies. On Friday evening the young ladies gave a brilliant party.—*Pt. Exp.*

*The Federal Court.*—This tribunal, which was in session here last week, his Honor Judge Biggs presiding, adjourned on Saturday evening. Among other cases was that of The United States vs. George Williams, of Elizabeth City, charged with detaining and opening a letter. Mr. Dick appeared for the government, and H. W. Miller and J. Parker Jordan, Esquires, for the defendant. The case was ably argued on both sides, and the jury returned a verdict of *guilty*. Before the verdict was rendered, however, the defendant made his escape, forfeiting his bond of \$400. He has not been heard from since.—*Ral. Standard*.

The Raleigh correspondent of the *Petersburg Express*, says—

"After the jury had retired, some one informed Williams that he would be found guilty, and the Court soon after adjourning, for dinner, he went to Yarbrough's Hotel, at his dinner, walked out the back way and has not since been seen."

*Fire in Brunswick County.*—We regret to learn that the barn, rice threshing machine and store houses belonging to Mr. William Wetters in Brunswick County, about 8 miles below town on the Cape Fear river, was destroyed by fire on last Sunday evening. Supposed to be the work of incendiarism. Loss \$4,000.—*Wt. Journal*.

*Death of Judge Mitchell.*—We learn from the *Hernando Press*, that Judge George H. Mitchell, of Friar's Point, Coahoma county, Miss., died at the residence of Mr. A. McKissick, near that town, on Sunday, the 27th of May. Judge Mitchell had been in bad health for several months, and had gone to DeSoto to visit his friends, with the hope of recuperating. He was a native of Newbern, North Carolina, where his relatives now reside, but had resided in North Mississippi for twenty years, successively in DeSoto, Tunica and Coahoma counties. He was a lawyer by profession, and had been Judge of the Probate Court of Tunica county. He also represented Coahoma county in the Legislature during the sessions of 1853-'54. He was a kind-hearted, generous gentleman, and his demise will be regretted by all who knew him.

*Well Done.*—The last Virginia House of delegates contained 110 Democrats and 40 opposition. The recent election has made great changes, and the next House will stand 90 democrats and 60 opposition—opposition gain of 40. The Senate is considerably changed also, but not to the same extent, as only one-third of the Senators were to be elected.

A little girl died from strangulation in Richmond, Va., on Saturday night last, caused by attempting to swallow a grain of coffee.

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