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THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1888.

How about that matter of water-works for the city? Arg we going to let it drop? Isn't it too important to us for that?

Old Simon Cameron celebrated his eighty-eighth birthday, Monday. He is still in good health, it is reported, with a mind as active and clear as it was a quarter of a century ago.

There is again reported terrible distress in Ireland. The British government, however, has taken prompt measures of relief, sending money and seed potatoes into the unhappy country.

The New York legislative committee which has been looking into Jacob Sharp's right to the franchise of his Broadway road, has concluded, it is reported, to offer a bill annulling the charter of the road.

Charlotte, it appears, has a working bank capital of \$1,837,084 27, and certainly, it may be added, a community of business and professional men than whom there are none more energetic, intelligent and public spirited in the State.

Gov. STONEMAN, of California, being a democrat, will naturally appoint a democrat to succeed the late Senator Miller. The upper house will then stand thirty-nine republicans, two readjusters and thirty-five democrats. At the present juncture—a number of nominations being up for confirmation—this apparently slight advantage is of importance.

STONEWALL JACKSON'S "Old Sorrel" is dying. He has been tenderly cared for at the Confederate Soldier's Home, near Richmond, of late, but the weight of years is becoming too great for him. He has been so weak recently that a block and tackle have been used to place him on his feet. The old soldiers at the Home shed tears when they talk about his sad condition. May he go where the good horses go.

SENATOR VANCE has stirred up the committee on civil service and retrenchment with a hot poker and proposes to have a report on his bill to repeal the civil service law. This measure was introduced January 5th and has never since been heard from. It will now probably be reported and "Our Zeb" may be expected to give the country some more "interesting reading" thereon.

COL. SWITZLER, the chief of the bureau of statistics, has in hand a report on the internal commerce of the United States, and, to assist him in gathering the data necessary, he has, under the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury, employed, among others in the South, Rev. C. H. Wiley, D. D., of Winston. This gentleman will confine his researches to North Carolina, and in view of his culture and ability and his thorough knowledge of the State as well, he may be confidently expected to do justice to the many and varied interests of the commonwealth.

GRAND MASTER-Workman Powderly, the head of the Knights of Labor in this country, says there is no significance in the fact that so many strikes are now in progress in the United States by assemblies of the order he represents. "It is a coincidence merely," he continues, "and there is no concerted action contemplated by the order, as has been suggested, the strikes being incidental and, I think, chiefly owing to the fact that this is just the beginning of the spring trade and the opening of a period of prosperity in business." But this is strange reasoning, surely. That an improvement in business should lead to or suggest strikes is a novel idea and one which we are surprised to find coming from so prominent a man as Mr. Powderly. The ordinary person would suppose that such an improvement would tend to smooth over any difficulties that might exist between the workman and his employer.

Referring to the allegation of dissatisfaction with the President, Col. McClure, the distinguished editor of the Philadelphia Times, said in the course of an interview at Charleston the other day: "There is one thing that is steadily strengthening Cleveland at the North, and that is the growing confidence in him of business circles, which you know, are very largely republican at the North. He has the confidence of industrial, commercial and financial men, and those who regard business as of more importance than politics. As to the dissatisfaction existing there is not one quarter as much with Mr. Cleveland in the democratic party as there was with Mr. Lincoln in the republican party during his term of office. I have no doubt whatever that before Mr. Cleveland has filled one-half of his term of office, unless something entirely unexpected and not of his own creation should happen, he will be the strongest President this country has had since the war." We have no doubt whatever that Col. McClure's diagnosis is correct.

MR. EDMUNDS'S SHOT. Mr. Edmunds has fired his columbiad and the walls of the administration seem to be as sound as ever. He succeeded in evading and obscuring the question at issue, but if he has accomplished anything else we fail to see it. The President has never denied the right of the Senate to official papers necessary to its information with regard to the nominations it is called upon to consider. He has simply maintained the right of the executive under the constitution to make suspensions within his discretion and has declined to give the reasons personal to himself which have led in many instances to such suspensions. He has never directly or through any one of his cabinet officers withheld from the Senate any paper to which that body was entitled, and he has declared plainly that no such thing. He proposes merely to protect the Presidential prerogative from the encroachments of that branch of the government which is the least democratic in essence of the three branches, and which, under long partisan control, has become the most dangerous to the liberties of the people. In this position he is sustained by his party and by the unprejudiced masses of the country. He can, therefore, afford to oppose the vapors of Mr. Edmunds and his followers. Sustained by the constitution and by all precedent so far as it has been established, he will only be strengthened by such petty assaults as that just made and those which will probably follow from the same side of the House.

BOUFELLE'S CHARGES. Commodore Truxton, commander of the Norfolk navy yard, has replied to the Boutelle resolutions of inquiry as to whether certain inscriptions in the yard honorable to the Union arms had not been defaced and the yard made a "political asylum," and the reply is emphatically and conclusively in the negative. The Commodore says, in the first place, that no honorable inscription was ever obliterated from any cannon captured by the United States and placed in the yard, by his order or the order of anybody else. On the contrary, the inscriptions having become somewhat dulled by the weather, they were renewed by his order last June and are now plainly visible. The dry dock, he says, "was partially damaged by the United States forces when they evacuated the yard in 1861, and also by the Confederates when they evacuated in 1862; but it was not destroyed, and in neither case did the damage exceed the destruction of the caisson and adjacent masonry. The only inscription ever authorized to be placed on the dry dock, or that ever was on the dry dock, is still there." As to the charge that the yard has been made "an asylum for decayed politicians," the Commodore says simply that the officers in charge of the yard, having all been engaged upon the side of the Union in the war, have in no way discriminated against sailors and soldiers, and that there are more Union soldiers and sailors employed there today than on the day the present administration came into power. He then quotes Brady's letter of January last to Secretary Whitney, giving the names of fifteen ex-Union soldiers and sailors removed from the yard, and shows that of the fifteen named three are now employed at the yard, three were removed for objectionable habits, one because of being behindhand in his book accounts and three were "very offensive partisans." Two appointees who took two of the above places were in the Confederate service, but had superior mechanical skill. Of two others one was a son of a United States naval officer and one was an ex-United States naval officer. The others were too young at the time of the war to take any part in the struggle.

It thus appears that Boutelle acted in entire ignorance of the facts which he made the basis of an attack on the administration. His partisan effort will therefore recoil upon himself. His charges are ignominiously exploded and he appears in the light of one who seeks to vilify without regard to the truth or falsity of that on which he proceeds. He should be sat upon without compunction.

FIGURES FOR THE DOCTORS. Today we have some figures for the doctors. They were gathered by a Dr. Wm. Ogle, superintendent of the statistical department of the office of the Registrar General of Great Britain and have been made the basis of an editorial in the Medical Record, a leading American journal of its class. They give the death-rate among physicians, as compared with the rate among other classes of men, and furnish a novel subject if not an interesting one to the general public. They refer to British doctors only, but we presume that there is not difference enough between these and their brethren in America to lessen greatly the significance they bear to our minds on this side the water. They dispel the popular idea that physicians are healthy and long-lived, which has gained ground possibly because of the fact that doctors don't take their own medicines, and show that the adage "Physician, heal thyself" is not yet out of place. Dr. Ogle finds, in short, that among British physicians at least the average death-rate is greater than among the members of any other learned profession and greater than the average rate among males over the age of 20 of all classes, being 25.58 to the thousand.

He finds also that the death-rate among physicians has steadily increased from the year 1860, when it was but 23.60 per 1000, though this increase has been confined to men over the age of 42. While the rate among the doctors—the British doctors, it must be remembered—is as above given, the rate among clergymen is 15.93, among lawyers 20.23, and among scholars generally 19.90; while with the rates in most of the trades and industries, the rate among the doctors compares most unfavorably—it is exceeded only, indeed, by the rates in certain trades and occupations that are considered notoriously unhealthy.

The causes of death among the doctors over the sea may also be worthy of attention. The rate given by Dr. Ogle is on the basis of a million and as compared with males of all other classes of the age of twenty and over. While only sixteen men generally die of scarlet fever, 59 British doctors are carried off by that disease. To typhus fever 79 doctors fall victims, while among men generally such victims number but 38. Diphtheria annually carries off, in Great Britain, 14 men only out of every million of the general public, while it slays 50 doctors. As to other diseases these comparisons are given: 46, 11; erysipelas, 172, 130; alcoholism, 178, 130; gout, 291, 78; rheumatic affections, 251, 215; malignant disease, 879, 790; diabetes, 285, 108; diseases of the nervous system, 4,565, 4,268; diseases of the circulatory system, 1,142, 2,934; liver disease, 1,744, 744; other diseases of the digestive system, 973, 682; calculus, 86, 30; diseases of the bladder and prostate gland, 634, 287; other diseases of the urinary system, 1,520, 665; suicide, 363, 238; the larger figures in every instance representing the doctors. With respect to lung and bronchial diseases only, according to Dr. Ogle, do medical men compare favorably with other classes.

What are the doctors, therefore, going to do about it? These figures are of course expected to serve as a solemn warning, but will they? Will doctors after conning them take any more of their own medicine than they have taken heretofore? We fear not.

Our Letter From Abroad.

"TREASURE TROVE."

BEYROUT, SYRIA, February 5, 1888.

Never were pearls more effectually cast before swine than at present in the Turkish empire. The priceless treasures of antiquity which lie buried beneath the soil of all Western Asia coast the Ottomans so many hours of jealous watching that it is probable they would willingly demolish every vestige of former times, if such a procedure would relieve them of the curious enquiries of the savants of Europe and America. It was only a few years ago that the Sultan proposed to give the old city wall at Constantinople to one of his favorites who was going to use it as a quarry. The proposal of European representatives saved this fine old historic ruin of the East from the vandalism of a mercenary court. Turkey herself cares nothing for these monuments of antiquity and it is a matter of exasperation to her that foreigners should intrude. She has of late years grown more suspicious and exclusive. She seems incapable of understanding the motives that lead to archeological research. Whenever a party of enthusiastic explorers appear at her doors she at once gives them the credit of intending to carry on political intrigue under the thin disguise of digging up some neglected mound or of surveying some sacred territory.

The law is for the present strictly exclusive. A special firman must be obtained for even an exploring party. A careful system of espionage is seen everywhere in full force. A native is cast into prison on the mere suspicion of knowing the whereabouts of secret treasure. The assumption of the government is that everything under the soil belongs to the treasury of the Porte. The splendid "finds" of Schliemann at Troy and of Layard and others at Nineveh and Ephesus and Cyprus did not fail to arouse the zeal of students of history the world over. But that ardor was doomed to be dampened by the following exclusive order of things, which renders such explorations in western Asia an impossibility for the present. As the political ascendancy of Islam begins to wane the Moslem world seems to be trying to withdraw itself from public gaze, and resents the attempts of the western world to pry into the secrets of her historic soil.

There is possibly in this matter at least one cause for congratulation, and that is that there is no archeological work carried on at present by unscientific explorers on any large scale. The whole field of research is being preserved for the good time coming, when explorations can be carried on with more system than can be expected under any present conditions. The devastating work of the Turkish officials is essentially finished. The fine old ruins that once skirted the Mediterranean shore were stripped some time ago, and there need be no further anxiety. But vast numbers of most interesting ruins both above and beneath the soil, are scattered all over the inland regions and are still awaiting, undisturbed, the investigations of the archeologist. Should the Turkish government today throw open its doors to every enthusiast who might come, and allow and encourage universal and indiscriminate excavation, the cause of historical research, though doubtless receiving an immediate and powerful impetus, would probably suffer in the long run. It is well to be patient and make the most for the present of what does come to light in the inevitable course of events. When the great work is undertaken it should be carried on systematically and under experienced hands.

To any one who has paid any attention to archeology or to ancient history, even though his attention has been confined to Biblical history, there is no need of emphasizing the value to the human race of such studies, and the consequent explorations. There is a peculiar fascination to such a person in the gradual development of information concerning the races of the ancient civilization. The excavations at Troy brought to Greek scholarship a new impetus and made

the pages of Homer. The discovery of the Assyrian library in the mounds of ancient Nineveh gave to the world of Semitic scholarship a new language; and a thousand mistaken notions concerning the early ages of the world have already been corrected, and that too in the very infancy of Assyriology. The work of many eminent travelers has lighted up the land of Palestine with a new interest to every reader of the sacred story. The labors of Robinson, Thomson and of the leaders of the American and English Palestine Exploration society have helped to bring the most important book in the world into the clear light of fact. We may hope that many of its mysteries may be cleared up and that a multitude of mistaken notions may be corrected. But in Egypt more than in any other land have the recent explorations brought us into close communion with antiquity. The domestic life of the Pharaohs and even the humblest Egyptian peasant is made evident, and we are now beginning to understand the relations ancient Egypt held to the political, social and the educational affairs of her time. But however much has been exhumed from the soil of the Turkish empire, no one who pretends to know anything about the subject would dare to affirm that we have yet gathered a tithe of the rich harvest that awaits us. It would be hazardous to attempt to put an estimate upon the value to human race of the treasures still lying buried in western Asia. Asia Minor over its whole extent is still comparatively untouched by the pick and spade. A few square acres upturned at Tros and Ephesus have shown us the wealth of the treasure. The Mesopotamian valley, perhaps the earliest home of the human race, and which contains the records that go back to the very roots of human history, has buried beneath its soil that which is of more value to the world than all the gold and silver mines put together. A few mounds pierced near Mosul have discovered to the world the literature of a mighty race of conquerors and Assyrian history had to be rewritten. A few gleanings from the surface in the regions of the upper Euphrates have startled the students of history by the apparition of the almost unknown race of the ancient Hitites. Syria and Palestine and Egypt have given us equally interesting material and promise much more. We know enough to know that the remains of antiquity still preserved from the vandalism of the ages and that await the scrutiny of man, are sufficiently abundant to cast an invaluable light upon the most sacred and profound problems of human history.

The East has been the magnetic source of religion to the whole civilized world. It sowed the seeds of civilization long before Greece and Rome were even named; it set in motion the philosophies of the world, and anything that can throw light upon its faraway deeds and aspirations will be a gain to the present and all future generations.

In speaking of the exclusive order of things under Turkish rule I have been careful to except Egypt, which is in a sense independent of the Porte. Under the efficient management of Messrs. Naville and Petrie the Egyptian Exploration fund has within a brief period effected in the discovery of the ancient Zoan and the careful survey of the land of Goshen. English and American scholars have entered heartily into the work, and are anxiously awaiting the settlement of important questions concerning the Israelitish sojourn in Egypt. This work deserves the sympathy and co-operation of every student of the Bible and ancient history. While this door is open the project should be pushed forward as rapidly and thoroughly as possible.

The surface of Western Palestine and the Sinaitic peninsula have during the last half century received careful attention. The work of the English Exploration society has finished what can be done in that line for the country west of the Jordan. The American Exploration society did good work east of the Jordan, but came to an untimely end. The English society, attempted work in Moab, but was stopped by the government. Much as we know about this interesting territory, there remains yet much to be done. The great American, Dr. Robinson, still remains the foremost name in this department. It is a matter of chagrin to many American scholars that the English society should be left to do this whole work alone. The Wolfe exploring expedition to Babylonia under the management of Dr. William H. Ward, of New York city, which was carried out so successfully last year, shows "that the Americans have not lost interest in Bible lands or forgotten how to explore."

Beyrout as the educational centre of the Arab-speaking world is beginning to offer attractions to American students. For several years the Syrian Protestant college has opened its doors to young men who wished to study Oriental history and the Arabic language. At present a fellow from Harvard college and a recent graduate from the Union theological seminary of New York city, are making Beyrout their headquarters. This is a beginning, and it is probable that many more will follow.

The great trouble is that when a student goes to the Orient he leaves all books behind him. He can do little more than make a plunge into the sea, gather a few facts, and then return to dig them in the libraries of Europe or America. Why could not Americans equip a thorough-going library museum at Beyrout or at some similar centre, and give encouragement to students to prosecute original studies in the East? If a Greek number of students of Greek history, how much more attractive could a similar institution at Beyrout be made to the much more numerous students of the Orient and the Bible? The authorities of the Syrian Protestant college would gladly furnish land for such a project and even assist in carrying out the work. A proper building could be erected for \$10,000. The expenses of travel could be lessened by at least forty per cent by a system of co-operation. Money invested in such an institution would not be wholly wasted, for in case of failure the college would be the natural heir.

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