

THE PEOPLE'S PRESS.

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Miscellaneous.

ORIGIN OF THE MASSACRE OF CHRISTIANS AT DAMASCUS.

The immediate cause of the massacre at Damascus is thus stated by a correspondent of the Boston Traveller, under date of Beirut, July 14, 1860:

"On Monday, the 10th inst., children who had been making cross in the mud, and otherwise insulting the Christians of Damascus, were arrested by the Governor, and after a short imprisonment, were sent to sweep the streets of the Christians. This step was the alleged cause of the outbreak, and every Frank considered it but a part of the general plan to produce the result which I am about to communicate. A mob of about five hundred persons rushed to the relief of these children, and attacked the Christian's quarter at 2 o'clock p. m. At this hour, the Christian merchants were away from their homes in the business part of the city, and were unable to reach their families after the breaking forth of the insurrection. The signal for death and destruction having thus been given, the work of slaughter commenced, and at the date of the latest advice—yesterday, at 3 p. m. the work of murder and pillage was still going on."

THE GRANARY OF THE WEST.

The Chicago Press and Tribune, in an answer to an article in the Nashville Banner, makes the following estimate of the crops of the Northwest:

Illinois has grown one bushel of wheat short of 26,000,000, and Indiana about 13,000,000. The wheat crop of Wisconsin will exceed 17,000,000, Iowa 14,000,000, Minnesota 5,000,000, and Michigan 8,000,000. Your estimate of Ohio, 25,000,000, is about correct, but many of her best informed citizens think her crop will reach 28,000,000. Thus you perceive that the seven Northwestern States have produced 118,000,000 bushels of wheat. The surplus that can be spared from Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota, after keeping abundance for bread and seed, will be equal to half of their whole crop. If your people in the South are likely to be destitute of bread, they can draw on the "Prairie State" for wheat enough to make two millions of barrels of flour, and still still have enough and to spare. As to corn our State will produce 160,000,000 bushels. An ordinary crop would be 120,000,000. You must not judge the agricultural capacity of Illinois in 1860 by Illinois in 1850.

COUNTERFEIT GOLD.

The New York banks and the Sub Treasury office in that city warn the public against the ingenious and very dangerous counterfeit of the ten dollar gold piece, which are circulated extensively and almost defy detection except by an expert. The genuine coin is opened, full one-half the gold taken out, and then filled with platinum or some other equally heavy substance, and then allowed to cool. In all respects, even to the specific weight, specimens of the spurious coin are exhibited which would seem to defy detection by ordinary skill, even the closest observation and handling, and yet the amount of pure gold left in a ten dollar piece is scarcely equal to \$4 50.

AN ARMY OF FIBBERS.—Hardly a day passes but we hear of some census taker's attempt to impose upon the uninformed, as they go round taking the census. One of these Deputy Marshals, as we have just been informed, came across a poor mountain farmer, who, not being able to own a horse, had to pounce his crop with a yoke of oxen, and told the poor man that if he voted for "Ad. Valerem," he would have to pay two dollars tax each year on his steers!—Greenboro' Patriot.

PLENTY OF GRAIN IN THE NORTHWEST.—The Wisconsin papers say that State will produce this year 20,000,000 bushels of wheat, and it is said that Minnesota will export more grain this year than the total yield for four years past. The Chicago Press says the amount of surplus corn which Illinois can spare out of the crop now maturing is immense, and it would be difficult to exaggerate it.

WYTHEVILLE, Va., Aug. 26.—O. Stille, editor of the Wytheville Telegraph, yesterday shot and killed W. W. Hanson, Cashier of the Farmers' Bank of Wytheville. The difficulty grew out of newspaper publications.

What an Englishman thinks of Saratoga.

One of the reporters of the London Times came over in the Great Eastern, and is now reporting the progress of the Prince for that journal. Before entering Canada, he visited several points of interest in the United States. Of Saratoga Springs he writes:

"Saratoga, as a place of fashionable resort, is, in the season, one of the most extraordinary places of its kind, perhaps in the world. The village is a mere accident of the situation; the hotels are Saratoga, and they are such hotels as only Americans can show. After living at those magnificent palaces at New York, the St. Nicholas, the Fifth Avenue, the New York or the Clarendon, in each of which a thousand guests (and often double that number in the St. Nicholas) are constantly stopping, one is apt to imagine that there is nothing further to be learned of these "institutions of America. But at Saratoga your ideas on such subjects receive an immense development. The hotels are as grand, though totally different from all others. Two of them, the United States and Union Hall, occupying five acres of ground!

The dining saloons are bigger than the Floral Hall and are laid with tables to dine 1,000 people; the dancing rooms are larger, loftier, and handsomer than any two rooms of the kind we have in all London. The grounds, attached to these are almost little parks, where between the trees are detached cottages, all belonging to the hotels, and occupied by wealthy Southerners, and others willing to pay any price for that inestimable luxury in America—a little privacy. To these hotels, and to Saratoga generally, some 25,000 people come in the season to drink the waters, to dress, drive, lounge, gamble, and go away again after a six week's stay, to Newport, Niagara, or any place where American citizens in a holiday can enjoy that idle and luxurious life to which they seem particularly given. The waters at Saratoga, unlike the nauseous doses so mercilessly crammed down visitors at other places, are not only really good, but, what is more, are really nice, something like Seltzer water and Johannisberg. Visitors get a perfect passion for drinking it, and as it should be taken in moderation, the effect on some fashionable devotees who through the fountain in the park all day and drink till you get alarmed for their safety, is, of course, anything but beneficial. Taken moderately to the extent of two or three glasses of a morning, they are, I believe, justly reputed to be of the greatest benefit, and some thousands of dozens of Congress water, thousands of it is called, are annually bottled and sent off to England. In the evening, Saratoga seems a charming place—a kind of rural Baden. Everybody sits under the colonnades of their hotel until the sun goes down, when the ladies saunter through the streets in evening dress, passing with their friends from hotel to hotel, joining in dances, or listlessly promading between the trees.

Sometimes when I look on this hotel life, brilliant as it is I cannot help congratulating myself that we have no such hotels in England. To an Englishman it seems an artificial, dressy state of existence—a kind of high comedy life, where the curtain is always raised, and a critical rather than an admiring audience, sits, judges, praises, or condemns. What it may be behind the scenes, I do not know or care to ascertain; beyond that all the better class of educated and travelled Americans dislike hotel life for families, and can give their reasons for it. As for Saratoga, of course, such a spot is necessary, and seems charming enough, not that it is gay. There may be excitement, but there seems no amusement. The ladies dress "magnificently" three or four times a day, though there are only two or three promenades through which they loiter and display the toilettes—for the well in the morning, for the drive, at dinner, and for the evening. Gentlemen of course find it a great centre of attraction, and the place is even more filled with them than with ladies; and Saratoga in the evening, when the colonnades are lit, the visitors all abroad, the band playing and the saloons filled with waltzers, looks wonderfully well. In a word, it is, at this season, not only the fashion, but the rage, and no visitor who wants to see the out of town amusements of the Americans on the greatest, and what passes for the gayest scale, should not omit a visit to Saratoga. After his tour through Canada, the Prince will probably remain there for a day.

The Value of a London Dust Heap.

From an article on the London poor, in the July number of the "Quarterly Review," we clip the following extract. It is a quotation from a book called "The Missing Link":

"The contests of every dust bin in this vast London are carried away periodically. The dustman receives a small gratuity from each household, and when he has collected a cart load, he demands another shilling at the gate of the Paddington wharves, as he deposits it within their precincts. A dust heap is very valuable to the contractor, and a large one is said to be four or five thousand pounds. It has to be sifted, sorted, and disposed of. We can give but a slight idea of its miscellaneous contents. Its chief constituent element is cinders, mixed with bits of coal, from the carelessness or waste of thousands of servants, which the scavenger picks out of the heap to be sold forthwith. The largest and best of the cinders are also selected for the use of laundresses and braziers, whose purpose they answer better than coke. The far greater remainder is called breeze, because it is a portion left after the wind has blown the cinder dust from it, through large upright iron sieves, held and shaken elbow high by the women who stand in the heap, whilst men throw up the stuff into the sieves. The breeze and ashes are sold to brickmakers, the ashes are mixed with the clay of the bricks, and the breeze is used as fuel to burn between their layers.

But the heap likewise includes software and hardware. The former includes all vegetable and animal matter—all that will decompose. Stale fish and dead cats come into this list—the skins of the latter being stripped off by the sisters who can sell them for 4d. or 6d., according to their color, white being most in request. The "hardware" does not merely mean broken pottery, though of this there is great abundance. Part of the pottery is matched and mended by the women who find it, and becomes their perquisite; the rest, with the oyster-shells, is sold to make new roads.

But hardware in the dust heaps means rags, which go to the paper makers; bones, which go to the bone-boilers; old iron, brass and lead, to salisemen of those metals; broken glass to old glass shops; old carpet, old mattresses, old boxes, old pads, broken tea boards, candlesticks, fenders, old silk handkerchiefs, knives and salt cellars—not forgetting old shoes, which go in baskets to the translators, who turn old shoes into new; and everything, in short, that the householder has thought not worth mending, besides many a wasteful addition which the masters never knew, from mansions where recklessness and extravagance bear rule.

Some of the contents are the sifter's perquisite—a certain amount of cinders and as much paper and wood as they can carry, and corks of bottles, by which alone some boat they can find themselves in shoe-leather; pill boxes and gallipots are their lawful property. Jewelry, silver forks and spoons, and money, are occasionally found, and too often appropriated by the finder. One day a check for a considerable sum was discovered among the waste paper."

The Hudson's Bay Company.

The Richmond Dispatch makes a 'sharp' hit at JOHN BULL through this 'sharp' company.

JOHN BULL may pay what compliments he pleases to the money making propensities and capacities of BROTHER JONATHAN, but the latter has never yet equalled the former, perhaps from the want of opportunity, in the wholesale want of opportunity. Here upon our own continent, we have in the Hudson's Bay Company an example of gigantic cheating which must make the most dishonest corporation in the United States blush for its degeneracy. Having an area of country which considerably exceeds two millions of square miles, and whose principal commercial value is that of the fur-bearing animals which roam over that vast area. The Indians kill these animals, and strip off and prepare their skins, which they sell to the Company, and it is in this article that the Company almost exclusively deal.

The manner in which the company impose upon these poor savages would make the sharpest American trader ashamed of himself. British authority before us shows the manner in which they do business.—There are about 147,000 Indians in the Company's territories, and 11,000 whites and half-breeds. The Company have 160 trading posts or forts scattered over their territory, and such of the Indians as are engaged in trapping or hunting, attend periodically at these posts, and there are no stores at which he can buy except the Company's stores. The bargain is—so many skins for so many articles of European manufacture. Each trading post is supplied with articles purchased by the Company in England, at the very cheapest rates. Guns, shot, powder, axes and other tools, knives, blankets, pieces of cloth, made up garments, and a long list of necessary articles, are sent out annually to the territories. A Parliamentary committee once examined the Company's tariff, and ascertained that a common coarse blanket was entered at four beavers, the price of the fur which one beaver skin yields never falling below two dollars in the London market, and sometimes as high as \$7 50. Twenty beavers by a gun, which cost the Company 8 or 10 dollars; the same gun is made exchangeable for five silver foxes, often worth \$250 at the Company's London sales. A four penny comb will buy a bear skin worth \$10, and a six penny knife three marten skins, worth in London \$25. Several years ago the profits of this enterprising Company were estimated at two thousand per cent. Our cousins over the water do great injustice when they give Americans the credit of being the only people who know how to traffic and barter.

SHIP-OF-WAR FULL OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

A letter from one of the officers of the English steamer sent to Deir-el-Kama, in Syria, gives us the women and children, gives us a brief account of the same. It says: "We only had about eight boats, but these we began to load with all dispatch, every poor woman and child having to be carried through a treacherous surf to the boats. However, our boats worked well and cheerfully, only minus say that they very unfairly gave preference to the pretty girls, and when any other woman wanted to be carried off I was obliged to order some man personally to do it. Some of the women and children were badly wounded. They had been wounded while clinging to their husbands and fathers when they were killed. As soon as the boat was loaded we set out for the ship, and the poor wretches stood as close as they would lie on board, and then the boat was sent back. After the boat was sent back, our decks were packed as full as possible, and we had room for a month. The gun-boat, I must tell you, was all of fugitives from Sidon, so that she was not holding any. The sun had set; the surf was increasing fast, and two or three of our boats had been pitched bottom up on the beach, and there were still 700 unfortunate women and children on the beach with hardly a stick of savas on, and they were all foot-sore, having travelled 80 miles the previous day, and some of them had not touched any food for two or three days. I sent for the Druggist, and made him promise me to take care of them until the morning, when I said we would come again and bring off the rest of them, as the Gannet was firing guns for my relief.

When I, leaving them all, horribly disappointed on the beach, poor things! When I went on board I found almost every inch of deck covered. We had 700 women and children on board, and only about a score of men who had escaped. It was the most distressing sight I ever saw or hope to see again. I saw that the same fear of death was removed, they began to feel conscious of the full extent of their misfortune—bodies buried down, and all their male relations massacred, and they began to tremble, tear their hair out in handfuls, and beat their breasts in a most horrible manner. We did all we could to soothe them. Officers and men are all vying with each other, in feeding them with biscuit and giving them clothes, &c.—I could tell you hundreds of anecdotes about them, but must reserve them for another time, as we are off directly. Suffice it to say, we took them to Beirut, and after a miserable night for them, poor things, we brought them to the shore, and they were next morning, and the gunboat was sent up, and brought down the remaining 700 that night.

SHOOTING STARS IN ONE NIGHT.

The New Haven Palladium of Friday contains the following communication: "Observations made here last night show that the annual meteoric display of August has not failed this year. Between 10 P. M. (9.4) and 3 A. M. (10.4) five hundred and sixty five shooting stars were seen by a corps of observers stationed in the top of high buildings in this city. Most of the meteors moved in paths which, if traced back, would in the constellation Perseus. Many of them were more brilliant than stars of the first magnitude, and left sparkling trains. At eleven o'clock the light of the moon interfered with the observations, and doubtless rendered invisible many of the smaller meteors. The Aurora Borealis was visible during the night, and occasionally presented groups of bright streamers, some of them reaching to an altitude of forty degrees. The night of Wednesday, August 8th, was rainy and cloudy."

THE CROPS IN LOUISIANA.

The Mansfield (De Soto Parish) Eagle says, the corn crop of the river will not reach one third of the usual yield in a seasonable year—and in fact not a single planter on the hills will make more than a sufficiency of corn to supply his own demands, while there are many who will scarcely make a bushel to the acre. There are families in De Soto Parish actually suffering for bread, not being able to procure it for love or money, for the very reason that it is not to be had in the country.

SMASHING THE PLATFORM.

The Breckinridge party in Virginia have already smashed the plank of the platform on which their candidate was placed by their General Convention. The Pacific railroad plank—now (says the Alexandria Gazette) the question arises, if one State Convention, in this way, can break up the platform of the whole party, what is to prevent another State Convention from knocking it to pieces in some other way? There seems to be trouble all round the board.

FROM CHINA.

Important intelligence is received from China by way of Russia. The Chinese Empire is said to be in a very disordered state, owing to internal disturbances. The insurgents were within fourteen miles of Pekin. The British fleet had not left Hong Kong owing to adverse winds. On the day of the 1st a favorable change had occurred, and the fleet was to leave immediately.

SUSPICIOUS CHARACTER.

The citizens of Orange Co., suspecting a man who had been lurking in that vicinity for several days of being too intimate with the slaves, took him up on Wednesday last, and administered the law very freely and afterwards pardoned him with stones.—Raleigh Press.

DOUGLAS KISSED.

When at Ratland, and as Mr. Douglas was entering the Bardwell house, a large Irish woman rushed up, grabbed him in her arms, and kissed him.

THE NEWS AT NEW YORK.

This city being the focus of news as well as commerce, we are overwhelmed with accounts from all quarters of the country of the growth of the Union cause.—N. Y. Cor. Nat. Int.

Agricultural.

Wintering Stock.

How to winter stock on a short supply of forage, seems just now an important question. A gentleman had a pretty good pile of corn-stalks, well saved. His stock consisted of cows, and his team of horses, but he had little straw and less hay. He's a great believer in the virtues of corn-stalks, and thinks he knows how to feed them. Then he fixed some tubs, by sawing good stout barrels in two, and made a good warm stable for cattle. The stalks were all cut, and more or less straw was cut with them. Each cow was allowed all the good cut three times a day, and the more night and morning was fixed in this way.—The cows at noon had food of dry cut stalks as a straw, which they would eat pretty clean except the coarse bits. At about 3 o'clock, these were gathered into the tubs and enough more added to make the evening meal. To this we add two quarts of cornmeal and two quarts of bran and hot water turned on, as much as would well moisten the whole, and add well mixed. The morning meal was the same, being mixed over night or early in the morning. In this way, masts were wasted, the cows gave a good supply of milk, and increased in condition. It was some trouble, but the manure paid for that abundantly.—On Long Island, where it is the custom for the farmers to sell their hay, they keep their horses mainly on cut stalks and ground feed, and their teams look well. We can winter four times as much stock upon an acre of corn-stalks as upon the hay from an acre, and there is no profit in growing hay for stock upon land that will produce good corn.—But the corn must be ground, and the stalks cut, and cooked with the meal.—R. in New York Rural.

Winter Oats.

Editors Southern Cultivator.—I am not one of those who are accustomed to writing for the sake of seeing my name in print, and am an earnest hater of humbugs and humbuggers.—Being a planter myself and feeling a deep interest in the success of this noble calling, I feel it my duty to call the notice of the planting public to a new variety of Winter oats which has been introduced in our neighborhood recently. They are a large white oat, growing from six inches to one foot taller than the common varieties, and the head correspondingly heavy. They can be sown either in the fall or spring; and produce from one half to as much again as any other kind I can sow. When sown in the fall, half a stand will make more than a good stand of other kinds. I have the Black Egyptian Oats and several kinds of spring oats, and think I speak advisedly in what I have said. I shall throw away every other kind, and so every one who has sowed will do. I have a bunch grown from one root which has one hundred and seventy one stems. It is worthy of remark that they are the only oats that have escaped the rust this season.—I have them sowed both in the winter and spring—both escaped the rust; and while others who have sowed the common varieties of oats have made almost a total failure, I have an unusually fine crop of this kind. We call them here the Jones Oats, from the fact that they were introduced into this neighborhood by Mr. Stephen Jones, from Virginia. I will supply any who may desire to make a trial of them for the next season at one dollar a bushel. When sowed up and sent to the railroad the purchaser must pay me for sacks, freight, &c., extra. I can supply to the extent of several hundred bushels, and am engaging them rapidly in my own neighborhood where they are known. They should be sowed to make the heaviest yield about October or November in this climate—one bushel to the acre. If you think this worth a publication, put it in the next number of the Cultivator, and oblige, Yours truly,

P. W. HUTCHISON, Jr.
Watkinsville, Ga., July, 1859.

Facking Apples in Leaves.

A few years ago Mr. J. W. Boynton of East Hartford, while gathering up the leaves under an apple tree observed under them a few fresh unfrozen apples. It suggested at once that dry leaves would answer well as packing material for fruit, and the next fall, and every season since he has used them for this purpose.—We saw a few days ago some specimens thus preserved, seemingly as fresh and plump as that they were varieties that would have decayed months ago if unprotected. His plan is to pick the apples carefully at the proper time, but not to pack them until the forest leaves are perfectly dry and the weather quite cool. Then the apples and leaves are packed in alternate layers, and the last layers of leaves crowded in as close as possible by placing any convenient weight on the cover of the barrel.—The leaves are of such elasticity that the wool may be compressed so tightly as to prevent all shaking, &c., and yet not bruise the apples in the slightest degree. In this latitude Mr. Boynton has never found it necessary to keep these barrels of fruit in any place warmer than an open shed. It would be advisable of course, everywhere to keep them in as cool a place as possible. In the spring they are to be removed to a cool, airy cellar or to an apartment, especially for fruit, in connection with the ice-house.—Homestead.

IMPORTANT FROM TEXAS AND MEXICO.

The Austin at New Orleans, August 20, brings intelligence from Mexico. The revolution in the Northern provinces continued unchecked. Gen. Vidaurri had been attacked while sleeping. Gen. Zuazuga was shot through the head when rising from his bed. The most violent scenes had taken place.

Rate of the Sinking Ship.

The N. Y. Herald of Tuesday decidedly advocates a union of all the conservative elements on Bell and Everett, and denounces equally the extremists North and South. The Herald has a warm supporter of Breckinridge.

Political.

From the Newbern Progress.

THE LEADERS OF THE BRECKINRIDGE PARTY—TO WHAT THEY TEND, &c., &c.

We have ever believed and still believe the masses of the Democratic people honest, and even now when some of them have been deluded into the support of a sectional, irregular candidate for the Presidency against the regular national candidate we have no hard words for them. We have nothing to say against Mr. Breckinridge—we believe him to be an honest, reliable and safe man, but the greatest error of his life was the acceptance of the nomination of the Southern Convention. It is a stain that will stick to his political record while he has one. He is the candidate of a sectional party whose leaders are corrupt, and whose objects are, as we clearly show, to dissolve the Union. We say that he is a sectional candidate, and he is, for every unprejudiced man who has taken the pains to inform himself must know that Breckinridge and Lane must have no supporters North but the federal office holders and those whom they can influence. Buchanan is an unrelenting enemy of Douglas and would rather see the Union broken into a thousand fragments than see him President.

It is with the leaders of the Breckinridge party that we at present have to do, and to show that disunion is their cherished object we must introduce their own language.

Henry A. Wise of Va., supports Breckinridge, and in 1856 he addressed the following letter to ten of the Southern Governors.

RICHMOND, Va., Sept. 15, 1856.

DEAR SIR:—Events are approaching which address themselves to your responsibilities and to mine as chief executives of slaveholding States. Contingencies may soon happen which would require preparation for the worst of evils to the people. Ought we not to admonish ourselves by joint counsel of the extraordinary duties which may devolve upon us from the dangers which so palpably threaten our common peace and safety? When how, or to what extent we act, separately or unitedly, to ward off dangers if we can, to meet them most effectually if we must?

"I propose that as early as convenient, the Governors of Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee, shall assemble at Raleigh, N. C., for the purpose of the country, upon the best means of preserving its peace, and especially of protecting the honor and interests of the slaveholding States. I have addressed the States only having Democratic Executives, for obvious reasons.

"This should be done as early as possible before the Presidential election, and I would suggest Monday, the 13th of October—next. Will you please give me an early answer, and oblige

Yours, most truly and respectfully,
HENRY A. WISE.
His Excellency Thomas W. Ligon,
Governor of Maryland."

Judge Bailey, formerly of Georgia, addressed a union meeting in Knoxville, Tennessee, last January, on which occasion, according to a Knoxville paper—

"He said, that during the Presidential contest, Governor Wise had addressed letters to all the southern governors—and that the one to the Governor of Florida, had been shown him—in which Wise said that he had an ordinary duty, to prevent Fremont from taking his seat in the election, and asking the cooperation of those to whom he wrote"

W. L. Yancey, of Alabama, who has been everything which a scoundrel could be in politics, supports the Breckinridge ticket. On the 10th of May, 1858, when the Southern Commercial Convention met in Montgomery, he delivered an address of welcome to the delegates, of which the subjoined is an extract:

"I must be allowed, at least on my behalf, to welcome you too, as but the forerunner of that far more important body; important as you evidently will be, that if injustice and wrong shall continue to rule the hour and councils of the dominant section of the country, must, ere long, assemble upon southern soil for the purpose of devising some measure by which not only your industrial, but your social and political relations shall be placed upon the basis of an independent sovereignty, which will have within itself a unity of soil, a unity of production, and a unity of social relation: that unity which alone can be the basis of a successful and permanent government."

At that session the chief topic of discussion was the re-opening of the African slave trade, and the general exposition of the supposed wrongs of the South. Mr. Yancey had a good opportunity of conferring with the ultraists of other southern States, on the subject of secession and disunion, which, we are led to believe, he industriously improved. For within about a month afterward he addressed a letter to Mr. Jas. S. Slaughter, dated June 15th, 1858, which is as follows:

"MONTEGOMERY, June 15, 1858.

"DEAR SIR:—Your kind letter of the 15th inst. is received. I hardly agree with you that a general movement can be made that will clean out the Augean stable. If the Democracy were overthrown, it would result in giving place to a greater and hungrier swarm of flies. The remedy of the South is not such a process. It is in a diligent organization of her true men for prompt resistance to the next aggression. It must come in the nature of things. No na-