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# CENTRAL EXPRESS

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**THE SAMOAN DISASTER.**

Previous Naval Losses Recalled—A Sample Hurricane Described.

The following is a condensed report of the recent naval losses to the United States, as reported by the press:

Naval officers generally concur in the belief that the disaster at Apia was the most severe that has ever overtaken the American Navy in time of peace. Commodore Walker, Chief of the Navigation Bureau, an officer of long experience in naval affairs, makes this statement emphatically. His recollection of previous naval losses from storm and stress, running back fifty-five years, is as follows:

The Albany, sloop of war, was lost in West Indian waters in 1833. She is supposed to have gone down in a cyclone, with every soul of her crew of 210 officers and men, as she was never heard from after she sailed on her last cruise. In the same year the brig-of-war Porpoise, with 100 persons on board, went down in the China seas without leaving a trace of her end. In 1853 another sloop-of-war, the Levant, went down in the waters of the Pacific, taking some 200 men to "Davy Jones's locker." In 1863 the brig-of-war Bainbridge met a cyclone off Cape Hatteras. A colored cook, picked up a day or two afterward on a bit of wreckage, told the story of the loss of every one of his shipmates.

The old Yorktown was blown ashore near the Cape de Verde Islands on the African coast some years later, but the crew escaped. In 1868 a great tidal wave picked up the ship-of-war Wateries in the harbor of America, Peru, and carried her seven or eight miles inland, depositing her in a tropical forest, where she ended her days as a hotel. The same tidal wave caught the storeship Fredonia at anchor, rolled her over, and sunk her instantly with every soul on board.

The Monongahela, now in active service, had a peculiar experience in 1867. She was caught up by a tidal wave, carried over a number of large buildings on the island of Santa Cruz, West Indies, knocking down one of them, and deposited in the streets of a city. Subsequently workmen were sent there who blocked her up and launched her again.

The Saginaw was cast away in the night upon one of the islands of the Pacific about fifteen years ago.

The wreck of the Huron, although it occurred thirteen years ago, is still fresh in the minds of people on the coast. The ship was wrecked on Currituck Beach, N. C., and few of her crew escaped to tell the story of the heavy weather and false beacon lights.

Commodore Walker thinks that the English man-of-war Calliope escaped at Apia because she had steam up. The American vessels were very short of coal, and were probably compelled to try to ride out the storm at anchor.

**THE HAVANA HURRICANE.**

Mr. Hayden, in charge of the publication of the Pilot Chart, visited Havana last September on purpose to study cyclones, and his description of the great hurricane of August, 1877, will be of interest.

"What a tremendous engine of destruction. Let us watch its origin and progress. Imagine to yourself a hot, sultry August day in the tropics, off the Cape Verde Islands, at about the northern limit of the belt of equatorial rains and calms, where the northeast trades have become fiffal and irregular.

"The uniformity of the trade sky is disappearing, and the little masses of cumulus clouds that have flecked the sky from zenith to horizon gather together here and there as if undecided what to do, and now and then rise in tall, massive columns, that grow before the eye and mount higher and higher, till one lustily wonders how high they will rise above their broad level basis before they reach some upper current that will scatter their beautiful crests and spoil their snow-white symmetry. In the distance an occasional dark mass is seen, from which heavy rain is falling, with sometimes a broad

flash of pale sheet lightning. In one of the tall masses of cumulus, off to the westward, taller and more majestic than its mates, a slow gyration motion can be detected which, gathering strength, rapidly draws in the warm air from below, saturated with moisture, and sends it aloft into cooler and cooler regions, to add rapidly to the growing and darkening masses of clouds. A new feature catches the eye; long, graceful, snow-white, feathery plumes reach out at the top of the mass, projecting against the deep, clear azure sky. Beneath them the shape, rounded, upper edges of the now dark and threatening cumulus begin to grow misty and indistinct, and the inner shaft of the radiating cirrus plume are lost to sight in this new misty veil. Gradually, faint and then sharp, dark horizontal lines appear against the cumulus and rapidly grow into stratus clouds, as though a fine rain were falling and settling at the level. Below, the distant horizon was now obscured by heavy rain. Off to the northeast some little trade-wind clouds are moving this way. Watching them a moment, as they rise toward the zenith, some mysterious force to the westward seems to attract them, and their path curves that way. What does it mean? you say; and looking in that direction you see more little patches of sea moving across from left to right, and notice that a breeze is springing up from the east, while the barometer is falling slightly and the whole great mass of clouds is moving westward. A hurricane has had its birth, and its westward march toward St. Thomas, Hatteras, Cape Race and Norway. One of our Western tornadoes is to this monster as an electric light to the noonday sun, and all the tornadoes in the records of the signal office rolled into one and added to it would hardly add appreciably to its energy.

"Let us now take our station in advance of the approaching storm and await its coming. Whirling along its ocean pathway at an average velocity of nearly twenty miles an hour, it sends out a long rolling swell a thousand miles in advance, and is heralded by a long, high, feathery plume of cirrus clouds, radiating far beyond the slowly thickening cirrus veil that casts its pale halo over sun and moon, and at dawn and twilight envelopes heaven and earth with an awful, fiery glare like the light of some great conflagration. Soon the massive leaden-colored cloud bank heaves in sight above the horizon, a great mountain range—Oss piled upon Pelion—and flying sea forms overhead and drifts to leeward, not with the surface wind, but at a mark angle to the right, moving with the upper current of the great whirlwind. At intervals fine misty rain seems to grow out of the air and then vanish again, and the squalls freshen, the barometer sinks lower and lower, heavy clouds cover the whole horizon, and the low, distant moan gradually changes into the shrieks of a thousand demons wrenching at the stout masts and spars, tearing the storm canvas into shreds and fluttering pennants, hurling timber and masonry into heaps of shapeless ruins, driving wild breakers high up on land, and laughing to scorn the feeble strength of man. Suddenly a pause, silence, calm—the warm, bright sunshine of a summer day, a brief glimpse of heaven, and then another seeming eternity of hell."

**John Bright.**

**N. Y. Sun.**

Alone amid English orators of the first class, John Bright was a stranger to the influences and traditions of the great public school and the university. His speeches bear no marks of Greek and Latin studies; their charm is all native, their vigor is of the soil. Had he been an ancient Athenian or a modern Persian, he could not have displayed a more complete indifference to foreign models and imported embellishments. As it is reported of Demosthenes that he many times transcribed the work of his fellow countryman, Thucydides, so John Bright drew his limpid and captivating eloquence from the local fountains; for, as he once explained, it had been from youth his custom to store his memory with the thoughts and words of writers who have enriched the English tongue. So that when he came to speak in Parliament, his own thought and feeling clothed itself with almost instinctive felicity in the forms best fitted to impress and persuade.

**SCIENCE AND CRIME.**

**A Third Article on the Subject.**

Collier's Once a Week.

A case which excited great scientific interest in America, in the year 1849, was that of Dr. Parkman, who was a well-known physician of Boston. He disappeared on November 23, 1840, and was last traced to the laboratory of Prof. Webster, a lecturer on chemistry. Suspicion having been aroused, Webster's laboratory was searched. There the haunch-bones, left leg and right thigh of a man were found. These remains were wrapped in towels, bearing Webster's name. In the refuse of the laboratory furnace fragments of skull-bones were found. In this place also, the search disclosed the blocks of artificial teeth, and some melted gold. A tea chest was next found, and in it were discovered the trunk of a human body, and the left thigh, the remains having been covered with tar and mineral matters. The scientific evidence showed that these were all parts of the same body. When they were placed together these relics showed that they formed part of a body, of which the head, arms, and hands, both feet, and the right leg from the knee to the ankle were missing, but which at the same time corresponded with the frame of the missing man in every particular. Dr. Parkman at the time of his departure was sixty years of age. The examination of the skeleton pointed to its being a man of about that age. Parkman's height was five feet seven inches, and the skeleton pieced out, proportionately measured, was found to indicate a height of five feet ten and one half inches. In these facts, therefore, the identity of the remains seemed to be clearly shown. But, as in the case of Caroline Welsh, there were special points in Dr. Parkman's case which served to place the identification well nigh beyond a doubt. It was quite evident that an attempt to destroy the head by fire had not only been made but had well nigh succeeded. The evidence of Dr. Keep, the missing man's dentist, came to the rescue in a very remarkable fashion, after an examination of the remains of the artificial teeth, which had action of Webster's furnace. Keep's evidence was that four years before the disappearance of Dr. Parkman, he fitted artificial teeth in blocks for that gentleman in both upper and lower jaws. The dentist could also speak with certainty to seeing these teeth in Dr. Parkman's house about a fortnight before his disappearance, when he had fitted the teeth with a new spring. The artificial teeth secured from Webster's furnace were sworn to by keep as those he had made for Dr. Parkman from their fitting the molds in which the teeth of the latter had been made, and from the peculiarities of make. The left side of the lower jaw of Dr. Parkman exhibited a certain irregularity which was recognized by keep in the form of the gold recovered from the furnace of Webster. Other circumstances combined to weave the evidence strongly around the latter as the perpetrator of the crime; the motive for which was supplied by the fact that Dr. Parkman had been Webster's creditor to a large amount, and that on the former becoming troublesome to him by insisting on the repayment of the debt, Webster had murdered his creditor, as a short and sharp, but as the sequel proved, fatal method of discharging his obligation. Webster was found guilty, and was duly executed.

Occasionally the identification of a person may be effected or disproved in a very simple fashion by a simple induction of medical science. Thus at the old Ralley in 1834, a man, believed to possess the name of Stuart, was charged with being a returned convict, and with having escaped from transportation. Evidence was given that in 1817 a person of that name was convicted and sentenced. The governor of the jail in which the convict was confined testified to the identity of the prisoner at the bar with the convict, and no less certain was the guard of the convict-ship to which Stuart was consigned that the old Bailey prisoner was his former charge. Cross-examined on behalf of the prisoner, the guard admitted that the convict Stuart in 1817 possessed a wen on his left hand, and indeed this peculiarity was duly entered in the convict records as a distinctive mark of the person in question. In answer to the charge preferred against him, the prisoner stated that he was not the convict Stuart, and that his name was Stipier. Between 1817

and 1834, however, witnesses who might have testified to the truth of his statement had disappeared, and were not forthcoming for the defense. Already the Recorder was prepared to charge the jury, when a singular, and, for the prisoner, most fortunate incident occurred. A celebrated surgeon of the day, Mr. Carpus, happened to be seated in court during the trial of the alleged Stuart. Struck with the evidence of the guard of the convict-ship regarding the presence of a well marked wen or tumor on the convict's hand, it occurred to Mr. Carpus that this fact could be turned to advantage in the cause of justice. Hurriedly consulting the counsel for the defense, Mr. Carpus entered the witness-box. He testified as a surgeon, that the removal of such a wen would entail the presence of an indelible scar as the result of the operation. If the prisoner were Stuart the convict, said counsel, either the wen or the scar should be found on his left hand. Both hands of the prisoner were found to be free from wens and from scars alike, whereupon the jury at once acquitted him. In this case a chance accident and the acuteness of the surgeon may be said to have saved an innocent man from a lengthened period of incarceration as a culprit of more than ordinary nature.

The well known case of Joseph Leserques, whose misfortune forms the incident on which more than one melodrama and novel has been founded, has recently been brought anew under public notice through Mr. Henry Irving's performance in the "Lyons Mail," and by his assumption of the role of Leserques and his villainous double. The case actually occurred in France in 1794, and the details are sufficiently well known to obviate necessity for their repetition here. Charged with robbery and murder, the innocent Leserques was recognized, identified, and sworn to as the real culprit by various disinterested witnesses. Notwithstanding strong exertions which were made to save his life, and despite his previous high moral character and probity of conduct, Leserques was sentenced to death, and executed. Soon afterwards, the real culprit, a man who bore the closest possible likeness to Leserques, was brought to justice. It was then seen that the similarity in features, stature, build, and manner was so close as to have deceived the witnesses who gave evidence at the trial. On the grounds alone, and as a matter of common recognition and identification, the misfortunate resemblance of Leserques to the real culprit had unwittingly led them into a "Comedy of Errors," which resulted in a legal tragedy as its denouement. But more extraordinary to relate still is the incident, well nigh unparalleled in the annals of coincidences, that Leserques was marked by a scar on the forehead, and by another on the hand, while the real criminal likewise possessed similar markings! Surely "the grim irony of Fate" could no further go than this, in causing likeness to assume a form and to entail consequences so fatal and sad, as in the case of Joseph Leserques.

The simplicity of scientific evidence, to which I have already referred in the case of Mr. Carpus, was equalled in an instance in which Sir Astley Cooper, the famous surgeon, was concerned. A Mr. Blight, of Deptford, was fatally wounded by a pistol-shot in 1806, and Sir Astley was called in to see the sufferer. Proceeding to the scene of the assault, Sir Astley, from an examination of the locality and the position of the wounded man, together with the situation of the wound, came to the conclusion that the assassin must have been a left-handed man. A Mr. Patch answered to the latter description. He was near the locality at the time of the murder, and, hitherto unsuspecting, he was arrested. On being asked to hold up his hand to plead to the indictment, Patch at once raised his left hand. He was tried and convicted for the offense, fully confessing his guilt before his execution.

Finally, as regards identification of the dead, the famous case of Eugene Aram may be mentioned. Aram was born at Ramskill, Yorkshire, in 1704. Settling at Knarborough as a school master, he became acquainted with Daniel Clark, a shoemaker, who was possessed of certain valuables, and who was alleged to have been murdered by Aram and another. Clark disappeared in February, 1745, and Aram was shortly thereafter arrested on suspicion of having been concerned in his disappearance, but was acquitted from want of evidence. Eventually Aram became usher at Lynn Academy, Norfolk, and while there engaged his accomplice confessed that certain bones discovered in a

cave near Knarborough in 1758 were those of Daniel Clark. Aram was brought to trial at York in 1750. In his elaborate defense he laid great stress on the difficulties besetting the identification of human remains after such an interval as had elapsed since Clark's death. His plea in defense were founded on the alleged impossibility of determining the exact nature, sex, and other particulars regarding a skeleton after the lapse of many years. The fracture of the temporal bone found in the skeleton proved nothing; for it was not probable that the cave may have been a place of burial in olden times, and that the injury might have been produced after death in the spoliation to which graves were frequently subjected. These and like pleas Aram urged in his defense with singular ability. But the confession of his accomplice and the facts of the case overruled his pleas, and he was found guilty and executed, having previously confessed his crime; while with strange philosophy he wrote a defense of suicide, and endeavored practically to defeat justice by carrying his theories into effect.

**Opinions of the Press.**

**World, Ind. Dem.**

In giving to Robert Lincoln the mission to England, the President has again, as in the appointment of Col. Grant to Vienna, shown his respect for that principle of heredity which secured his own nomination. This is a new department in American government. \* \* \* But neither in point of ability, reputation nor public services is he a man who would be thought of for the highest and most important diplomatic mission in the gift of the Government, except for the fact that he is the son of Abraham Lincoln. This appointment is a piece of sentimental politics; obviously the President's own act, but it is one likely to receive the indorsement of the American people.

**N. Y. Times, Ind. Rep.**

If Gen. Boulanger were a successful soldier there would be nothing to marvel at his popularity. A French General who should beat the Germans would doubtless have France at his feet, and unless he were a Cincinnatus or a Washington, there would be a grave danger that the republic would perish under "the curse of a granted prayer." But Gen. Boulanger does not possess any of the requisites of a dictator except the military profession and the dictatorial temper. These have carried him so far, and it is a disturbing question for intelligent French Republicans how much further they are to carry him.

**Democratic Literature of 1844.**

Mr. L. J. Deberry recently handed us a copy of the "Democratic Signal," edited by Perin Busbee, dated Raleigh, Nov. 8, 1844." It carried at its mast head James K. Polk of Tennessee for President, and George M. Dallas of Pennsylvania for Vice President.

The publication of this particular issue was just after the election, as the following taken from the editorial columns will show: "Our readers must excuse us for the scant of editorial matter which our columns exhibit this week. We have had little time to give to any thing else than election news; and our principle regret is that we are unable to furnish more returns of our State elections than appear in our table."

The paper is a five column sheet measuring about 15 inches in length and it looks like "long time ago."

**Scotland Neck Democrat.**

**How to Judge a Town.**

**Charlotte Chronicle.**

The advertising columns of a newspaper, are the true, and the accepted index of the pluck, push and enterprise of the people of the town where the paper is published. Unless the business of a city is mirrored in its advertising columns, the glowing words in the local or editorial columns, about the "great boom the town is on," will be accepted by the general public, by the people at home as well as by the people away, as the whistling of a scared boy passing a graveyard.

**Preface to First Steps in N. C. History.**

**Mrs. Spencer.**

This little book has been written to interest and instruct the boys and girls of North Carolina. It is addressed to them, is dedicated to them and its Author would be glad to know that not one of them, from ten to fifteen years old, will fail to read or to approve of it. She will be very well content with such a test of its merits.

It is one of the brightest signs of our new day that more books about North Carolina are called for and find a market among our own people, and that more and more are written by our own people.

The story of our State has few romantic incidents. It is the story of a slow growth, beginning in a series of failures and marked by recurring periods of depression. Heaven had perhaps done too much for us: If we had had an ungenial climate, a stony soil frozen for half the year, and few or no advantages from Nature, we might have developed more activity, exhibited more perseverance, and built our walls more rapidly showing ourselves in many ways more aggressive and more calculating.

That has not been our way. Ours is the story of a quiet, contented, somewhat unambitious people, not studios of change, not easily provoked—a people loyal to Law and to Religion, steady, modest sincere and brave; generous, but not enterprising; prodigal of their best when called upon by others or in defence of their own rights, but moving too slowly and cautiously when not under the strong stimulus of special occasions.

But these occasions have shown the world that North Carolina is worthy of high honor. Our State has always sprung to the front in resistance to oppression—has been the first and freest to shed her blood, and the last to fur her flag. She has maintained her self-respect and her credit in crises where others have wrecked both. Her moderation has stood her in good stead, and the strength and durability of her adherence to both Law and Liberty prove that her sons are true "hearts of oak."

It has been our fault that we have left our story so long to other hands—a fault that we have suffered from. If it has been well told in these pages, our children will feel each fibre thrill with a new attachment to the land of their birth, and will imbibe fresh zeal to show themselves worthy of their sires.

**Three Short Stops on John Bright.**

**Wilmington Star.**

The lover of tasteful, elegant and correct English must relish the noble, dignified and eloquent tribute of Mr. Gladstone to the illustrious British statesman just passed away. It is the tribute of the greatest living statesman and orator to the greatest public man England had with the exception of the speaker. It is a very memorable eulogy.

The late John Bright was a great statesman and, therefore, from necessity, an advocate of the opposite of Protection. He was too wise an economist to accept the dogma that the way to national wealth was along the rugged highroad of taxation. In 1879, he wrote to Cyrus W. Field, of New York as follows:

"I do not think that anything an Englishman could say would have any effect upon an American protectionist. The man who possesses a monopoly by which he thinks he gains is not open to argument. It was so in this country forty years ago, and it is so with you now. It is strange that a people who put down slavery at an immense sacrifice are not able to suppress monopoly, which is, but a milder form of the same evil. Under protection, the man is apparently free but he is denied the right to exchange the produce of his labor with his countrymen, who offer him much less for it than a foreigner would give."

He was one of the two or three chief leaders in the tax-reform that

ended in the abolition of the Corn Laws in 1846.

In the life of John Bright by George Barnett Smith, the following summary of his great qualities is given:

"So long as virtue, courage and patriotism retain their significance, so long will these noble qualities continue to be associated with the name of John Bright. He takes rank with the Pym, the Hampdens, the Miltons and other incorruptible men of the past who, in times of difficulty and of peril, have unswervingly fought the battle of freedom and asserted the liberties of England."

**W. C. T. U. Notes.**

**Express Correspondence.**

Says Rev. John W. Diggle "Men's faces are like dials, telling the time which the heart keeps."

April 7th is the day set apart as the Sabbath in which the subject of Sabbath observance is to be specially agitated. Ministers and Sabbath School Superintendents are requested to preach and talk upon that subject on that day.

Mrs. Leavitt has now reached Natal, Africa.

The Delaware W. C. T. U. is trying to secure legislative action raising the age of protection for girls from the present legal period of 7 years to 18 years.

The New Garden "Y's" are preparing for a "Y's Social." Besides the Social they are to have comic readings, recitations, etc., and are anticipating an enjoyable occasion. During the time they will circulate the petition concerning wine at class suppers, knowing that the young men of the College will be ready to add their name to the list of College gentlemen who "look not upon the wine when it is red."

**Luckier Than Many Men.**

**St. Louis Pioneer Press.**

True, Grover got left, but there is one grand consolation. He also got Mrs. Cleveland.

**Like the Early Worm.**

The sun never sets on the United States. When the evening sun is going down in Alaska, the morning's sun is an hour high in Maine. This is a big country for a fact, and the politicians are always up and dressed.

**Experiment Station No. 61 1-1.**

Bulletin No. 62  $\frac{1}{2}$  is issued to-day. It contains in addition to the fertilizer analysis published No. 62 other analysis since that time. The list as printed No. 62  $\frac{1}{2}$  embraces with but few exceptions, all of the brands licensed for sale in the State. Write for the Experiment Station Bulletin No. 62  $\frac{1}{2}$ ; this and the subsequent publication are sent free upon application.

**H. B. BATTLE,**  
Director.

On the 4th of May, the third anniversary of the Haymarket massacre in Chicago, the statue in honor of the brave two hundred policemen who faced the mob on that fearful night will be dedicated. The statue, standing on the very spot, represents a police officer, heroic size, with his right hand uplifted. The inscription reads: "In the name of the people of Illinois, I command peace," the words spoken by Captain Ward a moment before the bomb was thrown.

The bagging trust or pool which caused a great deal of excitement and excited much opposition on the part of cotton planters and others last year and which expired by limitation last December, it is announced from St. Louis has practically been reorganized and will be run or managed by the same parties as before. The plan of operation will not be exactly the same as last year, however, and prices are not expected to be pushed up so high, but it is alleged that it will not be long before they reach ten cents per pound. It is said that there is a corner in jute butts in New York and that they are half a cent higher now than they were last season.

Fifty-five fourth class new Postmasters was the first good day's work of the First Assistant Postmaster General Clarkson.