

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

PARIS, December 6, 1883.

France does not want to fight China, nor any nation as that implies not only money, but the calling of every able-bodied man between 20 and 40 under the flag, and without distinction. The French have not been told the truth about Tonkin, in fact deputies as well as ministers, have not the courage to admit that the Tonkin Commission has made its report, it sheds no light and is more important and grave from its cautious and reticent. There is a "Sister Anne" do you see anything coming? "anxiety in the air, and if Admiral Courbet cannot telegraph a victory, but not through M. Trépo, within a few days, the situation will be more than painful. The ugly wish to take Tonkin displays neither foresight nor preparation, and the diplomatist that can enable France to honorably get out of the hornet's nest, may well be awarded the Montyon prize.

The Suez canal project is not viewed as having yet reached a solution; a step nearer that desirable end has been accomplished. Like the Tonkin question, no enthusiasm is displayed respecting it. No half-measures are to be resorted to. Political obstacles are considered to still block the way. Confidence is felt that if M. de Lesseps be spared by the dynamites he will bring the dispute to a happy ending.

The "acting edition" of Daudet's novel, the *Rois en Exil*, has proved a dead failure at the Variétés theatre. It is as affably wearisome and devoid of all social or political interest. Read the chapter in Voltaire's *Candide*, and the Kingly snapper at Venice, if amusement or philosophy be sought in connection with monarchs fallen into bankruptcy. I do not think republicans, or any other people, feel any curiosity in an expelled King passing his exile in Juchery, drunkenness and theft, with lame ducks and Jeremy Diddlers for boozing companions. The spectators from Lassalle had the courage to exercise their rights, and to the energy to prematurely withdraw.

Ordinarily this epoch of the year was very much occupied preparing for the coming fete; present there is an absence of gaiety, a kind of discouragement, mixed with dissatisfaction and discontentment. Business has not been brisk, prospects are not bright, the banks are less liberal in accommodation. Two features worth recording; the places of amusement are filled and so are the churches. Advent is not a close religious fete in France, people do not observe special fasts during the four weeks as in Italy and Spain, but the churches are less richly ornamented and light scabbie lines—the violet above all preferred. Neither is the music of a joyful character, that being reserved for the 25th. Many persons make it a duty to study Bourdaine—whose language was that of everybody during Advent, not for the solemn matters about which his famous sermons treat, but for their value in point of style and arrangement. They were Gambetta's favorite reading. Indeed no politician or lawyer can dispense with Bourdaine, he is unrivaled in clearness, vigor and method. He strikes the mind, not by imagination, and is as positive, logical, and severe as the language of Descartes.

Mlle. Ancelot ought to be content. The Chamber has taken into consideration an amendment according to single ladies engaged in commercial pursuits, by their own account, the right to vote. Mlle. cannot accuse her fellow-countrymen after this desecration in gallantry, as compared with their ancestors. Before 1789, women in France, unless of noble birth, had a hard time of it. It was not in a tradesman's daughter or an *ouviere* that a knight sought a lady of his thoughts. Below the ranks of well-born the chivalry regarded woman as "something better than his dog, a little dearer than his horse," as the coming Baron, Tennyson, has it. A gentleman deigning the deprecate of Comte de Moltke, asserts his age is of the lusty winter class, "frosty but kindly." The Comte has a greater horror of war now than ever, although it was by war he made his reputation. He is inaccessible to all ambition; he loves nobody; he has great influence but has neither favorites nor proteges. In a word he is a solitary who detests to be disturbed. He has never in his life obliged any person, nor demanded anything of anybody.

A bachelor pops the question; how does it happen that Parisian ladies are so slender and delicate when they eat so well and so often? Madame Girardin invites us to look at them "at work" during a supper; how the ham, fowl pasties, partridges, and all kinds of cakes disappear! These dainties ought at least to produce round arms and better shoulders. Paris has regularly twice a day its "gastronomic stations" for the ladies of the fashionable world; these laboratories of delicacies are ever patronized between 2 and 4 o'clock the leading pastry cooks and confectioners's shops are visited, some for their delicate broiches, their savory savarins, the melting plombs, and those vacherins, which seem to have been made from a receipt lost by the gods in their Olympian break up. What consumption of dainties; what an expenditure of money! No wonder there are no "plain cooks" in Paris, and those who condescend to labor for palates and stomachs, make their fortune before attaining forty years of age.

Just now it is the fashion to be down on the Grocers; they appear to be a veritable Turk's head for the French. But they come in for more than their share of attention, although innumerable is said to arrange every twenty-four hours its ridicules and its vices, as a coquette arranges the position of her flounces, her jewels, and her laces. Napoleon remarked that the English were only a nation of shopkeepers. If he could only cast a glance at Paris now, he would find almost the ground story of every language, a banner, when not a magazine. And the grocer is the predominant talent of these shops. "This true that it is only within the last century that he has become an omnipotent and one of the most beautiful illustrations of modern society. J. S. Mill might have chosen him as the type of utilitarianism. He represents all parts of the world by his products, and yet he is unconscious of it. Does the Obelisk know that it is a monument?

The grocer receives you smilingly, and with cap in hand, while you do not disturb your hat. The butcher is rough, the baker a growler, but the grocer is the yank of amiability. If you want change of a five franc piece, or to ascertain your way to a certain street, it is to the grocer you go. Dynasties may change, ministers come and go like the tides, but no grocer in France is every impolite. Yet he is despised; his stupidity lags upon him; he is not eyes, hands, organs, dimensions, senses, affections, passions like other tradesmen; he works like an ant, and which might be taken as the symbol of his craft. It is he who takes in all cheap papers, supports current literature, and fills the front galleries of the theatres. He goes to all the museums, he names and votes for the most dangerous members of the opposition, out of sheer kindness to allow them to taste cabinet pudding. But he is not a rabid politician as the apothecaries, who like to blister ministers as they do their patients. The grocer backs the most repressive measures against Communists, and roguery; the former seize his petroleum, and the latter prig his show merchandise. He is a conservative of the first water, for if a King be not possible, he will

plump in a plebiscite for an Emperor, and if both are out of favor, he will cry Vive la republique. For him, honor like the statue, should never for a moment be left unoccupied. He will subscribe to public charities; will dress his infants in military and patriotic costumes; he will purchase a son's journal, but he will never advertise. The ancients would have honored the guild of grocers with a temple or a god. You may build a street, or even a village; you may there establish lyceums and open boarding schools for young ladies; have police and postmen; aye, even a journal, with or without patent interest, but all will be vanity and vexation of spirit if the grocer does not there pitch his tent and fix the social ties.

The grocer is the first in the town to get up in the morning and the last to retire to bed. It is a fair question, has he ever a holiday, though he announces on his shutters a half-holiday on festivals and Sundays. He insists to all the gossip of the neighborhood, and sympathizes of denunciations, as the speaker leads. He represents, the great difference between ancient and modern society, and to whom brandy, tobacco, tea and sugar were unknown. More, he has these products in triplicate. Coffee, tea and chocolate, for all delinquents; candles, oil and petroleum, sources for all delinquents; rice, haricots and macaroni, necessities for all rational alimentations; sugar, straws and jams, without which life would be bitter; chess, prunes, nuts and raisins that, according to Brillat-Savarin, impart to a dessert its physiognomy.

He is an elector and a jurymen, and is eligible for the presidency of the republic. What child but does not recall the beautiful agate nardies in the grocer's shop? And the squibs, the sweetmeats, the kites and the tops! The grocer keeps papers to wake, or to bury his clients, and a tear in his eye for the departed—if he owed nothing and had been a good customer. To the poets he sells pens and ink; to the artist, boxes of colors; to all girls, he supplies pom-pom-pow, as well as hard, and potash. He has matches, warranted to strike on oil, the box, and occasionally some of a fire proof character that will not ignite at all.

The grocer sells picture literature to children; masks to carnival goers, can de cologne to mothers and coquettes. Are you depressed? Take pocket handkerchiefs, which are symbolical of the infinite as the serpent that bites its tail. He sells drugs to entice life, and drugs to prolong existence. He is himself sold to the public as Faust to Mephistopheles. He is the Alpha and Omega of the social state. You cannot take a step, or a lung, for a crime or for a good action, without the aid of the grocer. He is modern society in a shop; necessity armed him pied cap; he is an encyclopaedia in action, and distributes life in drawers, paper bags, and bottles.

There are several kinds of rats—land, water and political; however, M. Zaboroff draws attention to the neglect of not studying the migration of rats in relationship with the migration of mankind. It might perhaps throw light on the Aryan controversy. Man came from the central table land of Northern India, and there too must have been the cradle of rats, which followed man in the wake of civilization. The statistics of crime have been for these past few days. A girl who had been seduced and deserted by a shop-man, threw the contents of a box of trine in his face as a warning that the next would be vitriol.

Paris we know is "the headquarters of a prof." An ex-butler who has opened a restaurant, has a collection of bills of fares that did service in the mansions reputed for their dinners. A client can select a Rothschild bill—ever safe, stomachically as well commercially. The Comtesse de Gouffle intends giving a series of colored balls, where ladies must appear in toilets of uniform color, the shades of red, lilac, blue, green and white. On Shrove Tuesday the robes will doubtless be multicolored. As woman advances in life her character forms. She escapes from our authority, her waist gets large. At 20 we can govern her, because her waist is slender. At 40 she resists, shakes off the conjugal yoke; her waist is thick, that's the manner heaven punishes her.

POLICE COURT.

BEFORE POLICE JUDGE BICLET. Tuesday, January 8, 1884. Three cases of drunkenness were summarily dealt with in the usual way. A lengthy trial on a charge of disorderly conduct was heard and the defendant remanded for judgment.

A native charged with cruelty to animals and a foreigner with embezzlement were remanded until 11th instant. Wednesday, January 9, 1884. Four drunks were treated as usual. For disorderly conduct, a hack driver was sentenced to six hours imprisonment. Kasole was convicted January 9th and sentenced to four months imprisonment at hard labor.

Kipi, Inaki, and Kiko were charged with assault and battery on E. Gerke. Mr. F. Pahlis appeared for the defendants. Mr. Gerke testified to being brutally assaulted by the defendants at Montaigne on the 8th instant. The defendants were remanded until the 12th instant. Bail fixed at \$-00 each.

Kawahamaoka was committed to the insane asylum as an insane person. Thursday, January 10, 1884. A case of assault and battery, and one of common nuisance were remanded until 11th instant.

CIVIL SUMMARY COURT. BEFORE POLICE-JUDGE BICLET. Thursday, January 10, 1884. Quai Sing vs. Princeville Sugar Co. Damages \$200. Mr. Ward for plaintiff, Mr. F. M. Hatch for defendant. Plea to jurisdiction filed by defendants. Plaintiff discontinued the case. John E. Bush vs. Helemanna. Assumpsit for \$25. Judgment confessed for amount claimed. One case settled out of Court, and three cases continued.

Reciprocity as a Policy. If our tariff policy is not to be soon changed it would be wise to be reaching out for some trade beyond our borders through reciprocity treaties. We have such a treaty now with the Sandwich Islands which Eastern manufacturers are anxious to abrogate, and yet it has resulted in giving us more trade with the Kingdom of Hawaii than we have with all Spanish America, except Cuba and Porto Rico; greater than with the Central American States and British Honduras, Portugal, Austria, Denmark, Turkey, Sweden and Norway, Chili and Peru, and nearly as large as our trade with Mexico and China, including Hongkong. San Francisco is the port at which most of this trade centers. In the East a sentimental demand, and a mercantile spirit, is made that we submit to the invasion of Chinese laborers for the sake of the Chinese trade which enters Eastern ports, and in the same breath the abrogation of the Hawaii treaty is called for.—Oakland Times.

Shipping.

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Advertisements.

Proposals for Exchange Wanted on New York or London. IN SUCH AMOUNTS AS MAY BE REQUIRED FOR settlement of balances due to the United States Post-office Department at Washington on Postal Money Order Account during the year 1884. Proposals may include either of the following: Exchange on New York, payable at sight, 50 or 60 days, sterling bills on London, payable at sight, 50 or 60 days. The exchange to be furnished as may be required by the Money Order business of this office. The amount wanted will vary from five to ten thousand dollars per quarter; and the period included in the tender should be from January to December, 1884. H. M. WHITNEY, P. M. G. Postoffice, Honolulu, January 7, 1884. Jobst

The Bon Ton Lottery. ON THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 1ST THE Great Diamond Lottery will take place at H. J. NOLTE'S. The beautiful large Diamond Ring is worth \$4000, which is the first prize, and valued at \$500. The other prizes consist of an Opal (Gem) Pin, set with four Garnet Stones, being pure in all respects. This Pin is valued at \$100. Tickets are 45 each. Chances, 125. The Diamond Ring and Pin may be seen in the window of the undersigned. Call and secure tickets at once.

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