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JOHN BULL AT HIS OLD TRICKS.

Sir Battle Frere on the Slave Trade.

[From the Bombay Gazette, April 25.]

Yesterday evening a *conversazione*, at which Sir Battle Frere, Colonel Pelly and the chief European and native gentlemen were present, was held in this city in the bungalow, at Girgaum, of the Hon. Mr. Munguldass Nathoobhoy. The compound was decorated to a certain extent, and in a corner we noticed a transparency, which was doubtless intended to represent the hero of the hour. The drawing room was completely filled with people. His excellency took a chair at one end of the room, and the principal visitors were accommodated near him in a position convenient for hearing.

Among the native gentlemen present were Kursondass Nensee, Narronjee Damodhur, Jeyram Sewjee, Ebramjee Sewjee, Gopall Mowjee, Raywagur Rowjee, Anundjee Visram, Jeyram Gondjee, Veerjee Damodhur, Tarrya Topun, Jairazbhoy Peerbhoy, Currimbhoy Soorjee, Luckmidass Khimjee, Dwarkadass Vussenjee, Khutao Mukhoond, Mathooradass Khetsey, Mooije Thackersee, etc. It is probable that Mr. Mungaldass purposely invited the principal members of the Bhattia, Kheja and Bania community, as it is people belonging to these classes who are chiefly interested in the slave trade.

Shortly before six his Excellency Sir Bartle Frere rose and said: Mr. Munguldass Nathoobhoy and gentlemen—I have been asked to say a few words on the present occasion, and I very gladly avail myself of the opportunity. I believe I was sent with this expedition mainly because I was for many years connected with Bombay. In telling you anything about what we have been doing during the last few months, of course you can not expect me to enter into particulars about the instructions which I received from the home government or even into particulars about the negotiations which the expedition have carried out. All this will be made public in due time, and I trust it will be found to be satisfactory. I shall merely mention a few of the matters which struck me most as having a connection with the interests of some of the natives in this part of India. In the first place, I was not prepared to find the whole coast of Africa entirely occupied, so far as trade is concerned, by Indian merchants. I believe that if you wished to get information on the former state of commercial affairs on the east coast, as compared with the present, you could not do better than read some of the accounts of what the old Portuguese found when they were there. They tell us that they found the whole of the trade and the greater part of the administration of the country in the hands of Moors, although from the description of their numbers and the way in which they managed their own commercial affairs and the affairs of the States into which the country was divided, they appear to be precisely what we all know as the great Mahommedan trading classes of this country.

These Portugese describe all the different classes which we now find on the east coast, and it may be as much news to you as it was to me, that of all the trading classes there the principal part of the trade was in the hands of three or four of the castes which I now see represented before me. First of all in influence, if not in numbers, there was a large community of Bhattias, and next a few Banians and Lohannas, who may be said to represent the Hindoo trading classes of this great city. Some classes of natives of India are conspicuous by their total absence—Brahmins, for instance, Chutryas, Bengalee Baboos, the Shettias of Madras and Marwarees. I found these three great Mahommedan classes to be the most numerous in the trade—Khojas, Borahs and Memons—but of these the most numerous were the Khojas. It was a surprise to me that from almost opposite Socotra down nearly to the Cape Colony, and along the Madagascar coast, the whole trade seemed, within the last forty or fifty years, to have passed into the hands of natives of India. You will recollect that the Portuguese almost entirely extinguished the Indian trade on the east coast, where Indians had almost ceased to be represented excepting by a few who went from Kurrachee, Mandvie, and some of the Kattywar ports. Yet now, and as I have said for the last half century, the natives of India have monopolized the east African trade to such an extent that I do not think it would be possible now to distribute or collect a cargo upon the African coast, excepting through the agency of some of your countrymen. I found that wherever I went, not only in the larger ports but also in the smaller villages, where there were only one or two ships, the shipper was almost certain to be an Indian. These merchants might have been Khojas or Borahs, and there I used to find them exactly as you might see them in shops in some of the outlying villages on the Guzerat frontier, where they sit dispensing their wares among the Bheels or the coolies surrounding them. I have mixed among these merchants, and so far as I did so I found that they all talked either Guzerati or Hindostani. All this to me was quite a novelty. I knew that there was a large and increasing commerce, but I repeat that to me the extent to which India had monopolized the East African traffic was quite a novelty. I found that concurrent with this growth of Indian interests on the African coast this slave trade grew up which was the immediate object of my mission—a slave trade which is now so extensively carried on that thirty or more thousand of human beings are, I believe, exported every year from Africa. I thought at first that this great trade must necessarily be an old evil; but we were told that it was an evil which had always existed, and no doubt a small trade did exist there some time ago. The reason may be this. Before Indian merchants went back to the East African coast to resume a trade which they had lost for the last 200 years, probably since the Mogul Empire began to decay, a great piratical field had sprung up, and the seas used to be swept by robbers. A great many of these pirates were, I am afraid, of European descent, but they were chiefly Arabs. These pirates were sufficient to prevent the slave trade being carried on in its present state, because, as you may easily imagine, no ship filled with slaves could make any resistance against a well armed pirate. It happened that two things occurred within the last fifty years. There had been a general resumption of the old trade by Indian merchants, and accompanying it there had been a general growth of the slave trade. I do not wish you to suppose that these two things were connected in the way of cause and effect, because I must say of Indian merchants that as to their direct connection with the slave trade I have found very little to their prejudice, and, indeed, all the great merchants are free from connection with the slave trade, although, by the possession of capital, which might be exchanged for human beings, they may have had an indirect connection. That was the state of things as we found it, and upon the subject of the slave trade I need not say more than what you know already. You are aware of the feeling on the subject in England, and I believe in India generally, that this trade must be stopped. I have no doubt it will be stopped very speedily, because things at both ends of Africa have changed greatly of late. All the civilized countries in the world, who used to be customers for slaves, have now given the practice up. In another three years there will be a legal end put by government to the slave trade in the Portuguese colonies, where that trade used to be general. Then the government of Madagascar is favorable, and I may say that this struck me as one of the most favorable symptoms of improvement in that country. The government of Madagascar is composed entirely of natives, and yet they have set their faces against slavery, and declared that it shall not exist in their country. At one of the ports in Madagascar we found an Arab nacoda in prison for a year for carrying on the slave trade. The King of the Johannas told us that his island should not be a place for harboring slaves, and that all people brought to his territories as slaves should be set free. On the Arabian coast I found there was the same disposition with reference to slaves who might be brought to those lands that are under the political rule of Colonel Pelly. All the people in these places told us they would set their faces against slavery. Therefore, I have no doubt that slavery, upon its present scale, will cease shortly. At the same time there will remain for many years to come a desire on the part of certain people to make money by trafficking in human flesh, and the attempt to do so will be made in spite of all we may do to prevent it. It is in this respect that I think the gentlemen at present here, who are connected either as caste fellows or as countrymen with the merchants of East Africa, or at all events those who hold the purse strings, may do a deal of good work to assist the English government. If you inform your minds upon this subject and read what is now on record in print regarding the slave trade, and set your faces against the traffic in the way that you would deal with any other great evil that comes before you or with any general impediment to civilization, you will act directly upon your countrymen who are carrying on this trade. You might be able to create a public opinion on the subject which would greatly assist the public opinion of England. I believe that in a few years you could make it a disgrace for anybody calling himself a Hindoo or a Mohammedan merchant to be even suspected of having anything to do with this trade. I wish that those among you who have leisure and power to lead the opinion of your countrymen would come forward to assist that civilization which England is bent upon introducing in Africa. The work will have its material as well as its moral reward.

The east coast of Africa is really magnificent. It is quite as fine, naturally, as your own Malabar coast, abounding in good harbors, and facilities for trade beyond anything I have ever seen. Hitherto the trade of this coast has been a sort of monopoly in the hands of people who in their way are extremely intelligent, because they have seen a good deal of the world and rubbed off a good many prejudices. Upon the whole they are more active men than their fellow countrymen here, and I need not say that that is saying a great deal for any merchant. I wish there were more classes of people engaged in the trade, because I believe one of the chief causes of our prosperity has been the great mixture of races in India. I may say that I did not see a single Parsee from one end of Africa to the other, excepting at Mozambique, and I wish Parsees were more numerous. I have said that the present monopolizers of the trade are energetic men, but what they chiefly require is a little of modern education and civilization—certainly they ought to get some of the learning of the West. In the diffusion of this kind of knowledge many of you here might do much good. Many of these merchants can read Guzerathee if they can read nothing else, and I wish that some of the Guzerathee-speaking gentlemen, who are educated, would write information for those people in that language. By this means the greatest good could be accomplished. There is now direct communication by steamer from Aden, and I hope there will soon be the same from Bombay and Arabia, so that it will no longer be so difficult to communicate with these people that they must wait for about seven months before they can communicate with Europe. I foresee the time that there will be greater communication between the this country and the east coast of Africa, and I look upon it as a certainty that you will be able in one way or another, directly or indirectly, to do a great deal in making Africa as free from the curse of slavery as India now is. Let me assure you, in conclusion, that what you have heard of the horrors of the slave trade is in no way exaggerated. We have seen so much of the horrors which were going on that we can have no doubt that what you read in books, which are so often spoken of as containing exaggerations, is exaggerated in no respect. The evil is greater than anything you can conceive. Among the poorer class of Africans there is nothing like security from fathers and mothers being put to death in order that their children may be captured, and I may say every tenth person captured dies after his seizure. I can not lose this opportunity of telling you what really very much concerns you—first of all, that you have indirectly a great deal to do with the maintenance of the present state of things; that it is in your power to stop the traffic, and that the suppression of such an evil is one as worthy of you as of the combination of all civilized nations. I hope to hear that my old friends in Bombay will do their part well, and I am sure that if the matter is once placed before them in its true light they will not be behind in their duty. I thank you all for the patience with which you have listened to me, and I hope that those of you who understand English will explain what I have said to those who do not. [Loud applause.]

The Hon. Munguldass Nathoobhoy said: Gentlemen—I think you all agree with me that our warmest thanks are due to Sir Bartle Frere for the very interesting and important information which he has so kindly given us. I have no doubt that all my countrymen who have anything to do, either directly or indirectly, with the slave trade in Zanzibar or Muscat, will follow the valuable advice which he has just tendered us. [Applause.]

His excellency was then introduced to a number of native gentlemen, and after a conversation with a number of friends he took his departure amid the applause of the gentlemen who had assembled to meet him.

Rusted Gold.

A Louisiana man has bought a farm in Sonoma county, and paid for it with $10,000 in gold that he buried in that State at the outbreak of the war in 1861. The Santa Rosa *Democrat* says:

The greater portion of it is now on deposit in the vaults of the Rosa Bank, where it may be seen in the same condition as when taken from the ground, rusted and discolored. Some of the pieces are dated 1861, the year in which it was hidden. They have the stamp of the New Orleans Mint, and must have been of the last coinage from that mint. The cautious owner, by purchasing a $10,000 Sonoma farm, has at last improved his long-buried talent.

Kate Field is getting a new book ready for print, to be called "Hap-Hazard."

THE POLARIS.

Secretary Robeson has completed his report of the investigation of the Polaris matter and forwarded it to the President. The following are some of its most important features:

Secretary Robeson says it must be clearly understood that the department neither make nor declare any judgment against Buddington, who has no opportunity for an explanation of facts, which show that, though he was perhaps wanting in enthusiasm for the grand objects of the expedition, and at times grossly lax in discipline—and though he differed in judgment as to the possibility, safety and propriety of taking the ship further north—yet he is an experienced and careful navigator, and a man not addicted to liquor, of which none remained on board at the time of separation; and a safe and competent commander. The Secretary gives details of measures taken by him to send the steamers Juniata and Tigress to the relief, if possible, of the Polaris and the remainder of her crew. The Tigress he proposed to purchase and strengthen for the service required in the search in the Arctic regions. Captain Tyson, Esquimaux Joe and all the rescued seamen will accompany the expedition, being anxious to rescue their comrades and bring out their old ship. The following is the result of the investigation and examination of Captain Tyson, Frederick Meyer, Esquimaux Joe and others of the rescued crew:

At midnight on the third of September, 1871, Captain Hall landed with a boat on the east shore of Polaris bay, and in the name of God and the President of the United States, raised the American flag on the land he had discovered. On one occasion, while beset in Robeson straits, the Polaris seemed to be in such danger, being crushed, that the provisions were placed on the ice, and measures taken to be in readiness for leaving her. She happily escaped without injury. Immediately after securing his ship in winter quarters, Captain Hall made preparations for a sledge journey northward, and the other work was commenced landing and setting up an observatory, getting scientific observations under way, surveying the harbor, cleaning up the ship and making all snug for the winter. On the tenth of October Captain Hall left the Polaris, accompanied by Mr. Chester, first mate, and Esquimaux Joe and Hans, with sledges and fourteen dogs. Setting out on this expedition, the first step taken by Captain Hall fell upon land more northern than a white man's foot ever before touched.

In the progress of the journey, unhappily the last that Captain Hall was to make toward the pole, he discovered, as appears by his dispatch, a river, lake and a large inlet, the latter in latitude 81° 57' north. He named this Newman's bay, calling the northern point Cape Brevoort and the southern one Sumner headland. At Cape Brevoort, in latitude 82° 2' north, longitude 61° 20' west, he rested, making there his sixth snow encampment. On the twentieth of October he wrote his last dispatch to the Secretary of the Navy, the original draft of which was found in his own handwriting and in his desk, on its examination in Washington after it was delivered to the Secretary of the Navy by Esquimaux Joe, who had kept the desk in his custody from the time it was picked up on the ice, after the separation of the rescued party from the ship.

A copy of this dispatch, so singularly preserved, accompanies this report. Captain Hall himself described a transcript of it in a cairn on the side of a mountain at Cape Brevoort. Captain Hall, it appears, had hoped, when he left the Polaris on this journey, to advance northward at least one hundred miles, but after having gone about fifty he was compelled, by the condition of the shore and of the ice, and by the state of the climate, to return and await the approach of spring for another attempt. He reached the ship on the twenty-fourth of October, apparently in his usual fine health, but was attacked that evening with sickness of stomach, and vomiting, and taking to his bed, was found next day to be seriously ill. His most marked symptoms seem from the evidence to have been such as indicated congestion of the brain, accompanied by delirium and partial paralysis of one side.

The witnesses all state that his attack was called apoplexy, and some of them speak of their own knowledge of his paralysis and delirium. He recovered some days after sufficiently to move about in the cabin a little, and to attend to business, but soon relapsed and became again delirious, and died November 8, 1871. Three days after he was buried on shore. From a personal examination of all the witnesses, and from their testimony as given, we reach the unanimous opinion that the death of Captain Hall resulted naturally, from disease, without faults on the part of any one. All the persons examined testify to the uniform kindness and care of Captain Hall, and to the good order and efficient condition of the Polaris, while under his command. On the death of Captain Hall, Buddington, as had been provided for in the instructions for the voyage, issued by the Secretary of the Navy, succeeded to the command of the Polaris. The winter was passed as usual, in the Arctic region. Early in June, before the Polaris was released from the ice, Captain Buddington dispatched Mr. Chester and Captain Tyson with boats, to endeavor to get as far north as practicable. With much difficulty and delay they got as far north as Newman's bay. They here awaited a possible opening in the ice until the middle of July, when written orders from Captain Buddington directed their return to the ship. While they were away, and some time in June, the Polaris had broken out of her winter quarters, and had made several attempts to proceed northward to pick up the party with the boats, but the ice was found to be impassable, and Captain Buddington, on receiving the party on board, determined to make the best of his way south to the United States as soon as the ice would permit. They started south in August, 1872, and slowly made their way along the western shore until the next day, when the ship having got further in mid channel, she was beset by ice in latitude (about) 80° 40' north, and was in danger of wreck for some hours, when she was freed again. On the sixteenth of August the ship was made fast to a large floe of ice, in latitude 80° 2' north and longitude about 68° west, and while still fast to this floe drifted south through Smith's sound nearly to Northumberland island. In pursuance of usual orders under similar circumstances a quantity of provisions and some fuel had been placed on the deck of the steamer, in readiness to be removed to the ice should the safety of the ship become endangered, and it was ordered and understood that if a crisis should become imminent, not only these stores, but clothing, papers, records, instruments, guns, ammunition, etc., should also be put upon the floe, in order to preserve the lives of the party and the result of the expedition should it become necessary to abandon the ship and take refuge on the ice. A canvass had also been erected on the floe for shelter should the ship be lost.

On the night of October 15, in about latitude 79° 53' north, during a violent gale of wind and snow, the need for such preparation became apparent, as the ship was suddenly beset by a tremendous pressure of ice, which was driven against her from the southward and forced under her, pressing her up and out of the water, and by successive and violent shocks finally throwing her over on her beam ends. Captain Buddington directed the provisions and stores—out in partial readiness, as before described—to be thrown overboard, and ordered half the crew upon the ice to carry them upon a thicker part of the hammocks, where they would be comparatively safe. He also sent all the Esquimaux with their kyacks out of the ship, and landed the remaining boats upon the flat. While so engaged, in the darkness of an Arctic night, in the midst of a fierce gale and driving snow storm, the hawsers of the Polaris failed to hold her, and she broke adrift from the floe, and in a few minutes was out of sight of the party who at that moment were busily at work on the ice. It is the uniform opinion of the witnesses, and our unanimous opinion from the testimony, and from the circumstances detailed, that the separation of the ship from the men, women and children upon the ice-floe was purely accidental. After losing sight of the ship some of the men and a large part of the provisions were found to be afloat on a separate piece of ice. The men were rescued by means of boats which had fortunately been saved on the ice, and the party were thus collected on the main floe, and passed the night as well as could be expected. Next day they made several attempts to reach land with the boats, but failed, notwithstanding their most persistent efforts, owing to the obstruction of the ice and a violent wind. While thus striving to get on shore, but at what particular time of the day has not been exactly ascertained, the Polaris came in sight to northward, apparently coming toward the floes under steam and sail.

An india-rubber blanket was hoisted in the air and displayed from the top of a hammock, the colors were set, and other signals were made to attract the attention of the Polaris, and as she approached so near them that they plainly saw her down to her rail, and could distinguish her escape pipe, and kept on towards them until they supposed her to be not more than four miles off. They felt sure she would force her way through the ice to their position, and that in a little while they would be again on board. In this they were disapointed. The Polaris altered her course and disappeared behind the shore. Some time afterward, as the floe drifted away, she was again seen by some men under the land with her sails furled and apparently at anchor, or made fast to the shore or the ice. It is most likely that the party on the ice was seen from the Polaris. The hut erected on the floe, the ship's boats, the colors, the elevated signal blanket and the group of nineteen persons standing in relief against a white background, could scarcely have remained unnoticed. It was natural, under these circumstances, that the party on the ice should have felt deeply disappointed at the failure of the ship to come to their relief, and should at the same time have ascribed it to overcaution, if not indifference, rather than inability on the part of her responsible commander. Neither is it unnatural that this feeling, fostered during the weary watches of their long winter upon the ice, should remain to affect, in a greater or less degree, their present judgment on the subject. But it must not be forgotten that they, like ourselves, were and are without full information of the actual condition of the Polaris at the time spoken of, and can not know how far the real dangers of their position were understood and appreciated by those on board of her. Such information and knowledge are absolutely necessary to a correct judgment, and must not be assumed as a foundation of censure against persons acting under circumstances so trying and uncertain, who, by reason of their enforced absence, have no opportunity for explanation.

It seems that the actual condition of the Polaris was such as to impose upon her commander the duty of getting her out with the lives and property which remained under his charge at once into a position of safety under shelter of Northumberland Island, at which place she was last seen by the party on the floe. If such was the state of case, it was the duty of Captain Buddington, under such circumstances, to look to his vessel, particularly as he probably believed that the party on the ice could, by the aid of two boats in their possession, find their way back to the Polaris quite as easily as he could force his way to them; but whatever may have been his opinion on this, the elements quickly determined the question.

Shortly after the Polaris had been sighted for the second time, a violent gale from the northeast sprung up. The weather became thick, the ship and the land were lost sight of, and the ice-floe drifted away to the southward with these nineteen persons still upon it. In view of the circumstances detailed, it is, therefore, our unanimous judgment that this final separation from the ship was also accidental. The report next details the adventures of the party on the floe till rescued by the Tigress on the last day of April, 1873. At the time of their separation from the Polaris every one belonging to the expedition was in good health. The Polaris had plenty of provisions, but not much coal—probably enough to last through the winter. She was last seen apparently at anchor under Northumberland Island, where it is most likely she remained for winter quarters. Dr. Hays' friends, the Esquimaux, are residing on that island, and the Esquimaux settlement at Navick is close by. Communication with these people could be easily opened and maintained, and no apprehension for the Polaris, or in the absence of accident or sickness, for those on board is entertained by any rescued persons. As to the question whether a ship can make her way to the Danish settlement, at the upper Navick or Disco, without steam, if she gets free from ice this season, supposing her to be in as good condition when rescued as when the party was last on board, the witnesses differ in their judgment so far, but the opinion is that she will need assistance to bring her completely and safely out.

On board the Polaris are specimens of driftwood picked up on or near Newman's bay and Polaris bay, among which Myers thought he recognized distinctly the walnut, the ash and the pine. Among the numerous facts that appear to be elicited on examination we may mention as one of much interest that the dip of the needle amounted to 45°, and its deviation 96°, being less than at Faulke's and Rennsellar's harbor, as given by Dr. Kane and Dr. Hayes. The rise and fall of the tide were carefully observed, the average being about five and a half feet. The greatest depth of water noted about one hundred fathoms. The existence of a constant current southward was noticed by the expedition, its rapidity varying with the season and locality. The winter temperature was found to be much milder than was expected, the minimum being 58° below zero in January, although March proved to be the coldest month. The prevailing winds were from the northeast, although there were occasionally tempests from the southwest. High winds were noticed, however, from all points of the compass. Rain was occasionally observed only on the land, however, the precipitation presenting itself over the ice in the form of snow.

During the summer the extent of lands and elevations were bare of snow and ice, excepting patches here and there in the shape of rocks. The soil during this period was covered with a more or less dense vegetation of moss, with which several Arctic plants were interspersed, some of them of considerable beauty, but entirely without scent, and many small willows, scarcely reaching the dignity of shrubs, and the rocks noticed were of a schistose or slate nature, and in some instances contained fossil plants, specimens of which were collected. Distinct evidences of former glaciers seen in localities, the indications consisting in terrennial and lateral mardines. Animal life was found to abound, musk oxen being shot at intervals throughout the winter Geese, ducks and other water fowls, including plover and other wading birds, abounded during summer.

Although the species of land birds were comparatively few, no fish were seen, although nets and lines were frequently called into play in attempting to obtain them. The waters, however, were found to contain jellyfish and shrimps. Seals were very abundant. Numerous insects were observed, also, especially several species of butterflies, bees and insects of like character. The geographical results of the Polaris expedition, so far as they can now be ascertained from the testimony of Messrs. Tyson, Myer and their comrades, may be summed up briefly as follows:

The open Polar sea, laid down by Kane and Hays, is found to be in reality a sound of considerable extent, formed by a somewhat abrupt expansion of Kennedy channel to the northward, and broken by Lady Franklin's bay on the west, and on the east by a large inlet twenty miles wide at the opening, and certainly extending far inland. Its length was not ascertained. Myer thinks it may be in fact a strait, extending till it communicates with Francis Joseph's sound, of the Germania and Hanse expedition, and with it defining the northern limits of Greenland. This inlet was called Southern Fiord. North of it, in the same place, is an indentation of the shore, called Polaris bay by Captain Hall. The Polaris wintered at the northern point of this bay, named Lupten. Its southern point is yet without a name. From Cape Lupten the land bends to the northeast from the eastern shore of a new channel from twenty-five to thirty miles wide, opening to the sound above mentioned to which Captain Hall, as has already been stated, gave the name of Robeson's straits.

The western shore of these straits, north of Grinnel's land, is also nameless. Northeast of Cape Lupton, in latitude 81° 31' is a deep inlet, which Captain Hall called Newman's bay, naming its northward point Cape Brevoort, and its southern bluff Summer Headland. The bend of land continues to Repulse harbor, in latitude 82° 9' north. The highest northern position reached by land during this expedition was an elevation of 1700 feet at Repulse harbor. On the eastern coast of Robeson's straits the land continues northeast to the end of these straits, and thence east and southeast, till lost in the distance, its vanishing point bearing south by east from the place of observation.

No other land was visible to the northeast, but land was seen on the west coast extending north as far as the eye could reach, and apparently terminating on the headland of 84° north. The errors on the shore line of the west coast, as laid down by Dr. Hayes, and the errors in the shore line of Greenland, as laid down by Dr. Kane, were observed and corrected. Of course, full scientific results of the Polaris expedition can not be known until that vessel shall have been found and brought back, with the treasures she has gathered and the records and details of her Arctic explorations, but enough is told by the witnesses whom we have examined to excite expectation and encourage the hope of large and valuable additions to the domain of human knowledge.

The following is the text of Captain Hall's dispatch, which is dated at Sixth Snowhouse Encampment, Cape Brevoort, north side entrance to Newman's bay, latitude 82° 3' north, longitude 61° 2' west, October 20, 1871:

To the Honorable Secretary of the United States Navy, George W. Robeson:

Myself and party, consisting of Mr. Chester, first mate, my Esquimaux Joe and Greenland, have left the ship in winter quarters, thank God. The harbor is in latitude 81° 38' north, longitude 61° 44' west of meridian, October 10. The journey is by two sledges drawn by fourteen dogs, to discover, if possible, a feasible route inland for my sledge journey next spring to reach the north pole, purposing to adopt such a route, if found better than a route over old floes and hammocks, to a strait, which I have designated Robeson strait, after the honorable Secretary of the United States navy.

We arrived here the afternoon of October 17, having discovered a lake and river; on our way along the latter our route was a most serpentine one, which led us on to this bay, fifteen minutes distance from here, southward and eastward. From the top of an iceberg near the mouth of said river we could see that this bay, which I have named after Rev. Dr. Newman, extended to a highland eastward and southward of that position, about fifteen miles, making the extent of Newman's bay, from its headland or cape, full thirty miles. The south cape is a high, bold and noble headland. I have named it Sumner headland, after Hon. Charles Sumner, orator and United States Senator, and the north cape, Cape Brevoort, after J. Carson Brevoort, a friend to Arctic discoveries.

On arriving here we found the mouth of Newman's bay open, and in the water numerous seals bobbing up their heads, this open water making close to Sumner headland and Brevoort cape. The ice of Robeson strait debarred all chance of extending our journey up the straits. The land is mountainous, but will admit of our surveying further north, and as the time of our expected absence was understood to be two weeks, we commence our return tomorrow. To-day we are storm-bound to this, our sixth encampment. From Cape Brevoort we can see the land extending on the west side of the strait to the north, twenty-two degrees west and distant about seventy miles, thus making the land we discovered as far as latitude 83° 5' north.

There is the appearance of land further north, and extending more easterly than that I have just noticed, but a peculiar dark cloud that constantly hangs over what seems to be land prevents my making a full determination. On the thirty first of August the Polaris made her greatest northern latitude, 82° 29' north, but after several attempts to get her further north she became beset, when we were drifted down to about 81° 30', when an opening occurred westward of the pack, and made the harbor September 3, where the Polaris is. [A corner of the manuscript is here burned off.] Up to the time I and my party left the ship, all have been well, and continue with high hopes of accomplishing our great mission. We find this a much warmer country than we expected.

From Cape Alexander the mountains on either side of Kennedy channel and Robeson strait were found entirely bare of snow, with the exception of a glacier that we saw, commencing in latitude 80° 30' north, on the east side of the strait, and extending in a northeasterly direction as far as can be seen from the mountains by Polaris bay. We have found that the country abounds in seals, geese and ducks, musk cattle, rabbits, wolves, foxes, bears, partridges, etc. Our sailors have shot two seals in open water. While at this encampment our long Arctic night commenced. This dispatch to the Secretary of the Navy I finish at this moment at 8:23 in the evening, having written it in ink, in our snow hut, the thermometer outside minus 20° to 23°—that is 20° minus to 23° minus Fahrenheit.

A copy of this dispatch was placed in a pillar at Brevort cape, October 21, 1871.

The Healthfulness of Lemons.

When people feel the need of an acid, if they would let vinegar alone and use lemons or apples, they would feel just as well satisfied and receive no injury. A suggestion may not come amiss as to a good plan when lemons are cheap in the market. A person should then purchase several dozen at once, and prepare them for use in the warm, weak days of the spring and summer, when acids, especially citric and maltic, or the acid of lemons, are so grateful and useful. Press your hand on the lemon and roll it back and forth briskly on the table to make it squeeze more easily; then press the juice into a bowl or tumbler, never into a tin; strain out all the seeds, as they give a bad taste; remove all the pulp from the peels and boil in water, a pint for a dozen pulps, to extract the acid. A few minutes boiling is enough; then strain the water with the juice of the lemons, put a pound of white sugar to a pint of the juice, boil ten minutes, bottle it, and your lemonade is ready. Put a teaspoonful or two of this lemon syrup in a glass of water and have a cooling, healthful drink.

Here is the prettiest romantic story that ever was told. In a wild solitude near St. Helena, California, lives an old man with a daughter, pretty and nineteen, who never saw a young man until Father Prospero took his Miranda for a holiday to San Francisco. For the first time she was prettily dressed, and what with silks and ribbons and gay sights, her dear little head was well nigh turned. But the most charming sight of all to the damsel was that of the young men; and so much did they fascinate her that she made several attempts to get away from her venerable papa, that she might cultivate the acquaintance of these miraculous youths. The suspicious guardian believed it quite time to take the innocent creature back to unsophisticated St. Helena: but while on the voyage to Vallejo he thought he would go to the bar for just one drink. Of course he stayed and took several. There were, alas! two sprightly young men on that boat, and, not knowing any better, miss agreed to elope with both of them. She was discovered by the old gentleman just on the point of departing in a smoking car, was whirled out of that car in the liveliest way by the paternal hands, and is now safe once more in the desert all alone with the unsatisfactory old guardian.

A farmer and his wife called at a Detroit photograph gallery last week to order some photographs of her, and while the operator was getting ready the husband gave the wife a little advice as to how she must act: "Fasten your mind on something," he said, "or else you will laugh and spile the job. Think about early days, how your father got in jail, and your mother was an old soldier, and what you'd have been if I hadn't pitied you! Jest fasten your mind on that!" She didn't have any photograph taken.

"Old Probabilities."

George Alfred Townsend, in a late letter to the Chicago *Tribune*, devotes an interesting column to the mysteries of the signal service bureau, and to Colonel Albert J. Myer, its chief:

Your attention is invited to my friend Probabilities. He is not a difficult person to know, for he opens his conversation in the usual way, about the weather, and gets off that theme with difficulty. His amusements are simple, cultivating bulbs and flying kites; and the roof of his house is covered with toys which excite the envy of all the neighboring boys. His home is an old fashioned house, with a head put on it of Mansard, and rough-coated, and the back stairs lead down into a yard where outhouses are strewn about full of good natured workmen making maps. It is a queer place altogether. Wires go over the neighboring houses, pouring into it; weather-vanes—some old-fashioned, some made of hollow cups turned sidewise—swing and veer upon the roof. It looks like a watch-factory. And yet it is close by the great office of the Secretary of War: to whom Probabilities must report himself three times a day; and as, in ancient times, commanders never went to battle without looking for signs, flying birds, or indications of some kind, war again consists of watching the weather and seeing how Phœbus sets his cloudy battalions.

The name of Probabilities, with the mystery removed, is Albert J. Myer. He is an officer-like, cleanly-cut man, young and trim, with a light complexion and a pair of intelligent eyes, and a sort of reasoning address. His head is rather small than otherwise, and the forehead inclined. He entered the army as a surgeon from the region of Buffalo, New York, in 1854, and was transferred to the line as 1860 as major and chief signal officer. His present rank is Colonel in the regular army, and Brigadier General by brevet. He organized the signal corps of the army, and, after the war, with rare expansiveness, adapted and extended the theory of signaling to civil uses, and projected a system of observation and prognostication which should serve the uses of agriculture, navigation and the comfort of society.

The telegraph was to be the transmitter of simultaneous observations over the great area of the country, upon temperature, moisture, wind and clouds; and, by the known laws of meteorology, the effect of these influences could be computed with some degree of probability by the educated judgment of constant prognosticators at the central office. Thus the signal office—now called by the public the weather bureau—aims to produce the wisest and most pleasing economy ever contributed by science, mechanics and government to a people. It addresses the picnic party and the fleet captain, the old woman drying clothes, and the General of expedition, the miller on the brook and the coaster on the Gulf. The possibilities of this office in the human economy are boundless; for what we call the weather is the invisible, but systematic government of the world, the chemistry and exhalation, the docility and the expression, the obedience and the act, of the globe. Man has gotten out of the bed for thousands of years with one stocking and one suspender and damned the appearance of the morning. For the first time in the history of our species, he is not now required to look out of the window, and show the violence of his temper and the degree of his ignorance. He may lather his face, and with that eye which has not been soaped, regard the bottom of the column in his morning newspaper, and exclaim, like a sovereign, that since the weather reports began, there has been no news.

Said I to General Myer:

"General, you should write over your door: 'The Weather Bureau: Prophets and priests desired it long, but died without the sight.'"

"Oh!" said the General, "the Bible is a great weather-book. 'Tho wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou * * * canst not tell whence it cometh and whither it goeth;' but we do. 'We look in the East and see that it is red,' and we get a newer deduction from that. Yes, the people and the press of the country have supported this bureau with an appreciation and a unanimity which have overridden the colder opinion of men professedly statesmen and savans. The usefulness will not cease at the present mark; but civilization, by the cable system, will, in a few years, mount guard over the firmament in every corner of the earth, and anticipate the movements there before they are well compounded. I want to get a few stations in that very important part of our hemisphere, the West Indies."

The interior of the signal office building discloses the newest fruits in the arts of photography, printing and instrument making. The camera is employed to note the slightest gradations in barometric, thermometric, or anemometric movements; and, turned upon the clouds themselves, it is beginning to deal with them, as Lavater might have drawn his system of physiognomy. The establishment of the weather bureau has sharpened the human wits in this direction, and every week develops an improvement or a suggestion by which young certainty advances over old probability. There is a great glass case of clouds in the office, formed of raw cotton drawn out in the form of stratus, cirrus, cumulus or nimbus; and this, with the delicate and involved instruments, and the daily prognostications, form the work of two or three West Pointers, who nightly write their lesson without consultation, and bring it up to compare with the weather regimen of next day. As fascinating in pursuit as old astrology, and more gratifying in result, the science of meteorology, in this vast continental academy, must reach a development hitherto unknown; and, by the dispersion of stations over the country, each a mission in itself, the rising generation will be drawn to natural philosophy like the housewife to her Yankee clock.

Notable about the weather bureau is the simplicity and civil straightforwardness of the apparatus and the corps. The instruments dispatched to distant stations are the best, but of the plainest and most portable description; and the renowned maps, which make, when bound, a weather history, are printed in colors by one die setter on a single adjustable steel plate.

Out of this office may arise the direct interposition of man and government in the management of the weather, which is the next step beyond accurate prognostication. The influence of timber, bogs, etc., in modifying climate is beginning to be understood by common people; but an organization like the signal office has the ability to play chess with the weather, and anticipate operations beyond the horizon, dealing with whole degrees of latitude and longitude, like squares on the board.

Noticeable, also, as a fortuity, perhaps a consequence of this establishment, is the rise of popular science as a social force in all parts of the country. A prouder testimonial a scientific man has never received than Professor Tyndall from the American cities. The *Popular Science Monthly*, edited by Dr. Youmans, the indefatigable pioneer in that cause, is a successful publication, and is attracting contributors like Herbert Spencer. Every year the number of our inland exploring parties increases, and it is rumored that the Darwinian theory is greatly stiffened up by late paleontological discoveries in the Rocky mountains.

So, while politics and political morals are awry, and public men is the worst crop we produce, the American race in other walks is energetic and vigilant, and shows the wisdom and efficacy of our institutions. The modern age, of which we have been a great part, has done more for mankind than all its precursors. The ocean cabled, the coasts of the globe lighted, the weather simultaneously and ubiquitously regarded for universal economy, all departments of labor organizing to resist the sinister advances of monarchy in the form of money, slavery out of fashion, religious toleration almost wholly insured, and international obligations Christianized: have we lived in vain as a family of mankind! And shall the pothouse and the primary meeting be greater than any of these victories!

An Irishwoman, who had kept a little grocery, was brought to her deathbed, and was on the point of breathing her last, when she called her husband to her bedside. "Jemmy," she faintly said, "there is Misses Maloney, she owes me six shillings." "Och!" exclaimed her husband, "Biddy, darlint, ye're sensible to the last." "Yis, dear, and there's Misses McCraw, I owe her a dollar." "Oh, be jabers, an' ye're as foolish as iver!"

OFFICIAL.

Laws of the United States Passed at the Third Session of the Forty-Second Congress.

[GENERAL NATURE—No. 107.]

An act to provide for the sale of lands of the United States containing coal.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That any person above the age of twenty-one years, who is a citizen of the United States, or who has declared his intention to become such, or any association of persons severally qualified as above, shall, upon application to the register of the proper land office, have the right to enter, by legal subdivisions, any quantity of vacant coal lands of the United States not otherwise appropriated or reserved by competent authority, not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres to such individual person, or three hundred and twenty acres to such association, upon payment to the receiver of not less than ten dollars per acre for such lands, where the same shall be situated more than fifteen miles from any completed railroad, and not less than twenty dollars per acre for such lands as shall be within fifteen miles of such road.

SEC. 2. That any person or association of persons severally qualified as above, who have opened and improved, or shall hereafter open and improve, any coal mine or mines upon the public lands, and shall be in actual possession of the same, shall be entitled to a preference right of entry, under the foregoing provisions, of the mines so opened and improved; provided, that when any association of not less than four persons, severally qualified as in section one of this act, shall have expended not less than five thousand dollars in working and improving any such mine or mines, such association may enter not exceeding six hundred and forty acres, including such mining improvements.

SEC. 3. That all claims under section two of this act must be presented to the register of the proper land district within sixty days after the date of actual possession and the commencement of improvements on the land, by the filing of a declaratory statement therefor; provided, that when the township plat is not on file at the date of such improvement, filing must be made within sixty days from the receipt of such plat at the district office; and provided further, that where the improvements shall have been made prior to the expiration of three months from the passage of this act, sixty days from the expiration of said three months shall be allowed for the filing of a declaratory statement, and no sale under the provisions of this act shall be allowed until the expiration of six months from the date hereof.

SEC. 4. That this act shall be held to authorize only one entry by the same person or association of persons under its provisions; and no association of persons any member of which shall have taken the benefit of this act either as an individual or as a member of any other association, shall enter or hold any other lands under the provisions of this act; and no member of any association which shall have taken the benefit of this act shall enter or hold any other lands under its provisions; and all persons claiming under section two hereof shall be required to prove their respective rights and pay for the lands filed upon within one year from the time prescribed for filing their respective claims; and upon failure to file the proper notice, or to pay for the land within the required period, the same shall be subject to entry by any other qualified applicant.

SEC. 5. That in case of conflicting claims upon lands where the improvements shall be hereafter commenced, priority of possession and improvement, followed by proper filing and continued good faith, shall determine the preference right to purchase. And also where improvements have already been made at the date of the passage of this act, division of the land claim may be made by legal subdivisions, to include, as near as may be, the valuable improvements of the respective parties; and Commissioner of the General Land Office shall be and is hereby authorized to issue all needful rules and regulations for carrying into effect the provisions of this act.

SEC. 6. That nothing in this act shall be construed to destroy or impair any rights which may have attached prior to its passage, or to authorize the sale of lands valuable for mines of gold, silver or copper.

Approved March 3, 1873.

[GENERAL NATURE—No. 108.]

An act for the relief of Howard F. Moffat.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States be and he is hereby authorized to nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate to appoint, upon the retired list of the navy, with the rank of master, Howard F. Moffat, now a volunteer officer on the active list of the navy.

Approved March 3, 1873.

[GENERAL NATURE—No. 109.]

An act to extend the time for filing claims for additional bounty under the act of July twenty-eighth, eighteen hundred and sixty-six.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the time for filing claims for additional bounty, under the act of July twenty-eighth, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, and which expired by limitation January thirtieth, eighteen hundred and seventy-three, be, and the same is hereby revived and extended until the thirtieth day of January, eighteen hundred and seventy-four; and that all claims for such bounties filed in the proper department after the thirtieth day of January, eighteen hundred and seventy-three, and before the passage of this act, shall be deemed to have been filed in due time, and shall be considered and decided without filing.

Approved March 3, 1873.

[GENERAL NATURE—No. 110.]

An act to authorize and direct the Secretary of War to distribute arms and military equipments under the act of April twenty-three, eighteen hundred and eight, and the acts amendatory thereof.

Be it amended by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to distribute to such States as did not, from the year eighteen hundred and sixty-two to the year eighteen hundred and sixty-nine, receive the same, their proper quota of arms and military equipments for each year, from eighteen hundred and sixty-two to eighteen hundred and sixty-nine, under the act of Congress approved April twenty-third, eighteen hundred and eight, and the several acts amendatory thereof; provided, that in the organization and equipment of military companies and organizations with said arms, no discrimination shall be made between said companies and organizations on account of race, color or former condition of servitude.

Approved March 3, 1873.

[GENERAL NATURE—No. 111.]

An act authorizing joint entry by preemption settlers, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That when settlements have been made upon agricultural public lands of the United States, prior to the survey thereof, and it has been or shall be ascertained, after the public surveys have been extended over such lands, that two or more settlers have improvements upon the same legal subdivision, it shall be lawful for such settlers to make joint entry of their lands at the local land office, or for either of said settlers to enter into contract with his co-settlers to convey to them their portion of said land after a patent is issued to him, and, after making said contract, to file a declaratory statement in his own name, and prove up and pay for said land, and proof of joint occupation by himself and others, and of such contract with them made, shall be equivalent to proof of sole occupation and preemption by the applicant; provided, that in no case shall the amount patented under this act exceed one hundred and sixty acres, nor shall this act apply to lands not subject to homestead or pre-emption entry.

SEC. 2. That effect shall be given to this act by regulations to be prescribed by the Commissioner of the General Land Office.

Approved March 3, 1873.