RUSSIA AS IT IS.

VII.
THE BOURGEOISIE.

There is a current and rather wide-spread fallacy propagated by writers belonging to various nations about the absence in the Russian social system of a bourgeoisie or *tiers-état*. This misrepresentation is based principally on the erroneous notion, that whoever is not a nobleman is *ipso facto*, a serf or slave. As to such persons being slaves, we have shown in a former article upon the nobility, that notwithstanding their superior social position and the privileges and distinctions enjoyed by them, and by which they are surrounded, in their real relations with the autocracy, the nobility finally share the common lot, and join with the other classes in dragging along the iron yoke. The Czar is, in principle, an absolute, unaccountable master, as well over the person of a nobleman as over that of a burgher, a peasant or a serf. His power is far more absolute over the nobility, than that of the nobility, over their peasantry. The bourgeoise in Russia are also subject to this power in the same way as the nobility, who precede this class in the social scale. But the class of citizens is circumscribed by the nature of this descending gradation, and thus crowded into a closer and narrower arena, and is more heavily shackled, and to a greater degree oppressed and deprived of individuality and liberty, in body as well as in mind. In a social order, founded exclusively on the complication and combination of what is called privilege, the pressure becomes more and more galling as we descend to the lower grades.

Thus to a certain degree the position of the bourgeoisie in Russia, as will be shown hereafter, differs somewhat from that of the corresponding class in other countries. But still it is of the same kind, though in a more depressed state; sharing partly the common deficiencies, but endowed with other different characteristics of its own, which render it superior to the narrow and contracted spirit so deeply rooted in the European bourgeoisie generally.

In Russia, therefore, the bourgeoisie forms a middle class just as it does elsewhere. It stands there between the nobility and the peasantry. In this central position, through its well defined, well circumscribed corporation, called legally the merchant class, the bourgeoisie touches slightly the hights of the reserved privileges proper to the nobility; while on the other side it mingles and almost disappears in the genuine people. Thus, if by some restricted privileges it is a little raised above the latter's fortune, on the whole, it supports, in common with those beneath it, the social and moral pressure weighing down upon both from the crushing superposition of a higher caste, and from the all-stifling power of despotism.

In the official language the whole class is called *citizen burghers*. They live in cities, towns and boroughs, all under similar organizations; devoted exclusively to trade, manufactures and other working professions. There they are governed by institutions of a communal nature as respects their fundamental organism and structure.

The legal or civil position of the bourgeoisie as a whole as well as in the parts into which it is legally subdivided, is as follows, according to the definitions of the law by which the bourgeoisie is pieced out into many and various classifications and subdivisions:

According, then, to the law, *Swod Zakonow*, the citizen-burghers of any city, town, or borough, are: 1 Those born in it, or those who have settled there, established in any business as trade-men, artizans, etc. 2. Persons possessing houses, lots, or any description of real estate in the locality. 3. Those registered in one of the three guilds, or any other local corporation. 4. All those who in the city where they live, have fulfilled duties of personal service, who are recorded in the general register, and have accordingly paid the communal taxes.

This body of citizen burghers is divided into various classifications, as follows: Thus: 1. The class of the corporation legally called merchants, *Kupetscheskoe sosloute*. All of them must be inscribed in one of the three guilds. 2. Respectable citizens. 3 Citizen burghers not inscribed in any of the guilds; artisans, mechanics, belonging to special handicraft corporations. 4 Freemen, such as discharged soldiers, emancipated serfs, and all others of free condition not belonging to any special corporation, but registered in the general one of the city inhabited by them. 5 Workmen, and all other inhabitants owning houses in cities, but not registered in the general, or in any of the special corporations, can, if they choose, be called citizen burghers, without, however, losing their privileges, if from the order of the nobility, or acquiring these of burghers, if still belonging to rural communes.

The three guilds into which the merchant class is divided, are formed according to the amount of capital employed and declared by those wishing to get an inscription, on which an interest of about six per cent. is to be paid yearly into the treasury. The sum necessary for an inscription in the first guild, is about twenty thousand dollars, for the third or lowest, about six thousand.

Aside from this order of merchants, all other burghers form a general body, whatever their trade or occupations. A handicraft corporation is formed of masters, foreman and apprentices. The members of such a corporation are either for life or temporary. To the first belong those born as citizen burghers; to the second foreign artisans, free peasants as well as serfs who have learned the special handicraft or are received among the masters in the corporation, being thus inscribed for a certain time, without, however, belonging to the general class of citizen-burghers. The body of workmen is composed of all registered in the records of the town, and not belonging to any of the above-mentioned classes, of men unfit for the military service or those having finished it, of foreign immigrants, artisans or apprentices, but excluding those of bad character, and all those expelled for bad behavior, or for the non-payment of communal taxes, or the evading to fulfill personal duties.

Any one enjoying the right to make a selection of a corporation, trade or occupation for life, can enter the class of citizen burghers, abandoning thus his inferior position and passing over to this superior one. For this he must be legally and officially accepted by the community which he wishes to join. Exceptions exist for some artisans where the legal assent of the community to the act of admission is not necessary. Thus, for example, cloth-weavers, dyers and dressers, and machinists, can join a general city corporation or community, without obtaining the formality of its assent.

Free or crown peasants can join the corporation of burghers individually or with their families, and so can rural communes, if they are traders, mechanics, artisans or manufacturers, but not as agriculturists. Individuals passing thus from one state to another, must obtain the assent of the commune which they abandon, as well as the acceptance of that which they enter. When this is to be done by a whole rural community, the permission of the Government is necessary. Widows and daughters of free peasants can, under certain conditions, become incorporated among the citizen burghers.

Independent agriculturists, (a kind of free yeomen,) as well as emancipated serfs, can join a city corporation with its assent.

Jews, as well as seceders from the State, or the orthodox Greco-Russian Church, can only join corporations in transcaucasian cities. Asiatic nomades, of all races and kinds, Kirguses, etc., can, at their choice, enter any city corporation whatever, and no objection can be raised to this by the commune.

The following are the rights and the composition of a municipal commune. Its members can hold legal meetings, for the debating and settling of objects of general interest, necessity and utility. So says the code of law, *swod zakonow*. These meetings are either general, formed collectively by all the various members of the general city corporation, or special, for each special corporation; as, for example, for merchants, burghers or workmen, a general meeting is held every three years, being called together by the Governor of the county, and presided over by the Mayor, who is called *golowa* or head. The legal age for the exercise of the right of voting is 25 years. At such triennial meetings, the community elects members for its internal administration—as the Mayor, the Common Council, called *Duma*, the magistracy or Board of Aldermen, a special Board for affairs relating to artisans, a Board to superintend the recruiting of soldiers, and a Board of Deputies to look over the administrative accounts.

The community of any city can erect a communal bank according to the prescriptions of special laws.

No citizen burgher can be deprived of his standing or special privileges otherwise than by the verdict of a criminal tribunal. In all civil as well as criminal matters, if both the parties are of the same class, the case comes first before the Board of Magistrates.

Merchants of the first guild, or their children, when the parents have belonged for twenty-five years uninterruptedly to the guild, have the right to enter the civil or military service under the same conditions as the children of personal nobles. Merchants of the second guild, or their children, cannot enter the civil service at all, and the military only as volunteers, that is, with the right to leave it again at any time. All other merchants, citizen burghers or their children are not admitted into the civil service on any condition whatever, and when they enter the military, do not enjoy any privilege whatever, but are treated like all the common recruits. A citizen-burgher registered in one of the three guilds is free from the general recruiting to which all other burghers are subject. He also does not pay to the State the capitation tax, called *podaschwoe*, (from the soul) as he already pays an interest on the capital for which he is inscribed in the guild. All other commercial taxes are paid by the burghers in common with the rest of the inhabitants. Any citizen-burgher can own houses or other real estate situated in cities or villages, or lots of naked land—that is, land without serfs. Citizen burghers not inscribed in any guild, but owning houses in cities valued above $5,000, are obliged to register their names at least in the third guild, and pay the interest on their capital. Such houses can be owned by widows or unmarried daughters of the class of merchants, but on condition of registration in a guild. Merchants can belong to and be registered in rural communities according to certain prescriptions of the law.

If a merchant, or in general any citizen-burgher, inherits landed estates with serfs on them, the serfs are to be sold immediately to the Crown domains at the average price of from $150 to $200 the soul—the right of owning serfs being reserved exclusively to the nobility. The citizen-burghers can be deprived of their property only by the judgment of a civil tribunal.

No citizen-burgher registered in the general, or in any of the special corporations, can step out of it, and abandon the city where he is incorporated, by settling in another, without the assent of the community or the permission of the Government. Any citizen-burgher can pass into the close corporation of the merchants, on declaring the amount of capital required to be inscribed in one of the three guilds, and paying to the treasury the interest thereon.

Each community can exclude any member under criminal condemnation, or of notorious bad character. The city of Moscow has alone the privilege of giving up such individuals to the Government, either as recruits, to be reckoned as furnished in any future levy, or for the colonization of Siberia. Children of such convicts, above 14 years of age, have the option either to follow the father or to remain in the community. Minors not having a mother, never follow the parent when sent to Siberia.

Above all the subdivisions of the bourgeoisie, and thus above the close corporation of the merchants—even those of the first guild—rises the legal privilege of the respectable citizen, *postchotnoi grazdanin*. This is a privilege either enjoyed for life or hereditary. Children of personal nobles become hereditary respectable citizens.

One, who in virtue of the social position of his father as a merchant of the first guild, or as a savant, a physician, etc., has acquired the right to complete a course of studies in one of the Universities of the Empire, can petition the Government to be included in the class of respectable citizens, on producing testimonials of having finished the higher studies, and of good conduct during his stay at the University. The same is conceded to artists when they produce testimonials from the National Academies of Art: to children of merchants of the first and second guilds, who have passed with special distinction through the studies of the Universities, to pupils of special Commercial Schools, to artists, who are foreigners by birth, etc.

At first sight it would seem laudable, that laborious and well accomplished studies, as well as artistical distinction, should open the door to a higher grade in the social scale. But on more close consideration, this apparent liberality loses greatly in its character. It is deprived of the lofty spirit of universality which alone makes such distinction praiseworthy. It has the narrowness inherent in exceptions and superpositions. It is a privilege conceded to one already privileged. It excludes here as it does every where, the man of genius, who by accident is not born in a certain privileged cradle. It reduces to some few what ought to be accessible to all. It is thus restricted, narrow and exclusive. Vainly is it represented as being a stimulus to the acquisition of social distinction by intellectual labor, by mental accomplishments. It is so but partially in a very limited way. It has the whole smell of caste instead of having the elevated character of being for the benefit of the whole people. It shuts out the poor, the unprotected by purse or patronage. It is stale and musty in its nature, rather than bright and serene as ought to be a genuine incitement of true civilization, securing well-deserved social superiority and consideration.

THE RUSSIAN TEA TRADE.

Translated for The N. Y. Tribune from the Ausland.

The tea trade in Russia is carried on in accordance with the relations of its other oriental commerce. China is the principal consumer of Russian manufactures, whether they be of metal, woolen, cotton, linen, leather or fur, and the city of Kiachta, east of the Baikal Sea, and distant in a straight line some 2,800 geographical miles from St. Petersburg is the market for all these goods. But there are no means in Kiachta of getting at the value of the goods brought into the market, since the Russian Government does not allow any of the merchants trading with this city to sell goods to the Chinese for money or credit, but insists on the merchandize brought to Kiachta being exchanged invariably for tea. Before this tea arrives at Kiachta from the south of China where it is produced, it has traveled a distance of at least 2,857 miles, performing the journey partly by water and partly by being carried on the backs of men. Even the worst teas and those which would be entirely discarded in China, become through the tediousness and length of this journey, valuable and readily find a market in Kiachta.

According to Russian statements the exportations of Russian manufactures during a period of five years have been about:

	Silver Rubles.	Dollars.
To China	40,017,387	26,011,101
Elsewhere in Asia	10,427,062	13,277,500
The value, then, of the Asiatic trade for five years is	50,444,449	39,288,601

making, on the average, twelve millions silver rubles the year, or about $7,857,732.

The exports to China, through Kiachta, may be arranged under the following heads:

	Silver Rubles.	Dollars.
Russian Manufactures	27,307,370	17,753,919
Furs from Siberia	8,344,365	5,424,448
Other articles	1,017,439	661,746
Total Russian Goods	36,716,024	23,878,115
Goods not manufactured in Russia	2,186,170	1,461,510
Total	38,882,194	25,279,625

So that Kiachta may with truth and justice be said to be the great emporium between Russia and China. Through this city passes more than one-half of the Asiatic trade of Russia and upon Kiachta depend in a great measure the manufactures and industrial resources of the dominions of the Czar. It will be well then to examine it a little closer.

In return then for its manufactures Russia receives in Kiachta, tea and nothing but tea, with which it supplies the inhabitants of Western Asia as well as its own consumers.

About 120 rubles or $78 worth of *goods* are given for a chest of tea, about 56 lbs., in Kiachta. It is clear then that a chest of tea cannot be offered in the markets of Novgorod for any price like this. We must add to this original cost.

	Silver Rubles.	Dollars
First. The duty of 1 ruble, 40 kopecks for the Russian pound, or on the chest of 60 pounds	91	59
Second. The freight from Kiachta to Novgorod per chest	50	32
Third. Packing and other charges, at the least	25	16
The original cost	120	7
Total	265	18

And if to this we add the insurance and many of those other little items so familiar to merchants, we shall find that each chest of tea in Novgorod will have cost the importer in money actually laid out not less than 300 roubles or $195. But the cost is actually greater than this. Several sorts of tea come to Kiachta, but of these only the best reach Novgorod. The worst kinds, namely, the sealed teas, are not in any way adapted for European palates.* Of black teas two kinds come to Novgorod, and these are called *flower tea* and *trade tea*. Beside these there is a small quantity of green. Full one half of the whole of the teas brought to Kiachta is sealed tea, but this is taken at once to Siberia and Upper Asia. It is called sealed tea from the circumstance of its being pressed into sealed packages similar to those in which tobacco is packed with us. Each package weighs about 3 pounds, and it is so firmly pressed together that nothing less than hammer and chisel will separate it. When it is prepared like other tea, that is, according to the Russian fashion, it yields a thick, deep red colored fluid, bitter and disagreeable to the taste. On the surface of the fluid floats a viscous fatty substance, which the Chinese declare not to be unhealthy, and used to order to make the tea stick firmly together in the package.

The leaves of this tea are old and tough as leather, being mixed, too, with twigs and stalks. Without the duty, a pound of this tea costs 20 kopecks; with the duty, one rouble and 60 kopecks, or $1 20, while every kind of tea, taken together, costs on the average 15 roubles, or $9 75, the pound. It follows, then, that the actual first cost of tea for consumption in Russia is, at the very least, 9 roubles, or $5 80 the pound, or from 600 to 650 roubles, or from $390 to $422 the chest. But the Kiachta merchant buys the goods, which he exchanges for tea, at Novgorod, and he cannot calculate to receive his capital back under a year; he therefore either pays for his goods by borrowing at 12 per cent. or partly by bills of either 18 or 22 months and partly by borrowing. This is a loss that the merchant naturally adds on to the price of the tea. It is not therefore surprising that in the year 1851 tea varied from 900 to 950 roubles, or from $585 to $617 the chest.

Hence, in Russia, tea has become a luxury. Every one, it is clear, is not in a position to pay from 11 to 12 roubles, or from $7 15 to $7 75, the pound for it; consequently, the smuggling of tea has become a profitable business. The same tea that in Novgorod cost 11 or 12 rubles the pound may be purchased in London for 1 to 1½ rubles, or 65 cents to 97½ cents, the pound. It is not surprising, then, since every one in Russia uses tea, that large quantities are continually being smuggled into the country. The increase of this smuggling has a great effect on Kiachta teas. The importation of teas into Russia is forbidden through any other point save Kiachta, and whenever any are found elsewhere, they are at once seized and burned. Once permit Canton tea, we mean tea brought from Canton to Europe by sea, to come into Russia and all trade in the dear Kiachta teas would cease, and then what would become of Russian trade? Who would buy her bad and high-priced manufactures? And so, to prop up their home industry, the Kiachta system of trading must be supported. In fact, in order that Russia may possess a few badly managed cotton mills and cloth manufactories, the whole tea-consuming population are compelled to pay ten times the price they would have to pay if they were allowed to form a part of the regular trade of the country.

Russian authors think that partly by improving the means of transportation and partly by improvements in their manufactures, tea, which in Russia is now really a necessary, might be made somewhat cheaper; but neither of these would practically be of much use; and so long as the Government so carefully supports the manufactories and so anxiously provides a market for their produce, how is it possible that they can improve?

When a man wishes to purchase an article he necessarily and naturally goes to that market where it may be had for the least outlay—hence it happens that Russian merchants go to Prussia to purchase tea—to be afterwards smuggled into Russia. It would seem as if in time Königsberg would become as celebrated for the importance of its smuggling traffic with Russia as Kiachta is now for its honorable trade. In 1848 the importation of tea into Russia was 216,000 lbs.; in 1849 it had already reached 504,000 lbs.; in 1850, 1,084,000 lbs., and if we take 2,948,000 lbs. for that of 1851 we shall probably not be very far from the truth.

Before the line of custom-houses which existed between Poland and Russia was removed, large quantities of tea were imported into Poland, in order to be thence introduced into Russia. But, in more recent times, since in fact the Russian tariff has been applied to Poland, it has been found best to pay the Prussian duty and bring the teas over the frontier in any way possible. It follows consequently that the Russian merchants last year paid a Prussian duty on tea amounting to about 113,000 thalers, or $85,580, depriving the Russian Government, according to the Kiachta rate of duties equal to at least 1,500,000 silver rubles, or $975,000.

Besides Konigsberg, however, there is another place where large quantities of tea are collected for the purpose of being smuggled into Russia, namely: Odessa, situated immediately on the frontiers of the Empire. What may be the quantity of tea smuggled from this quarter into Russia we are not able accurately to ascertain. Sufficient for us to be able to state that, equally as by way of Prussia, many thousand tuns of tea are also introduced into the country through the free City of Odessa. So long as Cracow was a free city, the tea trade flourished in Silesia, but now there is not a single chest of tea to be found in the whole province, for exportation to Russia.

And against whom, let us ask, does Russia so studiously protect her manufactures? The answer is at once England. England opposes Russia in every market of Asia, in China and Persia, and never was the Kiachta trade so successfully carried on as it was during the war between England and the Chinese. Russia obtains her spinning and weaving machinery, as well as many of her workmen, from England, and the English are prudent enough never to send their opponents the best articles. English and Russian manufactures meet on the high plains of Asia, in China, in Persia, and the Levant and while the former have been transported, in the cheapest way possible by sea, the latter have traversed a great part of Russia, and finally arrived at the market by a tedious and expensive land carriage. The Russian Czar consequently discovers, that wherever he cannot regulate matters by the simple issuing of a ukase, he is not able in any way to compete with the English.

It will be seen that Russian tea is at least one thousand per cent. higher than that brought by England to Europe by sea. An opinion prevails very much that tea loses a great part of its aroma through the sea voyage, and that consequently the Kiachta teas are much finer in flavor than those brought from Canton; but we think this opinion is not founded on any good ground. Certainly the best teas come to Kiachta for the Russian market, since it is only these which will pay for the enormous land carriage; so that on the average, the Kiachta teas are better than those brought from Canton. But yet it is quite possible to bring as good teas from Canton by sea as ever enter into the Russian markets. Moreover, so trifling is the exportation of tea by Russia to Europe, that it is impossible to judge of their quality, save by those specimens which are yearly sent as presents to Ambassadors and foreign Courts; and even these are not in any way so very noticeable. The Government return to those merchants who export Kiachta teas the duties they paid on them in Kiachta; and since money can achieve everything in Russia, it is by no means impossible but that many merchants, availing themselves of the fame of the Kiachta teas, so manage as to export large quantities of the smuggled teas as those originally imported into Russia by way of Kiachta. And we may consider that not once in a hundred times is tea professing to be Russian, really that imported through that all-important place in Russian commerce—Kiachta.

RUSSIAN ENCROACHMENTS IN ASIA.

Translated for The Tribune from the French Moniteur.

If the general attention were not concentrated on Turkey, it could not fail to be directed toward China, where events of vast importance are now taking place. Hitherto Great Britain and the United States are the two powers which have established the most extended commercial relations with the Celestial Empire. Another State, Russia, is striving also to gain a high position in those countries, and sooner or later, will no doubt thus establish a commanding influence over them. Bordering upon China, Russia owes peculiar advantages to this position. It possesses the most ancient treaty with China, and also an extended commerce. Alone, among the nations, she even maintains a mission at Pekin, in reference alike to political and religious objects.

On the side of Asia, as well as on the side of Europe, it is Peter the Great who originated the plans, which the Russians of the present day have only to carry in execution. Peter the Great, wishing to connect Russia in Europe with the Frozen Ocean and the Pacific, established settlements at points which commanded the river courses and among others, that of Albazean, on the river Amour. The Emperor of China was taken by surprise by this establishment, which threatened the possessions of the family of Mantchouria, and led all the Russians to Pekin. Succeeding these events, the first treaty between China and Russia was concluded at Nipchou, in Sept. 1689. A second treaty was signed under Catharine on the 14th of June 1728.

After these conventions, the Russians abandoned to China the course of the river Amour. The commerce between the two countries was limited, on the Russian side to Kiachta and on the Chinese to Mai Mai-Tuhen. During the great fair, the commissioners on the part of the two countries fixed the respective prices of the commodities to be disposed of, and the mercantile transactions were effected by exchanges. The Russians carried cloths, furs, tanned hides iron and steel ware, mirrors, cambiets, cotton goods, velvets, and Turkey opium. The Chinese gave in exchange tea, porcelain, musk, rhubarb, silks, and cotton goods. Under the pretext of giving spiritual guides to the dozen or so of the Cossacks who were taken to Pekin in 1685, after the capture of Albazean, the Russians obtained authority by these treaties to establish a mission at Pekin. This mission composed of a chief, called the archimandrite, three other priests, two deacons, and four young men charged with the study of Chinese and Mantchou is changed but once in ten years. At the arrival of this epoch, the Governor General of Siberia appoints a commandant, who with an inspector of baggage, two interpreters, and thirty lancers, conducts a new mission to Pekin, escorting the old one home. The Pekin mission costs Russia the annual sum of 65,000 francs besides other expenses, occasioned by dispatching couriers and the support of the Convent of Candi-mas, and the Church of the Assumption. The quarters of the mission are provided at the expense of the Emperor of China, who devotes to it annually about 5,000 francs, and 9,000 pounds of rice.

The Russian Government, so haughty after having attained its ends, does not hesitate to submit to the most modest position in the pursuit of them. Thus it consents to treat with the Court of Pekin, through the medium of bureau, which under the name of the Court of Foreign Affairs, is nothing but a ministry for colonies, charged with everything that relates to tributary countries—so that Russia is ranked among the countries tributary to China, and is registered in this character in the book of the Empire. But, while the Russian Government officially accepts this humble position, it entertains among the descendants of the Cossacks well-paid agents, whom the fact of their being Chinese protects from the espionage of the Pekin authorities, and who by their community of origin and religion with the Russians are admirably adapted to subserve the interests of their ancient country. These agents are the actual intermediates between the two Governments.

After the war of the English against China, the commercial position of Russia was compromised in consequence of opening the ports of Amoy, and especially of Shanghai to maritime exchanges. The Russians are obliged to sell below cost three quarters of the merchandise which they bring into the country, without counting the enormous sums which they expend in presents among the dignitaries of Pekin, who carry a high hand over all the commerce of Kiakhta. In order to compensate for these losses, the Russian consumer is obliged to pay three times as much for tea as the English.

Negotiations have been opened at Pekin by Russia, with a view to agreeing upon a new treaty. At the same time, the Governor of New Archangel dispatched the *Shelikoff*, commanded by a captain of the Imperial Marine, to open a direct commerce with Central China at Shanghai. But on arriving at the Shanghai Opium Station, the *Shelikoff* was ordered to heave to. The warden of the port refused to authorize the captain to go up the river, or to sell or purchase goods, grounding his refusal on the assumption that the eighth article of the supplementary treaty with England—providing that the privileges accorded to the English should be extended to other nations, whose commerce was formerly limited to Canton—did not apply to the Russians, who have never had relations with that place. The captain of the *Shelikoff* was obliged to confine himself to the secret purchase of considerable quantities of tea, and took his departure for Sitka. Since 1848, he has been in the habit of returning every year at the same time always stopping at the Opium Station and purchasing tea as if it were a contraband article.

It would appear that the Russian Government succeeded in 1852, in obtaining from the Emperor of China the opening of a new market for an overland trade between the two empires. This market, called the western market to distinguish it from Kiachta, was to be situated on the Irtysch, at the point where that river enters the Chinese possessions, being in easy and direct communication with Tobolsk, the chief city of western Siberia. This establishment would possess a great commercial and political importance for Russia. It would become an entrepôt for western Siberia, and Yarkand as well as Boukara. It would permit Russian agents to keep an eye on Boukara, Khiva, Koundour, and Khokhand, as vigilantly on the north-east, as is now done on the western frontier of those countries by agents established on the Caspian Sea. From this point, the surveillance of the Russians would extend still more easily to Lahore and Cabul.

The Chinese Government, it is said, would prove more impracticable in regard to the free navigation of the River Amour. It has thus far refused to make this concession to Russia, which would open to her the three provinces of Mantchouria. If Russia should obtain the free navigation of the River Amour, Kamschatka and her American possessions would be brought two thirds nearer to Nertchinsk and Irkutsk; Sitka would acquire a great commercial and military importance, especially in relation to California and the whole Pacific Ocean; and the Russians, finally, starting from Nertchinsk, would arrive at Shanghai, after having passed through the interior river courses of the Chinese Empire.

These facts are of interest, as showing the persistence with which Russia, at every point where she has made her appearance, pursues the execution of the plans which she owes to the genius of the founder of her empire. We have seen Peter the Great occupied with securing the free navigation of the river Amour; we find his successor seeking to avail himself of circumstances to extort this concession from the Court of Pekin. But, since Peter the Great, what progress have the Russians not made, as well in the extreme East as in the West? We have seen them divide Siberia into two general governments; create the North American Company, which has its principal seat at Sitka and a great number of agencies; establish posts at the Aleutian Isles, New Archangel, and Sitka, maintaining a fleet in those quarters; continually enlarge Tobolsk, Tomsk, Irkutsk, Selenghinsk, at two leagues from Kiachta, with 5,000 troops; endeavor, at all times, to open relations with Japan; take possession of all the northern portion of the Kurile Isles; and at this moment under the pretense of a scientific mission, despatch an expedition to follow and observe that of the United States in the seas of Japan.

THE WEATHER AND THE CROPS.

[All our friends writing us business letters, will confer a favor by adding a note, like some of the following, about the state of the Weather and Crops in their neighborhoods.]

At the North.

BRUSHVILLE, QUEENS Co., L. I., Aug. 19—The Hay crop has been abundant though injured by getting too ripe, owing to the wet weather in haying time. Corn is very heavy; generally in roasting ears. Potatoes a fine crop, but begin to rot badly. Apples scarce. Yours,
N. HALLOCK.

SYRACUSE, Aug. 17—I learn that Wheat does not yield well from the straw. It is injured by the Wheat worm. Barley yields poorly also. Oats in some sections are very misty. I think the crop will prove a bad one generally in this State. The drouth injured Grass. Corn never was better.

BATAVIA, N. Y. Aug. 16—The heat of the atmosphere has been terrible—the mercury ranging often over 95 in the shade—vegetation is completely dried up. Future rains cannot save Corn and Potatoes. Potatoes are very dry.

TRINITY, Lewis Co., N. Y., August 16.—Owing to the severe drouth of June and July our Grass crop in Lewis, Jefferson and St. Lawrence Counties will not be an average crop. Wheat and Corn are full average especially in Lewis County—not as good North. Oats are full as good as usual. The Potato crop will be light, as the growth is small and the dreaded "rot" has made its appearance. Pastures, although somewhat enlivened by recent rains, are still very short. The grass-hoppers are doing sad work. Butter and Cheese will be below an average yield, and is selling high—Butter 20 to 23 cents per pound; Cheese 8 to 10, for the best dairies. The weather at present is extremely hot and dry. J. CHAFFOOT, Jr.

CENTER VILLAGE, N. Y., Aug. 3.—Crops in Broome and Chenango Counties, on the Susquehannah River—Grass full an average crop; Wheat and Rye came in fine, although we had wet weather for harvesting; Corn looks very promising; Oats are generally good, although some are badly injured by the rust; Potatoes are going the old road to destruction, by the rot; there is but little fruit in this section; Hops are nothing like an average crop, generally contracted for 30 cents and upward; their destination is said to be Wesseyo, ho! E. S.

NORTHBRIDGE, Mass., Aug. 12.—In the southern part of Worcester County, Mass., Corn will be very good; Oats fair; Potatoes good, if the rot, now beginning to appear, does not affect the crop; rains have been so frequent and ample that the second crop of Hay will be unusually good, and feed abundant.

OXFORD, Chenango Co., Aug 1853.—The Potato Rot, in this County was never worse. I know not of a single field the vines of which are not entirely or very nearly dead. The tubers have commenced decaying rapidly, and many fields will not be dug at all. Heretofore the farmers have, in consequence of the absence of good Potatoes, raised large quantities of Cabbage and Swedish Turnips, as substitutes for the Potato, but owing to the abundant crop of the latter last year, they have neglected those substitutes which will make the loss of the Potato more severely felt, especially among the poorer classes; though, fortunately, the latter are scarce among us.

Oats are full an average crop. Chenango Hay no better than last year. Corn promises finely, but has suffered much in some localities from the recent heavy showers. S. BUNDY.

At the South.

ABBEVILLE, S. C., Aug 16.—Within the last two or three weeks we have had heavy rains. On Sunday week it poured torrents, raising streams and covering flat lands. The crops are wonderfully improved.

SANDERSVILLE, Geo., Aug 14.—We have had a season of rain that has done much good, though it has not benefitted all alike. It is the case often that one plantation has had good seasons, while the adjoining one is cried up.

THOMASVILLE, Ga., Aug. 13.—I saw a 200 acre field of corn yesterday that will yield 40 bushels to the acre. Corn is selling 8 to 1,200 lb in the seed per acre. Watermelons to lb a piece.

FRANKLIN LA., Aug 9.—Cane looks fine. Some complain of too much rain, but still the prospect of a great Sugar crop very fair. Corn is poor; the early drouth was too much for it.

LARGE EARS OF CORN.—We yesterday shown, from the farm of Mr. E. C. Waite, six miles on the Washington road, some roasting-ears measuring about twenty inches in length, one of which would serve a moderate sized family for dinner. Mr. W. has a large field of this prodigious Corn. [Baltimore Sun, Aug. 16.

At the West.

FULTON COUNTY, Ill., Aug. 11.—The crops about this section never were better. What was gathered in fine order. Oats heavy; Corn very promising. New Wheat has sold for 75 cents, but has declined to 65 cents, in consequence of the low stage of water in the Illinois River. The Fruit trees are giving way under their burdens. July was a cool month, but it is now excessively hot. Yesterday was the hottest day of the season, being 102 in the shade; it is now 104 P. M. at my dwelling. Respectfully, E. C. E.

PERRYSVILLE, Ohio, Aug. 13—Crops in almost every description in this County are good. Wheat slightly injured by fly and rust; Oats a little by dry weather; Corn will be extra good. Yours, truly, N. S. JONES.

Extract of a letter from Wisconsin to a friend in New York:

It would do your *soul good* to see how finely the crops are looking here, (Rock County, Wis., and vicinity.)

There never has been such a season as this is, since my residence in the State—now over eight years. Wheat is excellent. Oats are an unparalleled crop. Corn—well, I cannot find any adjectives to express its excellence, three or four thumping ears to a single stalk. It is positively incredible, the abundance of the yield, until you see it yourself. The bountifulness of the crops, and the probability of prices being well sustained, cause our farmers to feel well. They deserve this good fortune, for they have labored long, with poor success. Now come the days of their prosperity. Very truly yours, L. A.

THE DAYTON MURDER—CONFESSION.—*The Dayton (Ohio) Gazette* of the 16th, says: Yesterday afternoon, Dick sent word to Mr. Stephen, his recent employer, to come to town and bring his clothes. Stephen came, and brought with him Dick's coat, which he had found in the stable, bloodstained and with hair like that of the murdered woman adhering to it. Giving the coat to the Sheriff, Stephen went to the cell, and when asked if he had brought the clothes, replied that he had found the coat, and that it was so bloody he feared it would "prove murder" unless concealed. On this hint, and glad that the garment had fallen, as he supposed, into safe hands, Dick admitted that he had killed the old woman and boy, and told where he spade with which he did it, might be found in some willow bushes near the stable. Officers Craig and Hitchcock went to Stephen's immediately, and after a short search in the locality indicated, found the implement and secured it. The marks of blood upon it are said to be unmistakeable. Other evidences of the wretched man's guilt, were obtained yesterday on the ground where the brutal tragedy was enacted—but the coat, the spade, and the confession seem to be overwhelming. Seldom has detection so speedily overtaken the perpetrator of a plotted and deliberate crime. It was committed under conditions highly favorable to concealment; but let bad men see, in its prompt revelation that "murder will out."

BRUTAL MURDER.—A most foul and diabolical murder was perpetrated on the person of Catharine Cosgrove, late Widow Killen, on the night of the 9th inst., at Lemonte, Md. She had been to a near neighbor's, and on returning home, between 8 and 9 o'clock at night, when about half way home, less than half a mile from her own house, was evidently attacked by two persons with bludgeons and knives. Her head was terribly bruised, and her throat cut; in all there were some fifteen wounds inflicted, several of which were sufficient to be mortal. There evidently was a terrible struggle, from indications of cuts inflicted with a knife on the back of her hand and arm, as if it was done in the act of fending off, and she had apparently caught the knife once or twice, which, being withdrawn, had nearly cut off two of her fingers. She was a person of remarkable energy.

MURDER AND ROBBERY.—On the 22d ult., near Charleston, Va., the decayed body of a man, supposed to have been John Worley, was found, partly covered with earth. His murderer, who got about $300, as it is supposed was unquestionably William Patton, alias Weslon, for whom the whole country, east and west, and this city, has been hunted—in one or two places his whereabouts discovered only too late. Patton had represented himself as mate of steamer *Greenwood*.

FIENDISH OUTRAGE.—One of the most diabolical outrages that has for a long time disgraced our County took place in the town of Warwick, on Thursday of last week. An Irishman, by the name of Thomas Marshall, having a wife and two of three children, and residing in a house belonging to Jeffrey Wisner, Esq., managed by various artifices, to entice a daughter of N. R. Bradner away from his house, into a piece of woodland. The girl is about 16 years old and is an imbecile. A woman in the neighborhood, noticing their movements, informed Mr. B.'s family of it, and he and his three sons immediately followed in pursuit. The young men reached the woods in advance of their father, where they immediately heard the cries of their unhappy sister. They rushed to the spot, and found the fiend engaged in an attempt to violate her person. They instantly assailed the monster and would have dispatched him on the spot, if Mr. Bradner had not come up, and persuaded them not to stain their hands with his blood. The poor simple girl had made a desperate resistance, the face was cruelly bruised, and one of her eyes was so injured that she will probably never have the use of it again. Her mouth had been filled with pebbles and tobacco, to stop her cries. The inhuman wretch was arrested, and is now in jail in this village. [Goshen (N. Y.) Wing, Aug. 17.

BURIAL OF CLARA C. COCHRAN.—The body of Miss Cochran was carried to Grafton, Vt., last Monday, under the charge of John T. Moore, of this place. She was born in New Boston, but requested to be buried by the side of her mother at Grafton, where some of her relatives reside. Her funeral took place on Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock, at the house of Jonathan Sherwin, and was attended by a large concourse of people. John H. Sherwin, the one to whom she wished her property to be given, was present at the funeral. Miss Cochran was of an excellent family, had a superior education, and her melancholy death causes sorrow. Her father and mother died of consumption, and she had the impression that such would be her fate. [Manchester (N. H.) Mirror, Aug. 17.

THE LATE GAVAZZI RIOTS AT MONTREAL.—*The Montreal Gazette* of the 15th says, that it has been proposed by Mr. Drummond to appoint a commission to inquire into the horrible murders on the 19th of June last. In all our experience of public affairs, *The Gazette* remarks, we never yet heard of a commission to inquire into a murder. Fourteen lives have been taken in the City of Montreal: the evidence of the slaughter is before the public and the Government; nothing more can be elicited; and yet not only has the Government looked on in apathy at this rightful sacrifice of life, but it is now proposed to make a mockery of justice and of the lacerated feelings of a community *by the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry*.

WASHINGTON NATIONAL MONUMENT.

CRYSTAL PALACE, New-York, Aug. 19, 1853.

To cash on hand	$1,411 54
Contributions for this day	65 81
Total	$1,477 35

J. L. BROWN, Agent.

The number of visitors admitted to the Crystal Palace yesterday was 6,609.

CITY ITEMS.

ENTERTAINMENTS, &c., THIS EVENING.

ERNANI will be given at Castle Garden this evening, by Steffanone Martini, Rachel and Pozzoni!

THE RED GNOME by the Ravels. Also, "The Coopers," and other performances.

THE YANKEE IN FRANCE to-night, at the Broadway, by Silsbee. Also, "The Yankee in China," by Silsbee, and "Perfection," by the Company.

LAWTER, the new Comedy, at Burton's. Also, the Chinese troupe and "A Day After the Fair." Holland in five characters.

PAULINE will be given, for the last time, this afternoon and evening, at Barnum's.

UNCLE TOM'S CABIN, this evening, at the National Theater, by Mr. German, Mr. Howard, Mrs. Howard, Cordelia Howard, and others.

WOOD'S MINSTRELS—Ethiopian Delineations. No. 444 Broadway.

SUCKER'S NEW-ORLEANS SERENADERS—No. 539 Broadway.

SANFORD'S PANORAMA OF EGYPT, &c.—No. 595 Broadway.

FRANKENSTEIN'S PANORAMA OF NIAGARA FALLS, No. 718 Broadway.

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