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Total for the week, 1,039,918

### Less and Less Danger from Cholera.

The late reports concerning cholera in Europe are of a kind to sustain the opinions of the French physicians who regarded the Toulon and Marseilles outbreak of the disease as the beginning of what would be a comparatively local epidemic which would speedily die out. The decline in the number of deaths in both these cities that fugitives are returning, and the indications that the disease is spreading over Europe, or is likely to so spread, are less now than they were a week ago.

Cholera first appeared at Toulon early in June, and soon thereafter it broke out in Marseilles. It could not have found two towns better fitted to propagate the disease, for they were both dirty, and their sanitary regulations were barbarous, according to present English and American notions. Yet within two months we find the epidemic declining in severity, with the probability that during the rest of the summer the cases of the disease will be comparatively few.

So far, despite the great number of fugitives, cholera has not reached the great cities of Europe, unless here and there a sporadic case about which there is still room for doubt. As being true of cholera, Paris is free from it, and there is little alarm in England as to its probable approach. Meantime the summer is passing by, and the chances of the spread of the disease this year are all the time decreasing.

Here in this country the weather of the summer continues to be generally favorable to health, and our danger from cholera, not great at any time since its outbreak in Toulon, is now very slight. However it may be next year, we think that both Europe and America can pretty safely dismiss anxieties as to a general cholera epidemic this season. If the disease was going to spread widely it ought before this to have begun its march.

### Are We a Nation of Rascals?

In the last number of the *North American Review*, an attempt is made to prove that all of us who are citizens of the United States are injured and disgraced, alike in our collective and our individual capacities, by the fact that State debts are repudiated by certain members of the Union. The writer of the article affirms that, owing to the course pursued by the defaulting commonwealths, we are looked upon in foreign countries as a nation of rascals, and he declares that the Federal Government at once assumes the payment of the dishonored obligations, thus compelling the innocent to suffer for the guilty.

Now, there is any class of commodities to which the axiom *caveat emptor* is plainly applicable, it is that species of bonds whose payment is guaranteed by a State as distinguished from the national Government. The very fact that securities were offered by a fraction of the nation instead of the whole of it, by a partially autonomous community whose powers would be more probably undervalued than overestimated, would suffice to put the foreign investor on his guard and cause him to institute inquiries as to the methods of enforcing payment. A glance at our Constitution, which is neither an inaccessible nor a mysterious document, would disclose to any lawyer the non-existence of any form of process by which a State can be compelled to satisfy its creditors, and the decisions of the United States Supreme Court, recourses to which in any case may make, would show that this tribunal has felt itself unauthorised to remedy, by a strained construction, that defect in the organic law. Precautions of this kind being so obvious and facile, a European purchaser of State bonds has not only no legal, but no moral, right to look upon the Federal Government as virtually an endorser. He accepts the commodity on the credit of the State alone, and, like a man who buys a horse without a warranty, exhibits a confidence in his own judgment that sometimes proves unfounded.

The truth is that, whatever confusion may exist in the minds of angry and thick-headed individuals, the great European banking houses are perfectly alive to the difference between our national and our State indebtedness. There is no proof that the credit of our Federal Government has been in the least degree affected by the failure of about a fourth of the constituent States to meet their obligations, nor is there any reason to suppose that the particular States which have always dealt justly with their creditors would suffer on the European Exchanges from any derelictions of their defaulting sisters. We must not imagine that a banker loses the discrimination which is the key to his success the instant he runs his eye over a list of American securities. He would not be fit to be trusted with other people's money, nor could he keep a grip upon his own, if his judgment could be clouded by the blind, vindictive fury with which SYDNEY SMITH denounced the Federal Government and the whole American people because he lost a little money in Pennsylvania bonds.

Justice, as well as charity, begins at home, and it is preposterous to say, because some European investors who should have known what they were buying have been defrauded by some of the State Governments, that therefore Congress should step in and make good the loss out of the national Treasury. We must rid ourselves of the notion that the Treasury is filled with dropings from the sky; it is filled by contributions wrung, under a system of war taxes, from the pockets of the citizen. The astounding proposition, therefore, made in the *North American*, amounts simply to this: that the honest States, which constitute three-fourths of the whole number, and which pay a far larger proportion of the taxes, should, after punctually meeting their own obligations, be called upon, besides, to pay the debts of their dishonest neighbors, though not a dollar of the borrowed money was ever spent on their behalf. Of course, the effect of such a shifting of financial burdens on to the wrong shoulders would be slightly appreciated in Virginia and Tennessee, for it would make the credit of a repudiating State every whit as high as that of the most upright commonwealth that, in the

whole course of its history, has never passed or sealed a dividend. But this would be justice with a vengeance; it would be the monstrous converse of the maxim that honesty is the best policy.

The fact that the general Government has twice voluntarily assumed and satisfied heavy debts contracted by the States does not afford the shadow of a precedent for demanding like intervention in the case of the \$300,000,000 for which some twelve members of the Union are collectively in default. The course adopted by Congress in regard to the State debts contracted during the war for independence, and again during the war of the rebellion, is precisely one of those exceptions that prove the rule. For the money raised by the States at those critical junctures was applied to the necessities of the country at large, was expended in the cause of national self-preservation. Practically, therefore, the Federal Government, that received the money, the States acting merely as brokers, and it was in fulfillment of the strongest moral obligation that Congress, in return, assumed the debts. What relevancy has the action of Congress in those cases to the proposed assumption of State debts contracted exclusively for local purposes? What bearing has it upon the ridiculous suggestion that the citizen of New York or Ohio or Massachusetts should be forced to pay bonds issued for building railways in Tennessee?

### What England Ought to Do in Egypt.

Next to GORDON, who, if still alive, is pelted up in Khartoum, SIR SAMUEL BAKER is the highest authority on all questions relating to that vast portion of the Nile valley which lies between Assuan and Gondokoro. When, therefore, he discusses the Sudan situation, as he does in the last number of the *Nineteenth Century*, his suggestions merit the most respectful attention, and when they are found to coincide with the deliberate opinions of Lord DUFFERIN, they can hardly fail to influence even at this late date, the course of the British Government. Already, indeed, the Ministry have pledged themselves to send an expedition for the rescue of the beleaguered garrisons, and to that end preparations are now making for the construction of a railway from Suakin to some point on the Nile. But, after the railway has been built, and Khartoum has been relieved, does England mean to abandon all the dominions of the Khedive south of the First Cataract? It is the object of SIR SAMUEL'S paper to prove that such an outcome of the proposed demonstration would on all grounds, political, economic, and hydrographical, be an egregious blunder.

SIR SAMUEL BAKER is at pains to distinguish between Khartoum and Darfour on the one hand, whose abandonment he advised long ago, and the Sudan proper, whose western limit south of Khartoum is the White Nile. It is the last-named region, most of which was conquered by MEHMET ALI more than sixty years ago, that stands in a relation to Egypt as intimate as that of Scotland to England. Almost all of the large towns were founded by Egyptian Governors, and whatever measure of law and order, whatever trace of civilization exists in the country, is of Egyptian origin. It was not, therefore, the mere withdrawal of a few garrisons that was decreed by the ill-informed British Cabinet, when it forced the policy of evacuation upon the Khedive's Ministers; it was rather the exile of the whole sedentary population. The sacrifice of the empire laboriously built up along the upper waters of the Nile would, according to SIR SAMUEL, be fatal to the remnant of prestige retained by the Khedive, and would render him incapable of maintaining his authority in the Delta itself upon the retirement of the British forces. Not only would he be unable to repel a northward incursion on the part of the MAHDI, but he could not hope to resist a revolt in Cairo.

As to this, the political aspect of the question, there is little room for disagreement; but there are other considerations to which SIR SAMUEL is the first to assign their due importance. To withdraw from the Sudan after completing the proposed railway from Suakin, would be to throw away a chance of immensely adding to the world's stock of food staples and the raw materials of industry. It is true that hitherto the Calene Government has drawn little or no revenue from its possessions south of Assuan, but this was owing to the fact that the surplus income from fertile districts has been wasted on outlying and unproductive tracts like Korofan and Darfour. Hitherto, moreover, agriculture has been discouraged by the cost of transportation, since almost all the fertile soil lies above the Fifth Cataract. All obstruction on this score would be surmounted by a railway from Suakin, which, however, SIR SAMUEL would carry, not to Borber, but to a point south of Shendy, above the last cataract. In this way, he says, the most powerful incentive would be given to employ the Blue Nile and the Atbara for purposes of irrigation, and bring again into cultivation those fruitful lands which once were famous in the Isle of Merod. We are assured that the whole of the territory from Galabat throughout the course of the Bahad, Dinder, and Blue Nile can be converted into a vast field of cotton, sugar, wheat, flax, and other valuable products; that, in other words, the introduction of a canal system similar to that of the Delta would enable the Sudan to supply grain and cotton in such quantities as would render England independent of all other producers. SIR SAMUEL does not hesitate to avow with all the authority of his position, that such an astonishing development would be almost instantly effected, should the means of transport be effected by constructing a railway.

There is, it seems, a serious danger that the evacuation of Khartoum might be followed by hydrographical changes, whose ultimate result would be the conversion of lower Egypt itself into a desert. The mere loss of the Nilometer, which at that place registers and transmits to Cairo the daily level of the Nile, thus giving twenty days forewarning of a gathering inundation, would be a grave deprivation to the inhabitants of the Delta. But this is not by any means the worst possible consequence of the occupation of Khartoum by Abyssinians, instructed and aided as they almost certainly would be by French or Italian engineers. Should they wish to avenge old wrongs, or for any object to put pressure upon us, they could reduce the volume of the Nile that the river would vanish in the sand long before reaching Cairo. On this head the testimony of SIR SAMUEL BAKER is very striking. "Should a civilized," he says, "or even a semi-civilized enemy be in possession of that point, the waters of the Bahad, Dinder, Blue Nile, and Atbara Rivers could be diverted from their course, and dispersed throughout the deserts, to the utter ruin and complete destruction of Egypt proper." He goes on to show that both the Blue Nile and the Atbara are peculiarly adapted for such an attempt of hostile engineering, inasmuch as for several hundred miles they flow through a level country, while, although nearly full during the rainy season, the Atbara is perfectly dry from March till June, and the Blue Nile is so shallow that in some places

the water is only knee-deep. From his own study of the absolute dependence of the Nile on these tributaries, SIR SAMUEL has little doubt that the seven years of famine he attributes, according to the Scriptural narrative, afflicted Egypt, were occasioned by some interruption of the Abyssinian confluents, as the Ethiopians were the constant enemies of the lower country, and it is quite possible that they may have temporarily diverted the Atbara from its channel.

Weighty as these facts and warnings are, they would probably be thrown away upon the GLADSTONE Ministry but for the steps already taken to construct a railway. There would be, however, something appalling to the commercial instincts of the British taxpayer in the sacrifice of a railway when a dividend was in sight; and we may be pretty confident that the first car load of wheat or cotton that reaches Suakin will revolutionize the Sudan policy of England.

### His Fame has Reached the Other Shore.

In a recent number of the *London Illustrated News*, Mr. GEORGE AUGUSTUS SALA discusses, with the minute and peculiar ingenuity which he devotes to curious questions in philology, the meaning of the phrase, a hebetudinous crank. He thinks that he has discovered "a brand new Americanism," and one that "sounds more sweet than a profane parallelism," or "an irreproachable rhyphophon." We agree with Mr. SALA in the latter opinion. Both of the phrases which he introduces for the purpose of comparison are meaningless and nonsensical terms. They signify nothing, and add nothing to the common stock of ideas. The adjectives and nouns do not fit each other. A parallelism can no more properly be described as profane than a rhyphophon as irreproachable. The rhyphophon, whether responsible or irresponsible, has no existence in nature. On the other hand, the term hebetudinous crank is as scientifically accurate and logically definite as any descriptive term in the English language. It expresses a thing which has real existence, in Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr. SALA's further speculations are interesting, although wide of the mark. Hebetudinous crank is an Americanism only in the sense that COWLES happens to be an American. It is a brand new term merely because he is the first known specimen discovered and described with scientific precision. The writer in the *London Illustrated News* continues:

"The American writer says, it is true, that the term was first applied to the editor of the *Cleveland Leader* by one of the many English and another doubtfully English word. A crank originally meant a sick person; and *Hebetudinous* is a compound of *hebetudinous* and *crank*, or persons who speak of a private company which makes money at his expense.

It is the indefiniteness of their probable liabilities which is so hurtful to the elevated railroads. There are unpaid taxes hanging over them. How vast will be the sum of the obligations for property damage cannot be estimated or even guessed. How great will be the cost of repairs and renovations to their structures can only be surmised.

### Some Frightened Bolters.

According to some authorities, the first political panic of this campaign has come, and, strange to say, it has come upon the Prohibitionists. They begin to fear they may be successful.

A great many Democratic-Republican bolters had made arrangements with their former convictions to shake hands in November over the bosom of St. JOHN. But they have come in such crowds, and the cause has received such an impetus from the reported adherence of Mr. CONKLING, that the majority of the new disciples, who were voting on pure theory, are terrified in mind and chilled in heart at the terrible prospect of carrying the country for temperance.

What a vast crowd of fresh voters on "moral principles only" would say then, "Well, this is a go!" We are told that under the present political outlook all recruiting for the St. JOHN ranks has stopped, and that the suddenly swollen temperance party will promptly return to its original dimensions unless the new recruits become satisfied that there is no hope for St. JOHN. Nothing would give them greater pleasure than to vote for him, but, as to electing him, Oh, No.

The next question is, What will the original sure-enough Prohibitionists do? Will they try to allay the anxiety of their fearful allies, or will they frighten them away for good by too great a show of confidence? Even the Prohibitionists have their troubles.

### Things Changed.

Our distinguished St. Louis contemporary, the *Globe-Democrat*, though a Republican organ, undertakes to lay down the Democratic law:

"It is the custom in the Democratic party to send new recruits to the rear and drill them with the awkward squad for a few decades before making officers out of them. One of the reasons for this is that it is probable that we shall not have to wait so long for an explanation of the mystery. The fame of the hebetudinous crank has already crossed the ocean. European specialists, perhaps, have gone further in certain branches of scientific inquiry than their fellow laborers on this side of the Atlantic. If at Heidelberg or Jena or Berlin or Freiburg, or at Dorpat or Upsal, or in the schools of Paris or Vienna, they can throw any new light on the true nature of a hebetudinous crank, we shall no doubt have the results in due time. Meanwhile COWLES' life is precious to science.

### Rapid Transit in London and New York.

The editor of the *Sunday Engineer*, who has been in London in attendance on the great Health Exhibition, draws a comparison between the rapid transit of London and New York, which is very unfavorable to our elevated railroads.

While we have built roads which must strike the experienced observer as more or less ephemeral structures, the English have constructed a system of rapid transit which is enduring, beyond all question, and, besides, is "speedy, safe, and convenient." Moreover, they have "done it without interfering with public property or violating private rights," and consequently the roads are strong in their "absolute independence of ownership, and freedom from complications due to property damages."

They seem to have had the pluck and the foresight," says this editor, "to realize that a judicious expenditure to enable them to own the land they occupy, and to construct an enduring work, would prove more remunerative in the long run than a more fragile construction, with the risk besides of having to pay damages for encroachment on private rights. The result is that there is a substantial roadway on which the heaviest trains can run at high speed, and passengers can go from point to point in London without creeping along at twelve miles an hour on a structure which sheds bolts and nuts and rivet heads down on the heads of the passers by and requires constant repairs."

The time must come when we shall have

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### WHAT IS GOING ON IN SOCIETY.

When the present year is gathered to the fathers, and its record for this country comes to be studied as a historical document, it will be found to have a marked and peculiar character. The painful features of its financial history have reacted to an unusual degree upon society, and have made watering-place life an exceptional and irregular as the weather. Indeed, if things go on as they have been going on, both in the heavens above and in the earth beneath, it will be the year without a summer.

And yet the very torpor and dullness complained of have brought forth good fruit in Newport, at least, by developing in life there an amount of reasonableness and common sense which may have been latent in previous seasons, but were certainly most skillfully concealed. Never before have the fortunate possessors of Newport money, who devote themselves rationally, and, while outsiders have wielded a great deal of compassion upon them on account of the stagnation of the season, those most nearly concerned have found it anything but wearisome.

Indeed, it is scarcely possible to conceive of man or woman with "soul so dead" as not to appreciate the advantages of Newport, under the favorable conditions of the summer's cool and humid atmosphere. The last few weeks have been almost a feast of roses, in such profusion and variety has the queen of flowers been seen there. Mr. Bancroft's garden has retained its freshness longer than ever before, and the venerable historian has distributed his treasures with a liberal hand to the troops of fair visitors who have come to admire them. The rich and varied hues of the rhododendrons in Mrs. Whiting's grounds have also attracted a great deal of admiring attention, and, indeed, carriages are often stopped and foot passengers linger on their way to enjoy the beds and banks and plots of brilliant flowers which the eye meets every turn. Then there have been many pleasant gatherings—informal dinners, high teas, gossip luncheons, Sunday meetings on the cliffs—and, considering the very limited number of the male sex, not a few quite promising flirtations. During the present month the return of many prominent people and the opening of roads which thus far have been closed will doubtless make a difference, but whether the gayety be fast and furious or stately and imposing, there are many who will regret the serenity and informality of the last few weeks.

Cards of unusual size and with a liberal embellishment of arms and mottoes have been issued for the wedding of Miss Meredith Reed and Mr. Francis A. Stout, which is to take place on the 23d inst. at Gen. J. Meresith Reed's charming residence. The reception is expected to be large and gay.

The marriage of Miss Ella Dickey to the Rev. Mr. Douglas will after all be quiet and private on account of the death of Mr. De Koven. One of the brides of the season is Mrs. Harold Godwin, formerly Miss Elizabeth Marquand, who is spending the summer with her father, Mr. Henry G. Marquand, at her home, which she celebrated a few months since in the most simple and primitive manner at Matlock Bath, in the north of England. The bride party walked to a little chapel in the woods, and the only flowers used were those gathered on the way, which were strewn in the bride's path as she went to the church. Only the family and a few friends were present. Her marriage money was over the party retraced their steps through the fields in the same quaint and simple fashion that they had come. Such a wedding must have its charm. If it were only that of novelty and privacy.

Life at Saratoga is exactly the opposite of Newport life. Five years ago, when Newport was known only as a watering-place, a fashionable seaport town, Saratoga was a city with several mammoth hotels. Dressing, dining, gambling, and coquetting went on there precisely as they go on now. There were fewer people and the places were smaller, that was all. It was hotel life then just as it is hotel life now. The grounds of the United States Hotel at Saratoga were shaded by a fine old tree, but the flowers, fountains, and colored lights which in these days turn them almost into fairy land had not yet been invented. This year Saratoga displays the same absence of vitality which belongs to watering-place life everywhere. The races go on day after day, but the familiar faces which made the grand stand charming are few, and the well-known voices that used to make the racecourse ring and echo with their jokes and fun are no longer heard; very few society people have been present. Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Howland have spent a few days at the States, on their way from Genesee to Newport; Mr. H. G. McVicker, Mr. and Mrs. Romulus K. Colgate, Mr. and Mrs. William H. Farnsworth, the handsome Mrs. Von Stade, Mr. and Mrs. Schuchardt have also been there, and there are tennis and fireworks, and polo and a hunt and still the place refuses to be gay.

The arrival of the yacht squadron and the annual ball in its honor always make a stir in the Pequot colony at New London. If there had been but a few more of the kind, there has been a ball at the Pequot colony. The Count and Countess Sala, of the Franco-Legation, have been staying there for some time. Mme. Sala, who is lovely and attractive, was formerly Miss Isabella Sandford, a granddaughter of the late Thomas E. Davis and daughter of Mrs. Frederick Neilson. The Count Sala's last post was at Belgrade, and although he has been on a visit to the United States, he is still unable to master the difficulties of the English tongue. Indeed, he cannot speak one word of it. It might perhaps be well for him to try the Meistershaft system of acquiring languages, which is just now making some talk in Newport and of which Prof. Gagneau of the University of Paris is the exponent. It is thought to turn out, pupile able to converse fluently in a foreign language after the course of twenty lessons; and the Professor's classes in Newport are increasing rapidly.

Mrs. Horton and Miss Adams from Boston, and a pretty Mrs. Wilcocks from Philadelphia, have infused some new blood and a good deal of life and spirit into the old Pequot colony. Miss Francis R. Rives has been visiting in the city, and her visit at the Pequot colony. The bride, Mrs. John Borland, is a daughter of freedom of Western Life on Mr. Borland's ranch in Nebraska. To be nearly twenty miles from a Post Office might or might not be an attraction to any one, but New York women so far have made good ranchmen, and seem to be well adapted to roughing it on the prairies as to being and flirting at Newport.

The London season is a good deal of life since the Prince of Wales held a levee at St. James's Palace. Several American gentlemen were present, among them Mr. F. O. Beach, Mr. Lloyd Bryce, Mr. Lewis Rutherford of this city, and Mr. Nathaniel Thayer of Boston. The ball given by Mrs. Charlton, at Queen's Gate, is described as the "best of the season." This is supposed to have been given by the Princess of Wales for a little while. American beauty was represented by Miss Chamberlain, Miss Eleanor Winslow, Miss Adelle Grant, and Mrs. Bradley Martin. Mrs. Arthur Paget is said to have looked extremely handsome in black lace and diamonds, and Lady Mandeville is quoted as being the loveliest of all the young mothers who graced the ball. The Princess of Wales for a little while. American beauty was represented by Miss Chamberlain, Miss Eleanor Winslow, Miss Adelle Grant, and Mrs. Bradley Martin. 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