SANDWICH ISLANDS.

Death of an Eminent Native—The Late Rebellion—The Coolie Question—A Question for the New York Post Office—Another Earthquake

HONOLULU, Dec. 5, 1868.

Since my last the most important item I have to communicate is the death of his Highness M. Kekuanaoa. This venerable Hawaiian had held many important offices under the government and was always remarkable for decision of character and courteous treatment of those with whom he was thrown in contact. He was the father of the late and the present King, and was at the time of his death Commander-in-Chief of the Hawaiian forces. Born in 1794, about the time of Vancouver's third visit to these islands, he was an eye witness and an actor in all the remarkable changes which have occurred in the most important period of Hawaiian history. He visited England in 1824 with his Majesty Kamehameha the Second. He was the firm and true friend of the American missionaries, and, in fact, of Americans generally. He died on the morning of the 24th of November, and was consequently at the time of his death nearly seventy-five years of age. As soon as it was generally known that he was dead many stores and public offices were closed and a number were draped with mourning. Notices were issued that the body would be laid in state at eleven A. M., and the friends, officers of the government and representatives of foreign governments would be admitted to the palace to pay the last tribute of respect. Many availed themselves of the opportunity, and doubtless many more would have done so had the notice read that the public would be admitted, as was intended by his Majesty. The flags of the various consulates and of the shipping were at half mast through the day, and the United States steamer Ossipee fired minute guns during the afternoon. No time has as yet been fixed upon for the funeral ceremonies.

His Excellency, General E. M. McCook, United States Minister Resident, having notified the American residents that it had pleased the President of the United States to set apart Thursday, the 26th November, as a day of National thanksgiving, it was decided to observe it as such in this city. Many of the stores were closed, and a sermon was preached in the Bethel by the Rev. S. C. Damon, seamen's chaplain for this port. The Reverend gentleman took as his text a part of the twenty-second verse of the sixtieth chapter of Isaiah—"A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation"—and delivered a most patriotic, soul-stirring address.

In a late issue of the Ministerial organ the attempt was made to decide the idea that the late disturbance in Hawaii was a rebellion—in fact, that it was anything but a quarrel between the resident American missionary and a majority of his church members as to the ownership of a church edifice. Coming from the pen of the Attorney General it excited some little comment! A writer in the *Commercial Advertiser* reviewed the article and knocked the argument all to pieces. The facts of the case were that Kaona went into the district to sell Bibles, in company with another man's wife, as his mistress, she being known as a sorceress. After some little time he gained a strong influence over many of the missionary's congregation, perhaps a majority, and claimed the right to use the church edifice to hold meetings in, which was of course denied him, as he preached anything but true religion—in fact, mixed up sorcery and idolatry in his exhortations. The case went before the District Judge, a native, and he came down to Honolulu to confer with the Ministry, and upon his return to Hawaii summarily locked up the church and took the key. The Supreme Court of the kingdom had already decided that those who maintained in faith and practice the purity of the Church, as first established, are entitled to its civil privileges and its property, however they may be in the minority. Turned out of the church edifice Kaona and his followers camped upon a piece of land adjoining, and erected sheds and huts and commenced a series of breaches of law against the peace and safety of the community. They lived in the community as vagrants, practising medicine without a license and were guilty of idolatrous practices, for all of which they could and should have been prosecuted, and possibly would have been had they seceded from any other than an American missionary's church. In time Kaona was styled King and his mistress Queen by their followers, and it was understood among them that Kaona would be the successor of his present Majesty. Their outrageous conduct at last exasperated the decent members of the district, and in order to oust them from their quarters the land was leased by other parties, and it was the rash and ill-advised attempt of the deputy sheriff to serve them with warrants, for the purpose of ultimately dispossessing them of the land, that brought on the disturbance and placed them in open rebellion with the officers of the government. As soon as the Ministers were aware of the outbreak they certainly took measures for putting down the rebellion. The writer in the *Commercial Advertiser* uses the following language:—

"It is perfectly evident why, in the fine specimen of special pleading which forms the editorial above alluded to—and which we recommend to the perusal of the counsel for the defence—the point is so strenuously insisted upon, that there was no rebellion. It is fear lest this be bruited abroad:—'Discontent and rebellion in Hawaii.' We do not think any one is disposed to make capital of that kind of a rebellion. It is altogether too disreputable."

The 28th November is the anniversary of the recognition of the independence of these islands by Great Britain and France, and as such is observed by the government. Owing to the death of his Majesty's father the late anniversary was not very generally observed. The government offices were closed, and there was considerable horse riding by the natives and seamen from the fleet of whalers in the harbor.

The California, Oregon and Mexico Steamship Company's steamer Montana arrived at one o'clock on the morning of the 1st instant and brought the news of the election of Grant and Colfax as President and Vice President. Although at a most unseasonable hour the dock was occupied by quite a crowd, who were anxious to hear the result. As soon as it was known that Grant and Colfax were elected cheer after cheer went up. As soon as it was daylight the shipping in the harbor was decked with flags. In the evening a torchlight procession marched about the town with transparencies and a band. Several speeches were made and the more patriotic Americans fired rockets and illuminated their premises.

The government have lately tried to nullify the contracts by which a sugar planter held three Japanese coolies. It is alleged that the planter has maltreated his coolies; in fact, done just as I have always maintained—treated them as slaves. Some planters, with a due regard for economy, feed their coolies liberally; and, doubtless, actuated by the same motive, house them decently. In this instance—with how much justice I am not prepared to say—it is said that they have been poorly fed and housed, and for six months' services one of the coolies had not realized a full month's pay. The Ministry are very diligent in prosecuting this case, as I verily believe for the purpose of leading foreign communities to think that coolies are not coolies. At the same time they are using every means to obtain the sanction of the missionaries to bring natives from the South Seas for the purpose of colonizing (?). Once here they will be farmed out on plantations, as have been the followers of Kaona, the rebel, who are awaiting trial. It is believed that individuals in the government are opposed to the whole coolie system, but they have not the moral courage to come out and say so lest they should array the planters against them. The Ministry had rather that some other party should oppose the importation of coolies.

Street preaching is a new feature in this city. A Mr. Bonner, under the direction of the American Methodist Episcopal Church, has inaugurated the system.

The American ship Asa Eldridge touched off this port recently to land the mails, and reported having a case of smallpox on board. The port physician was sent off and vaccinated the crew, the Chinese passengers refusing to undergo the operation. Our residents had a fresh scare, and the usual salutation for a time was, "How is your scab?"

The inter-island steamer Kilauea was sold at auction the past week for $3,700, the Honolulu Iron Works Company being the purchaser. This steamer has had a checkered time of it during the past six years. The price first paid for her was $40,000 and she has been sold from time to time until at last the above paltry sum was all that could be obtained.

The island of Hawaii had another sever shake on November 16, the severest since the series of shocks which did so much damage in March last. The volcano of Kilauea is again very active, jets of lava being thrown high into the air.

Parties residing here complain of late that they have received notification from the West Indies that letters belonging to them were detained for want of postage. The question naturally arises, what are letters directed to these islands doing in the West Indies? The clerks in your Post Office should be told to be a little more careful in future.

The captain of an American whaling bark, cruising in the Ochotsk sea the past season, landed on an island for the purpose of exploring, and after a little search came upon a deposit of Spanish half dollars amounting to nearly $2,000 in value.

Capitalists are inclined to invest in whaling vessels, two having been purchased recently to be fitted out under the Hawaiian flag. Messrs. Ferry and Pico, two enterprising Portuguese merchants, have purchased the Oldenburg brig Comet. Messrs. C. L. Richards & Co. have purchased the Oldenburg bark Julian, to be fitted to take the place of the bark Ino Hawaii, lost in the Arctic the past season.

I have just heard that the Lewers sugar plantation has been surrendered to the holders of the first mortgage of $70,000. It was given up as the proprietor could not obtain funds to carry on the plantation. This plantation has cost over $200,000, but what the liabilities are now I am not aware.

LIBEL SUIT SETTLED.—It is rarely that suits for libel remunerate those who bring them. This has been so in the case of that brought by John Tripp against C. B. Leland for slander, which has been in Orleans county (Vermont) court two years, and was finally decided at Barton Landing on the 19th of December by referees. It appears, the Barton *Gazette* says, that Leland had accused Tripp of theft, when Tripp sued for damages laid at $4,000. After being run through the legal mill it was thought advisable to have it left to three disinterested persons, who proceeded to investigate the case and reported that the words uttered by Leland were false, malicious and slanderous, and they gave the plaintiff $1 with which to repair his wounded feelings.

CHINA.

China and Its Trade.

[From the London Globe, Dec. 11.]

If we except india and the British colonies there is no part of the world which attracts so much of the commercial interest of Englishmen as the Chinese empire. It possesses all the essentials for a trade of unrivalled extent and value. None have yet fathomed its boundless resources, nor can we estimate the vast industrial capabilities of the 360,000,000 of Chinamen. The European looks to China as to an auriferous region, tempting indeed, but approachable only by a mazy and difficult path, and where his presence is not courted, his energy is unappreciated, and his enterprise scarcely tolerated. There are circumstances from which it might reasonably be inferred that the Europeans of the next generation will regard China in a much more favorable light. The Chinese government professes a desire to promote commercial intercourse between that empire and Europe. but we wish we could discover in its action a better tendency to abandon its old policy of isolation. We wish we could see obliterated the innate Chinese hatred of the European, which has just again been vented in an outrage upon British missionaries, necessitating a demand for reparation by our Minister that may revive the old antagonism, just at a time when diplomacy is at work to unite more closely for purposes of commerce that empire with the West. China, however, has in late years progressed in a marvellous degree, in spite of its restrictive government, its arbitrary exactions and unequal laws. And substantial evidence of this is furnished in a series of consular reports which have this week issued from our Foreign Office.

Tea production, which forms to principal source of trade in China, has been subjected to serious checks and drawbacks. The recovery of the country from the depopulations caused by the Tacpings, it is thought, can be at best but gradual; and doubts are expressed whether China will for the next few years be able to supply the full wants of the tea-drinking world, even supplemented as she is by Japan and India. Other causes have also operated against this trade; but the results of last year seem to be, on the whole, a subject for congratulation. "The sad experience of a long series of disastrous years," we are told, "is beginning to bear fruit, and a healthy reaction apparently awaits those who have survived them. Except in so far that any great breakdown of any important branch of our trade (such as the tea trade undoubtedly is) affects indirectly the prosperity of the whole people, the public at home has benefited by the ruinous competition that has existed here; and it seems probable that, with better times to the China merchant, will come high prices to the home consumer." The port of Shanghae, which absorbs a great portion of Chinese trade, had imports and exports in 1867 amounting to £25,000,000, or about a million over those of 1866. In imports the principal feature has been the continued expansion of the Northern trade. The disposition and capacity of these provinces to take off our manufactures, though tested, it is shown has not been fully proved. Large and satisfactory as the trade has been, it must have been conducted by the Chinese purchasers under the disadvantages of insecurity of transport from the operations of civil war and exactions from the combatants on both sides. "If the trade has reached its present point under this state of things," Mr. Consul Winchester asks, "what would it not have attained had the country enjoyed tranquility under a strong and regular government? But, alas! from the banks of the Yangtsze, opposite Chinkiang, to the walls of Tien-tsin, the hordes of the Nien-fei have roamed at will, in spite of the ill-directed efforts of the imperial chiefs."

Canton maintained its trading activity even through the late period of mercantile depression. In quantities its exports and imports in 1867 were in excess of the preceding year, though in value they declined from £8,500,000 to £7,500,000. "No city in the empire," remarks Mr. Consul Robertson, "shows such signs of material prosperity as that of Canton. The streets and river are crowded with a busy population, the shops are large and well filled, and the people robust, intelligent and industrious—a sure indication of being well to do. The fact is, the British colony of Hong Kong, some six or seven hours distant, and with which there is a daily steam communication, is the headquarters of the trade of this port, and to obtain a true estimate of it one must know what is bought and sold there—a matter of impossibility." The import trade appears to have passed into Chinese hands, the goods being now purchased at Hong Kong instead of Canton. But the foreign merchant has had the advantage in the export trade, the Chinese not being sufficiently advanced to monopolize this branch of foreign commerce, although symptoms of a change of system are said to be not wanting.

The port of Ningpo has made rapid strides in trade, thus asserting what is believed to be its natural right to become the tea depot of the province of Chekiang. This province, with its thirty millions of population, is believed to be one of the richest in China. It is therefore gratifying to find that it is "in the enjoyment of profound tranquillity, and that there is apparently no reason to apprehend any interruption to the present promising prospects of the government and people alike." At Chinkiang, we are told also, indications of general prosperity are everywhere apparent; well built houses are springing up daily between the city and the concession, while visible signs of improvement are going on in the city and suburbs, all showing an increase of prosperity scarcely to be hoped for so soon. But at Kiu-Kiang the prospects are less encouraging, the maintenance of the trade carried on by foreigners being entirely dependent on the opening of the Poyang Lake to small steamers. The port of Foo-Chow exported last year 73,250,000 pounds of tea against 62,500,000 in 1866, notwithstanding that merchants acted with extreme caution in their dealings. The causes of the continual losses during late years are in a great measure ascribed to the thorough revolution which the tea trade has been passing through. The teas used to be carefully prepared by the Chinese growers, and sent forward to Canton, where they remained till it suited the convenience of foreigners to purchase them. Now the foreign merchants are nearer the producing districts; the teas are picked, hurriedly prepared and shipped off in the course of a few weeks—often a few days, after their arrival from the country. The idea of merchants and consumers that the nearer to the place of production the cheaper the produce is now seen to be a fallacy. Mr. Consul Sinclair mentions as an evil to be deplored in the trade, as conducted in the Chinese ports, "the rush and avidity of our merchants to have the first selection of the teas and to be the first to ship them off to Europe. This competition one against the other has the inevitable consequence of raising the market prices and of lessening their profits. If they would only, after the fashion of the shrewd Chinese, combine and be less impatient, there is no doubt whatever that they would obtain the same, and perhaps better teas at very much cheaper rates than now."

The commerce of Tien-tsin experienced a serious decline last year—from over £8,000,000 to £6,000,000 sterling value. This is attributed, first, to the unparalleled drought which prevailed all over North China in the first half of 1867, and secondly, to the disturbed state of the Northern provinces during the latter part of the year. As regards Hankow, Mr. Consul Medhurst believes there is every reason to be satisfied with the progress and prospects of the port. The tea trade is in a more promising condition than has been known for years past, and there is little fear that at the approaching tea season the ruinous prices will prevail which, a short time past, brought disaster on so many speculators. Foreign goods and manufactures continue to be held in appreciation by the Chinese, and the central position of the port and the facilities it possesses for communication with all parts of China must in time, it is urged, render Hankow the great mart whence all foreign goods are conveyed to the interior and distant parts of the empire.

The Chinese government, feeble and *laissez aller* as it is, has given some evidences of its awakening to its own necessities. It has just established an arsenal at Tien-tsin, which it expects will supply the whole of the empire with gunpowder. At Foo-Chow the Chinese naval dockyard and shipbuilding establishments have progressed with astonishing rapidity; it is estimated that at the end of the year 1868 they will be able to turn out four steam transports per annum. The Chinese government has, says Mr. Consul Sinclair, "expressed itself satisfied with the progress already made, and does not seem to grudge the outlay for schools of design. French and English schools for these languages are in full operation, the naval instruction being given in the English and the engineering department in the French language. On the whole it is an experiment which may possibly succeed."

But what are the evils demanding immediate remedy noted in the eleven consular reports under review? A few typical instances will suffice. The prohibitive anti-treaty measures taken by the Chinese authorities of the province in which Shanghae lies against the transport of exports in foreign vessels to that port have been maintained in full force. These should be abolished, as they are manifestly opposed to the spirit of the Tien-tsin treaty. In every part of the empire, however, there appears to be an absence of anything like an efficient administration of justice. "When a native indebted to a foreigner shirks his obligation," remarks Mr. Consul Hughes, "no means exist of enforcing a prompt settlement. The creditor, unable to exercise the moral pressure of custom or public opinion, so powerful with natives, is forced to apply to his Consul, who refers the case to the local authorities. The mandarins are averse to the presence of foreigners in their courts, and either hear a case *ex parte* or ignore the foreigner, and endeavor to set up the compradore of the latter as the real plaintiff. If the native defendant proves obstinate, and happens to possess money or influential friends, the settlement of a case within a reasonable time is simply impossible." The interests of foreigners ought no longer to be prejudiced by the partiality of the mandarins. The Consul at Shanghae cites a curious system of the perverse fiscal arrangements of the Chinese still existing. The Viceroy of Chekiang has been permitted to enrich himself by imposing a prohibition tax on the transit of tea through Hang-chow, and defecting the carriage entirely to Ningpo, to reach which port no less than three shipments are necessary; thence it is brought by foreign steamer to Shanghae, having previously paid the whole export duty in Ningpo, in the province of Chekiang, in his own Viceroyship. The custom house system is, moreover, inimical to the foreign merchant at all the Chinese ports, and the extraordinary powers exercised in the confiscation of goods is a subject of great complaint. The Chinese government may mistakenly expect to profit from a protective policy; but it will assuredly suffer from vexatious interferences with foreign trade. China has become absolutely indispensable to Europe. The empire must, therefore, continue to progress. But ere it can start upon an unchecked course of development, China must be opened as free to the enterprise of the Western nations as Europe is now to the Chinese.

A statute in Massachusetts prevents a man from being arrested on mesne process in a civil suit for slander or libel. It is argued that Bowles was arrested here on a mean process.

JAPAN.

A Glance at the Political Aspect of the Japanese Empire.

[From the Japan Times, Oct. 24.]

The attainment of his majority by his Majesty the Mikado is an event which should induce serious reconsideration of their position by those Ministers of foreign treaty Powers who have not yet recognized him as the legitimate and sole sovereign of Japan. Their conduct hitherto, their proclaimed neutrality and evident willingness to recognize any *de facto* government anywhere, have tacitly approved the resistance to his authority and have given distinct encouragement to the rebels in arms against it. Had the policy of the foreign representatives been uniform, and had all his colleagues, so far as was possible to them, followed the example of Sir Harry Parkes, the imperial power would by this time have been supreme in Japan and peace restored to the country. The tenor of our latest intelligence justifies us in the belief that this consummation will be reached in the course of a few months at most; but it might have been attained before, and for this delay and the consequent depression of trade throughout the year these Ministers are mainly responsible. It is to be hoped that they will no longer persevere in their obstructive policy. The Sinogoonate is abolished, the Tokugawa family is disunited and powerless, its chief and the principal men of the clan have fully submitted, Jeddo is secure in the hands of the imperial officers, Ne-e-gata is taken and we now hear of the capture of Aidzu's capital. Echigo, Sendai and Shonai, powerful princes as they are, cannot stand against the whole force of the empire and the prestige of the Mikado, and were it for no other reason than that the cause of the Northern rebels is a lost cause the Ministers would do well to abandon it.

We are well aware of the difficulties under which some of them labored at first. It was difficult, almost impossible, for the French Emperor, after receiving the brother of the Shogoon with the same honors as those paid to the Prince of Wales, precipitately to abandon his ally. The whole policy of France in Japan had been consistent in encouraging the aggrandizement of the Shogoon, and a show of reluctance had to be made in consenting to his self-abasement. The reversal of this policy last February would have been ridiculous, and ridicule is the one weapon which the Second Empire fears. M. Roches had to be recalled, Mimbutayo cold-shouldered out of Paris and some opportunity found for a dignified right-about-face in Japan. For want of a better, M. Outrey should take the happy arrival of the Mikado at years of discretion, and, if rumor is to be trusted, such action on his part will not be long deferred. In the case of America the Stonewall has long been the point on which her diplomacy has hinged, but all doubts as to the ownership of the vessel are surely dissipated now. It was open, when the Stonewall arrived here, to the government of Washington to doubt whether she was the public property of the government of Japan or the private property of the Tokugawa family. Considering that the Tokugawa family had got the money to pay for her out of the customs revenue, and that they were, in fact, enjoying all public property as their private possession, this question of ownership was not easy of solution, when she arrived in the midst of a revolution which was turning Tokugawa private property into Mikado's funds. And so long as the clan whom America considered as the original customer for the vessel made any head against the supreme government, and had any chance of success, the retention of the ship might, to some minds, be justified. The Mikado could not claim to have paid for her, though he might that she had been paid for out of moneys that rightfully belonged to him. But the complete and formal submission of Yoshinosa, the head of the family, if General Van Valkenburgh considered it genuine, should have determined him to advise his government that the question was settled and that the vessel should be given to the Mikado. Recent events, the total disappearance of the family from Jeddo, the flight of the admiral and the peaceful retirement of the wiser portion of the clan to its original seat at Tsuruoga should, and we should think probably will, determine the home government to act as we suggest, with or without the recommendation of its Minister on this side.

Of course if America, France and England were agreed upon this, as upon any other subject, the action of the other Powers represented here would necessarily coincide with theirs. The recent withdrawal of the prohibition to Prussian and Italian subjects from visiting Nee-e-gata, a proceeding sanctioned by the Mikado's government, we have shown to be no act of opposition to the policy of Sir Harry Parkes. It was he who unnecessarily put himself into opposition to M. Von Brandt and M. de la Tour. And in process of taking that step these Ministers virtually acknowledged the authority of the Mikado's government, for they referred to a communication from it, which stated that no opposition would be made to Prussian or Italian subjects visiting the port. Either of these Ministers, considering the importance of the silkworm egg trade, would have been capable of issuing their notifications to their respective consuls, without reference to the Mikado's wishes on the subject, and they would have been in full legal right in so doing; for Nee-e-gata was opened by treaty on April 1, and no international act had closed it since. The temporary denial of permission to go there was not even a combined act of the foreign Ministers. Each acted independently then, and it was at the option of each to withdraw his prohibition whenever he thought fit. This reference to the Mikado's government by the Prussian and Italian representatives, then, was a mere measure of precaution—a measure, perhaps, wisely taken. But, having gone so far towards recognition then, when Nee-e-gata was known to be in rebel bands and while the Mikado was a minor, M. Von Brandt and M. de la Tour cannot logically now refuse full recognition of his authority nor coquet longer with the northern chiefs, now that Nee-e-gata is an imperial port and the Emperor has formally assumed direction of his own affairs.

If we wrote in support of English interests alone, especially if we thought more of English political interests than we do of commercial, we should be anxious rather to prolong the present state of things than to advocate measures likely to terminate it. Sir Harry Parkes, if he made good use of his time, might acquire easily enough at Kioto, while he had the ground to himself, that preponderating "influence" so dear to all European diplomatists in Oriental courts. He might seriously become what a correspondent calls him playfully—the great "Eitchi" in Japan—and wield over the Mikado and his Ministers that mental dominion which made the name of Stratford Canning so potent a spell at the court of Constantinople. But the Minister appears to have no ambition for such an ascendancy, and we hold him to be in the right. For us, so long as we have a fair field for our mercantile enterprise, and so long as English manufactures are preferred to all others, France and Prussia may contend for the direction of the Mikado's foreign policy, Switzerland may furnish him with generals in-chief, Belgian admirals may command his fleets—and we shall still be supremely content. It will be very long before the alliance of Japan will be worth anything to any European Power, and the "influence" in his court which gives its possessor the power of nominating a municipal director or a customs superintendent is not quite a priceless boon. Should our allusion to it inspire any of Sir Harry's colleagues with a desire to compete with him for it, by soliciting letters of credence from his government for presentation to the Mikado, a happy result would be very cheaply obtained.

The time appears to us to have arrived, in fact, when the Mikado may demand recognition, or at all events that the treaties with the Japanese government should be observed, and that he should benefit by their observance. Pressure of no common kind was brought to bear upon his predecessor and his then representative, the Shogoon, to obtain the imperial ratification of the treaties in 1865. Foreign Ministers and foreign governments may or may not deem that act sufficient assumption of supreme authority on his part and its demand sufficient acknowledgment of it on theirs, without further formality; but in either case they should see the treaties carried out, and so long as merchants of every nationality are openly selling arms and munitions of war to all comers, without even the check of a proclamation to the contrary, the Mikado's government has a right to complain. War is become so much a question of superior weapons that a government has a clear right to insist on friendly Powers preventing the sale of such to rebels against its authority, and if his allies would act in this particular towards the Mikado in good faith he would the sooner be able to put a termination to the existing anarchy in part of his dominions. Suggestion to him to this effect and advice as to the proper method of making his demand would not be ill-timed, and Sir Harry Parkes, as representing the only Power cordially friendly to him, may appropriately tender them. We are of opinion that, thus assisted, the Mikado might easily deal with his own rebels by himself; but, should the English Minister see fit to go further and suggest a request to his government for such assistance as that furnished to the Chinese Emperor in his extremity, the policy will have the full and cordial support of this journal, at least, and, we believe, of a large section of English public opinion. The quickest is the best way of restoring peace to the country and life and vigor to our trade, and should the Japanese government see its error in neglecting the advantages offered to it by the missions of naval and military instruction which have just left the country, and solicit their return, or even ask for more, we can see no reason for denying it the boon. The dignity of England is above insult by Japan.

CHICAGO AND NEW YORK.—In view of the annual statement of the business of Chicago, which is now being published in the journals of that city, the *Republican* has come to the conclusion that Chicago must outstrip New York. But we apprehend that the *Republican* has overlooked the important fact that in the course of the next five years the East river bridge will be constructed, and then Brooklyn will be annexed to New York and be sub-divided into its wards. That will add to New York a city much larger and more populous than Chicago. Brooklyn has a population of 400,000, Chicago 260,000, and is growing as rapidly as Chicago. So we think our sister city is putting on big breeches when she struts by the side of New York and Brooklyn.

AN INCIDENT AT ARMY HEADQUARTERS.—A few days ago a lady appeared at army headquarters and asked General Grant if he could not give her an office, enforcing her application with the plea that she had two sons killed in the late war and that she was in need. General Grant heard her statement and then requested General Dent to further examine into the case and if he found it one deserving of aid to use his (Grant's) name as an endorsement for position in one of the departments. General Dent questioned the lady and finally asked her under what general her sons were fighting when they were killed. The lady hesitated and finally stammered out:—"To tell the truth, sir, one was killed under Ewell and the other under Mosby." It is needless to say that the interview terminated at once and that the lady did not get General Grant's endorsement.

DRY TORTUGAS.

Situation of Fort Jefferson—Influences of Its Climate—Desire of the Officers and Men to be Relieved—Duty of the Garrison—The Troops and Their Affairs.

FORT JEFFERSON, Fla., Dec. 2, 1868.

The physical characteristics, topography, climate, &c., of most posts garrisoned by United States troops are well known to the community at large, albeit that these posts may be far from the more popular haunts of men who do not wear blue coats and brass buttons; but this forlorn and desolate region is rather regarded as a *terra incognita*, save to those who serve our venerated Uncle Samuel under its burning sun. The very name of "Dry Tortugas" is regarded as the *ultima Thule* of discomfort and physical suffering. From the situation of the fort the ardent power of Sol, as may be imagined, makes its deep imprint on the countenances of all residents, which, added to the liver-locking propensity of the same tropical region, gives the human face divine the most grotesque of appearances; and but that suffering, mental and physical, is evidently the cause, a casual visitor might be disposed to laugh at faces thus having some of the appearance each of the canary bird and the brown thrush.

It is not that officers or men fear an epidemic and have their minds oppressed by anticipation of its consequences. Far from it. As they met death in defending the "Flag of the Free" from domestic foes bravely and severed the finite from the infinite without murmuring, so, should Providence visit the post with pestilence, they would be found in manful and soldierly performance of duty; this, too, in the face of the fact that of six officers on duty at this post during the past year four have ended their mortal career, and their shallow graves in the barren sands of the Gulf are but a few rods from the sentries' daily walk. How often is it the case that an officer of standing and repute, with the lamp of ambition full-trimmed and burning with brightness, significant of future usefulness, comes to this region in full tide of health and gradually, too often suddenly, yields the hues of health to the discoloration of disease? Even if the climate saps the fountains of physical well being slowly it does it effectually.

To show that desire of removal from this post does not arise from unsoldierly motives or craving for the life of luxurious excitement on the Atlantic slope or the ability to play the carpet knight to his lady fair, let it be known that a change to the stirring drama now being enacted on the Western frontier would be welcomed as a harbinger of joy, if the Indian hostilities dwarf into comparative insignificance with the fierce ordeals from which the nation under its new guidance is successfully emerging. Still the "nettle danger" is there far more abundant than the "dower safety." Let once the glad bugles sound the assembly, and with the advance turned towards the setting sun the hardships, toil and danger of traveling the Plains and plenty of Indian warfare at the end of the trip, and such a shout will go up as will make the welkin ring again, and satisfy even a sceptic that such hints are prompted by hearts who feel relieved from the thraldom of confinement and bootless service here for a sterner and harder one, for which the true soldier longs. Duty here consists chiefly in guarding a motley collection of State and general prisoners. The true soldier, who has so often stood in battle with the missiles of death showered around him, from which he never faltered, views with disgust the position he now occupies and sighs for a more congenial duty. Perhaps the most pregnant reason for the removal of the troops here arises from the fact that the mental status is seriously affected by the long and faithful service rendered at this post, on this narrow and confined islet. Without change of scene or alteration of duty, they all stand monuments of that degree of mental depression which follows inactivity and monotonous routine. This fact cannot be disguised; and as the enlisted man suffers, so does the officer. If faithful service or the evidence thereof be asked for, then refer to the condition of the posts occupied by the Fifth artillery—Key West, Fort Jefferson, Barrancas, Fla.; Forts Macon and Johnson, N. C. In all that constitutes posts of the highest order of military discipline, hygiene and efficiency who will dispute their pre-eminence? After eight years of experience in the army the writer of this article unhesitatingly says the finest men he has ever seen are those composing the battalion now on duty at Fort Jefferson. By next spring only a handful of them will be left. They will not reenlist here. Can the government spare such men? Would it not be well to remove the dread thraldom which encircles them here and send the battalion where in all probability—ay, certainty—a large majority will still follow the "Stars and Stripes," whose everlasting wave they have in a great measure made secure by their bravery, firmness and patriotism?

The post is garrisoned by Batteries I, K, L and M, Fifth artillery, and is also the headquarters of the regiment under the command of Brevet Brigadier General Bennett H. Hill, the Lieutenant Colonel. This battalion entered the walls of the garrison in October, 1865, fresh from the fields, where every battery had during the late war distinguished itself, the regimental headquarters having lately joined. This last fall it was supposed that the batteries composing this garrison would be relieved and ordered to a post on the New England coast, where after three years of imprisonment they could recuperate their health and spirits. In fact, it was almost without a doubt that such a change would take place and that the Fifth regiment of artillery (as organization of certainly no mean record during the late fratricidal struggle) would relieve a command which for the last three years has had healthy and agreeable posts; for if it is possible the posts garrisoned by the remaining batteries of the Fifth artillery—Key West and Barrancas, Fla., and Forts Macon and Johnson, North Carolina, are equal in all the disagreeable peculiarities to the Dry Tortugas except isolation; but so far no order of relief has come to hand and it is feared that none will be forthcoming.

The officers on duty at the post are Brevet Brigadier General B. H. Hill, Lieutenant Colonel Fifth artillery, commanding; Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Horatio B. Reed, Regimental and Post Adjutant; Brevet Lieutenant Colonel W. Butler Beck, Regimental and Post Quartermaster and Commissary of Subsistence; Brevet Major Samuel A. Storrow, Medical Department United States Army, Post Surgeon; Dr. Warren E. Day, Acting Assistant Surgeon United States Army. Battery I—Brevet Major Charles G. McConnell, commanding; Brevet Captain Frank Thorpe, on duty with battery. Battery K—Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Edward G. Bainbridge, commanding; Brevet Major D. H. Kinzie and Brevet Captain Homer H. Baldwin, Second Lieutenant John McClellan and Stanislaus Remak, on duty with battery. Battery L—Brevet Major S. P. McGrath, commanding; First Lieutenant Elbridge R. Hills, on duty with battery. Battery M—Captain Henry F. Brewerton, commanding; Brevet Captain George W. Crabb and First Lieutenant B. R. Roberts, Second Lieutenant D. B. Johnston, on duty with battery.

AN ECCENTRIC CALIFORNIA BELLE.

[San Francisco correspondence of the Providence Journal.]

Mrs. Eliot, in her recent book on "Famous American Women," makes mention of a California lady remarkable for her ability to entertain twenty gentlemen at once by her vivacious conversational powers. If this were the only or chiefly remarkable thing about Miss Hitchcock she would be a far less remarkable personage than she is. But she is a character, and such a character as this age cannot and need not duplicate the country over. As Americans, we have long boasted of the versatility of our climate, soil and people. Perhaps Miss Hitchcock was a necessary national production that the world may be convinced of the truthfulness of this boast. She is a public character—an actress requiring a far broader stage and larger house than other actresses of the time. She is an only daughter, an only child, I believe, of a wealthy and most respectable family, her father, Dr. Hitchcock, having come to this coast as an army surgeon during the Mexican war. He is now a retired physician and among the most substantial and worthy of San Franciscans. His accomplished daughter has long been one of the belles of this city, without whom no social gathering of the *ton* was complete if she was in the country. When a child she was rescued from a burning building by some members of Knickerbocker Engine Company, No. 5, since which time she has never forgotten them—wearing conspicuously, at all times and in all places, a neat gold "5" upon her dress, and at times making the company, of which she is a duly elected member, costly presents, ranging from the cherished "5" to the gold-mounted fire hose. She is eccentric to an extent that would shock our New England notions of propriety, showing her eccentricity, now by presenting the "Hives" a barrel of brandy, now by sinking a thousand on a favorite horse at the races, again by riding on the cowcatcher with the constructing engineer over the entire length of the Napa Valley Railroad, to which ride she challenged said engineer, and still again by some of the noblest deeds of philanthropy and charity. She has upwards of $50,000 in her own right, and of course is expected to inherit the hundreds of thousands of her father's estate. From her own purse she supplies the wants of many needy objects of charity, being generous in the extreme and of noble impulses. She vibrates between San Francisco and Paris, taking New York and London in her way and astonishing the natives of each of these quiet (?) intermediate cities by what she does and what she does not do. She defies all rules and conventionalities of society, dresses and acts as she pleases everywhere, selects her company from all classes at will and yet commands the confidence and good will of all. She is conspicuous at the grand balls of the Empress at the Tuileries, attends annually the Derby in England, where, it is said, she amuses herself by winning or losing a few hundred pounds a day at the hands of the young sprigs of nobility. A few days since she started in company with her parents overland for New York and thence to Paris. Two days after her marriage notice appeared as evidence of the last of her eccentricities; she in a quiet way, with the personal knowledge of but two human beings besides herself and the fortunate (?) groom, having suddenly experimented in the *rôle* of bride. Another admirer was with her all the afternoon of that day, until six P. M., when she went, as he supposed, to dinner. At eight P. M. he met her again by appointment and went with her to the theatre, after which he accompanied her and the family as far as Sacramento on her overland journey, quite ignorant of the fact that from eight P. M. he had been in company with Mrs. Howard Coit instead of Miss Hitchcock. This is the same youth whom she dared to drive down an embankment on the Cliff House road a few years ago, which he did at the small cost of $1,200. Her husband is left behind, she not having seen him, it is said, since they left St. James' free church. Doubtless, ere this, she has informed her loving pa and dearest ma of her last romantic experiment and is now enjoying some other innocent amusement. But while this heroine is thus eccentric and romantic in her composition and thus reckless in her demeanor, as before remarked, there are in her character many of the noblest traits possessed by any. She speaks evil of no one, but has a kind word and warm heart for all. Were that heart, those talents and her means consecrated to her God and her life restrained by the religion of Jesus she would have almost unlimited capacity for usefulness.

STARVATION AND DEATH IN A POPULOUS CITY.

A Sad Picture of Human Suffering.

[From the Louisville Courier-Journal, Dec. 30.]

Yesterday morning Coroner Dick Moore was called upon to hold an inquest upon the body of a woman named Catharine Samples, and was directed to go to a house on the Cane Run road, some eight miles from the city, where the body of the deceased was reported to be. Promptly answering the summons, the Coroner at once left town by the Cane Run road, and, following the instructions given him, at length arrived at his destination. The house proved to be a little log cabin, perhaps sixteen feet square, and stood back some distance from the road. The sight that met the eyes of Mr. Moore as he stepped into the cabin was one such as few men ever looked upon. Such a scene of squalid wretchedness, of filth and famine, of woe unutterable, he at least had never before been called upon to witness. Crouching over a few smoldering sticks of wood sat a helpless old man, striving to draw a little warmth from the half-burned pieces, while about him were a number of ragged, dirty and neglected children. This old man was William Samples. On a filthy, tattered mattress, the shucks from which were scattered about the floor, lay the corpse of his wife, Catharine Samples, while at her side, unable to move, lay the eldest daughter, a girl of fifteen, apparently in the last stages of some fatal disease. Two of the smaller children were also ill, making three out of the six children who were helpless.

The Coroner ascertained that the mother had died of pneumonia on Sunday evening, and that she had lain where she had died nearly forty-eight hours. All this time the eldest daughter, who has been seized with pneumonia, had been lying helpless at the side of her mother's corpse. There were no white neighbors nearer than a mile away, and none knew of the terrible suffering and distress in the little cheerless cabin. The old man, who seemed to be about fifty years of age, was an invalid, and has long been suffering from a disease of the heart, so that he was unable to make any effort toward the relief of his dying wife and starving children. Gaunt and spectral, with not an inch of clothing that was not torn to shreds, the half naked children huddled about him. As filthy as they were ragged, the poor little creatures were indeed pitiable objects. They were all too young to realize fully their condition, the youngest of five of them being almost an infant, and neither of the four being over ten years of age. The cabin itself was a wretched place, the floor being laid upon the ground, and the roof letting in the cold rain, which trickled down upon the mattress, where lay the dead and dying. Little pools of rain water and filth were formed about the floor, and everything seemed to conduce to the squalid wretchedness of the surroundings.

It was stated to Mr. Moore that Mrs. Samples, the dead mother, had been a hard working, deserving woman, who had with her own hands supported her large family, and up to the time of her being seized with pneumonia some ten days ago had toiled incessantly to keep them from starvation. When the recent cold weather set in the poor woman found the struggle to be too much for her overtaxed powers, and both she and her oldest daughter were struck down by disease brought on by cold and exposure. She was about thirty-five years of age. Mr. Samples had lived in the neighborhood some twenty years.

Coroner