JAPAN.

Increasing Importance of Hiogo—Kobe—Entrance and Appearance—Number of Resident Foreigners—Osaka and Its Disadvantages—Appearance of the City—The Junk Trade—The Foreign Trade of Hiogo for 1868.

KOBE, May 23, 1869.

Since the opening of the ports of Osaka and Hiogo, on the 1st of January, 1868, those foreigners who settled at the new ports have been constantly prophesying of the time when Hiogo or Osaka, as the case may be, will supersede Yokohama as the principal entrepot for Japan. Making all due allowance for the braggadocio inseparable from a commercial rivalry, the trade of Hiogo and the number of vessels clearing from and entering the port are a sufficient indication that Hiogo or Osaka will one day occupy a position of considerable importance in a commercial point of view. With a view, therefore, of spying out a land which, according to every resident, is one flowing with milk and honey, plentifully sprinkled with Tycoboos, your correspondent thought it advisable to come here and look for himself.

This port, Hiogo, is situated about 320 miles in a southwesterly direction from Yokohama, nearly at the head of Tsumi or Osaka bay. But why am I speaking of Hiogo? The fact is the place called by that name is scarcely of any interest whatever to the foreigner. It may be remembered that when Japan was first opened the treaty with the foreign Powers called for the opening of the port of Kanagawa. The Japs, however, after a great deal of opposition, but with the ultimate consent of the foreign ministers, placed the foreign settlement at Yokohama instead of Kanagawa, whence all foreign official documents are still dated, although the latter place is a good six miles from any foreign residence and we have no more to do with that place than any other in the interior. So instead of marking out the foreign settlement at Hiogo they placed it at Kobe, along a miserable sandy beach, and vessels have to pass Hiogo to get to the anchorage.

Nevertheless, the entrance to Kobe is extremely picturesque, in spite of the sand beach—the scenery behind, below and above the settlement being very pretty and striking. The anchorage is good, and the harbor, somewhat smaller than Yokohama, is a little better protected, though even here the elements seem to get on a spree, and the harbor is extremely weathery at times. The foreign population will probably number about 250. Besides the settlement foreigners have the privilege here, which they do not possess at Yokohama, of renting houses in the native town of Kobe (they are not allowed to live at Hiogo), and the settlement, as usual, being fixed at the wrong end, most of the mercantile houses have availed themselves of this privilege and ignore the concession. Building is going on rapidly, however, in all parts, and I have no doubt that Kobe will, at some future time, be a place of considerable commercial importance.

But if the foreign settlers in this portion of Japan look upon Yokohama as their rival I am at a loss for a name by which to designate the feeling entertained by the Kobeites for Osaka and that of the few residents of Osaka for Kobe. It is amusing to hear the respective settlers discuss this point, but so far Kobe has by far the best of it. Osaka is the largest commercial city in Japan, but is situated about four miles up a shallow river, which is guarded by a bar that, in my opinion, will ever act as a barrier to direct commercial intercourse. I have spoken of Osaka as a commercial city—that is, in a Japanese point of view, for Japanese junks can manage at high water to get over the bar. Osaka is said to contain 1,500,000 inhabitants. It is the centre or rather the ultimate point of an immense tea and silk growing district. Everything that is shipped from Kobe for foreign ports, or the other ports of Japan, comes from Osaka, and yet, in my opinion, Kobe must necessarily always be far ahead of Osaka, because Kobe has deep water. The Japs appreciate the difficulty, and are attempting to dredge the river and bar. They are working very sedulously at present; but I have the opinions of good engineers that success is very problematical, and that the experiment will cost about $2,000,000. The junk trade of Osaka to and from Hiogo, Kobe and the ports on the inland sea is something enormous. The river itself is crowded with incoming or outgoing junks, and every creek and canal that intersects the city—and they are numbered by hundreds—is thick with them. Yet you see no evidence of the immense business that this junk trade must be the effect of in the city. The streets have the appearance as if no business were done. One sees long lines of shops without customers, immense crowds in the streets, apparently doing nothing, and it is a rare thing to see goods hauled through the street. Yet, as I said before, the business is here, or in the district, and the great drawback to its sustaining a large foreign settlement is its want of navigating facilities. Osaka is the second city in point of size in the empire. Here, under the former government, the Tycoon resided a portion of the year. It was here that he lost his power. At the time when Satsuma first unfurled the Mikado's flag in opposition to the Tycoon the latter was residing here, and he surrounded his castle, which, with plenty of ammunition and two thousand men, could have been made impregnable. It is now a mass of ruins. About twenty miles from Osaka is the sacred city of Kioto, the residence of the Mikados. No longer sacred, however, as it has been descerated by the unholy presence of the hated foreigner, and no longer the exclusive residence of the "Son of the Sun," as formerly.

From Oskaa to Hiogo it is thirteen miles by water and twenty-three by land—that is, it is thirteen miles from the anchorage, which is about two miles from the bar, and the city is three miles above that. The foreign residents are discussing the question of building a railroad between the two ports. As to the advisability of such an undertaking there can be but one opinion—it would increase the importance of both places a hundred fold. The question is whether such a privilege will ever be given to foreigners by the Japanese government; and I think even this will be ultimately effected, or the Japs will build one themselves. As to either of the ports superseding Yokohama, I fail to see the reasons for any such result. Not that Yokohama has any very great attractions or superiority over and above Kobe; but they are at least equal. Yokohama is just as near Europe as Kobe, and is far more available as a distributing port for the whole country. The following figures will give some estimate of the trade of Hiogo for the year 1868:—

Total number of vessels arrived, 190; tonnage, 116,017. Of which number 64 were American, with an aggregate tonnage of 73,195; English, 111, with 29,186 tons; other countries, 15.

The total value of imports for the same time amounted to $4,710,214, of which $822,404 came direct from foreign ports. The total value of exports amounted to $1,561,090, of which $388,096 was direct to foreign countries, and a large proportion of the rest also went to foreign countries, but was first shipped to Yokohama. For instance, the value of the silk export alone—that is, including silkworms' eggs—amounted to $749,044 and the tea to $309,025. Altogether this is a very healthy showing, and, whether Kobe supersedes Yokohama or not, we may confidently expect that her trade will foot up in a couple of years to a very considerable amount.

A People's Parliament—Proclamation by the Mikado—The Parliament House—The Message of the Emperor—Rules and Regulations of the New Parliament—Japanese Progress—Determined Action of Sir Harry Parkes—The Affair with the Stonewall—The Yokohama Races—Commercial Matters.

YOKOHAMA, May 28, 1869.

The Mikado arrived at Jeddo on the 8th inst. I informed you in my former letter that considerable opposition was shown by some of the Daimios to this movement, and it was even reported that force had been used; but this I believe to be untrue. On the 18th the Parliament was convoked—that is, what would correspond to the lower House in England or America. The great convocation of Daimios have not yet commenced their sessions. How the members have been elected I cannot say; but they have been probably selected by the Keral, or officers of each daimiate. This would make the number—allowing one for each daimiate—amount to 270. The following proclamation calling the Parliament, issued by the Mikado last month, has a considerable dash of democracy about it, though I am inclined to think that the House has not been opened to everybody of sound judgment, but that the members have been selected as above mentioned. This is the "call:"—

PROCLAMATION.
THIRD MONTH (April-May).

Since the establishment of the Mikado's authority old prejudices and customs have been done away with (literally, washed away), and a channel of communication has been opened up through all classes in the empire, from the highest to the lowest. No impediment whatsoever exists. Several persons who have diligently served their country and without the least hesitation (literally, dread) have assisted the government with their advice have been gradually selected for the discharge of official duties. Nevertheless, the government have not been able to put all their plans into execution. It is thought that a sufficiently wide circulation has not been given to the Imperial wishes, and that there are still men of sound judgment who should be selected. This has caused the imperial mind much concern, and therefore it is intended to open a People's House of Representatives in Jeddo Castle, in which men of sound judgment, no matter how low their rank may be, can at once offer what advice they think best. His Majesty will afterwards communicate through their chief (or President) the Imperial will concerning the views of each. Hereafter if any person should hide himself in obscurity and not make known his opinions, he will be acting in utter inconsistency with that lofty patriotism which should be the constant desire of his soul. It is the Emperor's will that all classes should put forth every effort for the accomplishment of this object.

The chamber where the debates take place is a large room in the Castle of Jeddo, four rows of benches on each side, and the lower end forms the accommodation for the members. At the upper end of the room is a slightly elevated place for the President of the House. On the right of this is accommodation for Daimios who may wish to attend as spectators, and on the left are seats for the different officers of the government. At ten o'clock on the morning of the 18th the House was opened by the following ceremonies:—First the President of the House entered and took his seat; then came the Vice, Secretary of War and an under secretary from the Departments of the Treasury and Judiciary. They were all dressed in their official robes. After these the members, numbering about 227, entered and took their places, these having been selected by drawing lots. After all had assembled the President of the House rose and read the following message from the Emperor, all in the House prostrating themselves during its reading:—

Whereas we propose shortly to proceed to our eastern capital there to assemble around us our Kuges, Daimios and the members of the various administrative departments, in order to consult them upon the foundation of the new constitution of this country. This shall be framed so as to insure safety and peace. Let every one at the present moment remember that the constitution and laws must be the foundation of government, and as millions of people are ruled by them let them not be framed inconsiderately or without mature deliberation. Our officers having reported to us the completion of the rules for the establishment of a public council, we desire that it shall be open without delay.

Let the rules of decorum be observed throughout its proceedings and its debates be conducted with temper and discretion, in a public spirited manner. Then may we hope that the deliberations will be productive of useful and clear decisions. Let the fundamental laws of our ancestors serve as a guide and apply them to the character of men and the spirit of the times. Let the different subjects be successively treated according to their importance, and, finally, let the results of your debates be reported to us, when we will determine upon those that merit our approval.

After the reading of the message the House proceeded to business.

The idea of this Parliament has evidently been started by some of those Princes who have visited Europe and America, and who have evidently profited by what they there saw. It will be seen, however, by the following rules and regulations for the government of this body, that the House, so far, has no real power, but that it is simply an advisory board, as everything must go to the Emperor or the Government Councils for approval. Nevertheless it is undoubtedly a great advance movement, and, however defective this their first "House of Commons" may prove to be, it will insure ultimately to Japan a mild and wise government. And should a perfect constitutional government supersede the present despotic one in Japan, as I think it will in a few years, this country will have shown an example of the most rapid reform in government that can be met with in ancient or modern history:—

SCHEME FOR THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE PARLIAMENT.
[Translation.]

The settlement of the laws of the Assembly is the most important duty. Any point not included in these laws must be left to the decision of the President; the Assembly cannot charge itself with (providing against) unforeseen and extraordinary cases.

1. The period for which the members of Parliament will serve is limited to four years. Half the members will be re-elected every two years. Retiring members may be immediately re-elected. New members will enjoy the same privileges and rank with old members. When the time arrives for the first re-election, half the members will retire by lot.
2. Members of Parliament must have completed their twenty-fifth year.
3. Members of Parliament may not hold any other office.
4. Should any member be appointed to another office or retire a substitute will immediately be elected.
5. Any member having a motion to propose will hand in the same in writing to the President.
6. Should any person, not being a member of Parliament, wish to introduce any motion in the House, he may entrust it in writing to the President or to any member.
7. Statements of motions must be brief and plain; they must have foundation and substance.
8. The President will receive the various motions and number them, and having copied them in form will cause them to be printed. The order in which motions will come before the House will be according to the pleasure of the President and will in no way depend upon the numbers which they bear.
9. Six days in every month, the 2d, 7th, 12th, 17th, 22d and 27th, are fixed days of assembly.
10. On the fixed days of assembly members will take their places at ten in the morning.
11. The places in the House will be numbered beforehand, and at the opening of the House members will draw lots for their places, in which they will take their seats accordingly. These numbers will be changed every month.
12. Every month six officers named Kanji (the functions of these officers are not defined. They appear, however, to be destined as a medium of communication between members of the House and the President, and to assist the latter in conferring with the officers of the government) will be elected from among the members of Parliament.
13. At every meeting of the Assembly a printed motion will be handed to each member.
14. Members, having received a printed motion, will carry it home, and, after mature reflection, will criticise it, and at the next meeting will carry the motion with them and publicly read out their criticisms. Should any questions be asked of them as to the reasons for this opinion they will be prepared to reply.
15. The order in which members will read out their opinions or address questions will be according to the fixed number of their places.
16. On the second occasion when a subject comes up for debate members are not restricted to speaking once. On other occasions they may only speak once.
17. When a subject has been debated by the members in conclave any member returning home and again pondering over the subject, and having arrived at a conclusion as to its merits, may put his opinion in writing and hand it to the President at the third sitting.
18. Papers thus handed to the President will, when the original motion is approved, bear the character *Ka* (aye) in red ink on the right hand corner. When the motion is disapproved they will bear the character *Ai* (no) in red ink on the left hand corner.
19. The President having collected the whole opinions of the members and having duly arranged them, will, should three-fifths or more of the members be in favor of the motion, declare it to be carried and will request the Emperor's judgment.
20. Should three-fifths of the members be against the motion the President will declare it lost and it will be abandoned accordingly.
21. When three votes are wanting to make up three-fifths the President has the power of deciding the question by his vote.
22. Should the "ayes" and the "noes" together not amount to three-fifths of the members of the House the debate will be postponed and resumed at the expiration of one year.
23. Should three-fifths of the whole House decide that the motion should be heard again in the same year, the motion must be heard again forthwith.
24. At each assembly there will be three matters to be dealt with. First, the scrutiny of the "ayes" and "noes" on the motion of which notice has been received at the previous meeting. Secondly, the debate upon the motion of which the "ayes" and "noes" have been scrutinized at the previous meeting. Thirdly, the receipt of a new motion. These constitute the orders of the day. The President will, however, be competent to introduce variations in the orders of the day.
25. Should any question before the Parliament have to be referred to the officers of the government, the debate will be postponed until the next meeting, when the officers of the government will be invited to attend.
26. When the officers of the government attended at the House, the Kanji or officers of the House, will confer with them. At such conferences the President will attend and, taking deeply into consideration the arguments of both parties, will see that no inconvenience occurs.
27. The various motions; the results of the scrutinies and the approval and disapproval of the Emperor will be printed.
28. If in the course of debate, the President should strike the board by his side, the House will be silent.
29. Should any member be prevented from attending, he may delegate a proxy.
30. A proxy may give his vote for the member who has delegated him.
31. No member may hold more than one proxy.
32. No scrutiny of "ayes and "noes" can take place when less than two-fifths of the whole House are present.
33. Should any mistake occur in the course of debate, the President will correct it. Should he fail to do so, he may be called upon to exercise his authority by any member.
34. Newspapers and street reports are not to be quoted to substantiate statements.

While we record, with pleasure, the advance the Japanese are making in their ideas of government, we must, nevertheless, state it as our opinion that these reforms will be opposed by a large number of the Daimios. When the great convention of the princes is to take place has not yet transpired, all of them not yet having arrived at Jeddo. I am more inclined to the opinion above given, from the fact that, now and again, the old feeling of dislike to foreigners occasionally crops out. During the last two weeks the tokaido has been almost constantly occupied by princes and their retainers on their way to the eastern capital, and every now and again some insult to foreigners has to be recorded. During the last month several foreigners, being on the Tokaido during the passage of some one of these trains, have been forced to descend from their carriages or horses. One of these occurrences assumed a serious aspect. About ten days ago some gentlemen, among whom was Captain Stanhope of the royal navy, while returning to Yokohama by coach, were forced to get out of their carriage during the passage of some nobleman's train. A complaint was made to Sir Harry Parkes, who demanded an apology to Captain Stanhope on board of the Captain's own ship, the Ocean, from the nobleman who was responsible for the insult. This was at first refused. Sir Harry threatened that if his demand were not complied with all intercourse should cease between the Japanese and foreign Powers (it is no difficult matter for Sir Harry to influence the other Ministers). The Japs had to come down. The apology was made and the flags will fly from the flag staffs of the various legations. But besides this there has been one or two occurrences at Yokohama equally as serious, although the same fuss has not been made about them. About nine o'clock on the night of the 30th ult. Lieutenant Du Bousquet, acting as interpreter to the French Legation, was passing through Curio street, when some one hit him a blow with a club from behind that felled him senseless. He was carried in this condition to the Legation. A little while afterwards Mons. Vivet, also connected with the French Legation, was attacked in the same manner. On the night of the 5th an attempt was made to fire the French Legation, and the next night an attack was made upon another interpreter in the same service. Why all this spite shown towards the Frenchmen? Some have tried to interpret it as an expression of the dislike the Japanese entertain towards the French on account of there being several of the latter now aiding Ennomotto. This may be the case, if the assaults have all been made by some samourais belonging to some Daimio recently arrived at Jeddo. Although the government have apologized the culprits have not been found. I suppose the result will be another bill for indemnification. But, seriously speaking, if these affairs are not treated with proper determination we shall have a repetition of the series of murders that made foreigners afraid to leave the settlement three years ago. In consequence of these occurrences the settlement is again guarded by foreign troops, and no Yacomin is allowed to enter Yokohama without a pass.

The news from the North has been quite interesting since my last. In the first place the Stonewall is not lost, as reported then, although she reached Miaco bay, about twenty-five miles south of Awamori bay, with considerable difficulty, on account of her leaky condition. While the Northern fleet were anchored here to coal a very bold attempt was made by Ennomotto's fleet to capture the Stonewall. Three vessels—the Eagle, the Ashuelot and another—flying Ennomotto's flag, steamed into Miaco bay and attacked her. Most of the Stonewall's crew were ashore at the time, and she would have been an easy prey had the Ashuelot, instead of running into her, run alongside, as was intended. The steering order must evidently have been misunderstood; for she went bows on to the Stonewall, and thereby became so crippled that she was run ashore and set on fire to save her from falling into the Northerners' hands. The other vessels chased the Eagle into Hakodadi, but could not follow in. The crew of the Ashuelot were all captured, and it is stated that two foreigners (Frenchmen) were among the prisoners. Since this affair we have had no reliable news from the North, except that preparations are still going on for the attack on Hakodadi.

We have had quite a surfeit of sporting lately at Yokohama. First came the races, lasting three days. The contests being confined to Japanese and Chinese ponies, of course these can only be of local interest. The time that one of these ponies ran a mile in is not very fast, the quickest that was made being 2:18. Still, a great deal of interest is shown in the races and considerable money changes hands semi-annually on the results. The 24th inst., being the Queen's birthday, was set aside for a grand regatta. It being a warm day and no wind only the pulling matches came off. Most of the men-of-war in harbor took part. The first boat race was for cutters, distance four miles, the English ship Ocean beating both the French and American. The next was for gigs and whaleboats, the Ashuelot taking the first prize both from English and French. In the pinnace race the Monocacy beat easily both the French and the Ashuelot's boat. The other races were well contested, but were mostly between boats owned by residents. The time in which the different races were run was not taken.

The news has reached this place, per steamship Japan, which arrived here this morning, that the mail agents are to be discontinued on the boats running between San Francisco, Yokohama and Hong Kong. The utility of these gentlemen was very questionable in the first place, even in those cases where they understood what was required of them; but when incompetency and neglect are added it is time the matter was looked into. On the arrival of the Great Republic the San Francisco mail was kept on board the ship for over twenty-four hours, the reason being that the worthy mail agent thought he had signed a receipt for four bags only, when there were really five. But what the postal service does require is one competent man to superintend the facilities for delivering others at the different ports—namely, Yokohama and the way ports to Shanghae. In these places they are handed over to the consuls, and a great deal of time is wasted and a great many mistakes are made, from the fact that they have no competent help who knows anything at all about postal business. One competent man could serve as postmaster for all these ports, and the letters could be sorted *in transitu*, so that they would be ready for delivery immediately on the arrival of the steamer at their respective ports. As it is now the mail service is a humbug and a delusion, for which the United States pay the nice little sum of $500,000 per annum.

Commercial native currency has again declined in value, and the import market feels it. Gray shirtings and yarns are salable at quotations given, holders continuing firm. Several cargoes of rice have arrived, three of which were sold at $2 50, to arrive. There is a large amount of sugar on hand and the market is very sensitive; the Great Republic alone brought up 9,000 piculs.

As far as exports are concerned there is nothing to be added to the telegrams already sent.

CHINA.

The Yang Chow Affair—Discontent at the Manner of Its Settlement—The Insult to the French Charge d'Affaires—The Loss of the Arthur—British Fleet in Chinese Waters—A Foreign Loan.

HONG KONG, May 18, 1869.

The newspapers in all the treaty ports of China are sending up a long and dismal wail on account of the home government of Great Britain having expressed their entire disapproval of the way consuls and naval officers took it upon themselves to settle the Yang Chow affair. For my part I think that the government are altogether right in refusing the power to do such high handed acts as were committed in this affair to consuls; but when Lord Clarendon expressed an opinion, in which even ministers were to have no further power in these matters, but that they must be referred to the government at home, I think he went a step over the mark. With a wise and honest man to represent them at Pekin I think no nation need fear of being dragged into a war with China on account of the minister demanding redress for any outrage done to their respective subjects or citizens, even if they do back up such demand by a show of force. To refer such matters at home would cause great delay and greatly lessen the influence that ministers should have with the Chinese government. As it is the public reproof given to the consuls in this matter is apt to have a bad effect, inasmuch as the Chinese seem to think that other countries are beginning to be afraid of them.

There is serious trouble at Pekin. The French Chargé d'Affaires has been grossly insulted either by Prince Kung or one of his officials. So far the intelligence is not quite positive. The first report we had here was that Prince Kung had slapped the Frenchman's face. It is quite certain that the trouble is serious, from the fact that the Frenchman has hauled down his Legation flag; and all the other foreign Ministers have threatened to do the same, and cut off all diplomatic intercourse, unless an ample apology is tendered. What the result of this fracas will be I suppose can be easily foretold—the Chinese will make the amend; but I should not be at all surprised if they held out a little longer than usual, when they think of the action of Great Britain.

Intelligence has arrived here of the loss of the American bark Arthur, on the Pratas Shoals, on the 20th ult. The Arthur left this port on the 17th inst. for Tientsin, with a general Chinese cargo and some passengers. Tuesday, the 20th, was a thick, stormy day. At half-past seven P. M. the vessel struck heavily upon the northwest portion of the shoals, and although every effort was made to get her off it proved fruitless. She commenced to fill very rapidly, and it was soon evident that it would be dangerous to remain on the vessel. The boats were lowered and provisioned, the captain taking the lifeboat. All the boats arrived at Hong Kong on the night of the 23d. The captain reported, however, that he was boarded by a junk, to him, evidently, a pirate, and they were all taken on board and he was forced to sign a bond for $1,000 for being taken to Hong Kong. On the captain's arrival at this place he entered a complaint against the junk for piracy, but all the evidence adduced merely went to show that the crew of the junk, two of which were old women, were simply actuated by a desire to make a good thing out of the misfortunes of a shipwrecked people, and with their usual pertinacity had insisted upon playing the good Samaritans for $1,000. So the case was discharged. The Chinamen then turned round and sued Captain Crosbie for false imprisonment (they had been kept two days in prison on the charge of piracy), and it being proved that the passengers were kindly treated on board the junk the judge remarked that he was surprised that the captain could have been so far mistaken in the character of the junk, and the captain was fined $500 with costs.

Intelligence has been received from Amoy to the effect that the Central American ship Macao, having loaded a large number of coolies, and being ready to proceed on her voyage, was prevented from leaving Amoy by the United State steamship Unadilla. The reason for this is understood to be that the Macao has no mandarin's chop or permission to take away the coolies, and the United States steamship Unadilla has taken up the matter by request, and still detains the Macao at Amoy.

The following movements in her Majesty's fleet stationed in China may be deemed as correct:—It has been decided to send home the Rodney and the Pearl, the former with only a small crew, and not her full complement. The Argus (in Japan) goes to the Cape of Good Hope, and the Icarus and Cormorant will be paid off here and recommissioned. The Ocean, iron-clad, is to have a poop put on her, and will become flagship, while a new crew for her will come out here in October next.

The Chinese government are going to appoint a Consul for Hong Kong. It will be a fat office, with plenty of chances for squeezing.

The Chinese government are negotiating with the foreign banks for "Sycee." The sum spoken of is, 3,000,000 from one establishment, and it is rumored that further loans are contemplated in other directions. The step is one that has been long spoken of, and would probably not be without considerable influence on political matters. The most obvious effect that may be expected from it is to create a definite interest in favor of the continuance of the present state of affairs in the country, and especially of the maintenance of the foreign inspectorate system as at present existing. This consideration has probably not been without its weight with the Chinese authorities; but although it appears at first sight one of some moment it is scarcely so in reality, as there are already more weighty considerations which would induce this result than any loan which the Chinese government are likely to be able to raise would prove to be. If the question of any important political change arose the matter would not be one concerning which there would be any great difficulty.

The fact that the imperial government are urgently in want of funds is at present tolerably notorious; and the idea of borrowing from a foreign bank is one which might not unnaturally occur to them. The only security that could be offered would be the imperial customs dues, which, so long as the present state of affairs continues, would no doubt be good.

THE FIRST BOURBON WHISKEY.—The manufacture of Bourbon whiskey was first introduced by parties who emigrated from Pennsylvania about the year 1790. Uncle Jo Shawhan, himself one of the emigrants, being then a boy of ten years of age, tells us the first distillery in the county was erected by Jacob Spears, the grandfather of Captain Ed. Spears, of the well-known firm of Woodford, Spears & Co., distillers. The distillery was near where the noted manufactory of W. H. Thomas now stands. Two negroes would fell trees near by and haul them to the distillery, while Mr. Spears himself would cut the timber into suitable size, distill, go to mill and also attend a fine horse he had brought with him. Captain John Hamilton, who ran away from Pennsylvania on account of participation in the whiskey insurrection, we have also heard claim to have first distilled in this region. His whiskey was in such demand that he never had cause to barrel it, as purchasers came from far and near to receive it as it came from the still. Captain Hamilton died only a few years since, aged about 100 years.—*Paris Kentuckian, June 23.*

INDIA.

Agra—The Tomb of Noor Jehan by Moonlight—Description of the Mausoleum—Indian Hotel Keepers—An Oriental Flower Show—The Women of the East—Ornaments and Costumes—Palace of Akbar—The Zenana—Departure.

AGRA, April 15, 1869.

We came through from Cawnpore at night in order to see the Taj by a full moon. A night earlier would have been too soon, and a night later would have been too late. We reached Agra at four o'clock in the morning, and, without waking the porter at the hotel, left our luggage and drove directly to the Taj. We did not want the company of a chattering cicerone to guide us to the tomb. It stood out clear and bright in the moonlight, two miles distant. It was not the chaste silver moon of northern latitudes, but the full, voluptuous, lustrous, amber-colored moon of India, with the three intense stars burning like flame upon the band of Orion. The stillness of silence was upon the face of nature when we arrived at the entrance to the enclosure. The night insects had sung themselves to sleep and the morning birds had not begun their carols. The palm trees stood still and seemed as if they were mlaid upon the sky. The cypresses were as silent as if they were mourning over the earth. The guide book says:—

The Taj is situated in a noble quadrangle enclosed with lofty red sandstone walls, with turrets at the angles and a gateway on each side. The quadrangle measures 1,860 feet from east to west and 1,060 feet from north to south. The principal gateway is a noble structure in red sandstone, most elaborately carved and inscribed with sentences from the Koran. Passing through the gateway the first view of the Taj is obtained at the end of a long paved pathway, shaded by a beautiful avenue of tall, dark, cypress trees; in the centre is a basin with a fountain, and a row of *jets d'eau* is carried from end to end. The whole of the enclosure is beautifully laid out with stately trees, shrubs and flower beds, and is kept in good order at the expense of government.

In the midst of these grounds rises the Taj Mahal, the great architectural wonder of Agra and of India. What is this wonderful structure? Has a star fallen from the firmament and crystallized in the form of the habitations of the cherubim and seraphim to exhibit to mortal eyes a model of the mansions of the blessed? Have the sea fairies gathered the pearls and corals and gems of the Indian Ocean and fashioned a submarine structure of exquisite beauty and wafted it up the sacred river to rest upon the banks of its most beautiful affluent as a model to man of the coraline palaces in which the sea kings lay the beautiful mermaids to sleep? No; supernatural structure though it seems, it is nevertheless the creation of mortal hands; but its inspiration was immortal. It was inspired by immortal love. It was built by Shah Jehan (a descendent of the great Tamerlane), in honor of his beautiful wife, Noor Jehan (the light of the world) who was a niece of the celebrated Noor Mahal (the light of the harem) in Lalla Rookh. These Tartar women must have been beautiful, indeed, to have inspired such passions.

In eighteen centuries the Christian world has built no such monument in honor of the beatified mother of the Saviour of Mankind. The chosen people of God have left no such monument over any of the daughters of Israel. The Egyptian Queen had many noble lovers, but neither Cæsar nor Antony, with all the treasures of Rome, have left such a monument to the Enchantress of the Nile. Grecian marble immortalized Grecian beauty, but left no monument of Grecian love. Roman history perpetuates the virtue of Roman ladies in the Latin language, but the Saracen writes the story of his love in enduring marble, intelligible to all nations and to all ages. In no western land has marble been so plastic to the talisman of love. Only here, under this burning Indian sun, shaded by the palm and the cypress, has the great human heart swelled to maturity with the divine passion and burst in expanding its devotion. It is a poem of love written in marble and illuminated with precious stones.

We walked about the marble pavements under the cypress trees and by the flower beds, taking a look at the Taj from different angles, until the moonlight faded out before the approaching sun, and in the interregnum the palm branches began to stir with the morning breeze and the birds began to sing in the cypress trees. The sun rose up over a palm grove in the distance like a shield of molten copper. A few lazy keepers began to crawl from their hiding places about the enclosure, and the two American visitors to the Taj walked away as quietly as they had come.

Monsieur Beaumont does not keep a very good hotel, but he keeps the best hotel in Agra. He is an old Frenchman and has a large family. He has been in India a long time and would not know Paris now if he were to return. Indian landlords never speak to their guests, and their guests never have a chance to speak to them. The hotel is generally attended by native servants, who do not understand a word of English, and who neither know how to cook nor serve anything. It was, therefore, necessarily a work of time and patience to get rooms, bath and breakfast at Monsieur Beaumont's hotel.

We returned to the Taj about noon and found the shade of the gardens a pleasant retreat from the noonday's sun. A great many carts were at the entrance, and hundreds of natives were engaged in carrying flower pots into the gardens. We learned that there would be a flower show to-morrow, when the floral beauties of India would be exhibited for premiums in the gardens of the Taj.

The tomb is raised on a platform of red sandstone, 1,000 feet long, fronting on the river Jumna, by 350 feet in width in the garden. On this platform a terrace of white marble is laid, 350 feet square. In the centre of this terrace the beautiful structure is erected in the shape of an irregular octagon, occupying a square of 186 feet. At the corners of the marble platform are four guardian minarets, each 133 feet in height and beautifully proportioned.

Entering the marble doors of the tomb you are under the dome, which is 120 feet high and 90 feet in diameter, the crescent tipped spire being 300 feet above the basement. In the centre of the marble rotunda, immediately under the dome, is an enclosure made by an octagonal marble screen wrought in trellis work and inlaid with vines bearing flowers imitated in precious stones, so fresh and natural that you look for the dew and smell for the perfume. The festoons of inlaid flowers represent the iris, lotus, tulip and other rich colors of India, and are made of cornelian, agate, bloodstone, lapis lazuli and carbuncles. Inside of this marble screen are the sarcophagi of Shah Jehan and Noor Jehan, their actual tombs being in the basement underneath. The tombstones are of pure white marble, profusely inlaid with wreaths of flowers in precious stones and covered with inscriptions from the Koran inlaid in black marble.

The tombs were spread with roses, jasmine and sweet flowers from the garden, yielding an altar of fragrance through the rotunda. The walls, the galleries, the cornices, the arches of the alcoves and the windows were all hung with vines and flowers, inlaid with marble and precious stones and inscribed with verses from the Koran. It is said that in the inscriptions inlaid in marble upon this building every verse in the Koran has been copied. The echo under the marble dome has been compared to the harmonies of Paradise. Bishop Heber affirms it to surpass anything in Europe. If Patti, Nilsson or any of our Western nightingales could sing under this marble dome the eye would instinctively turn to the alcoves in the cornice to see if angels were peering over to carry the sweet strains of music to Paradise. The building was completed in 1630 by the lavish expenditure of millions of treasure and the labor of 20,000 workmen for twenty-two years. "They built like giants and finished like goldsmiths."

We returned again to the Taj that night. A couple of gentlemen were wandering about the marble walks, comparing views by moonlight. They had come from England; we from America; but the same object had brought us together in the shade of the beautiful Indian tomb. We made up a handful of money for the keepers to reward them for burning blue lights in the alcoves of the dome. The keepers went up the stairways and soon appeared in the windows above the cornice of the dome holding out sulphureous torches, which shed a sepulchral glare over the dome, and made a misty shade on the tombs through the trellis work of the marble screen by which they were surrounded. We looked at one another and our faces were yellow, like wax figures, or unnatural, like dead people. The blue lights burned out and left us in the darkness of the tomb. We went out and passed along by the silent fountains, under the shade of the cypress trees, listening to the echo of our steps upon the marble pavement, and separated for the night without saying much to each other.

On our return to the hotel we experienced a great deal of trouble with our so-called hotel keeper, Monsieur Beaumont. He lives in a villa adjoining his hotel and leaves his guests to the attention of native servants, who do not know how to keep a hotel. We sent for Monsieur Beaumont and expostulated. He is exorbitant in his charges for carriage hire, and we excited his ire by employing an outside conveyance, and offended his pride by insinuating that he and all other hotel keepers in India were entirely too much above their business, and, in fact, we threatened another great Indian mutiny (against hotel keepers) on the same ground that influenced the Sepoys, viz., making us eat too much grease. Monsieur Beaumont intrenched himself in his villa and we kept possession of the hotel.

In the afternoon we went again to the Taj. The flower show was in full bloom. The native princes were present in all the gorgeousness of Indian taste, snow white turbans, scarlet jackets trimmed with gold and loose white trousers falling over red or yellow morocco slippers. The native ladies were there in great numbers, with "rings on their fingers and bells on their toes." The ornaments worn by the native females of India are something wonderful. Commencing at the toes and going up, or commencing at the head and coming down, it is a maze of mystery. The hair is handsomely dressed and filled with all kinds of silver arrows and gold darts and bound with bands of gems and precious stones. The ears are pierced for not only one set of earrings, but for several—the usual custom being seven holes in the right ear and six in the left, which in a full dressed belle are all filled with rings. The nose is usually pierced in the left side, and a ring with pendant jewels hangs around the mouth, dangling gracefully upon the chin. The neck is heavily laden with necklaces of metal, precious stones, coral or pearls. The bracelets on the arms are of silver or gold, according to the means of the wearer, some of the fair sex wearing as many as twenty-five or thirty bracelets on each arm. The fingers are covered with rings in the same profusion, with the addition of a seal ring on each thumb, which is generally the finest and most ornamental. The anklets of the higher classes are of solid gold, set with precious stones, and are extremely beautiful; little bells are attached, so that in dancing or walking time is kept to the motion. The toes are frequently covered with rings, the seal being worn on top, as upon the outside of the finger.

An Indian belle in full costume may wear several pounds of jewelry and not be overdressed. The mysteries of the feminine toilet are beyond my comprehension. Some wear fine silk shawls wound around as a nether garment in a most mysterious way, and are covered by another shawl of the same material, which hangs over the shoulders and is continually fluttering as if trying to escape from a silver or gold band which fastens it around the waist. The little children were dressed in admirable taste and looked as fresh and sweet as the flowers. The European ladies were out in the latest fashions from Paris and London—highland lassie and lowland matron discussing with the native ladies the prospect of attending the coming "durbar" at Umballa or preparing for the reception of the Duke of Edinburg at Agra in November.

All was merry and beautiful at the annual flower show in Agra. The band of the Seventy-ninth Highlanders played the national airs of England in the gardens of the Great Mogul. The fountains played cooling jets upon the perfume-laden atmosphere. The promenade of many couples resounded along the marble pavements, and here and there a bright uniform sparkled by the side of a gay silk under the shade of the cypress tress. His Honor the Lieutenant Governor of the Northwest Provinces, Sir William Muir, Commander of the Star of India, &c., distributed the premiums to the fair competitors:—For geraniums, one gold bracelet; for roses, one pair earrings; for pinks, one diamond ring; for heartsease, one necklace, and so on for carnations, daisies, poppies, verbenas, asters, petunias, oxalis, violets and passion flowers.

The eye wandered to the ladies, to the flowers, to the Taj, as different grades of beauty; but candor obliges me to say it rested longest on the Taj, as the most unfading. The children played and prattled around the flower-lined borders, until the old fountains leaped for joy and spread their spray in golden rainbows like an archway of celestial promise to guide their footsteps beyond the tomb. The pyramid of flower pots melts away, the shadow of the cypress trees darkens in the garden, the pattering of feet on the pavement leads towards the door, the fountains cease to play, the children's rainbow is gone, the reverberations of "God Save the Queen" die away in the vault of the tomb, the departing sun spreads his golden glories over dome and minaret for a moment, and Shah Jehan and his beautiful bride are left to the solitude of their magnificent tomb.

There are many other objects of interest at Agra, but when the sun shines the stars are invisible. When we have seen the Taj all else is nothing. The fort and palace of Akbar the Magnificent are well worth a visit. The fort is a mile and a half in circuit, built of red sandstone, with walls sixty feet high, surrounded by a fosse and enclosing a palace. The judgment seat of Akbar remains—a white marble slab, now broken, like the Moslem power.

The Pearl Mosque is a beautiful marble structure, erected for the worship of God and the Prophet, where each pious Mussulman has an assigned space indicated on the marble floor.

The zenana or harem of Akbar the Magnificent was the gem of the palace. Halls and galleries and suits of rooms of white marole, with court yards filled with fountains, and balconies of marble trellis work inlaid with gems overlooked the river. The inlaid work of some of the walls and ceilings was marvellous in its perfection and detail—not a color of the vine nor a hue of the flower but the precious stone was found to represent. In the marble walls channels are to be seen where the water was trained to cool the temperature. In one portion of the palace a marole wall, divided into two chambers by an archway, was set apart and elaborately ornamented for a bath room, and has since been called the Hall of Glass. In each room are marble basins in the centre of the floor, with cascades of marble leading from the walls on either side. The walls and ceilings were covered over the entire surface with thousands of mirrors, arranged in the most intricate designs, so that