OUR CRUISERS AFLOAT.

STRENGTH OF OUR WOODEN NAVY.

What Can be Done to Increase It?—The Pressing Needs of the Moment—Prompt Action of the Government to Strengthen Our Glorious Navy.

The navy of the United States, viewed as an offensive machine, is not such an one as a great Power requires, especially at a time when our interests may be imperilled by a foreign war, and when we may be drawn into a contest with the grandest naval Powers of Europe. It is safe to assert that we are in no condition to grapple with any of the first or second rate nations of Europe on the high seas. At home, relying on our iron-clad squadrons, we could take care of ourselves in a satisfactory way, perhaps, but it would be quite impossible for our navy to undertake offensive operations in foreign waters. We have no iron-clad cruisers, and must rely in case of a foreign war on our wooden vessels alone, none of which could cope with the formidable broadside iron-clads possessed by France, England, Austria, Italy, Prussia, Spain, Russia, or even Turkey. Our wooden ships are quite competent to give a good account of themselves in a combat with the wooden ships of European Powers, although in many instances they are less swift under steam alone. Admitting, then, the fact that our navy, fit for cruising and for warfare in foreign waters, consists only of wooden ships, we can very soon state clearly what our naval strength is at this moment, and to what it can be developed in a reasonable time, by bringing to bear all the resources of our dock yards and machine shops.

OUR WOODEN NAVY NOW READY FOR SERVICE.

Our ships afloat are distributed among five fleets—the North Atlantic fleet, South Atlantic fleet, Mediterranean fleet, Pacific fleet and Asiatic fleet—while some are in commission on special service.

THE NORTH ATLANTIC FLEET,

or home squadron, consists of the Severn, second rate, flagship, 15 guns; the monitor Dictator, third rate, 2 guns; the double-turreted monitor Terror, third rate, 4 guns; Tuscarora, third rate, 6 guns; monitor Saugus, third rate, 2 guns; Swatara, fourth rate, 7 guns; Nantasket, fourth rate, 7 guns. Total—7 vessels, 43 guns.

SOUTH ATLANTIC FLEET.

Lancaster, first rate, flagship, 22 guns; Portsmouth, third rate, sailing sloop, 15 guns, and the Wasp, fourth rate, 1 gun. Total—3 vessels, 38 guns.

MEDITERRANEAN FLEET.

Franklin, first rate, flagship, 59 guns; Plymouth, second rate, 12 guns; Richmond, second rate, 18 guns; Juniata, third rate, 8 guns. Total—4 ships, 77 guns.

PACIFIC FLEET.

Saranac, second rate, flagship, 11 guns; Mohican, third rate, 6 guns; Kearsarge, third rate, 6 guns; St. Mary's, sailing sloop, third rate, 16 guns; Jamestown, third rate, sailing sloop, 16 guns; Onward, third rate, sailing sloop, 3 guns; Resaca, third rate, 7 guns; Cyanne, fourth rate, sailing sloop, 14 guns; Saginaw, fourth rate, 2 guns; Nyack, fourth rate, 3 guns; Ossipee, third rate, 9 guns. Total—11 ships, 93 guns.

ASIATIC FLEET.

Delaware, first rate, flagship, 21 guns; Ashuelot, third rate, 6 guns; Monocacy, third rate, 6 guns; Idaho, third rate, 7 guns. The Colorado, first rate, 46 guns, is *en route* to the East to relieve the Delaware, and the Benicia, third rate, 12 guns, and Alaska, third rate, twelve guns, are also on their way to this squadron. Total—7 ships, 110 guns.

ON SPECIAL SERVICE.

Michigan (Lake Erie), fourth rate, no guns given; Tallapoosa, third rate, despatch boat; Yantic, fourth rate, 3 guns; Sabine, sailing frigate, just arrived at Boston, second rate, 36 guns; Nipsic, fourth rate, 3 guns, for the Fishing Banks; Gerard, storeship, fourth rate, 4 guns, Fishing Banks; Frolic, fourth rate, 5 guns, Fishing Banks. Total—7 ships, 51 guns. Grand total—39 ships, 412 guns.

SHABBINESS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

The above exhibit of our naval force cannot prove satisfactory to any Americans except those Congressmen who steadily and persistently declined to vote needed supplies to the navy, and who, while the war lasted, never felt safe unless a gunboat was anchored in easy range of their homes, and now declaim against the service and characterize it as a useless and expensive national luxury. If we have not a respectable navy to-day it is entirely owing to the short-sighted policy of a parcel of men whose ideas of American interests are bounded by the Mississippi river and the Rocky Mountains.

The last Congress cut down the allowance of men to 8,500, a force not sufficient to keep up our squadrons at the ridiculously and shamefully small standard it is now maintained. Ships to be sent out to relieve other vessels in distant seas lie idle at the docks, without men, because they cannot be manned until vessels, the time of whose crews has expired, have returned. Our foreign squadrons are thus weakened in order to enable ships to return home before their reliefs are despatched. The loss of time and the consequent loss of money in furnishing reliefs is much greater than the cost of supporting an additional 5,000 seamen. The want of men is not the least difficulty encountered by the Navy Department by the stupid action of Congress. Men can be obtained in any number, with proper inducements, in a brief space of time; but it is the work of months to repair and fit out cruisers, even with abundant financial resources. Congress has utterly failed to appropriate the funds necessary to prevent the few ships we have in our navy yards from going to decay and destruction. Our yards are filled with ships rotting at their docks, which, if money could have been obtained, could have been kept ready for instant service. The supreme moment of our national need has now arrived, and we find ourselves utterly weak and impotent, with dozens of rotten ships and others in no condition to go to sea. All may now see how short-sighted and contemptible was the policy of the last Congress, which could readily vote millions of acres of the public domain to gangs of private speculators, but who could not rise to an attitude sufficiently lofty to view the imperious demands of the public service.

Fortunately there is money enough yet attainable to fit a certain number of ships, sufficient for the time being, to care for and protect our vast personal and commercial interests abroad. The government is fully justified in adopting extraordinary measures to place one arm of our national defence on a tolerably respectable footing. Our navy will be increased and made more efficient. Ships will be fitted out and men will be recruited and our flag will be found abroad at points of interest to our national affairs. A future Congress will doubtless confirm the action of the government and heartily endorse measures taken to provide against serious danger.

THE REINFORCEMENTS TO OUR NAVY ABROAD.

The Navy Department have just issued imperative orders to the commanders of the various Navy Yards to proceed without delay to fit out every available vessel for immediate service. Work has already been begun at the Portsmouth, Boston and Philadelphia yards, and at the Brooklyn, Washington and Norfolk yards the force of mechanics will at once be increased. The following are the vessels that can be made ready for sea in a few months:—

AT THE PORTSMOUTH, (N. H.) YARD.

The corvette California, second rate, 2,490 tons, and carrying twenty-one guns, is well advanced, and work is being pushed ahead with all possible speed. She is the same size and class as the Delavan and Guerriere, the former of which is now the flagship of the Asiatic squadron, a fine class of cruisers. The sloop Narragansett 566 tons, five guns, is now well advanced and will soon be ready for sea.

The Wyoming, 726 tons, six guns, is now repairing and will be despatched as soon as ready.

AT THE BOSTON YARD.

A large force of mechanics are engaged in fitting out the frigate Wabash, 3,600 tons, forty-six guns, one of the finest ships afloat; the corvette Shenandoah, 929 tons, ten guns, almost ready, and a perfect picture of a man-of-war, with her new full ship rig. The Worcester, a new ship of the second rate, 2,000 tons, and armed with fifteen guns of heavy calibre, is about ready to go into commission. The corvette Ticonderoga, 1,019 tons, third rate, and carrying a splendid battery of ten guns, can be sent to sea in thirty days. The famous old frigate Niagara, 2,968 tons, twelve guns, built by the late George Steers, is undergoing very extensive changes and repairs. She is to be cut down and iron plated, and made a broadside iron clad. The transformation will necessarily require a good deal of time, and it is not likely that she can be made ready for service under six months, if it is possible to accomplish the work in that time. When completed she will be the only broadside iron clad in our navy. All the ships except the Niagara in the constructors' hands at Boston will be soon ready for sea.

AT THE BROOKLYN YARD

There are a number of ships in hand. The Tennessee, formerly the Madawaska, one of the ships designed for fast cruisers, has been greatly altered, and can be made ready for service in a few weeks. Some of her boilers have been removed and a light spar deck has been given her, making her a comfortable and tolerably fast craft. She rates second, is 2,135 tons burthen, and will carry a battery of 23 heavy guns. It is not improbable that Vice Admiral Porter will take her as his flagship in his visit to Europe to witness the naval operations in the North Sea and in the Baltic. The Guerriere, second rate, 2,467 tons, 21 guns, is ready for sea and only awaits her crew and stores to proceed to any point of the globe. She will probably go to the South Pacific as flagship.

The frigate Minnesota, 3,000 tons, 46 guns, is well advanced, and can be sent to sea in a couple of months. The Canandaigua, third rate, 955 tons, 10 guns, is fitting out and will soon be ready. The Saratoga, sailing sloop, third rate, 757 tons, 15 guns, is ready for her men and stores. The Monongahela, third rate, 960 tons, 10 guns, is fitting out and well advanced. The corvette Albany, second rate, 2,000 tons, 15 guns, is repairing, and can soon be fitted out. The corvette Wachusett, third rate, 695 tons, six guns, needs considerable repairs, but can be sent to sea in less than three months. The Hartford, second rate, 2,000 tons, 18 guns, needs a thorough overhauling, but with an ample force of workmen could join her sister ships in a short time. There are a number of other ships that could be made ready in a few months at this yard if necessity required, many of which are entirely new. The Brooklyn yard can always accomplish extraordinary and wonderful works in case of an emergency. The country naturally relies upon it when anything is to be done well and quickly.

THE PHILADELPHIA YARD

has very little in hand. The sloop Brooklyn, second rate, 2,000 tons, 20 guns, one of the most efficient ships in the navy, is nearly ready for her crew and stores. A light spar deck has been added to her, and she is now one of the handsomest ships we have. She will be despatched to the European squadron, under the command of Captain John Guest, in a few weeks. If the Franklin returns the Brooklyn will become the flagship of the fleet; otherwise she will fly a division commanders pennant. The Iroquois, third rate, 695 tons, 6 guns, has just returned from the Asiatic squadron and will require a thorough overhauling.

AT WASHINGTON

the Kansas, fourth rate, 410 tons, 3 guns, is ready for sea, and at Norfolk the Galena, fourth rate, 514 tons, 7 guns, and the Saco, fourth rate, 410 tons, 3 guns, are repairing, and will soon be ready. There are a number of large ships at the various yards on the stocks, but it would require a great deal of time to make them ready for the service, although their machinery is all completed.

NAVAL FORCE AT OUR DISPOSAL.

It will thus be seen that by great exertion the Navy Department could, on an emergency, place twenty-two additional ships at sea, carrying 267 guns of the average calibre. This force, added to that now afloat, would give us sixty-one cruisers, carrying a grand total of 725 guns—no puny force if we had wooden ships alone to contend with. To send out these ships will require at least 10,000 additional seaman, which can be readily obtained if proper inducements are offered, and an outlay of several millions of dollars.

We have thus given a clear *résumé* of our exact strength afloat, and what we can accomplish if we are called upon to do our best. We have force enough to work great havoc on an enemy's commerce, and we can hold our own against the wooden cruisers of any maritime Power. All that we need now is money and men to place our fleets upon a satisfactory and respectable basis.

The administration is thoroughly alive to the exigencies of the hour, and we doubt not that our flag will soon be shown at every point where American lives or property are imperilled. In that way only can we hope to command and retain the respect of foreign nations in these times of insecurity and gigantic conflicts.

Naval Personals.

WASHINGTON, July 23, 1870.

Ensigns Alfred Elliott, Thomas H. Lee, Washington O. Sharrar, George W. Tyler, Jefferson A. Moses, James W. Carlin, Huntington Smith and C. W. Jarbol have been ordered to examination for promotion. Masters John P. Merrill and A. R. Conden have been detached from signal duty and ordered to the Guard.

THE STEEL TARIFF.

Evils of the System of Secret Treasury Agents—The Troubles of Sheffield Steel Importers—The Result.

Ever since the increase of the tariff rates on the import of foreign merchandise the Treasury Department was in the habit of employing secret agents in Europe to ascertain the actual market value of goods exported thence to this country. The figures reported by these agents were then compared with the invoices furnished by the importers, in order to see whether the latter were guilty of undervalueing the goods imported, that they may pay less duty and thus defraud the revenue. This system has so many apparently favorable features that it was continued through the several successive administrations of the Treasury from Judge Chase to Secretary Boutwell. The importers, as a matter of course, disliked and opposed it as a source of fraudulent practices, blackmail, vicious chicanery and otherwise improper interferences with the natural course of trade. On several occasions before the United States courts in this city and Brooklyn this system of espionage in Europe by paid agents of the Treasury was sought to be ventilated, and enough was shown to exhibit its abhorrent features. The readers of the HERALD will all recollect the "wine cases" and the "silk cases," in which it was claimed by the government, on the strength of of the testimony of its agents in Europe, that owing to the undervaluation of the wines and silks with intent to escape the payment of a higher rate of duty, the goods seized were forfeited to the Treasury under the law. In all these cases the name of W. B. Farwell appeared conspicuously as the principal agent of the Treasury Department abroad, and the prosecutions mentioned were principally based upon his reports.

STEEL RAID ON SHEFFIELD.

Lately similar proceedings have been held in regard to the importation of "best cast steel" from Sheffield, England. The investigation commenced about nine months ago by the same Mr. W. B. Farwell at Sheffield, assisted by the United States Consul, Abbott, at that place. The result was a report from them to the effect that the manufacturers and exporters of cast steel at Sheffield do, as regularly as they ship goods to this country, state the prices on the invoices lower than the actual market value at the place of exportation. The beauties of our present variegated tariff law appeared in resplendent light in these cases. The gradation of duty according to the difference in the value of steel, it is said, made it possible that by undervaluing the article exported by a half or one cent only, it was reduced to within a lower scale of the tariff, saving to the importer and losing to the revenue from ten to thirty per cent of the duty which should have been paid. And the reports of Farwell and Consul Abbott, supported by evidence collected by them, showed that this advantage had been largely availed of by the manufacturers and exporters of Sheffield steel. When these reports were submitted to General Palmer, the Appraiser of the Port, he

RAISED THE INVOICE PRICES

of all the steel then in the Custom House ready to be withdrawn for consumption by the payment of duty to the scale of prices submitted by Farwell and Abbott as being the actual market value of the goods at Sheffield, and thus increased the amount of the duty.

THE IMPORTERS DEMURRED

to this action of General Palmer, claiming that their invoices were right; that no undervaluation had been practised, and that they should not be compelled to pay the higher rate of duty. Most, if not all of them, however, paid the increased rate, under protest, alleging it to have been "illegally exacted," and appealed. There were

FIFTY-SEVEN APPEALS

in all, in which the following parties were interested:—

Inspectors or Agents in New York.	*Manufacturers at Sheffield.*
Abbott & Howard.	Firth & Sons.
Ten Eyck Axe Co.	
Young & Co.	Jessop & Sons.
Joseph Stagg.	
E. Remington & Son.	Francis Hobson & Co.
John Hogan.	
W. C. Wardlow.	E. & W. C. Wardlow.
J. & W. Rotherry.	
Henry Moore.	J. & Riley Carr.
Wheeler & Wilson Manufacturing Company.	
E. Frith.	Sanderson Bro's. & Co
W. H. Sowers.	
Heartt & Co.	
E. Over & Co.	

The amount involved was £42,364, or about $205,000, gold. These appeals came up for hearing and examination before Judge Hogeboom, General Appraiser, with whom was associated, under the provisions of the law, Mr. Abram S. Hewitt, as merchant appraiser. Mr. Hewitt is himself largely interested in the manufacture of steel in this country, and under the circumstances must be believed to be somewhat biassed in favor of American and against English steel. These two gentlemen proceeded with their task carefully and conscientiously, heard the evidence of both sides, gave it a thorough sifting and finally decided to

SUSTAIN THE APPEALS,

thus negativing the imputation cast by Farwell and Abbott upon the manufacturers and exporters at Sheffield, as well as upon their customers and agents in this country. In submitting their action to Secretary Boutwell Judge Hogeboom and Mr. Hewitt connected with it

AN ELABORATE REPORT

on the system of keeping secret agents of the Treasury traveling in Europe, touching also on many points not only of interest, but of great importance to manufacturers and merchants in this country as well as abroad. The suggestions embodied in this report will probably be submitted to Congress in the Secretary's annual communication to that body.

THE RESULT.

No formal instructions have been made public farther than this, that General Palmer has revoked his former action and reduced the duty, to the invoice prices, which he had formerly raised, and the importers received back the excess of duty paid by them under protest. Duty has since been imposed upon Sheffield steel imported, according to the invoices furnished, and no further trouble has ensued. Mr. Farwell is said to be no longer in the employ of the government, and Mr. Abbott has lately been superseded as Consul at Sheffield by a new appointee, confirmed by the Senate during its last day's session. One of the high officials of the Treasury Department has arrived in this city from Washington within the last few days, and is even now engaged in making further inquiries into these and other matters similarly connected with this Secret Agency system and its effects.

EUROPE.

The Orleanist Movement in France.

The North German Lloyd steamship America, Captain Bulow, from Bremen the 9th and Southampton, England, the 12th of July, arrived at this port yesterday morning. The America landed our English files and special European correspondence dated to the day of sailing from Southampton. The America brought 380 passengers.

It is announced that their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales intend to visit India at the end of 1871.

The young Rajah of Thulla, India, and the Maharajah of Putteeala will shortly visit England.

The question was being courteously discussed by the Cabinets of Florence, Constantinople and Cairo, whether the Bay of Ashad belongs to Ottoman possessions.

The Egyptian steamer Khartoum returned to Suez after visiting the Bay of Ashab to inspect the Italian establishment. It was stated that the crew of the Khartoum treated the natives at the Bay of Ashab very rigorously and even entered a deserted house belonging to the Italian establishment. The facts, however, do not prejudice the pending friendly negotiations respecting the Italian establishment in question.

The *Opinions* of Florence, July 11, says that the version published respecting the occurrence on the Italian territory in the Red Sea has been inaccurate.

The sale of pictures, water color drawings and objects of art, the property of Charles Dickens, was one of the most remarkable events of the kind which have occurred at the mart of Christie, Manson & Woods, London. The amounts realized for almost every article which came under the hammer were perfectly fabulous, but it was evident that many of the purchases were bid for as souvenirs and had scarcely any reference to the intrinsic value of the articles sold.

FRANCE.

The Count de Paris as a French Citizen.

The *Journal de Paris* of July 11 publishes the following letter from his Royal Highness the Count de Paris to M. de Keratry, thanking him for the part he took in the discussion of the petition of the Orleans Princes for permission to re-enter France. It will be recollected that M. de Keratry rose in the debate to challenge M. Ollivier to produce anything from the archives in his possession to prove that the exiled family had ever participated in intrigue or conspiracy against France or the present *régime*:—

TWICKENHAM, July 4, 1870.

MONSIEUR—Since the gates of France are still closed against us, I must, perforce, from a distance, make known to you the emotion with which I read your speech at Saturday's sitting. You acted as an honest man, and as a deputy faithful to his country, in demanding if there existed a single proof which could justify the penalty inflicted on us. You brought into relief, and exposed by a single phrase, how odious and how much opposed to modern principles of equality and of national sovereignty are the measures which condemn an entire family of citizens to what was called, with a cruel irony, the privileged condition of exile. I am happy to be able to thank you for the manner in which you have defended us, a member of the young generation which has faith in the liberal future of France, and which, looking in advance rather than behind, only searches in the souvenirs of the past for teaching and not for motives of rancour or division. No barrier can separate us from that generation, for we share its ardent devotedness to the decisions of the national will, sole and sovereign arbiter of the destinies of France. The determination which sets aside our demand would have filled us with profound grief were we to regard it as definite, for our intention was other than to raise a sterile discussion; but we believe that in laying before France and the Chamber the question of the laws of exile we have hastened the day when those laws will fall under public reprobation. You have pleaded the cause of right—the right common to all; for the right of the exile cannot exist in presence of universal suffrage and the sovereignty which belongs to it. The public feeling has been demonstrated in such a manner that the decision taken by the Chamber, in conformity with a powerful will, cannot, I am sure, be long maintained. I conclude, Monsieur, by again thanking you on behalf of those who have watched you fighting from a distance, and were not able themselves to take part in the struggle. Believe, I pray you, in the sincere sentiments of your affectionate

LOUIS PHILIPPE D'ORLEANS.

TELEGRAPHY.

An Atmospheric Telegraph Designed to Rival the Electric.

[From the London Telegraph, July 12.]

A novel kind of telegraph, the invention of Signor Guattari, an Italian, was submitted to the inspection of a party of scientific gentlemen yesterday, at a private house in Gloucester street, Warwick square. The inventor aims at obtaining by the use of atmospheric power the same or better results than those attained by electric and magnetic forces. To this end he charges a reservoir with compressed air, and by the operation of valves, worked in the same manner as those in use in the ordinary telegraph system, sends pulsations through a tube, which pulsations are made to work upon the receiving instrument with an effect corresponding with that of the electric current passed along insulated wires. The invention has been so fully recognized by the Royal Institution of Naples that they have paid to Signor Guattari the rare compliment of awarding him a gold medal. It is further reported that the system is to be generally adopted on board the Italian ships of war for the transmission of orders from the commanding officer to subordinate departments.

At the experiments yesterday there were present the Italian Ambassador, Count Maffei, a gentleman from the engineering department of the Postal Telegraph, a representative of the Kensington Art Department and contributors to scientific journals and the general press. The working apparatus was all contained in a stand or table about eight feet long by five wide and four deep. Air pumps worked by a crank are used to charge the reservoir. The amount of pressure is shown on a dial. The telegraphic instrument is worked by hand in the ordinary way. A very considerable coil of gutta percha tubing, half an inch in diameter and said to be about a mile in length, was connected with the instrument at the battery and with two other instruments in the room. The experiments began by the charging of the reservoir to about one-sixteenth of its actual capability—this being, at the same time, a comparatively crude, though not unsightly, machine. The method adopted for the working of the Guattari is the Morse or printing cipher system. Signor Guattari, at the transmitting end, sent through this message:—"This apparatus has already experimented on the plebiscite." The words were recorded in cipher at the receiving end, and were read off by the gentleman from the Post Office, who remarked, however, that, in two or more instances, the letters had run into each other. The same authority found the valve at the transmitting end difficult to work, and requiring a manual pressure of something like seven pounds, instead of the mere touch required by the regular Morse instruments. In operating on it himself he sent through the alphabet correctly, and transmitted all the messages he attempted with accuracy. This was done through a line of tubing partly wound round a drum, and partly lying in an irregular heap on the floor. In actual service lead tubes might be used. Experiments were next tried on the apparatus for communicating with various parts of a ship, and subsequently with what may be called the domestic telegraph. In this case Signor Guattari dispensed with the use of the reservoir, and, by mere manipulation of an air ball at the end of a tube recorded true cipher characters on the long strip of paper which runs over the small wheels of the receiving instrument. This is the kind of telegraphy to which the Guattari apparatus will probably prove to be best adapted. In large hotels, in ships of war, in communication from factories to counting houses, from private residences to places of business, and in town communication generally, the system promises to be advantageous. It is independent of foreign aid, is less likely to get out of order than wires conducting electric currents, and will not be more expensive. For longer distances, on regular public lines, the invention would probably not apply so well, or work so rapidly, as the present telegraphs. The inventor is, however, equally sanguine in this as in smaller branches, and claims, not without reason, that his apparatus will be less expensive than electric batteries, and will be less subject to the influence of those atmospheric storms which sometimes put the telegraphic system of a whole country out of order.

Signor Guattari was heartily congratulated on the performance of his apparatus. The new telegraph certainly reflects high honor on the inventive genius of its originator.

PERSIA.

The Frontier Difficulty with India.

The *Friend of India* of July 7 has the following remarks on this important subject:—

The frontier difficulties between Afghanistan and Persia are pressing for settlement. The conduct of the Persians on the Seistan border has been so disgraceful that we do not see how the British government can longer avoid interposing, more especially as Shear Ali, though perfectly able to protect his territories, considers himself bound not to retaliate without permission from us. This cannot be much longer withheld. One Meer Alum Khan Kaiuee lately made a raid into Afghan territory and carried off a large booty in cattle and goods. The Persians promise redress; but, in the meantime, a second foray occurs on a larger scale than the first. But these incursions cause less anxiety than the threatened occupation of Kuchan-scor on the Afghan aid of the Hehnud, which Persia claims on the part of Ibraim Khan, the Beloch chief. The Meshed officials will listen to no representations upon this point, and it is to be feared that the Ameer will have to make a demonstration of force to preserve his frontier. If India were properly represented at Teheran such difficulties could be easily prevented.

JAPAN.

The "Happy Despatch"—Parliamentary Debats on the Subject of Its Abolition—Sticklers for Custom—Philosophy of the Mode of Punishment.

A Turkish official paper to hand by the European mail contains the summary of a debate that took place in the Japanese parliament on the practice of "seppuku," or "harakiri," which is exceedingly interesting. "Seppuku," which simply means disembowelling with one's own hand, is a punishment allowed as a privilege to "two-sworded men;" that is, to the soldier class. In some cases, too, two-sworded men commit seppuku without being condemned.

Oro Seigore, Clerk to the Parliament, moved the abolition of this punishment. His argument bears the impress of strong good sense and enlightened views. He said:—

I hear that this custom of "seppuku" is quite unknown throughout the different countries of Europe. I have no fault to find with those who commit "seppuku" in obedience to orders, but the conduct of those who do so without awaiting orders ought to be looked on as highly immoral. Why is this? The reason is that if the man is after all guiltless a searching investigation will show his innocence. What need is there for him to commit "seppuku?" If, on the other hand, he is guilty, we have our national criminal laws. He should bear his guilt with resignation and await the imperial decision. What need has he to commit "seppuku?" To do so is to treat with contempt the criminal statutes of our country, and, instead of expiating crime, to add one crime to another. It should be remarked that most two-sworded men who commit "seppuku" are men of parts and with a strong sense of shame. It is needless to say that if such men repented, and, urged by an indignant sense of their errors, employed their talents industriously, they would do their country good service; but in my opinion death for a fault or two of doubtful character at the same time blocks up the way of self-examination to the individual, and is at variance with the imperial plans for the national prosperity.

He was, however, able to obtain only three votes in favor of his motion in a House of 299 members; 200 voted against him, and six abstained from voting altogether.

Among the opponents of the motion Tominaga Shun said:—

The custom of "seppuku" is founded on high principle, courage and integrity, and is worthy of the highest praise. To prohibit it would be to remove one of the pillars of the constitution.

Takeida Henloski improved upon this. He said:—

The custom of "seppuku" is an ornament to our country, and is one reason of its superiority over the countries beyond the seas. An honorable sense of shame should be encouraged, and the spirit of the soldier caste stirred up; whereas the proposed prohibition would weaken the natural vigor of the nation, and steal away the high spirit which has for ages animated it.

In the same spirit Isobei Kangoro argued:—

The punishment of death, by "seppuku," is an article of the criminal code. Will the prohibition of it cause no embarrassment in the working of our constitution? Cases of suicide in anticipation of a judicial order, whether committed for the sake of lord or parent, or compelled by a sense of duty, ought to be looked on with indulgence, and all the circumstances fully considered. Such persons should be deemed to have died a natural death, and their maintaining their integrity to the last should have our sympathy. Why should this custom be prohibited, in imitation of the effeminacy of foreign nations?

In Houda Kudzum's opinion "the reason why the 'seppuku' is practised in this empire and not in foreign countries is because this empire is an empire. There are several classes of those who pass sentence on themselves without awaiting orders. Some have remonstrated with their lord or parent, and on their remonstrances being disregarded have given weight to them by committing suicide. Others have died to restore peace to their country. When should we interdict the 'seppuku' in cases where it is performed while the guilt of the accused remains uncertain? Self-condemnation is a sign of a nature uncorrupted and conscious of shame."

To Late Goro it was clear that the blunt swords of the Western countries are unfit instruments for committing "seppuku." It is an act displaying courage and a cheerful alacrity, and it is therefore deserving of praise.

Kozeki Yoymore thought a prohibition of the practice of self-punishment by the "seppuku" might be carried into execution in a country where propriety, principle and a sense of shame are unknown. "In this country of the gods, and under our present reformed government, is it necessary to discuss such a law?"

Kerniu Itsnja, not content with a mere repudiation of European example, attempted a philosophical defence of the custom, as follows:—A speedy death by "seppuku" resulting from remorse for crime is a means of avoiding the pain of disgrace. How can it be said to be a contempt of the criminal law? How, on the other hand, can it be styled an explation of guilt? By death the criminal barely restores himself to his position as a human being. If he lives he is a scoundrel, but if he dies he, for the first time, manifests a sense of shame.

Sonodo Tanoten defended the practice on the ground of good feeling; he urged that the sage, Confucius, forbids the punishment of the high officer by death. In putting an officer to death good faith requires that insult shall not be added to punishment.

Kokuinji Gunbei did not think it possible to prevent the practice:—"I do not think it possible to carry into effect a prohibition of the 'seppuku.' Our country has always placed the soldier class in the first rank, and attached great importance to principle. Therefore it is that some commit suicide from a high sense of honor, have devoted themselves to death, are compelled by principle to commit suicide when they fall into the hands of the enemy."

To the same effect was the argument of Nakano Chomei, who observed that there is a custom for the Samurai of this divine country to commit "seppuku" when guilty of crimes. "Whether this practice be prohibited or not, how will it be possible to prevent it, as those who commit seppuku are regardless of future consequences? This is the true Japanese spirit. Rather than abolish a punishment on theoretical grounds, we ought to foster a sense of shame in the members of the military caste, and in the existence of which doubtless consists the superiority of Japan over other countries."

Instead of abolishing the practice Sankada Hakusa would extend and foster it. He declared "that the seppuku has its origin in the sacred vital energy of this divine country, and is the shrine of the Japanese national spirit (Yamato spirit). Unquestionably it should not be prohibited. Its practice should be extended, and by this means a sense of shame fostered, and the seppuku should be famous throughout the world as an example of devotion to principle. It ought to be introduced into our criminal code as the form of capital punishment for those above the rank of Samurai.

CHINA.

The Christians' Massacre—An Organized Native Mob.

[From the Cork Examiner, July 7.]

One of those periodical massacres of Christians for which China is, unhappily, notorious, was committed in Pekin on the 21st of June by an organized mob.

The attack appears to have been directed exclusively against the French, who, as the most active and successful propagandists of Christianity throughout the empire, have made themselves most obnoxious to the Celestials. The secretary to the French Legation, the Consul and all the French priests and Sisters of Mercy in the capital are reported to have fallen victims to the fury of the mob. The Catholic cathedral, erected in pursuance of the treaty stipulations, was burned to the ground, and the work of havoc and murder was continued for the whole night.

Three Russians were killed in the mêlée, probably through mistake, as no other foreigners were molested.

It is anticipated that France will demand immediate reparation and punishment of the guilty parties.

FOSSIL REMAINS IN NEVADA.

Ancient Petrifactions and Antediluvian Leviathans on the Pacific Slope.

[From the White Pine Nevada News, July 18.]

About one hundred miles to the southeast of Hamilton is a high plateau of land containing an extensive deposit of marine shells and the fossil remains of a large variety of extinct species of fish. But the curiosity which most challenges the interest and investigation of antiquaries is the petrified form of what was evidently once an immense sea monster. It lies on the high plateau in a position giving rise to the theory that its locale was once a great shoal, and that this antediluvian leviathan foundered and perished on the surface as the water receded. The petrifaction is perfect, and is estimated to weigh about ten tons. It presents a dual appearance—the head and body that of a humpback whale, and the extremities extend into feelers and antennæ like the polypus or devil fish, with the exception that they were evidently during life lined with a hard and bony substance. The eyes are set in each side of the head, which is flat and oblong, and are twenty-four inches apart. The mouth is armed with triple rows of teeth, which are sharp in front, but underneath and well into the jaw they turn into grinders, capped by a solid osseous formation, running back from the widest portion of the head. In this respect it resembles the celebrated marsh cow of Central America, amphibious in habit—graminiverous on land and carniverous in water. The length of his singular relic of an unknown race has not as yet been determined; but as the body blends into the tail, it tapers down to so small a size that, making due allowance, its entire weight would not be far from that stated. This inland country abounds in curious fossils of a marine character. We have seen specimens of crustacea found in our immediate vicinity which puzzled scientists and antiquaries. There is a pregnant field in this region for savans, such as Agassiz, who have made the piscal kingdom, both of this and past ages, a study of love. There is some talk among the parties who discovered the remains of the stranded monster described of making an effort to remove them to the railroad. We see that Barnum has been buying one of the Calveral big trees. If he will turn his attention hitherward he can procure one of the most astounding curiosities of the day. We doubt whether it can be removed in bulk, and, if an accident should happen in the attempt, its value would be greatly lessened and its usefulness as a study would be materially impaired. We would suggest the consideration of the plan so successfully carried out in the removal of the Cardiff giant. A plaster of Paris mould could be taken first of the perfect form, then the shape of the entire anatomy would be preserved in case the effort to remove the whole should prove a failure. But in case of breakage, and the impossibility of saving the curiosity without mutilation, it might be reduced to powder, removed in detail and remoulded in New York, where it would doubtless be placed on exhibition and become an interesting aid to science in determining many antediluvian speculations now requiring investigation and proof.

THE ELM PARK RIOT.

A Voice from the "Other Side."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

In your issue of this day a letter appears over the signature of "Michael Christal." I wish to reply to it. Will you kindly extend to me the same privilege you have accorded to him, in order to obtain equal publicity to both the said communication and its rejoinder? I avoid characterizing that production at the outset as I think it deserves, because I desire first to apply the proofs as to what it is, before using a single derogatory term. Contrary to the knowledge that the public is in possession of for the last eight or nine days, the first sentence of "Michael Christal's" production has it, that the disgraceful and barbarous attack made upon a body called "The Protestant Association of New York" while enjoying themselves in Elm Park, at a picnic on the 12th of the present month, was "the recently disorderly conduct of the Orangemen." In the first place, the term Orangemen is a decided misnomer, as the party alluded to, however nicknamed, call themselves by the name above given. Such a thing as Orangeism does not have being outside the British empire, for the causes which give it existence there do not obtain elsewhere—being strictly British in their origin and in their end. In this city perhaps it is that men who have elsewhere sustained Orange traditions and associations mainly form themselves into the "Protestant Association." But according to the principles of government promulgated by the genius of universal freedom, and nowhere else so fully accepted as in this great Western hemisphere, have they not a full right or privilege to do so? Nor has any order who have had the same privileges granted to themselves any right, depending upon numerical force or brute power, to deter any body of men from so organizing, so that the rights of others are not infringed upon. And, let me ask, is not the gallant party who had in Mr. Michael Christal a champion, a ready advocate and expounder, secured in those privileges when St. Patrick's day comes round? Yet, even though the records of this community can show murder perpetrated on the sustainers of law and order, besides other inoffensive citizens, in the open streets of this city, while their lengthy processions march along, bedecked with wide scarfs of green and flaming banners that were never seen before amid the nations of the earth. If the Orangemen, as Mr. Christal calls them, were disorderly, I would like to know what class of men congregated together in social intimacy would not be reduced to caustic confusion if a pack of cut throats were let loose upon them or any such dire calamity happen as even a sudden elemental strife break in upon their festivities? But this accusation of being disorderly is not brought forward in manly method. It is not stated with any accompanying relation of fact, but assumed as a mathematical axiom. What bare faced effrontery here manifests itself under the guidance of low cunning. Mr. Christal then proceeds to say he wants to state what causes Irishmen look upon Orangemen "as their natural born enemies." One man being a "natural born enemy," or any kind of natural or born enemy of another in the sense that we are forced to take this rather mystical expression, is quite contrary to all revealed or known law. Among the lower animals we can easily perceive natural enemies. But amid men to have such an idea recognized is certainly significant of a very low moral nature where it emanates. Mr. Christal, however, does not in the least attempt to show what he proposes, but goes forth in a circumstantial account of the forces of the Prince of Orange at the battle of the Boyne, exhibiting what his countrymen must regard as a most recondite intellect in this respect and forcing one to the conclusion

That still the wonder grew
How one small head could carry all it knew.

With sublime indifference to such a contemptible affair as the battle of the Boyne, he proudly asserts that it was no faction fight, leaving us to infer, therefore, that it can have no claims to the honor of true Irishhood.

The facts may be so far correct—and only so far—as he adduces them; but the entire *casus belli* is lost or hidden from his view, and along with it all the concomitant circumstances, the famous siege of Derry, &c. Now, so far as my eyes are enlightened to read history, all Mr. Christal's magnificent display of Macaulay erudition goes for nothing in every view one can take of it, except as a mere skeleton of facts, in which his statement is not altogether perfect. There were great issues at stake. England and Scotland had acted in unison and driven a despotic King from the throne, who sought to lay the fair foundations of liberty to the ground and erect instead, amid bloodshed and persecution, his own will as supreme law. The King alluded to was James the Seventh of Scotland and Second of England, and having fled to France he secured some men and treasure from the King of France and landed in Ireland, where the country, as a Catholic one, was willing to support his pretensions, and, with a force of, as Macaulay says, "wild Irish" and French made an attack upon the Scotch settlers of the North. William of Orange came to the rescue, and at the battle of the Boyne a decisive blow at tyrannous pretensions was struck, and the liberty of the British subject was secured. That the Catholic subject had to submit to many privations was merely one of the issues of war, imposed by an age that was much less advanced than the present, yet containing within its womb the seed of that tree of liberty which has at the present day grown into such gigantic proportions. That seed was germinated by the liberal institutions which the arrival and success of William of Orange generated, and also fostered the fruition of. And this is the reason why the men or the North of Ireland rejoice at the advent of the 12th of July, and surely it is from no *ignis fatuus* of glory similar to what drives the French nation periodically mad. It is a byword of the party that Mr. Christal represents when under the pressure of adversity to cry out "The right hand of fellowship!" "Let bygones be bygones!" but as soon as power in any way comes into their hands similar ebullitions of their real sentiments may be expected as was witnessed on