THE SPANISH SITUATION

Montpensier Charged with the Murder of Prim.

AN IMPENDING SENSATION.

France Will Be Asked to Surrender the Noble Duke.

DISSOLUTION OF THE CORTES.

King Amadeus to Pay a Royal Visit to the Carlist Provinces.

COLONIAL CHANGES.

MADRID, June 30, 1872.

All Spain is now talking about the rumored demand upon France for the extradition of Montpensier as an accomplice in the death of Prim. This is, in a remarkable degree, a confirmation of the news which was telegraphed at the time of the murder to the HERALD by your Madrid correspondent, and was published at a time when the English newspapers were afraid to say anything about it. My Lord of Montpensier was too high a dignitary to be in any way accused of an offence as grave as that of assassination. A son of Louis Philippe, uncle and father-in-law to the Count de Paris, brother-in-law to Isabella of Spain—he was not be mentioned with suspicion. You will remember that when poor Prim was ambuscaded in the narrow, gloomy street opposite the War Office, no one was suspected of the murder but republicans. There was never a more deliberate, brutal assassination. Serrano imitated the first Napoleon in his actions. When Napoleon was hustled by the infernal machine near the Opera House, although he knew perfectly well who had planned the crime, that they were the friends and agents of the Count d'Artois, he affected a sudden rage against the Jacobins, and laid violent hands upon their leaders and drove them into exile and imprisonment. Jacobinism happened to be the element most dangerous to his dynasty, the irreconcilable element, and he struck it under pretence of avenging an outrage to his person. So when Prim was struck down the government of Serrano raised the cry that the republicans had done it; that they were enemies of society; and that, failing to induce Prim to ordain a republic, they killed Prim. So republican deputies were arrested on suspicion and thrown into prison; but investigation could not convict them of even a suspicion of complicity with the crime, and they were released. In the meantime the investigations were pursued under the direction of a wise and eminent jurist. While the Sagasta Ministry was in power every attempt was made to interrupt the investigation. Suspicions were cast upon the integrity of the Judge. Efforts were made to obtain the evidence and destroy it; and finally the Judge, in violation of law, was promoted to a higher station, to the end that the inquiry might be given to a creature of Sagasta. But public opinion resented this outrage, and the inquiry continued. When Sagasta fell, and with him Serrano, the Judge felt that there was a Ministry in power to which he might appeal with confidence. He made his report, setting forth that the evidence in his possession clearly affected my Lord of Montpensier as an accomplice in the death of Prim, and asking that a demand be made upon France for his extradition that he might submit to trial.

WILL MONTPENSIER BE SURRENDERED BY FRANCE?

The conclusions arrived at by this jurist are in harmony with public opinion here, and certainly are logical. Montpensier was the most directly concerned in the succession to the throne. He took part in the conspiracy against Isabella, was sent out of the country as a malcontent by Her Majesty, and was a candidate for the succession, as his father was when Charles X. was hurried over the French frontier. When Prim declared for the Duke of Aosta many doubts were expressed as to whether he would accept. He had no elements of popularity, and there was that ever-present shade of Maximilian to deter royal fathers from sending their sons to Spanish thrones. If he were to decline the throne or leave Spain in a panic then my Lord of Montpensier would be the inevitable. Anyhow Prim would be out of the way, would be punished for his failure to exalt Montpensier, and the new dynasty without the aid of a powerful and gallant subject would be worthless and fruitless. Prim was struck down when Amadeus was on the sea. When he landed at Carthagena instead of meeting Prim he found only Admiral Topete, who came to say that the great kingmaker was dead, and that if His Highness felt that the death was in any way a menace to him he might return to Florence. Some of his councillors were for going home, but the young man, whose personal valor has won for him the personal admiration of every gentleman in Spain, said at once he would go to Madrid. And he came and rode on horseback alone through the silent and gloomy multitude who the day before had seen Prim's body carried to the Church of St. Atocha. So the assassination failed in every feature of its plot—as all deeds of that nature must fail while God reigns. Montpensier went to France, and made his peace with Isabella, and proclaimed that his highest ambition was to serve Prince Alfonso as his monarch and hold that place upon the steps of the throne to which his birth entitled him. But now that a grave legal magistrate sprinkles the blood of Prim upon his robes any position in Spain is impossible. Spain discusses Montpensier in a feverish way. Will he return to Madrid and boldly ask for examination and trial? Will President Thiers respect a demand for his extradition? Or will royal influences be used to silence justice?

THE DISSOLUTION OF THE CORTES—WHAT WILL SPAIN DECIDE?

The King has stamped with his approval the new Ministry and accomplished the last act of the recent political revolution. Yesterday he published the following decree dissolving the Cortes. It is short, but expressive:—

ROYAL DECREE.

In use of the faculties conceded to me by article 42 of the constitution, conformably to article 72 of the same, and by accord with my Council of Ministers, I decree as follows:—

ARTICLE 1.—The Senate and Congress are declared dissolved.

ART. 2.—New Cortes shall be convoked in the capital of the monarchy on the 15th September next.

ART. 3.—The elections will commence 24th August, in the Peninsula and adjacent islands and Porto Rico.

PALACE OF MADRID, June 29, 1872. AMADEUS.

It is premature to discuss the promises or protestations of the new Premier until we see what will come of the dissolution. This Cortes, so suddenly and finally blown into space and foul air, was the contrivance of the most excellent Señor Sagasta, a statesman who embodies the political virtues of William M. Tweed, and who conquered the Cortes as Mr. Tweed managed his elections, by absorbing all the surplus revenues of the State and extracting the largest number of votes from the given number of voters. We are to have no such shameless performances in the new elections. I feel confident that the Cortes to be chosen in August will represent the voice of Spain. And the problem is, what will that voice say? Will she accept the dynasty? Can the priests and landowners influence the people to call back Don Carlos? Have the republicans so far preached their propaganda that Spain will decree no dynasty, only a republic? Or will the republicans postpone their schemes as unavailing now and unite with the radicals in favor of a monarchy under liberal institutions? Or is it possible that the Queen's adherents, aided by Montpensier's money and secretly strengthened by the angry Serrano and his followers, will succeed in restoring the old dynasty? These are the questions that Spain must now decide, and these questions will be submitted to her in the coming elections. Upon this decision her future welfare will mainly rest.

SPAIN PASSES INTO A DEAD CALM.

And so we pass into the warm, sultry summer months, with everything in a state of stagnation and silence. Spain, that yesterday was a seething, hissing, angry mass of tumbling political waves and breakers, leaping mountain high, and tossing King and constitution in the most merciless manner, threatening destruction every moment, is now as quiet as a summer sea. Madrid has resumed its baked condition. Serrano has gone to his country seat in the mountains. The Duchess of Prim is at Biarritz. Grandeeism is hurrying to the mountain and the seaside. The King is preparing for a tour to the Northern Provinces. He will go into the Basque country, into the region where, a few weeks since, his army was fighting the Carlists. And, although this is a country of surprises, the outlook signifies that until September Spain will be as calm as the Dead Sea, concerned only about its feast days and its bullfights.

BOLD RESOLVE OF THE RADICALS.

By his act in dissolving the Cortes His Majesty has thrown down the gauntlet to his late sycophants and false friends, the conservatives, and placed the fate of his dynasty in the only hands that can save it, if it is to be saved—the radicals. There is almost sure to be trouble with the Unionists and Sagastinos. They are livid with rage. To-morrow, I have no doubt, some spicy articles will appear in their press against the King and against Zorrilla.

One of the first acts of the radical Cabinet will be to take the King on a journey. Sagasta was afraid to do this. When he was in office the King wanted to go for two days only to the horse races at Seville; but Sagasta, who knew his own unpopularity and the consequent unpopularity the King drew down upon himself by giving him power, refused to sanction his going. The Queen asked to visit the same city during Holy Week; but no, Sagasta and his government thought it dangerous. Yet no sooner is Zorrilla again in power than the very first thing talked of is another royal journey, like that of last year. This time it is Navarre and the Vascongada provinces, the very theatre of the still smouldering Carlist insurrection, that is to be the route traversed. The King is not afraid to go, and the new Ministers are not afraid to take him. As of course no royal cortége could be complete without the presence of a correspondent of the HERALD, your readers may expect shortly to receive full details of all that occurs during what promises to be a most interesting tour, considering the present dangerous condition of the country and the difficulties surrounding the Spanish throne.

VALMASEDA'S RESIGNATION AS CAPTAIN GENERAL OF CUBA ACCEPTED.

The government has accepted Valmaseda's resignation. His successor *pro tem.* is his second in command, General Ceballos. The decrees to this effect are gazetted to-day thus:—

ROYAL DECREE.

By accord with my Council of Ministers I admit the resignation of the Captain General and superior Civil Governor of the Island of Cuba, Lieutenant General D. Blas de Villate y de la Hera, Conde de Valmaseda, remaining satisfied with the zeal, intelligence and loyalty with which he has discharged his duties. AMADEUS.

PALACE OF MADRID, June 29, 1872.

ROYAL DECREE.

By accord with my Council of Ministers, I order the Mariscal de Campo Don Francisco de Ceballos y Vargas, Second Chief, to take charge temporarily (*interinamente*) of the Captain Generalcy and Superior Civil Governorship of the Island of Cuba. AMADEUS.

PALACE OF MADRID, June 29, 1872.

THE PORTO RICO CAPTAIN GENERALSHIP.

Two other colonial decrees are in the *Gazette* of to-day. One is accepting the resignation of the Captain General of Porto Rico, Lieutenant General Don Ramon Gomez Pulido, and the other is appointing Mariscal de Campo Don Simon de la Torre y Ormaza to the vacancy.

THE SWISS NATIONAL FESTIVAL.

The Grand Sacred Concert—The "Yodel"—The Procession and Festivities To-Day.

As far back as 1850 there have been Swiss societies in New York representing the several cantons of Switzerland, but there was no bond of unity between them. As they grew older and stronger there seemed to have arisen among them a jealousy, or at least a coldness, quite at variance with their conduct at home. This condition of sentiment gave promise of growing into animosity; but the happy event of yesterday has quite prevented this undesirable result. The origin of the "First Swiss national festival was accidental, and happened in this wise:—A prominent member of one of the Swiss lodges in New York remarked to another of his countrymen that it would be well if the Swiss societies would join together and have a festival at Jones' Wood. This idea was approved of, and immediately the suggestor set to work to carry it out, which he did with a success that exceeded his most sanguine expectations. Yesterday (Sunday, July 21) was the day appointed for the opening of the festival, which was inaugurated by a grand sacred concert, vocal and instrumental, together with the scene of the Gruetli, representing the first meeting of the founders of the Swiss republic, and the "Yodel" songs of the Alps by six Appenzellers in costume.

THE FESTIVITIES

opened with the following musical programme:—Overture, "William Tell," Rossini; "Trittst im Morgenroth Daher," Zwissig; "Nation Wie Voll Klingt der Ton," Nägely; "Ein Mann, Ein Wort," Marschner. After this a few choruses were sung, immediately succeeding which was the most interesting event on the programme, the scene of the Gruetli, representing the first meeting of the founders of the Swiss republic, where they swear to free the nation. The "Yodel" songs, wild Alpine melodies, by six Appenzellers, dressed in yellow knee-breeches, with red jackets and Alpine hats, were received by the audience with prolonged cheers.

THE SOCIETIES PRESENT

were fourteen in number—the Helvetia Lodge No. 1, Helvetia Lodge No. 2, Gruetli Society, Société Générale Suisse, Jura Maennerchor, Ruetli Maennerchor, Suisse Cooks and Pastrymakers' Society, Helvetia Maennerchor, of Newark; Gruetli, of Newark; Gruetli, of Williamsburg; Gruetli, of Paterson; Arion, of Paterson; Quartette, of Paterson, and the Suisse Schuetzen Verein. Among the invited guests were Consul General Hitz, twelve of the Gruetli Society, of Syracuse; twenty of the Helvetia Society, of Boston; ten of the Gruetli Society, of Washington; seventeen of the Gruetli Society, of Scranton; fifteen of the Suisse Society, of Utica; ten of the Suisse Benevolent Society, of Buffalo; fifteen of the Gruetli Society, of Troy; five of the Gruetli Society, of Cincinnati, and ten from the Allentown Gruetli.

PROGRAMME FOR TO-DAY.

Line will be formed at nine o'clock sharp, at headquarters, Teutonia Assembly Rooms, 158 Third avenue, from whence the line will march in the order below to the boat, foot of Eighth street:—

Grand Marshal and Adjutants.
Sharpshooters and Boys, with bow and arrow.
Music.
Tell, Walter Fürst, Werner Stauffacher, Arnold von Melchthal.
The Presidents of the Festival, Committees, Guests and Delegates of outside Swiss Societies.
Columbia and Helvetia, Ladies and Gentlemen in costume (all in carriages).
Helvetia Lodge, No. 1.
Gruetli Verein, Williamsburg.
Gruetli Verein, Newark.
Swiss General Mutual and Benevolent Society.
Helvetia Lodge, No. 2.
Helvetia Männerchor.
Tessin Band Mutual Benevolent Society and Confectioners' Society.
Gruetli Verein, New York.
Jura Maennerchor.
Arion and Gruetli, Paterson.
Ruetli Verein.
All Friends of Switzerland that wish to join.

First Division—East side of Third avenue, between Fifteenth and Seventeenth streets; right on Seventeenth street; carriages along East Sixteenth street.

Second Division—East Fifteenth street; right on Third avenue.

Third Division—East Sixteenth street; right on Third avenue. Presidents of societies will report to the Marshal or to his adjutants at headquarters, Teutonia Assembly Rooms, the arrival of their respective societies.

At Jones' Wood, immediately after landing, a salute will be fired by a park of artillery. The day's festivities will be opened with the Swiss national hymn, 'Rauft du, mein Vaterland.'" After which short addresses will be made by the President of the festival and others. Swiss athletic sports. At two o'clock dancing begins, and will be opened with the dance of the Alps by twenty-two young ladies and gentlemen in costume, representing the twenty-two cantons of Switzerland. An illustration of a Swiss marriage in the seventeenth century. The prize shooting will begin immediately after landing and continue all day. Bow and arrow shooting for Swiss boys. Distribution of prizes. In the evening there will be a grand display of fireworks. A boat will make three trips from the foot of Eighth street, E. R., to the Wood, at ten A. M., one P. M. and four P. M.

NEW YORK CITY.

Jeremiah Clifford, of 150 East Fifty-eighth street, jumped over the wall down the embankment at 103d street and Fifth avenue yesterday afternoon, while suffering from delirium tremens, and fractured his skull.

Late on Saturday afternoon, Lawrence Wherty, a lad nine years of age, while bathing in the dock foot of Pier 46 North River, was accidentally drowned. Subsequently the body was recovered by John Graves, 322 West street, and taken to the residence of his parents, 557 Greenwich street, where Coroner Keenan was notified to hold an inquest.

The body of an unknown man, about forty years of age, was yesterday found by Officer McSherry, of the Thirteenth precinct, floating in the dock foot of Rivington street, East River. Deceased was five feet seven inches in height, with short sandy hair and whiskers. Deceased was dressed in checkered pants, red checkered shirt and gaiters. The body was sent to the Morgue and Coroner Keenan notified.

Edward F. Wood, a sailor on board the steamship City of Mexico, lying at pier 16 East River, was admitted to Centre Street Hospital on Friday last, suffering from severe scalds of the body and extremities, received on board the ship. Wood was subsequently transferred to Bellevue Hospital, where death subsequently ensued. An inquest will be held by Coroner Keenan.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

The United States steamer Wasp, Commander Quackenbush, was at Colonia, Uruguay, May 15, having been taken on the Marine Railway dock at that port for repairs and cleaning required on her bottom.

The Worcester was at Key West July 9; the Saranac at Panama July 3; the Hassler, Panama, July 3; the Pensacola, Callao, June 27; the California, Panama, July 3, and the Onward at Callao June 17.

CANOE DOLLY VARDEN.

Paddling Down the Mississippi River.

A Mystery of the Itasca Country—The "Bloody Sioux" and Lake Taw-pe-ne-de-ning—Canoe Life Ashore—Marquette River and Lake Pemidji—Primitive Life on Its Banks.

CANOE DOLLY VARDEN,
LAKE PEMIDJI, UPPER MISSISSIPPI,
June 12, 1872.

With an open river before us of sufficient size to float the canoes without difficulty, the voyage now became one of renewed interest. Camp was broken up early on yesterday morning and the descent of the river resumed. The Mississippi pushed itself through the valley of meadow, alternately approaching forests of pine on the eastern and of tamarac on the western side. Through just such scenery as this the Dolly passed until dinner time, the river becoming more tortuous with every mile. The first tributary to the Mississippi is a brook which enters it from the westward, about twenty-five miles below Itasca. Like the great majority of the smaller lakes and rivers of the Itasca region, it is without a name.

Early in the afternoon, in a bend of the river, a canoe was discovered, bottom upwards, under a mass of driftwood. This was an evidence of life in the past tense, and the crew resolved "the mystery to explore." After much labor, all disembarking, the canoe was extricated and hauled upon the shore.

A MYSTERY OF THE ITASCA COUNTRY.

It was of this year's manufacture. The guide, after a thorough examination, said:—"An Indian has been up here trapping. I know that he was alone, for there is only one seat, that in the middle of the boat. The sides of the canoe, blackened as you see them, indicate either that his gun has bursted or that his powder horn has exploded. The latter is most probable, for the Indians frequently have a smudge burning on a piece of sod in the bow of their canoes to smoke out the mosquitoes. A spark from this may have fallen into the Indian's hand as he poured out his powder. That there has been an explosion of powder in this boat there can be no doubt. The pain and surprise has caused the Indian to spring up so suddenly as to capsize the boat, and gun, ammunition and provisions have gone to the bottom. The Indian could scarcely have been drowned, unless he was very badly wounded; but if his eyes were blown out, he has crawled out upon the shore only to die of starvation. This I think very probable, for an Indian will never abandon his canoe while living, under any circumstances. It never could have got away from him, for they are always drawn far out on the bank. The accident may have happened miles above this place. I tell you again no man should ever come alone into the Itasca country."

PROVISIONS ALL WET.

The guide cut a large piece of birch-bark from the canoe for repairing his own boat. This was fortunate, for in shooting some rapids encountered during the afternoon, a sharp-pointed rock broke a hole in the bottom of the birch-bark canoe, which let in water so fast that all the crackers and flour were wet before the guide and Indian could get ashore. Again the crew of the Dolly Varden was forced to sit and await the repair of the sister craft.

THE VALLEY

became wider with every mile until the river meandered through a great meadow, more than two and a-half miles in width, lying between thick forests and steep hills. Late in the afternoon the valley widened into a plain, and a small stream was pointed out as the outlet of a lake. The Dolly pulled up the stream, and at the end of 184 double strokes of the paddle reached a lake about one mile in length. It was surrounded on all sides by high grass.

THE BLOODY SIOUX.

Many years ago a village of Chippewas had been located upon the northern shore, where they subsisted by fishing and trapping. They numbered, warriors, squaws and pappooses, about 200 souls. The Sioux, their deadly enemies, came down upon the Chippewas one night and so completely had they surrounded the village that only an old squaw escaped. The captives, dragged out of the high grass where they had hidden, were collected in the centre of the village site and burned at the stake, after being put to every conceivable torture. The Chippewas call this body of water Taw-pe-ne-de-ning, or Battle Lake. A tree was pointed out by our Indian near the outlet of the lake as one in which the squaw who escaped took refuge. Among the Chippewas she is regarded as more than mortal, it being considered so very remarkable that a woman should be able to climb a tree. It appears very unnatural to an Indian, and the Chippewa with us spoke of the fact with solemn gravity. The return to the Mississippi was made, and the voyage resumed till nightfall, the last two hours being through dark forests of pine.

"CANOE LIFE" ASHORE.

In making landings the crew of the Dolly always sprang ashore first, and, after pulling the canoe out of the water, began building a fire to keep the mosquitoes away. Not until a good smoke was had could any comfort be found on shore. The camp then had to be surrounded with smudges made of rotten wood and grass. Then the sperm oil lamp of the Dolly would be rigged up, and the log completed. Meanwhile the guide, a thoroughbred cook, prepared a supper, and by the time the log was written up the evening meal was ready. Then, if the sky gave promise of rain before morning, the Dolly was carried up into camp, and the crew turned into quarters; while, if the night was clear and cold, as a rule, the crew slept on the ground before the fire.

MARQUETTE RIVER.

This morning began with a fog. The river in many places encroached upon steep hills, leaving banks fifty to sixty feet in height on one side and sand bars on the other. Many of these sharp bends of the river developed, in the forest, scenery of much beauty. The entrance of Marquette River was hailed with pleasure. This was the first locality truly indicated on the map. This river, the outlet of Lakes Marquette, La Salle, Plantagenette and Assawe, enters the Mississippi from the south, and is a larger stream than that in which it loses its identity. The Mississippi at once doubles in size and assumes the placid majesty of a mighty river. It is now fully eighty feet in width, and the bank on the right becomes a beautiful grove of maple, oak and beach. On the left the ground rises to a plateau, covered with a growth of scrubby pine, interspersed with stray hemlock and maple. We knew that the entrance to Lake Pemidji was not far distant. The next bend in the river shifted the woodland to the left bank, and the right merged into a swamp of reeds, cat-tails, scrubby poplars and hazel bushes. From the mouth of Marquette River 1,210 strokes, or about two miles' paddling, brought the Dolly out into the southern section of Pemidji.

LAKE PEMIDJI

is in reality two bodies of water—the larger seven by four miles and the smaller about two by one and a half miles—united by a strait not more than one hundred feet in width. The smaller portion of the lake is entirely hidden from the main portion by a thick forest of beech and poplar, which has grown up on the narrow strip of bottom land which divides the two bodies of water.

This portion of the lake is faced on the western side by dark, pine-covered bluffs, and away off to the eastward the background is formed by a tall hemlock forest. The course of the Dolly across to the outlet was due north. The lake was found to be very shallow, the average soundings being from six to nine feet, although in one place a depth of eighteen feet was reached. The run is about one and a half mile, but as the wind was adverse and very light the sails were not spread.

The pull through the channel connecting the larger with the smaller portion of the lake, overshadowed as it was by branching beech trees, was a great relief after the baking which the crew had received during the morning. A wigwam was seen on the shore, and hastily pulling ashore the crew was soon face to face with a swarthy red man. The crew produced, from the luggage van in the birch bark, a package of tobacco, which was presented to the Indian. He informed the guide that he belonged to the Pillages tribe of the Chippewas. Meanwhile his family, consisting of six children, had gathered around him.

PRIMITIVE LIFE.

The father was arrayed in a black flannel shirt, and the mother then appeared, clothed in a green blanket. The little boys, three in number, were utterly naked, and the little girls did not wear anything. They all appeared blissfully ignorant of the fact that they were without clothing, and alternately jumped into the water and rolled in the sand. These were the first human beings which we had seen since the 5th inst., exactly one week. The Indian treated the crew with great courtesy and invited him to his wigwam. The crew declined, and in turn invited the Pillages on board. The Indian was much interested and examined the craft with great care.

THE SAIL ON PEMIDJI.

The start across the lake was made, and a northwest wind springing up soon turned up waves of considerable size. The Dolly rode handsomely over the waves, which drenched the guides in the birch bark. As the crew soon became convinced that he could make the outlet close-hauled, the jib and mainsail were spread. The wind was over the port quarter. The water proof apron protected the legs and breast of the crew, but his back and arms had to take the spray. The rubber coat had been left off from fear of an upset, for the crew reasoned that he would rather take a wetting on board than a ducking in the lake with a heavy waterproof on. The passage was about three miles in length. The wind was blowing so that soundings could not be taken; the crew is satisfied, however, that the water is quite deep, from the long, heavy-crested waves which the wind raised. The scenery of the lake is quite beautiful. To the northward is a high bluff, crowned with a pine forest, through occasional openings in which a fine country is seen beyond. The eastern side is swampy near the lake, but rises in the background into a fine, wooded country, pines predominating. Off to the westward low hills of yellowish clay, with scattering pines, are seen.

The camp was prepared on the Mississippi, near the lake. The guide informs the crew that he will have seven miles of a continuous rapid to-morrow, and predicts that the Dolly will find there her grave. The crew has given her a complete coat of marine glue and shellac, and awaits the dangers of the morrow.

AMONG THE INDIANS.

The Advance of Civilization in the Territories.

The Iron Horse Making Way for Commerce—The Railroad Projects on Foot and Towns and Villages Cropping Up on All Sides—What Should Be Done with Poor Lo—Congressmen Among the Indians—Railroad Extension Through the Indian Territory—The Indian Question.

BOGGY DEPOT, Choctaw country, July 4, 1872.

The Congressional Sub-Committee on Indian Affairs has got thus far, near the heart of the Choctaw country, in the pursuit of its investigations. My last letter was written on the cars near

FORT SCOTT, KANSAS.

Although not unfamiliar with the extraordinary rapidity of the growth of towns and cities in the Western States and Territories, I was surprised to find Fort Scott, which, a few years back, was but a military post and then an insignificant settlement, now presenting all the evidences of a flourishing and prosperous town, with numerous churches, large public schools, three or four newspapers (one of them daily), several banking houses, half a dozen hotels, large stores and handsome suburban residences. A fine flouring mill and elevator have been recently erected here, as well as a foundry and machine shop for one of the railroads, and a good deal of capital and industry has been directed to the building up of a large trade in cement and paints, manufactured out of rock excavated in the vicinity. Of course much of the prosperity, present and prospective, of Fort Scott is and will be due to the fact that it is an important station of two great lines of railroad—the Missouri, Kansas and Texas, and the Kansas, Fort Scott and Gulf Railways, which are, to some extent, competing and parallel lines, and which give a new direction to the cattle trade of Texas.

A RAILROAD RACE.

These two railroad companies have had an exciting race for the right of way through the Indian Territory, in which struggle the first named road, although the latest in entering the field, came out the winner. It seems that in one of the Indian treaties, made in 1866, it was stipulated that there should be a right of way through the Indian Territory for two lines of railroad, one running north and south and the other east and west, and that the company which should first reach the Indian Territory, by way of the Neosho Valley, should be entitled to the privilege, North and South. The Gulf line, being first in the field, would have carried off the prize, but for a slight mistake in the calculations of its projectors, who construed the words "the Valley of the Neosho" in their broad sense, such as is generally applied to phrase "the Mississippi Valley," "the Ohio Valley," &c. The other company, however, which is officered by very energetic, practical men, which is financiered by August Belmont and the bonds and stock of which are largely owned by the Rothschilds, kept driving away at a rapid pace, completing half a mile a day for every working day since the operations were commenced, and sometimes three and four miles a day, reached the lower line very soon after its rival, and did so by way of the Neosho Valley, in the strictest, narrowest sense of the term; and, the claims of the two companies having to be decided by the Secretary of the Interior, the prize was awarded, on that technical ground, to the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Company, which now has its road in operation for 152 miles through the Indian Territory and expects to have it in operation for the remaining ninety miles to the Red River, in Texas, by the 1st of November next. Of course, so long as the Indian Territory is kept, as now, practically closed to white settlers, the company can expect no business from that 240 miles of its line, and will have to rely for its profits on the trade with Texas, much of which will be diverted from its present lines to the new line, which is even now doing a very large business in the way of transporting cattle from Texas to the Eastern market.

THE THIRTY-FIFTH PARALLEL ROAD.

I must not omit to mention that the Eastern and Western right of way through the Indian Territory has been also occupied by an important line of railroad—the Atlantic and Pacific, otherwise known as the Thirty-fifth Parallel line. The present Western terminus of the road is at a point in the Indian Territory where it is crossed by the Missouri, Kansas and Texas road, and which is now designated by the name of Vinita. There are at present two or three stores here and a post office, and the future importance of the place is prophesied with great confidence, the correctness of the prophecy being dependent, however, on the extinction of the Indian title and the opening of the Territory to settlement. A Cherokee half-bred named Bondinot, well known in Washington, where he has been for years pressing a claim for the restitution of duties exacted from him on tobacco manufactured in the Cherokee country (where the internal revenue laws were not supposed to be operative), owns a thousand acres of the land whereon the future city of Vinita is to stand, and is to that extent prospectively rich, but he seems to be not very popular with the members of his tribe, possibly on account of his speculative propensities, and does not reside among them.

THE INDIANS.

A few taciturn representatives of the red man, in gaudy-colored cotton jackets, with feathers in their slouched hats, revolvers in their belts, and with an expression of listless indifference at the passing of the railroad train, were all the indications to be observed of the existence of an Indian nation in this magnificent region. Indeed, for the whole 200 odd miles which we have thus far travelled in the Indian Territory, the appearance of an Indian has been the greatest rarity. This is accounted for by the fact that they avoid the high road of travel, probably through the instinct of self-preservation, and that they never locate their log cabins on the open prairie, but always in the timber lands and along the water courses, so that they are contemptuously designated by the wilder tribes as "the timber Indians."

We have now crossed the countries assigned to the Cherokees, the Creeks and the Choctaws, all of which tribes have separate local governments, such as they are, and have distinct languages and national peculiarities and amenities.

The Cherokees, occupying the region nearest to Kansas, are represented as the most worthless, shiftless and vindictive of the lot; the Creeks as a slight improvement on them, and the Choctaws as the superior of both.

THE CHEROKEE NEUTRAL LANDS.

We passed over a most magnificent tract of prairie country, known as the Cherokee neutral lands, to which a curious, but by no means strange, bit of speculative history is attached. It seems that in the last days of Secretary Harlan's administration of the Interior Department these lands, the most valuable in the whole Southwest, were sold in bulk (800,000 acres), without advertisement and without inviting competition, to a company of New England speculators organized under the title of an Emigration Society. So anxious was this intensely religious, young Christian Secretary for the welfare of the society that the very last day of his official position was devoted to the good work of securing this goodly tract to his friends of the Emigration Society; but unfortunately for his and their interests, his action in the premises was overruled and set aside by his successor in office, Mr. Browning, who, nevertheless, imitated the bright example of Harlan by selling these same lands to Mr. Joy, the representative of the Kansas and Gulf Railway Company. Of course this action of Browning was just as reprehensible as that of Harlan, and subject to the same criticism in law and in morals. A friendly suit was instituted to give judicial sanction to the fraud, but parties actually interested in defeating it have intervened in the suit and appealed to the Supreme Court from the favorable decision of the District Court. I understand that the matter was presented at the last session of the Supreme Court, and that from political considerations the decision is reserved until after the next Presidential election. It is assumed that the result will be the confirmation of the sale and the transfer to land jobbers and speculators of a body of land which would readily sell in quarter sections at $5 an acre, and from which the government will now realize only about one-fifth of that amount.

RAILROAD TOWNS.

The present southern terminal station of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad is at a place called McAllister's. There a temporary town is located, which supplies all the necessaries of life to the cattle drovers, traders, railroad workmen, and passengers by the El Paso mail line, which has its northern terminus here. The town is made up of tents, frame structures roofed with canvas, and railroad baggage cars assigned to duty as dining saloons. It has its bakery, its butchery, its ice-cream and lemonade saloons, its general grocery and provision stores, and its billiard and gambling facilities. We spent a night there, and can testify to the general peace and good order of the community, which had, however, been but recently secured by the expulsion, under penalty of death, of some lawless characters who had for some days infested the place. This town of tabernacles was preparing for a new start southward, the terminal station of the railroad being about to be removed some twenty miles further down the line. I should have given a passing notice to another but permanent railroad town, established by the company sixteen months ago, and called Parsons', in honor of the president of the company, just as its principal hotel is named after Mr. Belmont. The company seems determined to make this an important place, for it has built a fine station here and is now erecting an extensive building for its workshops. The baby city already has its churches, bank, newspaper and the usual variety of stores, and will, in a year or two, boast probably of a population of several thousand.

BOGGY DEPOT,

where the committee has been for two days, and which was reached by a day's staging on one of the El Paso coaches, is a settlement in the Choctaw country, which takes its queer name from a triple stream or creek known as the Little, the Middle and the Big Boggy. It contains an inn, which is the baiting place for travellers by the coaches, and a few small stores, kept by white men, who either have the necessary permits to reside in the Territory, or who, by marrying Indian women, have been adopted into the nation with all the rights of Indians.

DENATIONALIZING THE INDIANS.

Indeed, about the only people who have made any improvements in the Territory are such white persons; and, strange to say, much of the opposition that is manifested to the project of sectionalizing the country (that is, having it surveyed in sections) and throwing it open to settlement comes from that quarter, and the rest of it from the full-blooded Indians. Many of the best informed among the Indians, however, recognize the impossibility of maintaining their present tribal relations much longer, and are not unwilling to have the experiment tried, on condition, however, that the lands now occupied by them, or to which they may be entitled, be first secured to them in severalty, leaving the remainder to be disposed of in such manner as may be agreed upon between the United States government and the Indian nation. The impending change is the great question in this region, and the sooner it reaches a practical solution the better it will be for the Indians, the whites, the freedmen, the railroad companies and the people at large. As it is, there can be no permanent improvements made, nor any town be located along the line of the railroad, for the reason that no title to property can be conveyed. There is, therefore, a pressing and immediate necessity for action by Congress in the matter, and, as the committee has been devoting much attention to the subject, I presume that it will be prepared to submit some plan or proposition at the next session. My own idea is that the whole Indian Territory should be organized under some such form of government as the District of Columbia, leaving the Governor and Legislature to be appointed by the President, securing to every person now resident here, Indian, negro and white man, his homestead and 160 acres of land, and placing all the rest of the land under the general laws governing the public domain or allowing it to be sold in limited quantities to actual settlers and the proceeds to be used in providing for schools, the expenses of government and work of internal improvement. The success of such a system would depend necessarily on the character of the men to whom its administration would be committed, and it might be hoped that the President would be a little more circumspect in his selection of such men than he was in the instance alluded to. Matters of detail would suggest themselves, such as rendering Indian homesteads inalienable for a certain number of years. The main point would be to break up the present system, which precludes all possibility of improvement, and to admit this splendid section of country to a participation in the advantages offered to it by the extension of the railroad system.

INDIAN FRAUDS.

The committee has taken here the testimony of two of the former principal chiefs or governors of the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations. Both were involved in the corrupt bargain or transaction made with Mr. Latrobe in Washington, and shared with him in the enormous fees and commissions allowed him for settling up Indian claims and collecting back annuities. Secretary Boutwell has suspended further payments under these arrangements, and the facts developed before the committee will probably result in recommending the cancellation of all these contracts. What is certain is that the poor Indians have been villanously cheated in all these transactions, and that their own leading men have been instrumental in robbing them. That is one reason why I should not advocate an elective Executive or Legislature here. The poor Indians are too ignorant and shiftless to take care of their own interests, and the better class of them are not to be trusted. It may be objected that the same is the case with the whites; and I admit that there is force in the objection. But it is just barely possible that a dozen honest men might be recommended by the Society of Friends and other religious bodies who would consent to come here and devote themselves in an unselfish spirit to the philanthropic and important work which I have indicated.

The committee leaves this place to-morrow by stage for Tishamingo, the capital of the Chickasaw Nation.

THE NATIONAL HOLIDAY.

The colored people of this vicinity celebrated the national anniversary to-day by a barbecue in the adjacent woods. There were but few representatives of the red men present, and they were only lookers-on. The affair went off very creditably, much local *éclat* being given to it by the fact that the members of the Congressional Committee and their ladies were present, and that General Shanks, the chairman, delivered a short address on the occasion.

BROOKLYN AFFAIRS.

Fire.

Yesterday morning, at about half-past five o'clock, a fire broke out in the dwelling of M. J. Manning, a one story frame house, corner of Sackett street and New York avenue, which was entirely destroyed. The building was owned by a Mr. Elkins. The fire is supposed to have been of incendiary origin.

Cutting Affray in a Williamsburg Lager Beer Saloon.

At about midnight on Saturday John Brobig and George Miller became involved in a drunken quarrel in a lager beer saloon at Bartlett street and Broadway, Williamsburg, when, as alleged, Brobig stabbed Miller in the breast and right arm with a pocket knife. The wounds were slight. Brobig was arrested by officer Rea and locked up in the Stagg street station house.

The East River Dead.

The body of an unknown man was found floating in the East River, foot of North Third street, Williamsburg, yesterday afternoon. The face was greatly disfigured. The body was about five feet six inches in height, hair black, clothing dark. Coroner Whitehill was notified. A report that this was the body of the man who committed suicide on Thursday evening last at the foot of North Fifth street, by shooting himself and then falling into the river, was not authenticated.

A Barroom Affray.

Shortly before twelve o'clock on Saturday night Michael Riley, aged twenty-one years, of No. 220 Johnson street, while in Beeman's barroom, on Myrtle, near Hudson avenue, was attacked by a negro, who struck him three times on the head with a bottle. The men had been wrangling with each other, and the negro summarily put an end to the dispute by cracking Riley's head. He then escaped from the place and was not arrested. Riley was taken to the City Hospital by Detective Carr and Officer Regan, of the Myrtle avenue police.

The Cholera.

Several persons died in Brooklyn last week manifesting symptoms in their sickness not unlike that of cholera, but it was acute cholera morbus. Nearly every year for the past seventeen years there have been more or less deaths from Asiatic cholera in Brooklyn. In 1849 there were 650 deaths from this contagion. In 1854 there were 656 deaths, and then it was considered an epidemic. There was a cholera hospital situated at the corner of Flatbush avenue and Lafayette street. The citizens of Brooklyn are congratulating themselves that Brooklyn has not been visited by any diseases of a pestilential nature, with the exception of the smallpox, during the past year. The city is considered more healthy now than it has been before in years.

Policemen's Perils.

At an early hour yesterday morning Officer McGann, of the Van Brunt street police station, attempted to disperse a gang of roughs, who were creating a disturbance at the corner of Van Brunt and Dikeman streets. He caught one of the gang, and was about to take him in, when the others rushed to their companion's assistance and rescued him. They then attacked the officer, deprived him of his club, and beat him severely with it about the head and face. McGann, who was utterly powerless in their hands, cried for assistance, whereupon they fled from the place. Sergeant Reilly and Roundsman Martin subsequently arrested six of the gang—Peter Kerrigan, James Connory, James Bond, John Bond, John Dougherty and James Scott, who were locked up to answer.

About half-past three o'clock yesterday morning Officer Burrill, of the Fourth street police station, was assaulted at the corner of Grand and Seventh streets, where a gang of young rowdies were congregated in front of Higgins' liquor