The Rutland Daily Globe.

VOL. I....NO. 55 RUTLAND, VT., THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 3, 1873. PRICE THREE CENTS.

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THURSDAY, JULY 4, 1873.

Norwich University Commencement.

The annual commencement of Norwich University, the only military college in the New England States, was interesting through all the varied exercises.

The Baccalaureate sermon by the President, Rev. Malcom Douglas, D. D., was an able and eloquent discourse, well suited to the occasion as a parting address to the graduating class.

The vocal and instrumental concert on Tuesday evening was successful, musically. Cadet Dorr was among the participants. The day opened by infantry drill on the parade ground under the immediate command of Cadet Capt. A. M. Bailey of Montreal, P. Q., under the supervision of Gen. Edward H. Ripley of Rutland, who expressed the greatest satisfaction with the soldierly bearing and discipline of the cadets. The precision of the movements, the grace of carriage, which distinguished the individual cadets elicited admiring remarks from the spectators, while their rapidity in making deployments and rallies in skirmish drill drew out even open applause.

The artillery drill, under Cadet William Ripley Dorr, of Rutland, was the next exercise. The cadets of Norwich University claim that they have dismounted, mounted and fired their section of artillery in a second less time than the cadets at West Point. On this occasion, however, they were a second over that time, but it was done with precision and in a soldierly manner. The firing of thirty guns closed the exercises. During the time of the military exercises, the cadets quarters, recitations rooms, library and cabinet were thronged with visitors. The walls of the recitation rooms were adorned with architectural, mechanical, topographical and military drawings, executed by the engineering class.

The exercises of the graduating class took place on Wednesday. The three best orations of the day all came last, and were delivered by three cadets from Rutland, as follows:

Character—Cadet Corporal Archie L. Sheldon, Rutland.

Elements of Success in Life—Cadet Sergeant Paris A. Eastman.

After the Battle, with valedictory—Cadet Sergeant William R. Dorr.

The oration of Cadet Dorr was a production of high order, written in a flowing style and delivered in a graceful manner.

The degree of Batchelor of Science was conferred on the graduates in the following order.

1. Cadet Captain A. M. Bailey, Montreal, P. Q.
2. Cadet F. R. Bates, Northfield, Vt.
3. Cadet Sergeant P. A. Eastman, Rutland, Vt.
4. Cadet Lieutenant W. R. Dorr, Rutland, Vt.
5. Cadet [illegible] West Randolph, Vt.
6. Cadet Corporal A. L. Sheldon, Rutland, Vt.
7. Cadet C. M. Johnston, Northfield, Vt.
8. Cadet Lieutenant J. R. Moore, Elizabeth, N. J.

Cadet Sergeant Huntoon being in the "partial" course received an honorable certificate.

The University confers no honorary degrees except upon its own graduates or former cabets.

The oration before the trustees by Rev. A. B. Flanders of Chester, was a scholarly and eloquent production.

The poem by Capt. Charles A. Curtis, of the United States army commandant, was well received.

A reception was held at the president's residence from eight to ten o'clock. After the reception, occurred the feature of commencement of most interest to the young ladies of Northfield — the "hop" given by the class of 1873 at the Northfield House. This is a recognized custom of the commencement, and is attended by the faculty and friends of the cadets. It is looked forward to with much fluttering by the village belles, and keeps the dressmakers employed for weeks in preparation. The blue uniforms and brass buttons and the white dresses of the ladies formed a beautiful contrast in the mazes of the dance. The ball closed the commencement.

Northfield, June 28th.

[From the New York Herald]

O'SHAH.

MARK TWAIN SETS OUT TO "IMPRESS" THE KING OF KINGS—TERRORS OF THE UNDERTAKING—GLOOMY VIEWS AND FOREBODINGS LEAVING LONDON—SHOCKING DISCOVERY AT DOVER—OSTENDTATIOUS REMARKS ON FLANDERS AND THE FLOUNDERS—A FRESHET OF CHILDREN—DISTRESSING EXPERIENCE IN A FLEMISH HOTEL—A PAINSTAKING LANDLORD—THE MAN OF MARK READY TO BRING OVER THE O'SHAH—THE "LIVELY" AND "VIGILANT"—FIRST APPEARANCE OF THE BOSS MONARCH AND THE BRIMLESS STOVEPIPES—A CHEER AND A RECOGNITION—MARK TWAIN GETS O'SHAH ON BOARD AND PROCEEDS WITH HIM TO HOLD HINGLAND.

LONDON, June 18, 1873.

"Would you like to go over to Belgium and help to bring the Shah to England?"

I said I was willing.

"Very well then; here is an order from the Admiralty which will admit you on board Her Majesty's ship Lively, now lying at Ostend, and you can return here day after to-morrow."

That was all. That was the end of it. Without stopping to think, I had in a manner taken upon myself to bring the Shah of Persia to England. I could not otherwise regard the conversation I had just held with the London representative of the New York *Herald*. The amount of discomfort I endured for the next two or three hours cannot be set down in words. I could not eat, sleep, talk, or smoke with any satisfaction. The more I thought the thing over, the more oppressed I felt. What was the Shah to me, that I should go to all this worry and trouble on his account? Where was there the least occasion for taking upon myself such a responsibility? If I got him over all right, well. But if I lost him? if he died on my hands? if he got drowned? It was depressing any way I looked at it. In the end I said to myself, "If I get this Shah over here safe and sound I never will take charge of another one." And yet at the same time I kept thinking "This country has treated me well, stranger as I am, and this foreigner is the country's guest—that is enough, I will help him out; I will fetch him over; I will land him in London, and say to the British people, "Here is your Shah; give me a receipt?"

GEOGRAPHICAL INQUIRIES.

I felt easy in my mind now, and was about to go to bed, but something occured to me. I took a cab and drove down and routed out that *Herald* representative.

"Where is Belgium?" said I.

"Where is Belgium? I never heard such a question!"

"That doesn't make any difference to me. If I have got to fetch this Shah I don't wish to go to the wrong place. Where is Belgium? "Is it a shilling fare in a cab?"

He explained that it was in foreign parts—the first place I have heard of lately which a body could not go in a cab for a shilling.

I said I could not go alone, because I could not speak foreign languages well, could not get up in time for the early train without help and could not find my way. I said it was enough to have the Shah on my hands; I did not wish to have everything piled on me. Mr. Blank was then ordered to go with me. I was not so ignorant as I appeared, but I do like to have somebody along to talk to when I go abroad.

THE GREAT NATIONAL CONUNDRUM.

When I got home I sat down and thought the thing all over. I wanted to go into the enterprise understandingly. What was the main thing? That was the question. A little reflection informed me. For two weeks the London papers had sung just one continual song to just one continual tune, and the idea of it all was "how to impress the Shah." These papers had told all about the St. Petersburg splendors, and had said at the end that splendors would no longer answer; that England could not outdo Russia in that respect: therefore some other way of impressing the Shah must be contrived. And these papers had also told all about the Shahstic reception in Prussia and its attendant military pageantry. England could not improve on that sort of thing; she could not impress the Shah without soldiers; something else must be tried. And so on. Column after column, page after page of agony about how to "impress the Shah." At last they had hit upon a happy idea—a grand naval exhibition. That was it! A man brought up in Oriental seclusion and simplicity, a man who had never seen anything but camels and such things, could not help being surprised and delighted with the strange novelty of ships. The distress was at an end. England heaved a great sigh of relief; she knew at last how to impress the Shah.

My course was very plain, now, after that bit of reflection. All I had to do was to go over to Belgium and impress the Shah. I failed to form any definite plan as to the process, but I made up my mind to manage it somehow. I said to myself, "I will impress this Shah or there shall be a funeral that will be worth contemplating."

MAN'S INHUMANITY TO MAN, ETC.

I went to bed then, but did not sleep a great deal, for the responsibilities were weighing pretty heavily upon me. At six o'clock in the morning Mr. Blank came and turned me out. I was surprised at this and not gratified, for I detest early rising. I never like to say severe things, but I was a good deal tried this time. I said I did not mind getting up moderately early, but I hated to be called day before yesterday. However, as I was acting in a national capacity and for a country that I liked, I stopped grumbling and we set out. A grand naval review is a good thing to impress a Shah with, but if he would try getting up at six o'clock in the morning—but no matter; we started.

THE SUMMER BEAUTY OF ENGLAND.

We took the Dover train and went whistling along over the housetops at the rate of [illegible] miles an hour, and just as smoothly and pleasantly too, as if we were in a sleigh. One never can have anything but a very vague idea of what speed is until he travels on an English railway. Our "lightning" expresses are sleepy and indolent in comparison. We looked into the back windows of the endless ranks of houses abreast and below us, and saw many a homelike little family of early birds sitting at their breakfasts. New views and new aspects of London were about me; the mighty city seemed to spread further and wider in the clear morning air than it had ever done before. There is something awe-inspiring about the mere look of the figures that express the population of London when one comes to set them down in a good large hand—4,000,000! It takes a body's breath away, almost.

We presently left the city behind. We had started drowsy, but we did not stay so. How could we, with brilliant sunshine pouring down, the balmy wind blowing through the open windows, and the Garden of Eden spread all abroad? We swept along through rolling expanses of growing grain—not a stone or a stump to mar their comeliness, not an unsightly fence or ill-kept hedge; through broad meadows covered with fresh green grass as clean swept as if a broom had been at work there—little brooks wandering up and down them, noble trees here and there, cows in the shade, groves in the distance and church spires projecting out of them; and there were the quaintest old-fashioned houses set in the midst of smooth lawns or partly hiding themselves among fine old forest trees; and there was one steep-roofed ancient cottage whose walls all around, and whose roof, and whose chimneys were clothed in a shining mail of ivy leaves!—so thoroughly, indeed, that only one little patch of roof was visible to prove that the house was not a mere house of leaves with glass windows in it. Imagine that dainty little home surrounded by flowering shrubs and bright green grass and all sorts of old trees—and then go and try to imagine something more bewitching.

LANDMARKS OF THE AGES.

By and by we passed Rochester, and, sure enough, right there, on the highest ground in the town and rising imposingly up from among clustering roofs, was the gay old castle—roofless, ruined, ragged, the sky beyond showing clear and blue through the glassless windows, the walls partly clad with ivy—a time-scarred, weather-beaten old pile, but ever so picturesque and ever so majestic too. There it was, a whole book of English history. I had read of Rochester Castle a thousand times, but I had never really believed there was any such building before.

Presently we reached the sea and came to a stand far out on a pier; and here was Dover and more history. The chalk cliffs of England towered up from the shore and the French coast was visible. On the tallest hill sat Dover Castle, stately and spacious and superb, looking just as it has always looked any time these ten or fifteen years—I do not know its exact age, and it does not matter, anyway.

A WICKED DISCRIMINATION.

We stepped aboard the little packet and steamed away. The sea was perfectly smooth, and painfully brilliant in the sunshine. There were no curiosities in the vessel except the passengers and a placard in French setting forth the transportation fares for various kinds of people. The lithographer probably considered that placard a triumph. It was printed in green, blue, red, black and yellow; no individual line in one color, but the individual letters were separately colored. For instance, the first letter of a word would be blue, the next red, the next green, and so on. The placard looked as if it had the smallpox or something. I inquired the artist's name and place of business, intending to hunt him up and kill him when I had time; but no one could tell me. In the list of prices first class passengers were set down at fifteen shillings and four pence, and dead bodies at one pound ten shillings and eight pence—just double price! That is Belgian morals, I suppose. I never say a harsh thing unless I am greatly stirred; but in my opinion the man who would take advantage of a dead person would do almost any odious thing. I publish this scandalous discrimination against the most helpless class among us in order that people intending to die abroad may come back by some other line.

OSTENDTATIOUS INFORMATION.

We skimmed over to Ostend in four hours and went ashore. The first gentleman we saw happened to be the Flag Lieutenant of the fleet, and he told me where the Lively lay, and said she would sail about six in the morning. Heavens and earth. He said he would give my letter to the proper authority, and so we thanked him and bore away for the hotel. Bore away is good sailor phraseology, and I have been at sea portions of two days now. I easily pick up a foreign language.

Ostend is a curious, comfortable looking, massively built town, where the people speak both the French and the Flemish with exceeding fluency, and yet I could not understand them in either tongue. But I will write the rest about Ostend in to-morrow's letter.

ABOUT THE FLOUNDERS.

We idled about this curious Ostend the remainder of the afternoon and far into the long-lived twilight, apparently to amuse ourselves, but secretly I had a deeper motive. I wanted to see if there was anything here that might "impress the Shah." In the end I was reassured and content. If Ostend could impress him England could amaze the head clear off his shoulders and have marvels left that not even the trunk could be indifferent to.

These citizens of Flanders—Flounders I think they call them, though I feel sure I have eaten a creature of that name or seen it in an aquarium or a menagerie, or in a picture or somewhere—are a thrifty, industrious race, and are as commercially wise and far-sighted as they were in Edward the Third's time, and as enduring and patient under adversity as they were in Charles the Bold's. They are prolific in the matter of children; in some of the narrow streets every house seemed to have had a freshet of children, which had burst through and overflowed into the roadway. One could hardly get along for the pack of juveniles, and they were all soiled and all healthy. They all wore wooden shoes, which clattered noisily on the stone pavements. All the women were hard at work; there were no idlers about the houses. The men were away at labor, no doubt. In nearly every door women sat at needlework or something of that marketable nature—they were knitting principally. Many groups of women sat in the street, in the shade of walls, making point lace. The lace maker holds a sort of pillow to her knees with a strip of cardboard fastened on it, on which the lace pattern has been punctured. She sticks bunches of pins in the punctures and about them waves her web of threads. The numberless threads diverge from the bunch of pins like the spokes of a wheel, and the spools from which the threads are being unwound form the outer circle of the wheel. The woman throws these spools about her with flying fingers, in and out, over and under each other, and so fast that you can hardly follow the evolutions with your eyes. In the chaos and confusion of skipping spools you wonder how she can possibly pick up the right one every time, and especially how she can go on gossiping with her friends all the time and yet never seem to miss a stitch. The faces these ingenious Flounders were making were very dainty and delicate in texture and very beautiful in design.

FLOUNDER MORALS.

Most of the shops in Ostend seemed devoted to the sale of sea shells. All sorts of figures of men and women were made of shells; one sort was composed of grotesque and ingenious combinations of lobster claws in the human form. And they had other figures made of stuffed frogs—some fencing, some barbering each other, and some were not to be described at all without indecent language. It must require a barbarian nature to be able to find humor in such nauseating horrors as these latter. These things were exposed in the public windows where young girls and little children could see them, and in the shops sat the usual hairy lipped young woman waiting to sell them.

A SINGULAR CONTRIVANCE.

There was a contrivance attached to the better houses which I had heard of before, but never seen. It was an arrangement of mirrors outside the windows, so contrived that the people within could see who was coming either up or down the street—see all that might be going on, in fact—without opening the window or twisting themselves into uncomfortable positions in order to look.

A capital thing to watch for unwelcome (or welcome) visitors with, or to observe pageants in cold or rainy weather. People in second and third stories, had, also, another mirror which showed who was passing underneath.

A FLANDER'S HOTEL.

The dining room at our hotel was very spacious and rather gorgeous. One end of it was composed almost entirely of a single pane of plate glass, some two inches thick—for this is the plate glass manufacturing region, you remember. It was very clear and fine. If one were to enter the place in such a way as not to catch the sheen of the glass, he would suppose that the end of the house was wide open to the sun and the storms. A strange boyhood instinct came strongly upon me, and I could not really enjoy my dinner, I wanted to break that glass so badly. I have no doubt that every man feels so, and I know that such a glass must be simply torture to a boy.

This dining room's walls were almost completely covered with large oil paintings in frames.

HOW THEY "KEEP HOTEL" THERE.

It was an excellent hotel; the utmost care was taken that everything should go right. I went to bed at ten and was called at eleven to "take the early train." I said I was not the one, so the servant stirred up the next door and he was not the one; then the next door and the next—no success—and so on till the reverberations of the knocking were lost in the distance down the hall, and I fell asleep again. They called me at twelve to take another early train, but I said I was not the one and, and asked as a favor that they would be particular to call the rest next time, but never mind me. However they could not understand my English; they only said something in reply to signify that, and then went on banging up the boarders, none of whom desired to take the early train.

When they called me at one, it made my rest seem very broken, and I said if they would skip me at two I would call myself—not really intending to do it, but hoping to beguile the porter and deceive him. He probably suspected that and was afraid to trust me, because when he made his rounds at that hour he did not take any chances on me, but routed me out along with the others. I got some more sleep after that, but when the porter called me at three I felt depressed and jaded and greatly discouraged. So I gave it up and dressed myself. The porter got me a cup of coffee and kept me awake while I drank it. He was a good, well-meaning sort of flounder, but really a drawback to the hotel, I should think.

Poor Mr. Blank came in then, looking worn and old. He had been called far in all the different trains, too, just as I had. He said it was a good enough hotel, but they took too much pains. While we sat there talking we fell asleep and were called again at four. Then we went out and dozed about town till six, and then drifted aboard the Lively.

HER MAJESTY'S SHIP THE LIVELY.

She was trim and bright, and clean and smart; she was as handsome as a picture. The sailors were in bran new man-of-war costume, and plenty of officers were about the decks in the state uniform of the service—cocked hats, huge epaulettes, claw-hammer coats, lined with white silk—hats and coats and trousers all splendid with gold lace. I judged that these were all admirals, and so got afraid and went ashore again. Our vessel was to carry the Shah's brother, also the Grand Vizier, several Persian princes, who were uncles to the Shah, and other dignitaries of more or less consequence. A vessel alongside was to carry the luggage, and a vessel just ahead (the Vigilant) was to carry nobody but just the Shah and certain Ministers of State and servants, and the Queen's special ambassador, Sir Henry Rawlinson, who is a Persian scholar and talks to the Shah in his own tongue.

I was very glad for several reasons, to find that I was not to go in the same ship with the Shah. First, with him not immediately under my eye I would feel less responsibility for him; and secondly, as I was anxious to impress him, I wanted to practice on his brother first.

THE SHAH'S QUARTERS.

On the after deck of the Vigilant—very handsome ship—a temporary cabin had been constructed for the sole and special use of the Shah; temporary, but charmingly substantial and graceful and pretty. It was about thirty feet long and twelve wide, beautifully gilded, decorated and painted within and without. Among its colors was a shade of light green, which reminds me of an anecdote about the Persian party, which I will speak of in to-morrow's letter.

GETTING READY FOR HIS SHAHSHIP.

It was getting along toward the time for the Shah to arrive from Brussels, so I ranged up along side my own ship. I do not know when I ever felt so ill at ease and undecided. It was a sealed letter which I had brought from the Admiralty, and I could not guess what the purport of it might be. I supposed I was intended to command the ship—that is, I had supposed it at first, but after seeing all those splendid officers, I had discarded that idea. I cogitated a good deal, but to no purpose. Presently a regiment of Belgian troops arrived and formed in line along the pier. Then a number of people began to spread down carpets for fifty yards along the pier, by the railway track, and other carpets were laid from these to the ships. The gangway leading on board my ship was now carpeted and its railings were draped with bright colored signal flags. It began to look as if I was expected; so I walked on board. A sailor immediately ran and stopped me, and made another sailor bring a mop for me to wipe my feet on, lest I might soil the deck, which was wonderfully clean and nice. Evidently I was not the person expected after all. I pointed to the group of officers and asked the sailor what the naval law would do to a man if he were to go and speak to some of those admirals—for there was an awful air of etiquette and punctilio about the premises; but just then one of those officers came forward and said that if his instinct was correct an Admiralty order had been received giving me a passage in the ship, and he also said that he was the first lieutenant, and that I was very welcome and he would take pains to make me feel at home, and furthermore there was champagne and soda waiting down below; and furthermore still, all the London correspondents, to the number of six or seven, would arrive from Brussels with the Shah, and would go in our ship, and if our passage were not a lively one, and a jolly and enjoyable one, it would be a very strange thing indeed. I could have jumped for joy if I had not been afraid of breaking some rule of naval etiquette and getting hanged for it.

THE SHAH ARRIVES.

Now the train was signalled, and everybody got ready for the great event. The Belgian regiment straightened itself up, and some two hundred Flounders arrived and took conspicuous position on a little mound. I was a little afraid that this would impress the Shah; but I was soon occupied with other interests. The train of thirteen cars came tearing in, and stopped abreast the ships. Music and guns began an uproar. Odd-looking Persian faces and felt hats (brimless stovepipes) appeared at the car windows.

Some gorgeous English officials filed down the carpet from the Vigilant. They stopped a long car with the royal arms upon it, uncovered their heads and unlocked the car door. Then the Shah stood up in it and gave us a good view. He was a handsome, strong-featured man, with a rather European fairness of complexion; had a mustache, wore spectacles, seemed of a good height and graceful build and carriage and looked about forty or a shade less. He was very simply dressed—brimless stove-pipe and close-buttoned dark green military suit, without ornament. No, not wholly without ornament, for he had a band two inches wide worn over his shoulder and down across his breast, scarf fashion, which band was one solid glory of fine diamonds.

A Persian official appeared in the Shah's rear and enveloped him in an ample quilt—or cloak, if you please—which was lined with fur. The outside of it was of a whitish color and elaborately needle worked in Persian patterns like an India shawl. The Shah stepped out and the official procession formed about him and marched him down the carpet and on board the Vigilant to slow music. Not a Flounder raised a cheer. All the small fry swarmed out of the train now.

THE CORRESPONDENTS EXCITED.

The Shah walked back alongside his fine cabin, looking at the assemblage of silent, solemn Flounders; the correspondent of the London *Telegraph*, was hurrying along the pier and took off his hat and bowed to the "King of Kings," and the King of Kings gave a polite military salute in return. This was the commencement of the excitement. The success of the breathless *Telegraph* man made all the other London correspondents mad, every man of whom flourished his stovepipe recklessly and cheered lustily, some of the more enthusiastic varying the exercise by lowering their heads and elevating their coat-tails. Seeing all this, and feeling that if I was to "impress the Shah" at all, now was my time, I ventured a little squeaky yell, quite distinct from the other shouts, but just as hearty. His Shah-ship heard and saw and saluted me in a manner that was, I considered, an acknowledgment of my superior importance.

I do not know that I ever felt so ostentatious and absurd before. All the correspondents came aboard, and then the Persian baggage came also, and was carried across to the ship alongside of ours. When she could hold no more we took somewhere about a hundred trunks and boxes on board our vessel. Two boxes fell into the water, and several sailors jumped in and saved one, but the other was lost. However, it probably contained nothing but a few hundred pounds of diamonds and things.

UNDER WAY FOR ENGLAND.

At last we got under way and steamed out through a rough slip, the piers on either side being crowded with Flounders; but never a cheer. A battery of three guns on the starboard pier boomed a royal salute, and we swept out to sea, the Vigilant in the lead; we right in her wake, and the baggage ship in ours. Within fifteen minutes everybody was well acquainted; a general jollification set in, and I was thoroughly glad I had come over to fetch the Shah.

MARK TWAIN.

PRUNEL