

DAILY DISPATCH.

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RICHMOND, VA., SATURDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 18, 1865.

NUMBER 42.

OFFICIAL.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES,
February 11, 1865.

GENERAL ORDERS, NO. 2.—In entering upon the campaign about to open, the General-in-Chief feels assured that the soldiers who have so long and so nobly borne the hardships and dangers of the war, require no exhortation to respond to the calls of honor and duty.

With the liberty transmitted by their forefathers they have inherited the spirit to defend it. They have between war and abject submission before them.

To such a proposal brave men, with arms in their hands, can have but one answer.

They cannot better inlook for peace, nor the right of so long a life of property, as to fight to the death for a stern adherence to those who have abandoned their comrades in the hour of peril.

A list of participants is offered them to wipe out the stain of desertion from the records of the Confederate States, a pardon is announced to such deserters and men improve absent as shall return to the commands to which they belong within the shortest possible time, not exceeding twenty days from the publication of this order, at the headquarters of the department in which they may be.

Those who may be prevented by interruption of communications, may report within the time specified to the nearest commanding officer, and those who wish to accept the pardon for themselves, or who shall hereafter desert or absent themselves without leave, shall suffer such punishment as the courts may impose, and no application for clemency will be received.

That no resolution from the fate which our enemies intend for us, let every man devote all his energies to the common defence.

Our resources, wisely and valiantly employed, are ample, and our arms, sustained by a determined and united people, success, with God's assistance, cannot be doubtful.

The advantage of the enemy will have but little effect on us, do not permit them to impart our resources. Let us have our eyes constantly directed to the firm assurance that He who gave freedom to our fathers will bless the efforts of their children to preserve it. (R. E. LEE, General.)

All newspapers in the Confederate States are requested to copy six times the above (General Order No. 2) and send bills (with a copy of the paper) to the Richmond Enquirer for payment.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES,
February 11, 1865.

GENERAL ORDERS, NO. 3.—The discipline and efficiency of the army have been greatly impaired by men leaving their proper commands to join others, in which they find service more agreeable.

It is therefore declared that the provisions of General Order No. 2, of this date, from army headquarters, apply to such men as have left their proper commands and joined others without being regularly transferred. They will receive the pardon provided in that order upon complying with its conditions, or suffer the consequences attached to neglecting it.

The names of such absentees will be forthwith reported to the headquarters by the officers commanding them, and immediate measures taken to return them to their proper commands.

As soon as practicable, an inspection will be made, and changes will be preferred according to the results of such an order. (R. E. LEE, General.)

All newspapers in the Confederate States are requested to copy six times the above (General Order No. 3) and send bills (with a copy of the paper) to the Richmond Enquirer for payment.

PROCLAMATION BY THE PRESIDENT, APPOINTING A DAY OF FASTING, HUMILIATION AND PRAYER, WITH THANKSGIVING.

The Congress of the Confederate States have, by a joint resolution, invited me to appoint a day of public fasting, humiliation and prayer, with thanksgiving to Almighty God.

It is my solemn duty, at all times, and more especially in a season of public trial and adversity, to acknowledge our dependence on His mercy, and to bow in humble submission before His majestic and powerful arm, imploring His divine help, and devoutly rendering thanks for the many and great blessings which He has vouchsafed to us.

Let the hearts of our people turn contritely and humbly to God; let us recognize in His chastening hand the correction of a Father, and submit meekly to the trials and sufferings which have long borne heavily upon us, may be turned away by His merciful love; that His sustaining grace be given to our people, and His divine wisdom imparted to our rulers; that the Lord of Hosts will be with our armies, and fight for us against our enemies; and that He will graciously take our cause into His own hand and mercifully establish for us a lasting, but and honorable peace and independence.

And let us not forget to render unto His holy name the thanks and praise which are so justly due for His great goodness, and for the many mercies which He has extended to us amid the trials and sufferings of protracted and bloody war.

Now, therefore, I, JEFFERSON DAVIS, President of the Confederate States of America, do issue this my proclamation, appointing FRIDAY, the 17th day of March next, as a day of public fasting, humiliation and prayer, (with thanksgiving) for "having the favor and guidance of Almighty God," and I do earnestly invite all soldiers and officers to observe the same in a spirit of reverence, penitence and prayer.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Confederate States, at Richmond, this twenty-fifth day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

By the President:

J. P. BRIDGES, Secretary of State.

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RICHMOND, FREDERICKSBURG AND POTOMAC RAILROAD COMPANY,

FREDERICKSBURG, FEBRUARY 15, 1865.

NOTICE.—ALL ARTICLES, on which tolls are payable, intended for transportation by PASSENGER TRAINS over this railroad, must be brought to the STATION AGENT at the station where they are to be received, weighed, and the toll thereon paid, not less than FIVE HOURS before the time for the departure of the train from any such station.

The attention of passengers and consignors from Richmond are particularly invited to this notice.

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Richmond Dispatch.

BY J. A. COWARDIN & CO.

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Agents and News Dealers will be furnished at TRINITY DOLLARS per hundred copies.

All orders must be accompanied with the money, to insure attention; and all remittances by mail will be at the risk of those who make them.

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Advertisements published till forbid will be charged THREE DOLLARS per square for every insertion.

SATURDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 18, 1865.

It is a common boast of the North, and religiously believed by most of its people, that cold climates beget and keep alive self-reliance, energy, enterprise, skill and inventiveness; and that warm climates produce indolence, carelessness, ignorance and improvidence. If that be the fact, we wonder that they do not stick to their cold climates instead of seeking to settle in latitudes where the enervating influences of the sun may cause them to degenerate.

But there are certain facts in the history of mankind which conflict seriously with this favorite Northern theory. We do not mention these in a spirit of self-complacency, but simply in self-defence, and in defence of the Sun, which performs some important offices in the economy of nature. This much, at least, must be conceded: No Northern man will contend that the sun diminishes the energy of vegetation, or begets weakness and effeminacy in the animal life.

No one will pretend that the gigantic growth of Southern vegetation is surpassed in Northern latitudes, or that the lion, the tiger, the elephant, the Arab horse, are inferior in strength, courage and speed to the animals of cold countries.

If man is an exception to this rule; if the sun, which develops and energizes all the rest of creation, which stimulates, fosters and perfects all plants and all animals, renders humanity effeminate and indolent, we should like to see some evidences of the fact. We do not find that evidence in the condition of the aboriginal races of America when first discovered by Europeans. In the high latitudes, the Indians were rude, improvident and savage; in all the tropical parts of the continent, in Mexico, Central America and Peru, they exhibited forecast, skill, inventiveness, and were surrounded by vast architectural remains, that proved the existence of an immemorial civilization.

If we go to the Old World, we look in vain for any illustration of the self-complacent Northern proposition. We find that man was created about the centre of Asia, and we should thence infer that that region was the most favorable locality for his full growth and development. We are no bigots on this subject; not extreme, by any means, in our vindication of the Sun. The Sun, no doubt, has his faults, a spot or two here and there; but, on the whole, is a benignant luminary, not unfavorable to human progress. We are disposed to concur with a theory, that as we recede from the isothermal latitude of creation, and go too far north, or too far south, man and all other created things deteriorate. Nevertheless, it is "better to have too much sun than too little. In the equatorial and tropical regions of the Old World there is abundant monumental and architectural evidence that, before Greece and Rome existed, those regions were always inhabited by energetic and civilized races, while in the Northern latitudes there was only a dreary waste of ignorance and barbarism.

It was under a glowing sun that the patriarchs, prophets and apostles of Divine Revelation were called to the great mission of reclaiming the human race from the ruins of the fall. It was under such a sun that Moses, Joshua, David and Solomon were matured to the most vigorous manhood and the loftiest wisdom. It was there that the Sun of Righteousness first arose, and blended its fructifying rays with that luminary, which is spoken of in Scripture as a type of the spiritual energy and life-giving power of the Son of God.

Why has Northern Asia been always

barbarous, and Southern Asia been always civilized? Why, if the Northern theory be true, was Egypt the most civilized and powerful of nations, the granary of the world, the land of intelligent and persevering industry, bearing evidence even now, in its pyramids, obelisks and catacombs, of a combination of labor and art which even modern civilization has not been able to equal? Or, if cold is necessary to enliven and stir into action human energy and genius, what do they make of the valor, the enterprise, the philosophy, the arts, the eloquence, the refinement, the civilization of sunny Greece? What of Rome, the mightiest power that ever dominated the earth, whose soldiers were capable of doing more, of daring more, of suffering more, than the soldiers of any land, before or since; who chained Northern barbarians at their chariot wheels, and whose conquests compacted and integrated that magnificent empire till it was round and resplendent as the sun that warmed into life its victorious eagles? Was Julius Caesar a Northern man? Was Hannibal, that Carthaginian hero, who, in the opinion of some of the best modern soldiers, was the greatest military genius the world has ever produced, begotten of an iceberg? Where was the Gothic genius when these Titanic Children of the Sun made the earth tremble beneath their ponderous footsteps?

If we come down to a still later period, we find another memorable refutation of the stereotyped Northern absurdity, that warm climates beget effeminacy and weakness. What becomes, under this theory, of the Arabian Empire, which, under the banners of Mahomet, went forth, conquering, posing and enslaving mankind? Their creed was false and their swords were merciless; but the question is not of truth or mercy. It is whether warm climates enervate the human race, take the sap out of their manhood, and render them only fit for slaves. The Arabians shook Asia to its foundation, and added nation after nation to their conquering flag. In thirty years after Mahomet's death, thirty-six thousand cities had been subdued, and the Persian monarchy was overthrown; they penetrated Europe, invaded Tartary, and threatened India. Spain became a tributary kingdom. The eighth century saw the Arabian Empire stretching from the Ganges to the Atlantic; from the Pyrenees to the deserts of Africa. Nor was it alone in the character of heroes and fanatics that they figure in history. They built the Alhambra; they exhibited an intellectual development equal to their courage; and Europe is deeply indebted to them for literature, science and taste. The brilliancy of their knowledge was not surpassed by the glare of their conquests and the lustre of their victories; and in the track of desolation that lay behind their march sprung up flowers of refinement, courtesy and civilization.

It is not certainly in the northern parts of the world—it is not among Esquimaux or Laplanders—that we must look for the grandest developments of man. Whilst the highest exhibitions of intelligence and energy were given by the Mediterranean nations, the northern multitudes were miserable savages.—Whilst Greece and Rome displayed wonders of architectural skill, the dwellers in the cold regions, now known as Russia, Germany, Sweden and Denmark, could not build comfortable dwellings to protect them against the rigor of their own climate. The civilization of Russia, such as it is, is not older than the days of Peter the Great, and he had to visit lands where the sun shone to procure the exotic and transplant it to his bleak domains. Germany, like Russia, is indebted to her conquest by the Sarmatians—a comparatively southern people—for a civilization which is not indigenous. The sunny land of France, inhabited by a people of Roman descent, and England, whose controlling element of society is of Norman origin, are the masters of the world. Who was Raphael? Who Canova? Who Dante? Who Columbus? Who Napoleon? Italy, even in her old age, has given to the world a constellation of genius and energy, made up of stars of the first magnitude, which will shine on till the firmament above is rolled up like a scroll.

The traveler who now visits Europe to behold the wonders of science, energy and art, does not go to Russia, Sweden

Denmark or Norway. He finds there a very gluttonous and animal people, but not superior knowledge and refinement. The Northern States of this Union have, indeed, a civilization, which consists in the application of mechanical discoveries to the increase of individual gain; but the progress of this war has developed a latent barbarism only equalled by that of Russia. It is true, the material and national progress of the United States, up to 1861, was prodigious, if not unparalleled; but it was under a Southern leader that she achieved her independence, and under a long line of Southern Presidents and Southern Statesmen that she rose to greatness and prosperity. If she wants to make a fair experiment of the capabilities of Northern and Southern races, let her withdraw her armies, acknowledge our independence, and see what the result will be at the end of the century. Even in our tributary condition under the old Government, we produced the greatest of its political and military leaders, and supplied by our industry three-fourths of its revenue. Let us see what we can do when we set up for ourselves! It is the dread of that result, that, with all its vain-glorious confidence in the superiority of Northern energies, induces a Northern journal to declare that not for Canada, nor Mexico, nor all America beside, would it permit the South to go.

The benevolent solicitude of the manufacturing and commercial men of England, for the continuance of the war in America, which was so agreeably relieved by intelligence of the successful resistance of Fort Fisher to Admiral Porter's first assault, must be once more painfully excited by the subsequent intelligence. The fall of Fort Fisher will be aggravated by the first news of the coming of a Peace Commission to Fortress Monroe. We could not wish our worst enemy more bitter pangs than those which are, perchance, while we write, torturing the hearts of the merchant princes of London and the lords of the loom in Manchester. War, with all its blessings,—as to English commerce and manufactures—is threatening to recede from the western horizon, and Peace, with all its horrors, darkening the sky. The probability that a hundred thousand men will not be killed in America this year, and a hundred thousand homes clothed in mourning, is enough to break their benevolent hearts. We doubt whether Palmerston or Russell will sleep a wink from the time they hear that a Peace Commission has started from Richmond till they learn that it has ended in a perfect failure. What would become of them if every two weeks they could not announce that "Her Majesty's Government sees no reason to depart from the course of rigid neutrality which it marked out for itself at the beginning of these unhappy differences, and that the time for intervention has not yet arrived?"

We envy them the exquisite relief of their agonizing suspense which the next steamer from America will bring. Perhaps, some day, the rest of the world will be permitted to indulge a like philanthropic satisfaction over affairs in England. We know it is improbable at present; but stranger things have happened. The English cannot imagine that England will ever be ruined and conquered, and for no other reasons, as one of their wittiest writers has said, but because it seems so very odd it should be ruined and conquered. Austrians, Russians and Prussians have had the same conceit, and had it taken out of them. England has now enjoyed more than the usual allowance of peace. A period has elapsed, since she was disturbed by internal war, as long as that which Rome enjoyed after the battle of Actium. For three hundred years after that event Rome was as solid and undisturbed as the corner-stone of a granite monument. The tempests of war only raged on the remote limits of the mighty empire; the Roman spear and shield were unseen in the streets of the "Eternal City," except in the gay pageantries of triumph. On one occasion, when a gust of alarm, out of all proportion to the cause, was raised by an insurrection in the East, "Hush, ye palpatations of Rome!" was the message of Aurelian from the distant deserts of the Euphrates. "We have chased, we have besieged, we have crucified, we have

slain." And Rome sunk back upon her luxurious pillows, and the wings of Peace fanned her into voluptuous repose. It would have seemed very odd indeed to a Roman of that day, with his country's foot on the neck of the world, to imagine that Rome would be ever ruined and conquered.

We know that the English are brave, and we have heard often enough that they will make a heroic defence when their time comes. This is no more than the world has a right to expect. The Confederacy, which has been furnishing a gladiatorial display for England's entertainment for the last four years, is also brave, and her courage has given the English spectators special satisfaction. Fighting, bleeding, dying, sword in hand, and with a smile of stern defiance upon their lips, the conduct of our Confederate gladiators has drawn down Bravo after Bravo, and Encore after Encore, from all parts of the amphitheatre. We have a right then to insist that, when England's turn comes, we shall not be swindled. We confess that we are not without some misgivings on the subject. Sidney Smith once said: "As for the spirit of the peasantry, in making a gallant defence behind hedge-rows and through plate-racks and hen-coops, highly as I think of their bravery, I do not know any nation in Europe so likely to be struck with panic as the English; and this from their total unacquaintance with the science of war. Old wheat and beans blazing for twenty miles round; cart mares shot; sows of Lord Somerville's breed running wild over the country; the minister of the place wounded solely in his hinder parts; all these scenes of war an Austrian or a Russian has seen three or four times over; but it is now three centuries since an English pig has fallen in a fair battle upon English ground. The old edition of Plutarch's Lives, which lies in the corner of your parlor window, has contributed to work you up to the most romantic expectations of our Roman behavior. You are persuaded that Lord Amherst will defend Kew Bridge like Coelax, and some maid of honor break away from her captivity and swim over the Thames. I hope we shall witness all this, if the French do come; but, in the meantime, I am so enchanted with the ordinary English behavior of these invaluable persons that I earnestly pray no opportunity may be given them for Roman valor, and for those very un-Roman pensions which they would all, of course, take especial care to claim in consequence."

If the Rev. Sidney Smith is a true prophet, we shall never have half the fun out of England that she has had out of the Confederacy. Medicated with the drugs of a long peace, she will not be able to make even a respectable fight when the long, dead lull of three centuries generates the tornado.

THE NEWSPAPER BUSINESS IN YANKEELAND.

The New York Evening Post, in a recent article on the question of repealing the prohibitory duty on imported paper, makes the following remarks on the great increase in the newspaper business:

The newspapers and other periodicals of our country have increased immensely within the last ten years, and most largely of all since the beginning of the war. Ten years ago the whole amount of business done by the wholesale news agents did not probably exceed in amount the sum of \$750,000 yearly. At present, the cash receipts of the American News Company, in this city, for the sale of newspapers, magazines, books and stationery, for the eleven months ending with the 31st of December last, have reached the sum of \$2,226,372.83. We learn from the office of that company, that probably forty millions of newspapers were handled within that time by persons in the employ of the company, of whom seventy were constantly occupied in getting them in, charging, distributing and shipping them. For wrapping-paper and twine, with which to pack this enormous mass, the company paid twelve thousand dollars.

An EMPEROR'S PRESENT.—On the occasion of the new year, the Emperor presented to the son of Prince Napoleon an automaton toy, representing a gardener with a barrow. The figure walks backward and forward, and turns its head in the most natural manner, at the same time wheeling before it whatever may be put in the barrow.

The present Emperor Napoleon's niece, Madame Bure, has just died, aged eighty-four. Her son, His Majesty's foster brother, is attached to the Imperial household as Treasurer to the Crown.

HUMAN SACRIFICES AT DAHOMY.

The Monitor publishes a letter from Whyte, which supplies details respecting the festival of human sacrifices recently held at Abomey, the capital of Dahomey, before the King and in presence of all his court and great dignitaries of State. The letter says:

The King having announced to the people that, in a short time, to honor the names of Agadja, his ancestor, and King Ghezo, his father, his prisoners belonging to the rebel tribes of the Annahos would be immolated on the market place, with the usual ceremony, three days afterwards, he decided that this barbarous deed should be accomplished one hour before sunrise. Many Europeans, who were in the town had an audience of the Monarch, and implored him to give up the horrible sacrifice.

The King declared that he could not suppress the national festival, but that, in consideration for the foreigners, he consented to reduce the number of the victims to twelve. On the eve of the sacrifice he went to a great shed, under which the forty prisoners were secured to posts. He gave an order that twenty-eight should be released, and that thirty should be taken back to their parents, then addressed himself to the twelve others, in a solemn manner to them that, next morning, in expiation of the crimes committed by the chief of their tribe, and to satisfy the shade of his father and his ancestor, they would be decapitated before the assembled people. The unfortunate men heard the royal speech with the utmost indifference.

The King added that two of them would be executed with his own hand, and then retired. A short time afterwards arrived Prince Bousson, the King's brother. He chose two of the prisoners, announced to them that they had been selected to be dispatched by his brother, but in order to be admitted to such an honor it was necessary to purify their crime-stained bodies, and that they must pass the night in the great fetich temple, prostrated before the idols. On the next day the prisoners were led to the market place, their hands bound behind their backs. The King presided at the ceremony, seated on a large ivory throne, surrounded by his court, the great dignitaries of the kingdom, and the ministry.

On the centre of the place was a large silver vessel, intended to receive the blood of the victims.—When the hour had come, the King advanced, took a very thin steel sabre, and depressed the heads of the two prisoners he was about to immolate. These poor wretches, on the order given to them, were placed at the edge of the vessel which was used to catch their blood. At the conclusion of the first execution the crowd uttered enthusiastic shouts of applause for full five minutes, after which the King resumed his seat on the ivory throne. The other prisoners were executed by the great fetich man, or high priest, who picked up each victim's head and showed it to the people, whilst they uttered ferocious yells.

When all was over, the populace fell upon the bodies of the unfortunate victims, which they cut into pieces and then drank their blood. The King retired in great pomp, and caused the twelve heads to be fixed on the walls of his palace. These monstrous scenes occur three or four times a year, and this is the nineteenth century! Unfortunately human sacrifices are not confined to the kingdom of Dahomey. They take place also very frequently in the kingdom of Abbeys, and in the Kingdom of Benin, also situated in Africa, and in the same region as Dahomey.

FOOT FOR WALK STOMACH.—In the "Memoirs of Count Segur," vol. 1, page 108, there is the following anecdote: "My mother-in-law, the Countess de Segur, being asked by Voltaire respecting her health, told him that the most painful feeling she had grown from the decay of her stomach, and the difficulty of finding any kind of aliment, it could bear. Voltaire, by way of consolation, assured her that he was once for nearly a year in the same state, and believed to be incurable; but that, nevertheless, a very simple remedy had restored him. It consisted in taking no other sustenance than rolls of eggs beaten up with the flour of potatoes and water. Though this circumstance took place as far back as fifty years ago, and respected so extraordinary a personage as Voltaire, it is astonishing how little it is known, and how rarely given to the English. Its efficacy, however, in cases of debility, cannot be questioned, and the following is the mode of preparing this valuable article of food, as recommended by Mr John Sturges:—Receipt.—Beat up an egg in a bowl, and then add a little cold water, cold water, mixing the whole well together; then add two tablespoonfuls of the farina of potatoes, to be mixed thoroughly with the liquor in the bowl.—Then pour in as much boiling water as will cover the whole into jelly, and mix it well. It may be taken either alone or with the addition of a little milk, and moist or best sugar, not only for breakfast, but in cases of great stomachic debility, or in consumptive disorders, at the other meals. The dish is light, easily digested, extremely wholesome and nourishing. Bread or biscuit may be taken with it as the stomach gets stronger."

WHO HIS FRIENDS IS.—In the correspondence on peace lately published, Major Thomas T. Eckert appeared as Lincoln's confidential friend in receiving the Confederate representatives. A Yankee paper tells who he is:

"He is the superintendent of the military telegraph lines, which position he has occupied for three years. He conveys all important dispatches from the President and Secretary of War to the general in the field. His system is so complete that, though many of his cipher dispatches have fallen into the enemy's hands, they have never been able to read them."

COMPLIMENT TO AN ACTRESS.—Miss General Leader (Miss Davenport) was highly complimented on Friday, in the House of Representatives, for the very other private bill was "Blocked" by the "objection" of five Representatives, no obstacle was placed in the way of the passage of a bill providing for the payment of a very just claim for the expenses of her deceased husband while making one of his wagon-road explorations for Government in the far Western wilderness. Mrs. Leader is now performing at one of the New York theatres.

RELIGION IN PRISON.—There are in the prisoners' camp in Elmira, New York, at the present time, one thousand six hundred and eleven rebel prisoners who make profession of religion. They have come from twelve different States—Virginia, North Carolina furnishing the largest number.—Five hundred and forty-two are Methodists, five hundred and forty-seven Baptists, one hundred and thirty Presbyterians, two hundred and twenty Catholics, and the remainder are distributed among the less prominent religious denominations.

REQUEST.—Miss Sager, a member of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, has lately departed this life, and left the congregation of which she was a member a fine parsonage, together with another property valued at \$20,000.

Ralph Waldo Emerson stated, in a recent lecture, that American poets find it comprehensive in the negro soldier, who dies in the trenches with his musket in one hand and his spelling-book in the other.

The extensive sander mills of the Nashua Manufacturing Company, in Easthampton, Massachusetts, were shut down on Wednesday last, the company having over four hundred thousand dollars worth of goods on hand for which there is no demand.

Joseph Jefferson took a benefit on the 24th of November, at the Theatre Royal, Melbourne, Australia. He has been a great favorite in Australia for about three years.

A local court in the District of Columbia has decided that a husband must pay his wife's debts contracted before marriage.

The Africa brings news of the death of Robert F. Troup, the celebrated French socialist, and author of several books.

Mr. Wallace, the eminent musical composer, is expected to visit New York in the near future.

Twenty-seven thousand Five Hundred and thirty-three dollars, Three years ago the City of New York has recovered \$1,000,000 of the cost of a coal-belt.