DAILY DISPATCH.

VOLUME XXVIII. RICHMOND, VA., SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 4, 1865. NUMBER 54.

LETTER LIST.

LIST OF LETTERS remaining in the RICHMOND POST-OFFICE on the 2d day of March, 1865.

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mh 4—1t J. O. STEGER, Postmaster.

Richmond Dispatch.

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SATURDAY MORNING.....MARCH 4, 1865.

Whether, on the whole, the world is really advancing, is a question which admits of much being said on both sides. Macaulay's picture of English progress would lead us to decide that question in the affirmative, as far as England is concerned. He tells us, that could England of Charles the Second's reign be set before Englishmen now, they would not know one landscape in a hundred, or one building in ten thousand. She had then but little more than five millions of inhabitants; the annual revenue of the Crown was about £1,400,000; agriculture was in a rude and imperfect state; St. James's Square was a receptacle for dead cats and dogs; the streets of London were involved in such profound darkness as to make walking dangerous; the roads in the country were bogs and sloughs, in which carriages were often swamped unless they had six horses; sixpence a day was paid the weaver at the loom; children of six years old were thought fit to labor in the clothing trade; meat was so dear that it is estimated by King, that of the 880,000 families of England, 440,000 only ate animal food twice a week, and the remainder ate it not at all, or at most not oftener than once a week; the great mass of the nation lived almost entirely on rye, barley and oats; the paupers and beggars were estimated at 1,330,000 out of a population of 5,550,000, as great as it is at present, with a population four times as large; the rate of deaths in the capital was one in twenty-three, now it is one in forty; men died faster in the country than they do now in towns; noblemen had not the comforts which are now common to their servants. But if it be contended that these were still good times, morally, socially and intellectually, let us bear in mind some further facts related by our historian.—He tells us, what indeed has ever since been matter of world-wide notoriety, that in those days extravagant licentiousness prevailed, and that woman was morally and intellectually degraded; the profligacy of the English plays, satires, songs and novels, far exceeded the most disgusting productions of Eugene Sue and his obscene disciples; the poets rejoiced to put their loosest and most indecent verses into the mouths of women, to be repeated at the theatres; husbands of station beat their wives without compunction; statesmen, without giving scandal, could easily accumulate princely estates; the most savage intemperance of party spirit prevailed; blood could not flow fast enough to satisfy the thirst for political revenge; Whigs hooted at Tory victims and Tories at Whigs as they passed on to execution; there was no daily paper in England; few of the gentry had libraries as good as English footmen now possess; female education was almost entirely neglected; the poetry and eloquence of Greece were not familiar even to accomplished gentlemen; men were pressed to death for refusing to plead and women burned for coining; moss troopers and robbers so abounded in parts of the kingdom that the gentry and larger farm-houses were fortified, and parishes were obliged to keep bloodhounds for the purpose of hunting freebooters, while there were portions of the metropolis in which the warrant of the Chief Justice could not be executed without the aid of a body of armed men. And yet, may it not be too soon to accept this picture of Macaulay as decisive of the question? There are social anomalies in her civilization which remain to be solved, and which may yet perplex and confound the master spirits of the age. It remains to be seen whether the bulk of her population are always going to drudge from morn till night for bare necessities of life, and with all the intellectual and moral deferences which this implies. We have seen a nation which had made more rapid progress than England come suddenly to grief.

How long is it since the London *Times* spoke thus admiringly of American progress? "In an interval of little more than half a century it appears that this extraordinary people have increased above five hundred per cent. in numbers; their national revenue has augmented near seven hunderd per cent., while their expenditure has been increased little more than four hundred per cent. The prodigious extension of their commerce is indicated by an increase of near five hundred per cent. in their imports and exports, and six hundred per cent. in their shipping. The increased activity of their internal communications is expounded by the number of their post-offices, which has been increased more than a hundred-fold, the extent of their post roads, which has been increased thirty-six fold, and the cost of their post-office, which has been augmented into a seventy-two-fold ratio. The augmentation of their machinery of public instruction is indicated by the extent of their public libraries, which have increased in a thirty-two fold ratio, and by the creation of school libraries, amounting to 2,000,000 volumes.

"They have completed a system of canal navigation which, placed in a continuous link, would extend from London to Calcutta, and a system of railways which, continuously extended, would stretch from London to Van Dieman's Land, and have provided locomotive machinery by which that distance would by traveled over in three weeks, at the cost of one and a half pence per mile. They have created a system of inland navigation, the aggregate tonnage of which is probably not inferior in amount to the collective inland tonnage of all the other countries in the world; and they possess many hundreds of river steamers, which import to the roads of water the marvellous celerity of roads of iron. They have, in fine, constructed lines of electric telegraph, which, laid continuously, would extend over a space longer by three thousand miles than the distance from the North to the South Pole, and have provided apparatus of transmission by which a message of three hundred words, dispatched under such circumstances from the North Pole, might be delivered in *writing* at the South Pole in one minute, and by which, consequently, an answer of equal length could be sent back to the North Pole in an equal interval."

Who can pretend to say that a blight as sudden and dismal as that which has come upon this luxuriant prosperity may not one day throw England centuries back in the march of progress? Yet, there is high authority for a more hopeful view of human affairs. An able Scottish writer informs us that he once asked M. Guizot, who, for many years, was the first minister of France, who had lived through some of the most interesting and troubled periods of human history, who had studied men contemplatively, as well as acted with them and governed them,—what feeling was strongest in his mind as he looked back and looked forward—hope or despondency for his country and the world. The reply of this sagacious philosopher and statesman was: "I do not feel that my experience of man has either disposed me to think worse of them, or indisposed me to serve them; nor, in spite of failures which I lament, of errors which I now see and acknowledge, and of the present gloomy aspect of affairs, do I despair of the future. On the contrary, I hope; I see glimpses of daylight; I see elements of rescue; I see even now faint dawnings of a better day. The truth I take to be this: The march of Providence is so slow, and our desires are so impatient—the work of progress is so immense, and our means of aidiing it so feeble,—the life of humanity is so long, and that of individual man so brief, that what we see is often *only the ebb of the advancing wave;* and thus discouragement is our inevitable lot. *It is only history that teaches us to hope.*" Let us trust, if we can, that M. Guizot may be right, and that man is not a pendulum, constantly vibrating between the opposite extremes of civilization and barbarism.

Nothing can be more noble than the conduct of the Women of the Confederacy during this war. Always giving them credit for the highest womanly virtues and graces, for refinement of manners, and purity and warmth of heart, we had not been prepared for the exhibition of such qualities as the mothers and wives of this people have displayed under the most terrible ordeal to which civilized and Christian humanity was ever subjected. Even the glories of our victorious battle-fields are surpassed by the moral sublimity of the self-sacrifice which has been quietly made in every Southern home when the mother placed upon the altar of battle the dearest object of her heart. Man may fight from the belligerent instincts of manhood, from ambition and love of excitement, as well as patriotism, but when the mother, gentle and unambitious, gives up her child to the privations and perils of war, it is such a sacrifice of all maternal instincts at the shrine of duty that we can only liken it to the supernatural faith of the patriarch Abraham; and every Southern home, where such a scene has been witnessed, to that Mount Moriah, where, rather than to the long line of Judah's heroes, every son of Israel's looks, as to that which gave birth and immortality to the chosen people of God. No greater miracle has this war presented than the Gentle Doves of our summer land, seemingly only fitted for summer scenes, transformed into eagles, "queens of the cliff and the wave, flapping the wild wing in the winter sky," and teaching their young to battle with the thunder and the storm. Nor is it to their own sons alone that the overflowing devotion of their nature has been manifested. What house is there in all the land which has not sheltered the sick and wounded soldier? In the poor stranger at the gate, dusty, battle-worn and bleeding, the Southern matron has seen the representative of her own absent son.—In the hospital she has been an angel of light and mercy. Who can tell the anguish of that weary place,—the anguish of body and mind,—where the only sights the sufferer sees are sights of misery like his own, and the only sounds he bears are moans of pain and dying prayers? The taper that sheds its feeble ray upon the midnight darkness is a type of the fainting hope within his heart. What a sense of utter desolation and loneliness hangs like a funeral pall over every couch. The pangs of the maimed and wounded body can be surmounted by the soul, but when the soul itself is maimed and wounded, when the eyes of strangers pierce it with cold, indifferent glances, and the fountains of sympathy that welled up so bright and clear at home are cut off, what earthly power can minister to that mind diseased? It is there that Woman, with her gentle hand upon the cold brow, and her looks of compassion, comes, like a messenger from the Courts above, to bind up the broken heart or to plume the pinions of the fainting spirit for a flight to a better world.

The improvement of national morals on this continent is in nothing more evident than that enlightened public sentiment which has come to regard privateering as piracy. No one who has faith in human progress and the perfectability of the species can contemplate this change without new hopes in humanity and increased confidence in a fact asserted by Galileo—"And yet it moves."

There is no human thing so perfect that it may not be improved. We are apt to suppose that the character of the founders of the American Republic was an exception to this rule. Such impressions are natural and proper enough in their descendants. But, nevertheless, that character admitted of some improvement. They had no objections, for example, to the slave trade, and recognised a right of property in man, which is shocking to think of. Nor was this their only defect. It is melancholy to think that their moral sense was so obtuse that they looked upon privateering, now justly considered piracy, as a legitimate and proper method of making war. We have before us, at this moment, an authentic record of a fact which otherwise might be deemed incredible. The instructions of the Revolutionary Congress to John Paul Jones, a well known pirate of the Revolution, are as follows: "Take, sink, burn or destroy all such of the enemies ships, vessels, goods and effects as you may be able." An act was passed November 5, 1775, which prescribed the ratio of distribution among the officers of American vessels of such goods and chattels of the enemy as they should be able to appropriate. We find this man Jones, in one of his first letters to the American Commissioners at Paris, relating, with the most unblushing effrontery, how, on his last cruise, he took a brigantine, bound from Ostend with a cargo of flaxseed for Ireland, and sunk her; took also the ship Lord Chatham, loaded with porter and merchandise, which he manned and sent to Brest; met a Scotch coasting schooner, loaded with barley, which he says he "could not avoid sinking; made sail after ten or twelve merchant ships, which he "thought an enterprise worthy attention"; and made an expedition to Whitehaven, on his native coast of Scotland, where he kindled a fire in the steerage of a large ship, surrounded by between three and four hundred others, whereof he cooly says: "I should have kindled fires in other places if the time had permitted. As it did not, our care was to prevent the one kindled from being easily extinguished. After some search, a barrel of tar was found, and poured into the flame, which now ascended from all the hatchways. The inhabitants began to appear in thousands; and individuals ran hastily towards us. I stood between them and the ship on fire, with a pistol in my hand, [the truculent villain!] and ordered them to retire, which they did with precipitation. Had it been possible to have landed a few hours sooner, my success would have been complete. Not a single ship could possibly have escaped, and all the world would not have been able to save the town." However, he relieved his mind of the partial disappointment by going round to the Frith of Forth, and frightening the people of Kirkaldy out of their wits. Pamphlets of his depredations are said to have been as common as almanacs in every house on the British coast. An amusing instance of the terror in which this sea monster was held, is given in a work of a Mr. Henderson, who had explored the whole of that part of the country which was the scene of Jones's exploits in 1778. An old Presbyterian minister in Kirkaldy, a good old man, but of singular and eccentric habits, was seen, at the time of Jones's threatened descent, making his way through the people, with an old black-oak arm-chair, which he lugged down to low-water mark (the tide flowing), and sat down in it. Here he commenced his religious exercises, remarking that here is "a vile *pireet* coming to *rub* our *folk o' Kirkaldy*, and goodness knows they're *a peur* enough already, and *hae nothing to spare.* They are *a gaily guid*, and it *wad* be a *peety* to serve them in *sic a wa.* The *wa* the *wun blaws*, he'll be here in a *jiffie*, and *wha kens* what he may do? He's *nane* too *guid* for *ony* thing. *Meickle's* the mischief he has *dune* already. *Ony pocket gear* they *hae* gathered *thegither* he will *gang wi' the heal o't;* may burn their *hooses, tak* their *vary claes*, and *tirl* them to the *sark;* and *waes me! wha kens* but the *bluidy* villain might *tak* their lives. The *puir weemen ere maist freightened* out o' their *weets*, and the *bairns skirling* after them. *I canna tho'lt! I canna tho'lt!*" "I *hae* been *lang* a *faithfu'* servant of the sanctuary, but *gin* the *wun* isn't turned about, and *blaw* the scoundrel out of our *gate*, I'll *na stur* a *bit*, but will *juist* sit here until the tide comes and *drouns* me." It is pleasant to record that a change of wind afterwards saved the eccentric divine from the contemplated necessity.

All the reports of Jones, and of other continental commanders on the high seas, are filled with accounts of wholesale plunder of private property on the high seas. Even as late as the last war with England, public sentiment in the North sanctioned those piratical parties, and only a few years ago the American Government deliberately refused a proposition of the European Powers to discard this relic of a barbarous age. It was reserved for the present war to enlighten the moral sense of North Americans and to enable it to discover that England, eighty years ago, was right, when she pronounced such deeds as those of Paul Jones piracy.

NEW AUCTION AND COMMISSION HOUSE AT 259 MAIN STREET, BETWEEN SEVENTH AND EIGHTH, THE OLD STAND OF C. BAUMHARD.—We, the undersigned, have this day associated ourselves under the style and firm of C. BAUMHARD & CO., to conduct a GENERAL AUCTION and COMMISSION BUSINESS.

Being well acquainted with the business, we hope, by strict attention, quick sales and prompt returns, to merit and share the public patronage.

Consignments of all kinds of Goods, Wares and Merchandise, Furniture, &c., solicited.

N. B.—Particular attention paid to sales of families declining housekeeping, Stocks of Goods, &c.—Also, sales of Horses, Mules, Carriages, &c., at the Horse Lot, on every Saturday.

Due notice will be given of our first sale.

D. F. BOOTH,
C. BAUMHARD.

RICHMOND, February 24, 1865. mh 4—3t

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE, VIRGINIA, March 1, 1865.

NOTICE.—COLLECTION OF ARMS, ETC.—All persons (except those enrolled in the regiments of State troops) who may have in their possession ARMS, ACCOUTREMENTS, AMMUNITION, or MUNITIONS of WAR, of any description, are earnestly requested to deliver such to Captain P G. Coghlan, officer in charge of State Armory, corner of Seventh and Cary streets, as speedily as possible.

Captain Coghlan is authorized and required to take possession of all such arms, &c., as can be found. He will ascertain from the books of the armory what issues have been made to persons not now in service, and reclaim them for the State.

By command:

WILLIAM H. RICHARDSON,
mh 3—3t Adjutant-General.

TO THE PUBLIC.—C. J. GAINES, late of the firm of Edling & Co., will pay strict attention to any outside sales, and also to the sale of HORSES, MULES, &c. As soon as he can procure a good house, he will resume the business in all its branches. He will be assisted by W. M. Woodward, Auctioneer of the late concern of Edling & Co. Any communication left at the Examiner office will meet with prompt attention.

fe 28—6t C. J. GAINES.

NOTICE.—All persons owing debts to the estate of Dr. JAMES H. CONWAY, deceased, are requested to pay the same; and those having claims against the estate will please present them for payment to the undersigned.

ELLEN V. CONWAY,
Executrix of James H. Conway, deceased.
mh 1—12t*

DR. WILLIAM MARTIN, of James City county, recently burnt out by the enemy, offers his services to the citizens of Richmond.—Office at the Law Office of A. H. Sands, on Eleventh street, between Bank and Main. At night he can be found at Mr. Lindsay's, on Marshall street, above Brook avenue. fe 21—15t*

NOTICE TO TAX-PAYERS.—All PERSONS who do not register and pay their quarter sales to the 31st of December, 1864, by the 5th day of March, 1865, will have to pay the penalty.

P. A. WOODS,
Collector for Twelfth Virginia District.
fe 20—15t*

HOOP-SKIRTS MADE AND REPAIRED at 115 Broad street, up stairs.
mh 2—3t*