

INDIANS IN THE RED RIVER COUNTRY.

The following extract is from the Address of Capt. R. B. Mancy before the American Statistical and Geographical Society of New York. It presents an interesting account of the manners of the Indians in the Red River Country. It will amply repay a perusal.

The country embraced within the basin of the upper Red river is much frequented by several tribes of Indians, all having similar habits, but speaking different languages. The most numerous and warlike of these are the Camanches, who are separated into three distinct local grand divisions, namely, the northern, middle, and southern. Each of these is subdivided into several bands, commanded by separate chiefs. The northern and middle Camanches subsist almost entirely on the flesh of the buffalo, and are generally found at their herds, migrating with them from place to place, on those vast and inhospitable plains, which cannot, in the nature of things, be made available for agriculture; and they seem to be destined in future, as they have been in former ages, to be the empire of the erratic savage.

And it is a fact worthy of remark, that man, in whatever situation he may be placed, is influenced in his modes of existence, his physical and moral condition, by the natural resources of climate, soil and other circumstances around him, over the operations of which he has no control. Fortunately, such is the flexibility of his nature, and most untoward circumstances, and indeed ultimately become not only reconciled to his lot, but fancies his condition far preferable to that of most others.

The example of our border settlers is illustrative of this fact, since they continue to remove further and further west as the settlements encroach upon them, preferring a life of dangerous adventure and solitude to personal security and the comforts and enjoyments of society; and what was at first necessity to them, becomes in time a source of excitement and pleasure. The nomadic Indian of the prairie denounces the position still more forcibly. Free as the boundless plains over which he roams, he knows no wants any luxuries beyond what he finds in the buffalo or deer at his door. These serve him for food, clothing, and a covering for his lodge, and he signs not for the distinctions which occupy the thoughts and engage the energies of civilized man. His only ambition is that he may cope successfully with his enemy in war, and manage his steed with unflinching address. He is in the saddle from boyhood to old age, and his favorite horse is his constant companion. It is when mounted that the Camanche exhibits himself to the best advantage; he is then at home, and his skill in the various manoeuvres which he makes available in battle, such as throwing himself entirely upon one side of his horse, and discharging his arrows with great rapidity in the opposite direction, from beneath the animal's neck, while he is at full speed, is truly astonishing. Every warrior has his war-horse, which he treads the fleeter than any other horse in his possession, and it is seldom that he can be induced to part with him at any price. He never mounts him except when going into battle, for the buffalo chase, or upon state occasions. In his return from an excursion, he is met at the door of his lodge by one of his wives, who takes his steed and attends to its wants with the utmost care. The prairie warrior performs no manual labor; his wives, who are but little dearer to him than his horse, perform all the drudgery. He follows the chase, he smokes his pipe, he eats and sleeps, and thus passing his time, in no order of activity, he is the most lordly and independent of sovereigns.

Such are some of the characteristics of the prairie Indians; and I cannot dismiss the subject without remarking that, in addition to the physical similitude between the deserts of Arabia and the steps of Central Asia to the elevated prairie *riparia* of our country, a striking resemblance also exists between their respective inhabitants. The Arabs of the desert, the Tartar tribes, and the aboriginal occupants of the prairies are alike wanderers, having no permanent abiding places, still living in their travelling lodges, and where these are pitched making their homes.

They acknowledge no other rule than the patriarchal, and no other alliance but that of fraternity; and they are alike insensible to the wants and comforts of civilization. They know neither poverty nor riches, vice nor virtue, and they are alike exempt from the deplorable vicissitudes of fortune. There is a happy state of equality, which knows not the perplexities of ambition, nor the crimes of avarice. They never cultivate the soil, but subsist altogether on game, plunder, and pillage. They are the most expert horsemen in the world, and cherish the same fond attachment for the animal.

In their political and domestic relations there is also a similarity. They are governed by chiefs, whose office is hereditary so long as their administration meets the approbation of their followers. The chief leads them to war, and presides at their deliberations in council; but should he disgrace himself by any act of cowardice or mal-administration, a more competent man in his stead. Their laws are adapted to their peculiar situation, and are sanctioned by the general voice. The execution of them is vested in the subordinate chiefs, or captains, as they are called, and are promptly and rigidly enforced.

The only property of these people, with the exception of a few articles pertaining to their domestic economy, consists entirely in horses and mules, which they possess in great numbers. These are mostly pillaged from the Mexicans, and the man who has been very successful in their forays often owns as many as one hundred animals. In respect to the rights of property their code is Spartan.

They are perhaps as ardent robbers as can be found on the face of the earth. They regard stealing from strangers as perfectly legitimate and honorable, and he who is most successful in this is most highly honored by his tribe. Indeed, a young man who has not made one or more robbing excursions into Mexico is held in but little repute. In evidence of this, an old chief of the northern Camanches, called Is-ah-keep, in conversation with me, said he was the father of four sons, who were as promising young men as could be found; that they were a great comfort to him in his old age, and could steal more horses than any youths in the band.

As these forays are often attended with much toil and danger, they are called "war expeditions." It is not unfrequently happens that six or eight young men set out upon one of them, and the only outfit they require is a horse, with suitable war equipments, consisting of the bow and arrows, lance and

shield, and occasionally a gun. Thus prepared, they start on a journey of a thousand miles or more, through a perfectly wild and desolate country, dependent wholly upon such game as they may chance to find for a subsistence.

They thus make their way to the northern provinces of Mexico, where they lay in waiting, near some hacienda, until a favorable opportunity offers to sweep down upon a solitary herdman, and, with the most terrific and unmerciful yells, drive before them the animals they select; and woe to the panic-stricken ranchero who fails to make a precipitate retreat, as they invariably kill such men as offer the slightest impediment to their operations, and take prisoners the woman and children, whom they hold in bondage of the most servile character. They are sometimes absent from their tribes for two years, before their success is sufficient to justify their creditable return.

Some few of them, who have visited their Great Father at Washington, have gone home strongly impressed with the numerical power and prosperity of the whites; but the great majority of the nation, being entirely ignorant of every thing that relates to us, and many of them having never even seen a white man, believe the Camanches to be the most powerful nation in existence; and the relation of facts which conflict with this notion by their own people to the masses of the tribe, at their prairie residences, only subjects the narrator to ridicule, and he is set down as one whose brain has been turned by the acromancy of the pale-faces, and is henceforth regarded as wholly unworthy of confidence.

Having upon one occasion a Delaware and Camanche with me, in the capacity of guides, I was much diverted at a conversation which passed between them, in my presence, and which was interpreted to me by the Delaware.

It appeared the latter had stated to the other the fact of the sphericity of the earth's surface. This idea, being altogether new and incomprehensible to the Camanche, was received with much incredulity, and, after gazing for a moment at the Delaware, to ascertain if he was sincere, he asked if that person took him for a child or if he looked like an idiot! The Delaware said no, but the white people, who knew all about these matters, had ascertained such to be the fact, and he added that the world was not only round, but that it revolved round the sun.

The Camanche very indignantly replied that any man of sense could, by looking off upon the prairie, see at a glance that the earth was level; and, moreover, that his grandfather had been west to the end of it, where the sun passed down behind a vertical wall. The Delaware continued in his simple but impressive manner to describe to the Camanche the operations of the steam-engine, and other objects of interest that he had seen, all of which the Camanche regarded as an effort of a fertile imagination, expressly designed to deceive him; and the only reply he designed to make was occasional exclamation in his own language, the interpretation of which the other pronounced to be "Hush, you fool!"

I then endeavored to explain to the Delaware the operation of the magnetic telegraph; and, in illustrating its practical utility, told him that a message could be transmitted a thousand miles, and an answer returned, in the short period of ten minutes. He seemed much interested in this, and listened attentively to my remarks, but made no comments until I requested him to explain to me the Camanche, when he smilingly said, "I don't think I'll tell him that; but for the truth is, I don't believe it myself."

The mode of life among the prairie tribes, owing to their unsettled and wandering habits, is such as to render their condition one of constant danger and apprehension. Their security of their numerous animals from the encroachments of their enemies, and their constant liability to attack, makes it imperative necessary for them to be at all times on the alert. Their herdsmen are stationed with as much regularity as the sentinels of a military post; and even in times of the most profound peace they guard their animals both night and day, while mounted scouts are patrolling on the neighboring heights to give notice of the approach of strangers when their horses are hurried to a place of security, and every thing made ready for defence.

The manner in which they salute a stranger is somewhat peculiar, as my own reception at one of their encampments will show. Their chief was a very corpulent old man, with exceedingly scanty attire, who, immediately on our approach, declared himself a great friend of the Americans, and persisted in giving me evidence of his sincerity by an embrace, which, to please him, I forced myself to submit to although it was far from agreeable to my own feeling. Seizing me by his brawny arms, his greasy head was yet in the saddle, and laying his greasy head upon my shoulder he inflicted upon me a most bruising squeeze, which endured with a degree of patient fortitude worthy of the occasion; and I was consoling myself on the completion of the salutation, when the savage again seized me in his arms, and I was doomed to another similar torture, with his head on my other shoulder, while at the same time he rubbed his greasy face against mine in the most affectionate manner, all of which proceeding, he gave me to understand, was to be regarded as a most distinguished and signal mark of affection for the American people in general, whom, as he expressed it, he loved so much that almost broke his heart, and in particular for myself, who, as his representative, can bear testimony to the strength of his attachment.

The next day the chief snook me heartily by the hand, telling me at the same time that he was not a Camanche, but an American; and as I did not feel disposed to be outdone in politeness by an Indian, I replied, in the same spirit, that there was not a drop of Anglo-Saxon blood in my veins, but that I was wholly and absolutely a Camanche, at which he seemed delighted, duly understanding and appreciating the compliment.

These people are hospitable kind to all with whom they are not at war, and on the arrival of a stranger at their camps a lodge is prepared for him, and he is entertained as long as he chooses to remain among them. They are also kind and affectionate to each other, and as long as any thing comestible remains in the camp all are permitted to share alike; but with those exceptions, they are possessed of but few virtues. Polygamy is sanctioned, and is very common among them, every man being allowed as many wives as he can support. Their women are of low stature, ill-shaped, and filthy and ugly in the extreme, while the men are tall, well formed, and fine looking.

Many of their children, owing to unavoidable exposure, die young. The boys, however,

are treated with great care and kindness, while the girls are frequently beaten and abused unmercifully.

Of all the Indians I had before encountered, I know of none who had not an extreme fondness for spirituous liquors, which unfortunately, has every where, from the advent of the European on this continent, been their worst enemy. Those of the prairie tribes I have seen say the taste of such liquor is not pleasant, that it makes fools of them, and that they do not desire it. If there are exceptions to this I think they may be set down as fictitious rather than natural, the appetite having been created by indulgence occasional in the use of a little at a time.

The diet of these people is very simple. From infancy to old age they only food, with the exception of a few wild plants, which they find on the prairies, is fresh meat, of which, in times of plenty, they consume enormous quantities. In common with many other tribes, they can, when necessity demands it, abstain from eating for several days without incoherence, and they are enabled to make up at one meal the deficiency.

All of them are extravagantly fond of tobacco, which they use for smoking, mixed with the dried leaves of the sunflower, the smoke into their lungs and giving it out through their nostrils.

Their language is verbal and pantomimic. The former consists of a very limited number of words, some of which are common to all the prairie tribes. The latter, which is exceedingly graceful and expressive, is the court language of the plains, and is used and understood with great facility and accuracy by all the tribes from the Gila to the Columbia, the motions and signs to express ideas being common to all.

IMPORTANT RAILROAD NEWS!

Subscription of \$750,000 actually made.—Extension of our road to Wheeling.

Our readers are aware that great interest has for some time been manifested by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company in the extension of the Marietta & Cincinnati road to Wheeling. Three or four months ago the stockholders of the Pennsylvania Company voted to subscribe to the M. & C. road \$750,000. It was at first supposed this settled the question, and that the subscription would at once be made. But the power of the State was questioned. Authority was therefore asked from the Pennsylvania Legislature, and granted, but with a proviso that 30 days notice of the intended subscription must be given when the Supreme Court of the State was in session, that the parties opposed to the subscription might test the constitutionality of the law. This notice was given soon after the passage of the law, and then a special meeting of the stockholders was called to vote upon the acceptance of the law, and decide whether a subscription should be made unconditionally, that the subscription should be made. Accordingly after the expiration of 30 days from the time notice was given of the intended subscription—on suit or application for the injunction having meanwhile been instituted, as was provided by law—the Directors proceed to make the subscription, and on yesterday, as we learned by a telegram sent to us by N. L. Wilson, Esq., immediately thereafter, the sum of SEVEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS was subscribed to the capital stock of the Marietta & Cincinnati Railroad Company.

We are at last fairly "out of the woods," and if any of our people set to get up a little noise or confusion, and set a couple of iron dogs at barkin' this evening—one on each side of the Maskingum—we don't think anybody nearer than Parkersburg will be much disturbed or inclined to complain.

The surveys of both lines from here to Wheeling—river and interior—are pretty much completed, and just so soon as the "right of way," by release or by contracts, for purchase, can be secured (as has already been done over the principal part of both routes), the directors will be prepared to decide upon the route, and at once put the whole line under contract.—*Marietta Intelligencer.*

"AN ARMY WITH BANANES."—As you are whirled along over the Hudson River Railroad at the rate of forty miles an hour you catch a glimpse every minute or two of a man waving something like a white pocket handkerchief on the end of a stick, with a very satisfactory expression of countenance. If you take the trouble to count, you will find that it happens some two hundred times between East Albany and thirty-first street. It looks like rather a useless ceremony, at first glance, but it is a pretty important one, nevertheless.

There are 226 of these "flag men," stationed at intervals along the whole length of the line. Just before a train is to pass each one walks over his "beat" and looks to see that every track and tie, every tunnel, switch, rail clamp and rivet, is in good order and free from obstruction. If so, he takes his stand with a white flag and waves it to the approaching train as a signal to "come on"—and comes on it does, at full speed. If there is anything wrong, he waves a red flag, or at night a red lamp, and the engineer on seeing it promptly shuts off steam, and sounds the whistle to put down the brakes. Every inch of the road is carefully examined after the passage of each train. Austrian espionage is hardly more strict. With such an effective police, accidents from obstructions upon the track become almost impossible, unless there is gross negligence on the part of the watchmen.—*Exc. Jour.*

POULTRY CHEAPER THAN PORK.—Build a good comfortable hen coop, as you do to keep your hogs in. Keep fowls; feed them, and make a careful estimate of both the cost of your fowls and your hogs, together with the products of each—you will find that fowls are more profitable stock than hogs. Pork cannot be made at less than 5 cents per pound, with any breed of hogs. Each hen, well cared for, will yield a clear profit in eggs and chickens, of \$1 a year. It is necessary to give them the warm place for a roost, a dry cellar, if possible, in winter, a variety of grain with a little animal food, with clean water, and lime in some shape for egg shells. The waste of fowl manure yearly in the U. S. is at least \$1,000,000. To save it, place a layer of loam and plaster occasionally over layers of loam. Every spring, mix all together, and use it at the rate of a pint to a gallon of corn, cucumbers, squashes, pumpkins, melons, peas, cabbages, strawberries, or any other fruit, vegetable or grain, and you cannot fail to have an improved crop. This is American Guano—and as good as that brought from the islands at a heavy cost.

Earthquake in the Indian Archipelago.

The "Singapore Free Press" of the 4th of February quotes from the "Java Bode" the following account of a terrible commotion of Nature, which commenced on the 16th, or probably the 20th, of December last:

On the 16th of November, about twenty minutes to eight in the morning, a heavy vertical oscillation of the ground was felt at Banda Neira, which soon changed into a rapidly increasing undulation from the northeast to the southeast, which lasted for more than five minutes. Every man in his house; to remain standing was impossible; people were obliged to take firm hold of something, or throw themselves on the ground. In the morning a slight shower of rain fell, but otherwise the weather was not favorable.

At the first shock nearly all the houses were thrown down, or very much shattered. The Government buildings, the church, the officers' houses in the encampment, and the warehouses suffered the greatest injury; the Chinese quarter was a heap of ruins; the native village on the Zonnagat was laid waste. The Papenberg fell partly in, and two bamboo houses upon it disappeared, and on Great Bunda the houses of the park-keepers, their outer houses and smoking-houses for the nutmegs underwent the same fate; every thing there was also thrown down, or greatly injured; nothing is visible of the village of Loathier but a heap of ruins. Saru was terribly shattered, while detached pieces of rock lay every where scattered around. There were no deaths, however, to lament, and only some persons were slightly bruised or wounded.

But the misfortune did not stop here. About eight o'clock a disturbance of the sea (Zeewind) occurred which filled every heart with fear and dismay, and caused every one to fly to the highest ground. In quick succession the bay filled and emptied, and at times it appeared to be only a little river.

The ship *Atlat* al-Rachman, laden with rice, lying in the roads, twice touched the ground, after—like her Majesty's brig *De Haai*, which had anchored the day previous—having been driven backwards and forwards a number of times; but this seaquake increased in a frightful manner, and twice overwhelmed Great Banda and Neira with the largest rollers; on the last place they reached several feet high in the houses, and burst the doors open.

These huge waves, formed in the Zonnagat and in the channel of Loathier, and ran so high they beat over Fort Oassau, and reached the foot of the hill on which Fort Belgica is built, carrying every thing with them in their reflux, but at the same time leaving behind a quantity of fishes. The prahus in the roads were driven amongst and against each other, and carried to and from the shore. They foundered, or drove in the Zonnagat, where they struck on the shore; only a few could save themselves by flight. These prahus belonged to the Saru and Key Islands and Ceram, and a part of their crews, finding themselves on shore, sought shelter in one of the sheds on the pier, but they could not withstand the force of the rollers, and in a moment were torn out of their place of shelter and driven seawards, there miserably perished. It is estimated that sixty men lost their lives in this way.

Miserable was the condition of the inhabitants, who saw the waves, twenty-six feet high, rolling so irresistibly towards them, threatening to engulf them, the ground continually rocking under their feet, the atmosphere echoing with loud reports like cannon shots, filling their hearts with fear; and this all-destructive, indescribable state of things lasted, not merely for five minutes, an hour, a day, but for successive days; for these frightful natural phenomena only ceased on the 22d of December, while all that time scarcely an hour passed that the ground did not heave and shake, now in the heaviest manner, and then lighter, but always so that distrust and fear remained imprinted in the hearts of the inhabitants, who, partly or wholly ruined, without habitations, sheltering in light bamboo huts, will perhaps never be able to recover from the shock which they have received.

During these earth and seaquakes, which last, however, did not extend beyond the north side of the Neira and to the south side of Great Banda, Gromong Api was quietest, and no alteration was observed in the smoke proceeding from it.

The accounts from the islands Rosengain and Api were even more tragical, and the destruction there not less. The spice bark, Kalie and Noorwegen on Great Banda, the last which remain standing, also at length fell in, and at present there are not more than two habitable houses in Neira. The residency house has suffered much. Rock and earth slips from the Papenberg occurred there for a length of time.

The same disastrous accounts had been received from Ceram. An earth and seaquake had also occurred there on the 26th November, and caused great damage. The heavy rollers of the sea had swept away the houses on the beach, and thrown more than a hundred prahus on shore, of which a number had been destroyed, while many persons fell victims to this terrible commotion of nature.

From Amboyna we also learn that on the morning of the 26th November, about half-past eight, the earthquake was felt in a direction from N. E. to W. S. W., with a duration of about five minutes. This was preceded on the 19th by some slight shocks. The disturbance of the sea also took place, but not to such a destructive and heavy extent as at Banda, although on the same day. Very little damage was caused. The accounts from the island near Amboyna are not so favorable.

AS WAS BEING SAID some of these women have families of from one to three children. There were several in the list whose rates of remuneration were considerably below the figures named. But work at these wages was not always to be obtained.

If we do not greatly err, even a worse state of facts than is here exhibited exists in our large Atlantic cities. It is true that it does not present so dark a picture as is drawn by our London correspondents, yet is the shadow dark enough to invoke the active sympathy of our countrymen. Under all conditions of things, at all times, and in every land, poor, defenceless, and uneducated woman receives more than her share of the neglect and the oppression of all laws and usages. Public concert of action on her part provokes but ridicule and derision; all isolated efforts for improvement are vain; and man is too disdainful and imperious to be a fair arbiter in her affairs. Thus it is by no means unusual for a woman to receive but a small fraction of the wages that are given to men engaged in the same occupation pursued by her, although the product of her labor may be equal in value to that of his own.

REFORMERS AND REFORMS.

The task of a reformer is usually performed without thanks or recompense. Men do not reform evil practices until convinced that they are evil; and they are seldom willing to yield to such convictions. The reformer must therefore address his admonitions to unwilling ears, and receive harsh repulses from many of his besieged auditors.

Our English brethren, therefore, ungrateful as they may deem us, should not be astonished at the limited success that attends their labors when seeking to amend the condition of things in American society. Many years have passed since BASIL HALL, MRS. TROTTOLLO, MR. FEATHERSTONEHAUGH, REV. MR. FITZLER, and that prince of sketchers and of scabbiest toadies, CHARLES DICKENS, published their portraits or caricatures of American life; yet no monuments of our gratitude are reared in their honor; no thankfulness has ever been kindled in the breasts of our countrymen; no golden testimonials have been presented to these self-sacrificing philanthropists. What wonder, therefore, that many of our own reformers should like to England for sympathy, and for those rewards that even a prophet cannot receive in his own land?

But if we cannot thank those who would reform us, much less profit by their advice, we may at least enjoy the precious privilege of looking upon the ills and enormities that afflict the nation whose people manifest so much concern for our welfare.

The London *Times* of the 30th ult. calls attention to a class of persons whom it regards as worthy the notice of such of the benevolent as have time to devote to the affairs of others. These persons are of the weaker sex, often of immature age, and of the most favored race of man. Their toll is unenlivened by a word of speech, uncheered by a smile, and unrelieved even by the out-breathing of a sigh! *The Times* says:

"From 6 o'clock till 11 it is stitch, stitch. At 11 a small piece of dry bread is served to each seamstress, but still she must stitch on. At 1 o'clock, 20 minutes are allowed for dinner—a slice of meat and a potato, with a glass of toast and water to each workwoman. Then again to work—stitch, stitch until 5 o'clock, when 15 minutes are again allowed for rest. The needles are then set in motion once more—stitch, stitch—until 9 o'clock, when 15 minutes are allowed for supper—a piece of dry bread and cheese, and a glass of beer. From nine o'clock at night until one, two, and three o'clock in the morning, stitch, stitch; the only break in this long period being a minute or two—just time enough to swallow a cup of strong tea, which is supplied lest the young people should feel sleepy." At three o'clock, a. m., to bed; at six o'clock, a. m., out of it again to resume the duties of the following day.

"Even during the few hours allotted to sleep—should we not rather say to a feverish cessation from toil—their miseries continue. They are cooped up in sleeping pens, ten in a room which would perhaps be sufficient for the accommodation of two persons. Not a word of remonstrance is allowed, or possible. The seamstresses may leave, no doubt, but what awaits them on the other side of the door!—starvation, if they be honest—if not, in all probability, prostitution and its consequences. It is idle to use any further mystification in the matter. The scenes of misery we have described exist at our own doors, and in the most fashionable quarters of luxurious London. It is in the dressmaking and millinery establishments of the 'West End' that the system is steadily pursued. The continuous labor is bestowed upon the gay garments in which the 'ladies of England' love to adorn themselves. It is to satisfy their whims and caprices that their wretched sisters undergo these days and nights of suffering and toil."

Of the truth of the description here given we entertain no doubt. Nowhere, indeed, in the whole world is labor more oppressive, or compensation more meagre, allotted to the abject poor. Thankless as may be the task of making such exposures, we trust the journal from which we quote may prosecute the work to a blessed consummation. And in the meantime, to prove that we are not indispensed to imitate it in looking to the mote in its own eye, we shall here take occasion to append a statement tending to show the oppression that weak and feeble woman experiences in our own favored regions of freedom and plenty.

At a meeting at Rochester, in the State of New York, a few days since, convened for the purpose of endeavoring to raise the wages of female labor, it was stated, that although the times were pronounced good, large numbers of seamstresses, by the most unremitting toil, were barely able to procure a sufficiency of necessaries to sustain life. A paper was read, showing the number of hours employed on what kind of work, and the remuneration received on an aggregate by the sewing women of that city, from which the following is extracted.

A	works at pants—price per pair	Cents
B	do do 14 hours	37
C	do do 14 "	31
D	do do 14 "	31
E	do do 16 "	37
F	do do 18 "	41
G	do do 18 "	37
H	do do pants—16 "	25
I	do do 16 "	18
J	do do shirts—13 "	25
K	do do 15 "	20
L	do do 13 "	20
M	do do vests—13 "	18
N	do do 17 "	41
O	do do 17 "	37
P	do do vests—17 "	37
Q	do do pants—18 "	50
R	do do 15 "	15
S	do do pants—18 "	50
T	do do 18 "	32

As was being said some of these women have families of from one to three children. There were several in the list whose rates of remuneration were considerably below the figures named. But work at these wages was not always to be obtained.

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WHAT GIVES STABILITY TO NATIONS.

To secure perpetuity to a Nation (says the Newark Daily Advertiser) its citizens must have something in common to worship or respect. The Chinese find this necessity satisfied in their veneration for parents; the Hebrews in a reverence for their Temple and their Law. These sentiments were, and continue to be, strong in those nations, and have probably contributed powerfully to bind them together, and preserve them respectively as distinct populations, while all their contemporaries have long since perished from the earth.

In most of the modern European States these national attachments seem very largely wanting; and in our own there are not many elements of union besides the inferior and not very stable one of mutual interest. We have acted, or rather been distracted, together now for upward of three-score years and ten—the ordinary life of an individual, but a short duration for a State. In all this time the heart of the people can hardly turn to more than two objects capable of commanding its enthusiasm and veneration; these are the American Revolution and the administration of Washington, including the great act of the Constitution. Even the last of these has been desecrated by such violent and shameful assaults as to have lost a good deal of that deep hold upon the hearts of thousands which it ought ever to retain. That such a share of attachment for it yet remains has been due to the great and persevering eloquence and efforts of Webster and a few others who have bravely fought in its defence for the last twenty years.

There is still an abiding respect for law & order among us, which constitutes a marked distinction between us and the French, and forms a kind of substitute for the Jewish sentiment for their law and temple, but in a degree as much more feeble as loyalty to law is weaker than devotion to religion. As for the mighty ligament which knits generations together in China, we have in the United States, unfortunately, lost all its gentle but permanent and salutary force, and almost even its recollection. Veneration for parents has no longer any existence in this country. Our youth are of age at fourteen, or before, though the law remains upon the statute-books which emancipates them at twenty-one. But it has long since been repealed by the common custom, together with those for the observance of the Sabbath, and the prohibition of the sale of lottery tickets and liquor. A father now, so far from having any superiority in his offspring, is obliged to yield his prerogative to the love of progress, as at present understood, which, is that he who is born last, of course, and for that reason, knows most.

As soon as a youth, therefore, is old enough to smoke a cigar, swallow a glass of brandy without blinking, and commit a licentious debauch, his father passes into the predicament of an "old fogy," a word that comes from the Latin "fugor," meaning driven away—one who is done for—it is a gone case with him, and time he should be off. His promising heir succeeds, of course, to the administration of the affairs of the nation, and frequently also to that of the estate of his parent, though the law still upholds the latter in keeping possession, as he has life and wit enough to do it. But the youngster has full swing in Uncle Sam's affairs, and make himself comfortable with his property. Nobody is obliged to rob the public exchequer now, as fat "Jack" did.

This is enough to illustrate some of the points which we differ from the long-lived Chinese State, and the nine-lived nation of the Hebrews. Whether we shall continue a distinct and flourishing people as long as they, remains to be seen; by prosperity; for we do not much expect to do it ourselves, though we possibly may.

A THRILLING SCENE.

The ship Trade Wind, which took fire on her passage from New York to San Francisco, had among her passengers eight missionaries, and their families, sent out to California and Oregon by the Home Missionary Society. One of them writes home the following description of the scene on board:

On the morning of the twenty-first day of our passage, when in latitude 1 deg. 14 min., and longitude 33 deg. 38 min., one of the sailors came running to the officer on the quarter-deck, crying out, "The ship is on fire!" This officer went forward and saw the smoke coming out of the chain lockers and crevices of the deck. He ordered the force-pump to be manned, and went back to the cabin where Capt. W. and the passengers were at breakfast. He communicated the fact to the captain, and they both left without any suspicions being excited as to the cause. After breakfast I went upon deck, and the unusual air on the fore-castle attracting my attention, I went forward and soon learned the cause. The ship was on fire in the cargo, somewhere, it was supposed, between the second and third decks; but how extensive the fire was could not be immediately seen. A hole was cut through the deck, and a stream of water from the force-pump, which would throw about five barrels per minute, was thrown upon the burning mass. Several other places were cut, and lines for passing were thrown overboard by the passengers. We toiled on in this way for some three hours, but could see no indications that we were getting the fire under. The ventilators seemed rather to show that it was spreading aft under the cabin, which was then beginning to be filled with gas and smoke.

The ship was then turned head to the land; we were four hundred and fifty miles from the deck, and placed where it could be easily thrown overboard; the life-boats got out and the provisions and water, and the clothing which we would need till we could reach the land made ready. At this time another large opening was made, and a box, on fire, was broken to pieces, and its contents passed up on the deck. Another and another were broken up in the same manner, till a place was made large enough to admit one of the sailors, who boldly went down with the hose in his hand. He directed it against the burning mass, till he fell exhausted upon the floor. He was dragged out and another, as bold as he came to his place. In a moment or two he fell, like his companion, and was dragged out insensible, and carried upon the deck. Another and another took his place, and

shared his fate. Thus it went on till every one of our sixty sailors had taken his turn. At one time I counted sixteen of these generous fellows lying together on the deck. The ladies came from the cabin and bathed their heads with camphor, which would in most cases bring them to in a short time. As soon as one was recovered sufficiently to walk, he would go back and offer his services again. Several of the men were brought up out of this place as many as eight times. On the most of them the gas which they inhaled seemed to have an effect somewhat like that of laughing gas, particularly when they were partially reanimated. It was no easy matter to restrain those powerful men when they endeavored to throw themselves overboard, or to themselves or to some personal harm.

For four hours we labored in this way, and you may imagine the terrors of our position. We could but fear that the strength of the men, self-sacrificing as they were, would not hold out till the flames were extinguished. Some of them could do no more, and these the hardest of them all. We toiled on, however—the passengers, gentlemen and ladies, working the pumps—for another hour, when the joyful news came that the fire was out. No more flames could be seen, no more smoke arose. We began to breathe freely, and hope that deliverance had been sent to us. After the rest of an hour an examination was made, but no signs of fire were discovered. We all lay down upon the deck (it was very warm) and passed the night. The next day was the Sabbath, and never did a more grateful, more devout assembly come together for the worship of God.

ATMOSPHERIC TELEGRAPH.

FROM THE BOSTON DAILY ADVERTISER.

We had an opportunity yesterday of examining Mr. I. S. RICHARDSON'S ingenious invention called the 'Atmospheric Telegraph,' by which letters and parcels can be transported considerable distances with almost incredible velocity, rendering it practically nearly equal in speed to the Magnetic Telegraph, over which it is obvious it has many advantages in other respects.

The apparatus consists of a tube connecting the places between which communication is to be maintained, in which a sort of piston called "the plunger" is fitted with a loose leather packing. The matter to be sent is enclosed in a bag attached behind this plunger. Its propulsion is secured by the pressure of the atmosphere of ordinary density behind it, that in front being partial vacuum. This propelling power is so great as to produce an apparently instantaneous motion of the plunger with its load from one end to the other of the model tube on exhibition, which is about thirty feet long and one & a half inches in diameter; indeed, the plunger issues forth with so much force, when not confined, as to knock down violently a heavy billet of wood placed opposite the end of the tube, if it is left open. The speed is estimated at about one thousand miles in an hour. The apparatus is so arranged that there can be intermediate stations upon the line, at which the progress of the plunger can be arrested, or, if preferred, it can pass directly through to the terminus.

The mechanical difficulties to the plan which readily suggest themselves have been ingeniously and apparently effectually obviated by Mr. Richardson. The inconvenience of the sudden shock occasioned by the arrival of the plunger at the end of its journey is avoided by an arrangement by which a portion of the air in front of it is compressed and allowed to escape, but gradually, forming a sort of cushion to ease the jolt. The retarding effect of the friction caused by the motion of the large column of air which necessarily follows the plunger in the tube is prevented by the occasional recurrence of valves in the tube connecting with the atmosphere to be opened by the plunger as it passes. The friction of the plunger itself is reduced to a very low point by the manner in which its packing is constructed.