NEW NORTH-WEST.

DEER LODGE CITY, FRIDAY, NOV. 19.

Leavenworth, Kansas.

The Centre of the Country—Should it be the Capital of the Land?

[Cor. Pittsburgh Gazette.]

LEAVENWORTH, OCT. 1869.

Considered geographically, the city of Leavenworth has a curious and significant location; it is the precise centre of the country. Let those who doubt it "string the map," as it is called; run a line from any point on the Atlantic coast, say from the city of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, across to San Diego, on the Pacific; then running a line from the Lake of the Woods, in the British Possessions, due south to Galveston city, in Texas, and it will be found that the city of Leavenworth is exactly under the intersection of these two lines. Take a pair of compasses, place one of the dividers on the city of Leavenworth and the other upon San Francisco, and describe a circle running south, and this interesting fact will be developed; this circle will include within its circumference the whole of Mexico and the West Indies, and passing through Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, it will include very nearly the whole of British America, Mexico and the West Indies. By our expanding empire, Leavenworth would still be the centre of the nation.

This remarkable fact, together with its extraordinary railroad facilities, there being no less than twelve railroads radiating from Leavenworth, is dwelt on with confident emphasis by the advocates of the removal of the National Capital. The new republic demands the removal of the seat of government to some point more central than Washington, and midway between the two great national boundaries of the continent, the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, and the agitation of this important subject is already become deep and widespread.

The West and the Southwest are a unit upon this subject, and the national apportionment of 1870 will give them the power and the authority to move it. The people of the West regard the early removal of the Capital as a certainty, and they are already selecting a site.

While it is well known that St. Louis and Chicago have offered immense sums of money for the Capital, it may perhaps surprise many in the East to learn that although Leavenworth contains but 40,000 inhabitants, and is but a village compared with those great cities, its citizens are nevertheless able to offer twice the inducements in money, in addition to her unsurpassed physical advantages. The Government owns, on the northern edge of the city, six thousand five hundred acres of land, known as the "Government Reserve." Fort Leavenworth, the largest inland supply fort on the continent, stands in the midst of this beautiful tract. Here there is none of that level monotony of plain that the eastern people usually associate with the "boundless west;" the ground is rolling and undulating, with gently sloping hills and romantic vales, and eminences that are commanding, and yet easy of access. This Reserve has been pronounced by travelers to be one of the loveliest spots in the whole country.

In the event of the Capital being located here, this immense tract would become of great value. For example, suppose fifteen hundred acres would be reserved for the public buildings, which would be more than ample, the balance, five thousand acres, could be laid out in lots and sold, say at the moderate valuation of one thousand dollars each. It has been estimated that this would net the government the enormous sum of seventy-five millions of dollars, which would be sufficient to build its marble palaces in a style far surpassing the present, and leave a large surplus in the treasury to be applied to the liquidation of the public debt. There is no exaggeration or hyperbole characteristic of the western nature about this. It is all true, every word.

In addition to this, Leavenworth has to offer to the United States the unusual spectacle of a naturally fortified city, a city completely fortified by nature unassisted by art. This city is surrounded by a range of hills ten miles in extent, rising gradually from the plains, and forming an arc of which the Missouri river is the irregular and picturesque chord, and enclosing within its sweeping compass Leavenworth and the fort. These hills, or rather this continuous hill, is as regular in its outline and structure as if built by an army of engineers in the leisure of peace. From the East the hill rises gradually, but on the West the sides are precipitous and difficult to approach.

The view from the top of the hill is one of unsurpassing loviness. On the East we see a flourishing city, crouching down upon the bank of the winding Missouri, and on the north, rising from the thick groves of spreading oaks and elms and walnut, are the buildings of Fort Leavenworth. But it is toward the setting sun the scenery attains the very climax of picturesque beauty, where art and thrift have united with bounteous nature in producing a landscape effect unsurpassed, if not unequalled, in the west. It is upon this range of hills that the Government could build the Boulevard of the world, and there is now a well traveled road-way around its entire summit.

These are a few of its advantages that Leavenworth possesses over its rivals in the strife for the Capital, and the people are fully impressed with the idea that it will eventually be located here. The Government has appointed a delegation of influential and eloquent men to attend the Convention that is to meet in St. Louis on the 20th inst. This delegation will go there fortified by arguments and statistics prepared and collected with great care. That Leavenworth should be the future Capital of the Nation may be strange, but stranger things than this have happened in this nineteenth century of wonders. Perhaps Hamlet had a dispot reference to this approaching event when he said to his fellow student:

"There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy."

TRAVELLER.

Daniel Chaplin, of La Grande, Oregon, has a radish, grown in his garden, which weighs thirty-nine and a half pounds.

"Autograph Letters" from Josh Billings.

DEAR SAM:—There never was a good and reliable crittick who want a good writer himself, this acknounts for the grate number ov critticks, and for the inferiority ov them.

JOSH BILLINGS.

DEAR BILL:—Married life has its flops, and its flip flops, but I hav noticed one thing, and it is this, good husbands most alwus make good wives.

JOSH BILLINGS.

DEAR DAVE:—Amerikans, as a lump, are skin deep edukated, a daily paper and a toothpick complete their ethicks, but few fall bed fust out ov a six story window and strike on their feet, few insure their lives for the benefit ov the widder, and then hunt for ackskidents, few build pacifick rule roads, break mules and convert injuns, they are a sure-footed people.

Amerikans hav meany faults, but most ov them are ov their own invenshun, but I never hav seen a native yet that you could hire two tend a gide board.

JOSH BILLINGS.

DEAR DAN:—Babys are the best gift ov heaven; the devil sows tares, but the Lord sows babys.

A house without a baby in it is like a tallow kandle without enay wick, it wont light up, the wife is as lonesum and useless as a gander amung a flock ov hen turkeys.

JOSH BILLINGS.

DEAR FRED:—If you are looking for solitude go to a city. Every boddy there iz bizzy with their own thoughts, cares, and plezzures, they haint got the time two notis even those who want to be notised; but if you covet solitude in the kuntry yu do it at the risk ov being feared bi some, suspected bi others, and harrassed bi all.

A man may liv ten years in Nu York city and be known only to his landlady and washwoman, while in a kuntry village he cant live six months in peace if every boddy dont know who makes his shirts.

JOSH BILLINGS.

DEAR FRANK:—Fear iz an evidence ov a small intelecktual and tru courage ov a large one. There is this difference between pride and vanity, pride respecks itself, vanity prizes itself. Faith iz not a meek impulse but a living one; genowine faith iz like pepper sass, it knows its own strength and dont nibble, but bites.

JOSH BILLINGS.

DEAR PHIL:—The most valuable of awl the household animals is the brindle cow. They are composed entirely ov vittles and drink, shoe leather and horn-tooth combs. They are the poor man's necessity and the rich man's luxury. They hold the original patent for butter and ice cream! They are as free from malice as a sister of charity. Their importance dont make them feel big. They are mother-in-law to every man's baby. If I had the making of stattews it should be a misdemeanor to sass a cow; and tew abuze one, a penitentiary offense.

JOSH. BILLINGS.

DEAR HEN:—I hav got but one opinyun (nor had but one) about "wimmins' rights." I think they have a perfect right tew be chaste and butiful; to be mothers of warriors and statesmen; to be the gentlest, purest, sweetest and the most graceful creatures yet created; tew be the power behind the throne; to be a pillo ov down for the aking head of man, and a halo ov glory to adorn his achievements; to be just what God gave them the rare privilege tew be, companyuns, friends, sweethearts, wives and mothers—first in the hearts of man, and last at the polls.

JOSH BILLINGS.

THE FRYING PAN.—"Died of a frying pan," is the epitaph which the Columbus, Georgia, *Enquirer* says appropriately belongs to the graveyards of thousands of Southern people, on account of the manner of preparing food in that part of the country. The editor says of the Southern man:

His standard food is a piece of bacon fried; the fat taken and with flour or meal mixed into a heavy mass and consigned to the inevitable frying pan, and out comes a lump of leathery looking something which the stomach of an ostrich could not digest. Give him a chicken and what does he do with it? Cuts it up, and into the frying pan it goes: after being slowly simmered until hard, it is put into a deep dish and grease poured over it, and what is not soaked up in the chicken is made way with by soaking his frying pan bread in it. Give him a rich, juicy steak, and into the frying pan it goes, and is slowly simmered and simmered until no knife will cut it, and then eaten with heavy bread soaked in the remaining fat; and thus good and wholesome food, in quantity sufficient to afford a wholesome meal for a French artisan's family, is by the frying process rendered not only barely enough for one man, but converted into a slow poison and a fruitful source of disease.

Scarcely a day passes but some poor sufferer applies to me for relief from the "Frying Pan Disease," which relief I am unable to give, without an entire change in his or her habits; and unless such change is effected, whose appropriate epitaph will be "*Died of a Frying Pan.*"

A New Armor.

The Austrian review *Archives of the Marine* announces that an Italian called Muratori, has offered to sell to the Emperor Napoleon the secret of a composition intended to neutralize the destructive effects of the new weapons, the principal component of which is a sort of felt mixed with various other substances, and thus transformed into a compact and adhesive mass. This felt, after being kneaded by powerful machines, then made liquid, and finally cooled, will resist, it is said, even at a short distance, as has been proved by experiment, pistol and rifle balls, bayonet thrust and sabre strokes. A chassepot rifle ball, at a distance of rather more than half the range of that weapon, cannot pierce a cuirass made of this material, which is said to be well adapted for covering the hulls of ships-of-war, as a substitute for the heavy and costly iron and steel at present employed. The felt plates, besides possess the advantage that, unlike those made of metal, instead of being broken to pieces by a cannon ball, they yield to the impact, and the holes made by the latter close of themselves, as if the felt were an india rubber. We are informed that the composition does not cost much more than the fourth part of the price of steel and iron.

The Cuban Question.

What the French Empress Thinks About It.

From the New York Tribune.

It is well known that the Empress Eugenie has very decided, if not always very intelligent, opinions upon all the public issues of the day. The idea she entertains, or at least entertained some weeks ago, on one of the disturbing questions of the present hour, is indicated by an incident which we believe was never published before, though Senator Douglas told it to several of his friends in this city. During the last visit to Europe of the late Stephen A. Douglas, of Illinois (in 1860, if we remember correctly), he was introduced, when in Paris, to the French Court, after the usual forms. Presently the Empress Eugenie fell into conversation with him, and the first remark she made after the salutation was: "Senator Douglas, I understand that you are in favor of the sale of Cuba by Spain to the United States." The Senator attempted to avoid a direct answer by making a pleasant and complimentary remark, to the effect that as France had been fortunate enough to secure a Spanish lady for the throne in the person of her Majesty (alluding to Eugenie's Spanish birth) so the young American Republic was anxious to win a prize from Spain by securing an alliance with the Queen of the Antilles. To this lively sally the Empress made no reply, but instantly remarked, in the most earnest and emphatic way: "If I had the power I would sacrifice every cent (sou) of the Spanish revenue, and every soldier in the Spanish army, before Cuba should be surrendered by Spain."

Invention of Chess.

The story of the origin of the game of chess is something after this wise: An ancient ruler, weary with the old, worn out sports of the period, offered a reward for the invention of a game which should combine amusement and instruction. His Grand Vizier thereupon, after long study, invented the game of chess, as being a pastime and as teaching in epitome the art of concentrating forces, attacking, defending, retreating, etc., as applied to military tactics. The King was so delighted with the game that he told the Vizier to name his own reward. The wise man replied that for his reward he would only ask for a certain number of kernels of corn on the following plan: Two kernels for the first square, on the chess board, four kernels for the second square, eight for the third, and so on up to the sixty-fourth square, the number of kernels for each square being double that for the preceding one. The king, laughing, granted the modest request, but upon computation, it was discovered that, not only was there not so much grain in the kingdom, but that the whole world could hardly produce, in half a score of years, the grain necessary to make good the king's promise.

Allowing 120 grains of corn to the ounce, and 56 pounds to the bushel, the amount required to fill the bill would be 17,846,744,073,709,551,616—seventeen trillion, three hundred and forty-three billion, five hundred and forty-six million, four hundred and sixteen thousand, eight hundred and eighty-seven bushels, and some odd pounds over. The number of grains would be 9,223,372,036,854,775,808.

The Hermit of Maine.

A repulsive looking hermit, a sort of Middle Age ascetic, lives in a log hut at the head of Atean Pond, on the Moose river, Maine, six miles from his nearest neighbor, an Irishman. He is an Englishman, named Lockyere, 87 years old, and has lived in this seclusion nineteen years, cultivating a little patch of ground, and catching fish and game. His only companions are six cats, with whom he lives on terms of intimacy like Alexander Selkirk. Some disappointment seems to have sent him here, but he makes a confident of no one, but says he is possessed of an immense estate in England, and has made his will, which will astonish the world when it is opened. He is now very feeble and is an object of pity, but to some one who asked him if he was not lonely, he said, "No man is alone except God hated him, and he pitied such a person." He is clothed in filthy rags, and, not having bathed in years, his person is encrusted in dirt. There is some hope that the late flood may have benefitted him.

A PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE SCRIPTURES.—Nicholas Wain, though a regular Quaker preacher, was a great wag, and many are the good things said by him which are still current in certain Philadelphia circles. He was once traveling on horseback in the interior of Pennsylvania in company with two Methodist preachers. They discussed the points of difference in their respective sects, until they arrived at the inn where they were to put up for the night. At supper, Wain was seated between the two Methodists, and before them was placed a plate containing two trout. Each of the circuit-riders placed his fork in a fish and transferred it to his plate, after which each shut his eyes and said an audible grace before meat. The Quaker availed himself of the opportunity to transfer both of the trout to his own plate, merely remarking, when the others opened their eyes, "Your religion teaches you to pray, but mine teaches me to watch and pray."

THE GLORIOUS WEST.—Returns already made to the Commissioner of Agriculture show that while Massachusetts produced $2.28, and New York $15 worth of grain to the citizen, the State of Iowa gives the unprecedented yield of $721! And that the general average of Western States will amount to $60 for every man, woman and child! Is it not a mystery the great, brawny, poor native and foreign born people will linger around the crowded cities of the East, barely subsisting from day to day, when nature is so prodigal of her favors in the West?—*Council Bluffs Nonpareil.*

The San Francisco *Mining Press* says that Kustel's "wet process" is now working so successfully in Sonora, that many of the fellows who took Butterfly claims are again unpaid. Wet extraction is no experiment, and not a "new process," though the modifications proposed by Mr. Kustel are original. Amalgamation, it must be understood, is not patented, and is not necessary in this case at all. The ore is gold-ore chiefly, containing only silver.

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