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[AT ONE DOLLAR IN ADVANCE]

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BIOGRAPHY OF TECUMTHA.

BY COL. JOHN JOHNSON.

MISSRS. EDITORS:—I am requested by an old and esteemed friend to give some account of the celebrated warrior, Tecumtha, I state the Indian orthography, which, it will be perceived, is somewhat different from the common practice of writing his name, the interpretation of which, substantially is, the Panther or Tiger crouching ready to pounce on its prey—a name most appropriate and characteristic of the man. Tecumtha was a Native Shawanese, born on the banks of Mad River, near the site of the present city of Springfield, Clarke county, Ohio, about the year 1770, and was of unadulterated Indian blood, both by father and mother. His father became a distinguished war chief, and fell in the battle of Point Pleasant, Kanawha, in 1774. The hatred of the son to the white man was doubtless much aggravated by this occurrence. Tecumtha never was a chief in any sense of the term. Having failed to involve his nation in war with the United States, he early separated himself from the government and control of his legitimate chiefs, and established himself at the head of certain banditti in 1806 on the Wabash, near the mouth of Tippecanoe river. His followers and adherents here were composed of outlaws from all the Indian tribes, principally from those west and adjacent to the Mississippi. The largest number were of the Winnebagoes, although the hearts of all were estranged from us, mainly by reason of our frequent encroachments upon their country, driving them farther and farther from the graves and homes of their ancestors. The frontier tribes, embracing the Wyandots, Delawares, Shawanese, Miamies, Senecas, and many of the Ottawa and Potawatimie towns, being more immediately under our control, and within the reach of chastisement, were afraid to join in any hostile demonstrations against us; not many persons of the tribes named were found in the ranks of Tecumtha.

The Kickapoo tribe of the Shawanese, of which Tecumtha was a member, were invariably distinguished for their hatred to the white race. Often when the chiefs were disposed to make peace, persons of this tribe would go off clandestinely and commit murder on the frontier, in order to defeat their proposed intent. The tribe was nearly annihilated in the year 1812. Nearly all the murders on the north-western frontiers during that period were perpetrated by them. At the Pigeon Roost in Indiana, where twenty old men, women and children were murdered, the leader of the party, one Pasheto, a notorious villain, was of this tribe, as were most of his party. My own life was several times in jeopardy from this daring assassin. He was killed after the war of 1812 in a personal encounter with one of his own people, at Malden, on the English side of Detroit river. He was stabbed in the vitals through the liver, but lived afterwards seventeen days, the Indians affirming the Great Spirit had thus procastinated his sufferings as a punishment for his manifold cold-blooded cruelties.

My personal intercourse with Tecumtha was of short duration, he having left his nation soon after my agency for them commenced, and before he had acquired any great amount of celebrity as a warrior and leader. His habit was to shun as much as possible, all intercourse with United States officers, or persons in authority. He was known to say, that he never looked on the face of a white man, without horror or feeling his flesh creep on his bones. In person he was about five feet ten inches, compactly built and well formed for strength and agility. He would receive no presents for himself, and when any thing was given, he would throw the article contemptuously to his followers. His garments were all made of deer skin, dressed and made up by the women. He was killed at the battle of the Thames near the end of the year 1813 and aged about forty-four years. Finding the English no longer able to protect the Indian allies, their fleet on the Lake captured, their army under Proctor defeated, the cause hopeless, it was doubtless the desire of Tecumtha to perish in the last onslaught. He sought death and met it, but at whose hands is, I think a matter of uncertainty. Anthony Shane, a half-breed raised among the Indians, one of my interpreters, was in the battle, examined the body of Tecumtha, and affirmed he was not the Indian killed by Col. R. M. Johnson. Tecumtha in early life had his thigh bone broken, and where the bone united a ring had formed around the fracture, which could be felt by the hand. This mark was not on the Indian killed by Johnson. I heard General Harrison in 1839, interrogated on the stand at Piqua, Ohio, as to his belief who killed Tecumtha. His reply was that he did not know.

Tecumtha was for a few times guest at my table at Fort Wayne. He would not take any intoxicating liquor, drinking nothing but pure water, would eat meat, potatoes, and corn bread, and very sparingly of those. His whole course in view of his people, was to teach them by precept and example to become independent of the white race. He took a wife agreeable to the urgent request of his friends; it was evident, however, he had little partiality for the

softer sex. The wife and himself occupied the same cabin, but had separate beds. A son was born, who had grown to mature years in my time—a very common person, bearing no resemblance either in person or character to his reputed father. He continued to reside with the Shawanese at Wapagikonetta until 1826, when he emigrated to the south-west of Missouri.

Although Tecumtha became renowned in war, it is undeniably true, that he ran away the first battle he was engaged in. This fact I received from Cutewakasa or Black Hoof, the head chief, who was in the action. He was never known to finish afterwards. The increase of our population north of the Ohio river, and the frequent demand upon the Indians for more of their lands, alarmed the nations occupying and claiming the Territory now embraced within the States of Ohio and Indiana—a subject of all others best calculated to inflame the minds of the natives. Although Tecumtha had no right to interfere in a question involving the title to territory, the Shawanese having come into the northwest within a comparatively short period, and being considered by the other tribes somewhat in the light of tenants at will, he was too wily not to take advantage of the excited feelings of the Indians arising from the loss of their country. This was the commencement of his turbulent career. He appeared too late upon the stage of action; such a spirit fifty or sixty years earlier, might have set bounds to the progress of the white man in the West. In contemplating the wretched fate of the natives of this continent, we are almost instinctively led to approve a sentiment uttered many years ago in the House of Representatives in Congress, by Mr. Hopkinson, of Pennsylvania, "that when he beheld the wrongs and ruin of the Indian race, he almost wished that the mariner's compass had never been invented."

The brother of Tecumtha, who claimed inspiration as a prophet of the Great Spirit, was a very different character; what we would call a brawling, unprincipled demagogue. He encouraged the Indians to war against the Americans, but took care himself to keep out of danger. At the battle of Tippecanoe and the Thames, although present, he took no part in the fight. In the outset of his career as a prophet, he took the name of Elsuataway, the meaning of which is, a new way, a door of hope for the Indians. Pending the war of 1812 his influence was great, drawing crowds after him. None of his prophecies being fulfilled, after the overthrow at the battle of the Thames he sunk into contempt and forgetfulness, and finally removed with his people in 1826 southwest of Missouri.

I had much more to do with the Prophet than with his brother Tecumtha, and on the whole formed a very contemptible opinion of him. He possessed none of the noble qualities of his race; neither truth, honor, honesty or courage. After the war of 1812, he avoided me as much as possible, and seldom appeared in Council with his people, ashamed and afraid to meet me. I had repeatedly warned him of taking up the hatchet against us, and joining the English, and that the result would be the ruin of his people, all of which turned out true to the letter. It is due to the memory of Black Hoof and his associate chiefs, to say that they used every means in their power to prevent their people from taking part in the war, and with the exception of the Prophet's tribe, they remained faithful to their engagements with the United States. It is seldom that a tribe is unanimous for war; the nation never is, and within the memory of the oldest men among them, it is not recollected that much more than half of the nation have been for war at the same time, or taken, as they express it, the war talk. War is always determined on by the head warrior of a town or district which has in their own estimation been injured. He lifts the war hatchet and is followed by all who are for war. The head chief and his counsellors sometimes interpose and arrest the further progress of the party for war. This is not often attended with success; because the law, "blood for blood," predominates, and the right of satisfaction is conceded to the injured party, to the town and tribe to which he belongs. Peace is always determined on and concluded by the head Chief of the nation and his counsellors, and peace talks or communications are always addressed to them. In some cases where the resentment of the warriors runs high, the Chief and his counsellors have been much embarrassed.

In case of murder the family alone of the deceased have the right to take satisfaction. The rulers of a town or the nation have nothing to do or say in the business. The relations of the deceased person consult first among themselves, and if the case is clear, and the family not likely to suffer by their decision, they determine on the case definitely. When their tribe may be affected by it, in a doubtful case, or an old claim for satisfaction, the family consult them, and when they have resolved on satisfaction, they take the guilty one, if to be come at, if he flies, they take the nearest of kin. In some cases the family who have done the injury promise reparation, and in that case are allowed a reasonable time to fulfil their promise; and they are generally earnest of themselves in their endeavors to put the

guilty to death to save an innocent person. The right of judging and taking satisfaction being invested in the individual family or tribe, is the sole cause why the treaty stipulations between the United States and the Indian tribes, respecting murder, are so seldom executed. In like manner a prisoner taken in war is the property of the captor and his family; it being optional with the captor to kill or save at the time. This right is sometimes purchased with property.

During my agency for the Miamies, a shocking murder was committed on the widow of the Toad, who was one of their beloved men. The woman lived alone and was well off with clothing, trinkets, and furniture. She took for a companion and fellow-lodger, a single woman of the same nation. This person, coveting her property and ornaments, basely murdered her benefactor in the night, by battering her skull with a large stone; then robbed the house and fled, seeking concealment in the wilderness. The victim, who was named Jenny by the ladies of the Fort, was a great favorite with all, often assisting them in sewing and making quilts. A universal wish was expressed at the garrison and among the Indians, to have the murderer apprehended; after some weeks she was brought in, and her own father appointed jailor, until her fate could be decided upon. No influence from any quarter was used to save her, the brother of the deceased was appointed to execute the law. Armed with a tomahawk, at the appointed time he passed through the town, and when opposite the cabin where the murderer was kept, her father thrust her out of the door and she was put to death on the spot. This ended the matter, nor did any bad feeling ever arise between the family or friends of the parties. Atonement had been made, life for life, and all were settled. During the time I was commissioner for treating with the Wyandottes of Sandusky, in 1841 and '42, a murder had occurred in the nation, between two of their people. The chiefs having become somewhat familiarized to our laws, took them to their own hands, consulted and decreed the execution of the murderer, and he was publicly shot accordingly.

This was the first instance of departing from the primitive custom of taking satisfaction for the loss of life. Since that time, the Wyandottes made a treaty with the United States relinquishing their Tribal character, and providing for their becoming citizens of the Union; for reasons unknown to the public, that provision of the treaty was stricken out by the Senate. During the administration of Mr. Monroe, and at his instance, a similar article was made in some of our treaties with the natives of the Northwest, and with the further provisions of dividing their lands and giving the fee of six hundred and forty acres to each head of a family. These stipulations were also vetoed by the Senate. Doubtless that body had good and sufficient reasons in the opinions of the members for so acting, yet it must readily occur to the minds of any one acquainted with the condition of the Indians, their past history and future prospects, that if some such security is not provided for them, a few more generations will witness the total extinction of their race, and then how the weeping page of history will tell of the wrongs and blasted faith visited on the red men by the rulers and people of this nation! How keenly all our sensibilities are enlisted in the cause of the African, yet not a voice is scarcely heard in or out of Congress, to vindicate the claims of the Indian. Is it because no political capital can be made out of the misfortunes of the latter?

For many successive years the chief Black Hoof was one of my companions in my early excursions among the Indians. He had lived long, was intelligent, and had more of the history of his people on his mind, than any of his nation. Our talk sometimes extended far into the night, around the camp fire. The subject of removal to the West was often discussed. In advertising to the distress which these matters occasioned to his people, he would conclude by saying, "We will go anywhere if you will let us alone; but we know by experience, go where we may, your people will follow us, drive us again and again, until we reach the sea beyond the mountains, and then we must jump off;" meaning there would be no resting place for them, at last, on the face of the earth. At this very moment, attempts are making to purchase out and remove the Indians who only a few years ago emigrated from Ohio to the new territory of Nebraska. Is it any wonder that they so obstinately refuse to receive the religion or the arts of civilized and Christian people?

In 1842, nine men, women and children of the Seneca and Delaware Indians, were barbarously murdered within the limits of what is now Madison county, Indiana, by a company of five lawless white men. The slightest provocation was not alleged for the outrage; the victims being among the peaceable and inoffensive of their race. The particulars of this horrid tragedy are not fit for the public eye. As soon as I was informed of the outrage, being fully aware of the danger that awaited the frontier settlers from the enraged Indians, I repaired to the scene of action, raised and alarmed the country, got a

party in pursuit, and apprehended four of the murderers. The principal actor having escaped, as was afterwards ascertained, changed his name and enlisted in the army. I had a jail built, picketed in, procured bolts, bars and locks, and employed a guard to insure the safety of the prisoners.

The Governor of the State, apprehending his popularity with the people, declined interfering. I reported the case to Mr. Calhoun, then at the head of the War Department, who promptly responded to my call by giving me full power and authority to prosecute the murderers, to spare no expense and to draw on him for funds. Able counsel was employed on both sides, and after a delay of fourteen months, the murderers were convicted and ordered for execution. Gov. Ray, who was then in the Executive chair, was kind enough to attend a short distance from the execution, for the purpose of communication, should it be found advisable to pardon any of the criminals. The son of S., being under age, and as it appeared coerced by his father into the murder, with the consent of the Indian Chiefs who were at my urgent solicitations present and witnessed the execution, was pardoned by the Governor; the other three suffered.

The Indians had never before witnessed an execution by hanging, and they were affected to tears at the death-struggle of the unhappy men. Thus was the justice of the country, at least for once, vindicated in the sight of the Indians, and they were content, thanks to Mr. Calhoun, who, with all his political aberrations, was an honest and honorable man. The whole affair from first to last, cost the United States seven thousand dollars. The money was well spent, as the execution of the murderers doubtless saved many innocent persons from savage vengeance. This case is most respectfully held up to the view of those speculative, benevolent and misguided persons, who advocate the abolition of capital punishment in all cases whatsoever.

[From the New York Times.]

JAPAN OPENED.

Satisfactory Result of Commodore Perry's Visit—Three Ports Opened to American Trade—Agreement to Furnish Coal to American Steamers—Interesting Narrative—Detailed Account of Commodore Perry's Second Visit.

The Susquehanna arrived at Hong-Kong from Japan on the 23d April, bringing the gratifying intelligence that Commodore Perry had succeeded in the object of his mission in a manner that confer honor on his country and enduring fame on himself. The precise terms of a commercial treaty had not been definitely arranged when the Susquehanna left the Yeddo on the 24th of March; but enough had been done to establish a friendly feeling between the two countries. The opening of three or more ports to the commerce of America and the furnishing of coals for its steamers may be considered as matters settled, and Capt. Adams held himself in readiness to proceed in the Saratoga to bear the intelligence to the Government at Washington.

We are enabled to furnish our readers with a detailed narrative of the proceedings in Japan, from which it will be seen that nothing could have been better or more fortunate than the course pursued by Commodore Perry. Commodore Perry, in the Susquehanna, left the harbor of Hong-Kong on the 14th of January, accompanied by the Powhattan and the Mississippi, the sailing vessels Vandalia, Southampton, Supply, and Lexington having some time before proceeded to the rendezvous at Napakking in Loo Choo, where the squadron met on the 21st of January. Nothing of importance occurred at Loo Choo beyond visiting the capital, Shuidi, with the temples and forts.

The sailing vessels were dispatched for Japan on the last day of January, under command of Captain Abbott, the steamships following on the 7th of February, and, along with the sloop Saratoga from Shanghai, joining the sailing vessels in the waters of Japan on the 12th, without accident beyond the temporary grounding of the Macedonian, which was lightened and speedily got off. The whole squadron then proceeded and anchored in the bay of Yeddo, passing Uraga, where last year the interview and the delivery of the President's letter took place.

Here follows negotiations entered into between the Japan officials and Capt. Adams, as to the place of meeting.—The Japanese reluctantly consented to fix Yokohama as the point.

Eleven days afterwards the meeting took place, and, in the interval, entertainments were interchanged by the American and Japanese officers. At one of two given by Captain Buchanan, the Governor of Uraga, as we have seen in Keying and other high Chinese officials, at once fell in with foreign observances in toasting and speechifying. Capt. Buchanan proposed the health of the Emperor of Japan, which was drunk standing, "with all the honors," and was acknowledged by the Governor of Uraga, who in return similarly proposed the health of the President of the United States. The Japanese took their liquor freely, especially champagne and liqueurs, greatly admiring the glassware that contained them, and expressing a hope that the time was at hand

when they would be at liberty to visit foreign countries in steamers and ships of three masts.

It was during this interval that an officer of the squadron approached Yeddo, and if he did not actually enter it, at least was near enough to judge of its appearance, and to ascertain, what, however, we believe a surveying party had done before, that close to the shore there are five fathoms water, so that it can be approached by large ships.—The city is in the form of a crescent, and stands on an extensive plain with a magnificent back-ground of the mountains and wooded country; but it seems to possess no striking public buildings, while the dwelling-houses are generally of one story, and therefore present nothing imposing in their appearance, except their vast numbers and space they occupy. The population of the capital has, however, been greatly exaggerated, for, though it is certainly great, the Japanese officers themselves place Yeddo third among the cities in the world, London, they said, being the first, and Paris the second.

On the 8th, the preparations were completed for the reception of the Commodore, who, by the bye, insisted upon the removal of the screen-work which extended from the shore to the hall and which shut out the public gaze. Between 11 and 12 o'clock, the marines having been mustered by Maj. Zetlin, and the sailors by Lieut. Pogram, the whole in twenty-nine boats under command of Captain Buchanan, who conveyed the cortege to the shore, and waited the arrival of the Commodore and suite, consisting of Captain Adams, the secretary, Mr. O. H. Perry, and the interpreters, Dr. S. W. Williams and Mr. J. L. C. Portman, who landed about noon, under a salute of seventeen guns from the Macedonian, the men in the boats standing up, and the officers on shore being uncovered. The procession then moved forward, the band playing 'Hail Columbia' and the 'President's March.'

On entering the hall the Commodore was received by four commissioners appointed for the purpose. They were: First, Hayashi, with the title of Daigaku no Kama, or Prince Counsellor.

Second, Ido, Prince of Tsus-sima (the group of islands lying between Corea and Japan.)

Third, Idzumi, Prince of Mimasaki (a principality lying west of Miaco.)

Fourth, Udono, second assistant of the board of revenue.

The party being seated, the flag of Japan was run up on board the Powhattan, and saluted with twenty-one guns from the launches, after which another salute of seventeen guns was given to the Japanese High Commissioner, who, through the interpreter, presented his compliments and welcome to the Commodore and his officers, and particularly inquired about the health of the former. At a sign given, the servants in attendance brought in inlaid stands with tea and saki, sweetmeats and other conserves, and placed one beside each officer. The regalement seems to have been much the same as that which, in China, generally precedes the transaction of business with foreign officials; and while it was going on there was time to take a note of the place of meeting. The hall, which had been run up with great celerity, was about fifty feet long, forty wide, and twelve high, and surrounded with magnificent japonicas, some of them thirty feet in height, and in full bloom. Seats and tables about two feet high, covered with red cloth, extended the whole length of the apartment.

The floor was covered with white mats, about three feet long by two wide; and the place was decorated by highly ornamented braziers placed on beautiful Japan stands. The pillars supporting the erection were ornamented with purple crape and the walls were richly adorned with paintings of birds and flowers. The hall was situated about five hundred yards from the landing place, and was commanded by the ships, which lay within their broadsides to it. Several native artists were present taking sketches of the strangers.

The refreshments being over, the Commodore and his personal staff were conducted by the Japanese commissioners into another room in the rear, the entrance to which was covered with purple crape. The conference lasted three hours, and carried on through the Dutch language, which the Japanese interpreters, Mats-ma-ki and Michi-taso, and Mr. Portman, the Commodore's clerk, spoke fluently. A very favorable answer was given to the President's letter, which, we presume, was in terms of a repetition of President Fillmore's; and it is stated that Commodore Perry was fully satisfied on all points suggested by him, which, we again presume, were in accordance with Mr. Secretary Webster's letter of introductions to Com. Aulick accompanying the first letter to the Emperor.

A draft treaty, in English, Dutch, Chinese, and Japanese, was put into the hands of the Japanese commissioners, who said that it would receive due consideration; but the old Emperor had died since Commodore Perry was last year, and his successor was a young man, who would require to consult his council before coming to a determination; and the Commodore was reminded that Japanese did not act with the same rapidity as Americans did,—

which was thus illustrated: Should several Japanese meet together, desiring to visit the American ships, one would say: 'It is a beautiful morning!' to which another would add, 'How pleasant it is!' Then a third would remark: 'There is not then a wave to be seen upon the water;' at length a fourth would suggest, 'Come let us go and see the ships.'

That the preliminaries of a treaty would be settled during the present visit was, however, more than probable.—Its leading provisions, it is said, will be the opening of three or more of the ports of Japan to the commerce of the U. States, and securing supplies of coals for the steamers of that country. In other respects, the treaty, concluded or proposed, is understood to be nearly a counterpart of that with China, except, it is said, that the Japanese objected to a clause admitting all other countries to the same privileges as America; not like the Chinese, by whom, and not by Sir Henry Pottinger, as is generally supposed, the privileges of the English treaty were extended to all foreign countries. The Japanese would manifest more sagacity, and save themselves from incalculable vexation, were they to determine on allowing other nations to enjoy the same immunities as America, and no other, modelling all future treaties on precisely the same terms. But nothing can be as yet certainly known on the subject, for the Susquehanna, having been placed at the disposal of Mr. McLane, the minister to China, and being under orders to be in Hong-Kong in the beginning of April, was dispatched on the morning of the 24th of March, the very day a conference was to have been held for the purpose of considering the treaty.

During the conference on the 8th, Commodore Perry mentioned that one of the marines had died, and he was desirous to have a piece of ground pointed out where this man and any others of the squadron that might die in Japan could be buried. The Commissioners first suggested Nanasaki, and next Uraga, but on both being objected to, a spot near the place where the coffin was fixed upon. Before the coffin was taken on board to view the body, which purpose the coffin was opened; and after the burial one of them remarked, that, according to the inscription on the lid, the man was a native of Ireland, not of America; but the explanation that followed proved quite satisfactory. The Japanese understood the distinction between Protestants and Roman Catholics.

Before the interview broke up, the Commodore mentioned that he proposed to give his officers leave to go on shore for recreation. To this no great objection was made, and we believe that within a few days afterwards several of the officers were taking exercises on shore. Rev. E. C. Bittinger, the chaplain, made several excursions among the villages and cornfields, which last he found in high cultivation. The houses were generally thatched, but those of the better sort were covered with tiles, having yards and small gardens within enclosures.

The following day, the same gentleman, finding the people neither unfriendly nor indisposed to receive him, and having obtained leave to go on shore, determined to visit two large cities some miles off, called Kanagawa and Kasacca, and with that view crossed an arm of the bay, which shortened the distance by several miles. He then proceeded through Kanagawa, supposed to contain from one to two hundred thousand inhabitants; and from the immense crowds that poured out everywhere to see the stranger, there can be no doubt of the population being very great. The crowds, however, caused no inconvenience or impediment, for on a wave of the hand from the Japanese officials who accompanied Mr. Bittinger, the people cleared a passage; and afterwards, a messenger having been sent forward for the purpose, the people packed themselves at the sides of the houses, and left the centre of the streets clear for the stranger. He entered some of the houses, which he found primitive in their furniture and arrangements; but, compared with other Oriental dwellings of the same class, neat, clean, and comfortable.

In some of them he observed clocks of Japanese manufacture. He also visited temples, which, though smaller than in China, have more gilding on their walls, and ornaments on their idols, and generally are in better order. The priests as well as the people were distinguished for their courtesy. The cities thus visited were not only very extensive (estimated to be six miles long), but with wide, well-formed streets. Casacca is from fifteen to twenty miles distant, by land, from the ships; and Mr. Bittinger being thus necessarily long absent, some anxiety was felt about him. As he was returning, a Japanese officer put into his hand an order from the Commodore for all officers to return on board, and shortly afterwards, a courier, mounted on a splendid black horse, delivered a similar despatch, and finding it was understood and acted on, turned round, and galloped back again to report the approach of the American officer, who concluded his journey by torch-light, and found on his arrival that everything that had occurred had been noted,

even the number of buttons on his coat being recorded.

Four days after the interview, the presents were interchanged, time having been required to erect places for their reception. Those for the Emperor consisted of among other things—

A railway with steam engine; an electric telegraph; a surf boat; a life boat; a printing press; a fine lognette; a set of Audubon's American Ornithology, splendidly bound; plates of American Indians; articles of different States of America; agricultural implements, with all the modern improvements; a piece of cloth; a bale of cotton; a stove; rifles; pistols; and swords; champagne, cordials, and American whisky.

And to the Empress, (presuming there is one)—

A telescope; a lognette in a gilded case; a lady's toilet-box, gilded; a scarlet velvet dress; a changeable silk dress, flowered; a splendid robe; Audubon's Illustrated Works; a handsome set of China; a mantel-piece clock; a parlor stove; a box of fine perfumery; a box of fancy soaps.

Of the other presents, perhaps the one most valued was a copy of Webster's complete dictionary to one of the Imperial interpreters. To the high officers were given, books, rifles, pistols, swords, wines, cloths, maps, gloves, clocks, and cordials, the last of which they fully appreciated, and, as regards clocks, when it was proposed to bring an engineer from shipboard to set them going, the Japanese said there was no occasion for that, for they had clock-makers in Yeddo who understood them perfectly. They were curious to know, however, about Ericsson's caloric engine, of which they had heard, but, from the Commodore at any rate, we suspect they would not receive a very favorable opinion of its practical utility. Whatever may be thought of some of the other presents, the railway and telegraph, at which the world at the time was disposed to laugh, were happy hits. The rail is only about three hundred yards in all, but being formed in a circle, a carriage can be driven at a rate of forty miles or more. Just at first the Japanese were chary of venturing in the car, but after a single trial there was much good humored competition for places. The telegraph still more astonished them, but they will speedily understand it, and may possibly by this time be laying down the wires for themselves.

COSTLY FUNERALS.—A correspondent of the New York Times mentions one of the vanities of the day, in large cities especially, when he says:

"No common man can now be quietly 'buried' at a less expense than four or five hundred dollars. An ordinary coffin costs fifty dollars; the fee exacted by those who are regarded as necessary officers of the gloomy vocation will amount to a corresponding sum; and, if the family of the deceased make the smallest pretensions to moderately fashionable life, they cannot consent that the departed shall be followed to the grave by a cortege of less than one hundred carriages, at a cost of five dollars each, amounting in the aggregate to the sum of five hundred dollars."

EXTRAORDINARY GROWTH OF WOOL.—We learn that Mr. Bennett Branch, of Ross township in this county, out fifty-three and a half pounds of wool from five sheep at one cutting. One of the fleeces weighed twelve pounds and another eleven and a half pounds. The sheep are of the Bakewell breed, and only two years old. We are not experienced in the business of wool growing, but it strikes us this is an extraordinary yield.—Hamilton Telegraph.

VIRTUE IN THE NEW YORK CUSTOM-HOUSE.—The N. Y. National Democrat, which belongs to the Hard section of the New York Democracy, tells some hard stories about matter and things in the New York custom-house. Read this:

About six weeks ago, an officer in the New York custom-house was detected in stealing goods entrusted to his care as a United States officer. The merchant who was wronged laid the facts, as we are informed, before Secretary Guthrie, who immediately wrote to Collector Redfield to remove him; and he was removed. But, a few days ago, John Cochrane quietly placed him back in a responsible office in another department. The same John Cochrane, also, lately appointed to a responsible office a man who is only at large on bail, and who is as filthy a character as can be scared up in 's day's journey among thieves. Go it, John Cochrane! in with your 'thieves, and out with the honest men. For every honest man yet left in the custom-house, there are ten thieves waiting for a place. Hurry up!

SINGULAR STORK.—Robert Scott, Esq., of Woodford county, in Kentucky, who owns one of the splendid farms of that region, has a large pond of water upon his domain, by which he has half domesticated a flock of wild geese. He first procured eleven and stropped their wings, which he claimed for a season.—They migrated northward in the spring, and returned in the fall with their full fledged young. The flock now numbers two hundred and eighty, and increases annually.