

OUR PARIS LETTER.

ECHOES FROM PARIS-SWEDISH NIGHTINGALES. NAPOLEONS "ORGANIZER OF VICTORIES"—SCULPTURE, PAST AND PRESENT—WHAT THE LADIES ADMIRE—SHAWLS AND LACES—FRENCH FURNITURE—A STRIKE—ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS A DAY FOR BOARD!

(From our regular correspondent.)

PARIS, August 9th, 1878.

The growling on the part of the exhibitors has diminished, since the number of prizes has been doubled by simply reducing the gold and silver medals one-half in size. Only 2 competitors thus exist for a champion honor. International exhibition rewards are thus condemned to be about as awe-respecting as a French baron, a German count, or a diploma obtained from a university where the *bursar* regulates the examinations. Scandinavia has sent quite a cloud of nightingales to warble at the Trocadero, which they do well, and above all, cheaply. The men wear white caps, and are to be found isolated in all quarters of Paris: as far resembling the male nightingale, whose characteristic is, according to naturalists, to rove. The Scandinavians have this in common with the Saxon race—they take their pleasure sadly. The Ethnographical Society's meetings are much followed, and the opening speech by Senator Carnot son of Napoleon's "organizer of victories," treated more of brains than of skulls. He thinks moderns are behind Confucius in the art of governing peoples, whose maxim was, "love them;" but even in China, they were only the philosophers who salaamed this doctrine: the Hebrews he said inculcated, "love your neighbors"—provided they were not your inferiors nor impure, "Christianity, said Carnot, inculcates love for humanity without exception, and practises it. The French were sorely tried, when studying the skulls of "Canagues" and waxfigures of their owners, as fit and proper persons to be endowed with Rousseau's rights of man, and Lamartine's Universal suffrage vote; they are the aboriginals of New Caledonia, who have just massacred and eaten some soldiers and communists in training to cease to do evil, and learning to do well.

It is impossible to do justice, even cursorily, to the many specimens of sculpture exhibited in the various sections of the exhibition, and it may be added, too that it would be uninteresting to do so. To the majority of people, statuary at best, is a sealed book. It creates no sensation when it is visibly before them, and it would certainly create less, if it were possible, when simply described by the feeble power of a reporter. Nevertheless, it is the grandest, most ancient, and most durable of the arts. The works which delight the critic of today and are believed to mark the golden age of statuary date their origin many centuries before the Christian era. The full beauty of the human form has never been so accurately described as by the Greek sculpture. The mythology of the country gave to their efforts an elevation and purity of thought which in these days cannot be conveyed to similar subjects however skillfully manipulated. Hence the tendency of sculpture has been moderate, the severity of the ancient school and to create another in which clothes should not be wholly disregarded. The toga imposed itself on the thoughts and consciences of artists. Were it a booted warrior with a cocked hat that had to be depicted he was found clad in the garb of a Roman senator. An absurdity so conspicuous could not long continue. A new school sprang up. Its aim was to call a spade a spade. If tofe boots and a cocked hat were wanted the disciples of that school were ready to supply them. Nay if Achilles, himself, in addition to his one natural defect, had also had a pimple on the top of his nose, they would have alighted upon it with enthusiasm.

Excess of any kind naturally leads to reaction, and a reaction took place. But various theories still remain. The pursuits and the realists contend for their separate ideas, and the able men on either side prove how easy it is for both to be right.

The French statuary, by its numbers and the variety of its styles and subjects, is considered the best.

The finest shawls are still made, as of yore, in the beautiful valley of Cashmere, the Oriental Eden, which is shut by the precipitous mountains from all surrounding countries. The Cashmerian is industrious intelligent and lively. It is only in Cashmere

that production is organized on principles nearly akin to the economical plan of Europe. The shawl is the glory and pride of the country, nearly the entire population being engaged in its productions. The goats of Thibet, from which tremendous steep separates it on the north, supply the silky wool which alone is used in the tissue; none other can surpass—none has yet equalled—in softness. The downy substance found next the skin, and below the thick hair, is the part employed; it is of exquisite fineness. So jealous is the Maharajah of Cashmere to maintain his reputation, that he has recently taken steps to prevent any deterioration in the quality of the shawls manufactured. The Indian display of the articles is exceedingly fine, and of great value. Almost every civilized country in the world produces the article called lace—the most difficult and delicate result of skilled labor. These are, however, only two or three countries that have given any original impulse to the trade. The others have simply followed in the trains of events, taking what they have done as a model, and imitating it to the best advantage. To the two nations—France and Belgium belongs the credit of prosecuting this trade with vigor.

The laces of Alencon and Brussels are of so complicated a nature that each process is assigned to a different lace maker, who works only at her special department. Formerly a piece of Alencon lace would pass through eighteen hands before completion, that is now somewhat diminished. Valenciennes lace is also of most elaborate workmanship; the pattern and ground are made together, with the same thread on the same pillow.

A few years since, Paris enjoyed the monopoly of furniture *de luxe*, but although it is still the most important centre for the manufacture of French furniture, several large firms have been established at Lyons, Bordeaux, Marseilles, Nantes, Caen, Toulouse, &c. There are about 27,000 furniture makers in France, and between 4,000 & 5,000 producing firms. Indigenous woods, such as beech oak, deal and walnut wood are used in the cheaper kinds of cabinet-work; mahogany, rosewood, *bois de violette*, are employed in more expensive furniture.

There is a strike at the Exhibition. The neat-handed Phillises employed to wait upon the guests at the Restaurant *Duval* have struck against some interference with the gratuities which they receive from the visitors. There are 250 employed in the establishment.

A great deal has been said and written about the expense of living in Paris at the present moment, and the extortionate instincts of hotel-keepers have been much dilated upon. Probably no one has felt this more acutely than His Imperial Majesty the Shah, who, before leaving Paris, had to settle several hotel bills of considerable length. The account of the Grand Hotel alone amounted to 76,000 fr., which was at the rate of 3,454 fr. *per diem*; but at Fontainebleau, where His Majesty's stay was of the shortest, the charges were preposterous. There the bill amounted to 14,000 fr., but after long negotiations it was reduced to 9,000 francs. ALPHA.

The Big Trees of California.

Mr. A. E. Winship, in the national Journal of Education, describes some of the giant trees of California as follows:

A day among the forest giants of Calaveras county is one of the grandest experiences that one can have in connection with the vegetable world. It is of such a day that we write. In the early morning of a scorching Autumn day we were driven from Murphey's through the parched valley which leads in to the Calaveras grove.

When within a dozen miles of the "big trees" we came across some sugar pines from eight to ten feet in diameter and more than two hundred feet high; these were so much larger and taller than anything we had ever seen that we became exceedingly enthusiastic over them, and annoyed the driver with our questions and remarks; but as we found ourselves riding among these trees for miles, we came to think little more of them than of a grove of Cape Cod scrub pines; indeed, our estimate of trees underwent a complete change in three or four hours, so that when the driver pointed to the "Sentinels" and told us those were the real "big trees," we were greatly disappointed, and did not

hesitate to express ourselves thus. We could not deny that they were large trees, twenty-seven feet in diameter and three hundred feet high, but they were not what we expected. The sugar pines, when we first saw them, had been nearer our idea. We were vexed to think of the expense and sufferings we had undergone to see such trees. Even the poetical gentleman who had been rehearsing Bryant's "Forest Hymn" for two days in order that he might say with effect,—

"The groves were God's first temples,"

joined us in our sullenness. Once out of the stage, we went into the spacious apartments of the hotel, and threw ourselves upon the sofas and were all quietly sleeping at mid-day, resting our weary bodies and disappointed imaginations. After dinner we went out in the grove and looked at the trees. It is strange how much a good dinner will cultivate a man's taste for the grand and beautiful! We had been disgusted with the trees when tired and hungry, but with a rested body and gratified stomach we were amazed at their grandeur, and the more we studied them the greater became our astonishment. Think of standing beside a tree thirty-five feet in diameter! Bunker Hill Monument, which is thirty-one feet square, would stand secure if built upon the stump of one of those trees. If one of them was square, with a side equal to the diameter, you could hew off two feet on a side, and cut off a hundred feet from the top, and then have a shaft as large as Bunker Hill Monument left. Any one of those trees is ten feet broader than any ordinary two-story house. It is as far to walk around such a tree as to cross a large parlor fifteen feet square seven times.

We were awed by the presence of such trees. The "Father of the Forest" is the greatest wonder of the woods, and we can appreciate his size all the better because he is lying down. He has doubtless lain there since before Columbus discovered America. He was about four hundred and fifty feet high when in his glory, or twice as high as Bunker Hill Monument, or six times as high as our tall New-England trees. About one-hundred and fifty feet broke off in falling, but the base, which is three-hundred feet long, is well preserved, and at that distance from the roots, is sixteen feet in diameter. This tree is lying upon its side, and ladders are placed so that you can go up and stand upon the side of this fallen monarch. As we stood upon the side of that fallen tree we were forty feet from the ground, or ten feet higher than the ridge-pole of a two story pitch-roof house. This fallen tree has a hollow running lengthwise of the tree, which the Indians burned out in years gone by; through this hollow we walked, standing erect, trying in vain to touch the roof of this tube.

I will speak of but one other tree, and that shall be one of the small trees of the species, being only thirty feet in diameter. This tree was cut down in 1853. How would you cut down a tree thirty feet in diameter? Think of taking an axe to such a tree! They cut it off with augers made for the purpose, boring through from side to side, and to do this required five men 25 days. If one man could have worked to as good advantage, it would have given him five month's work to fell a single tree. The stump of this tree, six feet from the ground, is the floor of a house which has been built above it of the size and shape of the stump. This tree, bark and all, would saw a million feet of timber, enough to build sixty two-story houses, furnishing lathes, shingles, and all. It would build all the churches, school-houses, and stores for an ordinary country village, and have material enough left to start a respectable lumber-yard. It would make as much lumber as one thousand of the large trees which grow in our New-England forests.

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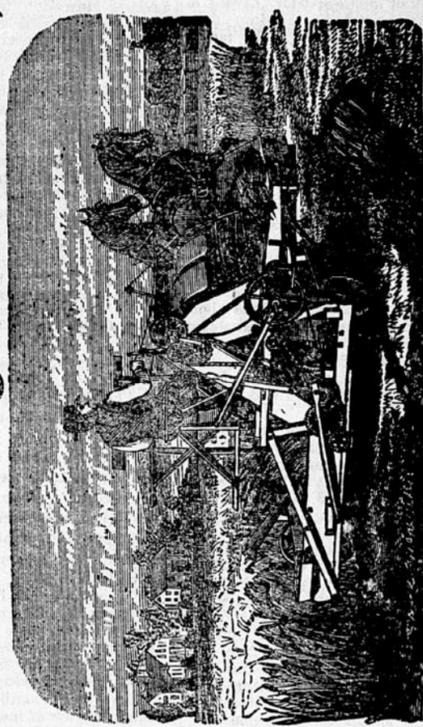
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Notice of Mortgage Sale.

Default having been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage executed and delivered by Henry Rehfeld, of the City of St. Paul, Ramsey Co., Minn., Mortgagee, dated the fourth day of March, A. D. Eighteen Hundred and Seventy, and recorded as a mortgage in the office of the Register of Deeds of the County of Brown, in the State of Minnesota, on the 21st day of March, A. D., 1870, at six o'clock, P. M., in Book "E. P." of mortgages, on pages 325, 326 and 327, on which there is claimed to be due at the date of this notice the amount of Two Hundred and fifteen dollars and sixty-five cents (\$215.65) and no action or proceeding at law or in equity has been instituted to recover the debt secured by said mortgage or any part thereof.

Notice is hereby given, that by virtue of a power of sale contained in said mortgage and of the statute in such cases made and provided, the said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises therein described, which sale will be made at the front door of the Court House, in the City of New Ulm, in the County of Brown and State of Minnesota, at public auction by the Sheriff of said County, on Monday, the 17th day of September, 1878, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, to satisfy the amount which shall be due on said mortgage, with the interest thereon and costs and expenses of sale and twenty-five dollars attorneys fees as stipulated in said mortgage in case of foreclosure.

The premises described in said mortgage and so to be sold are the lot, piece or parcel of land situated in the county of Brown and State of Minnesota and known and described as follows, to-wit:

The North-east quarter of the South-east quarter and the South-west quarter of the South-east quarter of Section number ten [10] in Township number one hundred and ten [110] in Range number thirty-two [32] containing eighty [80] acres according to the Government survey the roof.

Dated at St. Paul, Minn., this 23d day of July, A. D. 1878. JOHN J. SCHAEFER, Mortgagee. THOMAS HOWARD, Attorney for Mortgagee.

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