

BUFFALO, (NEW YORK), AUGUST 7, 1851.

"The New York State Teachers' Association" has been holding its sixth annual convention in this city yesterday and to-day. I have been in several times to witness their proceedings, which were of considerable interest and much public importance, as every thing must be acknowledged to which helps to mould and influence our system of education.

Altogether Buffalo has the appearance of a great deal of business energy. It contains a population now of nearly fifty thousand, and is rapidly increasing. When I go into a new place that has had a rapid growth I like to get hold of an old resident who has grown up with it and who is a witness to its changes.

"Then you are the gentleman I was looking for," said I. "I want to inquire what sort of a place this was forty years ago."

"Well," said he, "it was a little village that grew up here mostly by trading with the Indians."

"How many inhabitants did it contain at that time?" "Well, before the British burnt it in the last war," said he, "there might be five or six hundred. I know we got up a volunteer company, and every man in the place that was able to bear arms joined it except three, and our company numbered about a hundred. So I judge there might be five or six hundred people, young and old, all told."

"Is there a good farming country around to support Buffalo?" "Yes, very good land," said he, "farmers are doing well in this part of the State."

"And you are fast growing up into a great city," said I. "Yes," said he, "Buffalo is growing very fast, and it would grow a good deal faster if it only had a good water-power."

Buffalo is laid out for a large city. There are streets enough located on the map and named for a population of two hundred thousand. There is one pretty public square in the centre of the city, in front of the court-house, and I see the papers are calling public attention to the subject of securing and opening other squares and parks before the growth of the city shall greatly increase the difficulties of accomplishing so desirable an object.

"I then went to the 'American Hotel,' which I soon found to be the leading hotel of the city. It is a new establishment, opened but a few weeks since, and not yet finished. In capacity, style, and arrangements it must rank among the first class of hotels in the country. It is a five-story brick building, covered in front with good imitation of brown stone, and contains two hundred and thirty rooms, about a hundred and fifty of which are already finished and occupied, and all furnished in rich and magnificent style. The hotel is pleasantly located on the highland in the centre of the city. It has a front of a hundred and eighty-five feet on Main street, and the central portion of the block extends back to a depth of two hundred and thirty-three feet.

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called the "Main and Hamburg street canal," which is connected with the terminus of the Erie canal. All these harbors, canals, and basins, besides others which I have not mentioned, seem so thoroughly filled with canal boats that the members of the Legislature have witnessed the scene annually, I think there would have been less opposition to the canal enlargement.

There were twenty or thirty steamers of different grades in the harbor, some of them of the first class, finished in a style of elegance to compare with the Hudson river and Long Island Sound steamers. Some of them are fast boats, too, having made the passage between Buffalo and Cleveland in less than eleven hours.

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7.—Comparison of the Geological Features of Tennessee with those of the State of New York, by Prof. J. Hall, State Geologist, of New York.

- The papers read this morning were as follows: 1.—Comparison of the Geological Features of Tennessee with those of the State of New York, by Prof. J. Hall, State Geologist, of New York. 2.—On the Geological Survey, by Prof. Elias Loomis, of the University of the city of New York. 3.—Analysis of the Musk Melon and Water Melon, by Dr. J. H. Salisbury, of Albany. 4.—On the Permeability of Metals to Mercury, by Professor Horsford, of Hartford. 5.—On the Solar Eclipse of 28th July, 1851, by Lieut. Charles H. Davis, U. S. N., Superintendent of the Naval Almanac. 6.—Additional Notes of a discussion of Tidal Observations, made in connection with the Coast Survey at Cat Island, Louisiana, by A. D. Bache, Superintendent. 7.—Statistics of the Navy, as respects the Theoretical Inferences, by Dr. Hare, of Philadelphia.

Some of these papers I may be able to refer to again briefly, if the volumes of papers to come in rapid succession will allow me a moment's time to look back.

BIRD'S-EYE

GLIMPSES OF MEN, THINGS, AND PLACES—No. 22.

ALBANY, (N. Y.) AUGUST 20, 1851.

The Scientific Convention, continued. First, a word of preface or note, which I should have given yesterday. Eight or ten days ago, in my last sketch from Buffalo, I said that Niagara Falls, but twenty-two miles off, were roaring in the ear of my imagination, lifting up their mighty voices and crying 'Come and see.' And now, in the ear of my imagination there seems to be a still more voice from all my readers, whispering 'Did you see them? And if you did see them, why do you jump over them? Why not give us a glimpse also?'

I confess, reader, I did see the Falls, and gazed at them by sunlight and moonlight nearly a week. I saw where Sam Patch 'jumped over' them; but I have no intention of jumping over them myself, or defrauding you of the glimpse which is your due. With permission of Providence in due time you shall see the Falls; but first let me show you this *cataract of science* which is now deluging the ancient capital of the Empire State. This will pass away with the week and can no longer be seen here, though with his faithful efforts I hope may be felt all over the land. But have no fear in the mean time that Niagara Falls, that stupendous emblem of infinity, will all run out and disappear. No, wait even so long we shall not lose the sight.

"It runs; and as it runs, forever shall great ones." As Niagara Falls is divided into two great sections by Goat Island, and pours its mighty flood over what is called the American Falls on one side, and the Horse-shoe Falls on the other, so our extract of science is divided into two great sections, the first embracing mathematics, physics, and chemistry, and the second geology and natural history. The following schedule will afford a glimpse of the amount and character of the flood of scientific waters which flowed from each section from four to seven o'clock yesterday afternoon:

- SECTION I. Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry. 1.—Experimental Researches, tending toward an Improvement in the Telescope, by Professor Alexander F. Twining, of New York. 2.—On the Atmospheric Envelopes of Venus and other Planets, by Prof. Stephen Alexander, of Princeton. 3.—Observations on the Freezing of Vegetables, and on the causes which enable some plants to endure the action of extreme cold, by Prof. John Lee, of the University of Georgia. 4.—On the Clouds and Equatorial Climate of the Earth, by Lieut. Maury, Superintendent of the Washington Observatory.

SECTION II. Geology and Natural History.

- 1.—Notice of several American Minerals, by Prof. Charles U. Shepard, of New Haven. 2.—On the Meteoric Stone of Deal, New Jersey, which fell August 16, 1829, by Prof. Charles U. Shepard. 3.—On the probable date of the fall of the Redoubt Mountain (South Carolina) Meteoric Iron, by Prof. Charles U. Shepard. 4.—On Chalcolite, a new mineral species, by Prof. Charles U. Shepard. 5.—On the Alluvium of Norwich, (Mass.), by Prof. Charles U. Shepard. 6.—On the Geographical Distribution of Animals in California, by Dr. J. L. L. Conte, of New York.

The second section having withdrawn to a separate room, the President, (Professor ANASTAS), as might be expected, followed the first section for the section of 'geology and natural history' surely would not be complete without the presence of the great naturalist. Professor BACHS, late President of the Association, occupied the chair of the first section. The meeting in both sections was large, and nearly equal in numbers.

This morning (Wednesday) the Association met in general session for a copy of honor. Professor ANASTAS in the chair. A letter was read from the Mayor of Cleveland, Ohio, inviting the Association to hold its next annual meeting at that place, and stating that the city would make suitable arrangements for the accommodation of the members, and would defray the expense of publishing the proceedings of the meeting of the Association. A letter was also received from Dr. Billimore, inviting the Association to hold the next annual meeting in that city, and holding out similar inducements and professions.

Prof. Mitchell's new method of taking right ascension and declinations, by means of electro-magnetism. This subject attracted a good deal of attention at the late extra meeting of the Association. A letter was also received from Dr. Billimore, inviting the Association to hold the next annual meeting in that city, and holding out similar inducements and professions.

Accordingly, this morning, Prof. FRANKS, chairman of the committee, made a final report on the subject. It was very brief, simply stating that, after a thorough examination of the matter, the committee were perfectly satisfied that the discovery was fully equal to all that Prof. MITCHELL had claimed, and was of vast importance to the science of astronomy. The committee expressed their regret that they were unable to embrace the subject in their report of last year, and in order to enable Prof. MITCHELL to perfect his instruments and his arrangements for observations, the committee recommended that the Association appoint a committee to petition Congress for an appropriation for this purpose. The recommendation was adopted, and such committee will be appointed.

Prof. MITCHELL, at the request of the committee, then came forward and made an elaborate statement of the principles and progress of his discovery, the difficulties and obstacles he had struggled with, and the results that he had arrived at. He compared a series of observations made by his machinery with a series of the most accurate observations taken in Europe by the common methods, showing that in the European series the average of differences was nearly two seconds, while in his series the average of differences was less than a third of one second.

After this subject was disposed of, the Association separated into its two sections, and a large number of papers were read and discussed. BIRD'S-EYE.

WASHINGTON.

"Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable."

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 1851.

AN APPEAL TO HISTORY.—No. II.

In our late remarks under this head, it may be remembered, we expressed some surprise that, in the discussions upon the practical effect of the proposed secession of one or more States from the Union, so little light had been drawn from history to show what had been in past ages the consequence to the severed half or parts of any nation thus torn from the body to which it belonged.

Since committing that remark to the press we have read, in the "Southern Standard," a Letter from a citizen of South Carolina (the Hon. J. TOWNSEND) to a committee of the inhabitants of Charleston, in reply to an invitation to a Public Meeting of those who prefer a Southern Confederacy to separate State secession. Though intended only to dissuade its readers against favoring the separate secession of the State of South Carolina, and advising in preference joint secession of the disaffected Southern States—alternatives between which we see little difference in principle, or in consequence, so far as the Union is concerned—yet in that Letter, showing very clearly the danger to herself of precipitate separate Revolutionary action by the single State of South Carolina, the writer has resorted to the very pages of history to which we had recourse in our preceding number, citing the case of the present condition of the disaffected Italian States, and their consequent subjection and depression, as warnings to any State or States in this country disposed to place themselves in a like unenviable predicament.

The part of Mr. Townsend's Letter embracing this historical illustration contains so plain a demonstration of the actual intention of the Carolina Disunionists, and so entirely concurs in the view which we have taken of its impracticability, that, for the information of such of our readers in different States as imagine to themselves reasons for disaffection to the Union as it is, we cannot do better than transcribe the entire passage, as follows:

"To erect South Carolina into a separate independent nation, with her 'President,' 'Secretaries,' 'Foreign Ministers,' &c.—this is the aim of the ruling spirit, and of the great body of that party at this time. For this they argue, and declaim, and seek to make converts. It is with a view to reconcile the people to that form of national existence, that 'separate State secession' is practically discussed in all its aspects, and copies of the pamphlet scattered broadcast over the State. It is to induce us to take that step that 'our resources, military, financial, and territorial, for a separate National Government, are inevitably (but most falsely) arrayed before us, and the example of every petty State in Europe held up to our imitation."

Let it not, then, be denied that a separate, independent 'nationality,' with all its hazards and disadvantages, is the real object of that party; and let the people at once begin to look the question fully in the face, and decide whether this is what they desire, or whether they intend to reach after something else which is better, and, can, by patience and proper exertions, be obtained. If they desire to live severed from our natural allies—the sister States of the South—never, I fear, to be again fraternally united to them, and placed in the attitude of an alien and foreign nation to them, they have only to leave the straight road which the Legislature has laid out for us, and which is sanctioned by the wisest and purest of our statesmen, and turn off at the cross-road which the separate secession party, in the Convention, have taken, and they will soon find themselves beyond Jordan, in the condition, I fear, of one or two lost souls.

But, with regard to the question which is mooted by Mr. Townsend, between single or confederated secession, we may at once say that we consider the difference between them to be of little importance, so far as consequences are concerned. In either case, all existing conditions of things must be more or less changed, and new combinations, with new and untried conditions and consequences, brought into action. To South Carolina, as in former essays on this subject we have shown, any change from her present relation to the Union must be, if not ruinous, degrading. Separate, she could only exist as a State by permission and tolerance; a condition far more galling than any present evil or inconveniences from which she desires to escape. As a member of a new combination, or confederacy, her condition will be, in no conceivable particular, better than it now is. Allied to stronger Powers, could the People of that State expect to control the Confederacy? Or, allowing, in the face of all probability, that the more powerful members of the Confederacy should constitute the State of South Carolina its Dictator, does the idea of a Southern Confederacy promise an Elysian age? Does not all History abound with facts to contradict so fond a delusion? Would human passions be annihilated, or the ambitious promptings which led to the Revolution quelled, by such a change as this from bad to worse? On the contrary, convinced as we are, that if the People of South Carolina were to make the experiment of seceding alone, the fruits of that secession would be as gall and wormwood, and are quite as profoundly convinced that, ruinous as such a secession would be, there is not an evil to follow in its train but would be aggravated by the number of recusant States. Disappointment would be universal, and every evil would be set down to the Revolution: recrimination loud and bitter, and unanimous in blaming the instigator of the movement.

To resume, however, our cursory examination of History: the example of France may be cited as that of an Empire in which—though, as in all other countries, every element of order and disorder has been reduced to action—has been exhibited from its earliest age, in constant operation, amidst apparent versatility, an enduring Conservative principle. After the dislocation of the Roman Empire, when Western Europe was strewn over with political fragments; when society seemed to be completely broken up, and chaos came again, the latent principle of order and renovation existed where it was least suspected, and in after ages most effectually vindicated the dignity of human nature.

ITALY, in which the Roman Empire commenced, has never, since the fall of the Empire, regained its unity. GREECE, civilized, even learned, and abounding in all that bespoke high prosperity and cultivation, before Roman Power had yet passed the limits of Italy, remains a footstool to the Turk. Neither Egypt, Northern Africa, nor Western Asia, all once parts of the Roman Empire, have the present time recovered even a moderate share of ancient grandeur. Not confounding the moral or intellectual condition of Italy with even that of Greece, much less with that of Northern Africa or Western Asia, where, at this day, let us ask, is heard the name of ITALY in the strife or emulation of Nations? Can she be heard in the decision of her own fate? Once mistress of immense regions of Europe, Asia, and Africa, her eagles soared entirely round and over the Mediterranean Sea; but now, do her children command even the soil they cultivate? No; and why do they not? Because, since the breaking up of the Roman Empire—the dissolution of that Union which bound together its various parts—they have become (no longer Italian) Lombards, Huns, Sicilians, Sardinians, Genoese, Tuscans, Neapolitans, Romans, &c. Their masters are beyond the Alps. ITALY is hardly a generic term.

But, turning from the wreck of fallen greatness, let us contemplate the effect of Union in a great People. From the death of Julius Caesar, forty-three years before the Christian Era, and for more than three hundred years after that era, ROME was the capital of an Empire, comprising, in Europe, all Italy, all the Gauls, Spain, Greece, Illyricum, Dacia, and Pannonia, with part of Britain and Germany; in Asia, Asia-Minor, Paphlagonia, Syria, Judaea, with parts of Mesopotamia and Medea; and, in Africa, Egypt, Lybia, Numidia, and Mauritania; with (what no other nation had ever possessed before) all the islands of the Mediterranean and the connecting smaller seas.

When Roman power thus stretched over such vast extent, including the then known civilized world, what was "Trans-Alpine Gaul," now France? A Roman Province; and it remained such, until, by the gradual decline and final extinction of that Power, its former constituent parts became elements in new Constitutions.

What is now FRANCE extends over rather more surface than was included in Trans-Alpine Gaul. It would be foreign to our purpose to trace the particulars of its conquest and possession by the Romans, until the invasion and settlement of it by the German people, known to history under the name of Franks; from whom it derived its name of France, or country of the Franks; under which name that people has existed as a nation fourteen hundred and thirty years.

The recapitulation of the events of her history, which would show how FRANCE, among the Governments of Europe, has survived many ages of revolution, and now stands in the first order of Nations, would be a process too tedious both for our time and for the patience of our readers. Suffice it to say, that, through ages of internal conflict and revolution, and after suffering and finally repelling invasions by the Mahomedans from the South and of the Normans from the North, the last Carolingian King (LOUIS V.) having died, he was succeeded by HUGH CAPET, whose posterity reigned over France to the tragic death of Louis XVI. on the 17th of January, 1793, through a period of eight hundred years; a fact in itself strong proof of some enduring principle in the character of French society; though constantly, in all that time, in a more or less declared state of disturbance.

In the early ages of the Capetian Kings, the rivalry between France and England produced the most important events, which, together with the mania of the Crusades, gave a peculiar character to that long period of the history of both nations. It was one of alternate dislocation and restoration. The English conquests and possessions in Northern France (a fertile source of war and rivalry) retarded improvement in every branch of human policy. To these distracting causes were added the rivalries, pretensions, and turbulence of the great Barons, and still more powerful and ambitious Ducal princes. Of the latter, the one who most deeply influenced his own and after ages was CHARLES, Duke of Burgundy, destined to act a part which ended in his own ruin; but which brought into action new elements, which are yet active in modern policy. FRANCE was imperceptibly urged forward to act a most salutary and enduring part, the real moving power, though not then seen to be so by the actors. The effects were beyond the men of that age, and have not perhaps in more recent time received their due allowance in the philosophy of history.

It will sound strangely, but it is true, that FRANCE has both directly and indirectly sustained every one of the three most influential Republics of modern ages; Switzerland, Dutch Netherlands, and the Anglo Saxon United States of North America. It can be shown, as distinctly as any other general historical facts, that the Helvetic and North American Republics would not have been sustained in the last century had France remained Neutral, and much less had that Nation taken ground against their existence instead of for it. In thus acting, we know, it may be said that France acted from a selfish policy. To some extent this might be true; but that was not her sole motive. There must be something radical in a policy which has been pursued by any Nation for a thousand years, during which period, in the ever-changing drama of Europe, and opposed to disturbing influences, the principle in this case has remained in force.

But, comparatively, the history of Helvetia (Switzerland) is remote from the object immediately before us. It is the agency of FRANCE in securing the Independence of our own country which more especially interests us; and our present object is to show to our readers the long suite of centuries which it has cost France to secure to herself that territorial integrity which has been obtained by the United States in less than two centuries. Integrity (Entireness) is a jewel, which no People have ever lost and regained. Recusant Provinces (Territorial Divisions under whatever name) may be likened to prodigals, who leave the parental protection to bear the scoffs of strangers. Let all men remember and reflect upon this truth: that it is combined strength which secures independence and respect. Let not this great truth be trifled with. Of all things most fearful in the certainty of the ill consequences of neglecting it, let it not be set at defiance by acts which admit of no recall.

To recur to the history of FRANCE, so far as it may throw any light on the great question which has been lately agitated in some of the States of this Union.

Passing by the struggles of contending factions in intermediate centuries, during which Order was continually gaining upon Chaos, we arrive at our main purpose, which is to show, at one view, the slow and painful process of re-organization of dismembered Nations. For this purpose, we ask the reader's attention to the following tabular statement, which shows, in the order of time, how many centuries were required for the re-organization of FRANCE:

Provinces.	When united.	By whom, and by what means.
Berry	A.D. 1100	Philip I.
Touraine	1203	Philip II.
Normandy	1205	Philip II.
Languedoc	1271	Philip III.
Champagne	1285	Philip IV.
Lyonnais	1310	Philip IV.
Dauphiny	1349	Philip VI.
Poitou, Annis, and Saintonge	1372	Conquest.
Guienne	1453	Conquest.
Burgundy	1477	Reversion.
Anjou	1480	Succession.
Maine	1481	Succession.
Provence	1485	Succession.
Bretagne	1515	Marriage.
Bourbonnais and Marche	1528	Confiscation.
Limousin	1589	Succession.
Bearn and Foix	1589	Patrimony.
Auvergne	1615	Cession.
Roussillon	1642	Conquest.
Alsace	1648	Treaty.
Flanders and Artois	1659	Conquest.
Nivernois	1659	Acquisition.
France-Comté	1674	Conquest.
Lorraine	1738	Cession.
Corsica	1769	Cession.

From this recapitulation, such of our readers as have never had their attention particularly directed to the subject, will learn how many ages it has cost European Nations to regain what was lost in the Feudal Ages.

From the data comprised in this table it appears that to re-unite its dismembered members cost the Nation of FRANCE six hundred and sixty-nine years. We put the question, and pause for a reply: What would a single ancient Province of that Nation gain by being set apart and dismembered from the mighty body of which it is a member?

ALABAMA.

The Montgomery Advertiser and Gazette, a "Southern Rights" paper, thus acknowledges the defeat of its party at the late election:

"We have received sufficient returns to satisfy us that the Congressional elections in this State have resulted disastrously for Southern Rights. But two Southern Rights men, Bragg and Harris, have been elected, while the Illinois Federal consolidationists have elected five. This shows bad for the cause of the South in Alabama."

The Montgomery Journal says that the "Union" men have a majority of thirteen members in the State Senate, and forty members in the House of Representatives.

The vote in the northern portion of the State, especially, indicates wonderful unanimity in favor of the Union and the Compromise measures, and in opposition to the right of secession. The North Alabamians says that not a single individual who openly avowed his belief in the abstract right of secession, or was even suspected of entertaining such heretical views, has been elected either to the State Legislature or to Congress in that section of the State. A more unequivocal and overwhelming condemnation and rebuke of the heresies and designs of the "Southern Rights" Associations in the State could not have been administered.

Senator CLEMENS, of Alabama, at a recent Democratic Convention in that State, paid the following manly tribute to President FILLMORE. It does honor to him who bestowed it, as well as to him upon whom it is bestowed:

"Sir, I honor him (the President) for his course, and if the approbation of a political opponent, who has at times done him some wrong, be at all grateful to him, let him be assured that not I only, but thousands of others of my political friends, heartily thank him for what he has done, and fervently thank God that we have in this crisis a patriot and a statesman at the head of affairs who knows his duty and dares to perform it."

THE RICHMOND RIFLE COMPANY.—We understand from a Columbia friend, says the "Winnboro" Herald, that at a barbecue given by this gallant corps on the 8th August it was ascertained that out of eighty-five members present seventy-eight were for separate State action, six for waiting for co-operation, and one for the Union. Will our correspondents inform us who is the Union man, only to satisfy our curiosity?—*Charleston Mercury.*

Aye, give to the Public the name of "the Union Man," that it may be proclaimed with the honor due to true patriotism, sustained by courage, wherever found.

ANTI-RENT OUTRAGES.

We are glad to see that the Albany Evening Journal, from which we copy the following account of another most brutal outrage by the outlaws of New York who are opposed to buying land or paying those who own it for the rent of it, speaks with becoming abhorrence of the repetition of these villanies:

"ANOTHER OUTRAGE.—A number of persons in disguise forcibly entered the house of HIRAM SHAW, a Justice of the Peace in the town of Berne, Rensselaer county, on Saturday night last, dragged him from his bed, and, after carrying him some five miles, tarred and feathered him in the most brutal manner. When the ruffians left him he was so much exhausted that he was helpless; and but that two of his assailants took compassion upon him, and carried him home, he must have perished. The only cause of anger against Mr. Shaw was that he has recently proposed a new business for Mr. Van Rensselaer, and for Messrs. Lansing and Pruyn.

"The public authorities should not rest a moment until the wretches guilty of this brutal outrage are brought to condign punishment."

Governor HUNT, of New York, has offered a reward of \$500