

[Correspondence of the Philadelphia Press.]  
RECEPTION OF GEN. VAN VALKENBURG IN YEDDO.

Bay of Yeddo, Japan, August 21, 1866.

This morning Gen. Van Valkenburg, Minister to Japan, with Mr. Portman, Secretary of Legation, and Anson Burlingame and family, came aboard the Hartford for passage to Yeddo, it being the day selected for the Minister's first visit to the capital of Japan.

The escort of honor, detailed by Admiral H. H. Bell, to escort the Minister to his residence, was composed of a skeleton battalion of the United States Marine Corps. The troops were drawn up in line on the beach opposite the place where the Minister landed. On his appearance, he was received with all the honors due to his rank.

The shrill notes of the fife, and the rattle-te-bang of the drums in a very short time drew around us on all sides an immense crowd of Japanese. They looked at us with great curiosity. I could see very plainly that the people were well enough disposed toward us, and if it was not for the dread of the feudatory chiefs, would very soon knock down that absurd system of Europeans being always obliged to have a guard of Yacanians and spies following them wherever they go. On arriving at the entrance of the legation's quarters, the marines wheeled into line and again presented arms, drums rolling.

On Tuesday last, Admiral Bell, together with a number of officers from the Wachusett and Wyoming, paid an official visit to the "Gorogio," or Council of State, at Yeddo. The party left the Hartford at 6 o'clock A.M., and pulled into the landing place, from whence they were escorted by a guard of Yacanians, or Government soldiers, to the American Legation, distant about a mile and a half.

The distance from the Legation to the Palace of the Gorogio is about five miles, the route extending through the heart of the city. The people everywhere evinced great interest and no little curiosity along the line, but in no instance manifesting any hostility or discontent. We passed the residences of many of the wealthiest and most influential Daimios, extensive in their proportions and handsomely built, surrounded by moats of running water, with large parks handsomely laid out and ornamented with forest trees of luxurious growth, the whole surrounded by neatly-trimmed and well kept hedges.

We reached the official palace at about 11 o'clock A.M., and were conducted into a saloon filled with retainers. Passing through long, richly-matted corridors, we were shown into a vast hall, and were respectively presented by Gen. Van Valkenburg. There was but one member of the "Gorogio" present, the others being prevented from taking part by sickness; but there were several members of the "Second Council" in attendance, including one or two of the Ministers of State and of Foreign Affairs.

After we had taken our seats before a long table on which were pipes and tobacco, the conference commenced. After an interchange of friendly sentiments between the Gorogio and our Minister, during which tea was served, servants appeared, and in succession placed before us a variety of soups, fish, vegetables (including the lotus-root), sweetmeats, etc. Having spent an hour at table, we resumed our "norimans."

The harbor of Yeddo is admirably calculated for security against invasion, the water being so shoal that vessels drawing from ten to fourteen feet of water are obliged to anchor from three and a half to four miles from the city. A cordon of forts, admirably built, and firmly placed on granite foundations embedded in the sand, would prove a serious obstacle to any such attempt. They are not garrisoned at present, but large bodies of troops could be readily thrown in from the city, if needed.

**DEEP COAL MINES.**—A few days ago we mentioned, as one of the deepest coal mines in the world, that of Mont-wearmouth, England, 1,900 feet deep. A correspondent at St. Clair, Pennsylvania, informs us that "Astby's shaft," a coal mine at Dunkensfield, Cheshire, England, is 2,600 feet deep to the bottom of the shaft, and thence an incline plane is excavated, with a dip of 60 degrees, for 1,000 yards. The bottom of the inclined plane, it is estimated, is 3,950 feet below the surface of the earth, or more than two-thirds of a mile.

## THE DANGERS FROM POWERFUL CORPORATIONS.

Referring to the spirited contest for the control of the New York Central Railroad which has just terminated at Albany, the Philadelphia *Ledger* indulges in a few appropriate reflections.

We have made a detailed reference to this contest, says the *Ledger*, because it illustrates a subject that ought to engage a great deal of public attention. There is a growing tendency among large corporations of all kinds to absorb or swallow up the smaller ones. Thus, a great railway company will buy out a number of competing lines and all the small roads in its neighborhood, upon the avowed policy of making them tributaries and feeders, and in this manner it soon gets to control the whole railroad system of the State. So, too, a leading express company will buy out all rival or competing interests, and spread its connections all over the country, making a monopoly and enabling it to charge high rates for express freight. The same thing happens in the case of telegraph companies. A powerful telegraphic organization will buy up line after line as fast as they are established in the way of competition, until it embraces within its influences all the telegraphic system of a tract of country as great as an European empire. It then happens that the railways, express companies and telegraph companies all fall under the management of a few corporations, who are controlled by a very few leading men. But the evil does not stop even there, for these few corporations in each of these departments of enterprise then enter into combinations with each other, and thus the greater part of the railroading, expressing and telegraphing of the United States comes under the direction of a very few men, who find it to their interest to manage these great establishments for their own purposes, to the general damage of the public, for whose convenience these organizations were originally chartered. Being thus powerful, and having at command enormous capital, they soon get to interfering in the legislation of the several States from which they hold their charters, and can command from members of those Legislatures who are open to the influence of money, the enactment of any law or laws upon any subject to suit their own purposes. It is not too much to say that at least half a dozen wealthy and popular Northern States are at this time essentially within the power of the combinations to which we have referred. This is a subject of serious moment to the people, for there is no danger of a more threatening character to their prosperity, and even to their liberties, than that which, at no distant day, may grow out of the schemes of these corporations. Hence, every proposed legislative act relating to these corporations, or that can in any way be traced to them, should be watched with a careful and jealous vigilance; and, outside of the legislative power, the people should on all occasions encourage that competition which is opposed to monopolies, and be sure to see that competing interests are not absorbed.

**APPLES AS FOOD.**—The importance of apples as food, says Liebig, has not hitherto been sufficiently estimated or understood. Besides contributing a large proportion of sugar, mucilage and other nutritive compounds in the form of food, they contain such a fine combination of vegetable acids, extractive substances, and aromatic principles, with the nutritive matter, as to act powerfully in the capacity of refrigerants, tonics and antiseptics, and when freely used, at the season of ripeness, by rural laborers and others, they prevent debility, strengthen digestion, correct the putrefactive tendencies of nitrogenous food, avert scurvy, and probably maintain and strengthen the power of productive labor.

**HYDROPHOBIA.**—An aged German forest keeper, who is on the verge of death, has published a secret cure for hydrophobia, which he says he has used for fifty years, curing many men and animals from a horrible death. The wound must be bathed as soon as possible with warm vinegar and water, and when this has dried up a few drops of muriatic acid poured upon the wound will destroy the poison of the saliva and relieve the patient from danger. This cure appears in the *Leipsic Journal*.

**STUDENT'S FROM JAPAN AND CHINA AT MONSON ACADEMY.**—We noticed last week the arrival in this city of six Japanese students, on their way to Monson Academy. They are sent to this country by the Prince of Satsuma, one of the most powerful and enlightened of the eighteen princes of Japan, and their object is to acquire a knowledge of our language, and the branches of a scientific and practical education. They expect to remain in this country five or six years, or longer if necessary, in order to become proficient in the studies which they wish to pursue. Three of them are young men, and the others not far from thirty years of age. They are all connected with the army of the Prince of Satsuma, in which they hold an official rank. Their names are Ashuara, Shimada, Hisamats, Kudo, Ohara, and Yoshida, and they have already acquired some knowledge of our language.

The arrival of these strangers from Japan shows that this remote country is no longer to be excluded from intercourse with the Western nations. They have not been connected with the mission schools in Japan, but the advice of one of our missionaries, Rev. Samuel B. Brown, was solicited by the government of the country, in regard to the best mode of introducing them to the schools of the United States. Mr. Brown, now a missionary of the Dutch Reformed Church at Yokohama, was formerly in charge of the Morrison school at Hong Kong, and on his return to this country he brought with him three Chinese youth, who were several years at Monson Academy. Their names were Wong Shing, Young Wing and Wong Fun. The first of these, Shing, after a residence of two years, returned to China, where he has been connected with the office of the China Mail as an editor and translator, and lately he has been called to take charge of an important school at Shanghai. Yung Wing, after a residence of four years at Monson, entered Yale College, where he graduated in 1854. He was distinguished in college for his attainments in English literature, and won several prizes for composition. After his return to China he was a successful merchant, and in 1864 he was sent to this country as an agent of the Chinese Government with an important commission. His nephew, Yung Sum Yow, is now in Monson Academy. Wong Fun fitted for college at Monson and entered Edinburgh University in accordance with the wishes of his patron, Mr. Shortrede, a native of Scotland.—*Springfield Republican*.

**THE EMERY MINE IN MASSACHUSETTS.**—The *Springfield Republican* describes minutely the emery mine now being worked with much success in Chester, Hamden County, Mass.

In appearance, as it comes from the mine, the emery is of a compact, bluish colored rock, thickly set with glittering crystals. In the massive emery little residual matter is left to be removed after brushing; and it has a duller and less beautiful appearance than the corundum. The color of the latter is due to its large admixture of chlorite, of which the process of crushing and washing deprives it. Associated with the emery are found no less than thirteen distinct minerals, of which only the iron ore, which is of a highly magnetic quality, is of any practical use. Diaspore occurs in colorless needle-shaped crystals, and the veins of purest ore are seamed with layers of margarite, of a delicate pinkish color, and thickly sprinkled with the glittering grains of emery. Black tourmaline is quite frequent, and the Amherst College students discovered on their recent visit to the mine some excellent specimens of the precious sapphire. In chemical composition the Chester emery is nearly identical with that from Naxos. The productive capacity of the mine is only measured by the demand, and no orders ever remain unfilled from the lack of material. During the past summer, from twenty to thirty tons per month was about the average product, and for the eleven months ending October 1, the total product was 223 tons, of which 152 tons 800 pounds was of the massive emery, and the remainder of corundum or crystal emery. The fully prepared and assorted emery commands in market about \$200 per ton, and is sold to the retail purchasers at from 12 to 15 cents per pound.

**"CONCRETE STONE"—A GREAT DISCOVERY.**—For sometime past says the Philadelphia *Press*, we have heard vague rumors of a new method of producing stone for building and ornamental purposes. We have at length had an opportunity of examining specimens and hearing testimony from those who have just subjected the article to practical tests. Our judgment with regard to the matter is that the invention referred to will soon become one of the most important. The stone itself equals in beauty the finest brown or picton stones. It can be produced in blocks of any required dimensions or forms, suitable for solid masonry or architectural embellishments. It is constructed of ordinary sand mixed with a solution of silicate of soda, and the cost of its production in plain blocks or slabs is less than that at which natural stone can be obtained. All that is necessary is, to procure the necessary molds to make the size and form of stone needed, and the work of turning heaps of sand into solid and magnificent building material is a matter of easy accomplishment and astonishing dispatch. The test of strength and durability have been most satisfactory. The stone thus formed is stronger by half than any other, and its ordinance is claimed to equal the old Roman concretes or mortars, which have remained unchanged during a period of two thousand years. If all that is alleged in favor of the "concrete stone" is substantiated, it is destined rapidly to supersede all other building materials, and its manufacture will become the foremost industrial interest of the age.

**A COMPARISON.**—The *Evening Bulletin* of Philadelphia institutes a very interesting comparison between Quebec (Canada) and Leavenworth City (Kansas). Quebec was founded in 1618, is a fortified town, is situated on a navigable river, has valuable railroad connections, and is the natural center of a region rich in minerals, forests and resources of all kinds. But it contains only fifty thousand inhabitants; its private dwellings are cheap and mean; its trade is dull; it has few manufactories, and only two newspapers. Leavenworth was founded in 1854; has from twenty to twenty-five thousand inhabitants; its streets and houses are lighted with gas; it contains many stores that would do no discredit to Chestnut street or Broadway; its hotels are large and well kept; it has churches, school-houses, lumber yards, saw-mills, machine shops, brick yards, flour mills, and many other industrial establishments, and it has six newspapers.

**A STRIKING ILLUSTRATION.**—Many years ago an "assault and battery" came up before a magistrate in Western Ohio, in which a lawyer named Ellis was the defendant's counselor, and Elder Gilruth, a Methodist preacher, was the plaintiff's most important witness. "Did I understand you to state, Mr. Gilruth, that you saw the defendant strike the plaintiff?"

"I know not what you may have understood," replied the witness, "but if my eyes serve me properly, I certainly did witness a manoeuvre that would warrant that description."

"Ah, you saw him strike, then; will you please inform the court how hard a blow was inflicted?"

The witness looked at the council and seemed hesitating. The complacent pettifogger insisted upon a statement.

"As nearly as I can remember," replied the witness, "the blow was sufficient to knock the plaintiff down!"

"That is not an explicit answer," said the counsel, somewhat nonplussed by the preacher's coolness. "I wish you to explain to the court how hard a blow was inflicted by the defendant upon the person of the plaintiff as set forth in the indictment."

"Shall I answer the gentleman's question?" said Gilruth, turning to the magistrate.

"As you please," answered the justice.

"You wish me to give you a satisfactory demonstration of the velocity of the blow which brought the plaintiff to the ground?"

"I do," said Ellis.

"Well, then," continued Gilruth, advancing a few steps towards the counsel, "as nearly as my judgment serves me, the blow was about equal to that!" at the same instant planting his enormous handful of bones directly between the lawyer's eyes, mashing his spectacles, and prostrating the "unlucky limb of the law" upon the floor.