

[From the New York Courier and Enquirer.]

The Volcanic Eruptions of Maunaloa and the Auroras.

The Courier and Enquirer of Feb. 21, 1852, contains my observations upon the Aurora Borealis of the 19th and 20th of that month, which were visible here from a short time after sunset of the 19th till near sunrise of the 20th. Subsequently the London Evening Mail of the 20th of February was received here, containing the observations made upon the same auroral phenomena at the Highfield House Observatory, London, which, on being compared with my published observations, in the Courier, showed a perfect agreement, although near seventy-three degrees difference in longitude of the two places of observation. After that, an arrival from the Sandwich Islands brought accounts of the eruption of the volcano of Mauna Loa, on the night of the 18th and 19th Feb.—one of the most extraordinary eruptions for many years. The Sandwich Island paper which I have on my files, after receiving the account of the result of my observations of the aurora, resulting from the volcanic eruption, stated, that thereafter observations on the convulsions would be recorded there, to determine as to the correctness of my conclusions.

The last accounts from the Sandwich Islands are that the Mauna Loa, which is the largest volcano yet discovered on the earth, was convulsed on the 8th, 11th, and 15th of August of this year. On the 8th and 15th of August the auroras were seen here, and from the 9th to 13th, both inclusive, there were abundance of meteors, accounts of all of which were published in the Brooklyn Evening Star on the day succeeding each of the days named.

On the night of the 11th of August, 'In the Gulf of the St. Lawrence,' (says the New York Tribune of the 14th Sept.) the sky was cloudless, inconceivably clear and radiant, and an arch of white auroral fire spans the northern horizon.

It is so brilliant as to cast a glow upon the water and to make the segment of the sky inclosed within it appear black by contrast. It steadily brightens till the arch breaks, where the fragments gather into lustrous balls or nuclei, which send forth streamers and dancing tongues of lights, almost to the Zenith. Then the whole pageant fades away to be reborn in the air and brighten as before. The rain of meteors still continues, but less abundant than last night.

The same paper of the same date, says, of the night of 10th, as follows:—"Between Halifax and Beaver Island, (some 60 miles distant) the Milky Way burned like a luminous cloud, making pale the lustre of the neighboring stars, while scarcely a minute elapsed but some meteor shot across the heavens, leaving a silvery trail behind it. There seemed not one vault only, but deeps beyond deeps of glory—over-spanning each other, until the eye ceased to follow them. The meteors, some far, swift and faint, some faint and dazzling, fell from the inner to the outer circle of the heavens like telegraphic messages between the several spiritual spheres. This interesting account we presume was written by Bayard Taylor, the traveler, when on the steamer employed to lay down the submarine cable.

In reference to the extraordinary auroral exhibition of 19th and 20th of February, 1852, Sir Edward Belcher, commander of the British Expedition in the Arctic Seas in a letter to me dated 'British Association, Glasgow, September 12, 1855,' says: 'The indications to which you allude on the 19th and 20th February, '52, were not noticed by us, at least I cannot say, unless you give me the exact astronomical time, when our magnetometers may have indicated some disturbance.' Sir Edward was at that time several degrees of latitude North of the magnetic pole, and some ten degrees of longitude East of the line of no variation.

When at the antiquarian rooms in Worcester, last week, I availed myself of the opportunity of comparing my Bible, imprinted in 1599, with some old copies belonging to that Society in reference to the observations on auroras. There were two editions of the Bible printed in 1599. In both these editions, the 22d verse of the 37th Chapter of Job, read as follows: 'The brightness cometh out of the North, the praise to God which is terrible.' A previous edition read: 'The light which cometh out of the North, the praise to God which is terrible.' The present edition of the Bible, now extant, reads thus: 'Fair weather cometh out of the North, with God is terrible majesty.'

I regard the two first named translations as correct, but not the last, and that they have reference to the aurora borealis, as connected with volcanic eruptions and with meteors.

But for the crowded state of your columns, I would have stated other observations on volcanic eruptions, auroras, and meteoric showers, all tending to show conclusively that auroras result from volcanic eruptions, and meteors from auroras, and that the Bible quotation is clear on that subject.

E. MERIAM.

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS, October 15.

[Correspondence of the London Times.]

A Waterspout.

A most fearful catastrophe has just occurred in the harbor of Tunis. A waterspout passed over at half-past 7 o'clock a.m., and in instant five vessels foundered, and one was dismantled.

I was a passenger by a boat which left Tunis at 7:30 a.m., bound to a steamer in harbor, belonging to the Messageries Impériales. The lake being 8 miles across, we had advanced about half the distance when my attention was attracted to a remarkable cloud, which in a very short space of time assumed the unmistakable appearance of a waterspout.

It continued to grow in size as well as increase in proportion, until it presented the appearance of a huge oak, a most colossal trunk supporting a majestic head. It moved gradually, causing by its power of suction a corresponding action in the waves over which it passed, they rising in the usual form in such cases.

In about half an hour it had lost its well-defined outline, and appeared to be gradually dissolving, about which time an immense excitement was visible among the crew and passengers of the boat, all Italians; but I, unfortunately ignorant of that language, could only surmise that some terrible catastrophe had occurred, in which something of the name of 'bastimento' had suffered.

By dint of perseverance I at length became alive to the awful nature of the event, for rising on the seats of the boat, and looking across the narrow neck of land dividing the lake from the harbor, a scene of the most awful havoc presented itself. Five vessels had disappeared, with the exception of their masts.

The appearance of these, as may well be imagined, was a sight to make a beholder uneasy as to the fate of the various crews and passengers; but as our utmost efforts could have produced (on account of our distance from the scene) no beneficial result, we were reluctantly compelled to allow matters to take their course.

On arriving at Goletta we learned the full extent of the disaster; and, considering it possible this letter might reach you by the vessel leaving this day with the mails, I at once penned these few hurried lines, giving a most incomplete account of that which even here is an unprecedented visitation.

The thunder is now rolling in the most awful manner; its reverberations are appalling.

I have the honor to remain, sir, your obedient servant.

JAMES SQUIRES.

TUNIS, Nov. 18, 1855, 9 o'clock a.m.

New-York Morals.

"You are quite right, Sir, quite right: we here in New-York are badly governed," said a genteel looking young man to a country merchant with whom he was conversing in the reading room of a hotel the other day. "No wonder Sir, he continued, 'that you, gentlemen from the interior should be surprised and speak with surprise on the subject. But how think you must we feel, who have to pay the burden of such a government? Look at our Police system. 'Tis rotten, sir,—rotten to the core. Big thieves fill our big offices and steal largely but in a respectable way. These are bad enough; but one of the greatest evils is the abundance of small thieves and pickpockets who ply their profession with almost perfect impunity. They are scarcely ever arrested; and if so unfortunate as to be so they can always find it easy to escape and evade the law in some way. Why, Sir, you have no idea of the number of professional thieves in this city. I venture to say, (and I speak knowingly) that they can be numbered by thousands. They are shrewd fellows, and it takes a shrewd eye to recognize them. Many of them dress in the height of fashion, wear heavy gold chains attached to their costly watches (here the speaker took hold of a heavy gold chain and examined his costly watch) and look and have the air of gentlemen."

Why, Sir, you might actually speak with one, exchange courtesies with him, and not know it. As, Sir, 'tis really surprising to one that's not posted but more surprising than all that the citizens do not rise indignantly and insist on reform by ousting from office the thieves that fill them and disbanding a Police who are in league with thieves and pickpockets instead of performing the duties for which they are so well paid. Something must be done or if not, we will lose our trade. Country merchants will forsake us from very fear. Why, Sir it is but yesterday that a merchant from the West, was robbed of a large sum of money while sitting quietly in his hotel and was compelled to borrow from a friend to pay his way home. 'Tis really awful Sir; and I assure you that I as well as all good citizens regret the existence of such a state of things. Good night, Sir.

Country Merchant (to a member of the Press)—A nice young man, very nice young man—Do you know his name sir?

Member of the Press (quietly) I really do not Sir, he has so many.

Merchant (astonished)—So many names, Sir, what do you mean?

Member of the Press (provokingly)—I mean, sir, that very nice young man is a notorious pickpocket.

Merchant—Good gracious! Feels his pocket—terribly excited—face gets red—jumps up frantically—and swears By—my money's gone—and watch too! Where's the Police? [Disappears bareheaded, shouting for the Police!]

Member of the Press calmly takes out his note book, puts down some facts and hurries to the office with a fresh item!—[Ex.]

The Swedes and their Government.

The Government of Sweden has passed, after repeated fluctuations between absolute monarchy and the predominance of the aristocracy, into a limited monarchy, but hereditary in the male line of the reigning family, which falling, the King, with the consent of the people, may nominate a successor. The King, as well as the members of his council, must be of the Lutheran religion, which is also the established creed of the realm. The civil list for the maintenance of the King and his household is about \$250,000; that of the Crown Prince about a third. The royal prerogative extends over the foreign relations of the kingdom, both as to peace and war; over the administration of justice, the command of the army and navy, and the appointment of archbishops, bishops and

judges, who are remarkable only for misconduct. The King has a veto on the enactments of the Legislature. The executive is divided into departments, the heads of which may be summoned before the Council to give their advice on matters within their departments.

The Swedish Legislature, or Diet, is composed of four different orders of society—the nobility, clergy, burghers, and peasants. Each has a separate house of estate of the Legislature; and no bill can pass, even with the royal assent, unless it has received the sanction of three out of the four houses. The house of Nobles is composed of the heads of each of the noble families; that of the Clergy consists of the twelve Bishops, with the Archbishop of Upsala at their head, and sixty deputies elected from the various dioceses; the deputies from the towns are 97 in number, and those from the country districts 144, both requiring a small property qualification. The nobility maintain themselves; the members of the other three houses are maintained by their constituents. The civil and military employees of Government form a large majority of the representatives. The four orders deliberate sometimes together, sometimes separately. In the former case, questions are carried by a simple majority. The Diet meets every fifth year, or oftener, if convened by the King, and sits for three months, unless the pressure of business requires a longer sitting.

The national character of the people is remarkable for simplicity in manner, dress and feeling. They are hospitable and industrious. Their honesty is remarkable, as is shown by the fact that charity-boxes are fixed up by the way side, not one of which has ever been known to be plundered. Doors are constantly left on the latch; horse stealing and sheep stealing are unknown. The population is between three and four millions; it increased wonderfully under Bernadotte, whose wise rule had also the effect of doubling the commerce of Sweden, while he patronized every species of improvement, constructed canals, erected schools, and did all that could be done to promote the cause of education. The naval and military force has never been large; the latter never amounting to more than 50,000 men. The original inhabitants were a colony of Fins, from the banks of the Volga and the vicinity of Mount Caucasus, who were expelled by the hordes of Germans, three centuries before the Christian era, or became amalgamated with them. The present Swedes are of Teutonic or Gothic origin, together with the Danes and Norwegians. The revenue is small, falling on each individual at the rate of two dollars and a quarter a head; and the national debt, which at one time was \$30,000,000, was, many years ago, reduced to a little more than five millions. —[Chronicle.]

PERILS OF TEACHING GRAMMAR.—Mr. Editor:—I have been sending my darter Nancy to school to a schoolmaster in this neighborhood. Last Friday I went over to the school just to see how Nancy was getting along, and I see things I didn't like by no means. The schoolmaster was larnin' her things entirely out of the line of eddycation, and, as I think, improper. Lset awhile in the school-house, and heered one class say their lesson. She said it very spry. I was shocked! and determined she should leave that school. I have heered that gramer was an uncommon fine study, but I don't want any more gramer about my house. The lesson that Nancy said, was nothin' but the foolishhest kind uv talk, the ridicules luv talk you ever seed. She got up and the first word she sed was, "I love!" I looked right at her hard for doing so improper, but she went rite on and said: "Thou lovest, he loves," and I reckon you never heerd such a riggermyrole in your life—love, love, and nothing but love. She said one time, "I did love."

Sez I, "Who did you love? Then the scholars luffed, but I wasn't to be put off, and I sed, "Who did you love, Nancy? I want to know, who did you love?" The schoolmaster, Mr. McQuillister, put in and he said he would explain when Nancy finished the lesson. This sorter pacified me, and Nancy went on with awful love talk. It got wus and wus, every word. She sed, "I might, could, or would love."

I stoped her agin, and sed, I reckon I would see about that, and told her to walk out of the house. The schoolmaster tried to interfere, but I wouldn't let him say a word. He said I was a fool, and I nockt him down and made him holler in short order. I tautk the strate thing to him. I told him Ide show him how hede larn my darter gramer.

I got the nabers together, and we sent Mr. McQuillister off in a hurry, and I reckon tharl be no more gramer teechin in these parts soon. If you know of any rather oldish man in your reegen that doant teech gramer, we would be glad if you wood send him up. But in the footure we will be keerful how we employ men. Yung schoolmasters won't do, especially if they teeches gramer. It is bad thing for morils. Yours till deth, Thomas Jefferson Sole.—[Missouri Democrat.]

PRONUNCIATION AND SPELLING.—The ridiculousness of our pronouncing words differently ending with the same termination is admirably shown up in the annexed paragraph. It is about time a phonetic or some other system was adopted whereby our present orthography might be amended for the better—for the worse, it cannot be:

"Monsieur, will you have the goodness to inform me as to the correct pronunciation of s-l-o-u-g-h?"

"Certainly, sir; with pleasure. That word, in our language, is pronounced as if written slou."

"Thank you, Monsieur. Then, I suppose that d-o-u-g-h is dou?"

"O no, we English call that doe."
"And c-o-u-g-h coe?"
"O no, sir—ha, ha, ha—coff."
"Coff! Then what of b-o-u-g-h? Is that boff?"
"No, that is bou."
"Bou! is it? Bou! And t-o-u-g-h—is that tou?"
"No, sir, tuff."

"Tuff! Truly, it is tough! Then what pronunciation shall I give to o-u-g-h-t? Is that out?"
"No, sir; you are out. That is aut."

"True, I am out, and you are ought but correct if you think it an easy matter for a foreigner to learn to speak your language. But, if a-u-g-h-t is aut, I suppose that d-r-o-u-g-h-t is draut?"

"No, no, drou?"

"Well, then do you pronounce h-o-u-g-h hou?"

"We call that hok."

"Hok! And t-h-r-o-u-g-h throk?"

"No, throo."

"R-o-u-g-h, then, is roo?"

"No, ruff."

"Ruff! No doubt of it, Monsieur; it is far from being even. But p-l-o-u-g-h—is that pluff?"

"O no, sir, that is plou."

"Then what shall I call t-r-o-u-g-h—trou?"

"No, sir, troff."

"And e-n-o-u-g-h, enoff?"

"No, enuff."

"I do think it is enough, Monsieur, for both you and me. I have tried your patience."

[Ex.]

A FRENCH WOMAN AT HOME, or economy illustrated.—She helps to cook the dinner she has bought—for servants are wasteful with coal, and she knows to an inch how little she can use.

In that marvelous place, a French kitchen, where two or three little holes in a stove, cook such delicate dishes, and perform such culinary feats as our great roaring giants of coal fires have no conception of—she flits about like a fairy, creating magical masses out of raw material of the most ordinary description. Yes, though a lady born and bred, refined, elegant and agreeable society, a belle in her way, yet she does not think it beneath her dignity to lighten the household expenses by practical economy and activity.

The dinner of the French family is cheap and simple. There is always soup, the meat of the stew pan—sometimes, if not strict in expenditure, another plate of meat, generally two vegetables, dressed and eaten separately; and sometimes, not always, a sweet dish; if not that a little fruit, such as may be cheapest, and in the ripest season. But there is a very little of each thing, and it is rather in arrangement than in material that they appear rich.

The idea that the French are g-r-u-m-a-n-d in private life is incorrect. They spend little in eating, and they eat inferior things, though their cookery is rather a science than a mere accident of civilization.

At home the great aim of the French is to save; and any self-sacrifice that will lead to this result is cheerfully undertaken, more especially in eating and in the luxury of mere idleness.

No French woman will spend a shilling to save herself trouble. She would rather work like a dray horse to buy an extra yard of ribbon, or a pair of gloves, than lie on the softest sofa in the world in placid fine-ladyism with crumpled gauze, in bare hands.—[Ex.]

SOMETHING OF A FAMILY.—A correspondent of the Urbana (O.) Citizen writes from Bourbon county, Ky., about a family, as follows:

The old gentlemen is a native of Maryland, and is now in his 70th year; was brought to the State of Kentucky when quite young, and has raised his family in the above county, consisting of six sons and three daughters.

In the following table you have the height, weight and entire ages of the whole family:

	Height.	Weight.
Father.....	6 feet 4 inches	200 pounds.
Mother.....	6 " 4 "	235 "
Thomas.....	6 " 4 "	230 "
James.....	6 " 6 "	215 "
Sarah.....	6 " 2 "	165 "
John.....	6 " 11 1/2 "	266 "
Mary.....	6 " 2 "	150 "
Elijah.....	6 " 3 "	210 "
Martha.....	6 " 6 "	220 "
Eli.....	6 " 6 1/2 "	197 "
Daughter.....	6 " 3 "	160 "

70 2,298

Computed strength of father and sons, 6,500 lbs.

Entire ages 557 yrs.

The family are all living except the youngest daughter, are all wealthy, and of the first families of Kentucky. I must add, that several of the grandchildren are over 6 1/2 feet, and still growing.

John Jones has no objection to the lick-her-law, when applied to Jane. Jane Jones contends stoutly for the liquor law, as applicable to John. Jane's argument is simple and conclusive. When John does liquor he does lick-her. When John don't liquor he don't lick-her; therefore, if John can't liquor he won't lick-her, the conclusion she wishes to reach.

A negro preacher holding forth to his congregation upon the subject of obeying the command of God, says, 'Brethren, whatever God tells to do in dis book, (holding up the Bible) dat I'm gwine to do. If I see in it dat I must jump throo a stun wall, I'm gwine to jump at it. Going throo it 'longs to God, jumpin at it 'longs to me.'