

EDITORIALS.

COMMERCIAL RELATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE letter from Hon. Wm. M. Evarts, Secretary of State, to Hon. Samuel J. Randall, Speaker of the House of Representatives, dated May 1st, 1880, transmitting the annual report upon the commercial relations of the United States for the year 1879, contains much that is instructive and interesting. The document is more properly a detailed statement of the commerce of the world and the share of our nation therein. In introducing the matter, the Secretary says reports received from foreign consuls and other sources indicate that European trade touched its lowest depths in the latter part of 1878, since which time a gradual but cheering improvement in industry of all kinds has been noticeable. The general revival in this country in 1879 caused greater importations from abroad, and to this fact is largely due the improvement in Europe. During the year we imported from France, Germany and Great Britain an increase in quantity of \$42,000,000. The first named nation exported to us an increase of \$10,388,000, the merchandise consisting chiefly of dry goods, silks, jewelry, wines, etc. Germany increased its export to us of cotton manufactures, to the value of \$5,000,000. While Great Britain sent us iron, tin, linen and woolen goods and earthen and China ware in a quantity increased \$27,000,000 over the previous year's export.

In this connection the Secretary touches on the subjects of protection and free trade. Germany it is well known adopted tariff laws during last year, which unmistakably declare her inability to compete with foreign manufacturers, notwithstanding her boasted cheap and economical labor. To the banner of protection flocked all the nations of Europe except England and the Netherlands, which are still free trade countries. England is fast showing a disposition to protect her industries by a tariff, and the only remaining nation, the Netherlands, remains free trade only because in that policy does it find its best protection. The Secretary therefore advises a careful and disinterested stand on the subject of the revision of our tariff laws, so much agitated of late, in order that we may not foolishly throw open our ports when Europe has closed hers against us.

Comparative statistics of the foreign commerce of Great Britain and France, as compared with that of the United States, are given at great length and in precise detail. A short newspaper article can merely touch on these matters, and we therefore make room only for a general summary of the whole.

Of the total trade with Africa of \$217,555,843, Great Britain holds considerably over one-half, the United States participating only to the extent of about six and one-half million dollars. But the exports from this country to Africa comprise over four millions of this sum, while the French exports and imports are about equal, and the British imports are upwards of fifteen million dollars in excess of its exports to the "dark continent." For the year ending August 31st, 1879, 1,460 vessels had passed through the Suez Canal; of this fleet, the British flag floated over 1,127, and the American navy was represented by a single war vessel. The insignificance of our trade, therefore, with Egypt and all Africa is not to be wondered at. We lack vessels to transport our wares, and we lack merchants there to introduce and enlarge our commerce.

Of commerce with American nations outside of the United States, the total amount carried on, reaches the value of \$1,075,800,000. Of this, Great Britain controls upwards of \$17,000,000, the United States about \$269,000,000, and France 121,000,000. In this instance American exports to the United States are 83,000,000 in excess of the imports; the French export and import trade is about equal; and England's imports to this continent are \$36,000,000 below the exports received. In the foregoing statistics the United States are not included, and if we except our nation, it is curious to note that in the amount of commerce engaged in, the little West India Islands are far

ahead of all other American countries. Mexican data, as to the commerce of the country, is difficult to obtain and is exceedingly unreliable. It is certain, however, that a considerable decrease occurred in 1879, compared with the preceding year, in the value of United States exports to the sister republic. This falling off is found in live stock, provisions, cotton goods, iron and its manufactures, tobacco and wine, and may be traced solely to the tariff and contraband laws, which are the subject of much consular complaint.

Asia's commerce reaches the figure of \$1,225,144,000, of which the United States has fifty-five millions and England four hundred and sixty-six millions. The exports from the United States to Asia are less than a third in value of what we receive from that continent. British India is ahead of every other country, with China closely following. A melancholy feature of the China trade is the fact that its import of opium is greater than its export of tea. When it is also considered that the cultivation of the poppy is quite an industry in the "celestial empire," it may be reasonably conceded that the use of the dreadful drug is beyond all control. If the reports of the Chinese restrictions on its own vessels being removed, prove as important as anticipated, a very great change in Asian commerce, and even in that of the whole world, may be expected within a few years.

Australasia, whose rapid progress in commercial affairs in the past few years has earned for it the appellation of the Great Britain of the Southern Hemisphere, is a reflex, to a certain extent, of our own maritime improvement. No official report of its trade is quoted later than 1878. At that time its total imports from the three nations, Great Britain, United States and France, amounted to one hundred and three millions and its total exports to one hundred and six millions. The whole trade, export and import, of France with the "fifth continent" reached the insignificant sum of two million dollars, that of the United States amounted to about eight millions, while all the rest was monopolized by the "mistress of the seas." Australasia's imports are principally wearing apparel, woolen and cotton goods and iron and steel. Its exports consist chiefly of wool and wheat.

The commerce of Europe, as given in the Secretary's document, is for the year 1878. During that year the continent had transacted a total foreign trade reaching the enormous value of \$9,804,349,000. The total exports are about one billion dollars less than the imports. In the following countries, however, the imports are less than the exports: United Kingdom, Spain, Austria-Hungary, Turkey and Russia. Europe's imports from the United States reached seven hundred and seven millions, and her exports to us amounted to two hundred and forty-five millions.

A grand total of the commerce of the world shows its amount to be \$13,084,765,000. Great Britain does \$2,829,062,000 of the whole; France does \$1,384,264,000, and the Republic of the United States is little behind, with a commerce of \$1,301,606,000.

Our export of manufactures, as well as agricultural products, has assumed proportions quite alarming to the older nations of the world, and it is found easier to compete in foreign markets, even with the drawbacks of heavy protective tariff, than to stop our progress at home. It is an encouraging fact that every determined effort on our part to introduce our exports into foreign markets has met with abundant success, and now that we are at peace with the world, have a fair prospect for our future, and are receiving daily skilled workmen from all parts of the earth, it is safe to predict that before long we shall have representatives in every port, our products at every market, and our ships on every sea.

SUBTERRANEAN WATER SUPPLY.

THE Omaha Republican publishes an article by Prof. C. D. Wilber, written from Salt Lake City, giving some particulars of a trip across the plains, and advancing the writer's theory of water supply for the valleys of the Rocky Mountains. We make the following extract, which, though it is not exactly new, similar

ideas having been previously advanced, yet is of interest to the settlers on this western slope, and may induce some enterprising men to bore for the precious fluid which is life to vegetation and wealth to the agriculturist in these arid regions:

We obtained many measurements of common wells along the entire route, not only in Western Nebraska, but in the valleys beyond—Lodge Pole, the Laramie, Rock Creek, Bitter Creek, Medicine Bow, Muddy, Green River, Bear River, Weber River, and the streams of Salt Lake valley. The statistics gathered both concerning the depth and the quantity of water prove the existence of a vast supply of water for all ordinary purposes, at depths varying from 20 to 150 feet. This subterranean supply has always been ignored, but now, since water is often wanted at places beyond the convenience of a running ditch, a cheap well with a wind mill or a common bucket or pump reveals the existence of water everywhere. This water exists in immense beds or strata of sand and gravel, towards which it constantly gravitates from the annual mountain snows or rain; and as it has taken ages for its accumulation and the construction of its reservoirs, it is not probable that modern use will sensibly diminish the amount thus stored in these countless natural cisterns in the ten thousand valleys of the great Rocky Mountain ranges.

To one giving this subject the least attention it is evident that mountain ridges which receive rains and snows send them by their steep sides not only to the plains below, but following the rocky slant far deeper down to the various strata of sands and gravel which were ground, assorted and distributed in that grand old mill of the Glaciers. Repeating this process year by year, as snow and ice and rain—brought by the storm and wind, fulfilling His word as the centuries pass—are thus held in reserve, the result is inevitable that all valleys, large and small, shall ultimately contain measureless stores of water in their lower depths. Thus the physical conditions of valleys, and more especially of mountain valleys, compel them to be water reservoirs, holding such volumes as the materials of the valley debris may determine. Following these relations of cause and effect, it will appear that the mountainous regions of our country, in regard to water resources, may have certain advantages over prairie and plain, whose highest elevations are merely divides at low altitude. Here, in Great Salt Lake Valley, our theory, as just given, finds abundant proof. In all directions, for many miles, are thousands of farms, large and small, full freighted with ripening and garnered crops. On the list of grains, or fruits, or roots, nothing desirable or valuable is left out. The rewards of labor in farming are as certain and full as in the Eastern States. Nor is this vast production wholly based upon irrigation. One will see, south of Ogden, many thousands of acres, cultivated by what they term "dry farming," in which only the common rain and snow-fall is used; by fall plowing and proper seeding, good crops are raised.

But we must finish our travel picture. Here is the desert of Deseret, now a blooming and fruitful garden, but recently a barren waste. All these prosperous farms and homes came up out of the soil first planted and watered by Brigham Young and his followers on Jordan's peaceful banks in the summer of 1847. Nor has there been a signal crop failure since that time. "No one doubts that this spacious valley can sustain 100,000 more people; yet this is only one of many thousand valleys in the mountains, constructed by the same geological agencies and supplied by abundant water from the same unfailing fountains—*ex uno disce omnes*. Prompted by this modern miracle, this complete transition from a barren and hopeless desert to a land of plenty, wrought out of human industry, have we not the surest guaranty in the future for the occupation and use of all our domain upon a scale hardly conceivable at present?"

The dumping of offal from the streets of New York into the harbor has attracted sharks to the vicinity, which come to watch for pieces of meat, carcasses, etc., and bathers have been thrown into consternation by the appearance of the voracious animals, and pilots tell big stories of the ocean monsters.

THE MILES APPEAL CASE.

THE Miles case is one of the *causes celebres* of Utah, and is likely to be of the United States. As is pretty well known to our readers, John H. Miles was indicted for polygamy under the Act of '62 and after a trial, in which great injustice was palpable towards the defendant, and several new departures were made from long accepted rules of jurisprudence, in which also Prest. D. H. Wells was committed to the penitentiary for two days for alleged "contempt" because he would not answer irrelevant and impertinent questions, having no bearing on the case at bar but designed to force the witness to disclose secret ceremonies of a religious character, the defendant was convicted and sentenced to five years imprisonment and a fine of one hundred dollars.

The case was appealed to the Supreme Court of the Territory, and the decision of the lower court being affirmed, was taken up to the Supreme Court of the United States, under the provisions of the Poland bill.

Efforts have been made to advance the cause on the calendar, and from a dispatch which appears in another column, it looks as though the case may be argued at the October term of the Court, as it is one of great importance. Following are the errors assigned by counsel for the appellant, Messrs. Tilford and Hagan, of this city:

"Now comes said plaintiff in error and assigns the following errors committed by the Supreme Court of the Territory of Utah in affirming the judgment of the District Court of Utah Territory in this case, for the reasons following, to wit:

First—The Court erred in allowing the attorney for the United States to ask the jurors or any of them if they believed in polygamy or that he or they belonged to the Mormon Church, or in allowing any questions as to the religious belief of any juror.

Second—The Court erred in appointing triers to try the challenge of the United States District Attorney to any and all the jurors mentioned herein in the statement for a new trial.

Third—It was error for said triers to inquire into or consider the religious belief of any of the jurors.

Fourth—The court erred in allowing witness Mrs. M. J. Foreman to relate a conversation between John Miles and Caroline Owen in order to prove a marriage with Emily Spencer, and the court erred in allowing the question, "I ask if you heard this said by Miss Owen; if she is your wife who am I?" and also allowing the same questions to be asked of witness Miss Foreman.

Fifth—the court erred in allowing in evidence any declaration or admission of Miles, made at the house of Angus Cannon, on the evening of the alleged dinner party.

Sixth—The court erred in ruling that the mere calling a woman "wife" by defendant Miles was admissible to prove a marriage with her.

Seventh—The court erred in allowing the questions to witness D. H. Wells as to the description of the dress or robes of persons visiting the Endowment House.

Eighth—The Court erred in allowing witness Caroline Owen to be sworn, as she was the alleged second wife, and so far as appears, the wife of defendant Miles, and no first marriage or other marriage of defendant Miles was proven to the Court or jury; that admissions or declarations alone cannot prove a marriage in a case such as the one at bar, and that Caroline Owen was an incompetent witness and disqualified from testifying at this stage of the case.

Ninth—The Court erred in excluding the proposed testimony of witness Mrs. Sarah Cannon, when the defense proposed to show that there was a marriage with Caroline Owen, and that defendant, John Miles, and Caroline Owen, as husband and wife, slept together at the house of witness, on the night of the marriage, and the court erred in excluding the testimony of the same witness that Caroline Owen sent for defendant, Miles, as her husband, and that she said he was her husband.

Tenth—The Court erred in its instructions to the jury, and said instructions are against law.

Eleventh—The Court erred in giving the first request asked for by the prosecution.

Twelfth—The Court erred in giving requests Nos. 2, 3 and 4 asked for by the prosecution.

Thirteenth—The Court erred in refusing and failing to give instructions Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12, asked for by the defense.

Fourteen—The evidence was insufficient to sustain the verdict, and the same was against the evidence in this, that in prosecutions for bigamy the mere confession or admissions, or declarations of a party are not alone sufficient evidence of the first marriage, but there must be proof of a marriage, in fact; otherwise the defendant is entitled to a verdict of not guilty. The evidence was also insufficient in this, that the name of the person with whom the defendant Miles was alleged to have contracted the second marriage appears to be Caroline Owen Male, and not Caroline Owen, as charged in the indictment, and the evidence shows that defendant Miles married Caroline Owen Male and not Caroline Owen.

Fifteen—There was no evidence showing the first marriage or a marriage in fact with Emily Spencer.

The plaintiff in error therefore prays that the judgment of said Supreme Court of Utah Territory may be reversed, and that a mandate issue from this Court directing said Supreme Court of said Territory to reverse the judgment of the said District Court in all things, and order a new trial herein.

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It remains to be seen how far the Supreme Court of the United States will ignore the constitutional provision that, "no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States," and how far, in its burning zeal to break up the domestic relations of a portion of its citizens, the government will employ its judicial power in the destruction of rules which have governed in the criminal procedure of the country from the beginning. We are not prepared yet to believe that the highest court in the land, however desirous to put down our marriage system, will attempt to aid in the enforcement of one law by the violation of others, nor lend itself to the establishment of such Star Chamber proceedings as were permitted in the trial of John H. Miles.

STRONG DELUSION.

THE star-gazers as well as the politicians are deeply interested on the question of the Presidency of the United States. They are hunting up nativities, drawing horoscopes, and calculating effects with a view to settling beforehand the result of the November election. Samael, the astrologer of Baltimore, gives the place to Garfield. Through the columns of the New York Herald, he discourses on the planetary influences governing each of the candidates, and comes to the following conclusions:

"The House of Representatives will interfere, or it (the election) will be thrown in there, and I think that honorable (?) body will do as it generally does—make the situation worse instead of better. There will be much disorder in many places and the troops will be called upon often to preserve peace. All the power of the government will be in the hands of the republican party for use, and, as to the result of the election, it will be doubtful in many minds; each party will claim the election as its own; and when March comes round there is every chance of having two inaugurations in two distinct places. I won't say this will happen for sure, but the chances are decidedly that way.

General Hancock has a very good direction at the time of election but a very bad one at the time of inauguration, so I must say that I see no chance of his taking his seat. He will, I think, receive the accredited majority of the popular vote, but his opponent will be seated, and with his fall goes down to dust, with many lamentations, the hopes of the hungry democracy.

General Garfield will be, I think, most assuredly, our next President, and his administration which will be begun under many disadvantages and crosses, will, in the end, prove itself a wise and patriotic one, much liked at home and much respected abroad, more so than the present one. The years 1882-83 will be especially pros-