

## Miscellaneous.

### POLISH OUTBREAK IN IRTKOUSK.

The *Czar* gives the following account of the outbreak of the Polish exiles in Irkutsk, which, it says, it obtained from eye-witnesses of Galician origin:—

"One of the principal causes of the outbreak was the want of food. The provisions which were intended by the Government for the use of the exiles were misappropriated by the authorities. Epidemic complaints, the inseparable concomitants of famine, broke out amongst them, and several deaths took place. Remonstrances were made, but without effect, and despair then predominated. About 1,200 Poles, employed at Koustouk, on the Lake Baikal—a sterile and almost desert spot—being further irritated by a shocking corporal punishment inflicted unjustly on one of their number, gave the signal of revolt. On the night between the 20th and 21st of June they attacked the soldiers who were on guard, disarmed them, and bound those who resisted. The Captain in command was killed, and Colonel Schatz was made prisoner. The Poles, provided with arms, ammunition, and horses, proceeded to the north-west, following the telegraphic line along the Baikal. The Russian convicts, who to the number of about 3,000, were at work in a neighboring district, having heard of the success of the Poles, rose likewise and massacred the troops of the garrison, consisting of 200 Cossacks and two infantry companies. Having armed themselves they joined the Poles. The native population also gave evidence of their long suppressed discontent. Believing that the hour of freedom had come they revolted and agreed to supply the Poles with provisions and horses. The military governor of Irkutsk despatched at once four infantry companies, a squadron of cavalry, and six guns under the command of his aide-de-camp, in order to suppress the revolt. These troops have been enticed into an ambush in the midst of the defiles of Salenga, were surrounded on all sides, and after an obstinate and bloody encounter were almost entirely destroyed. The guns and ammunition fell into the hands of the Poles. The bodies of twenty officers and two Colonels were brought into Irkutsk. The governor then collected all the disposable troops, and led them on the 27th of June against the insurgents by two different routes, one along the shores of the Baikal, and the other in steamboats across the lake. The latter body succeeded in reaching the colony of Posolsk, and entrenched themselves in the convent. The Poles, finding themselves thus placed between two fires, resolved to attack the Russians in the convent, in order to open the way to Neretchinsk and the Chinese frontiers. The convent was taken by assault, and the Russians fled. The second detachment of Russian troops was attacked by the natives and forced to retreat. The Poles then continued their march towards China. The whole garrison of Irkutsk having been thus destroyed, the Government ordered in the beginning of July an extraordinary levy in town and country. The entire Polish colonists in the country and in Irkutsk have been placed in irons, and Colonel Levandowski was sent to the northern part of Siberia. Travellers who arrive from the district report that the insurrection is extending in every direction, and that the Poles are in arms at Neretchinsk."

### CRIME IN EUROPE.

There are good reasons for the prevailing opinion that American society has within the past few years, greatly deteriorated in public and private morals. The cities and rural districts in the United States are, doubtless, becoming resorts for more and more depraved characters, who are successful in crime because the local and general governments seem powerless to restrain them. Instances of unbridled license, owing doubtless to the demoralizing effects of the late war, have become unusually frequent. The tone of political morals is lowered. The blasphemous utterances of politicians are evidence of the widespread disregard of the laws of God as well as the laws of man, and the fact that notorious blasphemers are not only tolerated, but applauded and fondled for their very sins, is one of the most melancholy features of the public character.

Perhaps the only solace to be found is in turning to Europe and realizing the truth that the same process of demoralization seems to be going on there, though it must be borne in mind that

this is not a new thing east of the Atlantic. Our shame is suddenly growing on us. Europe has been bad enough for years. The statistics of the criminal courts in European capitals, even in London itself, show fearful lists of crime. The murder, in May, of the Deering family by Probst, finds its full parallel in the recent frightful horror in Hamburg, where nine persons of one household were butchered and burned, for a trifling sum of money.

But it is not to individual crimes at the great centres to which special attention is directed. In the most densely settled rural districts of civilized Europe there exists a state of terror from brigands which cannot be realized or comprehended by those of our citizens who reside in the sparsely settled counties of our comparatively new land. The continental governments are paralyzed in their efforts to restrain—much less to eradicate the evil, and heavy drafts are annually made on their exchequers to pay the troops retained for the purpose of keeping the brigands in awe. In Croatia the robbers, since the troops left that State for Italy, have become so daring that renewed measures have been taken against them by the government. An incident, which lately occurred in that State, forcibly illustrates the little terror which law has upon these desperadoes. For the head of one of their leaders, says a correspondent writing from Vienna, under date of August 16, the Austrian Government offered one thousand florins. Another robber-chief, who was the enemy of the proscribed, surprised him with his band; and, after a bloody struggle, killed him. On the following morning the body of the chief was found nailed to the gates of the capital of Croatia, with the following significant letter pinned to his coat:

Here is a present from me. I killed him because he was my enemy. The mother of every one who dares to be my enemy shall find cause for weeping.

Given in the beautiful Fatherland under my hand and seal.

JOSEPH UDMANIE, Robber-chief.  
8th August, 1866, at 6 o'clock in the forenoon.

If a New Yorker would realize the peculiar sensations consequent upon living in such a community, let him imagine the Catskills and Highlands of the Hudson peopled with highwaymen and brigands. The Governor of the State offers a reward for one of their number, which is responded to early the next morning by the body of the offender, killed by a rival, and placed in a conspicuous position of this city, having on it a defiant letter addressed to the Mayor! This is the present state of affairs in parts of civilized Europe. We are not quite so far gone as this.

### THE PARIS OPERA HOUSE.

The Emperor Napoleon has signalized his reign by many improvements in his native city, not the least of which is the new Opera House, which he is at present erecting. In the vastness of its size and the beauty of its architecture, in the richness and variety of its tasteful ornamentation both within and without, in the comfort and convenience of its internal arrangements, and in its perfect adaptation to the objects for which it was designed, it will prove a monument that any sovereign might be proud to leave behind him. The building will cover  $7\frac{1}{2}$  acres of ground, with an altitude in some parts of 200 feet above the pavement. Over one thousand men are engaged upon it, and it is contemplated to have it ready for opening by the first of January, 1869. The site was formerly occupied by business houses, which were bought at an enormous expense. The sum of twenty-five million of francs has been placed at the disposal of the architect, who has thus far expended about sixteen millions, receiving as his own salary two per cent. of his disbursements. His duties, however, are very onerous, as he has personally to supervise everything connected with the erection of the structure. For the erection of the grand hall alone 15,000 designs were presented, every one of which he had to examine and correct. The house is to be fire-proof throughout, not an atom of wood being allowed in its construction. Hewn stone, iron and marble are the only materials employed. For the metal, two millions of francs have been allowed; for the marble eight millions, and for the various statues and other works of art, fifteen millions. The whole of Europe has been ransacked to find marbles sufficiently beautiful and costly. They have been brought from the Pyrenness and the Alps, from the Carpathians and the Apennines. Carrara and Sera Vezza have sent their whitest and finest blocks, and the onyx of Algeria and the jasper of Mont Blanc

have been employed to inlay them with their varied tints and elaborate mosaic. The stage is nearly 150 feet wide, 90 feet deep, and 50 feet high. The grand hall will seat 3,000 persons, and surrounding it will be immense marble columns, costing 5,000 francs a piece. The Emperor's box is situated in the centre, and beneath it is a stable for his horses and carriage, so that he can be driven almost into his box without difficulty, notwithstanding it is on a level with the second story of the house. A correspondent in describing its magnificence and proportions, says it calls to mind the mighty ruins of the past, and takes rank with the Pyramids or Coliseum.

### WATER SUPPLY TO GREAT CITIES.

Among the public works executed by Rome, whether republican or imperial, the remains of her aqueducts impress the modern mind most overwhelmingly with a sense of her magnificence. One of them conveyed water for a distance of sixty-three, and another, containing nearly 7,000 arches, of thirty-eight miles in length. The supply of water to Rome, from these sources, was estimated at fifty million cubic feet a day, which consumed by one million inhabitants, averages 312 gallons to each person. The Romans, being ignorant of the principle in hydraulics that water always finds its own level, and not knowing how to make strong iron pipes, had to build the stately water roads, cut through mountains and crossing valleys, the very remains of which are so picturesque and grand, and one of which (now called the Aqua Virgine, and constructed over eighteen centuries ago by M. Vipsanius Agrippa, son-in-law of the Emperor Augustus), still supplies Rome with its purest water. In Peru, probably at an earlier period, these modes of conveying water were still more largely used, though the manner of construction was not so solid. It is said that one aqueduct in Peru, crossing a valley, was between four and five hundred miles in length. The water with which the city of Marseilles has been supplied, since 1852, (when the works were completed at a cost of \$10,000,000), is conveyed by an aqueduct sixty miles in length, passing through forty tunnels in the mountains, and across a ravine over five miles long. New York is supplied with excellent water from Croton lake (an artificial reservoir, covering over 400 acres), a distance of near forty miles, to the reservoir in Central Park, and the successful execution of the great work was justly considered as a great triumph of science, enterprise, capital and perseverance. Still more remarkable is the supply of water to Glasgow, the commercial metropolis of the west of Scotland. Good water being much needed in that city, it was determined to tap Loch Katrine, at a distance of twenty-five miles. The water there is 370 feet above the sea level, and its quality very fine, having only one degree of hardness, and in all only two grains of solid matter to the gallon. The water is first conducted by a tunnel 6,975 feet long through a mountain, and then by aqueducts, pipes and tunnels to the reservoir near Glasgow—a distance of about twenty-five miles.

These are great works and worthy of the advanced civilization which characterizes the age. But efforts are now being made in England, to go far beyond any previous achievements in this respect. Most probably, before fifteen years have passed, London will be supplied with pure water from the lakes and rivers of North Wales, a distance of one hundred and seventy miles, and a bold engineer has proposed that Manchester and the leading towns in the cotton spinning districts of Lancaster shall get their supply of water from the Lakes of Camberland and Westmoreland. There has recently been laid before the town Council of Liverpool a plan, which was first proposed to that body twenty years ago, for supplying Liverpool with water from Lake Bala, in Wales, where the River Dee has its rise, a distance of seventy-eight miles, and it is probable that this great work will be accomplished.—[Philadelphia Press.]

THE largest water melon ever heard of, was recently sold in Paris. It weighed no less than 72 lbs., and was grown in a garden in St. Denis.

OVER one thousand persons have arrived in Galveston and Hamilton, to escape the persecution of guerrillas in the interior, who rob and murder indiscriminately, for plunder.

THE annual consumption of intoxicating liquors in England amounts to \$400,000,000. This consumption produces nine-tenths of the crimes.

### NEWS ITEMS.

THERE are now six hundred prisoners at the Dry Tortugas.

It has taken the clerks in the Treasury office in Berlin six days to count the casks of thalers which are part of Prussia's spoils.

BISHOP HOPKINS, of the Protestant Episcopal diocese of Vermont, reports that there are no students at present in the theological department of the Episcopal Institute of that State. There are no candidates for the ministry in the entire diocese.

VICTOR EMANUEL has the largest emerald in the world. It is six inches long, four broad, and three thick. Julius Caesar had one nearly as large, which he vainly used to cure an eye disease from which he suffered.

THE London *Times* says: "the total earnings of railways in the United Kingdom amount to a good £40,000,000 a year; and if we allow even 50 per cent. for working expenses, there will remain £20,000,000 to represent profits."

SOME of the pews of a Hebrew Temple, in Cincinnati, were recently rented for \$1,000, and premiums run up on others as high as \$3,500—and thus two hundred thousand dollars were realized. This has never been equaled by any church in this or any other country.

A LITTLE girl in the employ of the Wolcottville, Connecticut Manufacturing Company, possesses most wonderful arithmetical powers. She counts 2,000 percussion caps and puts them in twenty boxes, (100 in each) in one minute, and never makes a mistake.

A YOUNG Louisville (Ky.) clerk induced a respectable Hoosier girl to run away from her home and go over to Louisville, where he promised to marry her. He kept her at a boarding-house two or three days, and made dishonorable proposals to her. She got him into the parlor, locked the door, and cowhided him within an inch of his life, whereat the people said, "Good for the Hoosier girl!"

A SWIMMING match at sea, showing remarkable power on the part of the contestants, took place on Monday afternoon. The "course" was from Sheerness to the *Nore* light-ship, a distance of about four miles, the stakes £50 a side, and the contestants, Coulter and Cody, the former champion of the *Serpentine*, and the latter champion of *Sheerness*. The Londoner won by nearly half a mile, occupying one hour and three quarters in reaching the light-ship.

AT Appleford, Mass., a few days ago, a young child was smothered to death in a very singular manner, according to a Boston paper:—A pet cat jumped up on the cradle and laid down quietly on the infant's face while the latter was sleeping. The mother, who was sitting near, was pleased with this exhibition of the cat's affection, and went and called a neighbor to come and see them lying thus quietly together. When she returned she found that the child had ceased to breathe.

IN the United States there are 750 paper mills in active operation. They produce 270,000,000 pounds of paper, which, at an average of ten cents per pound, would be worth \$27,000,000. As it requires about a pound and one-half of rags to make one pound of paper, there are consumed by these mills 400,000,000 lbs. of rags in a single year. If we estimate the rags to cost four cents per pound, there would be a profit of \$11,000,000 in this branch of manufacturing.—[North-West.]

THE great National field trial of Mower and Reapers held at Auburn in July, under the patronage of the State Legislature and supervision of the State Agricultural Society, was the most thorough and extensive ever held in this country. Fifty-nine machines were entered for competition, and over two weeks occupied in subjecting the machines to every variety of severe tests. The committee of eleven judges, composed of practical and scientific agriculturists and machinists, reported the results of their labors at the State Fair at Saratoga, on Wednesday evening last, awarding the First Premium Grand Gold Medal to the Buckeye Machine of Adirance Platt & Co. The main points of superiority shown in the Buckeye Machine were for lightness of draft, ease of management, perfection of mechanical construction, strength and durability. Only two machines received as high a number of merit marks in cutting timothy. In the clover field it was the only machine which received the highest mark.—[N. Y. Tribune.]