

Correspondence.

LONDON, Nov. 30, 1872.

Editor Deseret News:

If one wishes to indulge in melancholy or the sympathetic, he should visit the "Tower of London," and devote an hour or two in examining its mouldering records and crumbling inscriptions pointing to heart-rending scenes enacted in past ages within its dark and gloomy walls.

In company with President Smith, and others of our tourists, I visited this place, although not for the purpose above mentioned.

It is a sombre mass, consisting principally of antique walls, gates, portcullis, bastions, moat and twelve towers. None of the excellency, beauty, splendor and grandeur is exhibited in these structures as is seen in Prince Albert's Monument. Simplicity and solidity are characteristics of its architecture; I was impressed with no other, with the exception of oppressive gloominess.

About thirteen acres are enclosed by the moat surrounding the Tower, and a double line of walls and bulwarks encircles inside the moat, with a street running between, except on the south.

The White Tower, or citadel, the most important edifice, occupies the central part of these premises. It is one hundred and sixteen feet by ninety-six, and ninety two in height—walls fifteen feet in thickness. It was built in the latter part of the eleventh century, nearly eight hundred years ago, and is a specimen of Norman architecture. It is divided from base to summit into various compartments by walls seven feet in thickness. The smallest apartment is now occupied by what is termed Queen Elizabeth's armory. On one side of this room, formed in the wall, is a cell eight feet by ten, without light except at its entrance—formerly the prison of Sir Walter Raleigh, Ralstone, Fane and Culpepper. Above this apartment is St. John's chapel, another specimen of Norman architecture. A chaplain was formerly engaged to perform service here for about twelve dollars per annum. The most spacious room on the upper floor, in former ages, was used by the king as a council room, where their courts were held. It is said to have been here that when the council was assembled the Duke of Gloucester demanded Lord Hastings' immediate execution. This chamber and the banqueting room are used at the present time as depositories for small arms. Great artistical skill is displayed in the arrangement of some of these arms and their implements, in form of floors, aquatic plants appearing in streams of water, luminous stars and the sun rising in splendor.

We were conducted to the Horse Armory, which is nearly one hundred and fifty feet in length by thirty-four in breadth, filled with objects of curiosity and historical interest. There were equestrian figures, others on foot, dressed in armor of different periods embracing over two and a half centuries. It is curious to trace the development of the idea relating to armor and weapons, as exhibited in the multitude of those specimens. The conception in its perfect development, in regard to armor, was strikingly illustrated by a full suit on a life sized effigy of Henry the VIII, mounted on a horse. This suit of armor was made of plated metal artistically arranged in sections overlapping one another, and turning upon pivots so as to afford the body, head, neck and limbs free motion, without exposing any portion. It is ponderous, weighing as nearly as I recollect about one hundred and twenty pounds. This armor is elaborately worked—inlaid with gold and very beautiful. We were shown a rough suit he wore at the age of eighteen, which weighed ninety-two pounds.

The first specimens of armor manifested the idea as rather confused: leather cut in pieces in the form of fish scales and sewed on cloth or deer skins. The next stage of development appears in a specimen made of small rings of steel sewed on to the same material. Again, in the beginning of the thirteenth century, a higher point of development was reached—armor was constructed of vast quantities of small rings intersecting one with another so as to form a connected garment. After this, another improvement was introduced of mixed chain and plate worn on the arms and legs. And thus invention progressed to its full development as represented at the period of Henry the VIII.

We saw various specimens of weapons invented at different periods, commencing with the cross bow, the spear and

battle axe, exhibiting step by step successive improvements represented in the matchlock, improved matchlock, flintlock, improved flintlock, percussion lock, improved percussion, double-barreled gun, improved doublebarrel, revolving cylinder, cylinder improved, until we have reached the most perfect weapon now known.

The twelve towers of this fortress were erected, principally, in the early part of the thirteenth century—some of them, however, were built about the close of the eleventh century. The strange scenes enacted in past ages, beneath these frowning battlements, form a dark and bloody page in English history. Observing the multitude of objects bearing distinct marks of those terrible events, my mind was almost overpowered with sad and gloomy reflections. In these dark and loathsome dungeons, kings and queens, having been divested of their crowns and robes of royalty, were forced to make their ignominious abode.

These walls bear traces of having echoed the sighs and groans of illustrious men while gasping for life beneath the bloody instruments of horrid torture, also of princes and nobles having been thrust into these dungeons and ended their lives by means shrouded in mystery! Tradition speaks of secret passages, of torture rooms and hidden recesses within and underneath these walls where I stood. Many eminent personages left inscriptions upon their prison walls, which yet remain—sad mementos of themselves and their sufferings. Queen Ann, having enjoyed a few years of pomp and splendor, basking in the smiles of Henry the Eighth, was forced to exchange queenly habiliments for the prison costume in which she passed from this loathsome captivity to the executioner's block. Queen Elizabeth's favorite, the Earl of Essex, the pride of the English court, was immured within one of these towers previous to being beheaded upon the scaffold. The beautiful, amiable and accomplished Lady Jane Grey was incarcerated here. "Jane," engraved by Lord Dudley, her unfortunate husband, on the stone walls of his prison, which I saw, reminded me forcibly of the melancholy circumstance. Two princes, sons of Edward the Fourth, while suffering captivity in what is termed "the bloody Tower," were secretly murdered, and afterwards their bodies found mouldering beneath its walls.

We were shown the executioner's axe, the heading block, thumb screws, iron collars and other horrid instruments for human torture. We were conducted to a small enclosure, surrounded with iron pailings, where many illustrious men and women of distinction and royalty had been privately executed.

Omitting many objects of interest, perceiving my letter becoming lengthy, I will close by noticing the "Regalia" as a strange contrast with what has been described. The "Jewel House" is a building of modern construction, within the enclosure of these ramparts, and contains the "Crown Jewels." There is a magnificent display of crowns, diadems and sceptres embellished with pearls, rubies, emeralds, diamonds and sapphires, together with Edward's staff of beaten gold, over four feet in length—added to this are the "swords of justice," temporal and ecclesiastical, and the pointless "sword of mercy."

LORENZO SNOW.

BY TELEGRAPH.
EASTERN.

WASHINGTON, 30.—The commissioner of internal revenue contemplates a change in the whisky regulations on the first of January, under which alteration an allowance of one fermenting period, but in no case more than forty-eight hours, will be made upon the opening of additional tubs, before those additional tubs are included in arriving at the producing capacity. Heretofore additional tubs have been included from the moment they were opened. The new ruling will be prospective from the first of January, but in no case will they be retroactive, or in other words, will relate entirely and only to products of January and future periods.

The President will give the first State dinner on the eighth of January, the guests being members of the Cabinet and their wives, the vice President and Mrs. Colfax, Gen. and Mrs. Sherman, and Admiral and Mrs. Porter. State dinners will be given at the White House every alternate Thursday during the season.

BALTIMORE.—The brig *Eche* has ar-

rived and reports the loss of Captain Henry Wells, of the brig *Tempest* which was sunk in a collision with the *Eche*.

NEW YORK, 30.—A large crowd gathered at Central street ruins to-day, where a force of 100 men are at work removing the ruins. The intention of employing workhouse prisoners is abandoned and poor laboring men are engaged. The belief seems to prevail that the remaining bodies are buried beneath the ruins of the stairway. Alderman Gilsey has contributed \$500 toward the expenses of removing the ruins. Judge Dowling and Morgan Jones have promised to increase their donations, and coroner Herman has offered \$500. No other remains have been yet discovered, but pieces of shawls, stockings, &c., have been found. Comptroller Green has written to coroner Herrman that he cannot put the expense of the work in the tax levy as that is already made up, but he will see that it is paid.

Burglars entered Trinity Church last night and robbed the contribution boxes. They were evidently in search of the communion service, which was locked up in a safe.

The residence of John Conner was robbed of three thousand dollars worth of jewelry last night in 74th street.

A hundred prisoners from the workhouse have been put at work to-day to clear the ruins of the Centre St. fire. A jury has been empanelled this morning to hold an inquest upon the bodies in the ruins.

Bergh's officers to-day stopped all stages bound down town with less than four horses attached.

J. U. Adams, collector of the Port of Pensacola, has disappeared from Taylor's hotel, Jersey City. As he had a large amount of money with him foul play is feared.

BROOKLYN.—Fire Marshal Ready has examined the hotels of that city and reports three leading hotels insecure in the matter of fire escapes.

Mail advices from Washington report that Secretary Boutwell has prepared his resignation to take effect February 10th. The names of Henry Clews and ex-Governor Morgan are most prominently mentioned as successors.

The *Tribune's* Washington special states that the President visited the Treasury department yesterday morning and was for two hours in conference with Assist. Secretary Richardson. The President is reported to have the fullest confidence in Richardson as a man of sound judgment and great financial tact, and his friends have often conjectured since the election that he would attest his friendship and respect by inviting the Assistant Secretary to take charge of the department, after the fourth of March next, in case Boutwell resigns. On the other hand it is stated that Richardson recently said he did not desire the place, but should retire with his chief and engage in the banking business in Europe. In such event many believe the President's choice would fall upon one of the prominent bankers of the country, with whom he is on intimate personal terms.

RICHMOND.—Col. Edward Loraine, chief engineer of the James River and Kanawha canal, has died, aged 55.

CONCORD.—This afternoon a train from Montreal ran into an up train awaiting its arrival here in the yard. The upright rod on the switch, being full of frost, broke, when the engine struck the rail and threw the train on the track where the other train was standing. The baggage car struck the engine and demolished it. The baggage car and two cars following were somewhat smashed. No one was seriously hurt. The escape from a general smashup was wonderful.

CHICAGO.—A Logansport dispatch says two trains on the Logansport and Wabash valley collided, killing Mr. Wolf, a brakeman, and injuring several others. The cars were badly smashed. The locomotive ran through three grain cars.

FULTON, N. Y.—The knitting factory of H. S. Corde & Son was burned this afternoon. Loss of building and stock and machinery \$72,000. Insured \$40,000.

WASHINGTON.—The truth of the statement telegraphed here that Boutwell has written a letter of resignation as Secretary of the Treasury to take effect February 15. It is denied at the Treasury Department. No one at the Executive Mansion has heard anything of the kind.

BOSTON.—Extreme cold weather still prevails throughout the New England states.

HARTFORD.—The stockholders in the Aenta Fire Co. have unanimously voted to reduce their capital stock from \$3,000,000 to \$2,000,000, and afterwards

voted to increase it to the original amount and assess the stockholders 3 1/2 per cent.

NEW YORK.—At a late hour this afternoon a workman found among the ruins of the Centre street building a human skull, with hair several inches long, a pair of women's shoes, and fragments of female apparel.

AUGUSTA, Me., 31.—The reports that Senator Merrill is seriously ill are untrue.

HARTFORD, Ct.—Senator Schurz is the guest of Governor Jewell of this city.

NEW YORK.—A petition is receiving the signatures of business men, requesting the legislature to abolish the present usury laws and substitute those of Massachusetts and other New England States.

CINCINNATI.—At Mechanicsburg, O., on Sunday evening, a colored woman named Bowson, in a fit of rage or insanity cut the throat of her child and then cut her own. Both will probably die. The cruelty of her husband is the alleged cause.

The news of Secretary Boutwell's proposed resignation is considerably discussed in Wall Street, the prevailing speculation being that Assistant Secretary Richardson will receive the office for a few weeks, after which he is expected to accept a government position abroad.

CHICAGO.—Near Pittsfield, Ill., on Friday last, Wm. and Thos. Corkson, brothers and well to do bachelor farmers, were found frozen to death in their house, having been dead a week.

Thos. L. A. Valquett, one of the oldest operators in the Western Union Telegraph office in this city, died yesterday of smallpox.

A New York special says Samuel Sinclair yesterday offered his resignation as publisher of the *Tribune* and it was accepted, to take effect to-day.

Saml. E. Rankin, State treasurer, of Iowa, and also treasurer of the board of trustees of the State Agricultural College, has been found to have used \$38,000 of the funds of that institution. He has made good the amount by the surrendering of his personal property. His accounts as State treasurer are correct.

Since it has been evinced that the salary of the Nicaragua ministership is so great, applications for that position have increased in a wonderful manner. Among the names mentioned as applying for the place are two governors of Territories and several senators whose term expire the present session.

A Washington special says Senator Sumner's physician says his condition is very bad. He has frequent recurrences of acute pain in the region of the heart, the result of the senatorial difficulty, which has afflicted him for the last fifteen years. These always are very violent and prostrating, but of short duration. The Senator suffers from loss of sleep and on retiring each night has an opiate introduced under the skin of the arm by which some slumber is produced.

Ice broke at Cincinnati, two steamers and some barges sunk, others damaged

BUILDERS.

CABINET AND GENERAL HARDWARE

UPHOLSTERERS' GOODS, AND

UNDERTAKERS' TRIMMINGS.

SEND FOR PRICE LIST.

J. L. WAYNE & SON.

W. D. GIBSON, Manager.

14 NORTH CANAL STREET.....CHICAGO.
W48 1y

BULBS!

Haycinthes, Tulips, Snow-Drops

and a variety of

DUTCH BULBS!

Ver-Pots for Sale at Pottery Prices!

RICHARD MATTHEWS

North Temple Street, Salt Lake City.