

## GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

**THE RECENT FIGHT WITH THE CAMANCHES.**—The following letter, from a gentleman attached to the United States surveying party in the Indian Territory to his relatives in this city, furnishes some additional information in regard to the recent fight between a detachment of United States troops under command of Major Van Dorn, and a party of Camanche Indians:—

PORT ARBUCKLE, (C. N.)  
October 24, 1858.

An express has just arrived from Major Van Dorn's command for supplies and medical assistance. They had an engagement yesterday with three hundred Camanches encamped near the Wichita village, some fifty miles north-west of this place. Major Van Dorn was badly wounded in the arm and abdomen, and his recovery is considered very doubtful. Lt. Van Camp fell, pierced through the heart by an arrow. Five soldiers were killed and several are missing, including the hospital steward with the medicines. Two unfortunate Wichitas were also killed; one of them was well known to us as a good reliable man. Thirty Camanches fell. They had lost all their horses, over three hundred, a few days previous, they being stolen by the Texas Indians accompanying Maj. V. D.'s troops.

Dr. Gaenslen, U. S. Army, with twenty men and a wagon and ambulance, has started, and will reach the scene of the unfortunate occurrence to-morrow near noon, if no accident happens. The road is very rough. Much anxiety exists for the party of fifty men under Lieut. Burnett, now encamped on Otter Creek, protecting the depot of supplies. It must be many days before any assistance can be afforded him. This small party could not withstand a band of exasperated Camanches.

This conflict is very unfortunate from the fact that the Camanches attacked were those that were to visit this post to return horses stolen from this neighborhood some time since. They were the only band friendly, and might have been instrumental in bringing to peace the rest of the tribe. They had already sent in by the Wichita chief several of the stolen horses, and were coming in with the rest, when the Indians accompanying Major Van Dorn's troops stampeded three hundred and fifty of their horses, including those to be returned here. The horses being stolen, the Wichitas persuaded the Camanche chiefs not to follow them, but that they would send in word to the commanding officer that their horses were all stolen. Captain Prince replied that they need not come in without the horses, and also gave the Wichita chief a letter to be shown to Maj. Van Dorn, informing him that they were friends. This letter I suppose the Wichitas were afraid to take to Major Van Dorn. It is very much to be regretted that some messenger was not sent to the commander of the cavalry informing him of the peaceful intentions of these unfortunate Indians. Had the Wichita agent been at his post all this trouble would have been avoided.

War has now begun in earnest, and there is no saying where it will terminate. Peace could have been made very easily, and been faithfully kept, if the Camanches were protected. They are very much sinning against, and I believe the Texan Rangers and the Reserve Indians of Major Neighbors cause two-thirds of the troubles on this frontier. A party of sixty or one hundred start out every few months, and steal Camanche horses by hundreds; of course, the wild Indian retaliates.

This unhappy event will cause delay, and perhaps stop the survey of the lines of the Indian Territory this winter. Certainly we cannot go out until matters are better understood.

**EXPLORATIONS IN THE RED RIVER COUNTRY.**—Mr. Dawson, engineer of the exploring party sent by our government to the Red River Territory, returned by the last trip of the Rescue, and is now in this city. He will prepare his reports of surveys so far as made, and will return to the territory about the middle of winter, to rejoin the parties whom he has left there carrying on the work. We understand that Mr. Dawson speaks in the highest terms of the territory between the Red River and the Assiniboine, where he has recently been exploring.

It is, for a prairie country, well wooded, and is exceedingly fertile. Mr. Dawson brings with him specimens of lignite, which, we believe, place it beyond question that considerable deposits of coal will be found in various parts of the country, more particularly on the Souris River. The indications of its existence are very numerous. It has been known for a length of time that on the Saskatchewan plains, near the base of the mountains, large beds of coal existed, but it has hitherto been by no means certain that it was to be found further eastward. The discovery supplies an additional reason for believing the first railway to the Pacific will be made through these magnificent prairies. The opening of the stage route from St. Louis to San Francisco has produced in the American papers proofs of the unfitness of the Southern territory to support a railway across the continent. We find in the itinerary of a passenger who came through to St. Louis by the first expedition, statements of long journeys performed without water; and even at the stations on the road, the water is furnished by means of expensive wells. In such a country, of course, there is no wood, neither has coal been discovered south of the boundary. At no point in the British route would there be a scarcity of either fuel or water. From Lake Superior to the Red River there are abundant supplies of the finest timber, and beyond that coal is to be found almost

throughout the entire region.—[Toronto Globe, October 22.]

**A FAIR HIT.**—Speaking of China, Mr. Robert B. Minturn, jr., in his clever and instructive book entitled, "From New York to Delhi," just published by the Appletons, institutes the following comparison, which is a naive illustration of the process of hitting two birds with one stone:—[Life Illustrated, Nov. 6.]

"The Chinese government, as at present administered, seems in some respects remarkably like ours. The first great theory is, that in theory it is perfect, and in practice works remarkably badly. Secondly, it is a mere machine for collecting taxes, and enriching those who can put themselves into office by bribery and other means. Thirdly, the officials have no power except when supported by public opinion; and Fourthly, the government has lost the respect of the people, who, in case of difficulty, consider a government official the last person to go to for advice or redress."

**SUGAR TRADE.**—The English papers state Yankee traders have landed considerable cargoes of sugar at the port of Nicolajaw, at the mouth of the river Amoor, which is termed the Mississippi of Northern Asia. From this port the cargoes have been conveyed at once up into the very heart of Tartary, and the interior of the Muscovite empire. The unexpected supplies have had an astonishing effect on the late fair at Norovgorod, to which emporium the Central Asiatics resort for the purchase of that merchandise, the value of which has fallen 30 per cent., owing to the new sources of sugar importation; and every other commodity will shortly be similarly affected by what must be a perfect revolution on the border land of China, Mongolistan, and Southern Siberia.

**A GREAT GUN AT WINDSOR CASTLE.**—On Wednesday a monster piece of ordnance was brought from Woolwich to Windsor Castle, by command of Her Majesty, and placed on the North-terrace, where it will be inspected by Prince Consort, and a suitable situation selected for its permanent position. The gun was taken during the late war from the Chinese, and brought to England by the ship Sibyl; it is an admirable piece of workmanship in brass, and weighs 7 tons 3 3/4 cwt. 8 lb., its length is 13 1/2 feet, girth 7 feet 3 inches, and 12 inches in the bore. It requires upwards of 30 lb of powder to load it and it will carry a ball of 200 lb weight. The value of the brass alone is estimated at between 5000 and 6000.—[Eng. paper.]

**HIGH ROAD.**—In Chili a branch of the Copiapo railroad, between Pabellon and Chancillo, passes over the Atacama mountains at an elevation higher than any other railroad in the world. On the 31 of August part of this railroad was opened, and a locomotive ascended to the terminus, at an elevation of 4,440 feet above the level of the sea. This altitude is about 1,000 feet greater than the highest point of the Vienna and Trieste railroad in the Austrian Alps. The highest elevation on the railroad which passes through the Blue Ridge in Virginia is 2,700 feet one thousand seven hundred and forty feet less than the highest point on the Copiapo railroad.

**THE EPIDEMIC IN ARGYLE, N. Y.**—The Troy Family Visitor mentions the death of Mr. H. King, a promising lawyer of Argyle, Washington County, N. Y., being the twenty-ninth victim to the strange epidemic now prevailing in that vicinity. There have now died of this malady one to every thirteen of the population, a degree of mortality not often paralleled in an ordinary healthful locality. We have seen no very clear description of the disease in any of our exchanges, but presume it is of the same nature as that which we have several times noticed within a year or two, as prevailing in different parts of the country—a low form of putrid typhus fever.

**A GREAT ARTESIAN WELL.**—An Artesian well, lately opened at Bourn, England, sends the water 25 feet above the surface, and discharges 360 gallons per minute, or 21,600 in one hour. It feeds three mills, and is said to be the greatest well of the kind in the world, excepting the celebrated one at Paris. The one we noticed on the 20th of the month as made at Louisville, sends an inch stream sixty feet high, gives 225 gallons a minute, or 324,000 gallons per day.

☞ In England and Wales, in 1857, there were 17,192 pauper lunatics, and 10,501 idiots. The average cost to parishes for the weekly maintenance of these wretched beings, in asylums and licensed-houses, was 6s 8d., (the general average).

☞ The New England Genealogical Society has appointed a committee to inquire the reasons for the apparent marked degeneracy, intellectual or moral, or both, in the descendants of families of illustrious progenitors.—[N. Y. Dispatch.]

**NEW TELEGRAPH CABLE.**—The new telegraph cable between England and Holland has been successfully laid. It is the heaviest yet submerged, weighing 1,260 tons, although the distance is only 140 miles.—[Sac. Union, Nov. 13.]

**THE CHOLERA IN ASIA.**—By late advices from Asia, we learn that this fearful scourge has carried off thirty thousand victims in the city of Mecca, during the past summer.

Accounts received from Algiers by the French Government, announce, that the Empire of Morocco is in a state of great disorder and anarchy.

## FOREIGN NEWS.

[From the London Times of Oct. 26.]

## FRANCE AND PORTUGAL.

The dispute between France and Portugal has abruptly terminated. After appealing in vain to the decisions of courts of law, to the faith of treaties, to the obvious justice of her own cause, and to the arbitration of any neutral Power whom France might wish to choose, the cabinet of Lisbon has succumbed to the menace of instant violence addressed to her by a Power with whom it would be utterly fruitless for her to contend. Never was the voice of truth and justice more arrogantly overpowered by a more superiority of physical force; never were the rights of a brave and independent nation more recklessly trampled upon; never was the understanding upon which the affairs of Europe since the Peace of 1815 have been conducted more entirely cast to the winds. For Portugal nothing is left but to fold her arms and record her protest against the violence to which she has been forced to submit; for Europe there remains a precedent fraught with danger. The forcible rescue of the French slaver [the Charles et Georges, seized by the Portuguese with a cargo of slaves on board]—for such it is now clearly proved to be—from the hands of the Portuguese authorities is one of those events which are sure, sooner or later, to exercise an important influence on the actions and feelings of mankind. It is the gem, we fear, of much evil.

Henceforth we must, however unwillingly, adopt it as a matter too clear for dispute, that France will not allow the right of smaller and weaker Powers to that shelter and protection which the law of nations has hitherto thrown around them. Justice is for equals,—dictation, menace, and, if necessary, force, for inferiors, in power. The use of a law, and more especially the law of nations, is the protection of the weak against the strong, and for any weaker nation which is so unfortunate as to have a difference with France that protection no longer exists. A second most lamentable result of this affair is, that we fear we can no longer count upon France as among those nations who are bent upon discouraging in every manner the continuance of the Slave trade. The power of the Empire has been put forth to shelter a very flagrant violation of what has hitherto been understood to be the policy of France in this respect. It is one thing not to maintain an armed squadron for the purpose of putting down the Slave trade, it is another to rescue a vessel duly convicted by the menace of an immediate appeal to arms. There is too much reason to fear that this untoward result of the noble efforts which the Portuguese Government and especially the Colonial Minister, the Viscount Sa Da Bandeira, has been making for the suppression of the slave trade, will relax the zeal of a Power which thus meets with insult and menace in the very quarter from which it had a right to expect countenance and support. Nor is this all. We cannot conceal from ourselves that the manner in which Portugal has been dealt with was caused by a suspicion, utterly unfounded, as we know it to be, that she was acting in this matter under the peculiar instigation of England. It occurs to us to ask, what part has the English Government taken in this transaction? We know our Government has not extended to Portugal any material support,—has any moral influence been exerted in her favor? Have we interceded for her with our great ally? Have we strengthened her with the assurance of our approbation of the honorable course she has adopted, and promised her that, in case of extremity, we would not forget the duties imposed by our treaty obligations? She has done her duty; we would be glad of some proof that we have not been wanting in ours.

PARIS, Monday, Oct. 25, 6 p.m.—The Moniteur publishes the following:—

"The Minister of Foreign Affairs has received this morning a telegraphic despatch, under date the 23d of October, from the Minister of the Emperor at Lisbon, announcing that the Portuguese Government had decided on restoring the ship Charles et Georges, and setting at liberty Captain Rouxel."

I do not find that the public shares in the triumphant feeling conveyed in the Olympian style of this paragraph.

The Constitutionnel has an article, evidently from the same official source, in the closing paragraph of which is a hint, intended no doubt for England. It says:—

"It would certainly have been an untoward precedent had France found herself compelled to have recourse to force to accomplish her right, but it was likewise indispensable to establish another precedent—that is to say, that every ship provided with the papers prescribed by the law of 1852, having on board a Government delegate, and being otherwise regular, cannot be voluntarily or through error arrested in her operations, seized, and condemned. We may be permitted to believe that after the excitement created by the affair of the Charles et Georges no occasion will present itself for invoking this precedent; but it is well that all foreign navies should know how far their rights and privileges extend."

[From the London News of Oct. 27.]

## AFRICAN EMIGRATION.

The notorious French emigration scheme is creating difficulty and embarrassment in all quarters. We have just seen how it has been on the verge of stirring up serious diplomatic complications in Europe; on the East Coast of Africa its mischievous results are not yet fully developed, but they are already sufficiently perplexing. In the current number of the Edinburgh Review we read of a letter from Dr. Livingstone to the Bishop of Oxford, dated the

22d of last June, in which the enterprising traveler states that the natives on the Zambesi have driven out the Portuguese, in consequence of their having entered heartily into the French scheme, and were disposed to treat our countrymen in the same way, until convinced that they were English, and not Portuguese. It is clear from this that the French emigration scheme is regarded by the East Coast natives as a slave trade; it is also equally clear that King Pedro and his Ministers have not due control in his African dominions.

The Lisbon Cabinet must be heartily vexed at the occurrence of this difficulty, just at the moment of its embarrassment with the French Government, in which, according to the universal opinion of Europe, the Portuguese are right and the French wrong. The lesson conveyed by all these untoward incidents is the same; and it is very easy to read. What Dr. Livingstone finds on the Zambesi; what Mr. McLeod relates about Mozambique; and the allegations of the colonial authorities, and of the negroes on board the Charles et Georges, all afford the same instruction as to the malignant and desolating character of the trade in men, by what ever name it may be called. It really is wretched work, this transportation of native Africans, which leaves no chance of permanent and effectual amity between any two of the foremost nations of the world.

Nothing can be clearer to persons who are duly informed than that there is every where an unexhausted supply of indigenous labor procurable by a wise observance of the natural conditions of its engagement. If this truth were acted upon, the whole classes of emitties, whole groups of quarrels, and an incalculable amount of peril and loss would be swept away at once. The French case is a striking illustration of the consequences of obstinacy in a mistaken and injurious policy. The Emperor is up to the ears in quarrels with all manner of allies from this cause alone; the English, the Portuguese, the Liberian Republic and its American advocates,—every power, in short, whose coasts have been touched, or whose markets of labor have been invaded, or whose international pledges have been mocked by his negro-hunting agents. How can he have persisted in the scheme so long is marvellous. He cannot afford to persist much longer, for his tenure of power is not one which renders him safe in irritating the conscience and defying the forbearance of his allies. He would have been wise to close accounts with M. Regis & Co. on the first complaint of their proceedings reaching his ear; and now every day's delay is swelling the retribution which awaits him.

[From the Covalla (Liberia) Messenger.]

**THE FRENCH EMIGRANT SYSTEM.**—French vessels under authority of the Government have been for some time engaged in procuring emigrants along the Coast for the West Indies, and other French possessions.

The commander of these ships ask for free emigrants, but in reality obtain slaves. Very few freemen, if any, now that the scheme is understood, ship; but slavery prevailing all along the Coast and everywhere in the interior, the owners readily dispose of slaves for the price offered by the trader. In truth this scheme is attended with all the evils of the slave trade. As soon as an emigrant ship makes her appearance, the chiefs and native traders on the Coast, send in every direction in the interior for slaves. Those on hand are at once set in motion, and predatory expeditions undertaken to procure more. Not only so. Kidnapping is resorted to as far as practicable. Parties visiting the Coast, or on the way hither, for the purposes of lawful traffic, are seized and confined by their hosts for the free emigrant ships. If any opposition is manifested to destiny, the captives are subjected to an ordeal, which places before them, the alternative of submission or death.

**INQUIRY AMONG THE JEWS.**—We have gratifying news from the House of Israel, affording hope that God is visiting numbers of that people with favor. The Rev. Robert Patterson, of the Ref. Presbyterian Church, Chicago, in a letter to Geo. H. Stuart, Esq., of this city, which we have just read, states that there is an extensive awakening of inquiry among the Jews in Cincinnati, and in other Western cities. They are now willing to read the evidences of the Messiahship of Jesus. This is the case in Chicago also. They are dropping into the Churches and prayer meetings of that city.

This hopeful spirit of inquiry is not confined to the Jews on this continent. It appears by the last annual report of the London Society for the conversion of the Jews, that in Turin the rabbies have encouraged the circulation of the Scriptures. In Germany, the Scriptures are in many places sought after by the Jews. In Konigsberg, immense numbers of Russian and Polish Jews had come to listen. In Jerusalem, eight were received to the Christian church the last year, and twelve more were seeking admission.

The British Society for the Jews employed last year eighteen missionaries. In Syria alone 964 copies of Scriptures were put in circulation. Many pleasing instances of conversion have taken place.—[Philad. Chr. Observer.]

☞ A Florida paper speaks of the stranding of a whale or some other big fish upon the beach, and says that the citizens had to use a ladder twenty feet in length to get on his back. We should think such a fish very difficult to scale.

☞ An Unfailing Source of Revenue.—The Mayor of Portsmouth, Va., has taken measures for the arrest and fining of every person, no matter of what rank or condition, who is heard swearing in the streets.