

EDITORIALS.

A GENTLEMAN recently returned from Texas, and now residing at Jonesburg, Mo., is responsible for the following, which is being published in the eastern papers:

In the Indian nation a member of the Choctaw tribe, a veritable Damon, having committed a murder, was tried and condemned to be shot. He asked twenty days to pay a farewell visit to his friends, pledging his honor as a brave to return and be ready to meet his doom when the fatal hour arrived. He was allowed to go without bail, and at the appointed time he galloped up to the spot where the execution was to take place, accompanied by his mother, three of his brothers and three sisters, all appearing as merry and cheerful as though coming to a dance. The coffin was brought out and some expressing a doubt about it being long enough, the condemned tried it, by laying down in it, and laughingly said "it fits all right." When all the preliminaries were settled the murderer was requested to sit on the ground, when his sister bandaged his eyes with a handkerchief. One of his brothers made a black mark round his heart with spittle and powder, when, the sheriff holding one of his hands and one of his brothers holding the other, the deputy sheriff, standing a few paces distant, fired, the shot going within the circle. A few struggles and the scene was over, not one present, excepting the culprit's mother, who shed tears, manifesting the least emotion.

This story sounds very "fishy," to say the least; but if true it shows that in the character of the Indian there is a grandeur to which his pale faced enemies are strangers.

THE Erie Republican chronicles the death of an old man, who had lived for many years in East Conneaut, O., and who was one of the most eccentric or singular members of the hermit class it was possible to find. The old man's name was Buck, and when a young man he was rejected by a lady whose hand he sought in marriage. Upon the frustration of his matrimonial scheme he devoted himself to a life of celibacy and solitude. He built himself a cot, and there tasted, to the full, the joys of "single blessedness," for there he spent his days alone until his death, he being then about eighty years of age.

The peculiar turn which eccentricity, took in his case has probably no parallel: Upon retiring to his solitary domicile he let his hair grow long, like a woman, and procured himself a complete wardrobe of female apparel, and from that time on, when at home, he dressed in female habiliments and styled himself "Miss Buck." His journeys into the village, were made in men's attire, which would be discarded on returning home. When visitors called at his cottage, a rare occurrence, he would ask them whom they desired to see, "Mr." or "Miss" Buck. If the latter, and the whimsical old man happened to be in men's attire, he would change his dress before the business he was sought for was entered upon; and vice versa. When he died he had a large and costly wardrobe for both sexes. Such a whimsical termination to a disappointment in a love affair is probably without a parallel.

DUDLEY BAXTER, who is recognized as one of the ablest and most accurate statisticians in Europe, gives to the public the figures of the war debts of the world made up to last September, or at the downfall of the second French empire. He divides the national debts of the world into large divisions, and gives them in English currency, to which are adjoined the American equivalents at \$4.80 to the pound sterling.

Great Britain.....	\$300,000,000	\$3,840,000,000
Continent of Europe.....	2,165,430,000	10,894,064,000
America.....	765,320,000	3,673,536,000
Asia.....	104,716,000	502,636,000
Africa.....	39,655,000	190,344,000
Australasia.....	85,744,000	411,571,200
Grand total.....	\$3,910,865,000	\$18,772,151,200

Nearly nineteen thousand millions of dollars! This vast amount of debt has been incurred for war purposes. England's debt assumed its present immense proportions through her wars with the French Republic and to check the ambitious career of the First Napoleon. The gigantic debt debited against the United States originated in the war of the rebellion; and so with the other national debts, war has been the fruitful cause of them all. In the totals given by Mr. Baxter the whole

amount of the debts incurred by France and Germany is not included. Were these debts to be added the total would be augmented to the amount of \$2,000,000,000, which would make the aggregated national debts nearly twenty-one thousand millions of dollars! or to be more accurate would be \$20,722,151,200, which at an annual interest of six per cent., inclusive of cost of collection and other charges, would amount to \$1,246,329,072! With such formidable figures is it any wonder that the people of the nations where these debts exist groan under taxes? Not only has current expenses to be met, but this interest must, in addition, be met and paid, or trouble would soon follow. Some idea of what the current expenses of nations are, may be formed from the statement that before this last conflict between France and Germany, the annual appropriations of the great and small powers of Europe alone on their armies and navies amounted to £124,000,000, or \$595,200,000. The loss of the labor of 5,000,000 picked, able-bodied men, which these peace-footing armaments withdraw from productive pursuits, is not reckoned in that amount. In addition, therefore, to the annual interest of \$1,246,329,072, which has to be paid on the debts already incurred, the sum of \$595,200,000 yearly in money for their annual peace establishments has to be raised! Then add to this the value of the labor lost by the employment of five millions of men to form the standing armies of Christendom, which has been estimated at \$133 per man per annum—a low estimate—and we have the yearly sum of \$2,506,529,072!

From the year 1851 to 1868 inclusive, England maintained a peace establishment; her expenditure for its maintenance stands thus:

Army, militia, &c.....	\$286,777,368	\$1,376,581,368
Navy.....	202,848,895	973,674,264
Fortifications.....	5,555,000	26,664,000
Total.....	\$495,181,263	\$2,375,869,632

This immense sum was spent not for actual war, but for prospective war! A nation may stagger under such a burden of expense for a long period, as England has done; but it cannot last always. Her people, the working masses, upon whom the weight of this tremendous load rests, will not quietly endure it much longer. Already they manifest restiveness which, before many years elapse, may break out in riots and revolution. It is these facts which cause the nations of the old world to yearn so ardently for liberty. They desire a republican form of government; but possess not the qualities, in their present ignorant condition, necessary to make such a government successful.

With such a field for the exercise of their talents as Christendom presents, what a mighty incentive there is for philanthropists, statesmen, peace congresses and ministers to exert themselves to put an end to war. It is to war that these debts are traceable; it is to be prepared for war that such costly armaments are maintained. If the nations could be relieved from this frightful incubus, a marvellous change in the conditions of their people would soon be witnessed. The rapid progress of the United States before the war of the rebellion was partly due to the fact that her people were not taxed to sustain a heavy navy and large standing army. The strength of the nation was not drawn off in these directions; but agriculture, manufactures and commerce occupied the attention of the citizens. Happy is the land whose people dwell in peace, and whose ambition is limited to the preservation of its own liberties and rights. Utah is but a small spot on the earth's surface, and her people are numerically insignificant, yet her citizens have cause for gratulation in the fact that she is out of debt and is lightly taxed.

THE reporter of the Alta California has been examining orchards of California and admiring their wealth of fruit, surpassing former years. But everywhere he has been struck with unmistakable signs of early decay. Already a great proportion of their fruits, he says, shows symptoms of early decay. Cut open an apple, for instance, and in most cases you will find something wrong in the seed. He advises fruit men to take warning. He has seen 20,000 trees set out this year, and in every instance the lower branches were cut away; although on the same farms he had occasionally observed that bagging had been tied around the stems of trees two and three years old as a screen from the sun. He says the trees in their orchards show, on the south

exposure, evidence of sun-scald in the bark. Another source of decay, he suggests, is in the exclusive selection of foreign grafts of already well-exhausted varieties of fruit trees. This can be remedied, he thinks, by the nursery-men of California raising trees from the seed. Certainly this would be an excellent remedy, and one easily reached, if five per cent. of the seedlings, as he estimates, would give new and desirable varieties of fruit, suiting the taste and climate of Californians and California.

The New Orleans Flood.

[From the New Orleans Times, June 5.]

Our reporter yesterday made an extended cruise through that portion of the submerged district bearing between the New Canal and Canal Carandolet, and found the entire country from Claiborne street to the lake one wide expanse of water. On Common street the flood was visible in the overflowing gutters as far up as Rampart street, but by a judicious selection of the dry places, and a short journey through the middle of the street, the writer succeeded in reaching the corner of Claiborne street with dry feet. The quay formed there by the railroad track was crowded with bewildered women and children, police officers, bedraggled men and vehicles, while the narrow strip of earth was piled with household furniture of every variety and bedding. Boats were constantly arriving with new victims from the overflow, and during a brief stay, nearly a dozen families, many of them without as much as a change of clothing, came in. The naval display of this flowing river could scarcely be considered as approaching in magnificence a review of the home squadron at Cherbourg, but for variety in rig and tonnage the fleet certainly rivaled any that ever sailed. A preponderance of square barges rather indicated timely precaution on the part of a majority, but dozens of men with their trousers rolled to their thighs, floated about on planks and the most unseaworthy rafts. Placidly cruising over the troubled waters were men, boys and girls, and even women, whose air of abandon and generous display of personal charms was suggestive of quiet desperation. Many appeared undecided whether to laugh or cry, and compromised the matter by snickering at the mishaps of others, and remaining very silent in contemplation of their own adversity. A corpulent gentleman, whose forlorn attempt to propel himself to a neighboring house on a great unwieldy log culminated in an artistic dive, created great merriment, and it was not until he had swallowed several mouthfuls of brackish water that the hilarity ceased and he was fished out. An adventurous Cushite made a short voyage in a bath tub, but his efforts at navigation were somewhat frustrated by an immense sugar-cured ham, which clutched in his right hand, not only prevented an active use of the pole, but eventually capsize the boat.

Securing a tidy little cypress skiff, our reporter glided out Common street, and was soon in the midst of the busy crowd. Every door on both sides of the thoroughfare stood wide open, and the inmates crowded the windows, all eagerly watching the novel scene. For a square or two, though the yards were flooded, the water had not yet reached the floors, and the inhabitants were somewhat philosophic. The houses in the vicinity of the market are rather higher than those further in the rear, and with even three feet of water on the banquette many escaped inundation. At Johnson street, however, the entrance of water into domiciles became apparent, and a grocer, at the time our reporter past, was busily engaged in hanging up rescued articles on hooks around the wall. Two squares further on the flood had reached half way up the legs of tables, in the front rooms, and persons employed themselves in piling up the smaller articles of furniture on the beds. Many women secured a seat on the window-sills, and with their legs dangling out, calmly awaited the receding of the waters. At Hotel Dieu, the entire garden was submerged, and the water appeared nearly level with the lower verandah. The large stable of the Canal and Claiborne street Railroad was under water perhaps eighteen inches, and a large force were busily engaged in removing the mules to a place of safety. The last car passed over the track at about 11 o'clock in the morning, and it is stated that the passengers (a gentleman, his wife and child) were taken out of the vehicle in a boat. In this vicinity the floors of houses on both sides of the street were under water, and from Poydras

street to far below Canal was an immense lake. Many of the habitations were deserted, and passing near several our reporter could only see stray articles of furniture floating around in the empty rooms.

Every fence, house, and even the tops of the taller bushes were completely covered with bugs of all descriptions, and several fences were almost black with crickets. The passage near them created the wildest consternation among those insect castaways, but all huddled closer together, and appeared to cling to the last vestige of earth with the tenacity of life itself. In one spot were massed perhaps a hundred black spiders of immense size, a large number of which carried their young in small, snowy bags. A broad strip of scum which had gathered just opposite the Marine Hospital was fairly alive with them, and over the whole face of the country millions of grasshoppers, beetles, caterpillars and smaller insects abounded. The removal of the sick commenced about 12 o'clock Saturday night, and continued until perhaps 12 o'clock yesterday. A large number were brought to the Marine Hospital, and others taken to the residences of their friends in more central localities. One lady we heard of was taken from her bed after having lain there until the water rose to a depth of two feet on the floor. Though the grounds surrounding it are submerged, the Marine Hospital, being built on brick pillars, is still free from water. The small huts in the rear of this are chiefly occupied by colored people, and all are rendered uninhabitable. On the voyage out the writer's attention was attracted by two horses standing close together, and apparently motionless. Drawing nearer, the skiff glided over a float, to which they were anchored. In this vicinity, three children had taken refuge on a rickety shed, and sat patiently waiting to be picked up by the police boat.

A strong current here gave evidence of a near approach to the break, and five minutes vigorous pulling brought the boat into Hagan avenue. So fierce was the tide that with great difficulty the Times craft stemmed it, but taking advantage of the eddies, she was at length brought up to the crevasse. The disaster is attributed to the injudicious excavations made in the new levee at Hagan avenue. Our reporter is informed that some days ago large quantities of earth were carted away for sale from that spot, and that in consequence the levee was so weakened as to be unable to withstand the pressure of the water. The avenue yesterday more resembled a bayou bankfull than any inundation we have seen.

Returning the reporter passed through many of the streets running parallel to the river, between Hagan avenue and Claiborne street, and everywhere found frightened women and children, seeking the highest places attainable. Many of them had constructed rafts of the floating bridges, and seated themselves on chairs in front of their dwellings. Those fortunate enough to live in two-story houses crowded the upper floors, and not a few cottagers sought a refuge on the roof. Police boats, nearly all of which carried from fifty to one hundred loaves of bread, plied to and fro among the sufferers, distributing food. Early in the morning officers were dispatched to the different bakeries with directions to purchase all the bread that could be spared. The majority of the bakers had only sufficient to supply their customers, and all the workmen were absent, but by a careful collection perhaps a thousand loaves were secured, and by three o'clock they were all distributed. Perhaps twenty boats in all were engaged in this benevolent service, and many families were not only prevented from famishing, but removed by them to places of refuge.

It is almost impossible to even form an idea of the damage which will result from this unparalleled disaster. Every street bridge within the area has of course been floated away, and it is difficult to say whether even the plank-ing will be recovered. Gardens teeming with vegetation have been changed to barren wastes. There is scarcely a house that will not require repairs, and certainly not an article of furniture. Many of the sufferers, and in fact a large majority, are in the humbler walks of life. They barely manage to make the ends meet under the most auspicious circumstances, but in the present dire extremity how they will get along Heaven only knows.

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