

LONGITUDE BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

A writer in the *Boston Traveller* furnishes the following information:

The difference of longitude between England and America has hitherto rested upon the chronometric expeditions instituted by the Coast Survey during the years 1849-51 and 1855. Fifty chronometers were transported between Liverpool, England, and Cambridge, Massachusetts, three times in each direction across the Atlantic. The probable error of the result by these expeditions was nineteen-hundredths of a second. The value thus obtained, though for all practical purposes sufficiently precise, is not so for the necessities of astronomical science in its present refined state. When, therefore, the success of the cable provided telegraphic trans-Atlantic connection with England, parties of the Coast Survey were formed, under the direction of Dr. B. A. Gould, to take advantage of this means of obtaining a value more precise than that furnished by the chronometric expeditions, allusions to which have been made.

The peculiarities of the methods and apparatus employed in working the cable, render the process of determining longitude by its means different in many respects from that by the land telegraph lines. New obstacles, which made success exceedingly doubtful, were to be surmounted, and new sources of error eliminated. But thanks to the genius, experience and perseverance of Dr. Gould, these have been overcome, and results of remarkable precision elicited. The probable error of the resulting longitude is about four-hundredths of a second. Perhaps it will give the reader a clearer idea of the nicety implied in this, by stating that a distance of about nineteen hundred miles has been measured, and that the measure is not probably more than forty feet from the truth.

The time required for a signal to pass through the cable has been discovered with still greater precision to be thirty-one hundredths of a second; which is probably not in error by one hundredth of a second.

This is equivalent to a velocity of six thousand and twenty miles a second, and is notably less than the velocity of the electric fluid upon land lines, which numerous observations has shown to average sixteen thousand miles in a second.

It should be a matter of national pride that Americans have obtained the precedence in a work of such importance. This importance will perhaps be more popularly appreciated from the fact that this longitude determination was fully determined upon, and partially prepared for, by the English, and seriously contemplated by the French, when Americans, with characteristic vivacity, stepped in and bore away the prize.

EXTRAORDINARY METEOR.—The *Bulletin* of February 12th thus notices a meteor seen in San Francisco:

A very large and beautiful meteor was seen at about fifteen minutes past five o'clock yesterday afternoon by many persons in this city. When first seen it was about fifty degrees above the north west horizon, and passed rapidly across the heavens in a southeasterly direction at an angle of about forty-five degrees until lost to view behind some houses near the opposite horizon. The meteor was quite brilliant, for it shone plainly in the blue sky and behind the fleecy clouds through which it passed like a gemmed shuttle through a loom. Owing to the sunshine, its size was not closely defined, but its shape made a distinct impression instantly. The rounded nucleus was accompanied by a luminous train, which some say was from twenty to thirty degrees long, and which remained in sight a few seconds after the body disappeared; but we only observed a train whose apparent length was not over a degree, and which ran to a sharp point behind, forming a narrow, spear-shaped angle. The nucleus and train were bright with prismatic hues, exceedingly well defined, especially in the train. A few seconds after the disappearance of the aerolite, a dull, heavy sound was heard, like the report of a signal cannon a long way off, in the direction of the lower bay. The telegraph reports that the same meteor was seen at San Juan, Monterey county, and at Gilroy and Watsonville, its appearance, as described, being larger and brighter than here, and the report a tremendous one, accompanied with a ground shock like an earthquake. An

aerolite weighing about 500 pounds struck the earth in Spain during the meteoric shower of last November, and when found was still intensely hot. It is seldom that they are plainly visible by day. The principal elements composing aerolites are nickel and iron, with traces of other minerals, such as cobalt, copper, sulphur, etc. They have been found weighing as much as 30,000 pounds; but sometimes explode in the air and descend in a shower of small particles.

AN IMMENSE INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISE.—The cast-steel and cannon factory of Krupp, at Essen, Prussia, which has lately been so frequently mentioned in connection with the guns used by the Prussians in their late wars, is one of the greatest industrial establishments in the world. It will be interesting to read the following statistics, which I copy from the *Deutsch Blätter* published at Leipzig, Saxony. The whole establishment comprises an area of about 475 acres, intersected by railroads of nearly thirteen miles in length, on which four locomotives and one hundred and fifty cars are continually in motion. The buildings alone cover a surface of 72½ acres. As a matter of course, the establishment has its own gas factory, also its own bakery and eating-house for unmarried workmen. In 1864 there were employed in the steel-works 6,600 workmen, exclusive of those who worked in its coal mines and in the blast-furnaces of Narrowia, which belong to these works. There were then 350 furnaces in activity (for melting, heating and puddling work); also 136 steam-engines, averaging from 4 to 1,000 horse-power, 34 steam-forges, the hammers weighing from 2 to 30,000 centners (hundred and ten pounds a centner), 110 blacksmith shops and 508 turning mills and other machine shops. In 1864 the factory produced the monstrous mass of more than fifty-four millions of pounds of cast-steel, which left the establishment in the form of cannons, shafts, axle-trees, wheels, wheel-boxes, springs, rails, boiler-plates, rollers, &c., to be shipped in every direction all over the world. In 1865 there were 8,000 workmen employed, and the production of cast-steel reached the amount of one hundred millions of pounds.

THE CAPITAL OF RUSSIA.

St. Petersburg is worthy to be the capital of Russia. An Empire of gigantic dimensions ought to have such a vast metropolis as this. This city is built on a really grand scale. The squares immense, the streets interminable, the houses bulky enough to discard ornament, and yet be impressive. Like the Pyramids, these huge structures depend for effect upon size alone. The Government palaces and the mansions of the nobles certainly do not want in columns, arched windows, and all the multitudinous ornaments of the architectural art, as developed by the divers ages and people of the world.

But, as though jealous of the flimsy gingerbread work, massive greatness largely preponderates over the decorative element, and the expanse of the front mocks the feeble attempts made to embellish them with their friezes, bas-reliefs, and the like. The architects themselves seem to have felt their inability to draw from the finer resources of the art anything to compete with the effect produced by these piles of masonry.

Many of the government buildings and palaces are constructed in the most unpretending styles, with a few pillars stuck in here and there to break the monotonous lines of rectangular windows. The same modest pattern is, upon the whole, followed by private builders, who, like their more ambitious prototypes, rely upon numerous stories and towering walls, rather than upon sconces, cornices, and entablatures. The impression created by this truly imperial style of architecture is considerably heightened by the extraordinary width of the streets. Not only in the great thoroughfares, but in nearly all the streets situate in the southern or more fashionable part of the town, which I have as yet inspected, the houses are seen as well as though they were standing in squares. All houses, palaces not excepted, are covered with plaster and painted with some light color, after the fashion prevalent in Berlin and Northern Germany generally. But the are, perhaps, better kept than is the case in the Prussian capital, the stucco not showing those ugly fissures and untidy holes but too frequent even in the more elegant parts of Berlin.

Dansk Læsning.

Alle vegne i de østlige Stater klages der over den umaadelige Masse Sne, som er falden denne Vinter, og som Folge deraf er mange Veie spolerede ved voldsomme Sne og Jordskred. Jernbanetøen er bleven stoppet i deres Fart og Broer og Dæmninger nedbrudte. Ligeledes har en Mængde ødelæggende Oversvømmelser fundet Sted, hvilke vilde være altfor vidløftige at omtale; kun skal vi nævne en i Tennessee, der gjorde Skade for over to Millioner Dollars.—Fra Cincinnati skrives, at Ohio Floden har steget over sine Bredder til en Vidde af 30 engelske Mil. Tusindvis af Kreaturer, Faar og Svin er druknede, Huse og Lader omstyrtede, medens uhyre Forraad af Hvede, Hø og deslige seiler nedad den utæmmelige Vandmasse. At mange Mennesker er omkomne ved disse Leiligheder er en Selvfølge.—En ualmindelig Mængde Skibbrud har ogsaa fundet Sted i de sidste Maaneders heftige Orkaner, og Ildebrande, der ikke blot forfører nogle Huse hist og her, men som tilintetgjør halve og hele Byer, kan man finde Beretninger om i Aviserne næsten hver Dag. Saaledes er de fornemste Handelskvarterer i Albany i Georgien, nedbrændte for nogle Dage siden.

I Mexico vedbliver de forskjellige Partier at bekriegen hinanden med afvekslende Held. Saaledes har Halvindianeren Juarez, som de Forenede Stater erkjender for Republikken Mexikos Præsident, nylig slaaet General Miramon og gjort 800 Fanger, samt taget hele Miramons Artilleri. Der berettes, at de sidste franske Tropper er indskibede for at gaa tilbage til Europa.

I Ostindien har for nogle Maaneder siden raset en forfærdelig Hungersnød, og det viser sig nu, da Beretningerne bliver mere nøiagtige, at over en Million Mennesker er omkomne af Mangel paa Fødemidler.—Ja selv i London, det rige og pragtfulde London, dør der omtrent 50 Personer daglig af Hunger, bevirket ved Arbejdsløshed. Kvægsygen, som rasede saa skrækkelig sidste Aar, synes kun at have taget et kort Pusterum for at samle nye Kræfter, thi den er udbrudt paany mange Steder i Europa med fornyet Heftighed.

Kong Georg af Grækenland, den danske Konges Søn, har isinde at besøge sit Fædreland i dette Føraar og der tales om, at Prinds Hans skal overtage Regjeringen under hans Fraværelse.

Prindsesse Alexandra er nylig nedkommen med en Datter.

I Neapel er et Krudtmagasin sprunget i Luften og mange Mennesker dræbtes derved.

I Danmark har man i Vinter havt en ualmindelig Masse Sne; i Hjørring for Exempel har man maattet grave Tunneler i Sneen for at komme fra et Hus til et andet, da Sneen ligger lige til Tag-skjægget.

Dampskibet *Dania* som foer mellem Kjøbenhavn og Aalborg, er forlist.

Biskop Daagaard i Ribe, Jylland, er død i en Alder af 70 Aar.

WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH US?

EDGAR WILLIAMS, Worcester, Mass.—The town records of this State show that in the first generation the average number of children in a family was nine, and in the second, third and fourth generations, seven and a half, now, in the seventh, less than three, which is not equal to the deaths. On the contrary, the foreign population is rapidly increasing. We would like to know what is the matter with us?

As the people of New-England got rich and lived without labor the number of children diminished. They who contribute little to support mankind will have few children; even these will be short-lived. To this cause, and growing out of it, is to be added the infamous art which teaches how not to have children. Of course, this art was taught by the pleasure seeking, heaven and hell defying, French.

The argument used by the parties is that it is wicked to have more children than comfortably can be provided for; but when they get ready, they will have two or three. It seems that when they get ready the children are not ready.

Long ago, sorrowing and grieving, they have floated off into the vasty deep, and no call can bring them back again. And now we have the spectacle of elegant homes where the laugh of children is not heard; or of the hearse stopping before the door to bear away the little coffin.

There can be no other fruit than hearts withered with intense selfishness and secret longing; and, in the end, the same hearts, smouldering with weak flashes of unholy fires which were lighted by a torch from the bottomless pit. Partly have these things been concealed, but there is abundant evidence that in many sections of New-England, and even in the long line of Northern cities, the morality is as low as in Paris, Stockholm, or Vienna.

Such, ultimately, is the result of life without labor. If proud families wish to hand down their names and their wealth they must obey the law by which life is perpetuated. The nation or the family which lives by the sweat of other brows is the prey of Oblivion.

Children, short-sighted pair! In the future life, what will be your desolation to find no dear being reflecting your image! What will be your shame to realize that your heritage of the heroic, the faithful and the sublime, which laid the foundation of liberty in this land, painfully distilled through many ages, and through ten thousand veins into yours, cloyed and died within you.—[N. Y. Tribune.]

R. T. ROSS.

C. R. BARRATT

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