

# THE EVENING NEWS.

Saturday, May 7, 1870.

WASHINGTON—GLIMPSES OF HIS HABITS AND OPINIONS.

An original letter, just published for the first time, gives some interesting glimpses of the habits and opinions of the Father of his Country. While the federal city was building, the legislature of Pennsylvania voted the president a house, hoping, perhaps, to keep the seat of government in Philadelphia. The house, formerly occupied as the University of Pennsylvania, was accordingly built for that purpose. But as soon as General Washington saw its dimensions, and a good while before it was finished, he let it be known that he would not occupy it—that he certainly should not go to the expense of purchasing suitable furniture for such a dwelling, and hired instead a modest but comfortable residence.

The president ate Indian cakes for breakfast, after the Virginia fashion, although buckwheat cakes were generally on the table. Washington's dining parties were entertained in a very handsome style. His weekly dining day, for company, was Thursday, and his dining hour was always 4 o'clock in the afternoon. His rule was to allow five minutes for the variation of clocks and watches, and then go to the table, be present or absent whoever might. He kept his own clock in the hall, just within the outward door, and always exactly regulated. When lagging members of Congress came in, as they often did, after the guests had sat down to dinner, the president's only apology was: "Gentlemen (or sir), we are too punctual for you. I have a clock who never asks whether the company has come, but whether the hour has come." He was always dressed in a suit of black, his hair powdered, and tied in a black queue behind, with a very elegant dress sword, which he wore with intangible grace. Mrs. Washington often, but not always dined with the company, sat at the head of the table, and if, as was occasionally the case, there were other ladies present, they sat each side of her. The President sat half way from the head to the foot of the table, and on that side he would place Mrs. Washington, though distant from him, on his right hand. He always, unless a clergyman were present, asked a blessing in a standing posture. If a clergyman was present he was requested both to ask a blessing and to return thanks after dinner.

## COMMERCE OF THE WORLD.

France exports wines, brandies, silks, fancy articles, furniture, jewelry, clocks, watches, paper, perfumery, and fancy goods generally.

Italy exports corn, oil, flax, wines, essences, dye-stuffs, drugs, fine marble, soap, paintings, engravings, mosaics and salt.

Prussia exports linens, woollens, zinc, articles of iron, copper and brass, indigo, wax, hams, musical instruments, tobacco, wine and porcelain.

Germany exports wool, woollen goods, linens, rags, corn, timber, iron, lead, tin, flax, hemp, wine, wax, tallow and cattle.

Austria exports mineral, raw and manufactured silk, thread, glass, wax, tar, nut-gall, wine, honey, and mathematical instruments.

England exports cottons, woollens, glass, hardware, earthenware, cutlery, iron, metallic wares, salt, coal, watches, tin, silks and linens.

Russia exports tallow, flax, hemp, flour, iron, copper, linseed, lard, hides, wax, duck, cordage, bristles, furs, potash and tar.

Spain exports wine, brandy, oil, fresh and dried fruits, quicksilver, sulphur, salt, cork, saffron, anchovies, silks and woollens.

China exports tea, rhubarb, musk, ginger, borax, zinc, silks, cassia, filigree work, ivory ware, lacquered ware and porcelain.

Turkey exports coffee, opium, silks, drugs, gums, dried fruits, tobacco, wines, camel's hair, carpets, shawls, camlets and morocco.

Hindustan exports gold and silver, cochineal, indigo, saffron, vanilla, jalap, fusile, Camphene wood, pimento, drugs and dye-stuffs.

West India exports sugar, molasses, rum, tobacco, cigars, mahogany, dye wood, coffee, pimento, fresh fruits and preserves, wax, ginger and other spices.

Switzerland exports cattle, cheese, butter, tallow, dried fruit, linen, silks, velvets, lace, jewelry, paper and gunpowder.

East India exports cloves, nutmegs, mace, pepper, rice, indigo, gold dust, camphor, benzine, sulphur, ivory, rattans, sandal wood, skins and nuts.

United States exports principally agricultural products, cotton, tobacco, flour, provisions of all kinds, lumber, turpentine and wearing apparel.—*Montana Bee and Fox.*

**DRUNKENNESS IN THE OLD TIME.**—A law to prevent drunkenness by prohibiting the public promiscuous sale of intoxicating drinks was by no means original in the State of Maine. The vice is as old as our race. Our ultimate ancestor, the Vikings, drank fire-water upon earth, and quaffed mead in Paradise; our more recent progenitors in Great Britain drank gin and grog.

A gin shop in Southwark, London, one hundred and thirty years ago, had the alluring sign: "Drunk for a penny, dead drunk for twopenny; clean starve for nothing." What more could man, the image of his Maker, ask? People often died of drunkenness in the taverns; and there was a temperance party, even then, that demanded a prohibitory law, and they succeeded in carrying a bill through Parliament to tax so heavily that it became too costly for the poor, and which prohibited the sale of dram.

Sir Robert Walpole, whose boozing orgies, at Houghton, were not unknown, finally acquiesced in the law.—*Harper's Magazine.*

A Charleston, Mass., lady, who has suffered lately from an inflamed neck, has been told by her physician that it is caused by horrid insects called botflies, inhabiting the Hindoo bark brain of her chignon. She has cast the chignon from her and has had her head shaved as smooth as a billiard ball, fearing some of the vile insects had taken up their abode in her natural back hair.

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