

## GLEANINGS FROM EXCHANGES.

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH company are determined on accomplishing something by way of oceanic communication, if there is a possibility of success, of which we have little doubt, when the proper appliances and means are brought into requisition. The *N. Y. Journal of Commerce* says that "the negotiations between the English Government, the Atlantic Telegraph Company and the New York, Newfoundland and London Telegraph Company have reached a point, which admits of no doubt about the government's guarantee of 8 per cent. on the six hundred thousand pounds capital being accepted."

The company are now actually engaged in making the most thorough tests of the various kinds of cable adapted to the Atlantic line. They have decided, previous to the construction and laying of another cable, to expend a sum not exceeding one hundred thousand dollars in efforts to render the present cable effective—designing to commence active operations for this purpose as soon as the weather would permit.

It would have been an unusual success, had the cable, at its first trial, worked to the complete satisfaction of all concerned. We did not look for it. Too many obstacles, which science furnished no certain means of overcoming—existed in the path of the gigantic enterprise, to encourage the hope of complete success at once.

True, other submarine cables had been successfully laid and are now in successful operation; but their length is trifling, compared with that of the great Atlantic cable—the longest being that connecting Varna and Balaklava, through the Black sea, which is three hundred and forty miles long—laid in 1855. The depths, also, to which they are submerged are widely different—those lying at the bottom of a comparatively shallow, inland sea, or strait or sound dividing two countries—this making its bed in the deep waters of the ocean, two thousand fathoms below the surface.

The company will not attempt to lay the new cable until July, 1860.

—MARIE LOUISE HANKINS & Co.'s *Literary Gazette, and Family Pictorial*, published in New York, Philadelphia, and Boston, comes to us, requiring a publication of its Prospectus, on certain conditions. It is printed, published and edited by women. The editress says:

We wish it distinctly understood that we are not "strong-minded" women, and that we are not manœuvring, meddling agitators, and also that we are not reckless sharpers diving into a stupendous enterprise to swindle the people of their money. We are hard-working, practical women. We labor hard at least fifteen hours every day in the week, and we will challenge any one to find a business firm who have toiled more diligently than we have for the last three years.

The object of the *Gazette*, she states, is "to give cheap entertainment to the people, and thereby afford employment to the industrious of our sex who need a greater remuneration for their time and talents than the paltry wages of ordinary occupations will yield them for honest support."

The *Gazette* is published monthly, contains sixteen quarto pages, numerous illustrations, at the low price of fifty cents a year. Subscriptions, accompanied by the cash, left at this office, will be forwarded. For further particulars see prospectus on last page.

—INSANITY is increasing to an alarming extent in the States. Murders and other crimes committed by idiots are frequently chronicled and seem to multiply with the increasing prevalence of imbecility—which is said to prevail, in the majority of instances, among the more wealthy classes—the result, probably, in most cases, of luxuriant living and lack of employment.

There are now four State institutions for imbeciles, independent of the numerous lunatic asylums throughout the country—one at Boston, Mass., one at Syracuse, N. Y., one at Germantown, Pa., and one at Columbus, Ohio. There are also three private institutions and others are in contemplation in various States.

At a late anniversary of an asylum in London, Eng., at which the Lord Mayor presided, it was said that "the institution has been liberally supplied, but the demands for relief were so great that its means were quite inadequate;" also that it was "very gratifying to see the great improvement which had been effected on the condition of some of the patients."

"Left to themselves," says a writer in the *Journal of Commerce*, "these persons sink lower and lower towards brutishness; they grow

more stupid, violent and ungovernable, until at last, having become objects of terror and disgust to their kindred they are thrown upon the public charge."

Dr. S. G. Howe, superintendent of the Massachusetts School for Idiotic and Feeble-minded Youth, in a late annual report, while referring to the experience obtained by institutions of this character in the United States, stated that "It proves that the majority can be arrested in that retrogression towards brutality to which neglected idiots seem naturally prone; that they can be made to like order, cleanliness, and occupation, and to become docile, obedient and affectionate, so that their lives shall be characterized by a predominance of the human over the animal part of their nature."

—THE SILVER MINES of Arizona are yielding remuneratively.

—FREE COLORED people of the United States are contemplating emigrating to Hayti, in considerable numbers, by invitation of President Geffard. The project is strongly discouraged by a writer from that island. Another revolution is at hand.

—SIX WHITE MEN are reported to have been killed by Indians, while exploring the Honey Lake region, (Carson Valley) in search of silver mines. Early in the morning they were attacked and Peter Lassen, Joseph Letz George Lathrop, John Moot and a man named Clapper, with two other men whose names were not ascertained, were said to have been killed. One of the company, named Wyatt, escaped. Later accounts state that only two were certainly known to have been killed, namely Peter Lassen the Pioneer and Mountaineer, and Clapper. Their death is thus detailed in the *Marysville (Cal.) Express*:

About daybreak, a gun was fired near them, which aroused Wyatt and Lassen, one of whom went to Clapper to arouse him, so that they might leave immediately; but after shaking him without effect, he placed his hand on Clapper's head and found that he had been shot through the head in a dreadful manner, tearing out his brains and killing him instantly. Wyatt then insisted on leaving, but Lassen refused; Wyatt, however, gathered up his gun, saddle and some other articles and started for the open plains. Lassen declared he would not leave. After proceeding some distance, he heard the report of another gun, and on turning round, saw Lassen clap his hand to his breast, and heard him exclaim, "I'm a dead man;" whereupon he fell to the ground. Wyatt returned and found that he had been killed. He then started for Lassen's horse, but before he could reach it, it took fright and broke loose. He then dropped the saddle, but retained his gun, and followed in pursuit of the horse, which he finally succeeded in capturing.

It is stated that the company separated—four going in one direction and three in another, with the understanding that they would meet at Mud Lake. The other party have not been heard from and probably have shared the fate of Lassen and Clapper.

—A TERRIBLE FIGHT took place at the South a few years ago, between two men, stripped, armed with knives and in a dark room by themselves, in which one of them was killed. The other, the sheriff of Baton Rouge, La., was killed by the explosion of the steamer *Princess*, on the Mississippi.

—THE NICARAGUA Ship Canal project is said to be a failure; that, after a most cursory glance at the country, the engineers "seem unwilling to waste aught else than curses upon it."

—WALKER, the filibuster, is said to be again planning for the conquest of Nicaragua.

—SILVER DOLLARS are being coined at the U. S. branch mint in San Francisco, Cal., for the use of "merchants who supply their own bullion and who require them for the China trade." American gold and small silver coins were not a legal tender in China. The Mexican dollar, however, was taken without discount and, on that account, demanded in California a premium of twelve per cent.

—JOHN C. CALHOUN, says the spiritualists down East, has revealed, through some earthly medium, the "important fact" that Stephen A. Douglas is to be the next President!

—THE KING of Naples, at our latest advices from the East, lay at the point of death. The *N. Y. Day Book* says of him:

Since the days of Gallula, history has furnished few instances of the abuse of power carried to the extent exercised by this royal wretch. It would seem that he has passed a lifetime in devising new modes for the gratification of his propensity for cruelty. Hundreds of better men than Ferdinand of Naples have passed long, weary years in his dungeons, chained to the earth and fed like dogs, deprived of the light of the sun and the fresh air of heaven, and have welcomed the hour when death ended their misery. And these victims of his blind and brutal rage have often been the refined, the highly educated, and the most patriotic among his subjects. A suspicion of disaffection towards the State, has been sufficient cause to throw them into custody of the jailor. The suspected person has disappeared suddenly and mys-

teriously from the bosom of his family, and the world has known him no more. Years after, his weary, torture-racked bones have found a resting place in the common prison yard. Such has been the short history of many a Neapolitan.

The demise of such a ruthless-tyrant will assuredly be an occasion for rejoicing, not only among his own subjects in the Two Sicilies, but with all who have feelings of sympathy for those of their fellow men who groan under bondage and bleed at the hands of merciless barbarians, whether found in the dreary wastes of the Rocky Mountains or in the gorgeous halls of a kingly palace.

It is related that, on a certain occasion, having been offended by a bearded man, he instantly ordered the beards of all his subjects to be shaven off.

His sufferings on his death-bed are said to be intense. "Abscesses and tumors cover his body; he breathes with the utmost difficulty and raises blood constantly."

—THE EXECUTION of Mrs. Mary Hartung has been stayed by order of Judge Wright, of Albany, agreeable to application, pending a writ of error in her behalf. This was the last resort of her counsel. The action of the legislature was without avail, as also the petitions in her behalf. The crime was at once so enormous and unprecedented that Gov. Morgan would listen to no palliating appeal.

—A GREAT FEAT in the annals of the telegraph was performed in telegraphing the report of the recent Sickles trial. The *N. Y. Journal of Commerce* says:

Every day for three consecutive weeks, several columns of that trial were sent to us from Washington over the wires of the American Telegraph Company, at an average of 2,000 to 2,500 words per hour, and with an accuracy truly wonderful. In order to come within the mark, we will put the average from 12,000 to 15,000 words per day, making in the 20 days matter enough for an octavo volume of 600 closely printed pages; and this, too, without serious detriment to a very heavy business for the regular private patrons of the line. We venture the assertion, without fear of contradiction, that such a feat in telegraphing has never been performed since the first wire was stretched. It stands without a parallel in the telegraphic world.

The power of the printing telegraph, though it had done wonders in the transmission of long and exciting congressional debates, was never fully tested till on this occasion.

—THE SICKLES CASE continues to be a prominent topic at the East. The sensation created by the killing of Key, the indictment, trial and acquittal of Sickles has reverberated through the length and breadth of the country. Public sentiment is acquiring a tone which, tho' not altogether new, is yet in its incipient state, namely, to affix the death penalty to the crime of adultery.

The circumstances of the case, in the abstract, however, are variously commented upon by the newspapers. A woman correspondent of the North Iowa *Times* indulges in a criticism on an article in that paper in which it was stated that "Sickles could not have lived had he not have taken vengeance on the wily scoundrel who had robbed him of his position and disgraced his name," inferring from this quotation that "when Mr. Sickles went to Congress, his position, his honor, depended upon the chaste behavior of Mrs. Sickles, his wife, and she an Italian at that!" She charges Sickles with shooting Key, "not for betraying his wife, but for dishonoring him." This she pronounces "egregious selfishness" and continues:

"It is strange how differently our natures are constituted. Women survive these disagreeable developments every day. If Mr. Sickles had hired this assignation house, and met Mrs. Swizzles, do you think Mrs. Sickles would have gone out to shoot the faithless crialone, who had stolen her husband? No, Sir! Women do no such foolish things; and why? Because, if we are virtuous, we have confidence in our virtue, and we feel that no dereliction of the husband can or ought to affect the virtue of the wife. But suppose on some fine Sabbath morning all the women in Washington who suspect their truant lords should sally out, 'swords and pistols by their sides,' to chastise the dear creatures who had stolen their affections, would not this mark an interesting epoch in history?"

Doubtless, in such an extremity—if only one half of what we have heard of doings in society down east, be true, there would be such a feminine stampede as the world never saw. But, though Sickles was justified in killing the seducer of his wife, it is evident that he, with many others, was not posted in the intrinsic merits of the case. He was impelled to seek revenge, as it were, from an instinctive abhorrence of the man who had debauched his wife—not from a settled and virtuous abhorrence of the act itself, as one of the most heinous and flagrant crimes—not—the seducer, till he layed his crocodile eggs between his sheets, was not in danger from him—till then, his abominations could be winked at and, perhaps, even considered meritorious.

Libertinism is in the ascendancy—its votaries are, in many instances, in the front ranks of society; only those of them who content themselves with wallowing in the haunts of prostitution are consigned as below par among mercenary jobbers in life and character in the fashionable world. Let him successfully extend his conquests to the quiet hearth and make desolate the home of domestic felicity, and such a libertine has been, long since—ere corruption had cankered so deeply the vitals of society—cherished and borne aloft amid the approving adulations of the multitude. Far better would it be to warm and nourish a viper in our bosoms!

Wherein, we ask, consists the virtue of that law which declares death to be the penalty of adultery? We reply, in the righteous execution thereof—not in the hot-blooded massacre of the monster who has perpetrated the deed—but in slaying, with clean hands and holy purpose—to magnify the law and, by the shedding of blood on the earth, to make atonement for crime, which, otherwise, assuredly remains to be punished by a higher tribunal.

Now, in a case of deliberate, premeditated and habitual adultery, such, for instance, as that of Key and Mrs. Sickles, who shall be deemed guilty and deserving of the penalty of the law?

Popular opinion replies, Philip Barton Key, the adulterer. Grant this; but what of the adulteress—she who prostituted herself as the willing subject of seduction and debauchery—who gave no sound of alarm to her lawful guardian, but fled to the altar of her shame at the beck and signal of her destroyer? Is she to be pitied? Truly she is. Is she guilty? Is she not? Shall the weakness of her sex be argued in extenuation of her crime? With a host of philanthropists our sympathetic nature would say, snatch her as a brand from the burning, heal the broken heart, cheer the wounded spirit, pour in the oil of consolation and, so far as possible, retrieve her name from ignominy and her posterity from disgrace; but what says the law?

12 And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer and adulteress shall surely be put to death.—[Lev. chap. xxi.]

If without the shedding of blood there is no remission of this crime, there is force and weight in the law. Of what particular value is life, even though prolonged, when forfeited through the commission of a high misdemeanor, more especially when the requirements of an immutable law, when not complied with here, will claim its execution in future when, perhaps, the death penalty would have been far preferable?

Life is dear to all, and wisely so; but, when man or woman have so far debased themselves, by the transgression of known laws, as to forfeit their claim to life and consequently, to a great extent, their inherent power and disposition to render themselves useful and honorable members of society—praying for oblivion and loathing the miserable existence that compels their lingering stay—wandering through the earth like a fugitive and vagabond, fearing death and yet desiring to die—sympathy, in such cases, is lavished to little or no purpose, except to prolong the sufferings of one who might, by the shedding of his or her blood, not only be relieved from the pangs of a guilty conscience and the just reprobation of all good men, but also fully absolved from even the implication of that guiltiness which otherwise would have steeped them in eternal infamy, and caused the sorrow of a thousand deaths.

The *N. Y. Day Book* views the case in still another light—justly concluding that the tendencies of adultery culminate in the murder of the husband, and that, if this fact could be fully appreciated, many a poor wretch would be "stayed in the midst or checked in the outset of sin and crime, by the certain knowledge of the end, the terrible culmination which, by an inexorable necessity, links together the beginning and the end of the particular sin which tempted them."

It argues thus: Could the unhappy wife of Mr. Sickles have foreseen at the beginning that her intrigue with Mr. Key must culminate in the murder of her husband and her own conviction as the murderer, not only of her husband, but of the father of her little innocent child, she would have shrunk back terror stricken and appalled from a crime so unnatural, and saved herself and other victims of this sad tragedy from life-long suffering and sorrow.

That Mr. Key was killed rather than Mr. Sickles murdered, was purely accidental, and it is entirely probable that Mr. Sickles' life has been saved by taking that of Mr. Key, and the friends of the latter, however much they may regret his fate, may yet console themselves

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