

ity held firmly together. The Salvationists were for the moment victorious and made their way along the Strand in pretty good order as far as Wellington Street. There they found a strong cordon of police drawn across the road and the constables at once violently attacked the processionists, smashing the instruments and capturing and destroying the banners. The Salvationists were finally dispersed. There were some further scimmages near Exeter Hall, and a Salvationist officer on horseback who tried to interfere was walked away by the police.

The weather in England still continues good, and the crops are progressing satisfactorily. The hay is being fast gathered in, and the sound of the mower is heard on every hand. The hay season was a month or more later last year. This will give your English readers an idea of the delightful weather we are having. There has been no rain to speak of, and the ground is becoming very hard and dry. Last year the people prayed for dry weather; it may be the reverse this year. Trade still keeps brisk, and there are bright prospects for its continuance for a while.

TRAMP.

ENGLAND, June 30th, 1889.

#### LETTER FROM TURKEY.

It will no doubt please the readers of the NEWS to learn that the uproar made throughout Turkey some months ago, to the effect that alleged "Mormons" were being transported in chains, to be banished, etc., was a false rumor, intended for gullible people. Everything goes on smoothly, and there are no signs of molestation.

I perhaps owe your readers an apology for an impression which I may have conveyed in my letter from Cairo, with respect to an inscription—usually called a cartouche—on a lately uncovered surface of the pyramid of Djizeh. The characters are of the kind generally termed "Ateratic," beautifully and deeply carved into the limestone. How pleasing it would be to hear that the cartouche had dissipated the mystery which for ages enshrouds this stupendous pile! Hearing of no developments, the Egyptian government was consulted lately in the matter. The answer by letter explains that a commission of antiquarians and savants sent out by Frederick William IV of Prussia to explore and copy inscriptions employed levers, wedges and chisels in demolishing a part of the building in order to clear a surface upon which to carve in ancient hieroglyphics a bombastic eulogium to their regal patron. Thus we are not much the wiser in this matter, and the silent pyramid retains its pristine secret.

It may puzzle the reader's imagination to understand how an intelligible inscription in hieroglyphics may be gotten up now-a-days. The perplexity arises from the erroneous but almost universal notion that the Egyptian characters are only ideographic, i. e., written pictures or "picture writing" merely, which is the most primitive method devised by man for conveying ideas graphically.

When the Spaniards first landed on the shores of America the event was heralded to tribes of different languages by rough drawings of men, weapons of war, ships, etc., some specimens of which are preserved to our own times. Our Utes, Navajos and Apaches carve their rude annals likewise, as the sandstone rocks of southern Utah and Arizona still attest. But on the banks of the Nile this simple expedient of man to embody his thoughts in external signs soon gave way to more practical methods, of which Egypt's monuments, from their extreme durability, supply a history which we have nowhere else found of the gradual steps taken by mankind in the art of writing. The earliest Egyptian characters known to us have been called hieroglyphic, i. e., sacred carvings. A hieroglyph was a complete "picture" of some well known object which had in an allegorical or sacred manner some connection with the idea it was intended to convey or recall.

As an instance of a "sacred" one, we can notice the "dove," the emblem of the Holy Ghost, which as a written symbol seems coeval with the most ancient human notions of theology, and from one of the "gems" dated January 29, 1843, we learn that even before the creation of the world it was an established symbol or sign.

Some hieroglyphics characteristic of a full writing may be found in the Pearl of Great Price, especially No. 4, "Raukeyyang," and the four figures of the earth under No. 6, in the Hypocephalus or disc from the Book of Abraham; also the first cut or plate from the same book, Nos. 1, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9. The inconvenience inseparable from such "picture-writing," soon suggested the idea of a reduced delineation called Hieratic, substituting a sword for an armed man, a banner for an invading army, and a curved line for a ship, as most of the writings in plate 3; or No. 7 of the Hypocephalus, where a reduced picture (a dove's head, foot and a few strokes) takes the place of the full symbol, and of such are the majority of the characters within the band or circles of the latter fac-simile.

In the earlier stages of that "contracted writing," the abbreviated forms would still retain a faint resemblance to the original figure, but in course of time the reduced symbol would assume more and more the character of a mere conventional mark, where each sign, however, would continue to be a separate word. To those who have gone to Chinatown, San Francisco, or even pondered in Salt Lake over the strange sign-boards of Chinese laundrymen, let it be known that the literature of China used a writing which presented the aspect just described. Thus they have an amazingly long set of signs, or marks, expressive of certain ideas, becoming of course more intricate as the thoughts to be conveyed are more numerous or

subtle, and requiring at length a great degree of very painful and unprofitable study to comprehend their full import.

The next step taken in Egypt was to analyze the written speech into its alphabetical elements. To reach this at first was sufficiently awkward, but it was attained when a number of "pictures" were employed the initial letters or sounds of which when pronounced would form the sounds required. Following this scheme, of "initial notation," nothing better would have suggested itself to the ingenuity of the Egyptian philologist than to spell the name of Joseph Smith, for example, than by placing side by side the pictures of a jay, an oak, a seal, an egg and a phoenix, etc., the initials and first and second letters of the last of which, taken together, would form "Joseph," etc., the direction which the figures look determining whether one should read from right to left, *vice versa*, or upwards and downwards.

This was a great step in advance. It meant the discovery of a phonetic writing. By its means any inscription can be carved about as grammatically as in days of old, and so probably did those savants who in other respects seemed to care so little for archaeological etiquette.

In the course of time certain easily written "pictures" were retained in preference to more complex ones, the number of which in the hands of less boastful or literary nations dwindled, as in English, to twenty-six and in Hebrew to twenty-two. These "pictures," through frequent use, became exclusively identified with the "sound" or phonetic value, and not the idea they may at any time have been intended to convey. Thus in the 119th Psalm, by skipping eight verses at a time, the reader will find the "names" of the letters of the Hebrew alphabet. The original form of these letter bore a resemblance to the objects they were used to express. Aleph, Beth, Gimel—which in the common language of the country denoted an ox, a house and a camel—were at first pictures or rude likenesses of a dwelling and the two animals named. The same is true of the alphabet of cognate tongues, as Arabic: Alef, bet, gimel and Greek, Alpha-beta, gamma—our A, B, C, for that matter has no more noble origin. Thus our own alphabets, and all others perhaps, are merely lists of the names of various objects, the initial sounds of which are used phonetically.

I shall probably write another letter on this score, illustrating a few instances in proof of the broad assertion made, if I find nothing more interesting to impart.

We are delighted to hear that more Elders are coming here.

C. U. L.

AINTAB, Turkey, June 7, 1889.

#### CURRENT TOPICS IN EUROPE.

Just now a somewhat hot fire of attack is directed against the Queen's son, Alfred, commonly