

THE EVENING NEWS.

Friday, October 21, 1870.

PARIS AS SHE IS.

Something has happened in Paris, says the New York Times, which did not happen during the first Revolution. All the theatres have been closed. The concert and ball rooms, and even the cafés having also shut their doors. Hardly anything could give a more vivid idea of the change that has come over the usually gay and luxurious city than this closing of public places of amusement. Nor is this all. Carriages no longer roll in the streets. The rich who own such vehicles have mostly fled, and the horses of the cabs and fiacres have been seized for military purposes. Even the omnibuses have ceased to run. Those who would get from point to point must do so on foot, unless, indeed, their business is that of the national service. The boulevards and avenues are no longer radiant with gay colors, bright with fashionable women, or lively with the ebb and flow of traffic. There is hurrying to and fro, indeed, not for pleasure but for business, and that of the sternest kind. At night the scene is still more gloomy, for the gas is everywhere extinguished, and the only light is the dim flicker of oil-lit lanterns or medieval torches.

It is said that this city has been reduced by one-half its original population. The wealthy and fashionable, the foreigners, gamblers and lorettes, the unprotected women of all classes, have fled, voluntarily or otherwise, and the number of these and other departed classes formed a large proportion of the whole. But, if many have left Paris, many have likewise flocked into it. The mobile garrisons from the provinces have been pouring in, until within a few days, in endless streams. The poor fellows are dressed in all manner of uniforms, and all bring bundles of food under their arms. It is said at the last advices that they had not yet been billeted on private families. There ought not apparently to be need for this, since nearly all the vast hotels and innumerable lodging houses are empty. One of the last letters sent by an English correspondent states that but two guests remained at the time of writing at Maurice's. One of these was an Englishman, the other an American. The circuses have been, meanwhile, turned into barracks, and the churches and theatres are made to serve as hospitals.

The beautiful gardens of the Tuilleries are in possession of parks of artillery, and farriers are pounding away at their forges and shoeing horses under what were lately the imperial windows. In the squares of the Palais Royal are sheds packed with hundreds of stacks of bayonets, and cart loads of ammunition. Up and down the splendid avenues, in aristocratic quarters like the Place de la Concorde, limp wounded soldiers from Gravelotte or Sedan, gaunt, hollow-eyed tokens of the dismal scenes through which they have so lately passed. Such is, in part, a description of the Paris of to-day, so woefully different from the Paris of a few months ago. What she may be tomorrow, time only can show. Possibly a modern Carthage, over whose ruins not a new Marius alone will mourn, but the whole civilized world.

HALF GUILTY.

A fellow named Donks was tried at Yuba for entering a miner's tent and stealing a bag of gold dust, valued at eighty-four dollars. The testimony showed that he had once been employed there, and knew exactly where the owner kept his dust, that on the specified night he cut a slit in the tent, reached in, took the bag, and then ran off. Jim Buller, the principal witness, testified that he saw the cut, saw the man reach in, and heard him run away.

"I rushed after him at once," continued the witness; "but when I caught him I did not find Bill's bag; but it was found afterward where he had thrown it."

"How far did he get in when he took the dust?" inquired the counsel.

"Well, he was stooping over half way in," should say," replied the witness.

"May it please your honor," interposed the counsel, "the indictment isn't sustained, and I shall demand an acquittal on direction of the court. The prisoner is on trial for entering a dwelling in the night time with intent to steal. The testimony is clear that he made an opening, through which he protruded himself about half way, and, stretching out his arms, committed the theft. But the indictment charges that he actually entered the tent or dwelling. Now, your honor, is a man enter a dwelling when one-half of his body is in and the other half out?"

"I shall leave the whole matter to the jury. They must judge of the law and the fact as proved," replied the judge.

The jury brought in a verdict of "Guilty as to half of the body, and not guilty as to the other half."

The judge sentenced the guilty party to two years' imprisonment, leaving it to the prisoner's option to have the innocent part cut off or take it along with him.

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St. James' Hotel,
By H. S. GAYLORD,
OMAHA,

A EUROPEAN letter says: "Some years ago Chevalier de Chatelin published a prediction by a French prophet in these words: 'When the Second Empire shall have been established in Paris, it will last for 18 years, less one quarter; not a single day longer.' Mark the singular fulfillment! Louis Napoleon claimed supreme power, though not yet the title of Emperor, on the 2nd day of December, 1852, and on the 2nd day of September, 1870, exactly 18 years, less one quarter, not a day longer; he was a prisoner of war, and his dynasty at an end. This is one of the most remarkable coincidences on record, for the prophecy has not been cooked up for the occasion, but was printed in black and white years ago."

Nearly thirty years ago Napoleon III. published a comparison in which he said: "France, with all her military expenditure, would not be able to bring 200,000 men into line upon the frontiers, while upon the line of the Rhine alone 500,000 men could be collected in a fortnight." This proved to be very nearly the case in the present war. In a fortnight's time the Germans had about 500,000 men on the Rhine, and to these France opposed about 200,000.

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