

## DISTRESS IN THE EAST OF LONDON.

January 16, 1867.

I think the public is really not aware of the vast amount of distress existing in Poplar, the Isle of Dogs, and Millwall. The amount of distress and starvation is at the present time most dreadful and the means of relief most inadequate, as the local societies still keep applying for more funds; and with very poor success. At present they have chiefly been supported by the subscriptions they have received in this locality, but they now find they are unable to cope with the rapidly-increasing distress occasioned by the inclement weather, which has caused many to seek relief who have not done so till now. It is but a very short time since this locality was visited by that dreadful scourge, cholera, which desolated many hundreds of homes; and we no sooner get clear of that than we have to contend with grim and gaunt hunger. The accounts given by those who are visiting what was but a few months ago the comfortable and happy homes of the working classes, are most heartrending. Their houses or rooms are denuded of every bit of furniture, and of the clothes they once possessed they have hardly enough left to cover their nakedness. There are plenty of them that have got as many as forty or fifty pawnbrokers' duplicates; but that resource is soon exhausted. They have to hear their children crying for bread, and are unable to give it them, and every day they expect to be without a shelter. I, myself, have been out of work for the last eight months, which no doubt a great many think is almost impossible for any one willing to work, but, I can assure you, it is only too true. There is, at the present time, 1,590 men breaking stones in the stone-yard of the Poplar workhouse, and a great many of them are mechanics. The number relieved out of the house last week was 8,319. The number in the corresponding week of last year was 2,866, showing an increase of 5,453. If any person was to walk around the Isle of Dogs and Millwall during the working hours they would almost fancy it was Sunday, as there is hardly the sound of a hammer to be heard, and nothing but the bare scaffold poles to be seen in most of the ship-building yards. At the present time there is, at the lowest possible computation, no less than from 10,000 to 12,000 artisans and laborers, who depend solely upon the ship-building trade for support, unavoidably thrown out of employment by the depressed state of the same.—[Cor. in Reynolds' Newspaper.

## LICENSING EVIL.

In noticing the acts of the Legislature I must not omit to speak of a novel proposition entertained among its members. This is nothing less than the licensing of public prostitution, which will really be attempted at Albany, for the benefit of our corrupt metropolitan morals. It is proposed to arrest every girl seen entering a house of ill fame or assignation and compel her to take out papers on which to do business. If not able to show a license, any female caught in or about the premises of our fashionable haunts of sin may be arrested and taken to the station-house, when the alternative will be given her of registering her name as a prostitute or of taking steps to earn an honest livelihood. To enable them to proceed understandingly in the matter, the Legislature have requested the Police Commissioners to take a new census of the fashionable and unfashionable brothels in the city, and they have been able, so far, to find some 2,100 houses of ill fame, having 11,000 inmates. They estimate the number of women who ply their vocation on the streets at 14,000. The Tribune, commenting on these facts, says: "Not a few of the costliest palaces of pollution up town are so quietly kept that only the initiated are aware of their existence. For example, two magnificent brown stone mansions on Fifth avenue, one in Twentieth street, several in Twenty-second street, two in Lexington avenue, two in Fourth avenue, one in Broadway, and one in Madison avenue—all superbly furnished and maintained at enormous cost—pass as fashionable boarding-houses, and until recently two of these institutions deceived even the detective police. In one block in the Eight Ward every house is a den of iniquity. The legislators and others who are pressing for the passage of an Act to regulate prosti-

tution in this city start with the theory of the utter incorrigibility of experienced street-walkers, and quote the police authorities, the Commissioners of Charities and Correction, and the medical faculty, in proof of the correctness of their views."—[Ajax in Sac. Union.

THE CENTRAL PACIFIC RAILROAD.—A correspondent of the Bulletin, writing from Cisco, Feb. 4th, says:

The railroad line is now uninterrupted up to this point, and has been so, with two slight exceptions four miles below, for over a month. Trucks carried passengers during that time, so that little inconvenience resulted to them. But now the line is unbroken to Sacramento. The breaks where the interruptions occurred were caused by washing away of the grades. This difficulty is being rendered impossible of future occurrence, as the company are putting in beds of material that will not wash away. Snow has been no obstacle, deep as it has fallen during the winter, to the keeping open of the road. This season has proved, beyond all possibility of a doubt, the entire future ability of the Central Pacific Railroad Company to operate their line during the entire winter without any more prolonged interruption to travel than it occasionally met with by railroads in the Atlantic States in that season. This is seen to be the case when it is recollected that the section of the road up to this town was only completed in November, and was therefore entirely new and unsettled when the severe weather set in; and when it is recollected, also, that the severity of the weather has had full sweep on the road, and where it developed weak points the company have made repairs of a nature that cannot possibly be again injured by rain, snow or wind.

This company are now drawing towards the end of the very difficult portion of their work. They will soon have their road completed to the summit of the Sierras; from that point down to their eastern base the descending grade will be comparatively light and the work easy, while from the last point, across the Great Basin to the western base of the Rocky Mountains, it is almost entirely a natural grade, over which a road can be laid with great rapidity and very cheaply.

AN EXCITING SPECTACLE.—One of most marvelous sights ever witnessed, is a herd of wild horses, in full and fiery march along the pampas of South America. The tall grass, at the approach of thousands of eager and impetuous feet, heaves to and fro like the waves of the sea. Grand as a whirlwind, yet in the most regular order, the herd hurries on, their mains flowing like flags and their tails standing erect like banners. At the head of a vast triangle, gallops, as leader, guide, and champion, the strongest horse in the herd. Behind him, in lines mathematically straight—far more perfect and unbroken than a cavalry regiment—and gradually extending until they reached their extreme length at the base of the triangle the most powerful horses occupy as a guard. In the middle, as most needing help and shelter, are the foals and their mothers; but still as a portion of the strictly symmetrical lines. This is beautiful, even, if apart from the splendor and the energy—there was nothing more than an illustration of the infallible geometry of instinct. The spectacle, however, has other admirers besides the gaucho and the traveler, as they reign in their steeds for a moment to gaze. Above, however, the loathsome vulture and the voracious urubu; and keeping pace with the mighty cohort of the wilderness, is the pitiless jaguar. Onward—ever onward—that cohort sweeps. But one of the weaklings, in the very heart of the triangle, stumbles and falls; and then another. Yet their more stalwart brethren pause not, even for an instant, to succor the unfortunates. Concerned only that the line may not waver, they furiously trample on them, as if rejoicing to prepare a repast for the insatiable spoiler. What sin have the weaklings committed? The sin of being weaklings—the sin of all things, which nature and man never pardon; the sin which enrages animals against those of their own kind, and which drives soldiers, at cities taken by assault, to expend all their vengeance and madness, not on such as, with stout hand and stout breast, still resist, but on women, on little children, on the aged, on the utterly defenceless.

## Dansk Læsning.

## POLITISK OVERSIGT.

Uagtet Aaret 1866 har været rigt paa gennemgribende politiske Begivenheder, og uagtet dette Aar har været Vidne til en Fredsslutning mellem tre af de største europæiske Magter, der har bekræftet hverandre, er Forviklingerne ingenlunde blevne løste, og Stillingen er for Oieblikket mere foruroligende end nogensinde. Ligesom en lang og besværlig Forfatningskamp er bleven tilendebragt i Danmark i det forløbne Aar, saaledes har det svenske Folk faaet et længe næret Onske opfyldt, idet et Tokammersystem nu har afløst dets gammeldags Forfatning. Forfatningskampen har i begge Lande været overordentlig bitter, men vi vil haabe, at Partierne med Landets Tarv for Oie, vil forstaa at lempe sig efter hinanden. Ogsaa Danmark har et lille Haab om, at dets smertelige Tab tildels vil blive gjenoprettet, nemlig ved Tilbagegivelsen af Nordslesvig, men uagtet Napoleon saagodtsom har truet Preussen til denne Indrømmelse og Slesvigerne ved enhver Leilighed udtaler deres danske Sindelag, er det dog tvivlsomt, hvorvidt Gribben vil slippe sit Bytte, thi desværre Magt og ikke Ret synes at være Nationernes Rettesnor i vor Tid. Af Frankrig ventede man sig noget Stort som Følge af Napoleons dristige Ord: jeg haader Traktaterne af 1815; men til Alles Forbause blev det ved Snak. Frankrigs Anseelse har lidt et betydeligt Skaar i de sidste Par Aar, dels ved dets uheldige mexicanske Politik, som nu maa opgives, dels ved den italienske Politik, som dog paa en Maade er lykkedes, idet Italien er bleven frit fra Alperne til Adriaterhavet, endskjönt dette Resultat opnaaedes paa en anden Maade, end man fra først af ventede; og dels ved Bismarks impertinente Svar til Napoleon, da han forlangte Rhinprovincerne. Keiserens Politik synes i det Hele at have været noget famlende og kraftløs, og der maa en Kraftanstrengelse til, hvis han vil gjenvinde sin tidligere Indflydelse saavel i som udenfor Frankrig. Noget saadant har han maaske nu isinde, idet han har givet Ordre til at reise en Armee paa en og en kvart Million Mand—en Armee, der er næsten tre Gange saa stor som den, gamle Napoleon gik til Rusland med i 1812. Tillige er der bevilget tre Millioner til Anskaffelsen af Bagladningsgeværer—Alt til Fredens Bevarelse, naturligvis. England har spillet en ubetydelig Rolle i de forløbne Aar; den mægtige Haand, som det havde i hele Verdens Anliggender for nogle Aar siden, er lammet, og der tages ingen Hensyn til dets Mening; man erindre blot hvor lumpent det lod Danmark i Stikken i sidste Krig, og det uagtet det skyldte vort Land Opreisning for dets trædske Færd i 1807. Den kristne Befolkning paa Oen Kreta i Middelhavet har ført en heltmodig Kamp mod deres Undertrykkere Tyrkerne, og har vakt hele Europas Sympathi. Selv herfra Amerika er der sendt dem materiel Hjælp og talrige Møder af holdes til Fordel for de stakkels Oprørere. Hvad Udfald Kampen vil faae er vanskeligt at sige, men man antager, at Oen vil blive tillagt Grækenland.

Her i Amerika føres Kampen mellem de to Partier med stedse voxende Heftighed. Kongressen og Præsidenten staar ligeover for hinanden som Ild og Vand. Flertallet af Kongressens Medlemmer er Radikale og deres Hovedopgave er at ydmyge Syden i Støvet, ligemeget hvad Følgerne bliver. Præsidenten og hans Parti, Demokraterne, holder derimod paa Konstitutionen som den er og søger at dæmpe den Bitterhed, som hersker mellem de to Leire. Deressaagar fremlagt Forslag i Kongressen om at tilintetgjøre de sydlige Staters Statsret og omdanne dem til Territorier, hvorved de blandt Andet faar Retten til at vælge deres egne Embedsmænd. Ogsaa her gaar Magten forud for Retten. Vi kan i alle disse Træk grant spore Opfyldelsen af Herrens Ord til Profeten Josef, at hvis Regjeringen ikke vilde give hans Hellige Opreisning for deres lidte Uret, skulde det stolte Amerika selv lide under Pöbelvældet, indtil dets politiske Undergang var fuldkommen. Magten er nu i en Pöbelhobs Hænder, og vi ser Dag for Dag, hvorledes den misbruges.

Stationsbygningerne paa Malmö Banegaard er nedbrændte; først efter tolv Timers Klemtning blev man Herre over Ilden; hvorledes den opkom vides endnu ikke.

R. T. ROSS.

C. R. BARRATT

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