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TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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EASTERN DISPATCHES.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—It is now generally conceded that Congress will adjourn in a fortnight.

There are great doubts whether the Senate will ratify the supplementary Alabama treaty.

The Gentle bill for the Salt Lake and Colorado railroad will probably be passed, notwithstanding Stewart's embargo.

The House has passed a bill to amend the act extending the Utah Northern railroad via Bear river to connect with the Northern Pacific.

Leavesworth, Kansas, 18.—A storm raged here last night with great severity. The town of Easton, in the valley of Dawson creek, was flooded to the depth of three feet; four persons were drowned. No trains have been running on the Leavesworth branch of the Kansas Pacific railroad since Thursday night.

PHILADELPHIA.—The losses of the occupants of Jayne's building are as follows: Wm. Harding, publisher, and manufacturer of albums, seventy thousand, fully insured. A press and stereotype plates, value \$10,000, were saved. L. E. Leavitt, printer, loss \$13,000; Mead & Stanley, printers and publishers of the Episcopal Register, loss \$70,000; insurance \$40,000. National Railway Publishing Company, loss \$13,000; J. F. Bausch, bookbinder, loss not heavy. The building also contained the publication office of the *Monograph*, the *Chronicle*, and the *Register*. The adjoining building, occupied by the commercial list, was considerably damaged. Jayne's building cost \$200,000.

DETROIT.—A fire at Flint, Mich., yesterday destroyed \$150,000 worth of property, including C. Rosewell & Sons' stable, together with several one-horse and two-horse teams, the Warren block, Gibson & Edison's livery stables, and a number of law and other offices.

WASHINGTON.—The friends of Greeley and Brown have established their headquarters at the St. Marie Hotel. Communications are to be addressed to John D. Defore, until the congressional election for the Senate is perfected.

The nature of the report on the supplemental article is entirely conjectural. It is supposed the President will be advised to negotiate the treaty in a less objectionable form than as originally submitted to the Senate.

Exchange of Kede, with his secretary, to-day, informed the Japanese girls that the palace belonging to their parents had been consumed by the recent fire at Yeddo. The story that the girls were going to Yeddo College is not true. Mari has arranged for her education at Washington.

The House will be prepared to adjourn on the 3rd of June, but the Senate's business is not so far advanced as that of the House, the Senate having yet to act on the tariff and other important measures, including the additional article of the treaty of Washington. The last named it is supposed will give rise to several discussions.

PHILADELPHIA.—A six-story, granite building, Dock St., near Third, built by Dr. Jayne and occupied by Leavitt's large printing establishment and a number of book binders, &c., was totally destroyed by fire this evening. Also a five-story brown stone building adjoining, occupied by the Commercial list newspaper.

NEW YORK, 19.—The Liedersverein Society gave a grand concert last night in honor of Franz Abt, who conducted several of his own compositions. Steinway Hall was crowded and the composer received a most cordial welcome. At the close of the concert a supper was given to Abt, which was attended by the prominent musicians of the city and leading members of the German singing societies. The distinguished guest made a brief speech, in which he expressed his profound sense of the general reception he had every where met with in America.

EUROPEAN.

MADRID.—The Cortes yesterday passed a bill providing for the bringing of the effective force of the regular army to Spain to 50,000 men.

CANADA.

OTTAWA, Ont., 18.—In the House last night Sir John A. MacDonald said that the bill to give effect to the Washington

treaty could not go into effect until the order in the council was authorized, and the government could make no pledge of advance that would not be in operation before the Alabama claims were settled, and could give no pledge that the money compensation to be obtained from Americans would be expended for the direct benefit and improvement of our sea fisheries; it would be subject to the vote and pleasure of parliament.

THE AMERICAN SYSTEM OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The following brief statement, setting forth the character and claims of the American public school system, was prepared at the request of the Japanese embassy now in this country, and is to be translated for circulation in Japan. It has been informed by the president of the American Association of Public Schools, that the superintendent of public instruction of several States, several governors, ex-governors and senators and other gentlemen interested in or officially connected with American public schools, and will be found interesting to readers at home, as a clear and concise exposition of the American system of education:

I.—Education universal. The American people maintain in every State a system of education which begins with the infant or primary school and goes on to the grammar and high schools. These are called "public schools," and are supported chiefly by voluntary taxation, but partly by the income of funds derived from the sale of government lands, or from the gifts of individuals.

II.—Public schools have been tried for two hundred and fifty years. Their estimate of the value of education is based upon an experience of nearly two centuries and a half from the earliest settlement of New England, when public schools, high schools and colleges were established in a region which was then almost a wilderness. The general principles then recognized are still approved in the older portions of the country, and are adopted in every new State and Territory which enters the Union.

III.—The well-known advantages of education. It is universally conceded that a good system of education fosters virtues, truth, submission to authority, enterprise and thrift, and thereby promotes national prosperity and power; on the other hand, that ignorance tends to laziness, poverty, vice, crime, riot, consequently to national weakness.

IV.—State action indispensable. Universal education cannot be secured without aid from public authorities; or in other words the State, for its own protection and progress, should see that public schools are established in which at least the elements of an education may be acquired by every boy and girl.

V.—The schools are free, are open to all, and give moral and secular instruction. The schools thus carried on by the public, for the public are (a) free from charges of tuition; (b) they are open to children from all classes in society; (c) no attempt is made to teach in them the peculiar doctrines of any religious body, though the Bible is generally read in the schools; and (d) the universal virtues, truth, industry, industry, reverence, patriotism, and usefulness, are constantly inculcated.

VI.—Private schools allowed and protected by law. While public schools are established everywhere, the government allows the largest liberty to private schools. Individuals, societies and churches are free to open schools and receive freely any who will come to them, and in the exercise of this right they are assured of the most sacred protection of the laws.

VII.—Special schools for special cases. Special schools for special cases are often provided, particularly in the large towns; for example evening schools for those who are at work by day; transient schools for unruly and irregular children; normal schools for training local teachers; high schools for advanced instruction; drawing schools for mechanics, and industrial schools for teaching the elements of useful trades.

VIII.—Local responsibility under State supervision. In school matters, as in other public business, the responsibilities are distributed and are brought as much as possible to the local level. The federal government, being a Union of many States, leaves to them the control of public instruction. The several States mark out, each for itself, the general principles to be followed and exercise general supervision over the workings of the system; subordinate districts or towns determine and carry out the details of the system.

IX.—Universities and colleges essential. Institutions of the highest class, such as universities, colleges, schools of science, etc., are in a few of the States maintained at the public expense; in most they are supported by endowments under the direction of private corporations. These are exempt from taxation. Consequently, where tuition is charged the rate is always low. They are regarded as essential to the welfare of the land, and are everywhere protected and encouraged by favorable laws and charters.—Chicago Post.

Russian Ship Canal.

It is stated on the authority of an Italian journal that the Emperor of Russia contemplates uniting the Caspian with the Black Sea by means of a canal, which will be about 400 miles long and take six years to complete. This project is worthy of one of the greatest Powers on the globe. More than one object is subserved by it. It secures entrance to the heart of Russia to the commerce of the world without the necessity of a transshipment of goods, the Caspian and the Volga being navigable together more than 2,000 miles. It will enable Russia to concentrate greater military strength upon the southern shore of the Caspian and within 500 miles of the Persian Gulf, and another object is said to be the replacement of the Caspian by a sea, which is showing a subsidence year by year, threatening in the course of time the destruction of the fishing business which now gives support to hundreds of thousands of the Russian people. The Caspian is 381 feet lower than the Black Sea by latest measurements. A scheme of this kind is in accordance with the spirit of the age, which sees the completion of the Suez canal, seeks to cleave the granite barriers in the tropic zone to unite the waters of the Atlantic and Pacific, Sacramento Union.

Colors and Health.

There are some colors that no person can be cheerful and elastic in spirit with if their rooms are tinted with them. A correspondent of a scientific paper, the *Builder*, states that he had occasion for several years to examine rooms occupied by young women for manufacturing purposes, and he observed that while the workers in one

room would be cheerful and healthy the occupants of a similar room, who were employed on the same kind of work, were all "inclined to melancholy, and complained of a pain in the forehead and eyes, and were often ill and unable to work." The only difference he could discover in the rooms was that the one occupied by the healthy workers was wholly white-washed, and that occupied by the unhealthy workers was covered with yellow ochre. As soon as the difference struck him, he had the yellow ochre washed off the walls and then whitened. At once an improvement took place in the health and spirits of the occupants. He pursued his observations and experiments, not only in large manufacturing, but also in small apartments and garrets, and he invariably found that the occupants of such quarters when they were colored yellow or buff, were less healthy than their neighbors in whitened rooms, and that when the yellow hue disappeared, the low spirits and ill-health went with it.—*Ex.*

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