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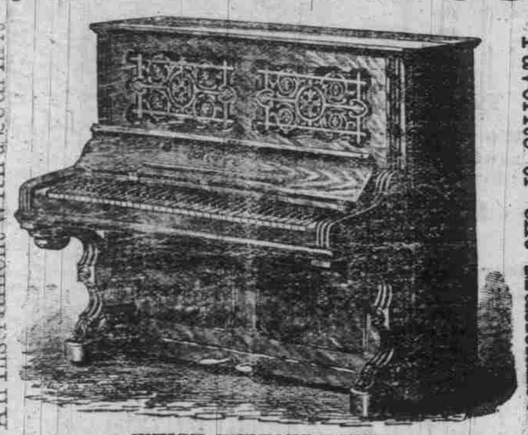

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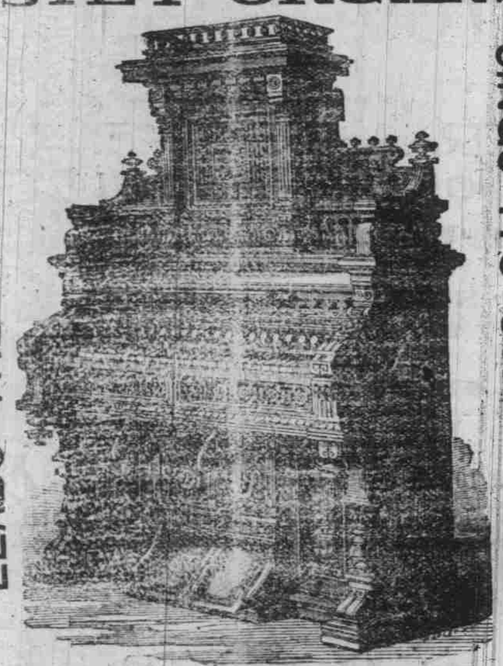

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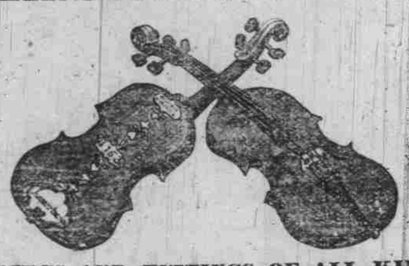

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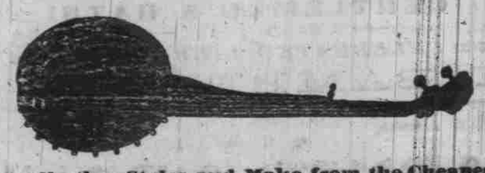

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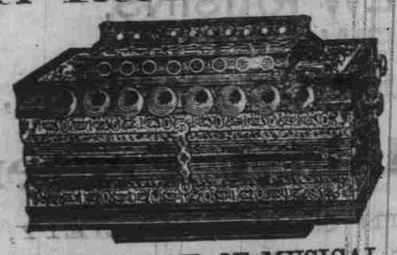

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EVENING NEWS.

Wednesday, - Dec. 26, 1883.

JERUSALEM.

Jerusalem is situated on an elevated table-land, about 30 miles from the Mediterranean Sea, and about 18 miles from where the Jordan flows into the Dead Sea.

"In several respects," says a modern writer, "its situation is singular among the cities of Palestine. Its elevation is remarkable, occasioned, not from being on the summit of one of the numerous hills of Judea, but because it is on the edge of one of the highest table-lands of the country.

"To the traveler approaching the city from the east or west, it must always have presented the appearance beyond any other capital of the then known world—we may say beyond any important city that has ever existed on the earth—of a mountain city."

Approaching Jerusalem from the north, however, it presents no such aspect, as there is no material difference on that side between the level of the country outside the walls, and that of the highest parts of the city. "On the other three sides, so steep is the fall of the ravines, so trench like their character, and so close do they keep to the promontory at whose feet they run, as to leave the border almost the impression of a ditch at the foot of a fortress rather than of valleys formed by nature."

The promontory thus encircled is itself divided by a ravine running from south to north, forming two hills, on the western one of which the city of Jerusalem now stands and, in fact, always stood. On the eastern hill stood the Temple.

The earliest mention of Jerusalem is in the book of Josue, but some Jewish writers have maintained that the Salem of which Melchisedech was king, mentioned in the book of Genesis, is the same as Jerusalem.

Strong as was the natural position of Jerusalem, it was further strengthened by three defensive walls, in which there were, according to Josephus, 199 towers.

From the time, as described in the book of Judges, 1,434 years before the birth of Christ, that the children of Judea "besieging Jerusalem, took it and put it to the sword, and set the whole city on fire," until its destruction by Titus, it was seventeen times besieged; twice it was razed to the ground, and twice its walls were leveled.

It was wrested from the Jebusites by King David, about 1,046 years before the coming of our Lord. From this, dates its sacredness and importance. David fixed his residence in it, and also carried there the Ark of the Covenant.

"And David built there an altar to the Lord, and offered holocausts and peace offerings, and the Lord became merciful to the land."

Solomon, who succeeded to the throne of his father, David, built the magnificent Temple which was the glory of Jerusalem. He also strengthened its defenses, but it was nevertheless taken and pillaged by Sesac, King of Egypt, B. C. 971. "So Sesac, King of Egypt, departed from Jerusalem, taking away the treasures of the house of the Lord, and of the king's house; and he took all with him, and the golden shields that Solomon had made."

But Jerusalem was utterly destroyed by Nabuchodonosor, King of Babylon, B. C. 588. Its restoration commenced under Cyrus about 50 years later.

Its next greatest misfortune was its capture by the Romans under Pompey, who put twelve thousand of its inhabitants to the sword, and razed its walls to the ground. He spared the treasures of the sanctuary, which were, however, pillaged by Crassus twelve years later.

But it is as the scene of so many events in the life of our Lord, that Jerusalem is specially sacred to Christians.

It is on this account that its possession for so many centuries by the followers of Mohammed is a reproach to Christian nations, from which the heroism of the Crusaders not only does not redeem them, but that their blood should have been vainly shed is an additional blot upon the nations of modern Europe.

The Mosque of Omar now stands on the site of the Temple of Solomon, and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre is guarded by Ottoman soldiers.

DESOLATED JAVA.

APPEARANCE OF THE COUNTRY AFTER THE GREAT VOLCANIC ERUPTION.

A correspondent from Java, who traversed the country soon after the recent volcanic eruption, describes the desolated region as follows: For miles there was not a tree standing, and where formerly were numerous campongs (native villages surrounded by paddy fields and cocoanut groves), there was nothing but a wilderness more resembling the bottom of the sea than anything else; rocks of coral stones and sea shells strewn everywhere. Some of these solid masses of coral, lying miles inward could not be less than 100 tons weight. Arriving at Merak, the path was strewn with pieces of iron, while here and there were portions of the bedding and furniture of the houses of the Europeans. We were informed officially that the number of bodies buried in the district we came through was 2,700. The volcanic wave must, in my opinion, have been even higher than the general estimate of 100 feet, and I base my opinion on the fact that the official height of the small hill of Merak is 35 metres, (115 feet) while the wave which swept away the houses, must of course have been still higher than the top of the hill, and this additional height I estimate to be twenty feet. On the top of the hill at Merak the whole community of workmen took refuge when the first wave came at 6 a.m., and fancying themselves safe there, they returned again, when the second and much higher wave, at 9 a.m., came and swept them all away. Our next point was to get back to our kahare and make for Anjer. We soon again came on the trace of destruction, the sea here having entered a long valley just below Tjilegon, as far as six miles inland, forming a great lagoon. Proceeding farther on the road from Tjilegon to Anjer, we came to the old post station of Tjisadeng, not one stone of it remaining, building, men and horses having been carried away. Pushing on we found the road had been very well repaired till within three miles of Anjer, and altogether the energy displayed everywhere by the government is beyond all praise. Hundreds of people were at work in all directions, remaking roads, clearing away trees, burning rubbish and strewing the ashes on the sea swept soil, in the hope of future improvement. Everywhere, in fact, there were activity and energy; and where our road ended and we had to walk there were rows of rice carts and the grain was being given out by native officials to the various headmen for distribution in their villages. The appearance of the country was even more wretched than before, and from the hill on the Anjer shore, looking northeast to Merak, 11 miles distant, and inland to the foot of the hills, four to five miles, this wedgelike plain of ash of about 40 square miles is one vast scene of desolation, being completely swept from end to end, and not one house or tree to be seen. Many thousands were lost here. Getting around this hill, we came at once into the valley of Anjer, a semicircle of four miles from point to point, and extending two miles inland, with a fine range of hills closing all in. In the centre of this plateau, and fronting the sea, was originally situated the town of Anjer, but from where we stood, on first turning the corner of the path, there was nothing to be seen but lagoons, with here and there great boulders cast about, and not a vestige of a house. We proceeded, however, and at length came upon the site of the town and fort. Of the fort there is almost nothing left, great blocks of masonry being cast inland; of the town, still less, for not one stone is to be seen above another. Mr. Schmit, who lost seven of his relations, went to look for his house, but could not find a trace of it, and after a time he concluded that the river, which formerly formed the creek, had changed its course and was flowing over the spot where his home and that of the assistant resident ones stood. There was not even a ruin, everything having been razed to the ground, and it was difficult to realize that the town of Anjer had ever existed.

"FOOT-SQUEEZING" THE BABY.

A shoe dealer says that mothers ruin their children's feet through vanity. "One will bring the baby and ask me to try a pair that will look "real sweet." I know what that means, but I'm always sorry for the baby, who is usually in its first dress and as skittish as any young colt about having her feet meddled with. I don't say that I am going to put a shoe on it a size larger than the foot seems to be, but I do, at least I get it on as well as any one could fit a foot operated by a perpetual motion power. Then I trust to the mother's sense for results. If it is the first baby she will be indignant, and say she does not want 'the treasure' to look sloppy in its shoes. They must fit exactly or she won't take them. I insist that the child's weight will push the foot out at least the fourth of an inch, and that the shoe is just right. If she objects again, I give up, and find what she wants. The foot is pushed into a tight shoe, and the baby protests by squalling. She says the seraph is teething, or colicky or hasn't had its usual nap, and so she shakes it vigorously, while declaring that the shoes are just lovely, and that its papa will be delighted. The chances are that when she wants another pair she will leave the baby at home and bring down its shoes literally bursted out at the toe. She wants several pairs to take home for trial, and I notice that the only ones I consider unsuitable are the pair she prefers. Children would have better looking feet if they had wiser mothers, and the fault lies in the first shoes worn. One pair too short will ruin the feet no matter how loose subsequent pairs may be, after the little people have laid a foundation for corns and bunions. I know many children between two and three years old who have both these afflictions, because their mother's wanted them to look 'cute,' as they term this phrase of foot-squeezing."—Chicago Tribune.

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Superior Yellow Danver Onions, in a new seamless sack, weight 100 pounds for $3.00.

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