

the coat, which they call a shirt, but the same garment has never but one color. The hair is dressed in the most exaggerated manner conceivable. I have seen it stuck out from the back of the head full ten inches from the scalp. They will spend hours in its arrangement; they have wonderfully luxuriant suits of hair. I have seen them when the hair was down, stand erect with their heels upon the hair. In order to make it keep its place when fully dressed, instead of resorting to "rats," "mice" and "such small deer," they use a kind of gum, obtained by boiling the chips of a certain wood used by carpenters. They are extravagantly fond of parading their umbrellas; I often see Chinese women walking together in beautiful starlight evenings with umbrellas at full spread! They are blessed with entire exemption from the wearing of bonnets. Their only head covering is a gay Madras handkerchief, which they frequently embroider very elaborately for this purpose. They are, in common with their sex everywhere, fond of jewelry, but it must be none of your gold "nonsense," nothing meaner than pure porcelain, or yade stone will suffice for celestial tastes. Glass is admissible if it be a particular bright green. The Chinese are exceedingly modest in their manners, and perfectly so in their dress. In the heat of the summer laboring men frequently go almost utterly naked, but I never saw a China woman, even of the laboring classes, make the slightest exposure of person even under the most oppressive heat. The women are generally very ignorant, it is not considered needful for them to learn to read or write; hence but few can write their names or read at all.

There is one "peculiar institution" here that ladies delight in, and which I am sure you would be pleased with: i. e. the palanquin, (pronounced, as I now learn, "pal-an-keen"—accent on the last syllable). Ladies are uniformly delighted with this mode of locomotion; for in their palanquins the dear creatures are literally transported. The idea of being carried about on the shoulders of men seems to have, with them, a peculiar fascination that horseflesh can by no means produce. Ladies' palanquins are handsomely covered with broadcloth richly embroidered, and on the inside are elegantly draped with damask and lace, and fitted with movable blinds and shades, so that the fair occupants may ride out *en masque*, if so desiring, and their characteristic curiosity still be gratified by seeing all without, themselves remaining unseen. If two ladies ride out together their coolies bring their palanquins side by side, and thus move along in conversation as easily as if sitting in the same carriage seat, and more so, as the moving carriage is noisy, the palanquin is noiseless. Do you wish to go shopping or calling, your coolies will bring your palanquin up stairs to your dressing room door, if so directed; will take you up and carry you "up stairs, down stairs, or in my lady's chamber," bear you from shop to shop, or into the hall or drawing room of your friend's house, or to the housetop, if so ordered; a thing somewhat difficult for a carriage to achieve. You make your call long or short, as you please, one-half an hour or one-half a day, no difference, your driver never becomes impatient, your team never grows restive. On your summons or approach, they come without calling, take you upon their stalwart shoulders, shielded from the sun by their enormous hats, (four feet across the brim,) and if you are in haste you will only have to say "licht-ee" and away they lope at five miles an hour. Is the road clean, quiet and cool, shaded by over-arching trees and inviting to a walk, you have only to say "man-man" and your coolies will set you gently down and you incontinently walk off on the level ground; no slippery carriage steps to descend, no muddy nor moving wheels to climb over or to fall from. Your coolies quietly follow your steps till, having exercised on foot long enough, you halt, and immediately your palanquin is at your side, you quietly step in, and on you go with nothing to do but simply to enjoy moving through the air like a bird, without the trouble of flying. You have no driving to do, no collisions to guard against, no breaking down, turning over, nor running away to be fearful of. Your team is never to be hitched, never frightened at firing squibs or flying kites; never shy, nor kick, nor balk, and are apparently incapable of being tired out; the

bridles never slip off, the lines never become tangled, the breeching never breaks! And all this for 20 cts. an hour.

CESSION OF RUSSIAN-AMERICA.

An official map of Northwestern America, "compiled for the Department of State at the U. S. Coast Survey office, 1867," gives our seven millions purchase from Russia a more attractive aspect. It there seems to be the American counterpart of non-Russian Europe north of the Baltic—that is, of Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Iceland and the Faroe Isles. Its chain of islets (Aleutian) seem an interrupted continuation of the large peninsula of Alaska, and stretch nearly across the North Pacific in an easterly direction for about 1,200 miles. Several other considerable isles are included in the purchase, beside several bold peninsulas and deep bays—the latter said to teem with edible fish. The principle river (Kvichpak) heads in British America, through its chief affluents, the Yukon and Porcupine, and has a length of over 1,000 miles, pursuing a generally south-west direction, and debouching by several mouths in lat. 61 deg. to 63 deg.; below Norton South, instead of running northwest to the Arctic Ocean, as it is generally made to do on the maps. We are assured that the whole course of this river and its affluents, as well as the less considerable rivers farther south, lies through an immense forest of the choicest pine. There are several large rivers north of the Kvichpak, but the region is so cold that they can be of little value. The average temperature is said to be ten to twelve degrees warmer than on this side of the continent. Valuable mines are very vaguely reported, but little is known of them. Generally the region is rugged as well as cold, and there seems little probability that much of its soil will ever be cultivated. The fact that the Russians sojourning on this coast were long ago accustomed to grow their grain in California, 1,000 miles away, is significant. In fish and fur-bearing animals, the country is hardly surpassed. The following article, translated from the *Cologne Gazette*, probably gives as intelligent and dispassionate an account of the Territory as can now be presented:

If the cession of the whole of Russian America to the United States is ratified, it will be a very important event—not because the acquisition of a large tract of land by the United States promises an increase of power—for territorial extension is not desirable, and Russian America is no paradise; yet it may prove an El Dorado in furs, and its situation on the northwest coast of the continent will be of great significance. The territory 17,500 (German) square miles in area, lying on the northwest slope of the Rocky Mountains, has many snow peaks and volcanoes, and is densely wooded in the valleys and on the rivers and inlets of the coast range. The coast has many harbors, shut in by the Prince of Wales' and George the Third Archipelagoes. The Kossack Dechenes first discovered Behring's Straits, which were explored by Behring eighty years afterward, and received his name. The volcanoes are generally very high, and streams are very abundant, though unemployed. The climate is very diversified, and much milder than between the same parallels on the eastern coast of America or Eastern Asia. The coast, as far as the peninsula of Alaska, has mild winters and cool summers, with abundant rains, very favorable to vegetation; but fruit trees do not prosper. There are scarcely 700 Russians among the 70,000 inhabitants, just one to a hundred; 1,000 are half-breeds of Russians and Indians. Only 15,000 Indians are civilized, and the rest are scattered over the vast region. Esquimaux inhabit the eastern half of Alaska, and there are about 2,500 Alooos in the eastern portion; they also inhabit the islands of their name. The seat of government of the country is New Archangel, containing 2,200 inhabitants. Twenty-five years ago it had not a population of more than 850 souls. The timber and furs of the country became very useful when the Russians settled on the Amoor; up to that time it was more of a burden than a blessing. For America, the case is quite different. This purchase annexes the middle portion, on the west of the British auriferous regions, that England has long regarded with a covetous eye. This northwestern coast of America will now change, and the year 1867 will be the beginning of a new era for it.

THE PARIS EXPOSITION IN FRANCE.

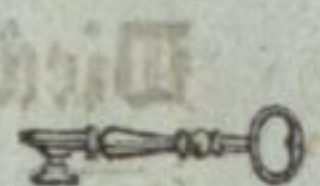
The Paris correspondent of the *Cincinnati Gazette* says:

I must give you some notion of what this exhibition is like. The real exhibition is a circular structure, in shape like a huge cheese, with eight unequal rings passing within its circumference. Each of these rings is a grand gallery devoted to some one general branch of manufactures, the greatest of course being filled with machinery. The outside circle is entirely made up of restaurants, and it fronts the gardens and parks. If you take your cheese and mark these eight rings around it, put little flags on top at the edges, and mark through its center about forty straight lines, you will get a fair idea of the exhibition. The cross lines separate the nations, so that, as you prefer, you can walk crosswise, see all that one people have to show, or around, and see all the manifestations of one art.

However, inside the great cheese, which cheese is an indigestible one, being made of iron, and glass and stone, there is a pretty oblong garden, with fountains and beautiful statues in it. Outside of it is the park, which is more than twice the size of the exhibition—of the length of six Cincinnati blocks, and of the width of four. Here are erected fifty or more curious edifices, illustrating the domestic, religious, or monumental architecture of each country in the world, from an Aztec temple to a Protestant chapel. All these buildings are inhabited by the people of the country they represent. Among them are a hundred colossal statues, representing the grandest achievements of art in every age.

The exhibition has been maligned in America by a cable dispatch sent from here. It is the most marvellous collection of art and industry ever seen in the world, a disappointment in no sense—a surprise and a splendor wherever one looks. At this writing it is very nearly in perfect condition; the grass is green in all the slopes; fishes swim in the aquariums; the fountains spill music all the day; at night the park is a coquetry and a glory; and when they light the crystal lenses in the high light houses, it is as if an island sprung from the sea, and the history of Sinbad were come true. It will take you three weeks to get any satisfactory idea of the place. I have spent fifteen industrious days in it, roving to and fro, and I still feel that to try to tell you of it faithfully would be unjust to me, to you, and to the Exposition. There are six miles of aisles, walks, and promenades here. In each foot of each mile there is an hour of suggestion and study. What would you think to pass these bronze gates, and see through the shades of silver and emerald, among the infinite statues, and palaces, and temples, the dromedaries come, carrying their Arab masters; the wild horses of the Cossacks with a savage saberman in every stirrup; the asses of the Pyrenees laden with velvet muleteers; and a mile of cafes close at hand, where you can drink all that intoxicates all the tribes of the earth; study all the physiognomies that make the varieties of mankind; whisper in all the dialects familiar to civilization, be, in a word, a cosmopolitan in a cosmopolis; and stagger under the first grand conviction you have ever had that the universe is too grand for your thought.

MUSCULAR POWER OF THE BEETLE.—This insect has just astonished me by its vast strength of body and extraordinary muscular power. Every one who has had the common beetle in his hand knows that its limbs, if not remarkable for agility, are very powerful; but I was not prepared for so Samsonian a feat as that I have just witnessed. When the beetle was brought to me, having no box immediately at hand, I was at a loss where to put it till I could kill it, but a quart bottle full of milk being on the table, I placed the beetle for the present under that; the hollow of the bottle allowed him to stand upright. Presently to my surprise, the bottle began to move slowly and glide along the smooth table, propelled by the muscular power of the imprisoned insect, and continued for some time to perambulate the surface, to the astonishment of all who witnessed it. The weight of the bottle and its contents, could not have been less than three pounds and a half, while that of the beetle was about half an ounce; so that it really moved a weight 112 times its own.



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