

THE EVENING NEWS.

GEORGE Q. CANNON,
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

Tuesday, April 26, 1870.

THE BLASTING OF BLOSSOM ROCK.

YESTERDAY'S telegraphic dispatches brought the news of the blowing up, on Saturday last, of Blossom Rock in San Francisco harbor. This rock has proved of much annoyance and danger to shipping, and the success which has attended its removal must be very gratifying to the people of that city, and especially to the engineer who invented the plan to remove it.

Blossom Rock was six feet below the surface of the water at low tide, and the water rolled over it in powerful swells and great force. Its position was such as to render the work of removing it both difficult and dangerous. About four months ago Col. Van Shmidt, a civil engineer, devised a plan which he thought would be successful. It was a difficult undertaking to perform, one that must be watched with the most intense care: for one false step or mishap would prove ruinous and destructive, and involve the loss of many lives.

The first work to be done, according to his plan was to make a careful survey of the rock, ascertain where it dipped in, and where it projected, so that in the work of excavation afterwards to be accomplished, sufficient of a space might remain to resist the pressure of the water. This was carefully done, and from it plans were drawn of the rock. The next work was to construct a water tight copper dam on the rock, and around that part of it through which the shaft was to be sunk. This was found to be most difficult. As already stated the water rolled there in great force in large swells, and being interrupted by the rock naturally gave it more force in passing over it than in any other portion of the bay. The copper dam was first put in its place, and then a scow was built around it, into which about two hundred and fifty tons of stones were thrown. The dam was lined around with bags of sand to more effectually keep out the water, and when this was complete, an iron turret was placed inside of it. This turret was imbedded or sunk in the rock a distance of three feet, and closely and thoroughly cemented at its place. This being done, the work of excavation, or sinking the shaft commenced. A platform was erected on the rock, fifty-six feet in length, and about twenty in width. On this an engine, and a complete hoisting apparatus was placed at one end, and at the other a shanty was erected containing six sleeping apartments and a kitchen, which was also used as an eating room by the workmen. When the shaft had been sunk sufficiently to permit the work of excavation to be extended to either side, the work was considered fairly begun, and from that time forward it was pushed with all the despatch possible. When the shaft had reached a certain depth, a small cylinder was placed inside the original turret extending down into the shaft, which made the hoisting of the ballast from below more convenient.

"The plan for the removal of the rock can be best understood in this way. The object was to scoop out the center, producing a cavity inside, measuring in the clear from the highest point to the bottom, twenty-five feet, and leaving a crust or stratum of about six feet thick to resist the pressure of the water while the work was in progress. This crust or stratum to be blown up by powder when the remainder of the work inside had been completed. To do this, however, was not only difficult but perilous, and involved the heaviest responsibility. It required the closest attention, and the exercise of more than ordinary skill. As the work progressed and the excavation became larger, the crust of rock left standing would naturally become weaker, and more likely to cave in. In order to prevent this, pillars of rock were left standing at short intervals from each other, until the limits of six feet were everywhere reached; then it became necessary to move these pillars away. Before this was done uprights of heavy timbers were set thickly around the cavity to supply their place, and in this way all fear of the roofing was obviated."

The height of the highest pillar was twenty-nine feet, and the lowest four feet. The space excavated measured about one hundred and forty by sixty feet. The rock was sandstone and porous, and the water dripped through. A steam pump was employed to keep the shaft dry. Twenty-three tons of powder was used in the explosion. About half of this quantity was in English ale barrels, double coated with a heavy pitch varnish inside and outside, so as to make them water proof. The other half was placed in seven boiler tanks, which were of wrought iron, firmly bolted together. As they contained much more powder, and their explosive force was much more powerful than the barrels, they were placed where the distance from the top to the bottom of the excavation was greatest. The barrels were placed close to the side of the excavation, near the junction of the arch or roof with the floor. A perforated piece of gas-pipe two-and-a-half feet in length, charged with fine gun powder run into each barrel from the end, and a piece six feet long into the boilers, charged in the same way. These different tubes were connected with insulated electric wires, which passed from one barrel to another, while the end in each tube consisted of a fulminating cartridge, which, when reached by the elec-

tric spark, exploded and ignited the powder in the tube. This tube in turn exploded, and, communicating with the powder in the barrel boiler, caused them to explode also. To make the connections of the tubes with the barrels perfectly water-tight, rubber washers were placed between each connection and the insulated electric wires connecting the barrels were encased in a gutta percha hose, so as to keep it perfectly dry. This wire was drawn up through a tube in the shaft, and was placed on board a bark about one thousand feet from the rock. There it was connected with an electric battery. The water acted as tamping, the coffer dam having been removed to permit it to fill up the excavation.

Fears were entertained by many people respecting the effects of the explosion of such an immense quantity of powder; but the telegraphic report says there was no perceptible jar, only a deep thud accompanied the blast. A body of water was thrown to the height of a hundred feet.

The *Alta California*, from which we have gathered the foregoing particulars, speaks of the achievement as a great triumph of engineering skill, and one that reflects the highest honor on Colonel Von Schmidt.

"Rev. O. B. Frothingham, of New York, yesterday preached that Congress had no more right to interfere with polygamy than it has to prescribe limits to Protestantism or interfere with Catholicism. That is supposing, as the *Republican* does, that Mormonism is a religion, which it is not in any sense of the word."

The above is from a recent number of the *St. Louis Tribune*, and shows, as well as any thing can do how ignorance or prejudice, or both combined with egotism may concentrate in one individual. The editor of the *Tribune* says that "Mormonism" is not a religion in any sense of the word. Now to any and all persons the least cognizant of the facts in relation to "Mormonism" and the "Mormon" people, the ignorance of a person deliberately making such a statement could not be made more apparent. If religion consists, as all will admit it does—in recognizing the movements of the Supreme in all events, and in constantly endeavoring, every day of their lives, to honor Him by keeping His commands, then the Latter-day Saints or "Mormons" are the most religious of all people, and "Mormonism" is essentially and truly a religion par excellence.

We have said the ignorance of any person could not be more apparent than by making such a statement as the above of the editor of the *Tribune* in reference to "Mormonism;" but in his case there is reason to believe that the ignorance is only assumed, and that his statement springs more from prejudice than ignorance, for we have before seen in his paper this same illiberal, narrow and un-Christian spirit manifested towards "Mormonism." If, however, our cotemporary be really ignorant of the subject of "Mormonism," now so prominently before the nation, as he seems, he has certainly mistaken his vocation in assuming the editorial duties of one of the principal journals in one of the chief cities of the nation. And if, as we presume, his assertion springs from prejudice, a man who can be so strongly biased is unfit to occupy the position of a public journalist; and the fact that such men do occupy such positions is a frightful source of evil to the country, for the wide-spread dissemination of their jaundiced views helps to manufacture an incorrect public opinion, than which a greater evil can scarcely be committed. But if ignorance and not prejudice, be the parent of the sentiment in the *Tribune* respecting "Mormonism," the egotism of its author is amazing.

The converts to "Mormonism" in this Territory are not much fewer than two hundred thousand. The sacrifices and trials they have endured in the past are too well known to need recapitulation here; and the constant stream of vituperation directed against them, and the proscription and outlawry with which they are now threatened afford unmistakable proof that the "Mormon" people regard it as a religion, and upon them its claims as such are of the most powerful character; for nothing but religion—which has ever the strongest hold upon the human heart—would induce a people to endure what they have endured. Yet in the face of all this, here is a gentleman; connected with the press, who lets his egotism so far transcend the boundary of common sense as to pronounce "Mormonism" not a religion "in any sense of the word."

We advise our cotemporary to become better posted, or to free himself from this prejudice, before he undertakes to pronounce an opinion in relation to any subject towards which he feels antagonistic. Such exhibitions are pitiable from any source, but they expose a public journalist to contempt, and are more inexcusable from such a quarter than from any other.

readers will see them for themselves before their engagement expires. Such a performance as these strange people gave last evening has never been seen in this city, though we have had very renowned performers in the various lines which they represent. It was wonderful, interesting, and at some times terrific. The interest of the audience was not suffered to flag for an instant, and during some of the parts the excitement was so intense that the slightest cough could be heard all over the house. Those who take pleasure in sensations should not fail to see the Japanese. Every performer from Man-ketch-i and Shumates, or "Little All Right," aged respectively three and four years, to O-ho-man-gu, the blind Hercules, are stars in their separate lines. From the manner in which Yau-o-sau-dri drew the paper out of his mouth, we should imagine that there is no scarcity of that article where he resides. It struck us, while watching him, that if he could be hired for a reasonable amount to stay in this country, we could dispense with rag engines, bleaching materials, pulp tubes, paper-making machine and all the machinery for the manufacture of that useful material; for, only furnish him enough rags and other stock, and judging by the way the paper rolled out of him last night, he would supply it in any desirable quantity.

[SPECIAL TO THE DESERET NEWS.]

By Telegraph.

AFTERNOON DISPATCHES.

CONGRESSIONAL.

HOUSE.

Bills introduced—Monument of General Rawlings—Ryan is to have a seat.

In the House a large number of bills were introduced, including one by Sargent, for the relief of the people of the United States, by reducing taxation; it provides for the reduction, after the 30th of June, of fifteen per cent. on internal revenue taxes; import duties, except tobacco in all forms, to be abolished; the income tax and all special licenses, except for distilleries, breweries, and tobacco manufacturers, to be also done away with.

Several resolutions were offered, upon which the House refused to second the previous question, and they went over; among them were a resolution that the tariff bill ought to be indefinitely postponed, and a resolution by Hooker, that the honor and good faith of the government are bound for the payment of loyal citizens in the South, for property of every description taken for the use of the government. Dixon moved to suspend the rules, so as to consider the substitute for the Senate bill to prevent the extermination of fur-bearing animals in Alaska; it was lost on account of lacking the necessary two-thirds vote.

Schenck moved that a commission be appointed to procure an appropriate burial place for the remains of Gen. Rawlings, and that the cost of the same be paid out of the contingent fund of the War Department. Cox suggested its modification, so as to provide for the erection of a suitable monument over the grave.

Voorhes remarked that the remains of Rawlings were lying in a public vault in the graveyard in Washington. The joint resolution, as modified, was passed.

Reters moved to suspend the rules for the purpose of reporting from the judiciary and passing a resolution enabling the Secretary of the Treasury to collect wrecked and abandoned property and claims and dues belonging to the United States; adopted.

The House went into a committee of the whole on the tariff paragraph, in reference to iron.

Brooks moved to amend and make the duty of eighteen per cent instead of one cent per pound; without any disposition of the question, the committee rose.

Burdett, from the committee on elections, reported in the case of the Fourth Louisiana District, Michael Regan is entitled to the seat.

WASHINGTON.

To Prevent Breach of Neutrality—Advo. cating a Channel.

WASHINGTON.—The order directing the regiments of infantry from Kentucky and Virginia to report to the commanding general of the department of Dakota, removes the last troops from those States. It is understood that the movement has something to do with the condition of affairs in the Red River country, and refers to the neutrality question.

A delegation, consisting of Governors Merrill, of Iowa, Butler of Nebraska, and Fairchild, of Wisconsin, had a hearing before the House committee on Commerce, in which they strongly urged the importance of a free water channel between the Mississippi and Fox and Wisconsin rivers.

KANSAS.

Feeling against Delano for removing Marr.

LEAVENWORTH, 25.—The action of Commissioner Delano, in removing Supervisor Marr from the Dist. of Kansas, when he had but just commenced to unearth one of the greatest frauds ever perpetrated in the Revenue Department, is received throughout Kansas with surprise and indignation. The retention of Supervisor Marr, at least until he can complete the examination of the Spear case, is demanded by most of the prominent men in Kansas.

KENTUCKY.

Election Disputes.

LOUISVILLE.—Despatches to the *Courier* Journal indicate the election of General J. H. Lewis, Democrat, to Congress from the Third Congressional District. Negroes voted without disturbance. Golladay spoke at Bowling Green to-day, announcing himself as still a member, and indulged in abuse

of newspaper men; he will probably contest the seat with the member elect.

NEW YORK.

Next Sunday the Fenian Raid to Commence—Chambers feels Jubilant.

NEW YORK.—Rumor says that Sunday next has been definitely fixed by the Fenian leaders as the time to commence the raid on Canada.

Chambers, who committed a murder in the Utica Insane Asylum, says there is nothing the matter with him, and he will be back in Brooklyn in a month or two.

FOREIGN NEWS.

FRANCE.

Party disaffection healed. PARIS.—It is reported that the disaffection in the party of the Left has been healed and the members will all vote alike.

CONDENSED HISTORY OF STEAM.

About two hundred and eighty years B. C. Hiero, of Alexandria, formed a toy which exhibited some of the powers of steam, and was moved by its power. A. D. 450, Anthemius, an architect, arranged several caldrons of water, each covered with the wide bottom of a leather tube, which rose to a narrow top, with pipes leading to the rafters of the adjoining building. A fire was kindled beneath the caldrons, and the house was shaken by the efforts of the steam ascending the tubes. This is the first notice of the power of steam recorded. In 1543, June 17th, Blasco D. Garay tried a steamboat of two hundred and nine tons with tolerable success at Barcelona, Spain. It consisted of a caldron of boiling water, and a moveable wheel on each side of the ship. It was laid aside as impracticable. A present, however, was made to Garay. In 1650, the first railroad was constructed at Newcastle-on-Tyne. The first idea of a steam engine in England, was in the Marquis of Winchester's *History of Inventions*, A. D. 1663. In 1710, Newcomen made the first steam engine in England. In 1718, patents were granted to Savery for the first application of the steam engine. 1764, James Watt made the first perfect steam engine in England. In 1763, Jonathan Hulls set forth the idea of steam navigation. In 1778, Thomas Paine first proposed this application in America. In 1781, Marquis Jouffroy constructed one in Saone. In 1785, two Americans published a work on it. In 1789, Wm. Tynington made a voyage in one on the Forth and Clyde Canal. In 1802, this experiment was repeated. In 1782, Ramsay propelled a boat by steam, to Philadelphia. In 1783, John Fitch, of Philadelphia, navigated a boat by a steam engine on the Delaware. In 1793 Robert Fulton first began to apply his attention to steam.—*Ex.*

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For particulars apply to J. J. Thayer, 1st Ward. d127-1f

BURNETT'S COCAINE is not greasy or sticky. It is superior to pomades or alcoholic washes as a hair-dressing.

PROF. BLOT is good authority, and says Burnett's Flavoring Extracts are the best.

BURNETT'S KALISTON will remove freckles. BURNETT'S COLOGNE WATER is elegant for the bath.

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"There's no such Word as Fail!"

This is absolutely true in using DOOLY'S CHEMICAL YEAST BAKING POWDER, for so perfect is the combination of the ingredients entering into its manufacture, that good biscuits, rolls, or pastry, both light and nutritious, can be made without fail. It is always ready, always reliable, and requires but half the quantity of those of ordinary manufacture. For sale in packages to meet the wants of all, by grocers generally.

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WANTED at the SALT LAKE HOUSE. d132-3

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TO RENT!

A HOUSE of Five Rooms and Lot, in the 12th Ward, near the school House. Laid planted with fruit-bearing trees and Vegetables, the products of which will be rented with the house. E. LUDINGTON. d132-1

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Engagement and First Appearance of

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ROYAL

JAPANESE TROUPE

Consisting of TWENTY Artists, ACROBATS, JUGGLERS and EQUILIBRISTS of both sexes, in

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APRIL 26, 1870.

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4. ICHI-MATZ, Slack Rope Walker, in which she will Walk without the assistance of Balances.

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PART SECOND:

1. MAU-KETCH-I, Aged 3 years, Pyramid Bend, with Japanese Sword and expose of Davenport Brothers.

2. YAD-SU-MO-SHI, Slight of hand Performance, new and splendid Tricks.

3. KANI-SITCHI and KOTZ-KO, Balancing Pole on Shoulder,

4. O-HO-MAN-GU, The Great Oriental Hercules

5. YO-TI-MAS and OU-TO-YOU, Exercises on the Bamboo and Triangular Swinging in the Air.

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1. ICHI-MATZ, Walking and Dressing on a Telegraph Wire without Balances.

2. YAU-O-SAU-NE, New Feat in Modern Diablerie

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5. KANI-SITCHI and KOTZ-KO, In the great Cross-Ladder Feat (21 x 11) never attempted before by any other Artist in America.

Change of Performance Every Evening

An efficient Orchestra under the direction of Prof. Geo. Carless.

Doors open at 7 1/2 o'clock. Commence at 8

Sale of Tickets commence on each day at the Box office, at 11 a. m.

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SHOVELS, PICKS, PANS,

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d119-24f SUPT.

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PATENT DUST EXCLUDER.

So constructed as to enclose the works, and prevent dust from entering, thus ensuring the movement to remain as fresh without cleaning double the time that a watch will ordinarily run without this protection.

The company feel confident, after having had their Watches three years in market, and selling many thousands of them in all parts of the country, that their Watches are the best time keepers now offered to the American public.

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TESTIMONIAL.

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