

[For the Deseret News.]

NOTES FROM A POLICEMAN.

NUMBER 1.

"A chief's among you takin' notes,
And faith he'll prent them."

Having many opportunities to observe some facts, during my perambulations, which might be interesting to the public, and supposing that they might conduce to good, I offer my reflections to the readers of your columns.

I do not, however, aspire to be accounted among the motley crowd who dabble in writing for the newspapers, known as "camp poies," "correspondents," "our own correspondents," "special correspondents," &c., &c. I have been acquainted with the Press for many years, and I know their character and principle so well, that I utterly repudiate any such office or term being applied to me. I write not for the *dimes*, nor to satisfy the taste of the public, but having a little spare time while I walk my "beat," will

— "shoot folly as it flies
And catch the living manners as they rise"

and drop a few thoughts for the general good. Thus, you perceive, I do not seek to get your paper into popularity by pleasing the itching ears of the "body politic." I write fearlessly and as far as I can with truth.

While connected with the Press I was disgusted with the unfairness of its reporters when called upon to report proceedings of courts, elections, party squabbles, lectures, &c. Instead of giving both sides impartially, that the public might be correctly informed, and judge righteously, the reporter linked to his own party, and moved by his own prejudice, invariably wrote to suit the readers of his periodical, and the caprice and opinions of his faction, as will be seen by their columns—one hundred lines to self, and thirty to opponent. Thus making the mighty former of public opinion an instrument to corrupt and misguide. Every little incident or mistake that a high-minded man would overlook, or debit to the proper account, would be turned to ridicule, and to subserve sinister or selfish ends, diverting the mind from the truth.

How often do I perceive my past agree with my present experience on reading the Eastern papers. Facts as they occurred are withheld; wickedness in themselves and associates overlooked; licentiousness encouraged secretly; and it matters not how debased and degraded conduct their friends may be guilty of, and the evil influence they may exercise, all are passed over, or covered with tinsel to deceive.— While on the other hand the veriest trifle of an individual is charged to this community; the most high-minded and noble deeds of some construed to appear vicious; and uncharitable constructions placed upon innocent, and even honorable actions. Who that has read the effusions of correspondents from this place, but must come to the same conclusions? They look with jaundiced eyes upon everything here. They gaze upon the sun with smoked glass, see its spots and condemn its light. Or, in other words,

Some folks use spectacles of green,
And every object that is seen,
Verdant appears;
Others use spectacles of blue
And then a rich cerulean hue
Each object wears.

What opinion can we form of any man who, when entering a city looks only for vice, evil, and wrongs? Who concludes from the reports of a man's enemies the character he deserves? Who will condemn the limpid stream because there is a little mud at the bottom? Who will discard the lovely field of wheat because a few weeds are seen erecting their heads in it?

I perceive that men who think they can write a sentence or two, yet love not to earn their bread by the sweat of their brow, nor pay due attention to any business; who would not mould an adobe towards building these houses, nor dig with the spade to raise one grain of corn, will assume the quill and put themselves up for correspondents. Their confusions (or effusions) are swallowed with avidity by the Press—anything from Utah, anything against the "Mormons" will gain credence; the greatest monstrosities are believed; rumor is created truth; and suspicions printed, although doubted. Is it not marvelous that the public again and again deceived should at all relish the renewal of the practice? These literary aspirants, though unable to pen a fact perspicuously, and who rush at a conclusion blindly are paid for their slanders, and chuckle at the gullibility of editors and readers. They make a sorry appearance, however, in this place. Combe and Fowler would pronounce their mental calibre small; their physiognomy indicative of any thing but honor; and their intellect requiring culture. Their conduct is not improved by their assumption—their secret haunts, though known, are not illumined by their presence—and they do no credit to, what should be, that expositor of thought, and refiner of opinion, the Press. As Pope says, may be said of them,

"All fools have still an itching to deride,
And fain would be upon the laughing side."

I have had the mortification to be introduced to some of these scribblers, and thanked God that I belong not to the trade. Knowing these facts, men and their supporters, I feel justified in having concluded to doubt any statement in the papers until I have learned the facts from some reliable source, and never to believe any report of any person, not even my enemy, until verified by responsible parties. These conclusions are the results of long experience and observation; and I venture to assert that they are the feelings of the majority of those acquainted

with the workings of the Press. The Press is prostrate; its columns are open to low scribblers, and regardless of truth an innocent community must suffer under their unfeeling and reckless lashes.

Having lengthened this note beyond my intentions I defer further remarks until next week:

"Careless of censure, not too fond of fame;
Still pleased to praise, yet not afraid to blame;
Averse alike to flatter or offend—"

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE, G.S.L. City,
November 9th, 1858.

ALBERT CARRINGTON, ESQ.,

Sir:—Your letter of the 2d inst. was received too late for me to furnish for your last publication, the communication which I herewith send you.

Please insert it in your journal and much oblige
Your obedient servant,
J. FORNEY.

Early in September last, I, with others signed a letter addressed to Judge Eckels, tendering him a dinner, previous to his departure for the East. I presumed the letter was merely an invitation to a dinner, without either applauding or condemning his policy. The gentlemen who requested me to sign the letter, assured me it was merely an invitation to a dinner, consequently I signed the letter without reading it. The following is contained in said letter:—

"That regret, however, is lessened by their belief that your presence at Washington will do much to remove misapprehensions which seem to prevail there, and to cause measures to be taken for the better security of the persons and property of loyal citizens of the United States, who are residents in this community."

I had no design to cast reflection, even by any implication on this, or any other community, especially not in such an oblique manner. Much less was it my design to call in question the official policy of any Federal Officer in this Territory.

Yours truly,
J. FORNEY.

NEWS ITEMS.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, August 28.—Under this date a letter in the Austrian Gazette contains the following:—

The Sultan, when making his appearance in the Divan on New Year's Day, (26th), before the new hattı was read, which has not yet been published, addressed the dignitaries of his empire and the governors of the provinces assembled, in the following terms:—

"I have appointed you to provide for the welfare of my subjects; without distinction of oath of nationality. But I have had neglectful and unfaithful servants. Many among them have not done their duty. I have shown you kindness and you have abused it. You have made game of my indulgence. From henceforward I will be rude and severe.—Whoever shall refuse to obey shall be chastized."

The Paris correspondent of the Times, writing on Thursday evening, says:—

Letters of the 1st inst., received this morning from Constantinople bring some curious details concerning the scene that preceded the dismissal of the Sultan's brother and sons-in-law from their high official functions. Abdul Medjid seems to have displayed a vehemence and a degree of violence which none expected from him. A council was to be held at the Porte, presided over by the Sultan at which was to be read the imperial hattı concerning the new measures of economy. At the Porte were assembled all the ministers and great officers of the empire, awaiting his highness and quite unprepared for the storm which was to burst forth. They were, doubtless, taken much aback when, on alighting from his carriage, the Sultan walked straight towards the Council Hall, taking not the slightest notice of the high functionaries assembled to receive him. His countenance wore an expression of great irritation and anger, and during the reading of the hattı he gave many signs of impatience, and cast at his Ministers glances by no means calculated to tranquilize their minds. The reading over, the Imperial anger burst forth, and several of the Ministers, and especially those connected by marriage with the Sultan, heard themselves loaded with reproaches to which they dared not reply. Their master charged them with being the enemies of his throne, and with laboring to work his ruin. Some very strong language indeed seems to have been employed. Mehemet Ali Pasha, the Sultan's brother-in-law and Minister of Marine, was so stung by the invective hurled against him, according to a correspondent from Constantinople, his soul rebelled, and he could not hold his peace. "Let your Majesty," he is reported to have said, "have me brought to judgment; if I am guilty, my head belongs to you." But this reply, humble though it was, provoked such an outburst of fury that the Captain Pasha was fain to bow his head and be mute. According to a private letter I have received, the son of Redschid Pasha was likened by his Imperial father-in-law to the unclean beast, and was told that he was following in the steps of his deceased father, who had nearly ruined the Empire. In short, all, it appears, had their turn, and fled in terror from the Council Board, and on the following day, their dismissal was officially published.

Although it is alleged that, on former occasions, representations had been made to the Sultan concerning empty money boxes; unpaid troops, and seraglio extravagance, it appears that these were, for the most part, but timidly

put, or had not been sufficiently insisted upon. So that when, at last, the imminent peril and intolerable abuses compelled Ali and Faud Pashas to make plain and unvarnished reports, showing that Turkey had neither money nor credit, that the army were two years in arrear, and that things were getting daily worse, the combined surprise and shock were sufficiently severe to dispel the Sultan's apathy and throw him into a fever of apprehension, indignation, and anger."

TURKEY.—Vienna journals state that the Turkish Government has announced officially in Bosnia and Herzegovina that the levying of the tithes shall henceforth be left to the communes. By this concession, one of the principal grievances of the Christians is removed.

RUSSIAN ESTABLISHMENTS ON THE AMOOR.—The St. Petersburg Gazette contains the following letter from Nicolaevsk, a town at the mouth of the Amoor:—

"I have spent some months in surveying the projected line of railway, and have been lucky enough to discover a pass in the mountains, by which a railway can be carried, whereby I have solved a problem which has been pending for three and a half years. In the forest near Castries Bay I found wood for shipbuilding. It was said that the Amoor was not navigable, but the contrary is the case, and a steamer built in America has ascended it to a very considerable distance. Agricultural establishments on the banks of the Amoor could be made very productive; the greater part flows through a country which is in the same latitude as New Russia and Odessa.

Here we are at the north, and our climate resembles that of St. Petersburg; but half way down the river, wild vines, cork trees, and other productions of temperate climates, flourish. In this town, commerce has already assumed a certain degree of importance, though, four years ago, nothing at all existed here. We obtain from St. Petersburg coffee, sugar, and cigars, which we send to Irkoutsk, and we sell skins obtained from Siberia. We have several Americans here, and they are struck with the magnificence of the river, even compared with the Mississippi, and others of their own. There are few rivers which are navigable to so great a height. It is true that the entrance to it is not easy, there being three bars; but above them there are always from 12 to 14 feet of water, and vessels of five hundred tons can easily enter."

In the war, the Russian frigate *Aurora* passed the winter at Nicolaevsk. The country of the Amoor has various climates, and the following tributaries of it are navigable—the Ingoda, Onone, Chika, Argoun, Kamara, Zei, Bourci, Soungari, Orouci, and Sole. The keel of a war schooner, to be constructed entirely of the wood of the country, is about to be laid down, and the vessel is to be called *The First*. An establishment for constructing steam engines is now being erected; the plan has been brought from America, and is equal to any in Europe. The establishment will be able to construct engines of 1,000 horse power.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 6.

Judge Bowlin had a long interview to-day with Secretary Cass, on the subject of his mission to Paraguay. He will, to-morrow, receive instructions, the prominent features of which are that President Lopez be required to make an apology for the insult to our flag—to make reparation to the citizens of the United States who were driven out of that country, and to acknowledge his obligation to satisfy all other demands for redress, the amount of indemnity to be ascertained, probably, through a board of commissioners; also, to negotiate a commercial treaty, and obtain some guaranty for the opening of the La Plata and its tributaries, by the removal of the restrictions on trade in those waters. Only one vessel, the *Fulton*, carrying the commissioner, will at first proceed to Assumption. Should Judge B. succeed in his objects, he will forthwith return to Washington, bringing with him the convention; but in the event of an entire failure, he will direct Commodore Shubrick to send up the fleet, and with it to carry out the distinctly defined policy of the administration. The fleet will, after its business in Paraguay, show itself at several of the South American states, particularly to those with which our government has long had unsettled accounts.—[Day Book, October 9.]

WASHINGTON, September 23.—A full list of the vessels and commanding officers of the Paraguay naval expedition is annexed:—

Flag officer, W. Branford Shubrick.
Frigate Sabine, (flagship) Captain Adams.
Frigate St. Lawrence, Captain Hull.
Sloop-of-war Falmouth, Commander Farland.
Sloop-of-war Preble, Commander Jenkins.
Brig-of-war Dolphin, Commander Steedman.
Brig-of-war Bainbridge, Lieut. Renshaw.
Brig-of-war Perry, Lieut. Tilghman.
Steamer-of-war Fulton, Lieut. Almy.
Steamer-of-war Water Witch, Lieut. Pegram.
Steamer-of-war Harriet Lane, Capt. Faunce.
Steamer Memphis, Commander Marchand.
Steamer Atlanta, Commander Ridgely.
Steamer Caledonia, Commander Case.
Steamer Southern Star, Commander Pennock.
Steamer Westernport, Commander T. T. Hunter.

Steamship Supply, Lieut. Stanly.
There may be also three or four additional steamers sent out.

Several towing vessels may be employed also to take the vessels up the river.
The *Fulton*, *Water Witch*, *Harriet Lane* and *Supply*, will sail early next week. The *Sabine* will soon follow, and the rest of the vessels

will sail as soon as they are ready.—[New York Herald.]

The Washington States says of the Oregon war debt, which amounts to over \$5,000,000:—

A combination of men, in high and low positions, composed of bankers and, it is said, Senators, and their abettors are getting, or have already got, the control of this immense claim and will attempt to force it through Congress at the next session. The speculators we understand, have had their agents at work in Oregon, buying up the different claims against the Government, and on the most extravagant rates; for a few cents on the dollar. The facts before us, we think, will enable us to show this whole matter in its true colors, and expose one of the greatest attempts to deplete Uncle Sam's Treasury, which has ever been before made.

CUBA.

NEW ORLEANS, Oct. 6, '58.

TERRIFIC EXPLOSION AT HAVANA.—The steamship *Black Warrior*, from Havana 2d inst., has arrived here.

A large magazine, filled with powder, shells and rockets, exploded there on the night of the 29th ult., by which twenty-eight persons were killed outright and one hundred and five wounded, while many more were supposed to be under the ruins.

Ninety new sugar houses were totally destroyed. The gas works were rendered perfectly useless, and the city was left in darkness. The police and troops were guarding many of the buildings that were damaged.

The entire city was affected by the shock.

WASHINGTON, October 1.—In addition to the measures taken some months ago to introduce the tea plant into the United States from China, enquiries have been made by the Patent Office, through Mr. Meade, our Minister to Brazil, for obtaining tea seed from that country, where it has been successfully cultivated for thirty years.

Measures are about being taken through the Naval Expedition to Paraguay, to introduce into the United States the *mate*, or Paraguay tea; also, a valuable medicinal plant called *nard*, believed to be a sure specific against the bites of venomous insects or reptiles; and a peculiar kind of honey bee, which builds on branches of trees, instead of in hives or trunks of trees, as with the common bee.—[Courier and Enquirer, Oct. 2.]

HOG MORTALITY.—It seems, says the Hopkinsville (Ky.) Mercury, that a legion of devils have taken possession of the hogs in Daviess, Muhlenburg, McLean and the adjacent counties. A gentleman who has been traveling through these counties informs us that the mortality is astonishing. In some places the dead are piled up by hundreds, the air is black with crows, ravens and buzzards, and the stench is absolutely overpowering.

The poisoned atmosphere is producing much sickness. No satisfactory account of the cause of the epidemic has yet been assigned. It is as mysterious as the Asiatic cholera.— Under its iron hand the proudest and staliest of the porcine tribe curl their imposing tails in an agonizing kink, squeal miserably, grunt horribly, and die in despair.

GREAT HAIL STORM.—The steamer *Sam Young*, down night before last from Lasalle, when at New Bedford, on the Illinois river, met one of the heaviest hail storms on record in that part of the country. The hail fell in torrents, accompanied by tremendous winds, which bid fair to carry away the boat's cabin. Many of the hail stones were larger than hen's eggs, and the passengers agree in saying they never have seen anything in the way of a storm to compare with its severity. A remarkable circumstance is, that at Grand Pass, eight miles below, there was no hail.—[St. Louis Republican, September.]

THE YELLOW FEVER is said to be raging more fearfully at Charleston than a year or two ago at Norfolk, Virginia. It is also prevalent at Savannah, Pensacola, Mobile, Natchez and Vicksburg. Nor is it confined alone to the cities—the plantations along the Gulf coast and Mississippi river are also suffering severely. At New Orleans the epidemic still prevailed, and large draughts continued to be made upon the charity of the Howard and other benevolent associations.—[The West, Oct. 12.]

NEW YORK.—The popular belief that there is more going on in a day in New York than in some cities in a fortnight seems to be forcibly demonstrated just now. There are races for a very lofty figure—\$10,000—sparring matches, lectures on love, political meetings, operas in every known language, a trial for murder, theatres, "hops" at hotels, suicides, and in fact everything but virtue, order or decorum.—[Boston Statesman, Oct. 8.]

IOWA.—A Keokuk paper gives a distressing picture of things in Iowa, comparing its condition to that of "the doomed city of Jerusalem." They have creditors without and creditors within, every third man is a lawyer, every other man virtually a pauper, and all standing in listless and unprofitable idleness, except the police and constables.

"Gold! gold! gold!—the gold mines— all doubts removed—the border towns depopulated—the whole west in a state of excitement—Lieut. Miller starts for the gold mines—the Hon. J. H. Decker also—the mayor of Nebraska City starts for the gold mines—we start in the spring!"—[Nebraska City News of Sep. 18.]