

EDITORIALS.

THE New York *Mercantile Journal* contains a leading article, which is headed, "Danger to the Pacific Railroad." Its title is calculated to startle the reader, and its opening sentence deepens the impression! It says: "A danger threatens our communication with the Pacific." This is serious; but as we proceed, our apprehensions are somewhat relieved by learning the nature of the danger. The article continues:

"After half a century of exploration, discussion and effort, the railroad that joins the oceans has been finished, and the whole breadth of the Continent can be traversed in eight days—about the same time that steamers take to cross the Atlantic. This result was materially helped and hastened by the presence of a peculiar community in the path over those Western wilds. Think as we may of their religious belief or their moral course, the commercial fact is that they have served as a half-way house in the building of the road and in travel. Without their existence, the making of this highway of the nations would have cost much more, and perhaps not have been done even now."

"For ten years past, Congress has sought to destroy the institution of polygamy in Utah, which is repugnant to the spirit of free America. Not having succeeded, a bill is now pending which proposes to hedge in polygamists with disfranchisement, disqualification for jury duty and office, and other disabilities; and authorizes declaration of martial law for its enforcement."

It says this scheme has many opponents, who declare that the railroad, with the "Gentile" immigration it makes possible, will bring the influences of the age to bear on the institution, and uproot it without a social convulsion; but if coercive means are used against the "Mormons," the worst of consequences may follow, and the railroad be in danger. It gives General Sherman's opinion upon the subject of penal or disqualifying legislation, which he pronounces bad policy; and closes by saying that "it is certainly to be hoped that the matter can be settled without endangering the commerce of the world."

What is to prevent it being settled without endangering the commerce of the world? Nothing but the folly of men 'of-the-holier-than-thou' kind, who are anxious to have a gauge made for every man's conscience of the exact proportions of their own—men who if they had the power, would have an iron bedstead constructed of their own precise length, and if a man happened to be a little longer than it, would cut him off, and if a little shorter, have him stretched to its size—men who are more zealous for what they think and call righteousness than the Almighty himself; for He gives men their unrestricted agency here to worship him or not, and to follow the dictates of their own consciences; but they would rob them of that right. It is of just such a class as this that the "ring" in this city is composed. They

to the "Mormons," and would have the country think that no "Mormon" ever

—would refuse
—hope to merit heaven by making earth a hell!

THE telegrams a few days ago announced the death of Miss Alice Cary, celebrated as one of America's most gifted female poets. The demise of this lady will create a painful hiatus in the literary circles of the metropolis, of which she was a bright ornament and member. The following biographical sketch of the deceased is condensed from Eastern journals. Her family emigrated from Old to New England in early colonial times; but were originally French Huguenots. Miss Cary was born at Mt. Healthy, near Cincinnati, O., in April 1820, one paper says; another paper says she was born in 1822. She appeared as a poetess when eighteen years old, her first piece, printed in the Cincinnati papers, being received with considerable favor. She moved to New York in 1850, where she and her sister Phoebe, also a poetess, lived together until death severed them. Miss Cary published her first volumes of poems in 1850, and for several succeeding years she published works, in prose and poetry. Besides these, she has been a regular contributor to many of the leading periodicals of the country.

The residence of Misses Alice and Phoebe Cary has been a favorite place of resort for the leading authors of New York, for years, the reunions thus oc-

casioned being described as of a most delightful character. The two sisters were as much beloved by those best acquainted with them, for their virtues and unobtrusiveness, as they were celebrated as authoresses; and the demise of Alice will be sincerely regretted in the circle which they have so long adorned.

NOTICES may occasionally be seen in the papers of the effects produced by the application of what is called the "mad stone," in cases of hydrophobia and snake bite. These statements are frequently met with objections from the incredulous, but a Mr. Ira Wakefield, of Webster, Worcester, Co., Mass., relates, in Moore's *Rural New Yorker*, a wonderful instance of this kind, in curing one of his own children of the effects of rattlesnake bite.

Mr. Wakefield says that in the fall of 1865, he and his family moved to the town of Marion, Lynn Co., Iowa; and in the following spring they moved into Otter Creek township, on the open prairie, near to a place known as Long Grove. In the following summer he framed a small house, and as he prepared his timber for it, he packed it beside the cabin he was living in, placing it on small round sticks to keep it from the ground.

One day as he sat in his cabin reading, he was startled by the screams of his little daughter, three years old, who was outside at play. He ran out and saw her coming from the pile of timber. He took her into the house, and in a few seconds she exclaimed, drawing her knees up to her chin: "Oh, papa, my stomach, my stomach." He laid the child on the bed, and she vomited; and as soon as she could speak she said something had bit her toe. He examined her feet and on the big toe of the left foot saw a small red spot like the sting of a bee. The thought of a rattlesnake instantly occurred to him, and he went to the timber to see if he could find one; he failed to do so. He went into the cabin, and again looked at the child's toe, and now he discovered that the wound had a purple ring around it, about the size of a small shirt button. Being satisfied that the bite was the work of some deadly insect or reptile, he went again to the timber, taking a stick, with which he poked under it, and drew therefrom a rattlesnake nearly a yard long.

This was about three o'clock in the afternoon. He instantly sought help from his neighbors, who rendered him what assistance they could; but being unable to procure either whiskey or medical aid, all their efforts were unavailing, and ring after ring, about half an inch apart, made its appearance on the child's foot and leg, until, at six o'clock, they had reached her knee, and she was failing fast.

At this juncture one of the neighbors suggested the use of the madstone, which Mr. Wakefield was assured would cure if the child could be got to it in time. But the owner of it, a Mr. Turner Evans, lived ten miles off. In despair a team was prepared and the child and the father were driven thither as fast as possible, the child falling into a state of unconsciousness before they reached the end of the journey.

On entering the house of Evans he told the father to be perfectly easy, for if the child had but one breath to draw when the stone was applied it would save her.

The precious mineral, the color of soap stone, porous, about half an inch long, by three eighths of an inch wide and deep, was produced, and after being steeped in milk and hot water, was applied to the child's leg, just below the knee, a scratch with a pin, sufficient to start the blood, being first made. The stone clung to the scratch like a magnet, the spectators being able to see it filling with poisonous matter which it drew from the child. As soon as full it would drop off, and after being washed in the milk and water it was put on again. In a little while the wound on the toe began to bleed profusely, the blood being perfectly black. In an hour the child's sense of feeling returned; in two hours she asked for water, and in four hours the stone refused to work, when it was declared by its owner that the poison was all extracted. In the morning they returned home, the child safe and well.

The Santa Barbara, (Cal.) Press, of the 11th instant, contains an account of one of the most atrocious cases of poisoning on record. The circumstance occurred up the valley of the Santa Clara river, about twenty-five or thirty miles from San Buenaventura. One Joe. Bartlett possessed a claim, and had placed a man

named Geo. Starr in possession to keep it for him. On the morning of the 6th inst., Starr was away from his post for two or three hours, and on returning he made some pancakes for his dinner, from a sack of flour in his cabin. While eating them he noticed they were extremely bitter, and stopped eating. In a few minutes he felt the muscles at the back of his neck begin to twitch and contract violently. Satisfied now that the flour was poisoned, he swallowed all the oil he could procure, and set off to the nearest neighbors to obtain assistance. Before he reached them, the muscles of his legs contracted so violently that he was brought to the ground several times. On reaching them the whites of eggs and oil were freely administered to him in an effort to save him, and a physician was sent for. Before the latter arrived, Starr was in a deplorable condition, and it was only by long continued efforts that the poison was neutralized and the man's life saved.

The physician analysed some of the cakes, and found a large quantity of strychnine. No clue to the perpetrator of the vile deed had been found, but the supposition is that some of the settlers had poisoned the flour with the design of doing away with Bartlett and Starr and so obtain possession of the claim.

A DECLARATION of war by China against England or France, or both, according to a letter dated Jan. 20, 1871, written by the Japanese correspondent of a western cotemporary, is now almost sure, and is said to be impatiently looked for by "every white man and woman in the East." The massacre of French Christians at Tientsin, in June last, by a Chinese mob, and the tardiness of France, owing to her terrible internal troubles, in compelling reparation, seems to have had the effect of increasing Chinese arrogance, and of confirming the notions they entertain of their superiority over all other nations; and, says the correspondent, "From the Peiho, north, to Cochin China, the Celestial Empire resounds with noisy notes of war, and hosts of its soldiery drill in rude mud forts near the Taku bastions."

Their troops, ships, weapons of war, discipline, and everything else connected with their military and naval systems are sadly behind the times, if the description furnished by the correspondent be correct, and he thinks that if a contest with European powers is inaugurated, overwhelming defeat to the Chinese will surely and speedily be the result.

Their troops are but an assemblage of "braves" selected from the several guilds; their arms a conglomeration of every patent for generations past, down to the Gatling and Armstrong gun. Their officers issue drill orders with the looseness of a Nevada militiaman; their discipline is mythical; their courage spasmodical; and their war will amount to the burning of half a dozen of their cities; their cockle-shell gunboats will all be blown out of the water, their "ever victorious" troops will be slaughtered like dogs, and a peace will be consummated by conceding to foreigners the right to build railroads and telegraphs in the empire.

Not a very flattering picture, but a very probable result of hostilities between China and England or France. China clings with Eastern tenacity to old notions and traditions; the intelligence of her people is unquestionable, but like that of the beaver, it is anything but progressive. Nothing will so soon awake them from the dreams of the past and teach them how far they are behind the times as a sharp shock of war, and that may be very near at hand. What the nations view as Chinese conservatism and intolerance can not be perpetuated; they belong to a past age, and must yield and fall before the influences now brought to bear amongst them by the western nations. If peaceful efforts can not effect the desired revolution, these western nations will sooner or later have war. They think it necessary for China's advancement that her self-desired and self-imposed ostracism should be broken down, and she made to understand that she is one among the nations. They are determined that she shall not much longer ignore this fact.

The French correspondent of the Pall Mall Gazette (London) says that Louis Napoleon was urged into the war with Prussia by the Court, who constantly frightened him with the bugbear of the growth of the Republican party, which had shown itself so formidable at the time of the plebiscite; and besides, he was also urged by the people of Paris,

from whom the preservation of the empire could be bought only at the price of yielding to their cries of "On to Berlin!" That Napoleon was quite prepared for a disaster is obvious, he says, not only from what he was told, but from the preparations and the arrangements he made. To prove that his views are correct, he thus describes the disposition which was made of the jewelry, plate, etc., which were the private property of the Emperor and Empress:

"When the Tuilleries had been invaded after the proclamation of the Republic, the absence of many things known to have been there formerly showed what measures had been taken. The so-called jewels of the Crown had all been deposited in the Bank of France, but not a single piece of jewelry belonging personally to the Empress was to be seen. The Empress was supposed to have taken all away, but then the silver plate had also disappeared. The magnificent gold and silver table services presented to the Emperor by the Sultan, the Czar Alexander, and the Viceroy of Egypt were all gone. The splendid cradle of the Prince imperial, presented by the town of Lyons, was also not to be found. The magnificent collections of treasures of art which Napoleon had accumulated at the Palaces of St. Cloud and Compiègne were also no longer to be seen. All these had been removed long ago. From the very day when war had been declared, the railway stations of the Nord, of Strasbourg, and of Orleans (for Spain) were crammed with gigantic boxes bearing away to various destinations the "personal" property of the Imperial family, and one cannot help asking oneself how it is that nothing of this has found its way to public notice."

HENRY Ward Beecher says many a man has offered prayers to the devil when he thought he was kneeling at the throne of God.

THE Washington correspondent of the New York Herald, foreshadows the idea that something more than mere money will be demanded on the part of the United States in the settlement of the Alabama question. It is now said that all the gold in the Bank of England and all the money that England can command could not begin to be a sufficient reparation for the damage England has done to American commerce. Shrewd diplomatists assert that Great Britain is well aware of this, and that her Majesty's Commissioners will come prepared to assent, though it may be, with reluctance, to the demands the United States will make. England, they say, cannot afford to remain much longer at issue with us. European complications will compel her to come to terms, and her Commissioners cannot afford to return without settling the questions they are coming to discuss. The only satisfactory solution of these questions is for Great Britain to withdraw her flag from the American continent, and cede her rights to the Republic.

This may be a very pleasing idea to the Fenians, and they, no doubt, would be delighted with such an arrangement; but what will Great Britain have to say to such a bargain? And should she consent, will the Dominion have no objections to offer to the transfer? There are good reasons just now for both England and Canada demurring to any bargain by which Canada should be transferred to the United States.

LOOK OUT FOR THIEVES.—Mr. Milano Pratt, of this city, dropped into the office on Saturday afternoon and informed us of a petty instance of theft which occurred on the evening previous, by which he was the loser. He and several members of his family came up from their home in a team to attend the lecture at the Tabernacle. He secured the team at the entrance gates, leaving the animals covered with a pair of pretty good grey blankets, and a good buffalo robe in the wagon. At the close of the lecture he found that his blankets and robe had been stolen. He has been in the habit of leaving his team with the blankets on, as he did on the evening referred to, when he has attended previous lectures; but has never had them or anything left in his wagon stolen.

This is not the only case of theft under similar circumstances of which we have heard of late. Last week a young man was at a social party at the Fifteenth Ward Hall, and left his horse covered with a buffalo robe, standing near the building. At about ten o'clock he went out to look at his team, but his buffalo robe had been taken, and from the appearance of things, it had been stolen.

Our citizens cannot be too careful in taking precautions against thieves. There was a time in this Territory when doors could be left unlocked, clothes could be left out all night upon lines, horses covered with blankets could be hitched, and carriages

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