

[From the Liverpool Albion.]

Discovery and Colonization of America.

The following interesting article is abridged from an address delivered by the Hon. Edward Everett, before the New York Historical Society:—

"In the last quarter of the fifteenth century an Italian mariner, a citizen of the little Republic of Genoa, who had hitherto gained a livelihood as a pilot in the commercial marine of different countries, made his appearance successively at various courts in the south and west of Europe, soliciting patronage and aid for a bold and novel project in navigation. The state of the times was in some degree favorable to the adventure. The Portuguese had for half a century been pushing their discoveries southward upon the coast of Africa, and they had ventured into the Atlantic as far as the Azores. Several conspiring causes, and especially the invention of the art of printing, had produced a general revival of intelligence. The idea of reaching the east by a voyage around the African continent had begun to assume consistency; but the vastly more significant idea that the earth is a globe, and capable of being circumnavigated, had by no means become incorporated into the general intelligence of the age.

The Portuguese navigators felt themselves safe as they crept along the African coast, venturing each voyage a few leagues farther, doubling a new headland, ascending some before-unexplored river, holding a palaver with some new tribe of the native races; but, to turn the prow of their vessels boldly to the west, to embark upon an ocean not known in the popular geography of the day to have an outer shore, to pass that bourne from which no traveler had ever returned, and from which experience had not taught that any traveler could return, and thus to reach the east by sailing in a western direction, this was a conception which no human being is known to have formed before Columbus, and which he proposed to the governments of Italy, of Spain, of Portugal, and of England, and for a long time without success.

After years of fruitless and heartsick solicitation, after offering in effect to this monarch and to that monarch the gift of a hemisphere, the great discoverer touches upon a partial success. His sorrowful perseverance touched the heart of a noble princess worthy the throne which she adorned. The new world, which was just escaping the subtle kingcraft of Ferdinand and was saved to Spain by the womanly compassion of Isabella. Three small vessels, one of which was without a deck, and neither of them probably exceeding the capacity of a pilot-boat, and even these impressed into the public service, composed the expedition fitted out under royal patronage, to realize that magnificent conception in which the creative mind of Columbus had planted the germs of a new world. No chapter of romance equals the interest of this expedition. The most fascinating of the works of fiction which have issued from the modern press have, to my taste, no attraction compared with the pages in which the first voyage of Columbus is described by Robertson, and still more by our own Lyng and Prescott, the last two enjoying the advantage over the great Scottish historian of possessing the lately discovered journals and letters of Columbus himself.

The departure from Palos, where a few years before he had begged a morsel of bread and a cup of water for his wayworn child; his final farewell to the old world at the Canaries; his entrance upon the trade winds, which then, for the first time, filled a European sail; the portentous variation of the needle, never before observed; the fearful course westward and westward, day after day, and night after night, over the unknown ocean; the mutinous and ill-appeased crew, at length, when hope had turned to despair in every heart but one; the tokens of land, the cloudbanks on the western horizon, the logs of drifted wood, the fresh shrub floating with its leaves and berries, the flocks of land birds, the shoals of fish that inhabit shallow water, indescribable smell of the shore, the mysterious presentiment that ever goes before a great event; and, finally, on that ever memorable night of the 12th of October, 1492, the moving light seen by the sleepless eye of the great discoverer himself from the deck of the Santa Maria, and in the morning the real undoubted land, swelling up from the bosom of the deep, with its plains and hills, and forests, and rocks, and streams, and strange, new races of men; these are incidents in which the authentic history of the discovery of our continent excels the specious wonders of romance, as much as gold excels tinsel, or the sun in the heavens outshines the flickering taper.

Before he sailed from Spain, Columbus was furnished with a piece of parchment a foot and a half square, by Ferdinand and Isabella, creating him their Viceroy and High Admiral in all the seas, islands, and continents which he should discover, his heirs for ever to enjoy the same offices. The Viceroy of the absolute monarchs of Aragon and Castile! Thus was America conquered before it was discovered. By the law of nations, as then understood, (and I fear there is less change in its doctrines at the present day than we are ready to think) a sovereign right to the territory and government of all newly-discovered regions inhabited by heathen tribes was believed to vest in the Christian prince under whose auspices the discovery was made, subject to the ratification of the Pope, as the ultimate disposer of the kingdoms of the earth. On the return of Columbus from his first voyage the King of Spain lost no time in obtaining from Pope Alexander the Sixth a grant of all the heathen lands discovered by Columbus, or which might hereafter be discovered in the west.

The territorial extension of Portugal and Spain, which resulted from the discovery of America, was followed by the most extraordinary effects upon the commerce, the finances, and the politics generally of those two countries, and through them, of the world. The overland trade to the

east was abandoned. The whole of South America and a considerable part of North America were, in the course of the sixteenth century, settled by those governments, who organized in their transatlantic possessions a colonial system of the most rigid and despotic character, reflecting as far as was practicable in distant provinces beyond the sea the stern features of the mother country. The precious metals and a monopoly of the trade to the east were the great objects. Aliens were forbidden to enter the American vice-royalties; none but a contraband trade was carried on by foreigners at the seaports.

If this great territorial extension was fruitless of beneficial consequences to America, it was not less so to the mother country. For Spain it was the commencement of a period, not of prosperity, but of decline. The rapid influx of the precious metals, in the absence of civil liberty and of just principles and institutions of intercourse and industry, was productive of manifold evils; and from the reign of Philip II, if not of Charles V, the Spanish monarchy began to sink from its haughty position at the head of the European family. I do not ascribe this downfall exclusively to the cause mentioned; but the possession of the two Indies, with all their treasures, did nothing to arrest, accelerated even, the progress of degeneracy. Active causes of decline no doubt existed at home; and of these the inquisition was the chief.

But let us pass on to the next century, during which events of the utmost consequence followed each other in rapid succession; and the germs of institutions destined to influence the fortunes of Christendom were planted by humble men, who little comprehended their own work. In the course of the seventeenth century the French and English took possession of all that part of North America which was not pre-occupied by the Spaniards. The French entered by the St. Lawrence; followed that noble artery to the heart of the continent; traced the great lakes to their parent rivulets and weering fountains; descended the Mississippi. The English stretched along the coast. The geographer would have pronounced that the French, in appropriating to themselves the mighty basins of the Mississippi and the St. Lawrence, had got possession of the better part of the continent.

But it was an attempt to compose the second volume of the "Fortunes of America" in advance of the first. This it was ordained should be written at Jamestown and Plymouth. The French, though excelling all other nations of the world in the art of communicating for temporary purposes with savage tribes, seem, still more than the Spaniards, to be destitute of the august skill required to found new states. I do not know that there is such a thing in the world as a colony of France growing up into a prosperous commonwealth. A half a million of French peasants in Lower Canada, tenaciously adhering to the manners and customs which their fathers brought from Normandy two centuries ago, and a third part of that number of planters of French descent in Louisiana, are all that is left to bear living witness to the amazing fact, that not a century ago France was the mistress of the better half of North America.

It was on the Atlantic coast, and in the colonies originally planted or soon acquired by England, that the great work of the seventeenth century was performed, slowly, toilsomely, effectively.—A mighty work for America and mankind, of which even we, fond and proud of it as we are, do but faintly guess the magnitude. Feeble germs of settlement grew to the consistency of powerful colonies; habits of civil government rooted themselves in a soil that was continually being stirred by political agitation; the frame of future republics knit itself, as it were, in embryo, under a monarchical system of colonial rule; and in the middle of the eighteenth century the approach of mighty changes began to be dimly foreseen by gifted spirits.

A faint streak of purple light blushed along the eastern sky. Two things worth mentioning contributed to this result. One was the absence of the precious metals. The British colonies were rich in the want of gold. As the abundance of gold and silver in Mexico and Peru contributed, in various ways, to obstruct the prosperity of the Spanish colonies, the want of them acted not less favourably here. The other circumstance which operated in the most favorable manner upon the growth of the Anglo-American colonies was the fact, that they were called into existence less by the government than by the people; that they were settled, not by bodies of colonists, but by individual emigrants. The first settlement, that of Virginia, was commenced in the spirit of worldly enterprise, with no slight dash, however, of chivalry and romance on the part of its leader. In the next generation this colony became the favourite resort of the loyal cavaliers and gentlemen who were disgusted by the austerities of the English Commonwealth or fell under its suspicion. In the meantime, New England was founded by those who suffered the penalties of non-conformity.

The mighty change of 1649 stopped the tide of emigration to New England, but recruited Virginia with those who were disaffected to Cromwell. In 1624 the island of Manhattan was purchased of the Indians for twenty-four dollars, a sum of money, by the way, which seems rather low for twenty-two thousand acres of land, including the site of this great metropolis, but which would, if put out at compound interest at seven per cent. in 1624, not perhaps fall so very much short of even of its present value; though I admit that a dollar for 1,000 acres is quite cheap for choice spots on the 5th avenue. Maryland next attracted those who adhered to the ancient faith of the Christian world.

New Jersey and Pennsylvania were mainly settled by persecuted Quakers; but the latter offered an asylum to the Germans whom the sword of Louis XIV drove from the Palatinate. The

French Huguenots; driven out by the revocation of the edict of Nantes, scattered themselves from Massachusetts to Carolina. The Dutch and Swedish settlements on the Hudson and the Delaware provided a kindred home for such of their countrymen as desired to try the New World. The Whigs of England who rebelled against James II, in 1685, and were sent to the transatlantic colonies, lived long enough to meet in exile the adherents of his son, who rebelled against George I, in 1715. The oppressed Protestants of Salzburg came with Oglethorpe to Georgia; and the Highlanders who fought for Charles Edward, in 1745, were deported by hundreds to North Carolina. The revolt of the colonies in 1775, the Declaration of Independence in 1776, the battles of the Revolutionary war, the alliance with France, the acknowledgment of American Independence by the treaty of 1783, the establishment of a great federative republic, the illustrious career of Lafayette, the European reputation of Franklin, and the towering character of Washington, gave to the United States a great and brilliant name in the family of nations.

Thousands in every part of Europe then probably heard of America, with any distinct impressions, for the first time; and they now heard of it as a region realizing the wildest visions.—Hundreds in every walk of life began to resort to America, and, especially, ardent young men, who were dissatisfied with the political condition of Europe. Among these was your late venerable President, Albert Gallatin, one of the most eminent men of the last generation, who came to this country before he attained his majority; and the late celebrated Sir Isambert Brunel, the architect of the Thames tunnel. Before the Revolution, the great West was shut even to the subjects of England. A royal proclamation of 1763 forbade the extension of the settlements in North America beyond the Ohio.

But without such a prohibition, the still unbroken power of the Indian tribes would have prevented any such extension. The successful result of the revolutionary war did not materially alter the state of things in this respect. It was the adoption of the constitution of the United States in 1789 which gave stability to the union and confidence to the people. As yet no acquisition of territory had been made by the United States beyond the limits of the British colonies; but in 1803 a most important step was taken in the purchase of Louisiana, by which our possessions were extended, though with an unsettled boundary both on the south and the north, to the Pacific Ocean. The war in 1812 reduced the Indian tribes in the Northwestern States; and the campaigns of General Jackson a few years later broke the power of the native races on the southern frontier. Florida was acquired by treaty from Spain in 1819; and the Indians in Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi were removed to the west of the River Mississippi ten or twelve years later.

Black Hawk's war in Wisconsin took place in 1833, and a series of Indian treaties, both before and after that event, had extinguished the Indian title to all the land east of the Mississippi, and to considerable tracts west of that river. Texas was annexed to the Union in 1845, and in 1848 New Mexico and California were added to our vast domains. These acquisitions, not inferior in extent to all that there was sold in the Roman conquests, have resulted in our possession of a zone of territory of the width of twenty degrees of latitude, stretching from ocean to ocean, and nearly equal in extent to the whole of Europe. [Square miles of the United States, 3,760,073; in Europe, 3,700,971; see American Almanac for 1835, pp 315 and 316.]

It is all subject to the power of the United States; a portion of it has attained the civilization of the old world, while other portions shall off, through all degrees of culture, to the log-house of the frontier settler, the cabin of the trapper, and the wigwam of the savage. Within this vast domain there are millions of acres of fertile land, to be purchased at moderate prices, according to its position and its state of improvement, and there are hundreds of millions of acres in the state of nature, and gradually sold at the government price of a dollar and a quarter per acre. Ever and anon some sharp specific catastrophe gives an intense activity to emigration. When the reign of terror was enthroned in France, and when everything in any way conspicuous, whether for station, wealth, talent, or service, of every age and of either sex, from the crowned monarch to the gray-haired magistrate and the timid maiden, was brought to the guillotine, hundreds of thousands emigrated at once from the devoted kingdom.

The convulsions of San Domingo drove most of the European population of the island to the United States. But beyond everything else which has been witnessed in modern times, the famine which prevailed a few years since in Ireland gave a terrific impulse to emigration. Not less, probably, than one million of her inhabitants left her shores within five years. The population of this island, as highly favoured in the gifts of nature as any spot on the face of the earth, has actually diminished more than 1,800,000 since the famine year. It is a curious coincidence, that, as the first mighty wave of the hostile immigration that burst upon Europe before the time of our Saviour, consisted of tribes belonging to the great Celtic race, the remains of which, identified by their original dialect, are still found in Brittany, in Wales, in the highlands of Scotland, and especially in Ireland; so by far the greater portion of the new and friendly immigration to the United States consists of persons belonging to the same fervid, imaginative, and too often oppressed race. I have heard in the villages of Wales, and the highlands of Scotland, the gospel preached in substantially the same language in which Brennus uttered his haughty summons to Rome, and in which the mystic songs of the Druids were chanted in the depths of the primeval forests of France and England, in the time of Julius Cæsar.

It is still spoken by thousands of Scotch, Welsh,

and Irish immigrants, in all parts of the United States. This Celtic Exodus, as it has been aptly termed, is to all the parties immediately connected with it one of the most important events of the day. To the emigrants themselves it may be regarded as a passing from death to life. It will benefit Ireland by reducing a surplus population and restoring a sounder and juster relation of capital and labor. It will benefit the laboring classes in England, where wages have been kept down to the starvation point by the struggle between the native population and the inhabitants of the sister island.

This benefit will extend from England to ourselves, and will lessen the pressure of that competition which our labour is obliged to sustain with the ill-paid labor of Europe; while the constant influx into America of stout and efficient hands supplies the greatest want in a new country, which is that of labor, gives value to land, and facilitates the execution of every species of private enterprise and public work. Ladies and gentlemen, my humble tale is told. Its first incident is Columbus, begging bread for his child at the gate of a convent. His last finds you the stewards of this immense abundance, the almoners of this more than imperial charity, providing employment and food for starving nations, and a home for fugitive races."

But the Nation is proving recreant to its trust.—[Ed. News.]

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND—as the State establishment is here called, is in an interesting position. One bishop insists upon one doctrine, another bishop insists upon another. There are almost as many creeds and doctrines as there are bishops—all conflicting with each other. The clergy subjected to these bishops are much to be pitied, as are also the congregations; and they write to the Archbishop of Canterbury, begging him to interfere, and to make known to them and to the world what the church teaches and what it does not—in fact, what the church is! The poor archbishop is at his wit's end, and knows not what to do, so he writes back in reply, that he has no power either to blame what the people think wrong, or to point out what is right. Thus it is a church without a head, without authority, and without any particular fixed creed or doctrine. This is a curious dilemma. What can the poor church do? It cannot ask its head to settle matters, and put an end to the disputes and contentions which are raging in its loving bosom, because, forsooth, its head is a woman, who has got a large family of children to a tend to, and who is otherwise employed in balls, concerts and parties. They laugh at Rome for having once had a woman for Pope, (Pope Joan of famous memory) and cannot see their own folly in having a woman for their head or Pope; and not now, for once only, but oftentimes before. In this headless condition, tumbling to pieces by their own distractions, and bowing beneath the weight of public obloquy and contempt, with nothing in the world that keeps them a-going but their wealth and their money (money makes the marego), they have, strange to say, this holy church descended from the Apostles, as they pretend, and the depository of truth and righteousness, has, in its uncertainty as to what is truth and what is right, appealed to Parliament for assistance, to devise means to set them right and put them in the right way. In plain words, they have petitioned for the permission of reviving an old and extinct body, called "Convocation," in order that this body may meet and put all things to rights. A convocation signifies in plain language a Parliament House, or Congress of Priests. If their petition is granted, what a strange spectacle it will be to the world! A confused assemblage of men, with very little mind, very little conscience, and very little religion, met together to settle and guide the minds, consciences, and religion of the English people! What strange arrogance, too! Men who cannot agree, who know not what to think and what to believe, assuming to make the English people agree, and to teach them, and enforce upon them, what to think and what to believe! The subject was brought forward in the House of Lords, last Friday, by Lord Redesdale, and his motion was carried. The debate which preceded, was both curious and interesting. Thus this heterogeneous church is about to make a spade whereby to dig its own grave.—[Correspondence of N. Y. Herald, Aug. 5, '57.]

That is the condition of every church on the earth, except the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

FEMALE EDUCATION.—A writer in a late number of the North British Review observes: "Instead of educating every girl as though she were born to be an independent, self-supporting member of society, we educate her to become a mere dependent, a hanger-on, or, as the law delicately phrases it, a chattel. In some respects, indeed, we err more barbarously than those nations among whom a plurality of wives is permitted, and who regard women purely as so much live stock; for among such people women are, at all events, provided with shelter, with food and clothing—they are "cared" for as cattle are. There is a completeness in such a system. But among ourselves, we treat women as cattle, without providing for them as cattle. We take the worst part of barbarism and the worst part of civilization, and work them into a heterogeneous whole. We bring up our women to be dependent, and then leave them without any one to depend upon. There is no one, there is nothing for them to lean upon, and they fall to the ground. Now, what every woman, no less than every man, should have to depend upon, is an ability, after some fashion or other, to turn labor into money. She may or may not be compelled to exercise it, but every one ought to possess it. If she belong to the richer classes, she may have to exercise it if to the poorer, she assuredly will."