DESERET EVENING NEWS.

Saturday, May 30, 1868.

THEATRES IN VIENNA.—Dr. Bellows writes thus of theatrical matters:—

"The theatre in Vienna, is an institution of incredible importance. Many people seem to live on its breath. The performances are the most familiar topic of conversation, and in a banking house, in the busiest hours, I was kept waiting to-day while the manager discussed the merits of Gounod and Wagner with a trio of earnest German visitors. The Court Theatre, a wretched place under the imperial roof, has a most refined and accomplished company, who act, on the whole, better than any company I have ever seen. The parquette is open to the public, but the boxes are bought by the aristocracy, and they assemble as if at a family party, to meet always the same people and enjoy society without any domestic trouble or expense. There is no extravagance of costume and no excess of beauty in these boxes. It is very much the same with the Royal Opera, which has a shabby house but an excellent company. But it is in the people's theatres that one sees how serious is the charm of theatrical entertainments for this community. Really, to see their democratic aspirations acted out in a play, seems almost better to them than to have the trouble of sustaining them in actual life! They enjoy a sharp satire on a brainless prince or a meddling bigot, better than the abatement of aristocratic or ecclesiastical hindrances. The Viennese have lost the capacity for public life and administrative and executive action under the long reign of military bureaucracy, and that form of paternal government which is an iron hand in a silken glove."

SIR ROBERT NAPIER, THE HERO OF ABYSSINIA.—Sir Robert Napier, who had chief command of the British forces in Abyssinia, is no relation of Lord Napier, formerly Ambassador at Washington, and now Governor of Madras; nor of Sir Charles James Napier, of Indian celebrity; nor of Sir William Napier, author of the celebrated "History of the Peninsular War;" nor of Admiral Sir Charles Napier, who took Acre in 1840, but did not take Cronstadt in 1855; nor of Sir George Napier, formerly Governor of Cape Colony; nor yet of Joseph Napier, who was Lord Chancellor of Ireland in 1858—9; all of whom are kin to the celebrated John Napier, Baron of Murchiston, whose invention of logarithms was first published in the year 1593, at Edinburgh. Sir Robert Napier, now fifty-eight years of age, is a native of Ceylon, entered the India army at the age of sixteen, and has participated in most of the military enterprises in India during the last forty years. Without family connections or patronage he has fought his way upward to the foremost rank in the Indian army, is a Knight of the Bath and of the Star of India, and will probably obtain a peerage and large pension for his success in Abyssinia.

A FROG STORY.—One is half inclined to accept as indubitable what Elian tells us about the water-snakes and frogs of Egypt. The former have, he informs us, a passionate liking for frogs—that is, for devouring and digesting them. No one knows this better than the frog, and, accordingly, when they meet in a pond, wonderful is the cunning that ensues. The water snake glides up as if intentless of evil, but our other army friend is quite aware of the intentions of the passionless-looking snake. He makes for the nearest twig, seizes it, and carries it across his mouth, and then fearlessly approaches the hydra. The latter now makes at the frog with open jaws; but the twig across the frog's mouth is much wider than the jaws of the snake, and he can by no possibility swallow the much desired frog. The latter looks down his enemy's throat from the outside, holds fast to the protecting twig, and laughs. The water-snake tries again and again to glide around his anticipated victim, but the frog always contrives to keep him in view, and the end of every attempt is that the foiled snake finds the bar carried by his anticipatory victim lying across his open jaws, and the frog once more laughing down his throat. The hydra at length gives up in despair, and "froggy," plumping into a safe spot, where he knows his kindred to be assembled, tells his exciting tale, raising a very din of croaking congratulations.

EXTINCTION OF RACE IN THE ANIMAL KINGDOM.—It is sad, at least to the naturalist, to contemplate the extinction of the animal kingdom. From the days of the plasiosaurus and megatherium, what a magnificent variety of zoological specimens have been lost to the world! Imagine the feelings of an enthusiastic naturalist who, having ventured to Mauritius in the early part of the last century, on the strength of a sailor's yarn to catch or at least behold the last living Dodo, arrived only in time to find a solitary skeleton in bad repair, and two eggs both addled.

It appears, however, that we are now threatened with another, and in many senses, a more serious case of extinction. There is reason to apprehend, at no great distance of time, the total disappearance from the animal creation of the elephant. This is owing to the enormous destruction of these grand old beasts which has been and is still going on year after year for purposes of commerce, for self-protection, and for mere sport.

In a single province of Ceylon over 3,500 elephants were killed in three years by the natives for the sake of a few shillings bounty per head. Many thousands are annually destroyed in India and Africa for the sake of the ivory, the demand for which is so great that to supply the manufacturers of Sheffield alone requires the slaughter of over twenty thousand elephants every year. The elephant is not prolific, its rate of increase being less than that of any other known animal, and even less than that of man. Nature cannot, therefore, hold out very much longer against such wholesale destruction, and it is by no means improbable that the child is now born who may live to see the last elephant.

Nor is this paucity of the noblest and one of the most valuable, by any means the only valuable animal slowly but surely dying out. The whale and seal, the buffalo, moose, elk and deer, are yearly growing more and more rare. If the world, as is not probable, according to Dr. Cumming, should last a thousand years longer, and the same unequal combat between man and brute continues, it is safe to predict that the former will have the universe entirely to himself, or that it will [illegible] him and such of the animal creation as are either too insignificant to excite his anger or covetousness, or too intimately associated with his daily needs and labors to be [illegible].

TO-DAY AND TO-MORROW.—To-day we gather bright and beautiful flowers; to-morrow they are faded and dead. To-day [illegible] to-morrow, sere and fallen, they crumble beneath our tread. To-day the earth is covered with a carpet of green; to-morrow it is broken with the withered grass. To-day the vigorous stalk only bends before the gale; to-morrow, leafless and sapless, a child may break the little stem. To-day the ripened fruit and waving grain; to-morrow the land is taking its Sabbath after toil. To-day we hear sweet songsters of meadow and forest, the hum of myriads of insects; to-morrow breathe softly, all noise is hushed and silent. To-day a stately edifice, [illegible] and surroundings, attracts the passer-by; to-morrow a heap of ruins marks the site. To-day there are cattle on a thousand hills; to-morrow they fill the slaughter. To-day a man walks forth in all the pride and joy of life; to-morrow he is gone. To—"the fashions of this world passeth away." [illegible] and though we may pass away like the faded leaf and the sapless stalk, we shall "arise to newness of life,"

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The great stove trial was resumed yesterday at 12 o'clock, before a largely increased crowd over the day preceding. The utmost good humor seemed to prevail, both among the exhibitors and spectators, all of whom seemed thoroughly imbued with the good old P. R. principle of "[illegible]." [illegible] to the judges stand. [illegible] with other citizens [illegible] entries were the same as at the previous trial, and the engineers had not [illegible].

At ten minutes [illegible] the drum tapped, and all lighted up. [illegible] Norton's [illegible] Charter Oak, Rice, Bros. & Co., bread weighed [illegible] lbs 4 oz; burned fuel 8¾ lbs.

[illegible] Chapman & Co., bread weighed 7 lbs 4 oz; burned fuel, 7¾ pounds.

Good Samaritan, [illegible] weighed 7 lbs 8 oz; burned fuel, 7¾ pounds.

Cotton Plant, Loyd & Navra, bread weighed 7 lbs; burned fuel 8¼ lbs.

Buck's Brilliant, [illegible] & Wright, bread weighed 7 lbs 4 oz; burned fuel, 5¼ lbs.

At the conclusion of the trial, the bread was taken [illegible] Committee and [illegible] expiration of [illegible] will [illegible] best [illegible] of the Pauline, Chapman & Co. [illegible] Jan. 14.

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