

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS.—Hon. F. M. Pixley, the accomplished editor of the San Francisco *Argonaut*, and Hon. A. A. Sargent, late U. S. Senator from California, are honoring the Northwest with a visit. Both gentlemen arrived here on the new steamship "State of California."

OREGON WHEAT—WHO CAN BEAT IT?

We hereby certify that we recently ground some ninety-day or Centennial wheat, for David D. Prettyman, Esq., of Polk county, Oregon, and that the said wheat made forty-six pounds of flour to the bushel—ascertained by actual weighing. The flour was of the best quality.

BUCKINGHAM & SMITH, of Excelsior Mills.

SALEM, OREGON, May 14, 1879.

When Disraeli took his seat in the British Parliament, both the Jewish and Gentile world looked upon the redemption of Palestine as near at hand; and when, during the darkest days of its last sore tribulation, the Sublime Porte, as was said, made definite overtures to the Rothschilds to sell for ready cash Jerusalem, and so much of Syria as would comprise Galilee, Judea and Samaria, the long wished-for year of deliverance was thought to be at hand. But so surely as the Turkish power is waning, so surely will this priest-ridden and enthralled country, ere long, arise from its slumber of ages and take its place among the civilized, if not enlightened nations of the earth. As a whole, its people are civilized already, and a

totop. Between friends and strangers, the line of demarkation is nicely drawn. A Syrian, meeting either a fellow-countryman or a foreigner, salutes him by touching, with his right hand, his breast, lips and forehead. Thus signifying that the person saluted is cherished in the heart, praised by the lips and esteemed by the intellect. A greater deference for fancied or real superiority is shown by lowering the right hand almost or quite to the earth, thus honoring the ground trodden upon by the person encountered. The highest respect of all is shown by kissing the hands and feet. A stranger entering the tent of a Bedawy or cottage of a Fellah, is sure to be respectfully received, notwithstanding what may after-



CASTLE HUNIN—SYRIA.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

AIN-EL-MELLAKA, NEAR HUNIN, SYRIA, }
March 15, 1879. }

EDITOR WEST SHORE: If it takes another Russo-Turkish war to so impoverish the Ottoman empire that the Sultan will have no other recourse but to turn over the Holy Land to Jewish bankers, oriental tourists will not care how soon it comes. I am inclined to the belief that many of the more intelligent Mohammedans who have valuable possessions scattered through these regions, would gladly exchange the brazen despotism of their land for any form of government that would emancipate them from the abject servitude that goads them on every side.

few roving bands of Bedouins, too indolent to work and too ignorant for business, are its only tramps. The peasantry of Galilee and Judea are, to-day, in a far better condition, financially and socially, than similar classes in the refined nations of Northwestern Europe. This may sound like a broad assertion, but my fellow-travelers here, and among their number are several English gentlemen of high culture, fully endorse all I have said on this point. The common people of Syria retain and cherish with almost religious fidelity, very many of the ancient customs and usages. Let us take a single instance. The act of salutation adheres strictly to its original and beautiful pro-

wards transpire. The population of Palestine mainly comprises the three religious denominations, Jews, Christians and Mohammedans. The Jews throughout the country would number, perhaps, from 10,000 to 15,000, and are mostly of Spanish origin; they reside almost wholly in the four cities, Jerusalem, Hebron, Tiberius and Safet. The Christians are generally of the Syrian race, and belong, nominally, to the Greek church. Their "Patriarch" resides at Jerusalem and has ecclesiastic dominion over the whole of Palestine. Under this functionary there are eight bishops, whose sees are Nazareth, Acre, Lydda, Gaza, Sebaste, Nabloos, Phila-

(Concluded on page 154.)