

Smith's Pyramid.

Delazon, the great Mogul of the sable democracy in Oregon, has struck a lead. He thinks he has fairly got astride of a political sea serpent, or whale, which has been washed near enough in shore to allow him to jump on, and put to sea on a "tide which taken at the flood leads on to fortune."

The late Indian war being considered popular, the "Know Nothing petition" having been flung into the sewer, together with the whole batch of gibes, jeers, and flings against the volunteers, that were weekly retailed through Czapkay's organ during the fore part of the war, the great Mogul has tacked his "bob sled," brought it to a stand, "staked it out on good grass," and mounted the war hobby. Before putting to sea, he has reared himself a monumental pyramid, in the shape of "preambles and resolutions" introduced into the House on the 6th inst. The pyramid consists of just thirteen precious stones, in the shape of as many "resolutions," reared upon a substantive basis of four corner basalts, consisting of as many "resolves."

Every stone in the pyramid is an excellent mirror, reflecting a full length portrait of the artificer beclenching forth pyroglignous vapor, and giving him, as he puts to sea on the receding flood, very much the appearance of a smoke pipe attached to a Chinook canoe. It would take over a column of our precious space to give the edifice complete, but we cannot forbear giving our readers one or two specimen stones, which will probably be as much as they can stand at once, and as much as any man has ever examined, except the type-setter. Here is one of them:

"Resolved, That inasmuch as—in accordance with the laws and usages of civilized nations—a people who have shown themselves capable of asserting and maintaining their independence against the assaults of foreign, and the treachery and machinations of internal foes, are entitled to receive unreserved recognition as a FREE AND INDEPENDENT PEOPLE:—So, we maintain, the people of OREGON, having abundantly exhibited self-sustaining and self-protecting power, both in times of peace and war—are abundantly fitted and entitled to assume and exercise the sovereignty of an Independent State within 'The Union.'"

Here the people of Oregon are declared to be "some punkins" for having successfully carried on a war which this same Mogul declared in a speech at Corvallis, Dec. 3d, 1855, "was gotten up by Drew, Ross, Henry & Co., for the purpose of swindling the Government."

By the "internal foes" we suppose we are to understand the author of the foregoing speech and the signers of the following petition:

"TO HIS EXCELLENCY GOV. CURRY: The undersigned, Democrats and Anti-Knownothing voters of Oregon, earnestly petition your Excellency to cause to be early displaced all members of the know-nothing party, or supporters of that party (and those who vote their ticket we hold as such) holding public stations directly or indirectly under you, and their places be filled by competent Democrats."

G. K. SHIEL, A. BUSH, NAT LANE, A. STUCK.

Here comes another: "Resolved, That, as 'Truth is mighty and will prevail,' and, as speaking in the name of Truth and justice, 'We ask for nothing that is not clearly right, and submit to nothing wrong,' we have an abiding confidence in the ultimate justice of the Federal Government, and in the final payment of the fair, reasonable, and legitimate expenses of our late Indian war, and that we ask nothing more—freely adopting the motto, 'Justitia fiat ratum!'"

How modest! How statesmanlike! How classical! Congress will certainly wilt at such an exhibition of legislative learning. This resolution needs a little more tail, which will probably be put to it before it is sent on, by the same tinker who added a tail to the Gardner memorial. We suggest the following, to come in right after "Justitia fiat ratum!":

Truth crushed to earth will rise again. Quisquam eod pot wam illie Sobelay Trep, While error wounded, his sick, (wake cold sick.) Black mimalue, amidst sobbing nigger drivers.

But here is the corner-stone of the whole structure: "Resolved, That as representatives of the people of Oregon, and glorying only in her integrity, her powers, her honor, fame and prosperity—conscious of the fidelity, courage and self-sacrificing devotion of her hardy yeomanry—we indignantly hurl back the most unmerited and foul reproaches and calumnies uttered and published by the editor of the 'New York Tribune' and Gen'l Wood, and other faithless, ill formed and interested enemies, into the throats of their utterers, and there bid them freeze, as did the notes in Munchausen's trumpet!"

By "other faithless, ill-informed and interested enemies," we suppose is again meant the "internal foes" before spoken of. The N. Y. Tribune has never uttered half the calumnies against our people in reference to this war that have been uttered by such men as Delazon and other leading black democrats; and Gen. Wood has merely reiterated the sentiments of Delazon's Corvallis speech and the Governor's proclamation disbanding the volunteers under Col. Ross, dated Portland, Oct. 26, 1855, and running as follows:

"Information having been received that armed parties have taken the field in Southern Oregon with the avowed purpose of waging a war of extermination against the

Indians in that section of the Territory, and have slaughtered without respect to age or sex, a band of friendly Indians upon their reservation, in despite of the authority of the Indian Agent and the commanding officers of the United States troops stationed there, and contrary to the peace of the Territory, it is therefore ordered," &c.

But the beauty of this Legislative memorial consists in the grace with which these "calumnies" are "hurled back into the throats of their authors," and there commanded by the great Mogul to "freeze" (midway in the gullet, we suppose.) "as did the notes in Munchausen's trumpet."

Oh, horrible! Why not be a little merciful, and inflict some milder punishment than consigning them to death by inches? We do hope the august Assembly of Oregon wouldn't do the like. Our benevolence is too great to allow us to wish even Delazon choked this way with his share of "frozen calumnies." We have even to see a cow choked with a "frozen" potato.—Why, Delazon, you are not as benevolent as you was when you was a "praying hypocrite." We propose an "amendment" to this resolution by substituting one of your former prayers, in which, after lampooning poor sinners for their wickedness, as richly deserving to go to h—l, you relented a little, and, instead of praying to have them consigned irrevocably to the lowest deep, you only asked that the "Devil might take them by the nape of the neck and shake them over h—l till they bawled like raccoons." Wouldn't the same punishment do for these calumniators? As to your case, we should be willing to let you off, provided the prescription was followed which was pasted on a dose of a "poek" quack doctor's medicine:

"When taken, To be well shaken."

Think of this, Delazon, and, if it "meets your mind," let Czapkay's agent append the amendment to the resolution.

Those of our readers who are neither legislators nor classical scholars, might be posted a little by being informed that "Munchausen" was the man sent by Polk to South America to blow Delusion out of the brush, with a horn.—(Delusion calls it a "trumpet"!) When on the top of Mount Chimborazo, he got out of liquor, and stopped blowing, "reporting officially" on his return that his "horn froze up."

Hence, after that, the lost minister was sneeringly said to be "found in a horn." (Wherever he is found, he is found taking a "horn.")

We submit to the Legislature whether it would not be well to appoint Shuck, or some other scientific man, as a "committee of three," to test the gas that spouts in such profusion from this Mogul, to see whether or not it is inflammable. If it is, the seat of government could be lighted up during each session of the Legislature at a small expense.

By the way, let us give a standing receipt: Let those who wish to see the full beauty of these resolutions, (as well as Delusion's speeches,) read them with the same tone employed by the "hard shell" who "played on a harp of a thousand strings."

"Black Republicanism Triumphant." The Council has disobeyed the instructions of the "clique," and given Col. Ford his seat for three years. We understand that Holmes had given up the idea of contesting Ford's claims, till a "runner" from Salem came post haste after him, told him "he was wanted," and took him off to Salem.

The action of the Council in this case confirms our opinion of them, that they are not entirely lost to all sense of shame and decency by being loofocoos.

ARRIVAL OF THE MAIL.—The U. S. Mail, which has been delayed at Astoria by the ice in the Columbia, was brought up by the Multnomah, and reached here Wednesday. By the favor of Wells, Fargo & Co., and J. W. Sullivan, of San Francisco, we had full files of California and States papers in advance of the mail.

Delusion complains of errors having crept into the Legislative reports of the Times, Oregonian, and Czap's organ, in reference to his "course" in the House.—If he discovers any error in The Argus, we hope he will point it out, so that we can correct it. Our reports must be strictly correct, as they are to make up the notes of a "History of Oregon's Great Men," which we hope yet to be able to publish, with suitable wood cuts.

Mr. Boulton and his little son, whom we mentioned last week as noted musicians, are in the city, and will give a concert to-night, at the Temperance Hall over the Drug Store.

Our fellow-townsmen Messrs. Holbrook and Dement returned from a trip to the Atlantic States on the last steamer.—They look as though the trip had agreed with them.

Drowned. Mrs. Mary Preston writes to us that Mr. Gilliam and Miss Willis were drowned in Looking glass creek on the 2d inst. They were returning from a New Year's ball, and Miss W. rode upon the ferry boat, when her horse backed off the boat. Mr. G. plunged in to rescue her, when both went down together. The bodies have not been recovered.

The President's Message. Came by the last steamer, and will be published by us next week. It is as long as usual.

Jackson Jubilee.

The maimed, halt, withered, blind, and drunken black democrat office-hunters held a regular "bar dance" at Salem on the 8th inst. There was nothing to distinguish the occasion from similar ones generally held by the party just after a loofoco victory. A great deal of cheap whisky is always disposed of, and a great many silly toasts and speeches offered, which serve to indicate the sympathies and raising of a menagerie of low-flung demagogues.

At the Salem gathering there were a great many toasts and resolves, to reprint which would be polluting more of our space than would be excusable in a family journal. We must be excused for making a dirty spot by giving a fair specimen or two:

"Know-nothingism—A stench in the nostrils of the American people—may its lineage descend, Black Republicanism, have a like speedy death and infamous memory.—A. Bush."

The author of the above is so familiar with "decrepit" objects that he never talks about even political parties but he speaks of them as rotten carcasses, and imagines he snuffs a "stench." It was only a little while ago he gave us a dissertation on the "rotten legs and arms of the democratic party" and thought they would soon "slough off."

Under this conviction of things, he keeps a standing editorial puffing Czapkay's medicines under the call for a territorial black democratic convention. Appropriate, truly!

One more must suffice: "The 'Border Ruffians'—Sound on the nigger question," and 'some in a bar fight.'"

This embodies all the principles of the black democratic creed. They consider the "border ruffians" "sound" on the slavery question, and when they are drunk they let the cat out of the wallet, yet, when sober and among anti-slavery men, they cry out "we are no more in favor of slavery or ruffianism than you are."

"Some in a bar fight." This embraces the other half of the loofoco creed. If they ever do any fighting, they want to do it in some doggory, round a "bar" covered with bottles. In such a "bar fight" they are sure to be "some."

By previous arrangement, after the party got sufficiently "fuddled" to be trusted, a long string of resolutions was introduced and passed, after being supported by Judge Williams and Delazon.

Take the following as samples: "Resolved, That we unhesitatingly declare the 'Standard' utterly unworthy the confidence or patronage of the 'Democracy' of the Territory, and we respectfully recommend to the entire Democracy of the Country an immediate repudiation of the aforesaid 'Standard' newspaper, as an organ of the 'Democratic party.'"

"Resolved, That we rally more heartily than ever to the support of the old and true standard of Democracy—The Oregon Statesman."

It will be seen that while the Standard is read out of the party by these knights of the "bar," and Czapkay's organ crammed into the breeches' pockets of the unwashed, as, like the Paddy's rabbit, "good for most any use," the Times and Sentinel are treated with sovereign contempt, as mere ciphers. There will be a great "boo-hoo" in these two offices.

Leland informs us in the last Standard that he left the Jackson jubilee at Salem at a quarter past eleven o'clock at night, and at that time not more than one fifth of the meeting were remaining, most of whom were much excited by liquor, and were engaged in breaking bottles and smashing crockery. If Leland had remained they would probably have got up a "border ruffian bar fight." In this crowd it was that judge Williams is said to have mounted the rostrum against Leland. A dignified position for a Supreme Judge, truly! Exactly in keeping with what we always thought to be the character of the man. He is smelling out a track to political preferment under the State organization, and he seems to think it necessary to become a thorough bushite.

Shipwreck. The Bark Desdemona was wrecked a few days ago in trying to cross the Columbia Bar. She was deceived in the channel by one of the buoys which had washed away. Two lives were lost, one drowned and one frozen to death. Mr. Ladd at Portland is said to have lost \$10,000 worth of merchandise; besides several other Portland merchants sustained heavy losses.

We learn from the Advocate that an affray took place at Salem between a Mr. Hayden and a Mr. Pitman, in which the latter was seriously wounded in the breast by a knife in the hands of Hayden.

We learn that south of the Santiam river, sixty miles south of this, there has been no snow.

The Council's negro bill was lost in the lower house.

Mr. Crittenden, of Ky., since the death of Mr. Clayton, is now the "father" of the U. S. Senate,—having entered it in 1817. He has not, however, exhibited any great fondness for the public councils, having been four times elected, and twice resigned his seat, though to be returned again. James A. Pearce, of Md., entered the Senate in '43, Lewis Cass in '45.—None of the other present Senators date back beyond '43.

Ford's Argus.

Czapkay's Organ on Slavery, &c. "Noble men in the North were breathing the full tide of hatred to the institutions of the South which was overwhelming them,—were fighting the battles of the south on northern soil and against fearful odds."—Czapkay's Organ, Dec. 30.

Noble men! Fellows!! Fighting the battles of the South!!! Heigh, ho! So the verdant lad who manages the hand organ belches it all up. Well, honest confessions are said to be good for the stomach, and the young man may yet (though we confess the hope is very faint) improve in morals. The people have been galled long enough with the denial that the black democracy is pro-slavery. Now, that the great contest is over, in the pride and security of victory, it is vauntingly declared that they have been fighting for the extension of slavery. How does this suit you, northern democrats, who claim to be opposed to slavery? How can you longer adhere to a party that is guilty of such double-dealing?

I notice in the papers from the States a letter from Dr. Bushnell, a distinguished clergyman of California, in which it is affirmed that it is understood in political circles in California that the democratic leaders of Oregon are in the interests of the slave holders, and that a desperate effort will be immediately made to make Oregon a slave State. He says the papers are all pro-slavery. We beg however to say that there is one Free State paper yet alive in Oregon.

In view of the foregoing disclosures we ask,—we earnestly beseech, every lover of free institutions and free people to watch with jealousy the corrupt clique which is trying to envelope our fair land in the dark cloud of human bondage.

AN OLD-FASHIONED DEMOCRAT.

OREGON LEGISLATURE.

(Compiled from the Reports in the Standard, Oregonian, Times, and Czapkay's Organ.)

JANUARY 5, 1857.

COUNCIL.—No quorum.

HOUSE.—The following bills were read a second time and appropriately referred: Bill to incorporate Multnomah Institute in Linn county.

A bill (by Dryer) to incorporate Portland Lyceum.

Bill to incorporate Salem.

A bill to provide for the construction and repair of bridges.

A bill to enable certain half breed Indians to become citizens, was referred to a committee consisting of Moffitt, Collard, and Rose.

A bill to amend an act relating to Assessors, referred to committee of the whole.

A bill to incorporate Jefferson Institute, near Conser's ferry.

A bill to amend an act to provide for the sale of common school lands, was laid upon the table.

A bill taxing foreign miners was debated and laid upon the table.

Afternoon.—Rogers presented a remonstrance from citizens of Curry county against the passage of a pending bill, to compel Curry county, to pay her part of the debt of Coos county, at the time of the division of the counties.

Dryer gave notice of a bill making it a penal offence to induce sailors or mariners to desert their vessels, or to harbor such deserters.

JANUARY 6.

COUNCIL.—The day was taken up in examining evidence in regard to the contested seat between Ford and Holmes. The evidence gives Ford a majority of the votes, and Ford will probably retain his seat.

HOUSE.—Smith of Linn presented a petition from 103 citizens of Linn county asking for the passage of a law proportioning the number of cattle a man might be allowed to let run at large, to the amount of land he owned, so as to prevent a man from letting more stock run at large than he would be entitled to by an equalization based upon the amount of land owned by the stock owners.

Brown of Multnomah presented a petition asking for a law to punish the sale of drugged and spirituous liquors, and that the question of a prohibitory liquor law be submitted to the people at the next June election. Referred to a select committee.

Lovejoy presented a petition from J. H. Hazwell and 750 others asking a law to prohibit attorneys and counselors from giving evidence in behalf of their clients. Referred to judiciary committee.

Lovejoy presented a petition from James M. Moore and 25 others asking for a Territorial road from Oregon City to Hillsborough. Referred to committee on roads and highways.

Brown of Linn presented a petition for a law restraining swine from running at large.

Smith of Linn introduced a bill requiring county Auditors to transmit certified copies of their assessment rolls to the Territorial Auditor within thirty days after the assessment rolls are made out, under penalty of a fine of "not exceeding fifty dollars nor more than \$1000."

Same offered a long string of resolutions in regard to the Indian war, Gov. Curry, Jo Lane, and "Munchausen's trumpet," which were ordered to be printed.

A bill to incorporate Jefferson Institute was passed.

A bill to amend on act establishing pilotage at Coos Bay was passed.

Also a bill to establish a Free Mason Lodge at Corvallis. The Governor's message was taken up and referred to committees.

JANUARY 7.

COUNCIL.—Bill passed to exclude negroes and mulattoes from the Territory.—Yeas. Cornelius, Drain, O'Bryant, Peebles, and Ross. Nays. Ford and Kelly.

Bill passed to establish a pilotage at Coos Bay, also bills to incorporate a Masonic Lodge at Corvallis, and Jefferson Institute.

Council agreed to House memorial concerning appropriations for military road from Astoria to Salem.

Adopted a resolution asking Jo Lane to obtain further donations for schools.

HOUSE.—Johnson presented a petition for relocating Territorial road from Portland to Champoug.

Judiciary committee reported adversely to petition asking that attorneys be prohibited from testifying for their clients. Adopted.

Select committee reported bill to incorporate the Literary Institute at Albany.

Berry introduced a bill to tax Chinamen in the mines. Rules suspended and bill read.

Smith of Jackson asked leave to introduce another Chinese bill, which was allowed after a very able debate in which Rogers, Shuck, Allen, and Conser participated.

Council bill to exclude negroes and mulattoes from Oregon, read first time.

Johnson gave notice of a bill to incorporate a company to build a plank road from Portland to Dayton.

JANUARY 8.

COUNCIL.—Bill divorcing Susan V. Deleman from her husband read first time.

Council amended House memorial to Congress to garrison Ft. Hall and Boise for the protection of emigrants.

HOUSE.—Cochran presented a petition for cutting off a part of Umpqua county and attaching it to Lane county.

Committee on roads and ferries reported a bill to repeal the charter of the Polk and Marion Free Ferry Company.

Committee on corporations reported bills to charter Portland Lyceum and to incorporate Salem as a city.

Bill providing a penalty for county Auditors who neglect their duty engrossed; also a bill to extend the time for opening roads.

House went into committee of the whole on the council mulatto and negro bill.

Dryer made a lengthy speech against the bill, declaring it useless, unwise, and unphilanthropic. He was supported by Moffitt; and opposed by Grover who fully endorsed it as democratic, and planted his feet upon the rock of democracy as laid down in the N. Y. Day Book, viz., that a "nigger aint a white man."

House adjourned.

The Clayton-Bulwer Treaty. Correspondence of the Journal of Commerce.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 12. President Pierce's Administration will probably have the satisfaction of effecting a final adjustment of the Central American question, which so recently threatened to interrupt the friendly relations subsisting between the United States and Great Britain.

The British Legation remains closed in this city. At least, there is no British diplomatic representative here with which the Government has any intercourse. But a negotiation has been carried on between Mr. Dallas and Lord Clarendon, in relation to the disputed Central American question, and brought nearly to a satisfactory conclusion.

In regard to the terms of this arrangement, I can state positively that they are not known to the public, and will not be made known before the President's next Annual Message shall appear. Indeed, it appears that the terms are not yet definitely settled in regard to the Mosquito Protectorate, but probably soon will be.

It is only certain that the Bay Islands question is settled, by their retrocession to the State of Honduras. I notice that the inhabitants of the Island of Ruanan—chiefly blacks from Jamaica—have remonstrated against this measure, and threatened to resist it, and to declare their independence; but it is too late for remonstrance—for the deed has been diplomatically done.

I am quite certain, also, that the proposed settlement will not involve an abrogation of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty, but will, on the contrary, so explain, define and modify it, as to cause it to work well hereafter, and fulfill the original intention and wishes of the distinguished diplomatists who negotiated it.

It is a subject of regret that Mr. Clayton's life was not spared to permit him to witness the consummation of a work upon which he had bestowed so much care and which had caused him so much painful anxiety.

If the treaty is to be enforced, it follows that the clause restricting each of the contracting parties from acquiring or annexing any portion of the territory of Central America will be respected. It follows that the bugbear invented by the Republicans, upon the eve of the late Presidential election, of the annexation of Walker's dominion to the American Union, might as well be put to rest.

A monument to the memory of Rev. E. P. Lovejoy, to be erected in the cemetery at Alton, Ill., is contemplated. A committee have in hand two plans, one 100 feet high, and the other 75 feet.

Kossuth was lecturing at Manchester, Eng., at last accounts.

An old lady entirely out of hearing of the preacher's voice at a camp meeting, being found sobbing, was asked why she wept, since she could not hear the words of the minister. "Oh," said she, "I can see the holy wag of his head."

News from the Atlantic States.

Congress re assembled at noon Monday, Dec. 1st. Of the three hundred and three members comprising both houses, but thirty-nine were absent. The House proceeded to qualify its newly elected members, and when the credentials of Mr. Whitfield, the delegate from Kansas, were presented, Mr. Grow, of Pa., evidently in accordance with a previous understanding among the republican members, objected to their reception. A warm debate ensued, and much excitement prevailed.—Finally the question of the admission of Gen. Whitfield was decided in the negative by a vote of 97 yeas to 101 nays. Pending a motion to reconsider this vote the House adjourned.

Both houses of Congress on Tuesday plunged headlong into the everlasting nigger question. In the Senate, at the termination of the reading of the President's message, Mr. Hale attacked the position of the Executive with regard to the motives and objects imputed to the republican party. The discussion assumed a wide range, and was conducted with much spirit on both sides, Messrs. Wilson, Trumbull, and Seward, and Mason, Brown, and Cass participating. The House was engaged all the session on the subject of Gen. Whitfield's admission, and adjourned without disposing of the question.

On Wednesday both houses adjourned out of respect to the memory of John M. Clayton, late Senator from Delaware.—The House made no progress toward a settlement of the question of the admission of the delegate from Kansas. The democrats are working hard for a postponement of the case until they can bring up the absentees, when they expect to carry their point.

On Thursday the Senate resumed the discussion of the slavery question and the objects of the republican party, having the President's message as a text. In the House the standing committees were reported by the Speaker. With some unimportant alterations, they remain as at the last session.

We have intelligence from Kansas to the effect that thirty-nine of the free State prisoners at Leecompton effected their escape, without committing any violence, on the night of the 22d ult.

It is reported from Washington that the federal authorities have concluded arrangements for the peaceful withdrawal of Billy Bowlegs and his followers from Florida. A delegation of Seminole chiefs from the west of the Mississippi are to be sent to Florida with presents and provisions of liberal grants of land. Meantime, Gen. Harney is actively preparing for a campaign against the savages in case of the failure of peaceful measures.

Gen. Persifer F. Smith, commanding the military department of the West, writes to the War Department, under date of the 11th ult., that order and tranquility have gradually resumed their way in Kansas.—The border ruffians having been quieted the troops in the Territory, with the exception of a squadron of dragoons and one company of infantry, who are to remain and guard the State prisoners, are henceforth to devote themselves to making preparations for a campaign against the Cheyennes Indians in the spring. The winter in Kansas has commenced with severity much earlier than usual.

About two hundred men, mostly from Tennessee and Mississippi, under command of Samuel Benton, Esq., left Memphis recently to join General Walker's army in Nioaragua.

CHICAGO, Dec. 3, 1856.

We have Kansas dates to the 26th of November. Gov. Geary intends retaking the prisoners who recently escaped from Leecompton, if they can be found. The Grand Jury have found bills of indictment against several Pro Slavery men. A meeting had been held in consequence, and Surveyor-General Colhoun, Chairman, had denounced Gov. Geary and his inquisitorial course. A Law-and-Order Convention is to be held at Leavenworth on the 1st inst. Col. Tius gives notice to all persons desiring to go to Nicaragua, to rendezvous at St. Louis on the 10th inst., from whence a free passage will be furnished to them.—After the settlement of Central American affairs, the purpose is to attend to Cuba.

GEORGETOWN SWAMP.—The Governor of Okefenokee, has deputed an experienced engineer to investigate the feasibility of draining the celebrated Okefenokee swamp, with a view to its ultimate sale and cultivation. This great area is situated in the southern part of the State, between the rivers St. Mary and Suwannee, and contains about half a million acres of the richest land in Georgia.

DESTRUCTIVE FLOOD IN INDIA.—Loss of OVER FOUR THOUSAND LIVES.—The Calcutta correspondent of the London Times, under date of Oct. 4, gives the following account of a disastrous freshet in that country:

"The rains this year have been universally severe. The downpour in Afghanistan was unprecedented, and in August its effects began to be visible. The torrent of water which at this season rolls down the water system of the Indus gradually increased, then overtopped the banks, and then burst on the plains with a force which swept whole towns from the face of the earth. * * * The loss of life has not been in proportion, 4000 or 5000 villagers not counting for much in India, but the destruction of property is incalculable."