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(From our regular correspondent) WASHINGTON LETTER.

Art at the National Capital—A Life School Established—Some American Artists Jealous of their Foreign Brethren—The Superior Excellence of Foreign Pictures—Cohen's "Death of Moses"—"The Death of Moses," by Cabanel—An Attempt to Paint Betsy Church's Great Watercourse—A Picture with a History—Etc., Etc.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Editor Democrat.

Since the establishment of the Corcoran Art Gallery in Washington the Capital of the United States has become quite an art centre.

There is some expression of disapproval among American artists of what they call a disposition on the part of the trustees of the Corcoran Gallery to encourage foreign artists, and to ignore native American talent.

Among the most imposing pictures, both in size, subject, and treatment, is "Caesar Dead," by the great French artist, Jerome. It is said to be only a study of what he subsequently reproduced in a larger picture, where the assassins are represented fleeing from their ghastly work.

The picture shows a thorough knowledge of color, form, and perspective, and, like other pictures by the same artist, is expressive of intense dramatic feeling.

Among the pictures is one remarkable for its historic associations as well as for its excellence as a work of art. It is the "Adoration of the Shepherds," by Mengs, and it was bought from the collection of Joseph Bonaparte, who purchased it in Madrid during the brief time his great brother was able to hold him on the Spanish throne.

The artist has reproduced the conception of Correggio in his "Holy Night," by making the light of his picture emanate from the infant Jesus.

The "Death of Moses," a picture of 10 by 13 feet, is one of the early ambitious essays of Alexander Cabanel, a French artist, who has since become famous.

The painting, though meritorious in some of its details, is upon the whole unsatisfactory, if not shocking, for the artist has attempted something too high for mortal reach—a portrait of Deity. It was the purpose of Cabanel to represent the death of Moses as described in the 34th chapter of Deuteronomy. The Almighty is represented thrown in air, pointing with one hand to the promised land, but indicating with the other that Moses is not to enter there. Groups of angels sustain the majestic form of the Jewish leader, who lifts to God a face expressive of reverence, resignation, and trust.

One of the largest pictures in the gallery is the "Drought in Egypt," by Portels, a Belgian artist. The subject is taken from the 43d and 44th verses of the 78th Psalm: "How he wrought his signs in Egypt, and his wonders in the fields of Zoar, and hath turned their rivers into blood and their floods that they could not drink."

Aside from the power portrayed in the expression of such intense suffering, the finely drawn groups and single figures furnish abundant examples to the student of sacred historical subjects.

A picture that has been very much admired and copied represents a French lady in the costume of the time of Louis XI walking in a forest attended only by her dog. For harmony of color and rare grace of form this painting, by C. C. Compe, is unsurpassed.

"Niagara Falls," by Church, is one of the most remarkable productions of America's greatest landscape painter. It may be said that it represents all the stupendous scene, not omitting sound and plunge of the mazy waters. It is such a realistic study of the awful catastrophe that the beholder half hesitates to approach too near the canvas.

Mr. Church, who seems to delight in water scenery, has another picture in the gallery, "A View of a River in Granada," which is perfect as a composition, and the foreground of tropical foliage, as well as the background, in which the snow-crowned Andes appear, are worked up with the delicate detail and power which distinguish all the paintings of the eminent artist.

The Corcoran Gallery is receiving every week valuable additions to its already rich and varied collection of paintings, bronzes, statuary, busts, and bas-reliefs from the antique.

REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION.

Last week we gave the proceedings of this Convention, with the exception of the balloting for candidates, which will be found below:

Balloting commenced on Wednesday afternoon. A candidate for Congress being the first which will be chosen, the following persons were named: L. O. Stearns; of Baker; W. J. Snodgrass and Rev. H. K. Himes, of Union; Knight, of Marion. The ballot stood: Stearns, 25 votes; Himes, 91; Snodgrass, 50; Knight, 6; Williams, 2 and blank 1.

Governor came next and the following persons were put forward: Falling, of Portland; Thompson, of Portland; Watts, of Yamhill; Rowland, of Wasco.

1st ballot—Falling, 44; Thompson, 61; Watts, 6; Rowland, 61.

2d—Falling, 45; Thompson, 53; Watts, 4; Rowland, 68; blank 1. Adjourned to 7:30 o'clock.

Convention met at 7:30. Thompson's name was withdrawn, and Hare, of Clatsop, Thos. Cornelius, of Washington, and Beckman, of Jackson, put in nomination.

4th—Hare, 50; Rowland, 23; Beckman, 35; Cornelius, 29; Falling, 32; Thompson, 6; Watts, 6. Rowland's name was withdrawn.

5th—Hare, 8; Beckman, 51; Cornelius, 11; Falling, 32; Watts, 2; blank 2. Falling withdrew.

6th—Hare, 80; Beckman, 83; Cornelius, 4; Watts, 1; J. H. Mitchell, 1. Cornelius withdrew.

7th—The seventh ballot resulted as follows: Hare, 86; Beckman, 89; Watts, 0; blank 3.

8th—Hare, 76; Beckman, 99; blank 4.

For Secretary of State Earhart, of Portland, and Williams, of Jackson. The ballot stood—Earhart, 137; Williams, 39; Scatterling, 3.

For State Treasurer—Wright, of Marion; Monteith, of Linn; Smith, of Linn; Charman, of Clackamas; Hirsch, of Marion.

1st ballot—Wright, 16; Monteith, 19; Smith, 47; Charman, 24; Hirsch, 70. Adjourned to meet at 8:30 next morning.

2d—Wright, 20; Monteith, 8; Smith, 53; Charman, 13; Hirsch, 82; S. Hirsch, 1; blank 1. Froman, of Linn was then nominated, and the names of Monteith and Charman withdrawn.

3d—Smith, 49; Hirsch, 102; Froman, 24; Wright, 2; blank 1.

For State Printer—Himes, of Portland; Byers, of Douglas; Waite, of Marion; Carter, of Benton; Chapman, of Portland; Saylor, of Yamhill; Walling, of Portland.

1st—Himes, 17; Byers, 26; Waite, 42; Carter, 51; Chapman, 11; Snyder, 16; Walling, 15; blank 1. Snyder and Byers withdrew.

2d—Himes, 17; Waite, 68; Carter, 82; Chapman, 5; Walling, 1; blank 1. Himes and Chapman withdrew.

3d—Waite, 64; Carter, 112.

For Superintendent of Public Instruction—Gatch, of Marion; Condon, of Lane; Gault, of Washington; Powell, of Linn.

1st—Gatch, 26; Condon, 51; Powell, 73; Gault, 17; Skidmore, 6; blank 1. Gatch withdrew.

2d—Condon, 84; Powell, 93; Gault, 1. Then came recess for DISTRICT NOMINATIONS.

When the Convention re-assembled the following nominations were reported: First District—No nomination.

Second District—Horace Knox, of Lane county, for Prosecuting Attorney; Third District—Hartwell Hurley, of Yamhill county, for Prosecuting Attorney.

Fourth District—J. F. Caples, of Multnomah county, for Prosecuting Attorney.

Fifth District—C. W. Parrish, of Grant county, for Prosecuting Attorney. The above nominations were on motion ratified by the Convention.

The State Central Committee was then appointed as follows: Baker, Milton White; Benton, C. B. McElroy; Clackamas, P. Paquet; Coos, C. W. Tower; Clatsop, F. J. Taylor; Columbia, G. W. McBride; Curry, M. Riley; Douglas, E. G. Hurah; Grant, J. W. Church; Lake, C. B. Watson; Linn, D. Froman; Multnomah, Joseph Simon; Marion, R. C. Goer; Polk, A. W. Lucas; Tillamook, Dr. Lase; Union, W. J. Snodgrass; Umatilla, J. C. DeWossey; Wasco, E. L. Smith; Washington, J. Gaston; Yamhill, J. W. Watts. D. Froman, of Linn county, was selected as Chairman of the Central Committee.

HAYES' TITLE. The decision in the case of Anderson establishes the fact that Hayes had no legal right to the vote of Louisiana, under the laws of that State. The Electoral Commission would have been compelled to decide to the same effect, if it had investigated the legality of that vote. But it held that there was no power to inquire into the manner in which the vote of a State had been declared, and hence found Hayes elected on the face of the returns as they were received by Congress. Now the Supreme Court of Louisiana decides that the "consolidated" statement, for altering which Anderson was convicted of forgery, could not be lawfully used in the canvass of the vote of the State. As the Returning Board canvassed those statements, and not the original returns, it follows that the vote of the State was not lawfully canvassed. The Supreme Courts of Florida and Louisiana having now effectually invalidated the certificates of election given to the Hayes electors of those States, it requires considerable assurance for a man who is only "officially" President, to cling to the office.

ENGLAND IN WAR.

It is now as certain as anything can be as to how England will be engaged in a great war with Russia. She has gone too far to recede, and could not do so without the total loss of prestige and national honor.

She possesses a controlling interest in the Suez Canal. From the Pillars of Hercules, past the dominion of the Pharaohs and those of the Queen of Sheba, she has for nearly a century possessed an international highway. That is now threatened. The Muscovite is at the gates of Constantinople, and from thence to the possession of Syria and Egypt, and the isolation of the Suez Canal, is not far. Behold the ocean highway broken, and communication cut with India and Australia.

Such would appear to be the line of the future march of events, unless England can drive back Russia to the point where she started. This she can do only by war. Russia has poured out an infinity of blood and treasure, and has fought her way after many labors and trials to the gates of the East.

She now permit those who sat by looking on to tell her that she must go back! No, certainly not. Will England, having advanced so far, recede? No. What remains? It is inevitable and has been trying to array Austria on her side. But Austria fears Germany, and it will not be. With Austria at England's back, and Germany and other nations neutral, Russia would have a hard time of it. The first move would probably be to place an Austrian Archduke on the throne of Austria. But which under Austrian rule, is all independent, with its own legislature and government; proclaim the resurrected kingdom of Poland, and call on the Poles of Russia to rise. England would support the movement with a fleet and an army landed on the shores of the Baltic. Austria and Hungary would attack the Russian in Turkey, and the Crimea might be again invaded.

Without Austrian co-operation England could, it is true, arouse Poland, and call them again to arms. But Russia could excite India and Ireland to revolt, back both with money, arms and officers, and then it would go forth with *perfidie Albion*. Defeated in such a war she would be treated like Turkey. She would have to recognize Irish and Indian independence, while Russia would compensate herself by the annexation of whatever remained of the Turkish Empire. Many think that India is Mussulman and that England would derive strength from her Asiatic possessions. This is a mistake. The Mohammedans form only a fourth of the population of Hindostan—they were the ruling caste, and are and have been the most bitter enemies of English domination.

This is the solution. It is certain that England will be involved in war, and that she will not have the assistance of Austria. It is uncertain, however, where or how this war will end. It may bring on another war, as the Russo-Turkish war is about to bring on this. One of the immediate results will be an advance in the price of wheat and all articles that are bought or sold. This will give new life to the producer, and business of all kinds will be permanently active. Russian cruises will be on the lookout for English merchantmen, and the result will be that most of the carrying trade will fall into the hands of the Americans. Such appears to be the course towards which things are invariably tending in the Old World.—S. F. Journal of Commerce.

THE RUSSIAN LOSSES. Official reports state that the Russian losses in killed and wounded during the late war amounted to 89,304 officers and men. Among those were ten generals killed and eleven wounded. One prince of the imperial family and thirty-four members of the highest nobility of Russia fell on the field of battle. Of the wounded, 36,824 are already perfectly recovered, and 10,000 more will be able to leave the hospitals during the next few weeks. The proportion of killed and wounded to the total number engaged was very large, one out of every six men who went into action being either injured or left dead on the field of battle. In the great actions of the late Franco-German war the proportion of the killed and wounded to men engaged was nearly the same, being one sixth in the battles of Worth and Spicheren, and one eighth in the battle of Mars-la-Tour. The returns show that one out of every eleven wounded men received into the Russian hospitals died from the effects of the injuries received. During the whole campaign only two men were punished with death; one for the crime of desertion, and the other for robbery, accompanied with violence. On the other hand 20,000 rewards were given in the form of decorations, promotion, or awards of money, the Eighth Corps, which so long held and defended the Shipka Pass, receiving the greatest proportion.

SNODGRASS SAYS THAT young ladies of eighteen are like arrows. They can't get along without a fess, and are all in a quiver till they get one.

ACTRESS have their pictures taken when they are young, and when they are old their lithographs do not part from them.

WHO LOVES THE RIGHT CENT? Seventy or eighty papers have come to hand this week, inquiring in a pathetic voice who it is that loses the eight cents when a laboring man takes a ninety-two cent silver piece for a dollar.

Now this is the very thing that has puzzled us. If a carpenter receives from the Government a ninety-two cent silver piece for a dollar, and passes it upon his butcher for a dollar, and the butcher passes it upon the shoemaker for a dollar, and the shoemaker passes it upon his landlord for a dollar, and the landlord passes it for a dollar upon a mason for work upon the new State House, and the mason passes it for a dollar to a merchant for a silk dress, and the merchant passes it for a dollar to the Custom house officer for import duties, and the United States Treasury passes it as a dollar to a soldier, and the soldier passes it as a dollar to the same carpenter herebefore previously mentioned, we are unable to see who has lost the 8 cents. Happy thought—perhaps the loss fell on some man who did not get it! Seriously, the same man who lost the 8 cents loses 10 cents every time he takes four silver quarters, that have only 84 cents worth of silver in them. But even then, the 5-cent nickel puzzle us. In a dollar's worth of these is only ten cents' worth of metal. Now will some of the editors who lie awake nights to figure such things out please inform us who it is that loses the 81 cents every time a dollar's worth of nickel is passed? Who loses four cents every time a 5-cent piece is paid for a glass of lager or a car ride? The little copper cent is even a greater robbery. We have not the heart to go into a calculation as to how many million dollars are wrung from the heavy-handed bondholder every day in the passage of this debased coin, but it is inconceivable how an opponent of silver can pass one of these fraudulent tokens—even at a distance—without blushing for the perfidy of his race.—H. F. Graphic.

DRUNKENNESS. In the course of his lecture in the Methodist Protestant Church on Wednesday night last, Jonah Boughton, Esq., the great temperance advocate, who for the past four or five evenings has been holding, with marked success, meetings in this city in behalf of the total abstinence cause, made an affecting illustration of the evil effects of intemperance upon a too free indulgence in intoxicating beverages, by referring in plain but forcible and graphic language to an instance of a drunken husband's harsh treatment of his helpless and dependent wife and children. He spoke with feeling of the happy days when the object of his remarks had taken to himself a blushing bride, when man and woman had joined hands and lives in mutual confidence and love, and of halcyon years of placid matrimonial life, during which three lovely little ones had blessed the union of two hearts that beat as one. Then with a brief reference as to how the man had, by some trivial incident, been induced to partake of the fiery liquid, to admit through the passage of his throat the thief that was to steal away the brain, he told of how after months of turbulent strife, which perpetually banished peace from the little household, the wife and mother was at length compelled to seek refuge beneath the roof of the city jail, and unfold her troubles to the officers of the law and ask protection from the cruel treatment of an inebriated husband. The earnest speaker then assured his hearers that the incident to which he referred was not the work of an imaginative mind, but an actual fact, and closed by asserting that it had occurred in our own Christian community, and that the despairing woman's appeal for protection had been made within the previous two or three hours. The effect may be imagined, and at the conclusion of the lecture upwards of one hundred persons signed the pledge of total abstinence.

THE COST OF WAR. From recently published official returns it appears that between the day on which the war was declared and the signing of armistice, the Russian army of the Danube captured fifteen pashas, 113,000 officers and men, 606 guns of different calibres, 9,600 tents, 140,200 muskets, and 24,000 horses. In addition, 200,000 small arms, yataghans, and pistols were taken from Turkish irregular troops, and also 13,000 lances and daggers. The Russian army in Asia captured during the war fourteen pashas and 50,200 officers and men, 662 guns, 16,000 tents, 42,000 muskets, 18,000 horses, and immense stores of ammunition and provisions of all kinds. The number of five-arm and miscellaneous weapons taken from the Asiatic irregular troops of the Porte was also, it is stated, exceedingly large, but no details are given. In Europe, as in Asia, a vast quantity of rice, bread and salt was seized, as well as an immense number of cartridges and a great quantity of loose powder. The Servian troops also acquired a large booty during the short time they were engaged, their trophies being returned as 238 guns, 10,000 muskets and thirty-seven standards, besides ammunition, provisions and horses.

AN Irishman, fresh from the "old country," saw a turtle for the first time, and at once made up his mind to capture it. The turtle caught him by the finger, and he, holding it in arm's length, said: "Faith, and y'd better loose the howt ye have, or I'll kick ye out of the very box ye sit in, be jabers!"

GRAPE GROWER'S MAXIMS. The following rules are given by the Rural American:

1. Prepare the ground in the fall, plant in the spring.

2. Give the vine plenty of manure old and well decomposed; for fresh manure excites growth, but does not mature it.

3. Luxuriant growth does not always insure fruit.

4. Dig deep but plant shallow.

5. Young vines produce beautiful fruit, but old vines produce the richest.

6. Prune in autumn to insure growth, but in the spring to promote fruitfulness.

7. Plant your vines before you put up trellises.

8. Vines, like old soldiers, should have good arms.

9. Prune up to one developed bud; for the nearer the old wood, the higher flavored the fruit.

10. Those who prune long must soon climb.

11. Vines love the sun; the fruit the shade.

12. Every leaf has a bud at the base, and either a bunch of fruit or a tendril opposite to it.

13. A tendril is an abortive fruit bunch—a bunch of fruit a productive tendril.

14. A bunch of grapes without a healthy leaf opposite is like a ship at sea without a rudder—it can't come to port.

15. Laterals are like politicians; if not checked, they are the worst of thieves.

16. Good grapes are like gold—no one has enough.

17. Grape eaters are long livers.

18. Hybrids are not always high bred.

19. He who buys the new and untried varieties, should remember that the seller's maxim is, Let the buyer look out for himself.

THE VALUE OF ENEMIES. The following paragraph is taken from the Memorial Sermon, delivered by Bishop McTear, of the M. E. Church, South, on the death of the late Cornelius Vanderbilt:

He had enemies. Such will-power and success, such independence of action and decision of character, make enemies, so sure as the sun breeds misty atmospheric exhalations.

What use could a man be to the world to live four-score years, and during all that time make no enemies? No friction, no disturbance, no opinion, no trouble, no collision; but non-committal and no account! It has been said that enemies are better than friends, if you only know how to use them, and don't have too many. The men who don't have enemies. The men who act like enemies. No man is prominent among his neighbors but he finds plenty of enemies. The man who leads, no matter what or what, has enemies. Enemies are more necessary to develop a man's capabilities than friends. No man can tell what he can do until he meets resistance.

THE BIBLE. The Bible is being discussed as it never was before. The Bible in public schools, the Bible at home, and the Bible in the pulpit. The more the Bible is circulated and read the better for the human race. England acknowledges that the Bible has made her what she is—the most civilized, and probably the most virtuous nation on the globe.

In England, a Bible land, there is one murder for every 178,000 inhabitants. In Holland, also a Bible land, there is one for every 163,000 inhabitants. In Prussia, where the Bible is less read, there is one for every 100,000 inhabitants. In Austria, half-and-half Bible land, there is one for every 57,000 inhabitants. In Spain, where there is no Bible, there is one for every 4,113 inhabitants. In Naples, where there is no Bible, there is one for every 2,750 inhabitants. In Rome there is one for every 930 inhabitants.

CROCHING HUSBANDS AND WIVES. Of one thing girls may be sure, and that is, that the young men who make the best sons and brothers will also make the best husbands. And young men may be equally sure that those girls who are the best daughters and sisters will also, as a rule, be the best wives. If a young man before he is married, is destitute of those affections and principles which come out in filial obedience, fraternal courtesy, and a controlling sense of duty, he will be equally destitute of them after he is married. The mere fact of wedlock will not change the fundamental principles of his nature. He will be essentially the same man before after marriage—or, at least, after the honeymoon—that he was before. The same principles hold true with regard to women. The girl who is dutiful to her parents, and industrious, unselfish and truthful, will be almost certain to be a blessing to him who gets her for a wife.

SUCCESS IN SOCIETY.—The secret of success in society is a certain heartiness and sympathy. A man who is not happy in company cannot find any word in his memory that will fit the occasion; all his information is a little impertinent. A man who is happy there finds in every turn of the conversation equally lucky occasions for the introduction of what he has to say. The favorites of society, and what it calls "whole souls," are able men, and of more spirit than wit, who have no uncomfortable egotism, but who exactly fill the hour and the company, contented and contenting.

Table with columns: Month, Year, and various numerical data. Includes entries for 1878 and 1879.

Business notices in the Local Column 25 cents per line. For legal and transient advertisements \$1.00 per square, for the first insertion, and 50 cents per square for each subsequent insertion.

THE DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM. The Democracy of Oregon, in convention assembled, make the following declaration of principles:

1. That a single government, legally established, is essential to the preservation of the public peace, and the administration of justice, and the protection of the rights of the citizen.

2. That the people have the right to elect their representatives to the Legislature, and to elect their officers to the Executive, and to elect their judges to the Judiciary, and to elect their members to the National Administration, and to elect their members to the National Administration, and to elect their members to the National Administration.

3. That the people have the right to elect their representatives to the Legislature, and to elect their officers to the Executive, and to elect their judges to the Judiciary, and to elect their members to the National Administration, and to elect their members to the National Administration, and to elect their members to the National Administration.

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