

THE DEMOCRATIC TIMES,

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Jan. 8th, 1870. Jan 8th.

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FROM LONDON,

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CLEANING and REPAIRING done.
July 21, 1870. jly21-f.

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ENGINEER,
MAX. BRENTANO.

CHOICE LIQUORS AND CIGARS CON-
stantly on hand.
THROUGH TICKETS,
12 1-2 Cents.
July 17th, 1869. jly17-f.

THE DEMOCRATIC TIMES.

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THE TIMES

BOOK, PAMPHLET,

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A Siberian Aurora Borealis.

We have some very beautiful displays of Aurora, but, judging from the following description of one as it appeared in Siberia, ours are pigmy displays indeed. In the new work of Tent Life in Siberia, by George Kennan, the writer says:

Late in the evening, just as we were preparing to go to bed, Dodd happened to go out of doors for a moment to look after his dogs, but no sooner had he reached the outer door of the entry than he came rushing back, his face ablaze with excitement, shouting, "Ken nan! Robinson! come out quick!" With the vague impression that the village must be on fire, I sprang up, and, without stopping to put on any furs, ran hastily out, followed closely by Robinson, Hardee and Smith. As we emerged into the open air, there burst suddenly upon our startled eyes the grandest exhibition of vivid, dazzling light and color of which the mind can conceive. The whole universe seemed to be on fire. A broad arch of brilliant prismatic colors spanned the heavens from east to west like a gigantic rainbow, with a long fringe of crimson and yellow streamers stretching up from its convex edge to the very zenith. At short intervals of one or two seconds, wide, luminous bands, parallel with the arch, rose suddenly out of the northern horizon and swept with a swift, steady majesty across the whole heavens, like long breakers of phosphorescent light rolling in from some limitless ocean of space. Every portion of the vast arch was momentarily wavering, trembling and changing color, and the brilliant streamers which fringed its edge swept back and forth in great curves, like the fiery sword of the angel at the garden of Eden. In a moment the vast auroral rainbow, with all its wavering streamers, began to move slowly up toward the zenith, and a second arch of equal brilliancy formed directly under it, shooting up another long serried row of slender colored lanes toward the north star, like a battalion of celestial host presenting arms to its commanding angel. Every instant the display increased in unearthly grandeur. The luminous bands revolved swiftly, like the spokes of a great wheel of light across the heavens; the streamers hurried back and forth, with swift, tremulous motion, from the ends of the arches to the center, and now and then a great wave of crimson would surge up from the north and fairly deluge the whole sky with color, tingling the white snowy earth far and wide with its rosy reflection. But as the words of the prophecy, "And the heavens shall be turned to blood," formed themselves upon my lips, the crimson suddenly vanished, and a lightning flash of vivid orange startled us with its wide, all pervading glare, which extended even to the southern horizon, as if the whole volume of the atmosphere had suddenly taken fire. I even held my breath a moment, as I listened for the tremendous crash of thunder which it seemed to me must follow this sudden burst of vivid light; but in heaven and earth there was not a sound to break the calm silence of night, save the hastily muttered prayers of the frightened native at my side, as he crossed himself and knelt down before the visible majesty of God.

Wedding Ceremonies on the Alps.

There are still many of the old customs remaining, of which one of the most peculiar is the wedding, which has some of the features of those in the northern part of Germany. An orator is the bearer of invitations, who is often the village schoolmaster. He makes a formal speech before every house, which all the people run to hear. On the morning of the wedding he accompanies the bridegroom and groomsmen to the house of the bride, where they breakfast together; after which he makes a speech to the father and mother, recounting to them all the noble qualities of the bridegroom, and beseeching them to give their daughter willingly away, as he is sure a long life of happiness is in store for her. A rival orator then "takes the word," and presents the dark side of the picture, all the difficulties of the new position, and the virtues of the bride. After this parliamentary discussion the bride departs with her betrothed for church, amidst prayers and tears and good wishes; and to keep up her spirits, musicians cheer her way with song--"The Cottages of the Alps." By a lady.

A deputy sheriff in Keene, New Hampshire, had a habit, when anything occurred to him which he had forgotten to state, of quickly raising his right hand, with the forefinger extended, and preface his remarks with the exclamation, "By the way." It being once his duty as acrier to give notice of the opening of the Court, he began: "H-ar-y-e! all persons having anything to do before the Court of Common Pleas, draw nigh, give your attention, and ye shall be heard." Here he sat down, but remembering that he had forgotten the finishing touches, instantly rose, and exclaimed: "By the way, God save the State of New Hampshire!"

The Cathedral of Stras-burg has the loftiest spire ever constructed. It is built of dark red sandstone, and is four hundred and sixty eight feet above the pavement.

Perils of Fashion.

Under this head the London Lancet, a well known medical journal of wide circulation and influence, discourses in the following strain of admonition and re-uke on certain fashionable follies of female dress.

In a previous article on tight-lacing, notice was taken of the decrepitude induced by this practice, as exhibited in the tottering walk of our modern fine ladies and their imitators. With strictures on tight-lacing should be associated those on another fashionable folly, which assists in the production of the above evils, and has something of its own to answer for. Much mischief grows from the custom of wearing high boot heels, and those, too, so much smaller than the actual heel of the wearer, as to afford no solid support, but only a balancing point. A free and gracefully erect carriage is impossible when the centre of gravity of the body is thrown by this means so far forward. Again, there being no firm support to the heel, ladies are very apt to twist the ankle suddenly by overbalancing themselves, and still more, the fear of its occurrence makes them assume a timid, mincing gait. Finally, the effect of driving the foot constantly forward into the toe of the boot, is to produce a very ugly and painful distortion of the great toe joint. It can not be denied, the Lancet says, that there is a significant correspondence between the aesthetic hideousness and the degrading effects on physical health which are produced by tight stays and crippling boots, and a certain mental and moral tone in London and other society of the present day, which is no less surprising than it is repulsive.

The physical part of this picture finds its copy in too many of our American women. Are we compelled, at any time, to see and admit the actuality of associated, if not resulting mental and moral deformity? Without setting up as moral censors, the Lancet says: "We may be excused, if for once, in a way we feel it impossible, to ignore the logical though repulsive consistency of the grand dames and citizenesses who are willing to spall their lungs and their digestions, and exchange their changes of happy maternity for the sake of a wasp waist."

Who Love Flowers.

Flowers seem intended for the solace of ordinary humanity; children love them; quiet, tender, contented, ordinary people love them as they grow; luxurious and disorderly people rejoice in them gathered. They are the cottager's treasure; and in the crowded town, mark, as with a little broken fragment of rainbow, the windows of the workers in whose heart rests the covenant of peace. Passionate or religious minds contemplate them with fond, feverish intensity; the affection is seen severely calm in the works of many old religious painters, and mixed with more open and true country sentiment in those of our own pre-Raphaelites. To the child and the girl, the peasant and the manufacturing operative, to the grisette and the nun, the lover and monk, they are precious always. But, to the men of supreme power and thoughtfulness, precious only at times; symbolically and pathetically often to the poets, but rarely for their own sake. They fall forgotten from the great workmen's and soldiers' hands. Such men will take, in thankfulness, crowns of leaves or crowns of thorns--not crowns of flowers.--John Ruskin, M. A.

Of the four members to Congress selected in South Carolina on the 19th of October, says the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, three are negroes, and one is a white man meaner than the meanest negro. Whatever the faults of the white people of the State may be, it is undeniable that they are among the most respectable and intellectual in the country. Is it not humiliating to every American to see them ruled by a horde of ignorant, half barbarous negroes? Do not the people of the North feel indignant at the fact that their present condition has been brought about by the terrorism exercised over them by armed mobs of savages, backed by the Federal military and civil authorities?

When an Arab woman intends marrying again after the death of her husband, she goes the night before the ceremony to pay a visit to his grave. There she kneels and prays him not to be offended--not to be jealous. As, however, she feels he will be of fended or jealous, the widow brings with her a donkey laden with two goats skins with water. The prayer ended, she proceeds to pour the water upon the grave to keep the fire husband cool under the irritating circumstances about to take place, and having well saturated him, she then departs.

A poet wrote of his departed love--"We will hallow her grave with our tears," but the wicked printer set it up: "We will har row her grave with our steers."

"The Rich," said a Dutchman, "eat venison because it ish deer. I eat mutton because it ish sheep."
What is the difference between a donkey and the only empire in South America? The one brays well; the other Brazil.

The Elephant as a Walker.

We have found two curious points overlooked or ignored by writers--one is the rapid and noiseless movements of this animal in the thickest covert; the other, his capabilities of passing over ground for him apparently unfeasible. The elastic, noiseless bootfall of the elephant has been frequently referred to by writers on Indian subjects, and has been asserted to be the most agreeable feature in journeying on elephant back. This peculiarity may be easily explained by an examination of the structure of the animal's foot; but the silent, stealthy way in which he will pass through the desert thicket, literally "slipping away," when his acute sense of smell or hearing warn him of danger, has been overlooked, and appears to us somewhat difficult of explanation. Let any one unskilled in the mysteries of "bush ranging," attempt to move even a few paces in an ordinary fox covert without noise, and he will form some idea of the difficulties presented to the passage of so huge an animal as the elephant through the dense tangle of a South African "bush." Yet that the animal, despite his enormous bulk, will "draw off," when within a few yards of his pursuer, without the slightest noise, and with the greatest rapidity, even in the thickest covert, is undeniable. Again his powers of passing over difficult ground are often underrated even by hunters. When experiments were first made in India in training elephants to draw the gun, it was discovered with surprise that the animal's power for ascending steep and rugged ground was far greater than had been anticipated. The gun, a light six pounder, with which the trial was first made, was drawn up a slope so steep as to require the animal to crawl upon his fore knees, which it did without hesitation. On the other hand, hampered by the gun and harness, the elephant (a small female) showed unusual dread of soft and swampy ground.

National Demoralization.

How a great nation becomes rotten to the core and unable to resist foreign aggression, from the moment its most influential classes are given over to corruption and luxury, is exemplified in France in a most terrible and instructive manner.

Louis Napoleon seemed to be at the zenith of power, and all Europe and America united in homage to his greatness. His wife was without a rival as mistress of the fashionable world, and her sway extended from the Bois de Boulogne to the Central Park, and from the Bosphorus to the Neva. All who are most influential by their wealth, their extravagance, and their luxury, worshipped the pair as the most illustrious representatives of their peculiar proclivities and ambitions. The time-honored prestige of letters and art also continued no longer round Paris, and seemed to redeem the follies of fashion with a halo of intellectual life. But the ruling classes were only addicted to money-making and money spending, and like Gen. Grant, Louis Napoleon bestowed his greatest affection upon those who had the most money to spend. In one word, society in France became as base as it was voluptuous, and the Chief of the State seemed to be warmed into life only by the clinking of money. Thus, while France was supposed to stand at the head of civilization, the corruption of money-ed and fashionable people spread a cancer through the land, and poisoned all the central springs of executive and legislative action to such an extent as to make the nation helpless against a foreign enemy.

Here in the United States we are exposed to the same danger. Let us see that it be obviated before it is too late.--Banner of Liberty.

A SCURRY TRICK.--A citizen of Meriden, Conn., engaged in digging a well, was recently deserted by all hands on the day of the Meriden fire parade. Looking for assistance, he met a half-wit of the town, who agreed to help him, taking pay in cigars. They arrived at the well, which was already some forty feet deep, and the citizen was to go down and dig, while his assistant turned the windlass. Citizen got about ten feet down, when the notes of a brass band were heard. "I declare," said half-wit, "there's the music; I must go," and, letting go the windlass, away he ran. Citizen speedily landed at the bottom of the well, unhurt, but badly demoralized. "There he remained until late in the day, nobody going near the well, on account of the attractions in town. Finally, towards evening, a neighbor passing by, thinking he would look down and see how the work was progressing, found citizen and extricated him.

The reason why the Radical Legislature of Georgia employed so many clerks--one hundred and four, or about one clerk to every two members--is said to have been a clerical necessity, as not more than one out of two of these model statesmen could write his own name.

"Pa," said a lad to his father, "I have often read of people poor but honest; why don't they sometimes say rich but honest?" "Tut, tut, my son, nobody would believe them," answered the father.

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In THE DEMOCRATIC TIMES will be charged at the following rates:
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For each week thereafter.....\$1 00
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JOB PRINTING.

Every variety of Job Work executed with neatness and dispatch, at reasonable rates.

LEGAL TENDERS taken at par for subscription.

How to be Handsome.

If the young ladies knew how much their habits of life have to do with their beauty of form and feature, they would venture to set aside some of the customs of fashionable life even to secure so desirable an end. Bayard Taylor gives the following account of the Polish ladies: "Now it is perfectly natural for all women to be beautiful. If they are not so, the fault lies in their birth, or training, or in both. An organism which is perfectly healthy in all its parts will be harmoniously developed, and whether male or female, it will be beautiful. Hence there can be no true beauty without health, and there can be no permanent health in the future man or woman unless the child is properly cared for. We would therefore respectfully remind mothers, that, in Poland, a period of childhood is recognized. There, girls do not jump from infancy to young ladyhood. They are not sent from the cradle directly to the parlor, to dress, sit still and look pretty. No, they are treated as children should be. During childhood, which extends through a period of several years, they are plainly and loosely dressed, and allowed to run, romp and play in the open air. They take in sunshine as does the flower. They are not lashed down, girded about, and oppressed every way with countless frills and superabundant flounces, so as to be admired for their much clothing. Plain simple food, free and various exercise, and abundant sunshine, during the whole period of childhood, are the secrets of beauty in after life."

Cleanliness.

Compare the dirtiness of the water in which you have washed when it is cold without soap, cold with soap, and hot with soap. You will find that the first has hardly removed any dirt at all, the second, a little more, and the third a great deal more. But hold your hand in a cup of hot water for a minute or two, and then, by merely rubbing with the fingers, you will bring off flakes of dirt or dirty skin. After a vapor bath you may peel your whole self clean in this way. What I mean is, that by simply washing or sponging with water you do not really clean your skin. Take a rough towel, dip one corner in very hot water--if a little spirit be added it will be much more effectual--and then rub as if you were rubbing the towel into your skin with your fingers. The black flakes which will come off will convince you that you were not clean before, however much soap and water you may have used. These flakes are what require removing. And you can really keep yourself cleaner with a tumbler of hot water and a rough towel and rubbing, than with a whole apparatus of bath and soap and sponge, without rubbing. It is quite nonsense to say that anybody need be dirty. Patients have been kept clean by these means on a long voyage, when a basinful of water could not be afforded, and when they could not be moved out of their births, as if all the attentions of home had been at hand. Washing, however, with a large quantity of water has quite other effects than those of mere cleanliness. The skin absorbs the water, and becomes softer and more perspirable. To wash with soap and hot water is, therefore, desirable from other points of view than that of cleanliness.--Notes on Nursing. By Florence Nightingale.

The Cincinnati Commercial, commenting upon Grant's tactics to secure his re election in '72 says:

"President Grant is looking to a game of bluffing England to secure a second term of office, and if he goes on with the game, we shall have a war with England, Canada and the Southern Confederacy." In the first place, there is no occasion for war, in the second place, we are not prepared for it. Our navy would be found clumsy and ineffective. Our sea coast fortifications are not well armed; our financial system would go to pieces under the shocks of another great war. There is a demand for the most unequivocal expression of public opinion against Grant's war policy. He must be made to feel that the good sense and sound patriotism of the country is against him in this matter, or disastrous consequences are to be apprehended."

Good sense and sound patriotism of the country have ever been against Grant and his policy, and this he has been frequently made to feel, and the same has ever been unequivocally expressed, yet his boasted bull dog obstinacy, and his historical tenacity "to fight it out on this line" have thus far rendered all such publicly expressed opposition unavailing. With these facts staring the Commercial in the face, what reasonable hope can it have that an impression could be made upon the hitherto invincible Grant, by making him to feel that the good sense and the sound patriotism of the country are against him? The idea is simply preposterous.

All the survivors of the Revolutionary War are invited to be present at the grand centenary celebration of the Declaration of Independence, in Philadelphia, July 4, 1876. They will be passed free over the various railroads. The press will please copy.