# The Weekly Enterprise.

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## *THE ISLAND OF CUBA.*

The question concerning the possession of the island of Cuba is again being agitated in political circles. And while theories are under discussion by wiser heads, more practical men and adventurers are eluding the vigilance of the police, and passing over to the island to take part in the revolution now in progress there, with what ulterior designs it is easy to conceive. Cuba is situated so temptingly near our borders, that ever since the idea of the acquisition of territory began to be realized we have looked upon it with a covetous eye. In the days of slavery the friends of that institution sought to secure it, that they might extend the area of slavery and thus acquire additional power in Congress, to counterbalance the increasing power of the free States. New motives now exist, almost directly the reverse of those which formerly prevailed. We wish to see the curse of slavery which has so long hung like an incubus upon it, swept away, and its future interests identified with the interests of the Great Republic of the west.

And the question arises what is Cuba, and what advantages does it possess which render its acquisition worthy of consideration? Cuba is the largest of the West India Islands, embracing an area of nearly 50,000 square miles,—about as large as the State of New York—with a population of nearly a million and a half. The nearest point of land is within one hundred and fifty miles of the coast of Florida. It is situated just within the torrid zone, and the temperature throughout the year is very even. The difference between the hottest and coldest months is only about 21 deg. at Havana, and 14 deg. in the interior. The thermometer seldom rises above 90 deg. and there is no record of snow having fallen but once, and that was in 1856,—the coldest time ever experienced. Most of the fruits and grains common to tropical regions grow in great abundance. Maize, tobacco, rice, sage, pulse, yuca, sweet potato, coffee, of the best quality, etc., while her annual exports of sugar, range from seven to eight hundred millions of pounds. It is said that in proportion to her population her exports exceed those of any other country on the globe. This is what she has been able to accomplish under a despotic rule, or what is perhaps worse, under the most degrading form of slavery. It is difficult to tell what might be done under a well-regulated system of free labor, and with her population doubled. We have not space to enumerate all the advantages she possesses in the way of internal improvements, facilities for cultivating the soil, &c., suffice it to say that these are not surpassed by the southern portions of our own land. These things have all been accomplished under the disadvantages of a slave system, and a government weak at home, and without respect abroad. Columbus landed upon this island during his first voyage, and took possession in the name of their Most Catholic Majesties, Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain, and it has never passed out from under the dominion of the Spanish government. Most of her other possessions on the Western Continent have slipped from her grasp, but she has ever kept a tenacious hold of Cuba. When the United States came into possession of Florida, in 1821, the government at Washington began to take an interest in this island. But no definite propositions were made regarding its purchase, until 1848, when President Polk authorized the American Minister at Madrid to make an offer for it of $100,000,000. The offer was peremptorily rejected. Further attention was called to the subject of annexation in 1849, when Lopez, a defeated revolutionist, sought shelter in this country. Here he carried on his revolutionary schemes. After one or two failures, he succeeded in eluding the vigilance of the government, and with 500 recruits sailed from New Orleans in August 1851. He effected a landing in the island but was soon defeated, taken prisoner and perished. There was a manifest sympathy on the part of the southern people with this project of Lopez which came near bringing us into difficulty with Spain. But happily specks of war disappeared. In 1854, Buchanan, Mason and Soule, ministers of the U. S. at London, Paris and Madrid, met in conference on the subject of Cuba at Ostend and Aix la Chapelle, and drew up the famous Ostend manifesto. This document set forth the proposition that Cuba ought to belong to the United States. The reasons for this "ought," were very apparent to the freedom-loving portion of the people, and met with but little favor north of Mason and Dixon's line. The subject came up again in the Senate of 1858–9, and an attempt was made to place $30,000,000, in the hands of the President for its purchase. But the proposition was withdrawn and the matter dropped. The war for the time silenced all serious discussion of the question. But the crisis through which the government of Spain is now passing and the revolution excited in Cuba, which may be regarded as a consequence thereof, has again turned the thoughts of the people towards the question of annexation. The old motives for desiring Cuba are no longer in force. We seek possession of the island for new and higher reasons. In the honest judgment of humanity Spain should forfeit all claims, and allow it to become an independent government, and then of its own free will to drift under the protection of our flag. If unwilling to do this it should accept a reasonable compensation that it may become ours by the right of purchase. The reasons why Cuba should belong to us can be summed up in a few words.

First, To secure the abolition of slavery. It is time that this monstrous curse had disappeared from the surface of the earth.

Second. Its situation is such that it can be more easily governed by us, than by any other people. It is a part of the American Continent, and should no longer be under the control of European monarchs.

Third, It should be brought into subjection to a strong government, one that can secure the reign of law and order, a government which from the very nature of its constitution must feel a deeper interest in the welfare of subject peoples, than in the amount of income to be secured.

Fourth, It should be ours, that in time of war "neutral" governments need not send out pirates from her ports to prey upon our commerce.

Fifth, It is the garden from whence we receive large quantities of the most valuable products for consumption, we ought to be the gardeners.

Sixth, It should be brought under the influence of a nation which shall secure for it a higher form of civilization and infuse into the various branches of its activity American enterprise and energy. Let us secure it by fair and honorable means if we can, if not await patiently the developments of the future.

—The dispatches recently stated that a bill had been introduced in Congress conferring upon individuals all the privileges and immunities of corporations. We presume that the provisions are the same as those or the measure of like name introduced and urged at the last session of the Ohio Legislature. The title, probably, is sufficient to indicate what the terms of the bill n the main must be. Under its, provisions, an individual or firm, on giving notice publicly of intention to do, may invest a given amount in a business in which capital stock shall alone represent the extent of liability for losses. A regular statement of sales and profits will, undoubtedly, be required. It is probable thati f such bill becomes a law, its advantaaes as insuring against utter bankruptcy,—where the business man advertising under protection has a margin of property,—will induce thousands to place their principal enterprises in corporation form. The statistics of profit and loss in trade and manufacture which will thus be brought to general notice will be of the most interesting character; the reports will tend greatly to equalize business and prevent rash adventures in departments of commerce that are crowded with investments and operators. With such a law on the statute book, the same person may with impunity risk his capital in a large number of industries without necessarily incurring more than a small fraction of the expense now required for incorporation.

It may be objected that the benefits of the proposed law will, in all pobability, only inure to the rich. The probabilities appear to us to be in precisely the opposite direction. It will give the man of moderate means opportunity and incentive for embarking in business operations that he would not otherwise dare to inaugurate. And if the guards in the law are proper and just, the creditor will have a more certain promise of repayment than he now holds against the mere firm or single proprietor. It will not encourage speculation so much as it will foster enterprise.

An arrest for Debt and What Came of It.—Some time in April, 1868, Jas. Openheimer and others commenced action in the County Court of this county against J. L. Toby, of Vancouver, to recover $350, alleged to be due them, and got out a writ of arrest him on the ground that Dr. Tolby was a non-resident of the State. Failing to produce the necesasry "Government engravings," either from scarcity thereof or some other cause, the Dr. was sent to jail and there kept for over a month. Upon his release he commenced suit against the parties who had caused his arrest for false imprisonment, in the District Court at Vancouver. The case was decided last Saturday by the jury giving the Doctor $5,000 damages J. F. Caples, assisted by some of the Vancouver bar, conducted the prosecution; Thayer, Fredrich and Lancaster the defense.—*Oregonian.*

—It has been decided that dealers in liquors, who sell quantities of five gallons and upwards must pay the wholesale and retail tax.

—American cars are becoming quite popular on English roads.

## *GOLD MINING—SINGULAR ERRORS.*

The Philadelphia *Ledger*, in alluding to that portion of President Grant's inaugural which speaks of the golden-grained hills of the West, falls into some singular errors, the most prominent of which, being the following: It says, "*When it costs 100 cents to find and wash out a dollar's worth of gold, the business should be abandoned as unprofitable.*"

The fallacy of this assertion is readily shown by the Philadelphia *Press*. Without regard for the vast results attending the production of gold, we will present a very simple table, keeping in mind the fact that it has "cost a dollar:"

| | |
|---|---|
| The production in California since 1848 is | $1,100,000,000 |
| Cost of production same period | 1,100,000,000 |
| Total loss in the operation | 0,000,000,000 |

So much has been invested, and so much has been taken out, and the investment has thus been paid back in about twenty years, or a little longer than it requires to double any investment at a legal rate of interest. So much for the simple figures in the transaction; let us look at the collateral results attending it.

If we take California as an example, we must compare it as it is now, with what it was in 1848. Accepting the theory that it has cost a dollar to get a dollar, we find besides paying the investment back, that there is a profit on the outlay of an immense number of mills, an enormous aggregate of machinery, apparatus, and tools, besides vastly increasing the good-will value of the territory.

The profits to labor must also be considered. It was estimated by Commissioner King that soon after the discovery of gold in California, fifty-five thousand miners were at work in that State, and the number engaged in mining has not varied much since. It must be remembered that their labor *was paid for out of the original outlay.* The result to labor is as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of workmen employed | 55,000 |
| Number of days' work done by same for one year of 200 days | 11,000,000 |
| Number days' work done in 20 years | 220,000,000 |
| Amount paid for labor, from $1 to $10 per diem, says an average of $3 per diem | $660,000,000. |

Thus, at an ordinarily fair computation, labor has absorbed more than half of the original capital.

Other industries in California have been developed, and represent indirectly a further profit on this much-abused expenditure of money. Fifty-five thousand men have been fed, clothed, and housed for nearly a quarter of a century, while the impetus with their necessities gave to other pursuits has made California one of the most important of the grain-producing States, but its present condition and importance is too well known to need further comment.

Without the discovery of gold we should have no San Francisco. The Pacific Railway would thus have been unnecessary, and it would not have been built during this generation. Here again the calumniators of Mr. Grant's suggestion are at fault. Five thousand laborers are now at work laying the tracks of the Pacifit Railways, besides an army of superintendents, clerks, etc. Cars are being built, locomotives constructed, and all the paraphernalia of a vast railroad are being completed. Besides this, cities are springing up along the road, houses and factories are being built, involving the labor of may thousand more, and all because California was a gold-producing country, and because *a dollar was spent to get a dollar back.* Think, too, of the future; of the numberless mouths that are yet to be fed, and of the great machinery of trade, which it will yet set in motion to still further advance the cause of civilization; and then, perhaps, this outlay of capital may not seem so "*unprofitable*" as our friend of the *Ledger* suggests.

—A list of sixty-two army officers detailed to perform the duties of Indian Agents and Superindents, will be published shortly. This order will virtnally remove nearly all the Indian officers now in place, except a few Quakers lately appointed. Among those removed is the man—Keist—in office by rejection of the Quaker nominee. This order is in accordance with the law creating the Indian Bureau, which authorizes the President to detail officers of the army to perform the duties of Agents, on the Plains.

—It is rumored that important information has been received at Washington concerning the movements of English clipper capitalist, to offset the influence of the Pacific Railroad upon the lines of trade from Asia. An influential London company has the right of way across Honduras, and design constructing a railroad in connection with lines of English steamers on both the Atlantic and Pacific, by which it is hoped to compete with our Pacific railroad in carrying heavy commodities.

—Rothschild left a ton of deeds and stock certificates.

## *THE LAST HOURS.*

A Washington correspondent of the *Herald* thus alludes to an event quite interesting;

A measure of paramount interest to the people of Oregon was passed at the closing hours of the session. I allude to the act to amend an act entitled "an act granting lands to aid in the construction of a railroad and telegraph line from the Central Pacific Railroad in California to Portland, Oregon," approved July 25, 1866. This bill was reported on favorably by the Committee on Public Lands of the Senate twice; once just before the close of the session ending the 4th of March, and once during this session. It is but fair to say that its final passage by both houses is due to the indefatigable exertions and indomitable energy of the Hon. J. H. Mitchell and S. F. Chadwick, Esq., who have had the matter in charge, and who have surmounted obstacles that appeared at times impossible to overcome. When the matter was up for consideration in the Senate, last week, the opposition came principally from Corbett, who read a lengthy paragraph of over one hour and a half's duration, and which rather confused than enlightened the Senate, and did more to aid in the passage of the East Side Railroad bill—as passed—than if he had got up and appeared as its champion and advocate. The morning hour expiring, Williams moved that his colleague be allowed time to finish his dissertation, intimating that he did not intend to allow the measure to be defeated, or to fail to obtain a vote on it, by the tactics of this colleague. This raised the anger of Corbett, who, in a personal explanation, said he did not want to be characterized as a tactician; his object was to do his duty to his friends and constituents. To which Williams rejoined, that he had no objection to the Senator enlightening the Senate, but his dissertation was entirely foreign to the subject matter, and he might as well read some of Gulliver's Travels, or several chapters from the book of Genesis to the Senate, and they would be as pertinent as Senator Corbett's remarks. This was the climacteric, and shortly the bill was passed, extending the time for filing the assent of the Oregon Central Railroad Company with the Secretary of the Interior for twelve months; this unquestionably gives all the franchises to the East Side Railroad. The bill as passed the Senate was passed the House about 4 o'clock a. m., of Saturday; one of the last acts of Congress. It was returned to the Senate, the amendment approved, and finally signed at 11 o'clock a. m. by the Speaker of the House and President *pro tem*, of the Senate, and approved by the President at a quarter to 12 o'clock, just a quarter of an hour before the final adjournment. The faithful custodians of its passage, Messrs. Mitchell and Chadwick, watching all the movements with a vigilance and pertinacity which cost them much trouble and anxiety, also a night's rest. It is now a *fait accompli.*

Refreshing to Democrats.—A prominent Virginia Democrat having been charged with changing his political views, writes a letter confessing the charge, expressing the reason for the change, and declaring himself utterly opposed to the conservative [rebel] State ticket. Among other things he said.

I have changed because events have changed, and our Government has changed. A mighty revolution has swept over our political and social systems; and are the people of Virginia to remain stupid blind to the new line of departure? Have they to follow longer the lead and cling longer to the fallen fortunes of the Northern Democracy, who have failed to afford them any relief, and who are powerless to extend relief to themselves? I shall do no such thing; and those who are seduced longer by the jack-o-lantern lights of those shipwrecked mariners who are dreaming and speculating about the defunct resolutions and platforms of the past, are simply gambling away what little remains from the debris of war, of the homestead of their good old mother commonwealth, and dancing at her funeral. They shall dance by none of my music, nor will I dance by theirs.

—Forney and party have returned from their Southern trip. They went as far as Florida, and they represent the industrial prospects much improved, negroes working better than before and the whites seem more industrious. The crops look well and the people are anxious for immigration. Millions of acres of land are for sale. Great inducements are offered to capitalists. Oregon and the West must wake up. The South is our competitor.

—Twelve per cent of English criminals are under sixteen.

—A dispatch from Promontory Point on May 10th at noon says that the last rail is laid, the last spike is driven—the Pacific Railroad is completed. The point of junction is ten hundred and eighty six miles west of the Missouri, and six hundred and ninety miles east of Sacramento. The tie was made of California Laurel, highly polished and engraved. The spike was made of gold, presented by David Hewes, of San Francisco, inscribed as follows on the head: "The last spike." On one side: "The Pacific Railroad; ground broken January 8th, 1863; completed May 10th 1869." On another side, this sentiment, "May God continue the unity of our country as this railroad unites the two great oceans of the world." The other sides bear the names of the Directors and officers of the Company. The spike is fac simile in size and shape of the ordinaay six inch spike, to the point of which was attached in the casting a nugget of about the same length as the spike itself, which is designed to be broken off at the time of the completion ceremony by the President of the road, to be used probably in the manufacture of mementoes of the occasion for the officers of the corporation. The value of spike and nugget is $414. The Union Pacific Express Company furnished the hammer which drove the last spike. It was made of solid silver.

—The price of fine carriage horses has reached an unparallelled high figure in the Atlantic cities. In view of this, a gentleman well versed in such matters, and lately returned from New York, says that among the earliest uses of the Pacific Railroad will be the transportation of horses from Oregon to Eastern markets. That the horse has wonderfully appreciated in Oregon, owing to various causes, particularly to the absence of those extremes of heat and cold which prevail in the Atlantic States, is now a well attested fact. In the last fifteen years a large number of the finest stock—American and English—has been imported, and of their increase none have been sent out of the State. Oregon contains thousands of the most beautiful horses in the United States; and the sending of them for sale on the Atlantic side is as natural as the shipment of wool and grain, the production of which commenced on a comparatively small scale less than twenty years ago.

—The New York Press Club at its monthly meeting, on Saturday last sent greeting to the journalists on the Pacific coast their hearty congratulations on the completion of the continental railway which leaves us no longer antipodes, but makes us next door neighbors. It begins a new era in American history. May American journalism grow like the country, in dignity and ripeness and in influence.

—A *Tribune* special says Government has received a late report from General Davis, commanding Alaska. He gives further reports regarding the burning of an Indian village, but the main fact is denied and he makes no allusion to any irregularities among the officers. The authorities have no official information concerning the alleged disgraceful conduct of certain officers stationed there.

—On Saturday last in the New York City Common Pleas Court before Judge Daley, Francis Waland recovered a verdict for $689 with interest against John Livingston, the lawyer who was the administrator of the deceased husband of plaintiff and fraudently defrauded her. Judge Daley administerded a severe rebuke and pronounced Livingston a disgrace to his race, country and profession.

—A New York dispatch of Saturday says:

Several passengers arrived this morning, eight days from San Francisco. They say much work must still be done to put the road in good order.

—Two Nassau street Printers, Alfonzo Bell and Wm. Jones, are under arrest for printing spurious Haytien Notes. They have already sent $80,000 worth afloat.

—The New York *Herald* comes out in favor of placing the telegraph in the hands of the Government.

—The East India Telegraph Co., of which Gov. Curtin is President, will soon build a telegraph between Canton and Shanghai.

—It is said that Little Mac, "is getting along very nicely with the Stevens Battery.

—It takes $50,000 a day to pay for the pork packed in Cincinnati.

—It costs $1000 to cowhide an editor in Wisconsin.

—George Peabody's benefactions amount to $7,735,000.

Sons of Temperance.—On the evening of the 6th inst., W. R. Dunbar, Deputy G. W. P., for Oregon, organized a Division of the Sons of Temperance, at Sublimity, Marion county, called the Evening Star Division, No. 5. The following are the officers for the present term: W. H. Smith, W. P.; Angeline Leigh, W. A.; Nathan Leigh, R. S.; M. I. Smith, A. R. S.; Lucy E. Smith, F. S.; J. M. Greenstreet, Chap.; W. H. Hobson, C.; E. T. Perkins, A. C.; Elijah Leigh, Jr., I. S.; and John H. Coy, P. W. P. This Division starts with 12 members.—*Oregonian.*

Climatic Contrast.—Last week we had accounts of a heavy storm which prevailed over several of the Atlantic States, and the dispatches this morning speak of a destructive hail storm in the Mississippi valley which greatly damaged the fruit and vegetable crops. While all this was going on the Pacific slope was sitting almost in the lap of summer. In Oregon, far North of Pennsylvania or Illinois, we have for a long time had warm, bright and beautiful weather, and while Pennsylvania was lying under her mantle of snow, and Illinois under a pelting rain of hail, we were seeking out the coolest breeze. Who would live in Pennsylvania or Illinois? Who, in view of the climatic contrast, would not live in Oregon?—*Oregonian.*

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