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A MINNESOTA TORNADO.

A cloud, black as the raven's wing, appeared in the west. Suddenly it split, and between the two black trains expanded the most fearful, dismal sky I ever saw. The color was green—gray—yellow, and it darkened the sun so it became as twilight. The carpenters had gathered together with us on the porch.

"This must be a hailstorm," one of them said; "now we will pretty soon hear of disasters." Suddenly the cleft widened between the two black cloud wings, and the upper one came with a terrible speed, flurrying back toward us. "Let us walk in," I said. "It seems as if we, too, shall get a taste of it." We went in, and our parlor looked quite dark. We had scarcely looked the door before we heard the roaring of the storm coming.

In a moment we were surrounded by a white cloud, and the wind and rain lashed the house, which groaned and shivered. It was not rain, it was furious torrents of water mixed with heavy hail, which poured down from heaven. The storm tried to burst open the door, but five men pressed against it with all their might. The wall seemed to give way, and stood in a bow; the building shook as in convulsions. I felt a tightening of my heart every time the house seemed to be lifted from the ground and dropped down again.

Twice we had these terrible shocks; then in a moment house, men, furniture were hurled through the air 100 feet away. I do not remember anything till I found myself on the ground crawling among the ruins of my home. The first I discovered was my wife, with a child in each arm, lying on my side. Men and children were scattered around among lumber and sittings, whether alive or dead nobody could tell.

A table and a staircase came flying through the air; some men met them and pushed them away, so they did not kill my wife and children; bits of wall and roof whirled round us; here it was impossible to remain. We crept and crawled and ran for our lives to the forest. As we found each other there, we were only six; a friend of ours, a farmer, had one of the small girls in his arms, my wife another, and one of my sons clung to me. But where were the rest of the children?

I had myself seen one of the carpenters run with my third little girl—but the eldest and youngest boy? Killed, perhaps, or lying mutilated among the ruins, and it was impossible to look for them. The hurricane would have swept us away as soon as we had moved from the wood. The only thing to do was to press the children to us and give them as much shelter as we could with our broader backs. The rain and the hail lashed us, the oak shrubs were blown flat to the ground, and their limbs struck our head and shoulders like whips.—*Boston Globe.*

Ruskin says "there is in every animal's eye a dim image and gleam of humanity, a flash of a strange light, through which their life looks up to our great mystery of command over them, and claims the fellowship of the creature if not of the soul." That seems to be very true, and yet sometimes a man notices this dim image and gleam in the eye of a strange dog in a foreign orchard, where the trees are too high to climb and the fence is too distant to reach; and the discouraging thought comes over him with a dull, sickening thud, that that dog has just formulated a new theory on the great mystery of our command over him, and is going to prove it in about two minutes. Then all the fellowship that man feels for the creature in the dog you can put in your eye, be the same more or less, with all the appurtenances thereunto appertaining.—*Burlington Hawkeye.*

Land Grants.

Judge Payson of Illinois, is preparing argument against the transfer of the Texas Pacific land grant to the Southern Pacific Railroad, to be filed with the secretary of the interior. The judge has fortified himself pretty thoroughly with private and public documents. There is a belief on the part of many who have watched the course of Mr. Teller, that he will decide against the transfer, and would do so without argument. There is room for plenty of doubt about the Southern Pacific claim, and the secretary has generally denied the benefit of the doubt to claimant corporations. There are about fifteen million acres of land in this grant, and Judge Payson is determined to secure it to the settlers if he can. He takes extreme ground in the case of these grants, and will not admit that it is right, even in the case of the Northern Pacific. In the first place the Northern Pacific has several subsidy grants that it has not claimed and has no intention for the present, at least, of earning. About 1,500,000 acres of the best land in Oregon was granted for the Portland and Astoria line, which the company show no credentials to construct. There are 3,000,000 acres along the Columbia, on both sides of the river, which the Northern Pacific will never make a route through, because it has become in possession of a road already built there by the Oregon Railway and Navigation company. There were about 1,300,000 acres along the Cascade line, where road has been made. Obviously these tracts are still within reach of congress even in lands granted to the main line, though the line has been completed. Where certificates have not been issued to a railroad company Judge Payson holds that congress can still declare them forfeited.

Judge Payson is of the opinion that, although the Northern Pacific main line is completed, there remain questions with regard to it which are not to be considered settled and which will undoubtedly be opened this winter. He says there are several branch lines, one running along the Columbia river and one running from Portland, which the Northern Pacific have located by filing maps, but which, he thinks, the company has no intention of building. This is especially true as to the line located in the Columbia river valley, which, if constructed, would be in direct competition with the Oregon Railway and Navigation company, which is owned by the Northern Pacific road. There are capitalists who stand ready to build roads, but they cannot do so. Judge Payson says that the only way to correct this and assure the building of these roads is for congress to declare the land forfeited, as the roads not only have not been completed, but have not been begun.

Ben Butler's friends have started a weekly paper in New York to advocate his claim to the presidency. The title of it is *Father Columba*. It contents are devoted chiefly to biographical sketches of the Massachusetts statesman. It is stated that Butler not only furnished the funds to defray the expenses of the *Father Columba*, but that he has read the proof of all the articles in it. Its candidate for vice president is John S. Regan, of Texas, and its platform is: "Justice to labor; turn out the rascals in all parties; reduce the public expenses 75 per cent.; railroad fares uniformly one cent a mile; railroad freight rates just, uniform and permanent; telegraph and express rates reduced 50 per cent.; recuperate trade; gold and silver certificates the only paper money monopoly; no more Tewksbury; no sumptuary law; no banks of issue; no public debt."

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There is said to be an unusually large number of young men among the members elect of the forty-eighth congress, but the youngest man who has ever been elected to congress since the adoption of the Federal Constitution was John Randolph, of Virginia. His fellow-citizens, considering him a prodigy, elected him their representative to Congress at the juvenile age of twenty-two years.

Asked a traveler in the Orient of a Pasha; "Is the Turkish civil service like ours? Are there retiring allowances and pensions, for instance?" "My illustrious friend, and joy of my liver," replied the Pasha, "Allah is great, and the public functionary who stands in need of a retiring allowance when his term of office expires is an ass! I have spoken."

The supreme court of Indiana has decided, in reviewing the proceedings in a murder case, that the mere fact of a man having read newspaper accounts of a crime, and having an opinion therefrom, but one which could be removed by the evidence does not necessarily render him incompetent to serve on juries.

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