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"GO YE, THEREFORE, TEACH ALL NATIONS."

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Correspondence.

Our Washington Letter.

(FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.)

WASHINGTON, August, 11, 1879.

The Sunday which rose upon the city to-day, has had a touch of autumn in it, though, mid-summer has scarcely passed. It was, however, but a faint trace—a foreshadowing of things to come. There was not a strange voice in any of the pulpits. The rivers abounded in excursions. The Park, never greener, drew crowds, and Washington was quiet and content. The hills around the District cities are all being cut down, baked into bricks and built up again in their new form as sumptuous and convenient dwellings. The savage dug a hole in the hill and dwelt there, but the civilized man puts the hill in a hole or grinds it up into clay and presses it out into bricks for a dwelling. The centre hills of the city were long ago converted into rows of two-story houses, and still the brickyard climb the hills on the edges of the city, and as the hilltops sink their clay rises into houses. The great hills in the northeast and southeast sections of the city, that formerly denominated the surrounding neighborhood are being rapidly "brought to grade," by the busy brickmakers, and soon the city will have swallowed its last hilltop and assimilated it into a well-built street. The home supply of clay needed is, however, far from sufficient, and for years the Virginia hills across the Potomac have been carted, in bricks, across the Long Bridge. Washington has sent out a brickmaking colony to occupy the nearest hills, and at Fort Runyon, the first mainland that the road reaches after having crossed the Long Bridge and Alexander's Island is a populous village of brick kilns and shows the capital a column of smoke by day and of fire by night. The kilns are surrounded by factories that use the most approved machinery and employ many hands.

One of the most affecting incidents of the time is the interchange of epistolary compliments between the Hon. Carl Schurz and His Excellency Spotted Tail, chief of the Brute Sioux. It appears that old Spot, has detected certain faults in the civil service of his administration, and, deserving the assistance of an expert to rectify them nationally turns his attention to the most celebrated professor of civil service reform now living. It affords one great pleasure to learn that Mr. Schurz will shortly proceed to reform the civil service of the Brute Sioux. There is no information as to what method of reformation it is proposed to pursue; whether he has some special plan, or intends to proceed in the regular way, at \$300 a night and

found. Probably the Secretary himself has not yet decided upon a course of procedure, but intends to be governed by the exigencies of the case as they may present themselves on the spot. All that can be said at present is, that in case he elects to proceed in the regular way much of his precept must be lost, owing to the poverty of the Sioux language in technical terms. It is also expected that he will visit the New Idria Mining Co., in whose favor he recently rendered a decision worth over two million dollars, leaving poor McGarham in the cold.

One of the republican congressional committee men who has been spending a week in Maine, returned here to-day. He says that Senator Blaine reports that he has his party in excellent working order, and for the first since the canvass was begun he feels sure that the republicans will carry the State. Blaine has dropped the question of finance, or at least has made it a secondary place, and is running the campaign on the old war issues, especially in regard to the question of State rights. His estimate of the vote is that there will be 135,000 votes cast. Of this number he gives 70,000 to the republican candidate, 50,000 to the greenbackers and 15,000 to the democratic candidates. In reaching these figures he estimates that there were 11,000 republicans who did not go to the polls last year who will vote this year, that there are 13,000 republicans who voted the greenback ticket last year who have returned to the republican party and will at the coming election vote the ticket of that party.

Rapid progress is being made in the construction of the new building for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, at the corner of Fourteenth and B, streets southwest, and it already gives promise of being one of the finest specimens of brick architecture to be found anywhere. The structure at its present stage is an interesting subject for study. The site chosen is a commanding one. The spaciousness of the grounds and those of the Washington monument and the Parks south of the White House gives the building an unobstructed view to the north nearly half a mile in a direct line. To the east lie the grounds of the Agricultural Department, and the Botanical Gardens, forming a continuous ornamental Park between the Potomac and the Capital fully a mile in length. The walls of the new building are more than three feet thick. Seen from within with the skeleton of massive iron girders and supports, they seem designed to last forever. The chief feature of interest is found in the elaborate system of outside ornamentation. A water line of grey granite and a continuous sill of the same material marks the floors of the first and second stories. The window sills and a portion of the ornamented work around the entrance are of brown stone. All the remainder is of brick in two colors, but molded into a great variety of patterns. Each story has its pattern of ornamentation in pressed brick, while over the whole runs a series of springing window-arches supported upon piers which extend from the ground to the roof. The main entrance is a "study" in brick and stone. Delicate columns of brick support the arch. Panels of brick with moulded archflowers fill the spaces, and overhead hangs a graceful balcony supported upon half arches of the two materials combined. Orna-

mental work of a still higher order, also in brick, is promised within.

AUGUST.

London Letter.

(REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE.)

LONDON, Aug. 2, 1879.

An International Literary Congress recently held its first sittings in London, and, with Victor Hugo as its President and Alfred Tennyson at the head of the English committee appointed to receive the distinguished foreign visitors, it may be fairly said that the poetry of the two countries was well represented. As in all gatherings of this kind, festivity played its part; the members of the Congress were received at a Mansion House banquet, and afterwards the very Shakespearian Mayor of Stratford-upon-Avon welcomed them as his guests. One of the London clubs opened its portals to all the members, while the more distinguished were the objects of cordial hospitality at some public and many private entertainments.

It is not at all surprising, that the official language of the Congress was French, for no other tongue has acquired such peculiar prominence. English is more widely spread, and Spanish is of greater commercial use in South America and the adjacent seas, while Italian has still an international superiority as the interpreter of the highest kind of music. The courts, the aristocracies, the statesmen, and the cultivated classes in Europe, however, find French the most convenient common link. It is now what Latin was in the middle ages, and even down to the beginning of the eighteenth century. Russians and Turks, Germans and Spaniards, Italians and Swedes, Englishmen and Dutchmen, all use French in diplomatic or social intercourse. It is the inevitable second language of all who have two. A foolish Chauvinism has recently induced Prince Bismark to force German into diplomatic use and when he grew angry at Versailles he insisted upon talking it to M. Thiers. Yet, though he may thus impose some additional trouble on Foreign Office clerks in various capitals, he will do nothing to induce other nations to displace French from its international position. Though not the vehicle of the best literature of the world—in this respect inferior both to English and German—French is the native language of the best modern drama and of the most highly cultivated literary style.

It is curious to note that at this International Congress, mainly concerned with "copyright," the French delegates, who were anxious to make arrangements to secure their rights here, found no authorized representative of the publishers of the United States with whom to carry on negotiations. The fact is that they need not much fear being wronged by reprinting, translation, or adaption on our side the water. Though citizens of our Great Republic travel much and flock to Paris as a paradise, their ignorance of the French language is as great as was the English during the Continental War, when George III. applauded one of his courtiers for refusing to learn French, and when that language was considered a kind of dialect natural enough in the manly Briton's sisters, but not to be expected from the Briton himself. Few French books are reprinted in

the United States, and as to translations and adaptations, why should American publishers pay native hands for such work when they can "steal them ready made" from the English publisher? Thus, if the French authors secure their rights in England they are pretty safe from Transatlantic depredations. Nevertheless it cannot be forgotten that in a Congress professedly "International" dealing with the laws of copyright, the omission of the United States leaves a huge gap. It resembles a discussion on Mediterranean piracy in the last century with studious avoidance of Algiers. While "translation" and "adaptation," the two evils from which Frenchmen most suffer occupied the Congress for two days, not one word is said about "reproduction." The Frenchman finds himself partially robbed, his ideas are pilfered piecemeal by the Englishman; but the Englishman is swallowed body and bones by the American pirate. No "translation" or "adaptation" vexes him; he finds that he is captured whole by the enemy and sold for his profit. The highclass American publishers have lately discovered that, as Lord Beaconsfield said in 1869, "confiscation is contagious." Now, unfortunately for them, some Chicago publishers have taken to reproducing at a very cheap rate the English books republished in New York. They are, in fact, so lost to patriotism that they actually treat their own countrymen as they treat Englishmen. The astonishment and indignation of the great New York houses at this conduct is exactly the same as that of Bret Harte's Yankees, who, conspiring to cheat the "Heathen Chinese," found that he had whole packs of aces up his sleeves; and they now cry out, "Let us all be honest!" much as the hens in the stable who, finding themselves worsted by the horses, nobly exclaimed, "Let us all stop kicking."

This is a statement from the standpoint of English authorship, but it is not more than right that we should have some reprisal for a product of the American brain which England and Europe use, in many instances, without price or thanks. I refer to our mechanical and labor saving inventions.

Items from California.

The church in San Francisco has sold its house of worship and is now meeting in the Y. M. C. A. rooms. To those not acquainted with the surroundings, this may seem to be a strange movement, but the facts are they were compelled to sell on account of a mortgage on the property, and in the second place the location of the church was one of the most unfavorable in the city. Many who have labored and worshiped there, have said to me that it was next to an impossibility to get an audience there. In fact the Methodist from whom we bought it sold it for this very reason, so the presiding elder told me, who negotiated the trade. Now that they are free from this encumbrance, I do hope that an effort will be made to purchase a lot in a favorable locality and that as soon as possible a house of worship may be erected of which the brethren may justly be proud. But it takes money to do this now, in San Francisco, and a great deal of it. The brethren there have made a great sacrifice for the cause, and it is next to impossible for them to accomplish this work alone. The establishing of

the cause in San Francisco should not be looked upon as a local affair, but one in which the brotherhood of the State is interested. They ought to have assistance in this great work, and I do hope that at the proper time they will get it. Have we no rich brethren who would like to build a monument to their memory that will last through time and extend into eternity? They can do so by aiding a work of this kind.

The brethren in Tulara and adjoining counties are going to have another camp meeting this fall. They had one last year which resulted in some 50 additions. Bro. Dewitt is laboring in that section and is having good success, I understand.

Bro. J. K. Rule preached for the church in Hollister two weeks ago, the church there has no preacher now, but they keep up their meetings and Sunday school; the latter gave a concert last week, from which they realized \$70. J. N. Thompson, their superintendent, is one of the most faithful and devoted men in California.

Bro. Rule is preaching for the church at Gilroy. May the Lord bless his labors. The old man is ripening for the tomb and will soon rest from his labors.

Politics are all the rage now in California, you can't get the people to think, nor talk anything else. If every man don't get to vote his principles this fall, it will not be for want of candidates nor parties. There are five parties in the field—the Republican, Democratic, New Constitutionals, Working Men, and the Temperance party. The wisest political prophet would not risk his reputation in an attempt to forecast the result of the election.

A good brother said to me the other day, that Bro. B.'s "Remonstrance" was divided into two parts, a portico and a back yard. That he had castigated Bro. Peterson in the "portico," but had conducted "Argus" to the other department where he "socked his bill" into his many eyes and bid him a probable farewell. I hope Bro. B. will not leave poor "Argus" thus wounded and bleeding, but will act the part of the good Samaritan and take care of him till his sight is fully restored. If he can't give us a whole article, let us have minus the "portico."

Bro. J. H. McCollough is located at Terabanta, Indiana. He was a delegate to the late Sunday school convention of the Disciples, at Columbus, of the same State. He writes that there were "about five hundred delegates present." This makes our convention's out here look very small, but "it is not by might nor by power, saith the Lord of hosts, but by my spirit" that we are to gain the victory. I hope to see Bro. M. in California again.

Webster says that the word "all" "not only in popular language, but in the Scriptures, often signifies, indefinitely, a large portion or number, or a great part," a fact which every school boy ought to know, but of which the critics of "Argus" seem to be ignorant. *Finis.*

ARGUS.

—Mr. S. W. Burnham, of Chicago, has been selected to determine the site for the new observatory to be founded by the munificent gift of seven hundred thousand dollars by the late James Lick, of California. One of three peaks of Mt. Hamilton is likely to be chosen.