

The Coast Mail.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 1880.

Admiral Nelson.

Vice-Admiral Lord Nelson was a great sea captain if ever one lived. When, on the 15th of September, 1805, he hoisted the flag on board the Victory, he arrived off Cadix on his birth day to take command of the Mediterranean fleet, he meant fighting. There was no suspicion of hesitation in his tactics. The force under him consisted of twenty-seven sail of the line and four frigates, which he withdrew from the vicinity of Cadix to a station sixteen or eighteen leagues to the westward, "in the hope of inducing the enemy to put to sea." These were the days of dash and manhood, and great must have been Nelson's exultation when, on the morning of October the 21st, just at day-break the combined French and Spanish fleets, consisting of thirty-three sail of the line and seven frigates, were seen ahead to the leeward twelve miles. The Admiral lost no time, for before twelve the British fleet, in two lines, were bearing down on the crescent-shaped position of the enemy, and then it was that Nelson hoisted the signal, "England expects that every man will do his duty." The only fear was that the enemy might run for refuge, therefore Nelson notified to Collingwood, "I intend to pass through the van of the enemy's line, to prevent him from getting into Cadix." There was an affectionate anxiety about the impetuosity and determination of the commander, so Captain Blackwood proposed that the Temeraire should go ahead of the Victory, in case that vessel might draw the principal attention of the enemy's fire. "Oh! yes, let her go ahead," replied Nelson; but at the same time he had clearly no intention of allowing any such thing, for he would not permit an inch of canvas to be taken in, and the Victory continued to lead the column, closely hugged by the Temeraire. It was Collingwood, however, who began the fight, on board the Royal Sovereign commanding the lee division, and the feeling of the two brave men at this important moment found utterance almost at the same instant. "What would Nelson give to be here!" exclaimed Collingwood to Rotherham, and at the same instant, without a spark of jealousy at the enviable position of his friend, Nelson observed, "See how nobly Collingwood carries his ship into action."

But at twenty minutes past noon the Victory was in the thickest of the fight. Scarcely a minute after the ship got within range, seven or eight ships opened a terrible and destructive fire upon her. The Admiral's Secretary, Mr. Scott, was shot dead, and soon the mizzen topmast of the Victory was carried away, and also her wheel, necessitating the progress of steering by the relieving tackles below. Yet no hail of fire destroyed the dauntless and dogged courage of Nelson and his sea-dogs. When a splinter from the fore-brace bits passed between Nelson and Hardy, and tore away the buckle from the shoe of the latter, the Admiral only smiled and said, "This is too warm work to last long, Hardy!" Still, warm as it was, the English Admiral was determined to make it hotter. The Victory's sails were bagging in ribbands; she had lost full fifty men in killed and wounded; but soon it was her turn to begin. Determined to pass under the stern of the Bucentaure as the only mode of breaking the line, the Victory's helm was put hard aport, and there was scarcely space for her to go clear. Sailing close to the larboard side of the Bucentaure, the Victory poured in such a well-directed and tremendous broadside that the French ship heeled two or three streaks on receiving it. All this time Nelson was pacing the quarter-deck with Hardy, their walk being bounded aft by the wheel and forward by the companion-ladder. The distance was only about twenty-five feet, and it was here, when the Redoubtable brought up that the fatal bullet struck Nelson. He fell on his knees just where Scott had fallen, and said, "They have done for me at last, Hardy; my backbone is shot through." The victory was all but gained when Nelson was compelled to go below. In that dreadful moment he thought of his men and caused his face and his stars to be covered by his hankercieff, in order that he might pass unnoticed by the crew.—London Telegraph.

A STRANGE COUNTRY.—The Nevada City Transcript says that within two miles of that city is a belt of country that extends along the west side of the ridge for some distance, where frost has never yet been seen. Snow falls there during storms that prevail in the country, but melts off almost immediately clear to the very edge of the hot district, leaving the foliage bright and fresh. Above and below the lines the grass crops are killed, and the leaves being nipped by frost fall off in the early winter. It is believed strawberries, peaches, and other tender fruit can be grown on that wonderful belt of land from New Years to New Years.

A Ghastly Story.

Captain Sands, of the schooner Paulina Collins, who brought such pleasant news concerning the triumphant passage of Behring's Strait of Nordenskjold's Arctic steamer, the Vega relates another tale full of ghastly horror: St. Lawrence Island is in the Behring Sea, and until recently has been inhabited; but nearly the entire population have perished from starvation. A party from the Collins which landed on the island found 250 corpses in one field, the dead being carried out by the living, who returned only to die. This terrible mortality was brought about by the want of food and scarcity of food was caused by the intemperance of the islanders. Nearly every "trader" goes to the Arctic loaded with rum, which is sold to the natives. As long as the liquor lasts the people will not go out fishing and when they do it is too late.

Strange Hallucination.

Mrs. Margaret Tomy, aged 70 years, died in Cincinnati on the 18th instant, having been 30 days without food or drink. She had been suffering for years from chronic dyspepsia and recently has been the victim of a hallucination. A month ago she refused to take food, saying that she had no stomach, and the utmost efforts of physicians and friends have been unavailing to change her mind. Her last words were "bread, bread, bread."

GENERAL NEWS.

It is reported that Apache Indians have defeated 200 American troops near the Mexican line.

Iron ore in the Ottawa district is being taken to Ohio to be smelted, the duty on coal being fatal to smelting in Canada.

REFUS CHOATE once said of Aaron Burr, "he spared not man in his malice, woman in his lust, or God in his impiety."

WILBUR CORNELL has severed his connection with the Mercury, and that paper is to be removed to Portland, under the control of W. S. Moss.

An agent of the Mormons is at the City of Mexico negotiating for permission to establish a settlement in Mexico under guarantee of religious liberty.

The only time you can ever get a woman out of a theater before the play is over, is when she discovers that no one else wore an old bonnet on account of the weather.

MAKE a scrap-book, hide it in an old chest, and twenty years after you are dead some young ladies' literary society will bless your memory for thus thoughtfully supplying it with original essays.

From the Democrat we learn that the people of Lebanon, Linn county, are desirous of having railroad communication with Albany. At a public railroad meeting held recently, a committee was appointed to confer with the O. & C. R. R. Co. to see what aid the company would expect from the people.

Daniel McFarland, who shot and killed Albert D. Richardson and was acquitted, and Abby Sage Richardson recently arrived at Deadville, Col., on the same day. He was a decrepit, ragged old man, evidently in great want, pain and misery; she was in the garb of a well-to-do lecturer.

"What is the matter, Alfred? What do you find so interesting in the river that you stare at it so fixedly?" "My wife is in bathing and took a dive from that boat out there, and she has been under such a time that I'm getting uneasy." "How long has she been under?" "About two hours—it wasn't quite 8 o'clock when she went in."

A Frenchman, given to curious statistics, has issued a pamphlet in which he comes to the conclusion after a laborious examination of the number of deaths from railway accidents in all parts of the world, that if a person were to live continually in a railway carriage, and spend all his time in traveling, the chances in favor of his dying from railway accident would not predominate until he was 960 years old.

The President of Peru, General Prado, has arrived in New York. He embarked at Callao in a clandestine manner and under an assumed name. He is going to Europe, he says, to hasten the purchase of ironclads, but it is doubtful if he can secure them, as Peru's treasury is depleted, and European powers are averse to furnishing war vessels to belligerents. Many think Prado left Peru because its cause is hopeless, and he would be in danger.

ENTERPRISE is always sure to reap its reward sooner or later. There is Switzerland, for example. It is the smallest country in Europe, and yet it has the highest mountains. While other countries were squabbling about increased territory Switzerland stuck to real estate, which it rightly considered the highest in the market. This summer over 1400,000 strangers visited the Alps, and a handsome sum was taken in by the little country in consequence. This visitation exceeds that of any other year, and it is to be hoped that the increased patronage will induce the Swiss to fix up the Alps with all modern improvements and see that no expense is spared to make it a continuance, etc., etc.—Detroit Free Press.

UPWARDS of \$300,000 have been invested in the building of shoe factories at Lynn, Massachusetts, during the last year.

ELDER sister (to little one who appeared to take great interest in Mr. Skibbons.) "Come, little pet, it is time your eyes were shut in sleep." Little pet—"I think not, Mother told me to keep my eyes open when you and Dr. Skibbons were together."

A BUSINESS item from Africa: England annually takes 1,500,000 pounds of ivory, requiring the slaughter of 50,000 elephants. This is a large story and contains a hint of the greatness of the country, Africa as large as Europe and North America, and contains one-sixth of the human race.

THE cable news comes that the Empress Carlotta, who lost her reason after the execution of Maximilian, has recovered. As her case had been pronounced incurable, it will have a double interest to the world, exciting our sympathetic gratulations and in presenting a topic for medical discussion.

Mrs. BELVA A. LOCKWOOD, the woman lawyer of Washington, is conducting a case in Baltimore, where she was on Monday admitted as an attorney of the United States Circuit Court. While in court she removed her dark felt and feathered hat and placed it on the table with the hats of the other counsel.

QUEEN CHRISTINA of Spain is a wise and kindly young lady. She begged her betrothed to economize as far as possible in the expenses of their wedding festivities, and to give the money to the sufferers by the late floods in Spain.

Professor Læmis says that he has discovered a means of telegraphing without wires. He says at the proper elevation there are electric currents that can be reached by kites, and messages are transmitted by means of copper kite strings. He has succeeded in sending messages eleven miles by this novel experiment. He is now operating in West Virginia and is confident of success.

A YOUNG man eloped with an Illinois girl, and abandoned her at Hays City Kan., giving her a draft for \$100, and advised her to return home, as he was going to Texas. She met with some delay in getting money for the draft, but as soon as possible she bought a horse, a revolver, and some provisions and started after the fugitive. Interesting news is expected of her. She has a regular "Texas outfit," whether she finds her man or not.

DR. OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES was one, it is related, applied to by a young man for a position as amanuensis, to whom he replied: "I have no writing to do which I am not competent to do myself with a little occasional aid from members of my own family. I regret not to be able to give you encouragement as to employment in Boston, but the truth is there is next to none of the kind you mention, most of our authors being as poor as rats themselves, and no more able to keep an amanuensis than they are to set up a coach and six."

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