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Notice of Co-partnership.

THE undersigned having this day taken his Cousin, Mr. GEORGE DAVIES into Partnership, the business hitherto carried on by him individually, will in future be conducted under the style or firm of D. & G. DAVIES. All person indebted to him will please make payment of their respective Accounts to the new Firm; and all those to whom he is indebted will please furnish their Accounts for liquidation.

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Queen's Square, Oct. 2. All papers 6w

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THE highest price will be paid for TIMOTHY and FLAX SEED, during the present year, at George T Haszard's Book Store.

THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.

At the present time, when the annexation of the Sandwich Islands to the United States is a prominent subject for discussion, both in private and political circles, and when a treaty for this end is said to be even now in process of consummation by the governments of the respective countries, a brief sketch of this important little island-kingdom cannot fail to be both interesting and appropriate.

The Sandwich Islands are situated near the centre of the North Pacific Ocean, between lat. 18 deg. 50 min. and 22 deg. 20 min. North and long. 154 deg. 53 min. and 160 deg. 15 min. West. This group forms, as it were, the northern advanced guard of the great island world of the Pacific. They are the half-way station of the Pacific route, being nearly equi-distant from the chief ports in America on the one side, and Asia on the other. They constitute the usual rendezvous for the whale-men who frequent the northern Pacific seas. The group comprises twelve islands, which cover an aggregate area of sixty-one hundred square miles. Eight only of the islands are inhabited.

This little island-empire of the western world is supposed to have been originally discovered by some Spanish navigator, as upon a chart found in a Spanish galleon which was captured by Lord Anson, in 1748, there was laid down a group of islands answering in all essential respects to these. Captain Cook's discovery is the first, however, of which we have authentic record. This renowned navigator saw the islands and cast anchor in the harbor of Waimea in January of 1778. Vancouver was the next visitor, and his arrival, which was in 1792, created such a sensation that the King ceded a small island to the British; but it was never accepted. Subsequently many American vessels traded there for sandal wood, and 1810 a school for the education of the young islanders was established by the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions. The first regular mission was organized in 1819, and afterwards successive missionary parties were sent out, until eventually the inhabitants were converted from a race of barbarous heathens to a Christian nation.

The missionaries have been laboring, however, among a decaying race. When Cook visited the group in 1778, it was teeming with inhabitants. He computed the population at four hundred thousand, and that his computation did not greatly exceed the truth, is shown by the abundant evidence which still exists of a once overflowing population—by the countless footpaths not yet entirely overgrown with grass; by the sites of ancient villages, of varied extent and occupying every favourable position; and by the various remains of temples, aqueducts, &c., some of which would be regarded as extraordinary works even in the United States. Within the comparatively brief space of seventy-six years, this dense population has dwindled down to sixty-five thousand, and of this number, nearly ten thousand, are whites. In 1848, the year when the last census was taken, the total population was 80,641; the number of births, 1,478; deaths, 7,943; thus giving a decrease during the year of 6,466 inhabitants, and this is about the average annual decrease. The nation's course of empire is fulfilled. It has long since passed the summit of its glory, and is now rapidly fading away. In the language of a native historian, "On account of the magnitude of these evils which have come upon the Kingdom, the Kingdom is sick; it is reduced to a skeleton, and is near death; yea, the whole Hawaiian Kingdom is near to a close."

The causes of the rapid decrease of the numerous population which once flourished throughout the group of islands; may be traced chiefly to the evils which naturally attend an excess of savage population. Indolence was one great cause of their decline. This vice seems to have been constitutional with the Islanders, and to have grown from the mildness of the climate, the profusion of nature's bounties and the uncertain tenor by which they held their possessions. Pestilence, another prominent cause of their decay, has at times swept over the island, and found many victims among the indolent, sensual natives. When Kamehameha I. resided at Oahu, more than half the population of the Island was swept away in a single year by a dreadful disease. Licentiousness has been, and still continues to be, perhaps, the most powerful, and at the same time the most deplorable source of their decline. Before the good effects of the missionary's work began to be manifest, the crime of infanticide was frightfully prevalent among the people. It was so common that its parallel was never known in any other country. Human sacrifice, too, was practised upon every public occasion; and the altars which reeked with the blood of the victims at the conclusion of every war or victory, at every failure or remarkable success of the crops, at every sickness, recovery, or death of a king, still remain, mournful memorials of the past. What will be the result of this gradual decay, of this passing away of the original inhabitants of the soil none can tell; whether they will conform with the habits and customs of civilized people, and ultimately become amalgamated with their white brothers, or whether the curse which seems to hang over them will remain unfulfilled so long as their continues among the living one in whose veins flows the blood of the tribe of the Kamehamehas, remains to be seen.

It is estimated that the sixty-one hundred square miles which comprise the area of the Sandwick Islands, is capable of supporting between four and five hundred thousand human beings. The soil, which is favorably situated for cultivation, is generally very fertile. A considerable amount of sugar is already manufactured there, and it has been computed, that one hundred thousand acres upon four of the principal islands might be easily made to produce three thousand pounds of sugar per acre; which, at five cents a pound, would be worth fifteen million dollars. Efforts have been made to introduce the culture of silk upon the islands, but owing to a heavy drought, added to the ignorance of the proprietors, and other unfavorable circumstances, the project fell through.

But it is not by any means in natural productions, that the importance of the islands consists; it is rather in their position as an entrepot, or neutral station for trade. The commerce of the islands is considerable, and is increasing from year to year. In 1824, forty-six years after they were visited by Captain Cook, one hundred and three vessels touched there. In 1852, the islands were visited by five hundred and eighty-five vessels.

The Legislative power is vested in a King, a House of Nobles and a House of Representatives. The Legislature assembles annually in the first week in April. Kamehameha III, the reigning King, is more than forty years of age, and is said to be tall, robust, amiable, intelligent, and generally prepossessing in appearance.—*Boston Journal.*

THE BOOK TRADE IN NEW YORK.

THE APPLETONS.

The shops in New York are both causes and effects of its prosperity; and when luxury and good taste are associated with industry and bare money's worth, as in the case of the marble palace of the Stewarts, and in the new accomodations of the Appletons, it is a gain to all parties. The purchaser will buy his book as cheaply or (with the extension of the business) *cheaper* than ever, and will have his property beside in the convenience and elegance about him. This is true enough of every fine shop, but the most of all a bookstore which is converted at once from a mere wareroom into a costly free public library. The bookshelves of the Appletons we consider an un happy continuation of the oldlibrary that preceded them. Certainly nowhere will be found greater facilities for the knowledge of all the most important departments of literature in the new, and especially the more valuable works of the day. The den in which an English publisher hides himself, or the order room from which his pubilcations are sold to his customers, offers no such advantages to the purchaser. You will find no such brilliant establishments for books among the famous houses for wares of all other kinds in Oxford Street, Regent Street, or the Boulevards.—The building now occupied by the Appletons was originally built for the purposes of the Society Library at the cost of about $90,000, in 1835, and was held for that purpose till the last year, when it was purchased with the lot for a sum exceeding one hundred thousand dollars. The alteration to adapt it to its present uses, a work of no little judgment, have been carried out after the architectural plans of W. E. Worthen, Esq., and consist chiefly of the addition of a new basement and an attic story, with the remodelling of the great central body of the building by new floors. These alterations, involving a large expenditure, have been accompanied by other changes and additions, tending to the convenience and security of the premises. The whole building is heated by steam pipes, supplied from a boiler under Catherine Lane; this boiler also affords power for the supply of water to the upper stories, for the convenience of the occupants and the security of the building. In order not to obstruct the entrance or sidewalk on Broadway, a separate building has been constructed on Catharine Lane as a hoistway for goods, to which steampower may be applied. There are other entrances on Leonard Street, which form the northern boundary of the building, for the receipt and delivery of goods in the book establishmnet. The second story is divided into seven rooms suited to mercantile purposes. The third and fourth stories, comprising 14 rooms, are well adapted for engravers, architects, engineers, etc. The upper story is designed exclusively for artists, having a north light in each of the eight rooms. The Messrs. Appleton occupy the entire first floor and basement, each 60 feet by 100, with the front vaults and under cellars. Artistic effect has been studied in the interior decorations of the first floor—the ceiling is supported by fourteen Corinthian columns in imitation of Sienna marble. The ceiling and walls are painted in fresco, from designs executed by Nowland & Kearney. The book-cases and shelving are of plain oak, in length 270 feet. The basement comprising the wholesale department, is fitted up with alcoves containing more than 500 lineal feet of shelving, a capacity of 10,000 cubic feet. The warehouses of the books in sheets. and the materials, are kept by the Messrs. Appleton, in various portions of the city—an arrangement, the wisdom of which the recent deplorable loss of the Messrs. Harper makes manifest. Messrs. Appleton's own publications, of which the choice library edition of the Spectator may be taken as an index represent a fair proportion of the best authors; both old and new, while their imported stock covers the whole range of the most available library literature, "nature's great stereotypes" the Bacons, Swifts. Miltons, Macaulay's and their fellows. Of *editions de luxe* their shelves and counters are full—books which in every style and on every subject combine intrinsic worth with elegance. It will repay our readers to examine for themselves this splendid establishment. We commend it as a speciman of the extensive operations in this department of national enterprise now so common in our large cities, and as betokening evidence of great enterprise and sagacious outlay of means. * * * * * * * * * * From the catalogue of books for sale by Messrs. D. Appleton & Co., we are informed that the largest work in their establishment is "Boydell's Shakspeare," which is 30 inches by 24; the smallest, Taylor's quaint "Thumb Bible," 2 inches by 2. The longest title belongs to Loudon's Dictionary of Plants, in fifteen lines. The cheapest book sells for 6 1-4 cents, the most expensive "Hofnagle's Collection of Paintings"—for $1000. "Valpy's Delphin Classics" may boast the largest number of volumes." though "The Troubles at Frankfort," published in 1554, has the advantage of all its companions in age. Sir Walter Scott, with his ninety-eight volumes, is the most *voluminous* of English, as Cooper, who fathers thirty-three, is of American authors.

RUSSIAN SKETCHES.

From Hill's Travels on the Shores of the Baltic.

THE BAY OF CRONSTADT.

The bay of Cronstadt is about seventeen or eighteen miles in length, and seven or eight in breadth soon after passing the island. The lands on either side are generally low, and exhibit nothing that the eye can rest upon with pleasure. The bay is shallow, and is only passed by an intricate channel, which we found marked as we proceeded by the tall stripped stems of fir-trees stuck in the ground, with their heads left to appear above the water. In some parts it never exceeds twelve feet.

HELSINGFORS.

The town of Helsingfors is built upon a peninsula, or promontory, and more immediately defended by the two forts Braberg and Ulricaburg, placed on the mainland within the port, which is said to be capable of admitting sixty or seventy line-of-battle ships, all riding at anchor within the cover of these forts. The proper strength of the place, however, lies in the magnitude of its outer defensive works, which are of the most formidable description, and go under the general term of the fortresses of Sveaborg. They occupy no less than seven islands, several of which are united by bridges. Casemates appear to be formed in them for no less than 6,000 or 7,000 small arms; and the united fortresses are said to mount 800 cannon, and to possess a garrison of 12,000 men. Some of these formidable works are formed by cutting and fashioning the solid rock; and there are magazines, arsenals, and barracks, both upon one of these islands and upon the mainland There are even docks upon the same tongue of land upon which the town stands, that have been partly cut out of the solid rock.

ST. PETERSBURGH.

The two principal disadvantages which the city of Peter the Great has encountered, and which it will continue more or less to labor under, are, the intensity of the cold of its climate in winter, and the low and swampy character of the country in which it has been placed. For six months of the year its port cannot be entered, by reason of the ice, and it can never be supplied with provisions for the consumption of its inhabitants at proportionate prices with those of cities whose neighboring fields produce wine and oil, or even bread and cheese, like our own. Nature, it must be confessed, however, has bent her stern character before the labors of men and the arts of civilized life more here than in any other land possessing a similar climate. But there are bounds beyond which the elements will not cede to enterprise, ambition, or caprice. The greatest indeed of the apparent obstacles to the city's progress, arising out of the low character of the country, has been in a wonderful manner overcome; for, incredible as it appears, all the splendid show of palaces, and the noble quays, and public and private edifices of the modern capital of Russia, are built upon piles sunk in the mere morass upon which the city stands; and there remains on this account nothing but the unproductive character of the land about the town to regret. But in another respect, the position of the town, taken in conjunction with the effects of the climate, has appeared to some to leave it exposed to dangers which threaten even its sudden and utter dissolution. There are occasional swellings of the waters of the bay and the Neva, caused by the winds on one side and the heavy rains on the other; and these are sometimes so great, that the whole town becomes inundated to the depth of from 6 to 12 feet above the level of the street. Every provision has been made to negative as much as possible all the effects of this inconvenience. Siaches, or watch-towers, have been erected in all parts of the town, upon which watchmen are stationed, provided with the means of making signals by night and by day, of the rise of the waters inch by inch, when an inundation is threatened, which enables every one to retire to his house, and seek the upper story, in time to avoid the consequence of being suddenly overtaken by the rush of the invading flood. The same watchmen serve, too, to give the earliest alarm of fire, which is of more frequent occurrence in every town of Russia than in any other towns in any part of the world, partly arising from the quantity of wood used, even in their brick and stone buildings, and partly owing to the method of warming their houses by stoves set in the mass of the building, and yet more, perhaps, from a certain carelessness habitual to the people. In relation to the inundation, it is even said by some not wholly visionary alarmists, that the entire city, with all its edifices, from the palace of the sovereign to the meanest habitation, is yearly exposed to the danger of being swept from the very surface of the soil, without scarcely leaving one stone upon another to record to future generations the glory of its short reign.

THE MILK TREE.—What most interested us, were several large logs of the mosseranduba, or milk tree. On our way through the forest we had seen some trunks much notched by persons extracting the milk. It is one of the noblest trees of the forest, rising with a straight stem to an enormous height. The timber is very hard, fine-grained, and durable, and is valuable for works which are much exposed to the weather. The fruit is eatable and very good, the size of a small apple, and full of a rich and very juicy pulp. But strangest of all is the vegetable milk, which exudes in abundance when the bark is cut. It has about the consistence of thick cream, and, but for a very slight peculiar taste, could scarcely be distinguished from the genuine product of the cow. Mr. Levens ordered a man to tap some logs that had lain nearly a month in the yard. He cut several notches in the bark with an axe, and in a minute the rich sap was running out in great quantities. It was collected in a basin, diluted with water, strained, and brought up at tea-time and at breakfast next morning. The peculiar flavour of the milk seemed rather to improve the quality of the tea, and gave it as good a colour as rich cream. In coffee it is equally good. Mr. Levens informed us that he had made a custard of it, and that, though it had a curious dark colour, it was very well tasted. The milk is used for glue, and is said to be as durable as that made use of by carpenters. As a specimen of its capabilities in this line, Mr. Levens showed us a violin he had made, the belly-board of which formed of two pieces, he had glued together with it applied fresh from the tree, without any preparation. It had been done two years. The instrument had been in constant use; and the joint was now perfectly good and sound throughout its whole length. As the milk hardens by exposure to air, it becomes a very tough, slightly elastic substance, much resembling guttapercha, but not having the property of being softened by hot water, is not likely to become so extensively useful as that article.—*Wallace's Travels on the Amazon.*

A PREDICTION.—Talleyrand, a short period before his death, speaking of the English and French Nations made use of the following eloquent and almost prophetic language:—

"It has ever been my dream to behold a firm and stable alliance between England and France. I cannot live to behold what I have yearned, for all my lifelong; but you may yet be witness to the result to which the events of Europe have all tended for the last three centuries. There are many countries, many climes, in Europe; There will soon be but two nations—the English and French. Before many generations have passed away, they will even stand face to face alone upon the globe. They must become not only allies, but friends. Already you will perceive that their mutual hatred has become traditional.—The wars between these two great nations have often partaken of the chivalrous character of the ancient duel, in which the combat was carried on less from antipathy or thirst of veangence than from a boyish valour and love of glory. Believe me, where genius and courage are equal, peace becomes indispensable; two countries cannot make war upon each other, until both fall dead upon the field of battle—destruction is not triumph. The good which has sprung up, even amidst their mutual jealousies, has become immense; much more has been sown than has yet been gathered, but the seed which thus has been buried will bring forth fruit in its own good time, to benefit the whole human race. You will find, by the study of history, that they have succeeded in the goodly work together, as though by a tacit agreement, working with the same perseverance and the same success, to promote the progress of reason and the advancement of prosperity throughout the world."

The man who courted an investigation says it is not nearly so agreeable as courting a charming woman.