

GLANINGS FROM PUBLIC PAPERS.

MELBOURNE IN 1854.

The City of Melbourne, the capital of Victoria, comprehending a municipality and also situated on the banks of the river Yarra Yarra, and the Harbor of Phillip's Bay in the harbor of Port Phillip. The municipality extends over 9000 acres, upwards of 5000 of which are public parks, squares, and reserves. The suburbs comprise about 7000 acres. Like Rome, Constantinople, Moscow, &c., the celebrated cities, Melbourne boasts within its precincts no less than seven hills. These are the Eastern and Western hills, Batman's Hill, General Hill, St. Kilda Hill, Soldiers Hill, and the hills of the city. The municipality is divided into wards, these are Lansdale, La Trobe, Bourke, Gipp, and Girdlebergs. The first four form the old City, the last is also called Collingwood, or New Town. The municipality likewise comprises East and North Melbourne, Sandridge, Emerald Hill, and St. Kilda. The three last will probably be formed into separate municipalities. The suburbs are East Collingwood, West Collingwood, and Princes. A greater distance, but still in the suburbs, are the villages mentioned the seaport town of Williamstown, and the thriving and beautiful rural township of Geelong, and the numerous shore villages of Hobson's Bay. A number of villages, such as Hawthorn, Flemington, Brunswick, &c., are situated to the north, and already to form part of the rapidly spreading metropolis.

The population of these various portions on 26th April 1854, was as follows:—City, 47,222; East Collingwood, 8,738; Richmond, 7,061; Prahran, 5,607; total, 71,628.

The exact position of Melbourne has been recently determined. Batman's Hill, on the western boundary, is in lat. S 37° 49' 28", lon. E 148° 49' 45".

Melbourne is a corporate city, and boasts of a mayor, alderman, and councillors; a town hall, and a large number of public buildings. The destiny of most corporate bodies to be heartily abused, and that of Melbourne is no exception to this rule, as it is unhampered to an extent that would be surprising in any modern city. Gas will soon be supplied, the foundation stone of the company's extensive works having recently been laid with Masonic pomp, and the works themselves are now being voted and preparations are being made for a complete sewerage of the city. Water it is becoming a matter of corporate consideration to take into consideration the desirability of erecting public fountains now that a large supply of water is found. In a semi-tropical climate like Australia, nothing more grateful and refreshing than public fountains can be imagined; and the hint is thrown out that the subject may be considered at the public markets. There are much needed. It is superfluous enlarging upon the necessity existing in a population of this city for such buildings. No one who perambulates the streets can fail to see and feel the necessity.

EFFECTS OF THE BALTIC BLOCKADE OF 1854.

The *Borsevall* of Hamburg is instructed by letters from St. Petersburg, that from the opening to the close of the navigation in 1854, only seven foreign ships entered the port of St. Petersburg, and that there were only twenty-seven departures. The coasting trade was not interrupted. In consequence of the advance in the rates of carriage, 10,000 okups of tallow remained unsold, and the prices have fallen greatly. The advance in the importation of the article of cotton. Instead of some millions of pounds the importation of ordinary yarn, in 1854 only 900,000 pounds imported, and many mills are standing still for want of raw material.

A grave event has just occurred at Moscow. The large bell of the tower of Ivan Velik, in the Kremlin, fell to the ground at the moment when the ceremony of swearing allegiance and fidelity to the new Emperor was going on, and by its fall crushed nearly 100 persons. For a people so superstitious as the Russians, this disaster has appeared a most sinister omen, and the letter which has just been received from the Emperor, the effect on the public mind has been that of great consternation.

BARRON AND FORMAN DUES SOCIETY.—The anniversary of this society, as held in the city of London, on Wednesday, the 24, under the presidency of the Earl of Shaftesbury, who, in opening the proceedings, congratulated the

meeting on the fact, that, notwithstanding the pressure occasioned by the war, the income of the society exceeded that of any former year, except on the occasion of the Jubilee, and the total amount of copies of the Scriptures was greater than during any previous year of the society's existence. The secretary read the following report, from which appeared that the amount received during the year, for the general purposes of the Society was £64,878, being £232 more than the preceding year. The amount received for Bibles and Testaments was £39,000, making the total receipts from the ordinary sources of income £124,478. There were also received copies of the Scriptures contributed to the Jubilee Fund, and £7,860 to the Chinese New Testament Fund; making a grand total of £136,032. The issues for the year were 1,018,882 copies; from depots abroad, 431,994 copies; total, 1,450,876; being an increase of 82,848 over the circulation of last year. The total issues of the Society now amounted to 29,389,507 copies. The expenditure for the year was £140,040, being an increase on the payments of £30,785. The meeting was then addressed by the Bishop of Meath, Lord Brougham, Mr. Wylie, the Bishop of Melbourne, the Rev. Mr. Gifford, the Rev. Norman M'Leod, the Rev. Mr. Farrar, the Rev. Mr. Harrison, the Rev. Mr. Gill, from Rathfriland, and the Rev. Mr. Armar, from Rathfriland, all moving and commending the objects and operations of the society. A vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to the secretary, with whose reply the proceedings terminated.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

All the steamers for Europe are taking large fares of passengers, en route to the Pacific ocean on the paymaster's duty.

Dr. Brown, wounded at the Norwalk bridge catastrophe, who used the New Haven Railroad Company for \$20,000, has been awarded \$100,000.

Mr. Soule, late U. S. Minister to Spain, has visited New Orleans where he met with a warm reception. He made a speech during his stay which was loudly applauded by the multitude present.

The Canadian steamer *Huron*, loaded with 4000 barrels of flour, for Montreal, when leaving New York, was wrecked on the rocks and sank to the main deck. The cargo will be mostly saved, in a damaged state. The steamers flying the flag of Great Britain are now crowding the wharves for freights and passengers.

A party of two hundred Mormons, mostly Welsh and English, arrived in Pittsburg on the 10th inst., on their way to the city of the Latter-day Saints, in the valley of the Great Salt Lake.

A STEAMER TORN TO SHREDS.—One of the New York steamboat Commodores is thinking of getting up a new vessel for the Great Western Sea, to start as yet the first of July, and will return home by the first of November. Price of tickets, \$300 each.

The 21st issue of the *Albany Evening Journal*, on the occasion of its being printed upon paper made from Bass wood. The paper is said to be fire, strong and handsome, but seems a little sooty stiff. A very slight yellow tinge is attributed to impure water in its manufacture.

A gentleman lately returned from Canada and the United States, had the happiness of visiting the city of New York in one day, a distance of 500 miles, and the mystery of being detained on the journey between Windsor and Halifax, 45 miles, about the same space of time.

A special commission has been issued at St. Petersburg by the Emperor Alexander to consider all matters relating to the eastern part of the empire, and to the Duke of Nassau, Constantine M. Nesrodoff, Count Orloff, M. Kisselef, Count Bludoff, and Prince Dolgoronki. The war party has a majority in the commission.

The Journal of the Academy of Medicine at Turin, contains some curious statistics on human life, among others the statement, that the average length of human life is longer and greater now longer than those of small stature. The two months of the twelve, in which most marriages are celebrated, are June and December.

A Russian eagle, a trophy captured near Kalskava, brought to England by Her Majesty's ambassador, has long since been sold to E. Kussler, a Londoner, as a present to Her Majesty.

The number of petitions presented to Parliament in the present session against the sale of intoxicating liquors, was 10,000, being by 50,248 persons; and 81 petitions have been presented for a repeal of the Sale of Beer Act of last year, signed by 154,710 persons.

UNITED STATES.

From CALIFORNIA.—The steamer Illinois arrived at New York from Antwerp on the 7th inst., with the passengers that left San Francisco on the 10th of March, making the trip from that port to New York in 27 days. The Californians are slowly recovering from their late financial prostration; or rather, they are getting used to it. Page, the inventor of the typewriter, has decided not to stay any. The other bankers do not even talk datteringly. A bill prohibiting nolo sports on Sunday has passed the legislature. The law of saloons is still another prohibiting raffish gift enterprises, and lotteries, &c. The law of saloons is still another prohibiting and the sale of liquor are very likely to receive favourable action. The House, notwithstanding great opposition, has passed a bill to loan \$2,000,000 floating debt of San Francisco. Neither of the bills facilitating the obtaining of divorces will probably be passed. The California news. About 250 arrived on the 13th ult., in the ship Alfred from Hong Kong. Heavy freshets were swelling all the rivers, and the sailing of the public goods, marked with close attention at Sacramento city, in view of the great destruction done to the same period of the year 1852 by a flood. The overflowing of the waters of the Sacramento rapidly to a great height, overflowing the low grounds along its margin, and flooding the country. The water swelled with the current because too rapid for the steam ferry boat to cross. North Front street was invaded by the flood, Carey's mall was surrounded by water, and the destruction of much other damage done. About twenty-five men were at work strengthening the levees in the breakers. Places with gunny bags filled with earth.

FOREIGN EMIGRATION.—During the first three months of the present year 15,677 emigrants arrived at New York from foreign parts, against 22,000 in the same period of the year 1853, and 26,544 for a like period of 1852. During the month of March this year, the number arriving was but 2069, of whom 912 were Germans, 445 from Ireland, 335 from England, 102 from France, and 90 from Switzerland. According to the *Journal of Commerce*, a shrewd observer, the number of emigrants to America, and has recently returned from a European tour, calculates that during the whole year, the number of emigrants will be about 175,000, and the British 75,000, making a total of 250,000.

FOREST FIRES.—Recent advices from Texas mention that a great conflagration was raging at the latest date, in the pine forests in the vicinity of Austin, and that many thousands of dollars worth of property had been destroyed.

SEAMEN IN DEMAND.—Scarcely are so much in demand for the United States navy, that the head of that department has, with the approval of the President, offered to enlist for the present liberal pay, a bounty of twenty dollars to all competent seamen who shall, within the next sixty days, enlist for three years.

THE GERMANS ON KNOW-NOTHINGISM AND THE MAINE LAW.—A meeting of German adopted citizens was held at Washington Hall on Sunday last, when Know-Nothingism was denounced as anti-American and a resurrection of the dry bones of the Tories of the Revolution. They also resolved the existence of a "Native American," and resolved that the German American was whose heart he was on promoting the common welfare and perpetuating the blessings of civil and religious liberty. The German American would only would they vote. The Prohibitory Liquor Law was denounced as equally pernicious with Know-Nothingism, and both were to be resisted. "We are not a nation of fanatics, we must." To these resolutions, they affixed their names, and in the words of the Declaration of Independence, "We do hereby sever to our fortunes and their sacred honors to support them."

BURNED AT A THEATRE.—A dancing girl named Donian was very badly burned last night, at the Theatre of the Hope, in consequence of her falling from the foot-lights. She will probably recover.

STRAYINGS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.—The ladies of the Home Missions of New York issued a stirring appeal on behalf of the destitute poor at the Five Points in that city. They said:

"It is well known to those who are acquainted with that locality, that hundreds of families have sold or pawned the last article of furniture, and are now reduced to a state of destitution on the bare floor, without bedding or fuel, and not knowing where they may get the next mouthful of bread. Persons in these circumstances, and in other similar predicaments, are among the mission-house daily, and from stern necessity many are denied relief. It is a sad sight to see a mother, with the starving child to be fed.—It will require not less than one thousand loaves of bread daily to keep the destitute from suffering with hunger."

"High Prices."—The New York Courier and Enquirer after enquiries respecting the present supply and quantity to come forward of New York flour, states that the present prices may be maintained two or three weeks. The Courier bases its opinion on the fact, that there are one and a half hundred thousand barrels of flour, to come forward before harvest from the Western States and the Canada, which are waiting the opening of the canals in the month of June. The flour to be sent on from their way to the New York market from Nova Scotia, under the Reciprocity law, will be of a fine quality, and the price will be very large. Free trade has, within a few weeks, opened this market to consumers, and the chances are, that a liberal supply will come forward to meet the present high prices. We hope, for the benefit of consumers, that these predictions may be realized. The high prices of food, and other kinds of business injurious, as it takes nearly all the money the labouring population can earn to find themselves in food, which they cannot do without.—*Herald.*

FLOUR.—A correspondent of the N. Y. Tribune makes the following estimate of the number of barrels of flour in the country at the opening of Lake navigation, reckoning five bushels of Lake Canadian 656,000; Lake Erie 300,000; Lake Michigan 500,000; total 1,456,000. This affords little prospect of a liberal supply. About 150,000 barrels to be absorbed by the destitute points in the interior, and we shall then receive at tide-water one million barrels of flour, at the rate of one hundred and eighty, 8000 barrels per day, to last one hundred and twenty-five days, or until the middle of next September. There is a favorable prospect of a surplus over the country, there is not a shadow of reason for any alarm about a short supply.

The American papers all agree in stating that the present high prices of flour, and that a large yield is confidently anticipated. This cheering news has already had a serious effect on the flour market.

THE FISHERIES OF MARIENBURG.—The People's Advocate writes, we shall soon see to the Banks this year about double the number that was sent in 1847, (the year following the great sale); the business has again won the confidence of the community, and the prospect of wealth and prosperity to the town. Seven vessels will be added to the fleet this year, most of them of the largest size. It is estimated that some vessels stocked from six to eight thousand dollars last year; and if this be true, together with the fact, that no live fish were taken, it is a favorable prospect of the prosperity of our citizens and the town.

A TOTAL WRECK.—On the first of January, 1854, a gentleman doing business in the city of New-York, was worth with what he had in the bank, and in the hands of his creditors, ten thousand dollars. At the same time he was blessed with a lovely and intelligent wife, beautiful and promising children. He was a man of good prospects, and ten thousand dollars would have been a large sum to him. He had concluded, to render his happiness perfect. How could the wreck which the next year closed upon? The first misfortune was the death of his wife, and the loss of eighteen thousand dollars to a California dealer, for which not one cent was ever received. The next was the loss of his children, by a fire, for which he received twenty thousand dollars. Not soon after this, the unfortunate man made an investment in real estate to a large amount, which was lost by a fire, and a trip with his family to Europe. They embarked on their return, with thirty-eight thousand dollars in goods, on board the steamship *Arctic*, which was wrecked on the rocks of the coast. Upon his affairs, his real estate was sold under the hammer at a sacrifice of forty thousand dollars. He was left with a fortune of his property during the year, one hundred and eighteen thousand dollars, eight thousand dollars more than his assets. His friends were the more shocked, and he was in a state of utter destruction more complete! Father, mother, children, and fortune, all gone—swamp from the wreck of his fortune, and he was left that they ever existed! We doubt whether, among the many wrecks which the past year has witnessed, there has been among them one so complete as this.

A GREAT EVENT.—On Thursday, the 8th ult., a locomotive for the first time crossed the Niagara Suspension Bridge, having on board the cars, and passengers, and a few other persons. The engine was decorated with the flags of the two nations, now for the first time united with bands of music, and the celebration of the crossing of the bridge, it stopped above the roaring chamber through which, at a depth of two hundred and twenty feet, the waters of the Niagara are hurled, and mingled its wild shriek with the roar of waters and the cheers of the spectators. The engine then continued its