

THE GREAT FLOOD IN THE MISSISSIPPI.

The Liberty (Clay County) Pioneer, of the 21st June, estimates the rise in the Missouri, at that time, to be five feet higher than it was in 1826, or has ever been known to be by the oldest settlers. The Pioneer continues:

The aggregate of injury is so great that we need not spend time in recounting cases of individual suffering. In this county alone it is computed sixty families from Brown's and Cooley's bottoms, are, at this moment, many of them in want of the very necessities of life, and all of them labouring under great and almost irretrievable losses.

A gentleman yesterday, gave us a vivid description of the effects of the flood in the Sand Hill prairie, lying in Ray county, between Camden and Lexington. On one of the highest of the hills which are scattered over this prairie which he went to last Sunday in a canoe, after a laborious trip against the powerful current, he saw a collection as varied almost as that contained in Noah's ark; men, women, children, horses, oxen and cattle of every description, rabbits, squirrels, sheep, hogs, and even reptiles, (for they killed a copperhead while he was there,) were gathered together in fellowship by the instinct of self preservation, common to brute as well as to man. The lowing of the frightened cattle, the neighing of horses, the strange mixture of animals, wild and tame—all seeming to have forgotten the habits of nature, and looking to the human countenance for safety; the deep anxiety and agitation of the rational part of this singular congregation on the Sabbath, and amid that wild scene of desolation, left an impression on his mind, as our informant says, which he will not soon forget, but which is not easy to describe. While he was there, he saw on a neighbouring hill about thirty head of sheep, already half under water, seeming by their loud bleating and motions to be conscious of their fate; and numbers of their stock, hogs, &c. floating by dead, or swimming from hill, or rather from island to island, or drifting on logs or fallen timber.

Below Greenville, met three men on two horses, up to their armpits in the midst of a strong current. With great difficulty, one of them with the horses, was taken on board, and landed at Greenville, without charge; the others were taken off by a canoe which came at the same time from the shore. These men had been in the water three days, and the legs of one of them had suffered a good deal from it.

The Lexington Express, of the 18th, contains the following particulars:—

The river is ten feet higher, plump water, than it was in 1826, and full thirty feet above the low water mark. The current is exceedingly rapid, running at least ten miles per hour. The bottoms north and south of the main channel of the stream are entirely inundated, and the water in some places being ten or fifteen feet deep, and a strong current from bluff to bluff, bearing off every thing moveable. The river now presents one of the most majestic scenes that we ever looked upon. The water is from five to six miles wide opposite this place.

Millions of dollars will not cover the loss of property which has been sustained by this flood. In the bottom opposite this place, some of the most valuable and most beautiful farms in the state have been rendered worthless, at least for several years. All the fencing has been swept away. Hundreds of horses, mules, cattle, hogs, sheep, &c. have been lost. The farmers near the bluffs have no doubt saved much of their property. The principle reason why so much stock was drowned is the fact that the land near the bluffs is lower than that near the river, and as the water rises it covers those lower grounds before it does the farms, and thus cuts off all retreat, unless it is by swimming. The present rise has been very rapid, averaging about three feet every twenty-four hours.

The Alton Telegraph, of the 24th June, says:—The Mississippi is now higher than it has ever been since the first settlement of the state. The Missouri is equally high, if not higher; and having broken into the former river at and below Portage des Sioux, about eight miles above this place, its yellow water now forms nearly one third of the mighty stream which is rushing past our landing, contrasting strongly with the bluish appearance of the Mississippi.

Of the damage done, it is impossible to offer any estimate. It is incalculable. On the Missouri, from West to the mouth, the bottoms are generally inundated the crops destroyed, the cattle, sheep, hogs, &c. drowned—and the inhabitants have been compelled to abandon their dwellings, many of which have been swept away, in order to take refuge on the high lands, or in steam or flat boats. The same is the case with the Mississippi, the Illinois, and their tributaries; and the whole of the great "American Bottom," from this point to Cairo, containing about 233,000 acres of the finest land in the world, some of which is in a high state of cultivation, is believed to be under water, and, perhaps, nearly ruined.

As one among many instances of the height to which the water had attained, we quote the following:

A Steamer in a City.—The Cincinnati Commercial of the 29th ult. states that the steamboat Belle Air, on her last trip from St. Louis, run through the town of Chester, below St. Louis, passing over some of the house tops. In her course she ran into a brick house and demolished it. About one square below, she ran into a stone house, shipping an immense quantity of stones on her bow, tearing off her guard from the bow to the wheel-house, and demolishing her kitchen, besides doing much other damage. One man was knocked overboard, but finally saved.

(From the Baltimore Patriot.)

MORSE'S ELECTRO MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.

A variety of statements in reference to the peculiar construction and modus operandi of this wonderful and admirable machine, now in successful operation between Baltimore and Washington, have been published in various journals throughout the U. States.—Many of these descriptions conveyed but a partial and inaccurate idea of the Telegraph as it really is, and some of them have led to positive error. That the curious and scientific may have a just conception of this admirable and astounding triumph of art, we have collected facts from sources alone to be relied on, and prepared the following statement:

The generator of the Galvanic fluid consists of fifty glass tubes of the size in common use, in which is a zinc hollow cylinder reaching from the top to the bottom of the glass, and almost filling it up.—From the top of the zinc cylinder projects a horizontal arm of the same metal, extending two inches beyond, to which is soldered platinum foil, 3/16 inch long and half an inch wide, and hangs vertically from the end of the arm. In the hollow of the zinc cylinder is placed a small porous cup three inches long and 1 1/4 inch in diameter. The

glass tumbler is then filled with diluted sulphuric acid, and then the small cup filled with pure nitric acid. Being thus prepared, the platinum of one glass is put into the small porous cup of the other, and so on through the whole series. The last glass at one end of the row has its platinum soldered to a strip of copper, which terminates in a cup of mercury in the same manner as the other end.—These two ends constitute the negative and positive poles of the battery, which is at Washington.

From one of these cups of mercury proceeds a copper wire, of the size of common bell wire, extending to Baltimore, upon poles 25 feet high and 225 feet apart. Here it enters the Telegraph office, and passes around first one prong of a bar of iron, bent in the form of a horse-shoe, and from that, around the other prong, and then the wire returns to Washington upon the same poles as the other. At Washington the return wire is soldered to a slim flattened slip of brass, one end of which is fastened upon a pedestal, and the other end, with an ivory button upon it, stands over a brass plate of the size of a five cent piece, without touching it. To the under side of the brass plate is soldered a wire which extends to the other pole of the battery. The battery being now ready for action, you have but to place your finger upon the key and press it until it touches the brass plate below, and instantly the galvanic fluid flies its 80 miles. Take off the pressure of your finger and instantly the fluid has ceased to flow.

We have alluded to the bar of iron bent in the form of a horse-shoe at Baltimore, around which the main wires are coiled. It is perhaps not generally known, that if a bar of soft iron is encircled with copper wire wound with some insulating substance like bonnet wire, and a current of galvanic fluid passed through the wires thus surrounding the iron, it becomes instantly a magnet. If the current is made to cease, that instant the magnetism of the iron is gone. If over the ends of the two prongs of the bar of iron, where it projects beyond the coils of wire around it, a small flattened straight bar of similar soft iron is placed, being hung upon one end of a lever, and the lever supported delicately upon pivots, so as to rise and fall—it is clear that whenever the bent iron is made a magnet, the iron directly over it, upon the lever, will be attracted down with considerable force. The lever recedes when the magnetism is destroyed by means of a spring. On the other end of this lever are three steel points pointing upwards, and directly over them is a steel roller with grooves turned in it, corresponding to the three points, so that when they strike the roller by the power of the magnet, each of them falls into its groove.

Between the three points and the steel roller, the paper passes, at an uniform rate, being drawn along by two rollers, connected with the clock work, which is driven by a weight. The paper is in rolls 14 inches in diameter, and 1 1/2 inch wide, forming a ribbon of a continuous length. This roll is placed upon a spool which turns easily upon its axis in front of the pen, as the paper is drawn off by the movement of the clock work. The Alphabet is as follows:

Table with columns A through Y and rows for letters and numerals.

We have now the battery and key at Washington, the wires from Washington to Baltimore, and the magnet and writing apparatus at Baltimore. At every touch of the key at Washington upon the plate below, however rapid, the fluid passes and ceases to pass to Baltimore and back. At every passage of the fluid, the pen, by the attraction of the iron bar to the ends of the magnet, is brought up against the paper with such force as to indent it, and instantly recedes—so that the paper moving over the pen receives a succession of dots, and an intermediate space. By holding the key down a little longer, a line is marked upon the paper. By this means, at the option of the operator at Washington, dots, spaces, and lines of any combination are made upon the paper in Baltimore with perfect ease. At Washington the operator desires to inform his correspondent at Baltimore that "Senate is in Executive Session." Express thus: Sen. Ex. Sess. With the key he makes 8 rapid touches upon the brass plate, which at Baltimore notifies the attendant that a message is about to be sent, by the ringing of a bell, which motion is produced in the same way as that for moving the pen. He then goes on to make dots in rapid succession, with spaces between them, a longer space, a dot, a longer space, a line, space and dot, thus written: . . . . . Sen. then follows by the same mode the dots, spaces, longer spaces and lines to finish the sentence: . . . . . Ex. . . . . Sess. After the sentence is completed, the same rapid succession of 8 dots are made, to signify that it is finished.

The clock work which moves the paper is started by the writer at Washington, by his removing, through the agency of a lever moved by the magnet, a break falling upon a smooth roller on the little fly of the clock train—and is stopped after the end of the message has run out three inches from the pen, by the break's falling upon the roller through the action of the clock work itself.

We have now described how messages may be sent from Washington to Baltimore, and it may be asked how is an answer returned? Imagine the same machinery as has now been described reversed, with the exception that there is no battery in Baltimore, and the whole is complete for sending and receiving communications, either way.

We have said that from one of the poles of the battery in Washington a wire extends to Baltimore, and there encircling the iron bar, returns to Washington. The return wire is not absolutely necessary.

From the first commencement of the working of the telegraph at Baltimore, but one of the wires upon the poles has been used. The wire instead of going back to Washington after it leaves the coils, descends to the ground, and is soldered to a copper plate buried in the earth at Baltimore. At Washington, a copper plate of the same dimensions is buried in the cellar of the Capitol, from which a wire is taken and soldered to the key—so that the fluid travels upon one wire from Washington to Baltimore, and returns to Washington through the earth as its conductor.

Professor Morse has his alphabet so arranged upon a square board, that by drawing a slide, one letter is substituted for another, thus changing throughout the common alphabet. By this means a merchant in New York may write to his correspondent in Philadelphia, without the possibility of its being intelligible to any one except the individual to whom it is addressed. Not even the writer upon the instrument at New York or the attendant in Philadelphia can decipher it.

This mode of secret correspondence is more sure and

safe than that of ordinary ciphers used for that purpose. Our limits will not permit us to get any further description of other plans which Prof. M. has for condensing much in a little, when long communications are sent.

This beautiful and wonderful invention was made by Prof. Morse in 1832 five years before anything of the kind was known in Europe. The Electric Telegraph now used in England, and invented by Prof. Wheatstone, does not record its communications. The attendant is obliged to wait the movement of several magnetic needles upon which are the letters of the alphabet, and as they appear in sight to note them down. If one should escape his eye, it is lost and cannot be recalled. Therefore the superior advantages of Morse's Electro-Magnetic Telegraph in recording its intelligence, without even the attendance of any one, can be easily appreciated.

"RHINE AND THE RHINELANDERS."

BY ALEXANDER DUMAS.

Blackwood's Magazine for May has an interesting notice of this new work of the French poet and dramatist. Among the extracts is the following droll account of his entrance into Rhenish Prussia. After being robbed by the inn-keeper at Liege, he gets into the Aix-la-Chapelle diligence; and, on reading the printed ticket that has been given to him at the Coach office, finds that he has the fourth seat, and that he is forbidden to change places with his neighbors, even by mutual consent.

This military sort of strictness, still more than the abominable jargon of the postilion, made me aware that I was about to enter the dominions of King Frederick William. As I had a corner of the coach, the tyranny of his Prussian Majesty was tolerably endurable, and I soon fell fast asleep. About three in the morning, just as the day was breaking, I awoke, and found that the diligence was standing still. I at first thought there was an accident, and put my head out of the window to see what was the matter. No accident had happened: no other coach was near—the road was excellent. We were alone and motionless. I took my ticket out of my pocket, read it from one end to the other, and having satisfied myself that I was not forbidden to speak in the diligence, I asked my neighbor if we had been standing there long.

'About twenty minutes,' was the answer. 'And pray,' continued I, 'can you tell me what we are doing here?' 'We are waiting.' 'Ah! we are waiting. And for what?' 'For the time.' 'What time?' 'The time at which we are allowed to arrive.' 'There is a time fixed for arriving, then?' 'Every thing is fixed in Prussia.' 'And if we arrived before the time?' 'The conductor would be punished.' 'And if after?' 'He would also be punished.' 'Ah! that is very well arranged.' 'Every thing is well arranged in Prussia.'

I bowed assentingly. Not for the world would I have contradicted a gentleman possessed of such an exalted opinion of his country and its institutions, and who answered my questions so courteously and laconically.—My acquiescence appeared to gratify him. I felt encouraged, and continued my enquiries.

'Pardon me, sir, but at what hour ought the diligence to arrive at Aix-la-Chapelle?'

'At twenty five minutes to five.' 'But if the conductor's watch were slow?' 'His watch can never be slow.' 'Indeed! And why so?'

'Opposite to where he sits, and under lock and key, there is a watch which is regulated before starting by the clock of the coach office. The conductor knows at what hour he should pass through each town and village on his route, and he makes the postillions hurry or slacken their pace accordingly, so as to arrive at Aix-la-Chapelle exactly at the right time.'

'But with these precautions, how is it that we are obliged to wait on the road?'

'The Conductor has doubtless followed your example, and slept, and the postillions have taken advantage of that to go quicker.'

'Well, since we have some time to remain here, I will get out and stretch my legs a little.'

'It is not allowed to get out of the diligence in Prussia.'

'Indeed! that is very agreeable. I wish particularly to look at that castle on the other side of the road.'

'That is Ennaburg. It is the scene of the famous legend of Eginhard and Emma.'

'Really! Be so obliging as to change places with me for a moment, that I may look at it through the window.'

'I should be most happy, sir; but in Prussia it is not allowed to change places.'

'True, true! How could I forget it? I beg your pardon, sir.'

'These tammed Frenchmen, they do nothing but chatter and talk!' said a fat German sitting opposite to me, opening his mouth for the first time since we had left Liege, but still keeping his eyes shut.

'You were saying, sir—?' said I, not particularly gratified with the remark.

'I say nothing—I shleep.'

'Shleep as much as you like, but try not to dream aloud, eh? Or, if you dream, dream in your mother tongue.'

The German began to snore.

'Postilion, forwards!' shouted the conductor.

We were off at a gallop. I put my head out of the window to try to get a view of the ruins, but it was in vain, they had disappeared behind an angle of the road. At twenty-five minutes to five, not a second later or earlier, we drove into the coach-yard, at Aix-la-Chapelle.

Here is an amusing account of a German dinner:

'At Bon, the dinner they served me consisted of an unintelligible sort of soup, full of round balls of a pasty substance; beef sewed with prunes, hares dressed with preserves, wild partridges with cherries; it was impossible to take more pains to spoil a thing which separately would have been very commendable eating. I tasted them each in turn, and each time sent away my plate; when I sent away the wild boar, the waiter could stand it no longer.

'Does not monsieur like wild boar with cherries?'

'I detest it!'

'That is singular; a great poet like monsieur.'

'You are mistaken, my man; I make verses, perhaps, but that is no reason for calling me a great poet, nor for turning the coats of my stomach with your infernal

fricasees. Besides, supposing I were a great poet, what has poetry got to do with pig and cherry sauce?'

'Our great Schiller adored that dish.'

'Our tastes differ, then. I have no objection to William Tell or Wallenstein, but—take away your pig.'

'The waiter carried off the wild boar; meantime I tasted the beef and prunes, but to do more than taste it was out of the question; and, when the man returned, I bid him change my plate. His astonishment was greater than ever.'

'What!' cried he, 'does not monsieur like beef and prunes?'

'No.'

'M. Goethe was passionately addicted to it.'

'I am sorry not to have the same addictions as the author of Faust. Make me an omelet.'

'In a few minutes back came the waiter with the omelet. It looked uncommonly nice, and I was uncommonly hungry. Nevertheless, I could not swallow the first mouthful.'

'What the devil have you put into your omelet? An omelet should be made with butter, eggs, salt, and pepper.'

'Certainly, sir. It is made with butter, eggs, salt and pepper.'

'And what else?'

'A little flour.'

'And besides?'

'A little cheese.'

'Go on.'

'Some saffron.'

'And then?'

'Cloves, nutmeg, and a little thyme.'

'Enough, enough! take away your omelet.'

Perhaps our readers have never heard of the origin of the family name of Prince Metternich of Austria. M. Dumas gives it as follows:—

The family name, we are informed, was originally Metter, but received the addition of the last syllable in the following manner.

'In one of the great battles of the fifteenth century, the Emperor of Germany saw an entire regiment take to flight, with the exception of one man, who stood his ground, and defended himself gallantly, till he fell covered with wounds. The Emperor inquired his name—it was Metter. That night at supper the Emperor said, talking of the regiment in question—'They all fled, but Metter nicht.' Every body knows that 'nicht' is the German for not. The family adopted the additional syllable, and hence the origin of the name of Metternich.'

Here is an anecdote of the Headsman of Heidelberg:

The Heidelberg executioner is noble by right of descent. The origin of his family nobility is given by M. Dumas, as follows:

The evening of the day on which King Louis of Bavaria was crowned emperor, there was a splendid ball at the town hall, at which the empress was present. Among the guests was a cavalier dressed entirely in black, and having his face covered with a black mask. He invited the empress to dance; she accepted, and while they were dancing together, another mask approached the emperor, and asked him if he knew who his wife's partner was. 'No,' replied the Emperor, 'but I suppose it is some sovereign prince.'

'Lower than that,' said the mask. 'Some nobleman, then, a count or a baron.'—'Lower than that.'—'Perhaps with a knight.'—'Lower still.'—'With an esquire?'

'Less than that.'—'A page?'—'You have not guessed it—lower still.'

The Emperor flushed crimson with anger.

'A groom?'

'If that were all!' answered the unknown, with a strange laugh.

'But who is it, then?' cried the emperor.

'Tear off his mask, and you will see.'

The emperor approached the sable cavalier, and tore off his mask. It was the headsman.

'Miserant! shouted the emperor, as his sword flashed from the scabbard, 'commend thy soul to God before thou diest.'

'Sire,' replied the headsman, falling on his knees, 'you may kill me if you will; but the empress has not the less danced with me, and the dishonour, if dishonour there be, is already incurred. To better than that; knight me, and if any one dare to speak evil of her majesty, the same sword that executes justice shall vindicate her fame.'

The emperor reflected for a moment.

'The advice is good,' said he at last. 'Henceforward you shall no longer be called the headsman, but the last of the judges.' Then, giving him three blows on the shoulder with his sword ft, 'Rise,' he continued: 'from this hour you are the lowest among noble, and the first among burghers.'

And accordingly, since that day, in all public processions and ceremonies, the executioner walks by himself in the rear of the nobles, at in front of the commoners.

OPPOSITION TO CHRISTIANITY IN INDIA.—An assembly of the Brahminical inhabitants of Bombay has lately been convened at one of their chief temples, for the purpose of taking measures to prevent the diffusion of Christianity amongst the Hindu children, at which the following resolutions, published in the Bombay Oriental Christian Spectator, were read to:—

- Whereas, Christian Missionaries, otherwise called Padris, having come into this country to make known their religion, distribute Christian books, preach in various ways, to induce the people to embrace their religion, and for this purpose have established numerous schools; and whereas the children of Hind attend these schools for instruction, and being ignorant of their own religion, and praising Christianity, some of them have lost their reason, and forsaking their own good religion, founded on the Veda, have become Christians; and whereas should the same course continue be pursued, others will be converted hereafter, and as the Hindu religion suffer injury; therefore for the preservation of our own religion, it becomes necessary to take the following rules:—

1. 'No Brahmin shall ever attend the schools of the Christian Missionaries to learn their religion, or to hear their instruction, nor shall they allow their children, or any under them, to attend their schools; and if any Hindu revile their own religion or preach the Christian religion, means must be taken to prevent their doing so.'

2. 'All Brahmins must follow the above rule; and whoever does not follow it just be regarded as out of caste.'

To carry these resolutions into effect, and to assemble another meeting of the whole company of Brahmins, should any cause arise, officers have been appointed.