

LETTER FROM GENERAL WILLIAMS.

The St. John Courier says:—We publish with pleasure the sentiments of this gallant officer, which was recently received in this city by his relatives. While in common with his many admirers, in this and the neighbouring Provinces, we are glad to know of the kindness he experiences in his captivity, we earnestly hope that his detention at St. John will be of short duration, and that his talents may be made available for his country's service, in which he has already distinguished himself in so eminent a degree.

GUMRI (Georgia), December 24, 1855

MY DEAR SISTERS,—I wrote you a few lines from the Russian camp before Kars, on the 23d ultimo. On the following morning, we found the whole country covered with snow, and started for Russia reaching Gumi last night. We have been received at the greatest kindness and hospitality—the Russian officers vying with each other in evincing their respect. I told you in my last low kindly and noble Gen. Mouravieff had acted, and I feel sure, until we quit the Russian soil in full liberty, we shall experience the same friendly treatment. We go off to-day en route to Tiflis, and shall there prepare for our long journey to Moscow and St. Petersburg. Every care will be taken to ensure our safe passage across the Caucasian mountains. (The Russians lost two hundred and fifty officers on the day of our battle.) From Tiflis I will write you as often as I can, and if you have no correspondence will be kept up. Do not write yourselves until I tell you to do so, as all your letters must be opened.

Yours affectionately,

W. F. WILLIAMS.

FORGIVENESS OF OLIVER GOLDSMITH.—Nearly a hundred years ago, poor, simple Goldie thus wrote in "The Citizen of the World." The allusion is to the Sevres episode.

"You tell me that the people of Europe are wise, but wherein lies their wisdom? They are engaged in war among each other, yet apply to the Russians, their neighbors and ours, for assistance. Cultivating such an alliance argues at once imprudence and timidity. They would avoid the Russian empire, if they were the natural enemy of the more Western parts of Europe; as an enemy already possessed of great strength, and from the nature of its government, every day threatening to become more powerful. It was long the wish of Peter, their great monarch, to have a fort in some of the Western parts of Europe; many of his schemes, and treaties were directed to this end; but happily for Europe he failed in them all. A fort in the power of the people would be like the possession of a flood-gate; and whenever ambition, interest, or necessity prompted, they might then be able to deluge the whole of the western world with a barbarous inundation. Believe me, my friend, I cannot sufficiently censure the politicians of Europe who thus make this powerful people arbiters in their quarrel. If once they (the Russians) get footing in the Western parts of Europe it is not the feeble efforts of the sea to diminish and dissonance that can serve to remove them."

NAPOLEON I.—Napoleon was far from being a handsome child. His head was too large for his body, and his features were in no way very agreeable. His appearance as he walked in uniform, subsequently, was a great improvement. "What was particularly pleasing about him," says Madame d'Arbantes, when he became a young man, was the expression he infused into his countenance in his moments of kindness.—His smile was captivating; and the forehead which was to be encircled by the crowns of the world—the hair of which the most coquetish woman would have been vain, were never remarked in the child, and were scarcely discernible in the stripling. Of all the children of Madame Bonaparte, the Emperor was the one who gave least expectation of ever attaining to extraordinary fortune.

WHAT IS A MORMON.—A Mormon is a living paradox; he says grace before a collation, swears in his sermons, selects his texts indifferently from the Bible, the Book of Mormon, an Almanac or the President's Message; and is perpetually quarrelling for the sake of piety. His religion is a joke, and he makes the best story telling the chief of the quorum. He assumes dignities, but has not the slightest respect for them; and the effect of his piety is apparently to put him on a level with the greatest proboscians of the time. In short he is the Latest of the Latter Day words, the last one you would think of calling a saint.

Information is wanted, of the whereabouts of Enoch Jewel, late of Wesley, who left home the latter part of last November, intending to go into the British Provinces, but he absent only a few weeks. He was on a speaking tour, and returned to Wesley, and his long absence causes his family great anxiety, and renders their circumstances very needy. He was of small size and dark complexion. Any information concerning him can be directed to the office of the Machias Union, Me.

A YOUNG MAN'S CHARACTER.

No young man who has a just sense of his own value will sport with his own character. A weak and vacillating character in early youth, will be of inconceivable value to him in all the remaining years of his life. When tempted to deviate from strict propriety of demeanor, he should ask himself, can I afford this? can I endure hereafter to look back upon this?

Nothing so common as to find a young man to have a pure character. The mind, in order to be kept pure, must be employed in topics of thought which are themselves lovely, chastened, and elevating. Thus the mind bathes in its own power the selection of its themes of meditation. If youth only knew how durable and how dismal is the injury produced by the indulgence of thought which they only realized how fruitful are the moral depravities which their cherished habit of loose imagination produces on the soul—they would shun them as the bite of a serpent. The power of books to excite the imagination, is a fearful element of moral death when employed in the service of vice.

The cultivation of an amiable, elevated, and glowing heart, alive to all the beauties of nature, and all the sublimities of truth, invigorates the intellect, gives to the will independence of base passions, and to the affections that power of adhesion to whatever is pure, and good, and grand, which is adapted to lead out the whole nature of man into those scenes of action and impression by which its energies are most appropriately to be employed, and by which its high destination may be most effectually reached.

The opportunities of exciting these faculties in benevolent and self-denying efforts for the welfare of our fellow-men, are so many and great, that that really is worth while to live. The heart which is truly evangelically benevolent, may luxuriate in an age like this. The promises of God are inexpressibly rich, the main tendencies of things so manifestly in accordance with them, the extent of moral influence so great, and the effects of its employment so visible, that whoever aspires after benevolent action, and reaches forth things that remain for us, to the true dignity of his age, may hope to scope for his intellect, and all-spiriting themes for the heart.

ROTHSCHILD.—Baron Anselm Rothschild, of Frankfurt, is said to have left a fortune of from 40,000,000 to 50,000,000 florins. He has left the sum of 1,200,000 florins to continue the aims which he was in the habit of distributing to the poor, as well as the sum of 100,000 florins for the poor in winter. The fund for giving a dowry to Jewish maidens he has left 50,000 florins; to the fund for the sick as well as the Jewish hospital, 10,000 florins each; to the Jewish school, 50,000 florins, and sums of 3000 florins to the several Christian establishments. To the clerks who have served him in the first year he has left 2000 florins each; to the others 1000; to the juniors from 300 to 500 florins, and many legacies to servants. It is said that he has left to his godson, Sir Anthony Rothschild, of London, £2,000,000, and an equal share with the other nephews and nieces of the residue of his estate.

POPULAR READING.—The *Daily News*, at the close of an article on the present pecuniary condition of the country, instead of deluging the hospitals and camps with "tracts," says: "While the world in general supposes the popular rage to be exclusively for fiction, the booksellers can tell that the money of the working classes is spent mainly in scientific works. We ourselves happen to know that in the same space of time which it took to sell little more than two thousand copies of 'a highly popular novel,' by one of our most successful novelists, twelve thousand copies were sold of an expensive illustrated geological work in five volumes."

BEAUTIFUL SENTIMENT.—Shortly before the departure of the lamented Heber for India he preached a sermon which contained this beautiful illustration:

"Life bears us on like a stream of a mighty river. Our boat at first glides down the narrow channel—through playful and playful banks, and amidst the fragrance of its grass borders. The trees shed their blossoms over our young heads, the flowers on the brink seem to offer themselves to our young hands; we are happy in hope, and we grasp eagerly at the beauties around us—but the stream hurries on, and still our hands are empty. Our boat is driven on by a deeper flood, amid objects more striking and magnificent. We are animated at the moving picture of enjoyment and industry passing us; we are excited at some short lived disappointment. The stream bears us on, and our joys and griefs are alike left behind us. We may be shipwrecked, we cannot be delayed. The waves of the river hurry us on to its home till the roar of the ocean is in our ears, and the tossing of the waves is beneath our feet, and then land lessens from our eyes, and the floods are lifted up around us, and we take our leave of earth and its inhabitants, until of our further voyage there is no witness save the infinite and eternal!"

FIFTEEN CHILDREN AT A FUNERAL.—Mr. Otis Russell, who died in Marlboro' last week, was the father of sixteen children, all of them by one wife. One of them is a resident of one of the Western States; the other fifteen, with their mother, were present at the funeral.

THE GREAT DIAMOND IN THE IMPERIAL SCEPTER OF RUSSIA.

In the first volume of the quarto edition of "P. S. de Halls's Travels through the Southern Provinces of the Russian Empire in the years 1793 and 1794," which was taken from a wreck on the coast of Cape Cod, we find a very full and interesting account of "The Moon of the Mountain"—the celebrated diamond of Russian Royalty.

Pallas was Counsellor of State to the Czar Alexander, and during his stay at Astokan became acquainted with heirs of Grigori Safarov Shafrafs, the Armenian who sold the precious gem to Russia.

Shah Nadir had in his throne, with this diamond, another of equal splendor called the "Sun of the Sea." At the time of his assassination the soldiers secured and secretly sold many of the richest ornaments belonging to the Persian Crown.

Shah Abbas named Millionshik, or the Man of Millions, resided at Bassora. One day an Arganian Chief visited him, and proposed to sell the diamond, with other precious stones. He was surprised at the low price demanded, and affirming that he had not money enough to buy the jewels, asking time to consult two brothers who were in business with him. The suspicious Chief did not appear again. The Armenian, with the approval of his brothers, went in pursuit of the vender. He wandered in vain in search of the treasure. Shafrafs at length accidentally met the Arganian in Bagdad, and bought all the jewels in his possession for 50,000 piastres.

The gem of the first water, with a large emerald and ruby, was laid up in brilliant seclusion for twelve years. Then the Armenians, whose fear of losing the Royal plunder were overcome by the love of money, set off with the jewels for a market. Passing through Ham and Constantinople, he directed his course across Hungary and Silesia to Amsterdam, where he made the first public display of the beautiful stones, and offered them for sale. It is said that the English Government was among the bidders. Russia sent for the "Moon of the Mountain," promising to pay the expenses of transmitting it if not purchased. The Russian Minister, Count Panin, through M. Laseref, court jeweller, made the following offer: Shafrafs was to have the patent of hereditary nobility, an annual pension of 6,000 rubles, i. e., \$4,500 during life, and 500,000 rubles, or \$375,000 in cash. The Armenian, feeling that "blessings are as thick as their own flesh," became so extravagant in his demands, that the negotiation was broken off and the diamond returned.

Shafrafs was now in trouble. His outlay had been great, and he had borrowed large amounts. He absconded, and went back to Astrakan. Afterward, Count Grigorich Orlov renewed the Russian offer to purchase; and Shafrafs accepted 450,000 rubles, or \$337,500, ready money, together with the grant of Russian nobility.

About one quarter of the sum was paid to the negotiators, and the rest, which at the death of the Armenian was the dower of his daughters, was squandered by the extravagance of the diamond merchant. The diamond was secure, and shines on, though Royal eyes which held it with light of pride have never seen their fire forever.

Such is the story of the Moon of the Mountain—the ornament of a sceptre which is slain now in its sweep over the domain of the Sultan. Who shall tell its history in the future?

DR. VULPIER AND HIS LOVE POWDERS.—J.C. Merrill, alias Dr. Vulpiere, the love-powder man, whose arrest and subsequent discharge was noticed by us about six weeks ago, was yesterday arrested by Policeman Farley, charged with defrauding various parties in the West, by advising in the Western newspapers that if any one would send \$2 he would furnish them with a powder, by the use of which they could win the affections of any of the opposite sex who would be induced to swallow the powder. By these advertisements it appears he has received from 30 to 40 letters per day, many of which contained money; and several persons who have bought and tried the powder, and found it wanting in the qualities attributed to it by the Dr. have written to the Mayor about it, and Mr. Wood says he is determined to stop the love-powder business. When the Dr. was first arrested, he promised to make more powders, and to return the money that he should receive to the senders. The Mayor looked him up to await examination.—New-York Tribune.

A pious minister after lecturing a ragged Sunday school class in a most edifying manner, proposed to close the exercise by singing, "Jordan;" meaning the hymn "On Jordan's stormy banks I stand." The worthy man was horrified by hearing the whole school immediately strike up "Jordan an a hard road to travel, I believe."