

EXPLORING EXPEDITION—GREAT DISCOVERY.

Letters have been received from the United States Exploring Expedition, dated at Sydney, New South Wales, March 13, 1840, announcing the discovery of a vast continent in the antarctic regions, far more extensive than the discovery lately announced by the French Exploring Expedition. It would seem that the discovery of the continent was made on the 19th of January, 1840, by both the French and American squadrons.

The part of the ocean included between the degrees of 97 and 154 degrees east, and south of 64, was not traversed by Cook, nor any other of the great navigators that we remember; though west of 60 degrees east longitude, he went to nearly 70 degrees of south latitude. But the discoveries now mentioned seem to be all east of this. Capt. Biscoe, at about 45 degrees east longitude, took a northeastern course from nearly 70 degrees south latitude.

In 1823, Capt. Waddell was considerably south of 70 degrees, as indeed Capt. Cook was in 1774, but no report is made of any thing but Islands of ice. We do not now recollect the cause, if there was any, why the southern navigators all avoided (as they seem to have done) the part of the great Southern Ocean lying in the latitude and longitude recently visited by the American and French squadrons.

(From the Sydney Herald, March 13th, 1840.)

DISCOVERY OF THE ANTARCTIC CONTINENT.

Among the arrivals to be found in our shipping list of this day, is that of the United States ship Vincennes, under the command of Charles Wilkes, Esq. The V. has been absent from this port eighty days, most of which time has been spent in southern exploration, and we are happy to have it in our power to announce, on the highest authority, that the researches of the exploring squadron after a southern continent have been completely successful. The land was first seen on the morning of the 19th January, in latitude 64 degrees 20 minutes, south longitude 154 degrees 18 minutes east.

The Peacock (which ship arrived in our harbor on the 22d ult. much disabled from her contact with the ice,) we learn, obtained soundings in a high southern latitude, and established beyond doubt the existence of land in that direction. But the V., more fortunate in escaping injury, completed the discovery, and ran down the coast from the 154 deg. 18 sec. to 97 deg. 45 sec. east longitude, about 1700 miles, within a short distance of the land, often so near as to get soundings with a few fathoms of line, during which time she was constantly surrounded by ice islands and bergs, and experienced many heavy gales of wind, exposing her constantly to shipwreck. We also understand she has brought several specimens of rock and earth, procured from the land, some of them weighing upwards of 100 pounds. It is questionable whether this discovery can be of any essential benefit to commerce, but it cannot be otherwise than highly gratifying to Captain Wilkes, and the officers engaged with him in this most interesting expedition, to have brought to a successful termination the high trust committed to them by their country; and it is hoped that so noble a commencement in the cause of science and discovery, will induce the Government of the United States to follow up by other expeditions that which is now on the point of terminating.

We understand that the Vincennes will sail on the 16th instant for New Zealand, where the Porpoise and Flying Fish will rejoin her, should they have been equally fortunate with their two consorts in escaping from the ice. The Peacock will follow as soon as her repairs are completed; whence they will all proceed in furtherance of the objects of the expedition. We will only add, that we wish them God speed.

From the same paper is the following:—

FLOUR.—The price of flour has advanced 6s. per 100 pounds. This rise is to be attributed to the scanty arrivals of wheat from the country, and the high price demanded. It is said that yesterday a pound a bushel was asked for wheat.

It appears from the same paper that the two French corvettes, the Astrolabe and Zelee, under the command of Commodore D'Urville, have been crowned with the same success as that of the U. S. squadron; on the 19th of January, they succeeded in landing with two boats, and obtained many specimens of rock, &c. lat. 66 deg. S. lon. 130 deg. E. The Astrolabe and Zelee had arrived at Hobart Town.

DEPARTURE OF GLENGARRY FOR NEW SOUTH WALES.

On Monday the fine large ship Perfect, Captain Snell, cleared out for Port Philip and Sydney, N. S. W., with 74 passengers, among whom are A. Aeneas R. Macdonnell, Esq. alias Glengarry, who goes to the southern hemisphere, for the purpose of forming a new Glengarry settlement. He has taken a retinue of followers with him (not of warlike heroes, like his ancestors of old,) consisting of shepherds and agriculturists of every description, capable of carrying all the improved methods of rearing cattle, and agricultural improvements, of the old to the new world. He takes out a splendid stock of all kinds of the far-famed Scottish cattle, and a vast number of the most approved agricultural implements, and a frame house or two. Glengarry, we understand, lost his family estate through the reckless extravagance of his father, and a short time since sold one of his own estates for a pretty handsome sum, with which he now goes to Australia to play Glengarry on a more extended principle than any of his forefathers could do. After making a settlement either in Australia or New Zealand, the chieftain intends to return, and take all his tenants, and leave not a wreck of the retainers of the clan to stay on the lands of his fathers.—It is not generally known, that the grandfather of Glengarry is the Fergus M'Ivor of Sir Walter Scott, in Waverley, and that the old chieftain

met his death under the following circumstances:—The Glengarrys, headed by their chieftain, turned out and followed the fortunes and misfortunes of Charlie in 1745; and among the other exploits participated in by this clan, was the defeat of Sir John Hawley's troops. The English threw away their muskets, and the Highlanders standing in need of arms, picked them up and took them home. The morning after the battle, while Glengarry and a group of his officers were standing on the streets of Falkirk, a young Dougal belonging to the clan, and who had become possessed of one of the English muskets, put priming in the pan, so as he might see whether it was fit for service or not. The gun was loaded; and no sooner had Dougal drawn the trigger than Glengarry fell dead, the muzzle having been accidentally pointed towards him. So great was the grief at the death of the well-beloved chieftain, that nothing would satisfy the clan but the life of the unfortunate Highlander. A regimental court martial was held: and every man of the clan, even the father and brother of Dougal, voted for his death, and he was accordingly shot. Glengarry still retains the estates of Moidart and Knoddart.—*Glasgow Chronicle.*

NEW YORK FIFTY YEARS AGO.—At this time (1794) I don't think there were six piano-fortes in the city: now, I suppose, there may be ten thousand. The lasses were all better employed; then they were the true yoke-fellows, always drawing equal, helping and cheering their good men as they trudged along with the cares and burdens of life. The mother and girls made all the clothes in the family. No merchant tailors and their five hundred dollar bills in those days; no notes lying over. In fact, for the first fifteen years I lived in New York, I never heard of a protested note; hence, I infer, that the pressure in the money market is all owing to the increase of play-houses and piano-fortes. When Washington was President, his wife knit stockings in Philadelphia: and the mothers and daughters, in New York, made all the dough-nuts and cakes between Christmas and New Year's; now the married ladies are too proud to make dough-nuts; besides, they don't know how; so they 'e'en send to Madame Pompadour, or some other French cake-maker, and buy sponge-cake or lady-fingers, for three dollars a pound. In those days, New York was full of substantial comforts: now it is full of splendid misery; then there were no gray-headed spinsters, (unless they were very ugly indeed,) for a man could get married for a dollar, and begin housekeeping for twenty; and, in washing his clothes and cooking his victuals, the wife saved him more money than it took to support her. Now, I have known a minister lately to get five hundred dollars for buckling a couple; then wine, cake, and other et ceteras, five hundred more; wedding-clothes and jewels, a thousand; six or seven hundred in driving to the Springs, or some desert mountain; then, a house must be got for eight hundred per annum, and furnished at an expence of two or three thousand; and, when all is done, his pretty wife can neither make a cake nor put an apple in a dumpling. Then a cook must be got, at ten dollars per month; a chambermaid, laundress, and seamstress, at seven dollars each; and, as the fashionable folly of the day has banished the mistress from the kitchen, those blessed helps, aforesaid, reign supreme; and, while master and mistress are playing cards in the parlour, the servants are playing the devil in the kitchen; thus, lighting the candle at both ends, it soon burns out. Poverty comes in at the door and drives Love out at the window. It is this stupid and expensive nonsense which deters so many unhappy bachelors from entering the state of blessedness; hence, you find more deaths than marriages in the papers.—Forty-five years ago, our real wants were few, and easily supplied; our imaginary wants none; now, our real wants are just as few; but the world and all its stores cannot supply our imaginary ones. In those days, men got married at night and went forth to work in the morning with all the sober realities of life on their backs; now they get married in the morning, and start off spending money as if the wedding-day would last through life.—*Grant Thorburn, alias Laurie Todd, in the New York Mirror.*

THE LAKE OF NICARAGUA AT JUNCTION OF THE ATLANTIC WITH THE PACIFIC.

The Lake of Nicaragua is situated in the province of that name, at a distance of about a hundred miles from the Atlantic Ocean, with which it communicates by the river St. Jean. This river is now considered the most advantageous and most practicable point for establishing a connexion between the two oceans. It is believed to be navigable for vessels of three or four feet draft from its port to the lake; and for vessels of twice that depth, as far as the point where the falls commence, which are the great difficulty to be surmounted. The surface of the lake, according to a Spanish engineer, who executed a survey in 1781, is forty-six feet above the level of the Pacific; its depth, about fifteen fathoms. The distance from that sea to the south-western extremity of the Lake of Leon, which communicates, as before stated, with that of Nicaragua, is, by the report of the said engineer, fifteen geographical miles, and the intervening land is said to be sufficiently level to admit the opening of a canal that should unite those lakes with the Pacific. Should the grand work of uniting the waters of the two oceans be undertaken and accomplished, a revolution would be caused in the commercial world, attended with results in the highest degree beneficial to the inhabitants of both hemispheres. This part of the continent would become the great thoroughfare of Nations; and Central America would at once rise to an importance, both commercial and political, which otherwise she never can attain. Proposals for opening this communication were made by a company of English merchants in 1824. The following year similar proposals were made by

some merchants of the United States. But in neither case does it appear, that any specific attention was given to the subject by the government of the country. Subsequently, a proposition to the same effect was made by the Dutch, which was admitted, and the King of the Netherlands was to be stockholder to the amount of one half of the capital that might be invested. But, from whatever cause, this plan also fell through, and matters remain in the same state as before.—*Montgomery's Narrative of a Journey to Guatemala.*

EXPOSITION OF THE FIRST PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS BY NERO.

Though, at first, there appears something unaccountable in this proscription of a harmless and unobtrusive sect, against whom the worst charge, at least, was the introduction of a new and peaceful form of worshipping one Deity,—a privilege which the Jews had always enjoyed without molestation,—yet, the process by which the public mind was led to this outburst of fury, and the manner in which it was directed against the Christians, is clearly indicated by the historian. After the first consternation and distress, an access of awe-struck superstition seized on the popular mind. Great public calamities can never be referred to obvious or accidental causes. The trembling people had recourse to religious rites, endeavoured to ascertain by what offended deities this dreadful judgment had been inflicted, and sought for victims to appease their yet, perhaps, unmitigated gods. But, when superstition has once found out victims to whose guilt or impiety it may ascribe the Divine anger, human revenge mingles itself up with the relentless determination to propitiate offended heaven, and contributes still more to blind the judgment and exasperate the passions. The other foreign religions, at which the native deities might take offence, had been long domiciliated in Rome. Christianity was the newest; perhaps was making the most alarming progress: it was no national religion; it was disdained, with eager animosity, by the Jews, among whom it originated; its principles and practice were obscure and unintelligible; and that obscurity the excited imaginations of the hostile people might fill up with the darkest and most monstrous forms. We have sometimes thought it possible, that incautious or misinterpreted expressions of the Christians themselves might have attracted the blind resentment of the people. The minds of the Christians were constantly occupied with the terrific images of the final coming of the Lord to judgment in fire; the conflagration of the world was the expected consummation, which they devoutly supposed to be instantly at hand. When, therefore, they saw the great metropolis of the world, the city of pride, of sensuality, of idolatry, of bloodshed, blazing like a fiery furnace before their eyes—the Babylon of the west wrapped in one vast sheet of destroying flame—the more fanatical, the Jewish part of the community, may have looked on with something of fierce hope and eager anticipation; expressions almost triumphant may have burst from unguarded lips. They may have attributed the ruin to the righteous vengeance of the Lord; it may have seemed the opening of that kingdom which was to commence with the discomfiture, the desolation of Heathenism, and to conclude with the establishment of the millennial kingdom of Christ. Some of these, in the first instance, apprehended and examined, may have made acknowledgments before a passionate and astonished tribunal, which would lead to the conclusion, that, in the hour of general destruction, they had some trust, some security, denied to the rest of mankind; and this exemption from common misery, if it would not mark them out, in some dark manner, as the authors of the conflagration, at all events would convict them of that hatred of the human race so often advanced against the Jews.—(*The Rev. Prebendary Milman's History of Christianity.*)

HUMAN ARCHITECTURE.—A foreign periodical contains the following extract of a letter from a gentleman in Ispahan, Persia, giving an account of a singular species of architecture, which may be new to our readers:—

"The Governor is without mercy towards the Loutyes, a name given to a fanatical sect of the lower orders; and whenever a murder is committed he causes the assassins to be arrested; and keeps them in a dungeon, till he has collected a sufficient number of victims to make a striking example.—You would not readily divine his project—with these men he intends to build a tower! He has already about a hundred prisoners; and when he shall have got together two or three hundred, then the groaning tower is to be commenced. A layer of stones is to be arranged alternately with a layer of living men! A tower of this description is to be seen at the gate of Shiraz. The one in question is likely to be soon commenced—for we saw yesterday the camels arrive laden with the lime, destined for its construction."

ENERGY OF CHARACTER.—Energy of character is the philosopher's stone of his life, and should be engraved upon every heart—it is that which has peopled the temple of fame—that which has filled the historic pages with great names, and the civil and military world, that which has brought a race from barbarism, drawn the veil from science, and developed the wondrous powers of nature—it makes men great, and makes men rich. First, or last it brings success. Without it Webster would have been a New Hampshire lawyer—Ben Franklin a journeyman printer. Without it, Demosthenes would have stammered on to his grave, and Cincinnatus died a common soldier—Shakspeare would have been shot for poaching—Pope died selling tape—Roscoe lived selling beer "by the small"—and Napoleon gone out of the world a Corsican bully. With it each one has not only done much good for himself, much for his day and generation, but much for the world in the

past, the present and the future. Energy of character will do the same thing for any man in a small way that it has done for those. Give the lawyer energy of character, and he will succeed at the bar without talent. It is the secret by which the merchant, the artist, the scholar, and the mechanic, arrive at distinction and wealth. If they fall once, they try again: no contrary winds beat them down, or, if down, they will not stay down. The man who has energy of character will rise in spite of fortune and in spite of opposition. Give a man energy, and he is a made man, put him where you will. It is the fact that gives us confidence that the American people will rise from their present depressions as soon as the blast has blown over that threw them down. In defiance of bank suspension, bad currency, and every other evil that malice and ignorance can fix upon them, the people of this country have energy enough to rise and to prosper. He who gives up in despair, and cuts away the sheets of his canvass, because he finds contrary winds in his passage, is but a poor navigator.—*American Paper.*

SUICIDAL PROPENSITY.—Dr. Gall knew several families in which the suicidal propensity prevailed through several generations. Among the cases he mentions, is the following very remarkable one:—

"The Sieur Gauthier, the owner of various houses built without the barriers of Paris to be used as *entrepôts* of goods, left seven children, and a fortune of about two millions of francs to be divided among them. All remained at Paris, or in the neighborhood, and preserved their patrimony; some even increased it by commercial speculation.—None of them met with any real misfortunes, but all enjoyed good health, a competency and general esteem. All however, were possessed with rage for suicide, and all seven succumbed to it within the space of thirty or forty years.—Some hanged, some drowned themselves, and others blew out their brains. One of the first two had invited sixteen persons to dine with him on Sunday. The company collected, the dinner was served, and the guests were at the table. The master of the house was called for, but did not answer—he was found hanging in the garret. Scarcely an hour before he was quietly giving orders to the servants, and chatting with his friends. The last, the owner of a house in the Rue de Richelieu, having raised his house two stories, became frightened at the expence, imagined himself ruined, and was anxious to kill himself. Thrice they prevented him, but soon after he was found dead, shot by a pistol. The estate, after his debts were paid, amounted to three hundred thousand francs, and he might have been forty-five years old at the time of his death.

IMPORTANT TO HEADS OF FAMILIES.—We are informed that melted tallow is an excellent and efficacious remedy for the croup, by a gentleman who has recently tried it in the case of one of his own children. Dose, four or five teaspoonsful.

Dr. Johnson compared plaintiff and defendant, in an action at law, to two men ducking their heads in a bucket, and daring each other to remain longest under water.

GREAT ADVERTISEMENT.—We believe the greatest advertisement ever given out to any Printers in this country, is that lately given by the Corporation to the Evening Post, and the New Era, of property to be sold for Assessments. That advertisement was published once a week for thirteen weeks, and comes to over thirteen thousand dollars, or six thousand five hundred dollars each. This is truly what is technically called a "Fat" advertisement, and the beauty of it is that it is promptly paid,—no running a second time,—the Comptroller gives his warrant on the Treasurer, which is paid, if required, in hard cash. We do not complain of this,—on the contrary, we are gratified that it falls to the lot of the profession occasionally to receive a reward. Almost always, political favours fall in every direction except into the hands of printers. *N. Y. Express.*

The mainmast of the line-of-battle ship Queen, of 120 guns, is 127 feet 7 inches high, and her mainyard 111 feet 4 inches long, and is considered to be the largest mast and yard yet made.

Upwards of three hundred conflagrations took place in London during the last six months, and the amount of property destroyed is estimated at £160,000.

TEE-TOTALISM IN SCOTLAND.—It appears that Father Matthew has got a successful imitator in the person of the Rev. R. G. Mason, whose exertions are effecting a moral revolution in Aberdeenshire, second only in extent and importance to the tee-total movement in Ireland. As a specimen of what has been done in Buchan we may mention, that in Fraserburgh, which contains a population of little more than 2,000, nearly 700 have become tee-totallers! In the neighbouring fishing villages there is scarcely a man who has not joined the movement, and nearly the same may be said of the adjoining rural districts.

General Santander, ex-President of New Grenada, died at Bogota on the 6th May.

Mr. Charles Kean has brought home from America a confession of the murder of Lord Norbury, made by two Irish labourers, who absconded from Ireland soon after the murder, and were employed in the United States.

INDECISION.—The man who is perpetually hesitating which of two things he will do first, will do neither. The man who resolves, but suffers his resolution to be changed by the first counter-suggestion of a friend—who fluctuates from opinion to opinion, from plan to plan, and veers like a weathercock to every point of the compass with every breath of caprice that blows, can never accomplish anything great or good.