A Polish Lady Knouted.

At a gathering of Poles in the little village of Kernst on the Southern Nnieman, on the 29th of July last, when all thought themselves secure from the intrusion of any of the numerous spies who keep the Russian officials informed of the malcontents among them, Alexandrina Kossowitz, a young lady whose father, the younger son of a formerly noble Polish family, was killed in the recent troubles at Warsaw, expressed her sympathy with the unfortunates whom Russian severity had murdered or sent into exile. The meeting was a purely social one, and none dreaded that anything said there would reach the ears of the spies, for all present were known to be Poles, and firm haters of the harsh rule under which they then lived. Still, as the young girl in her passionate remembrance of a father's love, deplored his death, expressed her sympathy with rebellion and her detestation of her oppressors, she was cautioned lest her loud tone would enable people at the window to hear her. With a hasty glance as though to read in the faces of those about her who should betray her the young lady lapsed into silence. When ten o'clock arrived, the latest hour of Polish gatherings, the company separated, and the young lady accompanied by her affianced, Julian Termensky, went to her home.

If, in passing from the house of the gathering she had been more observant, Alexandrina would have seen the maliciously triumphant glances cast after her by Catharine Merkoff, a woman of about thirty-five, a Pole by birth, and a sympathizer with her unhappy country-woman whenever her own passion was not concerned, and, from the subsequent proceedings, it seems that in this case she had been superseded in the affections of the young Dr. Tremensky by the more beautiful and younger Alexandrina Kossowitz.

On the following day shortly after rising, Alexandina was seized in her own home, a short distance from Kernst, by two Cossacks of the guard at the garrison, and taken before the petty judge.

The young lady of nineteen, handsome and trembling, produced no feeling of pity. Having at first denied the accusation, she was contronted with Catherine Merkoff, and then acknowledged her offense. In passing sentence, the petty judge said that her seditious utterances might have warranted him in sending her before a higher tribunal, where the penalty would be death; but in view of her youth and contrition, he should merely order her to receive thirty-five lashes of the knout. Almost benumbed with shame and terror, the girl was led away to be prepared for punishment, for in Russia all sentences save that of death are carried out immediately after they have been pronounced.

Word having been sent to the officer commanding the troops, a guard of two hundred men were ordered into the garrison square, and the executioner of the troop was called upon to be ready to carry out the duties of his office. In half an hour after the sentence had been given, the troops had been formed in a hollow square, in the center of which had been placed a scaffold, standing on four legs, the top of which was an inclined plane. Beside this stood the executioner, having in his muscular hand the knout. This weapon consists of a stick or handle two feet long, with a lash four feet long, of soft leather, to the end of which is attached by a loop a piece of flat rawhide two inches wide and two feet long. In the hands of an experienced man the piece of rawhide can be made to cut like a knife.

As the executioner stood facing the scaffold, Alexandrina Kossowitz was brought to him by her guard, and in a few moments her clothing was removed to the waist, notwithstanding her almost mute appeals to be spared the shame. As she pleaded she was bent on the plane, her hands strapped to the two upper corners, and her ankles secured at the feet of the structure. One of the executioner's assistants held her head, and the petty judge gave the order for the whipping to commence. Twirling the long lash in the air the executioner stepped suddenly backwards, and with a sharp crack the tong fell on the back of the sobbing girl, cutting a livid streak from the right shoulder to her waist. A terrible tremor passed over her, and a low cry escaped her lips, but it was the only sound she uttered, and were it not for the blood which soon commenced to flow, it might have seemed that the whipping was being done on the naked back of a corpse. When the lash had been given, the young lady was unfastened, and, with her clothing rudely thrown over her, she was taken to prison, and there, after thanking the judge for his mercy, according to the necessary formula, she was delivered over to her friends.

Five days afterwards, the *Gazette* of Wilma contained this announcement. "The Polish criminal, Alexandrina Kossowitz, (daughter of the rebel Peter Kossowitz,) who was knouted for seditious utterance on the 29th of July at Kernst, while submitting her lacerations to medical treatment, in the house of the physician Kemensky, stole a vial of prussic acid, with which she ended her days."

A Novel Crew and Cargo.

The steamship "Glenartney" is built of iron and is 1,700 tons burden. She is owned by Jardine Matthewson, of Calcutta, and is engaged in the East India trade, running between Hong Kong and Calcutta. She is commanded by Captain Bolton, a tall, heavily built gentleman, with long, black whiskers, and a genuine good nature all harmoniously blended. The officers are all Englishmen, but the ship is manned by a motley crew of Chinese, Hindostanese, Bengalese, Arabs and Turks.

The "Glenartney" has not been out of Chinese and Indian water until now for three years. But in July last she was chartered by a firm in Amoy to bring a large cargo of tea to New York. She sailed from Amoy on the 6th of July, having on board 32,000 boxes of the exhilarating herb (the largest cargo of tea ever brought to this port), and after a voyage of sixty-seven days dropped anchor in the lower bay on Friday last. With her novel crew she an once became an object of wonder to all New Yorkers, and yachts and steamers carried down hundreds of visitors curious to explore the recesses of a fresh ship from China. On Saturday she was hauled up to pier 13, East River, and the work of discharging her cargo was begun.

The scene on board the Glenartney yesterday was novel. The deck of an ocean steamer always presents features of interest to the landsman, but a ship manned by pagans, and overrun with monkeys, parrots, and other oriental birds is particularly interesting to the visitor. All day long the deck of the Glenartney was thronged by men, women and children, who gazed with undisguised wonder upon the swarthy forms and outlandish costumes of the sailors.

The Indians pay much more attention to the beauties of dress than other classes. They are all costumed in light blue flannel suits throughout, and wear a blue cap with a black band, on which the name of the vessel is inscribed in golden letters. The costume is very pretty, and harmonizes with their swarthy complexions. The Chinese present the very opposite features of dress. Their clothes are of every variety and color, and hang about them loosely, as though the main notion was to cover their nakedness. No idea of the picturesque seems to have a place in their thoughts. They shuffle about the deck in a careless, slipshod manner, and when not at work seem ill at ease. Their positions, too, when at rest, are awkward and ungainly, while the postures of the Indians are graceful and easy.

—A sonnet, composed by Cowper, was recently sold at Messrs. Sothebys. It was in the handwriting of the poet, and it is said to have been composed for the benefit of a printer at Leicester, who had got into prison for selling the "Age of Reason." It fetched £4 14s. 6d.

A New Plan for Cleaning Harbors.

The Baltimore *Gazette* says: "A novel and certainly very ingenious mode of purifying the inner harbor has been invented by Dr. Bantz, of this city. The plan he proposes is to create an artificial current by means of a tunnel and double Ericsson screws. He suggests that the tunnel shall be 20, 25 or 30 feet in diameter (although he believes the 30 feet tunnel the best), which tunnel is to commence at William street dock (the mouth to be six inches under water at low tide), to run under the bed of said street to Bandal street, then to bear easterly, so as to strike Jackson street at the Patapsco River (this end to be also under water). At the commencement of the south third of the length, he proposes to place the 1,000 horse-power engine to work the machinery revolving the propellers. At the point where the machinery is placed the tunnel (30 feet) diverges into two smaller tunnels (15 x 30 feet) for a short distance, then converges to one of the original size, forming a diamond (30 feet) which goes to the Patapsco. The propellers are 29 feet in diameter, placed on a shaft to run the long diameter of the diamond, and to revolve 25 times per minute; and it is said to be the opinion of a practical mechanic that the tunnel will be emptied six times per hour, which, according to his estimate, will discharge 26,857,766 cubic feet, which is about 179,147,596 gallons. A 25-feet tunnel will discharge 20,734,560 cubic feet, which is 125,407,370 gallons. A 20-feet tunel will discharge 13,280,118 cubic feet, which is 79,620,710 gallons per hour. Dr. Bantz believes that the adoption of this plan will not only sweeten the basin, harbor &c., but will carry off 5,000 scow loads of sediment and dirt that is already there and that will be deposited during the year, and forever save the city a vast deal of money in dredging and sewerage. A model machine, which we have seen at work and which is necessarily on a small scale, certainly produces a strong current and is an ingenious application of a well known principle. Whether it will accomplish the work claimed for it only competent engineers can decide."

The Tables Turned.

Years ago into a wholesale grocery store in Boston walked a tall, muscular-looking, raw-boned man, evidently a fresh comer from some back town in Maine or New Hampshire. Accosting the first person he met, who happened to be the merchant himself, he asked:

"You don't want to hire a man in your store, do you?"

"Well," said the merchant, "I don't know; what can you do?"

"Do!" said the man, "I rather guess I can turn my hand to almost anything. What do you want done?"

"Well, if I was to hire a man, it would be one that could lift well, a strong, wiry fellow—one, for instance, that could shoulder a sack of coffee, like that yonder, and carry it across the store and never lay it down."

"There now, Captain," said our countryman, "that's just me. What will you give a man that will suit you?"

"I tell you," said the merchant, "if you will shoulder that sack of coffee, and carry it across the store twice and never lay it down, I will hire you for a year at $100 per month."

"Done!" said the stranger; and by this time every clerk in the store had gathered around and were waiting to join in the laugh against the man, who, walking to the sack, threw it across his shoulder with perfect ease, as it was not extremely heavy, and walking with it twice across the store, went quietly to a large hook which was fastened to the wall, and hanging the sack upon it, turned to the merchant and said:

"There now, it may hang there till doomsday; I shan't never lay it down. What shall I go about, mister? Just give me plenty to do and $100 a month and its all right." And to-day the green countryman is the senior partner in the firm, and worth half a million dollars.

A Czar Wooing.

Sir Jerome Horsey, in his "Observations on certain transactions in Russia," gives a remarkable account of an attempt made by an Emperor of Russia to obtain an English wife: Juan Vassilivitch, Great Duke and Emperor of Russia, having a desire to marry an English lady, was told of the lady Mary Hastings, daughter of the Earl of Huntingdon; whom, being of the blood royal (they were Sir Jerome Horsey's words), he began to affect. Whereupon making his desires known to Queen Elizabeth (who did well to approve thereof) he sent over Theodore Pissemskoie, a nobleman of great account, his ambassador; who, in the name of his master, offered great and advantageous terms to the queen, in case the marriage took effect, and promised that the issue by this lady should inherit. The ambassador thus arriving in England, was magnificently entertained, and admitted audience. The queen hereupon caused the lady to be attended with divers ladies and young noblemen, that so the ambassador might have a sight of her, which was accomplished in York House Garden, near Charing Cross, London. There was he (attended by divers men of quality) brought before her; and casting down his countenance, fell prostrate before her, and rising back with his face still towards her (the lady with the rest admiring at his strange salutation), he said by an interpreter, "it sufficed him to behold the angelic presence of her whom he hoped should be his master's spouse and empress," seeming ravished with her angelical countenance, state, and beauty. She was after that by her friends in court called Empress of Muscovia. But the queen, as well as the young lady, understanding (according to the laws of those countries) he might put his wife away from him when he pleased, took occasion to put a stop to that overture.—*Leisure Hour.*

Men with Bird-Shaped Skulls.

The New York *Tribune's* report of the proceedings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science contains the following:

J. W. Foster, LL. D., of Chicago, exhibited some strangely-shaped human skulls, and drawings of others. He said: There have been several skulls discovered in Indian mounds widely separated as to locality, which seem to have a common type utterly unlike those of any other known human crania. These skulls, taken respectively from two groups of mounds, about fives miles apart on the Des Paines River, in the vicinity of Chicago; from the neighborhood of Merom, a station on the Cincinnati and Terre Haute Railway, in Indiana; and from the vicinity of Dunleith, Illinois, just across the Mississippi from Dubuque, Iowa, present these marked peculiarities in the most extreme degree. In the first of the two groups of mounds near Chicago, portions of 11 skeletons were found; but only one skull and three frontal bones were sufficiently well preserved to admit of measurement and comparison. The other group of mounds yielded human remains evidently belonging to two distinct eras, one of which must have been exceeding recent. In addition to these were found, nearly on a level with the original surface, many skulls far gone into decomposition, and presenting peculiarities not appertaining to the existing Indian. To these Dr. Foster is inclined to assign an antiquity of several hundred years. Some of these relics are undoubtedly those of the mound builders, and are of the highest value to the antiquary.

So abnormal was the appearance of these skulls when first discovered, that Dr. Foster had difficulty in satisfying other investigators that these skulls had not been subjected to compression. But the shape is entirely different from that of the Indian or any other, compression or otherwise. The skulls of Europeans (Caucasian) and of American Indians were compared with the Mound Builder. The Caucasian's skull is developed more completely than the Indian in every direction, except in a line through the head somewhat above the ears, and is somewhat boat-shaped; that of the Indian somewhe approaches the shape of a block with the corners rounded off. But the Mound Builder's skulls is like that of a bird, and needs only a beak to complete the illusion. It rounds down equally from the apex to both front and back, with no forehead worth naming.

The measurement of one of the Chicago skulls, as determined by Dr. Bridge, is as follows: Circumference, 20.25 inches; around longitudinal arc, 12.5 inches; vertical hight above the glabello-occipital line, 3.8 inches; extreme longitudinal measurement, 7.6 inches; extreme transverse, 5 75 inches The skull is not quite symmetrical. Its general outline is dolchico-cephalic. Its differences compared with a European skull are, notably: The large development of the superciliary ridges; the greatly depressed forehead; the occiput not merely flattened but forming an oblique line upward, while it occupies the extreme posterior part of the skull. Three skulls from the Kennicutt mound exhibited remarkably prominent supra-orbital ridges and peculiarly retreating foreheads; one of these being even a more retreating forehead than that of which the measurement is given above.

"I think," says Dr. Foster, "that no one can view this fragment, with its great, massive superciliary ridges, its low, flat forehead and its thick bony walls, without coming to the conclusion that its possessor when alive must have been essentially a ferocious brute Of two crania from the Hass's Park mounds, one is distinguished by the almost entire absence of a forehead; the orbital rings are sharp, without the least sign of a superciliary ridge; but the region of the glabella rises up in a ridge and the nasal bones are projected like the beak of a bird or of a garpike. The skull is only of the thickness of pasteboard. The brain capacity is not large. Without indorsing phrenology, Dr. Foster thinks it may be admitted that observation justifies the assignment of particular faculties of very particular parts of the brain; as, the seat of the intellectual faculties in the anterior lobe; of the propensities which must link us with the brute, in the middle lobe; of those that appertain to the social affections, in the posterior lobe. Judged by these tests we may infer that the Mound Builders were not as intellectual as the Indian, but less crafty and cruel.

Dr. Foster then went into an analysis of the peculiararities of ancient Peruvian and Aztec skulls and compared them with North American Indian skulls and the skulls of the Mound Builders. The similarity between Peruvian and Mound Builders' skulls is noticeable. Dr. Lund, a distinguished Swedish naturalist, says:

"The human figures sculptured on the ancient mounds of Mexico represent, for the greater part, a singular conformation of the head—being without forehead, and the cranium retreating backward immediately above the superciliary arch. This anomaly, which is generally attributed to an artificial disfiguration of the head, or the taste of the artist, now admits of a more natural explanation, it being now proved by authentic documents that there really existed in this country a race exhibiting the anamalous conformation. The skeletons, which were of both sexes, were of the ordinary height, although two of them were above the common stature. These heads, according to the received opinion in craniology, could not have occupied a high position intellectually." Rivero and Tschudi believe that the artificial disfigurements of the skull among the Inca-Peruvians owe their existence to the prior existence of an autochthonous race having this peculiarity; and they further state that such peculiarities are in some cases congenital, having been found in the fœtus in Peruvian mummies. As to the shape of the skull being produced by compression, Morton has pointed out that where this is attempted, the volume of the brain is not diminished but simply transferred to parts of the head where the pressure is not applied. Dr. Foster has examined the skulls of the Flathead and Chenook Indians, where the forehead is depressed, but there is an enormous prolongation of the posterior region, and the line between the occipital protuberance and the intersection of the lamboidal sutures, instead of being vertical, as in the normal state, is curved outward so as often to bring the occiput point beneath the skull, and in a line with its base. The backhead of the Flathead Indian as drawn by Dr. Foster on the blackboard, was not unlike that of the ladies of two or three years ago, when the round waterfall on the back of the head was fashionable. But on examining the skulls of the Mound Builders it was evident that there was no such swelling at the back. The occiput forms the extreme posterior part of these skulls, from which the line of the cranium curves upward and inward. Moreover, whenever it has been shown that wherever bandages have been used for depressing the skull, it is marked by long ridges or depressions, which do not exist in the skulls in question. It may be safely asserted that there are certain coincidences in the configuration of the head between the primeval inhabitants of Brazil, the temple builders of Peru and Mexico, and the Mound Builders of the Mississippi Valley.

In the discussion that followed, Doctor Foster said that Morton had placed too much emphasis on what he called typical types. Nevertheless here were facts which could not be thrown aside. Among the bones disinterred at Merom, Indiana, there were also thigh bones, of which the shape of the femur was peculiar and different from that of Europeans. Col. Forshey asked whether these differences of cranium and femur justified the announcement of a new species of man, to which Dr. Foster replied in the negative. Prof. Putnam thought we had scarcely a sufficient number of these low-browed skulls to assume that they were typical of the Mound Builders. A large majority of the skulls taken from these mounds were not of this extreme form at all—they were of the box shape or Indian skull. At the utmost he thought that if there were originally a race of Mound Builders with low foreheads, it was absorbed or driven south again long before the Mound Builders, as such, ceased to exist. Professor Winter announced a new locality of mounds and skulls in Michigan. A few specimens of the real Mound Builders' skulls had been found there; not quite so much depressed as those shown here, but an intermedjate form between the Indian and the extreme Mound Builder. Dr. Foster stated that Dr. Wallace collected 60 skulls from the Malays and found every variety of race forms, apparently, among them. The skulls of any given race differ widely among themselves. Dr. Foster did not wish to be understood as saying that the Mound Builders were a race exclusively having depressed skulls; but he considered the coincidence of these numerous discoveries indicative of the fact that large numbers of men of this remarkable conformation must have existed among the Mound Builders.

Anecdotes of Daniel Webster.

Mr. Webster was full of fun and humor at times, and when in company with a few intimate friends he unbent, and exhibited his wonderful versatility of talent, to the delight of all listeners. He had marvelous narrative powers, was a capital mimic, and imitated a broken dialect to perfection. He was not an unamiable man, and never said a malicious thing in all his life; but when perturbed or uncomfortable, either from indisposition or the effect of exuberant conviviality, he was as unapproachable as a porcupine, and often indulged in peevish exclamations and satirical remarks.

I once heard him describe a visit that he made to the elder Adams, at Quincy, a few months before his death. The venerable sage, then ninety years of age, received him with cordiality, thanking him for his civility in coming to see him. He was lying in bed, supported by pillows, a heavy, plethoric man, inclined to dropsy, and drawing his breath with much difficulty. He seemed to pump up his words, Mr. Webster said, from a great depth, and spoke in short sentences.

"How are you, Mr. Adams," inquired his visitor.

"Feeble and nearly worn out," was the reply. "The old tenement is in a state of dilapidation, and from what I can judge of the intentions of the landlord, he is not likely to lay out anything more in repairs."

Meeting him at the Astor House in 184—, I mentioned that Nathaniel P. Tallmadge, lately Governor of Wisconsin, was dead. "Ah! is Tallmadge dead? Well, all the tears that will be shed on the occasion lie in an onion."

Managing politicians who assumed to control the movements of the people were his aversion. Mr. Webester went down to his grave with the firm conviction that he had been defrauded of the Presidency by the jealousy and intrigues of his rivals. He entertained no doubt that the great mass of his countrymen were anxious to make him President, but were overruled and thwarted by the party leaders.

He accosted me once on Pennsylvania avenue: "How long have you been in town?"

"A couple of days."

"Why have you not been to see me?"

"I don't know where you live."

"At the old place, on Louisiana avenue."

"Near the church on Sixth street?"

"Yes; directly under the droppings of the sanctuary."

Rejoicing rather irrelevantly, I said, "I did not know there was much sanctity in the droppings from a Unitarian church."

"I used the phrase as descriptive merely. Have you seen Uncle Truman since you arrived?"

I answered in the affirmative.

"Is he now, as usual, responsible for all rankind?"

I said there seemed to be a heap of trouble on the old man's mind.

"The last time I saw him," said he, "he fairly staggered under the weight of empire."—*Harper's Magazine.*

—An American circus is knocking the sentiment entirely out of the Rhine Valley.

— A Mississippi girl, just out of school hired a few negroes last season and undertook to carry on the farm at her homestead. The results at the end of the year were eight bins of potatoes, 600 bushels of corn, and $969 in cash from the sale of cotton, after all expenses were paid.

MARRIAGE OF DWARFS.—A marriage scarcely less interesting than that of Pere Hyacinthe has lately taken place in Ohio, in the United States. The Springfield *Advertiser* reports the marriage of Colonel Joseph Leffel to Miss Eveline Beasley. The colonel is forty-five inches high, weighs fifty-five pounds, and is 38 years old. Miss Beasley, now Mrs. Leffel, is five or six inches taller than her husband, weighs about seventy-four pounds, and is 23 years of age. Colonel Leffel, though diminutive in stature, is remarkably active and vigilant in business, so much so that by earnest attention he has amassed a considerable fortune. He is one of the "bee kings" of the country, and his success in the management of these industrious insects has rendered him the object of envy to all bee fanciers. His face is described as manly and his features strong. The marriage service was most impressively performed by the minister of the English Lutheran Church, and the happy pair departed for a tour in Kentucky, bearing with them the best wishes of a host of friends and relatives. It is rumored that on their return home from the honeymoon they will take up their residence in a large and beautifully furnished beehive.

A STRANGE DISEASE.—Intense radiation of heat in the great desert of Sahara produces extraordinary effects on insects as well as animals and men. When a caravan starts out to traverse that wide waste of desolation, flies follow on in prodigious multitudes, attracted, no doubt, by odor from the camels, but they soon drop dead by the intensified heat. Fleas burrowing in hair, straw, or sacks, are killed off rapidly. But the most singular of all is the malady to which men are incident after being exposed a short time to burning sands and a vertical sun on that arid and life-forsaken reg on. It is called ragle—a kind of brain fever. The stricken traveler is delighted, amused, and made extensively happy by exhibitions of fantastic forms. He sees mirages, palm-trees, groups of tents, shady mountains, sparkling cascades, and misty forms dancing delightfully before his entranced vision. From all that can be gathered upon the subject it appears that a certain condition of atmosphere wholly free of moisture, with intense solar heat, produces effects on the brain very similar to hasheesh. Both exalt the nevous system and speedily destroy all desire to exist, deprived of that unnatural excitation of the brain.

—No finer compliment has ever been paid to a man than that of Jean Paul to his friend Weisse, when he said that "his face was a thanksgiving for all his former life, and a love letter to all mankind."

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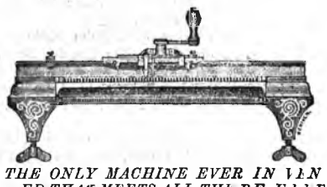

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