

Carpets Versus Blankets.

There is a town up in New Hampshire where so little is known of the appliances of modern days, that throughout the village, until the debut of Rev. Mr. M—, who had just moved in front Massachusetts, there was not a carpeted room. Of this the minister was not aware, or perhaps he would have hesitated at the idea of indulging in such an unwonted article of luxury.

One day a young farmer, having occasion to visit the minister, was shown by the minister's daughter into the "best room."

When the minister came down to see him, he found him sitting in a chair on the door sill, with his legs extending out into the entry.

Amazed and somewhat puzzled by this unexpected sight, Mr. M asked him why he didn't go into the parlor.

"O," said he, "I was afraid of spillin' your blanket by treadin' on it."

His amazement may be imagined, that the "blanket" was a permanent fixture of the room, and was kept for the very purpose of being trodden on.

This anecdote, which may appear a little like exaggeration, is, the reader may be assured, perfectly true.

A SEE-SAW.—Foreigners, trying to acquire a knowledge of the English language, may receive aid from the following "see-saw."

"Brudder Pete, did you see him see de log afore you saw him saw it?"

"De uninterlectual stupendity of some niggers is perfectly incredulous—why, ef I seed him saw it afore I saw him see it, it's a consequential ensurance dat he saw he sawed it afore he saw he seed it; but he couldn't helpseein' he saw it afore he sawed it, for ef he saw de sawen afore he saw de seein' ob de sawin', consquinchilly he must saw it afore he seed it, which is obsurdly ridicular—darefore I did see him see it afore I saw him saw it; quoddy rat demon strandum."

THE CELESTIAL STATE.—Old Rickets was a man of labor, and had little or no time to devote to speculations to the future. He was, withal, rather uncouth in the use of language.

One day while engaged in stopping up hog-holes about his place, he was approached by a colporteur, and presented with a tract.

"What is all this about?" demanded Rickets.

"That, sir, is a book describing the celestial state," was the reply.

"Celestial state," said Rickets. "Where the deuce is that?"

"My worthy friend, I fear that you have not—"

"Well, never mind," interrupted Rickets: "I don't want to hear about any better state than old Pennsylvania. I intend to live and die right here, if I can only keep them darned hogs out."

A MAN AND HIS DOUBLE.—An Italian farce, which has attained considerable popularity, is distinguished by the following somewhat comical incident. A traveller reaches an inn, and finds it crowded with occupants;—his choice lies between no bed at all, or one in the same room where a black man is sleeping; he adopts the latter, and orders the servant to call him at a very early hour. In the middle of the night a mischievous wag wanders into the room, and amuses himself with blacking the traveller's face. When the servant wakes him, his first action is to look in the glass, when he exclaims, "The fool has woke the wrong man!" and calmly goes to bed again.

THE DECLARATION OF WAR.—Now that they are actually at war with Russia, the British nation will not be satisfied until they have not only given the great Bear a sound thrashing, but have also made him pay the expenses incurred in administering the same. They intend in the action not only to inflict damages, but also to make it carry costs. Russia will have to meet the "heavy charges" of their armies in a pecuniary no less than in a military sense. In other words, the true meaning of the recent declaration is, "War to the knife—and fork!"

The Czar has mustered a hundred thousand men.—*Preston Gazette.*

The Sultan will pepper them.—*Berwick Guardian.*

And England and France will assault them.—*Worcester Times.*

And Austria and Prussia will show vinegar face, so there will be a pretty pickle altogether.—*Jona Whillings.*

Queer people for amusement in Greenland. They have a play in which everybody pulls his neighbor's nose; and the harder it is drawn upon, the louder the sufferer is expected to laugh. They sit down to dinner of bear's meat, and drink a couple of quarts of grease.

Mrs. Partington informs us that she intended the consort of the Female Cemetery last evening, and some of the songs were extricated with touching pythagoras; she declares the whole thing went off like a packenham shot; the young angels sing like young syrups and looked like young angels just out of paradox. She only regrets that during the showers of applause she forgot her parasol.—*N. Y. Dutchman.*

'Scene in a newspaper office.—Advertiser:—I have a pig that strayed away; what do you charge to put him in the paper?"

'It will depend on the size, or the number of words we use.'

Is it the size? Well, then, Jimmy Smith paid but a quarter to put his horse in, and surely a pig is not so big as a horse.

A GOOD JOKE.—Two females escaped from the jail at Rome, N. Y., a few nights since. In the morning a constable was despatched after them. On his way he overtook two "young ladies," who asked him for a ride, and he gallantly took them in his sleigh and carried them to Utica. It turned out they were the "girls" he was after. But he don't know it!

It is said that in a recent "little affair" which took place between the Russians and the Turks, before Kalafat, a ball passed between the bridle-arm and the body of Hassan Aga (an English officer in the Turkish service) and shot off his horse's head. Is this what is meant by being put hors(e) de combat?

AN IMPROMPTU—and a good one, by a voyager; a better description of a sea voyage than volumes could give:—

Two things break the monotony
Of an Atlantic trip;
Sometimes, alas, you ship a sea,
And sometimes see a ship.

An old bachelor geologist was boasting that every rock was as familiar to him as the alphabet. A lady, who was present, declared that she knew of a rock of which he was wholly ignorant.—"Name it, madam!" cried Cælebs, in a rage. "It is rock the cradle, sir," replied the lady. Cælebs evaporated.

"I say, Pete, some d—d loco stole half of my pig last night."

"How do you know it was a loco, Bill?"

"Because, if he'd have been a whig he'd have taken the whole of it."

We left then.

In an Irish provincial paper is the following singular notice:—

"Whereas Pat Daniel O'Connor lately left his lodging: this is to give notice that if he does not return immediately, and pay for the same, he will be advertised."

When the War is over, and the spoils are to be divided, we suppose the Emperor will be pretty well skinned on the settlement of costs. England will probably take his hide, and France, who is always burning for glory, will claim all the tal-low.

"Look here, Jim, who is this Nebraska Bill they are making so much fuss about now?"

"Don't know, Ike, but I'll bet four dollars and a half that Tom Hyer can lam him out of his boots in less than 2.40."

Somebody advertises for agents to sell a work entitled "Hymeneal Instructor." The best, hymeneal instructor we know of is a young widow. What she don't know there is no use in learning.

CONSUMPTION.—Dr. Simpson, of Edinburgh, it is said, has been working wonders with consumptive patients, by having them well rubbed with warm olive oil. Some of his patients have increased 13 lbs in weight in seven or eight weeks.

An old lady, whose son was about to proceed to the Black Sea, among her parting admonitions, gave him strict injunctions not to bathe in that sea for she did not want to see him come back a 'nigger.'

A Shell Fish Business.—The Czar not satisfied with being an austere (oyster) man, wishes to destroy all the musselmen (musclemen.) This is shocking—we mean the joke!

A rash and somewhat deluded young man has threatened to apply the Maine law to his sweetheart, she intoxicates him so.

The soldiers, on their way to Malta, invariably called the General on the Danube, Got-such-a-cough.

There are in Paris, eighty thousand Freemasons. The grand master is Prince Murat.

An editor in Illinois gives notice that there will be no paper this week, as his wife is using the scissors to half seat his cassimeres with.

A CASE OF DISTRESS.—The poor milliners say they can hardly earn a living, because of the great falling off in bonnets.

Why are country girls' cheeks like well printed cotton? Because they are "warranted to wash and keep the color."

Failure of Modern Necromancy.—The attempt of Nicholas to convert the Turkish Sultan into the Cedar of Lebanon.

The Boston Bee says there are 300 nunneries in this country, in which ten, and probably twenty thousand poor helpless girls are confined.

You may prescribe only one scruple of medicine for a sick man, and yet he may have a hundred scruples to take it.

BRITISH FLEETS IN THE BALTIC SEA IN FORMER TIMES.

Everything indicates that the Baltic Sea will soon become the theatre of great events. Napier's squadron is the fifth British fleet that has appeared in those waters with hostile purposes and it may be interesting to recall the occasions of such demonstrations and their results.

The first British Fleet ordered to the Baltic was during the period when Russia, under Peter the Great began to play a part in European affairs, and Sweden, under Charles XII, was aiming at extensive dominion. The contests among northern nations were carried on by these powers. Peter, directed his main energies, for twenty years, to the extension of his territory on the shores of the Baltic; Charles, warming first with the patriotic object of maintaining the integrity of his kingdom, was afterwards seized with the ambition of conquering his rival, and nearly all the northern powers were drawn into these contests.

England engaged in the struggle under the following circumstances.—

George I, coveted possessions on the European Continent. Denmark had invaded Pomerania, and conquered Bremen and Verden, and the King of Denmark sold these two conquests to Hanover, on condition it should engage in the war. Then George I, who was also Elector of Hanover, made a treaty of alliance 1815, with Peter the Great for these two objects:—

As Elector of Brunswick and King of England, he bound himself to support the Czar in obtaining a general peace, by which Russia should gain the session of Ingria, Esthonia, with Revel and all dependencies, and not be opposed, directly or indirectly, to other conditions which the Czar might propose, and the Czar on his part, agreed to secure to George I, the permanent possession of the Duchies of Bremen and Verden. This will indicate the connection that existed, at this early period, between the British and Russian Governments.—A barbarous war, at this time, was carried on between Russia and London.

Such were the relations of the parties, when in 1719, a formidable Russian fleet of twenty-six men of war, and three hundred galleys and transports, appeared on the Swedish coast in the Baltic, near Stockholm, and proceeded to burn houses, rob churches, demolish castles, and lay waste the country. Suddenly after three towns and eight hundred and twenty-six villages had been destroyed, England tendered her mediation, Sweden joyfully accepted it. To support it, Admiral Norris was sent into the Baltic with a formidable fleet. The Czar was thunderstruck, and concluded the peace of Nystat, in 1721. He got Livonia, Estonia, Ingermerland, part of Carelia, and part of the territory of Wyborg, but if the English fleet had not interfered, he would have had the Sound and Copenhagen, and the whole command of the Baltic.

The next occasion of a British fleet appearing in the Baltic was in 1726. On the conclusion of the former war, France and England proposed to make an alliance with Russia, to establish the peace of Europe, but the death of Peter prevented the treaty being signed. Catherine, his successor, refused to conclude it without additions, and began to indicate designs of war, and of joining Spain and the enemies of England. She commenced to fit out a large navy and a formidable land force. On learning this England sent out a large squadron, under Sir Charles Wager, charged with a friendly letter to the Empress. In April his fleet anchored off Copenhagen, and he dined with the King of Denmark. Thence he went to Stockholm, and dined with the King of Sweden, and in a short time his squadron was joined by a Danish fleet. Then he proudly bore for the Russian coast. The Empress and her Court were in consternation at his appearance. The garrisons at

Riga, Revel, Constadt and Wyborg were re-inforced; the ships of war were unrigged and drawn close in shore under cover of the batteries. Having reached Riga, the English Admiral sent the King's friendly letter to the Empress. The pit of the letter was this:—The King of England informed his "dear sister" that his Admiral had orders, in case she persisted in putting her fleet to sea, to hinder them from going out. His "dear sister" replied that she was surprised to receive the letter at the very instant that the fleet appeared on her coasts, and that the threat would not hinder her from causing her fleet from going out, if she thought it convenient, but she further stated that her purposes were not of a warlike nature. She immediately issued a liberal declaration in favor of British merchants, supplied the British fleet with provisions, expressed a desire for peace, and the former good understanding was restored. So ended the second British War in the Baltic.

The third time a British Fleet entered the Baltic was under memorable circumstances. For nearly a hundred years Russia had been generally in alliance with, or on good terms with England. As late as 1799 a close alliance existed between the two powers. In that year a British frigate demanded the visitation and search of a Danish frigate, which the latter resisted. This affair, however, was adjusted. In July, 1800, a similar demand was made by a British Commander, at the head of four frigates, a brig and a lugger, on Danish frigate, the *Frega*. The Danish captain refused compliance. The British gave the Dane a full broadside, and the latter gallantly fought the whole squadron, but at length struck his flag. The British Cabinet on hearing of this transaction, sent Lord Whitworth on a special mission to the Court of Denmark, and supported the negotiation with a squadron under Admiral Dickson, who intended to pass the Sound, even in opposition to the Danes, but who received a polite invitation from the Danish Commander, to put into Elsidore. The squadron bore for that port. On hearing that the fleet had passed the Sound, the Russian Emperor, Paul, issued an edict, ordering a sequestration of all property belonging to the English. An armed neutrality between Russia, Denmark and Sweden followed. Prussia subsequently joined it. The basis of this was free ships, free goods, and the sole object was the protection of commerce. But England demanded of Denmark, an old friend and ally, that she should recede from the armed neutrality, grant the British fleet a free passage through the Sound, and that Danish ships of war should no longer sail with convoy. This proposal was rejected. A British fleet passed the Sound in four hours, being cannonaded from Cronburg, but not from the Swedish coast. At this time the combined Russian, Swedish and Danish Navies, would have made a formidable force, but they were not prepared to act with unity. The British Fleet destroyed the Danish Fleet off Copenhagen. Nelson tendered conditions that Denmark would not accept, but an armistice succeeded. The assassination of the Czar was followed by a restoration of good feeling between England and Russia.

The fourth time an English fleet entered the Baltic was in 1807. England pretended that Napoleon intended to occupy Holstein, with a military force, to cut off her communication with the continent, to induce Denmark to close the Sound against the British commerce, and to avail himself of the Danish marine for the invasion of Great Britain. She accordingly, collected a fresh fleet, entered the Baltic, demanded the surrender of the Danish fleet, and met with a refusal, whereupon she bombarded Copenhagen for three days, when the Danish fleet surrendered to Admiral Gambier and Lord Cathcart. On this Russia issued an indignant declaration. It alledged that this act of violence was without a parallel, that the outrage was committed in the Baltic, an inland sea, whose tranquillity had been the subject of reciprocal guaranty, and it announced that all communication with England was broken off. Actual war was then declared between Russia and England, and the first fleet of the latter, under Admiral Keats, in 1808, blockaded the Russian fleet in the Baltic, and another Russian fleet in the Tagus, surrendered to the British. In 1812, a treaty of peace was concluded between the two powers. A British fleet soon rendered important aid in the defence of Riga, and the whole Russian naval force wintered in England.

The present allied fleet in the Baltic, is the largest that ever appeared in those waters. It is stated, however, that the Russian fleet in the Baltic, is superior in the number of ships, and it will have the advantage, if attacked in its moorings, of immense batteries on its side. Acting on the defensive, Russia must be immensely powerful, and wherever Napier attempts to strike, he will be met with a heavy force.