

MONDAY MORNING, JULY 4.

Communications and Exchanges for this paper should be addressed, TRANS-CONTINENTAL, 46 State Street, Chicago.

## VALEDICTORY.

At six o'clock and thirty minutes on Saturday afternoon, July second, the Pullman Palace Train was run into the city of Boston, and there ended probably the grandest pleasure excursion ever undertaken. Just six weeks before, the same train had entered the city upon the same track, and was the object of universal interest and curiosity. In the meanwhile it has twice crossed the continent of North America and mingled the salutations and cemented the friendships of the people living upon the Atlantic and Pacific shores. The whole interior country, too, has been eagerly interested in the excursion and has shared in the friendly sentiments of the East and West. Everywhere manifestations of friendship have abounded; and the press and the telegraph have scattered through every part of the country the fact that the extremes of the continent have met and fraternized, in a manner that has dissolved all idea of distance or difference between them, and led them to realize that we are indeed citizens of one great nation.

On leaving Chicago on Thursday evening, a heavy shower cooled the air delightfully, and laid the dust, so that we had a most refreshing contrast through the night, to a hot day's travel. Friday morning opened brightly upon us at Detroit, and we crossed into Canada, to find it gaily decorated in honor of "Dominion Day." It was a remarkable coincidence that we should have passed through Canada, on our outward journey, on the Queen's birth-day, when it was radiant with similar patriotic demonstrations. The New York Central R. R. gave us a capital run to Albany, and the whole line of railroad through Massachusetts was alive with interest over our return. At Springfield the arrival of the Pullman Train was signalized by a national salute from a battery of artillery; and at Boston a great multitude awaited our return only to overwhelm us with joyous and friendly salutations.

All agree that the excursion has been a splendid success; and that it has done much to annihilate the idea of distance and separation, and to bind together the East and the West in indissoluble bonds. The great valley of the Missis-

sippi, and the Lake States especially, are brought into immediate neighborhood with us, and we with them. There is now no West this side of the Pacific coast, for Chicago and Omaha and Cheyenne are, in comparison, close by.

Our friends express surprise at finding all the party in such fine physical condition—so free from fatigue of body, and so buoyant in spirit, after a journey by land of such extraordinary extent. The Pullman Cars have annihilated the ordinary causes of fatigue in railroad traveling, and demonstrated the luxury of transportation in gliding palaces, with every want supplied, and every wish anticipated.

We make our *congé* to our friends on the Pacific, to those in the central region of the continent, and to our immediate neighbors at home, with a grateful appreciation of their interest in our journey, of their hospitality and friendship; and if any have time and means to spare, we advise all who have not done so already, to make an early trip across the continent.

In closing this article and the existence of the "TRANS-CONTINENTAL," we feel assured that we shall not seem unmindful of the valuable aid of the excursion party generally, in filling its columns, if we especially acknowledge the constant assistance of Charles Wolcott Brooks, in its editorial department. To his attention and untiring devotion to every service which could lend interest to the paper, or contribute to the diversion and happiness of the party, and render the excursion completely successful, all its participants are largely indebted, and to him return their hearty and grateful acknowledgments.

New resources are continually being developed to us throughout the Pacific Coast, and the railway across our continent is fast "unlocking the strong box of our treasures." Even the apparently barren spots of our treeless interior are rapidly developing lead, iron, copper, antimony, coal, silver and gold. In view of the liberal gifts of Nature, coming to us as a treasure trove, we may yet pay our national debt in gold coin, and with our cotton and other crops, permanently change the old "balances of trade."

Aside from the steady progress of California in raising wines, teas and silk, she is rapidly gaining possession of the trade in silk-worm eggs, exports of which from Yokohama alone,—a single port in Japan,—were last year a little exceeding \$5,500,000. All foreign purchasers already openly declare their preference for this California product. Old encyclopedias are getting obsolete, and later editions, may hereafter require even telegraphic addenda to keep up with an age of increasing progress.

—At the ceremony of mingling the waters of the Atlantic with those of the Pacific, performed on the ocean beach near the Cliff House at San Francisco, in the presence of this party, our President, Hon. Alex. H. Rice, in his beautiful and appropriate remarks, called attention to the occasion by saying: "The union of these two waters seems typical of the commingling of a great people, whose future should be one,—as difficult to separate or divide, as the now united particles of water in this vessel."

—The first class passenger travel between China, Japan, the Sandwich Islands, Australia and New Zealand, will hereafter be largely diverted toward San Francisco, whence across the American Continent, it will reach Europe, by a far cooler, healthier, pleasanter, and we believe a shorter route, than by the old channels of former communication via the Isthmus of Suez.

—After so much luxury, elegance, hospitality and general welcome had been extended to our party by those formerly strangers to us, now our friends abroad, it was not astonishing that the recital of adventures should engross very general attention. Since our return, much time has been expended in familiar greetings, and in answering those questions which our brethren of the "Hub," as Yankees, are certainly privileged to ask, and to which it is our privilege as well as pleasure to now answer satisfactorily.

—O. H. Sampson and sister joined our train at Chicago, having come from Boston to meet, and accompanied our party home. It was truly pleasant to meet some one directly from our city, to post us all, on the thousand and one minor events which have transpired in the old Bay State during our absence.

—Some of our party left the train at Chicago for a run to Indianapolis, Louisville and the Mammoth Cave in Kentucky, and, we learn, found the trip quite an interesting one.

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