

so soon to be more practically exhibited on the banks of the Seine, we cannot say anything about the peace-compelling business. The great difficulty at present existing appears to be a fear in the minds of American inventors that it is a huge trap to capture gratuitously the work of their teeming brains. Austria is to be requested not to do anything of the kind.

The disclaimer of Mr. Brooks on the Credit Mobilier question led to the most notable feature of the day—a proposition to have another committee appointed to examine thoroughly the whole Union Pacific business in its relations to the government from beginning to end. A full consideration of this matter was postponed; but from the temper of the House it is not improbable that the proposed committee will be appointed. The action of the special committee in continuing its close sessions was commented on. The response was characteristic. They prefer telling the story altogether at the close of the investigation to letting the public learn its progress from day to day. It may be pertinent to ask whether the members, who long unanimously for newspaper fame, would like to have this "Star Chamber" rule applied to their orations during a whole session?

The Kind of Vessels Required for Our Navy. The action of the Senate and House of Representatives in reference to the navy and naval ships building deserves more than a passing notice. A large majority of our representatives are of the opinion that our naval officers are equal if not superior to those of any other nation, yet where is the instance where any number of naval officers have been consulted as to the class or kind of vessel most suited to the wants of the service?

People who never were at sea, and naval officers have been ordered to sink or swim in them, and they have done both; but we repeat that there is no record to show that any number of naval officers were ever consulted about those to be constructed for naval purposes, and when we refer to naval officers we speak of that class whose duty it is to sail and fight the vessels of the navy. There is springing up among mercantile men a desire to improve our carrying trade, and in order to do this they are clamoring for a navy of iron, for the sake of our country advocates wood, another iron, for mercantile purposes. We do not propose to argue the point as to which is best for that purpose; but we do most emphatically state it as a fact that, for cruising ships of war for all purposes, for the protection of commerce, for an ordinary fight, or in case of grounding, iron would be the most useful material in the world to be used. It is only necessary to refer to the Hatteras, which went to the bottom in ten minutes after receiving one broadside of the rebel steamer Alabama. The thin three-quarter iron is hardly proof against rifled masonry.

There is quite a store of live oak, well seasoned and of suitable size, in our navy yards—enough to build a dozen or more ships of the Hartford or Canandaigua class. These classes of vessels have done more service than all the contract ships that ever were built, and will yet last many years. The cost of building wooden ships will be greater if built at the government yards; but, it is urged, they would be better and of sounder material. Congress passed the "Eight-Hour law," but has no power of enforcing it except as regards labor under government control. In private shipyards nine, ten and even eleven hours, as may be decreed by the owners, constitutes a day's work, and all government employes are paid for eight hours the same pay that outside skill receives for nine, ten or eleven hours. This, it is plain to be seen, causes the difference of cost between a contract and a government-built ship. This also puts at the disposal of the government the best mechanical labor in the country; for the same pay good men would work faithfully eight hours per day against the hours of outside labor.

amelioration of the condition of the poor and the outcast stretch forth their hands in mute supplication to those whose means enable them to become donors. In the hubbub of to-day and the glittering cortege of Santa Claus such appeals should not be forgotten. They take a most interesting form in those fairs which are now occupying the attention of charitable ladies in every part of the city. From the palatial home of opera down to the regenerated slums of Water street the fair daughters of charity are at work, and those who wish "to lay up treasures in heaven" will not be slow in responding to their appeal.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE. Hassan Pacha, son of the Khedive of Egypt, is in Italy, Prigioni! Lady Napier, of Magdala, has recently returned from India to England. Captain Michaels, of the United States Army, is at the Sturtevant House. Bishop Randall, of Colorado, yesterday arrived at the St. Nicholas Hotel. Judge Charles Daniels, of Buffalo, is stopping at the Grand Central Hotel. Mr. John Locke, editor of the *Celtic Weekly*, has retired from that journal. Ex-Congressman Thomas A. Jenckes, of Rhode Island, is at the Astor House. A. N. Ramsdell, President of the New London Railroad, is at the Albemarle Hotel. Colonel G. W. Patten, of the United States Army, has temporary quarters at the Astor House. Samuel F. Carrow, United States Marshal for North Carolina, yesterday arrived at the St. Nicholas Hotel. Lady Hornby lately died with the Prime Minister of Japan, the first European woman who ever had that honor. Prince Leopold, Queen Victoria's youngest son, has just been admitted to Christ Church College, Oxford. Wonderful! Prince Alphonso, son of Isabella of Spain, lately began his sixteenth year. He is still at the Theresianum College in Vienna. Miraculous! It is proposed in Kentucky that the Legislature charter a large bank, to be run by best citizens, in opposition to the Louisville Liberty Lottery. The Grand Duke Nicholas, and Prince Eugene de Leuchtenberg have ended their visit to Egypt and returned to St. Petersburg through Italy and Austria. Giovanni Battista Falorni, the servant in whose arms Lord Byron died, is a clerk in the India House, London, a hale old man of seventy-five, and he almost worships the poet. The new Synod of Rome, Count Pianstani, has always been a zealous advocate of Italian unity. He was with Garibaldi in all his campaigns, and assisted him besides with money. The King of Spain, it is said, proposes to visit the baths of Alhama d'Aragon shortly, accompanied by his physician, Dr. Carretero. It is said so necessary a feat requires such premeditation. After declining the appropriation from the Italian government His Holiness the Pope cannot be said to be in straitened circumstances. He derives about Eight million lire a year from Peter's pence, besides a large income from Church endowments. Three new English missionary Bishops were consecrated in the Westminster Abbey last Sunday; the Revs. P. S. Royston, for Mauritius; W. A. Russell, for North China, and Henry Rowley, for Madagascar. The cannibals will die their teeth black at the new. United States Minister Thomas H. Nelson was a passenger for Vera Cruz on the steamship City of Merida, that sailed yesterday. He goes to resume his duties at the city of Mexico, which were interrupted by the death of his wife, whose body he brought home for interment. Rev. Nathaniel William Taylor Root, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal church, of Portland, Me., died on Saturday afternoon at the city Smallpox Hospital of the confluent smallpox of a very severe character. He was a native of New Haven, Conn., and was about forty-two years of age.

The British Court Circular of December 18 says—"His Majesty the Emperor and King to-day called at the Thiergarten Hotel and paid his respects to Frau von Schweinitz, the wife of His Majesty's Ambassador to Austria." The lady is the daughter of Hon. John Jay, United States Minister at Vienna. Mr. George Frederick Rose, a gentleman of ample fortune, died lately in London. He had shut himself up in his room for years, and neither left it or allowed any one to enter, and absolutely perished from want of food and soap and water. Is there no flower of his kindred, no rosebud left to inherit his money? How's that for high? Theodore Tilton, it is stated, will publish a statement in the *Golden Age* denying the domestic irregularities recently alluded to by Woodhull and Claflin. His statement has been ready for some time, but was withheld until the women were released on bail. Mr. Tilton at first determined to ignore the whole matter, but has been so severely pressed that he has determined to make a statement.

Prince Michel de Lusignan has been convicted in St. Petersburg of endeavoring to negotiate forged bills on the Russian Bank of Discount. He was sentenced to transportation to Siberia. His father proved in the trial that he was of royal blood, descended from the Kings of Cyprus and Jerusalem. Temporary financial distress that was shared by his father was the incentive to the crime. What a misfortune to be a Prince with a poor father!

The Boston Transcript remarks, touching the subject of "Noble Wives," that Mr. Seward's fame began to wane upon the death of his wife, to whom he owed the probable success which bore him on. Diracl married in 1839, and at once began to rise to the stature he has reached. The Viscount de Beauchamp is dead, and we shall see how much this extraordinary man also owed to the power behind the throne. How long must it be before great women can bring their powers to bear at first hand? Sometimes they bring them to bear with both hands, and effectively.

STANLEY ENTERTAINED IN BOSTON. Boston, Mass., Dec. 17, 1872. A reception was given Stanley, the discoverer of Livingston, this evening, by Curtis Guild, of the Commercial Bulletin, at his residence, 26 Mount Vernon street. The affair was quite informal, but very pleasant. Among those present, together with many of the principal newspaper editors and prominent business men of the city, were Mayor Gaston, M. P. Wilder, Rev. E. H. Hale, Collector Russell and many distinguished citizens and members of the city government. There were also several ladies present.

ICE ON THE HUDSON. The Old "King" Practically Closed to Navigation for the Winter. NEWBURGH, N. Y., Dec. 17, 1872. The navigation of the Hudson north of this point is practically closed for the season. The only boats now running between this city and New York are Homer Ramsdell & Co.'s daily line of barges, which are towed by heavy propellers, forcing a passage through the ice. The large Susquehanna left here to-night in tow of a Poughkeepsie propeller, the latter making his last trip for the season. South of this point the ice is once again heavy, but with the continued cold is gradually becoming more difficult to pass through, and it is not probable that navigation will soon be closed as far South as the southern entrance to the Highlands at Peekskill. The last tow from the Pennsylvania Works of this city consisted of thirty loaded boats, which were taken to New York by three steamers in one long river procession, headed by the *Norwich*, known as the Ice King of the Hudson.

THE ALABAMA MIDDLE ENDED. MONTGOMERY, Ala., Dec. 17, 1872. According to agreement the members of the Court House and Capitol Legislatures met at the State House at twelve o'clock to-day and proceeded to business according to the plan of Attorney General Williams. In the Senate the Lieut. Gov. Governor presided. In the House the Speaker presided. The Barbour county republican Senator lost his seat, but it is contended. The seat of the Marengo republican Senator was also contested. The contest was taken to the House the republicans elected the temporary Speaker and Clerk. They will have a majority of from six to eight.

AFRICA AND BRITAIN.

Sir Bartle Frere's Arrival at Alexandria. Cordial Reception of the Slave Trade Suppressorist Missionary—Court Compliment from the Khedive—A Distinguished Party Engaged in a Grand Humanitarian Duty. TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD. ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT, Dec. 17, 1872. Sir Bartle Frere arrived in this city during the afternoon to-day en route on his journey from Great Britain to Aden to join the British expedition which has been commissioned to act for the suppression of the African slave trade. The distinguished visitor travelled from Brindisi by steamship. CITIZEN RECEPTION. He was received, on landing, by the British Consul General and a large number of officers of the Egyptian army, who gave him a very warm and encouraging greeting. GOVERNMENT HONOR BY THE KHEDEVE. Sir Bartle will proceed from Alexandria to Cairo, where he will be entertained as the guest of His Highness the Khedive of Egypt, previous to his departure for Zanzibar. SIR BARTLE'S ROUTE AND SUITE. Sir Bartle Frere took his departure from Charing Cross Station, London, on Thursday, the 21st of November, bound for Zanzibar, by way of Paris, Brindisi, Alexandria and Aden. He was accompanied by the members of a numerous and distinguished suite, and among the party were Major-General Sir James Spenser, R. N., Commander of the "Livingstone" East Coast Expedition, and Major-General Sir Robert B. Smith, who will proceed to Zanzibar with Sir Bartle and the party in command of the yacht "Hesperus." The suite consists of the Rev. G. P. Badger, Secretary of Legation; Major Ewan Smith, private secretary; the Kasal Shahab-ud-Din, agent to the Rao of Ootchi; Captain Fairfax, R. N., and Mr. Hill and Mr. Gray, attachés—the former from the English Foreign and the latter from the India Office.

ENGLAND. Press Review of President Grant's Message—His Diplomatic Urbanity, Cuban Policy and Outlook South. SNOW STORM AND SWOLLEN RIVERS in the North—Platform Rioters Punished. TELEGRAMS TO THE NEW YORK HERALD. LONDON, Dec. 17, 1872. The full text of President Grant's Message has been received by mail and is published in the London journals. The *London Times*, reviewing the Message, says the President appears "reticent, formal and courteous, bowing to the diplomatic circle with all the urbanity of an old world statesman." The Message is a striking picture of the prosperity and rapid progress of the country. The *London Times* approves of the proposal for an Alaska Boundary Commission, and applauds the recommendation for the reduction of the army, and adds:—"The President, about to enter upon his second term, finds the Union restored to its normal state at all salient points, but still bearing traces of the great war in the public debt and the disorganization of the South. The *London News*, commenting on President Grant's Message, trusts his recommendation for the abolition of slavery in Cuba will be successful with the Spanish government. SEVERE SNOW STORM AND SWOLLEN RIVERS. A severe snow storm prevailed in the north of England during the day yesterday. In Yorkshire and Derbyshire the ground is covered to the depth of one foot and railway trains are delayed. The rivers in that section of the country are very much swollen. PLATFORM RIOTERS SENTENCED TO PRISON. Fourteen of the ringleaders in the disorderly demonstrations at the Fenian Amnesty Meeting in Stockton, on Sunday last, have been sent to prison for various terms of punishment. SEVERE STORM OF SNOW AFTER RAIN—Telegraphs Interrupted and Coast Line Swept. LONDON, Dec. 18—5:30 A. M. It has been storming for the last twenty-four hours, and the rain fall has been the heaviest of the season. Large tracts of land in Leicestershire are inundated. In Derbyshire snow has fallen to the depth of twelve inches. The telegraph lines in all directions are badly damaged. Telegraphic communication with Liverpool, Leeds and Hull is interrupted. At Grimby the gale was a hurricane, and many casualties are reported. Wreck of a Ship on a Voyage from Philadelphia. LONDON, Dec. 18—5:30 A. M. The ship *Luconia*, from Philadelphia for Rotterdam, went ashore in the storm, near Boulogne, and became a total wreck. All hands on board were saved except one.

WEATHER REPORT. WAR DEPARTMENT. OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER, WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 18—1 A. M. Synopsis for the Past Twenty-four Hours. In the Northwest the barometer has risen, with northerly and northeasterly winds, occasional snow and cloudy weather, extending southward to Missouri and the Lower Ohio and eastward to the Western Lakes; in the Gulf and South Atlantic States northerly to easterly winds, cloudy weather and light rain, with lower pressures; in the Lower Lake and Canadian regions southerly and westerly winds, generally clear weather and low temperatures and high barometers; in the Middle and Eastern States northerly to northeasterly winds, clear weather in the latter and cloudy weather and light snow and rain in the southern part of the former section. Probabilities. The barometer will rise in the Northwest and over the Western Lakes and thence to Arkansas and Tennessee, with northerly and northeasterly winds, cloudy cold weather and occasional snow and rain, clearing in the afternoon; in the Gulf and South Atlantic States northerly to easterly winds, low pressures, cloudy weather and rain, clearing away in the evening; in Michigan, on the Lower Lakes and in Canada, southwesterly to northerly winds, partly cloudy and cold weather and occasional snow; in the Middle and Eastern States northerly to northeasterly winds, diminishing pressures, lower temperatures, cloudy weather, with occasional snow and rain in the former.

THE WEATHER IN THIS CITY YESTERDAY. The following record will show the changes in the temperature for the past twenty-four hours in comparison with the corresponding day of last year, as indicated by the thermometer at Hudson's Pharmacy, HENRIK Building: 3 A. M. 1871. 1872. 3 A. M. 3:30 P. M. 3:30 P. M. 3:30 P. M. 3 A. M. 3:30 P. M. 3:30 P. M. 3:30 P. M. 3 A. M. 3:30 P. M. 3:30 P. M. 3:30 P. M. 3 A. M. 3:30 P. M. 3:30 P. M. 3:30 P. M. Average temperature yesterday. 32.00 Average temperature for corresponding date last year. 33.75

GERMANY.

A New First Secretary for the Imperial Legation in Washington. LONDON, Dec. 17, 1872. Among the passengers by the steamship Rhein, which left Bremen on Saturday for New York, is Count Anton Bernstorff, lately attached to the North German Legation at Vienna, who has been appointed to succeed Count Armin Holtzberg as First Secretary of the same Legation at Washington. Herr Von Arko Valley, who is at present in Washington, takes the place of Count Anton Bernstorff in Vienna. PRINCE BISMARCK BELIEVED OF A COUNCIL PRESIDENCY. General Von Roon will act provisionally as President of the Prussian Council of Ministers, the Emperor having granted Prince Bismarck's request to be relieved.

SPAIN. Carlist Rout by Royalist Troops. TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD. MADRID, Dec. 17, 1872. Three Carlist bands were defeated and dispersed by the government troops on the 16th inst.

MEXICO. Vote by Ballot Difficulties—Cortina's Plan of Carrying an Election—National Progress Despite the Border Line Agitation. TELEGRAMS TO THE NEW YORK HERALD. MATAMOROS, Dec. 17, 1872. The delegates from the different precincts who retired from the headquarters of election without casting their votes for municipal officers, on account of the difficulties of the military on the 15th inst., were induced last evening by Colonel Cristo, military commander, to again meet. Having done so, and being about to count the votes, they were attacked by thirty armed roughs, who carried away and destroyed the papers and votes. This act is supposed to be the work of Cortina, he having publicly stated that, with one delegate of the twenty-four, he would carry the election. Telegraphic Communication and National Material Progress. MATAMOROS, Dec. 17, 1872. Telegraphic communication with the city of Mexico, by way of Matamoros, has been re-established. The telegram was received in New York on Tuesday, 17th inst., through the Associated Press of Mexico to the press of this country, through its organization, offering congratulations on the event, and extending an invitation to American representatives to be present at the inauguration of the completed railroad between the city of Mexico and Vera Cruz, on the 1st of January next.

CUBA. TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD. HAVANA, Saturday, Dec. 14, 1872. The government is purchasing horses in Mexico for use in the army. The epidemic continues and many horses are dying. MURDER OF A MATE. Andrew Marshall, a sailor, of the brig *Mariposa*, at Santiago de Cuba, killed Frank Breen, the second mate. HAYTI. Presidential Publication Relative to the Money Hoarding. L'Independance d'Hayti (newspaper) of the 2d inst. publishes for the first time a decree of President Saget, of which the following is a translation of the important portions:—"First—After the 15th of December, 1872, a delay of four months is accorded for the presentation for exchange of paper money in circulation by the full dollar. After that period no paper money will be accepted as legal tender anywhere in the Republic. Second—Bank bills of the denomination of \$20, of \$10 and \$5, and all other paper money, not drawn from circulation after the 15th of December next, will cease in consequence to circulate as money in the Republic. Third—By virtue of the provisions of article 12 of the Constitution of the 24th of February, 1859, and by official publications, made by the authorities designated for the purpose, wherever necessary and as often as required, the counter value in money (specie) of the prices in paper money of all articles of consumption. DIX TOW DINE. A Complimentary Banquet Declined by the Governor Elect—Return to Be Carried Out in Cold Blood. The following is the correspondence which has passed concerning a formal banquet tendered to General Dix and declined by that gentleman:— Hon. John A. Dix—New York, Dec. 10, 1872. Dear Sir—The near approach of the time when you will leave your country to assume the duties of Governor of this State induces us to ask of you the honor of your presence at a public dinner to be given on any day which may be agreeable to you. We are confident that your administration to express our entire confidence that your administration will be characterized by economy and integrity in the discharge of the duties of your office; that you will give to the people a thorough reform in legislation, you will encourage and promote, by all the means in your power, the enactment of laws which will protect and secure the rights of all classes of our citizens, and thus restore the Republic to its former position of honor and respect. A long and unassisted life, so large a part of which has been spent in the acceptable performance of high public trusts, will exhibit in the discharge of your duties a high public spirit, and a high regard for the rights of all classes of our citizens, and thus restore the Republic to its former position of honor and respect. A long and unassisted life, so large a part of which has been spent in the acceptable performance of high public trusts, will exhibit in the discharge of your duties a high public spirit, and a high regard for the rights of all classes of our citizens, and thus restore the Republic to its former position of honor and respect. A long and unassisted life, so large a part of which has been spent in the acceptable performance of high public trusts, will exhibit in the discharge of your duties a high public spirit, and a high regard for the rights of all classes of our citizens, and thus restore the Republic to its former position of honor and respect. 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