

TERMS OF THE CRESCENT. Daily—Fifty Cents a Week, payable in advance...

WEDNESDAY MORNING, APRIL 19, 1848.

Since the paragraph upon the circular of Mr. Clay was written, we have been politely furnished with a copy of the circular itself, by Mr. Hodge, of the Bulletin, for which he will accept our thanks.

SHALL WE BE CAUGHT NAPPING!—But a few days—perhaps only a few hours—can elapse before Major General Scott will be in New Orleans, on his return homeward.

No TELEGRAPHIC DISPATCH.—The wires between this place and Mobile were broken again last evening; and we are consequently without our usual telegraphic dispatch.

It is only necessary to remind our readers that Prof. Dimitry lectures this evening at the State House: his reputation is too well established as an able lecturer, to require any laudation from us.—Subject: Greek literature.

FOR THE SEAT OF WAR.—The U. S. steamship McKim, Breath, master, leaves this morning for Vera Cruz, with Government stores and the following passengers: W. H. Lear; Dr. Miller, U. S. A.; Lieut. D. G. Rogers, 2d Dragoons; Major Drykman, N. Y. Vols.; Commander Harris, U. S. N.; David L. Goodall; Lieut. S. A. Wilkins, 12th Infantry.

OHIO RECRUITS.—The steambot Allambara arrived yesterday from Cincinnati, brought down one hundred and twenty-seven recruits to the Second Regt. Ohio volunteers, under the command of Capt. Hughes, Lieut. Davis and Jones, and landed them at the barracks, below the city.

ILLINOIS RECRUITS.—The steambot Alex. Scott, arrived yesterday from St. Louis, brought down from Jefferson Barracks, seventy-six recruits, under the command of Capt. N. M. Shepherd, of the Second Regt. Illinois volunteers.

MAYOR OF NEW YORK.—It will be seen by the telegraphic dispatch, that Mr. Havenmeyer, the Democratic candidate for Mayor, in New York, was elected on the 11th inst. Both parties felt confident of success, and we believe the election of Mr. Havenmeyer is looked upon as a signal triumph of the "radical" democracy of New York. Brooklyn and Albany have both chosen Whig Mayors.

VALUABLE SLAVES.—Richard Terrell sells today at 12 o'clock, at Banks' Arcade, Valuable Young Slaves. See advertisement.

CHANGE IN POLITICS.—The Caddo Gazette, hitherto a neutral paper, announces its intention of supporting the Democratic cause in future. We presume the change in the character of the paper, as regards politics, will not affect the ability which has always characterized its columns.

NEW PAPER IN SHREVEPORT.—We notice by the Caddo Gazette, that a new paper, devoted to the support of Whig principles, has been established in the town of Shreveport, La. It is entitled the "Shreveport Journal," and is edited by Mr. Wm. Falconer.

Presidential Candidates.—We understand that Mr. Clay has published a letter to his friends throughout the country, informing them, that having taken a survey of the condition of affairs and drawn his own conclusions of the wants and wishes of the country, he has consented that his name shall be brought before the Whig National Convention as a candidate for the party nomination for President.

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Mr. Clay would not have taken so important a step, unless he had been well assured that he would be chosen. He occupies too high a rank, as a politician and statesman, to risk an apparent solicitation of the honor, if there were the slightest prospect that it would be refused.

By the following, from the Lexington Observer of the 12th, it will be seen Mr. Clay has declared the intention to submit his name to the Whig National Convention: To the Public. The various and conflicting reports which have been in circulation, in regard to my name, have induced me to issue this statement, in order to remove all doubts, and to furnish a proper occasion for a full, frank and explicit expression of my feelings, in relation to the subject.

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Germany—Prussia. The political changes now going on in Germany, and the vast results which they tend, have given to this part of Europe a new interest in the eyes of the thinking portion of the world. Radical social reform will be obtained in Germany sooner than in any other continental country—and liberal or republican government will be firmly established on the soil of Central, while other nations continue convulsed with the throes of revolutionary experiments. We have a faith in the German race, and in the German destiny, for which we can find no adequate grounds in the nature and condition of the other races of the world. But we have not time now, nor are the columns of a newspaper, perhaps, the proper place, to discuss the genealogy, the characteristics, or the probable ultimate fate of a race. It is enough, that a great political change is being developed in the German States, to make them a matter of interest to our readers, and to render any correct information upon their condition acceptable. Such information as we can convey in the brief space of a few short articles, by this means, make more intelligible the condition of things and the progress of events, our object will be accomplished.

We begin with the kingdom of Prussia, the second in rank in the German Confederation, and the first in the more important organization of the Zollverein, or "German Customs Union," of both of which we shall speak more fully hereafter.

Prussia is a new kingdom, dating only from the year 1700; it owes its rise and greatness principally to the crimes, the ambition, and the genius of the prince of the House of Brandenburg, the reigning prince of the House of Saxonia, Austria, and the family. The seizure, and its retention at the end of the "seven years' war"—the dismemberment of Poland by Russia, Prussia and Austria, and the general division of Europe at the Congress of Vienna in 1815, have given to the formerly insignificant kingdom of Prussia, its present extent of territory, exceeding 107,000 square miles, with a population of about 16,000,000. Though the greater portion of this territory has been unjustly acquired, it has not been unwisely governed; and the present condition of the people—in advance of all their neighbors—proves that, however the change of masters may have effected, its consequences have been beneficial to the masses.

The government of Prussia, we have been accustomed to call a despotism; it is indeed a monarchy, sometimes guilty of arbitrary acts, but in reality, a monarchy of very limited powers, which circumstances have made to depend almost entirely upon the will of the people. These circumstances consist in the universality of popular education, in the nature and organization of the military force, and in the general distribution of the landed property of the kingdom. Each of these will deserve a separate notice.

The philosophic mind of Frederick the Great, projected, among other means of improving his people, a grand scheme of general education, which his successors have religiously carried out. Every child in Prussia, is obliged by law, to attend the public schools, after it has attained the age of five years, until such time as it can pass an examination satisfactory to the priest of the parish; or, until it has acquired those branches of knowledge which the statute prescribes. Those who are able, pay a trifling sum for tuition; those who are not, receive it at the public expense. In these schools, and in the gymnasiums, superior schools, and the universities, any degree of education may be acquired above the standard made absolutely necessary by law, which the talents, tastes, or condition of the citizen may require. It may be assumed as a fact, that every child born in Prussia, not absolutely an idiot, has received or is receiving an education. Here is an element of popular power, which must be always kept in view, when speculating upon the present institutions of this country, or upon the events which may mark her future history.

The military organization of the kingdom is peculiar. The great extent of the Prussian frontier, the scattered position of its provinces, with the absence of any thing like a safe, natural, military boundary—all of which the reader will at once appreciate by casting his eye over the map—has made it necessary in the present warlike age, and in that dangerous neighborhood, that a powerful standing army should be maintained. But to hired soldiers the poverty of the treasury placed a limit far within the wants of the public service. The government, therefore, has raised the army from the citizens themselves. Every man is obliged to enter the army as a private, between the ages of twenty and thirty-two, and to serve therein for three years, after which, he may enter the army as a volunteer, or return to civil life, in which latter case, he forms a part of the army of reserve, liable to be called out on occasion as may require, until he is thirty-nine years of age; he is then discharged from military service, unless the public safety calls for a levy en masse, when every man is a soldier, and a tried and trained one. Any one must perceive from this organization of the Prussian army, that the soldier actually in service form part and parcel of the community, and that their sentiments, interests, and aspirations, must be identical with those of the body of the people—and, further, that the soldiers of the army of reserve, a better trained and better organized sort of national guard, embracing the greater number of active citizens, have in their power the means of securing their own rights, even should any portion of the actual army be led for a moment to become the instruments by which those rights are invaded; and, finally, that all the people being brought up to the use of arms, they are perfectly aware of their strength, and of the most effectual manner in which that strength may be employed.

Again: there is a third element of popular power in the distribution of the soil. The different provinces of Prussia, like the other States of Feudal Europe, were once cursed by the institution of the fief, and were, as it is modernized, "landlord and tenant"—the latter form being more profitable to the lord, while it is about equally onerous to the subject. This condition continued, in one or the other form, until 1806-7, when—as if by a punishment for past iniquities, in despoiling Austria and Poland—the armies of Napoleon at Jena, Austerlitz and Friedland, had broken the power of the Prussian monarch, occupied his capital, divided his States, and made him a fugitive in his own dominions. In that hour of desperation, when the conqueror threatened to blot Prussia from the map of Europe—the wise counsel of an enlightened minister, and the distresses of the king, produced a radical change in the whole conformation of Prussian society—elevated the condition of the people—concentrated the scattered elements of Prussian strength—and enabled the nation, prostrated by the genius of Napoleon and the energy of his troops, to rise in its might, drive him from its territories, and, under Blucher, to put the finishing stroke to his career at Waterloo. This great measure was the "Prussian Agrarian Law." Previous to 1807, none but the nobility could own land. The agricultural producers were generally in the most degraded state of serfdom—landlord and vassal, removed from that feudal times, but little, if any, benefited from that change. In 1807, this condition was so far changed as to permit any one to purchase or inherit land. This was an advance. But in 1811, the great edict was issued, which divided the soil and raised the peasant to the rank of the freeman, and converted the tenants into proprietors. It was then enacted that all the peasants who held perpetual leases, on condition of paying certain quantities of produce, or of performing certain services on account of the proprietors, should, upon giving up one-third of the land held by them, become unconditional proprietors of the whole two-thirds; and that those who held by life leases or leases for a term of years, should become owners of half the land, on surrendering the other half! We may talk of radical changes, but here is one which has no parallel in history. A whole class is elevated by a stroke of the pen; a new nation is born in a day. And it

was done, too, without commotion, without bloodshed, and with scarcely a complaint on the part of those whose property was thus divided; fortunately, the French soldiers had not left them the power of resistance. Its effects are written in the final struggle against the colossal power of Napoleon, which the Prussian soldiers had freedom and lands and homes to fight for; and those effects may be traced from that time to this in the increase of population, of national strength, and of general happiness and prosperity. The division of property consecrated by this "agrarian law," is continued and increased by the adoption of the French law of succession; so that in Prussia the people are rapidly approximating a general equality of condition, though the old titles of nobility, and some of the privileges connected with them, still exist by popular sufferance and on the strength of ancient associations.

It is scarcely necessary to remark that a nation of handholders, armed and educated, have their own fate in their own hands; that when a majority shall see fit, either to modify the monarchy, or to substitute republican institutions, they have it in their power to do so. If such a people manifest but little enthusiasm, we have the better guarantee that what they undertake will be effected prudently, thoroughly, and well. The outbreaks at Berlin are but the displays of a little mob excitement; but the meeting of the organized bodies in the provinces, and the official representations to the King, of the necessity of remodelling the constitution, urged as they are with firmness and wisdom, give evidence that the people have determined to act, and that it would be madness and destruction for the monarch to resist them. We look upon Prussian freedom as certain to be established—and for reasons which we shall hereafter adduce, we think it probable that Prussia will become a member of the great German Federal Republic, whose existence in the future can be readily foreseen.

Our own dispatch from Mobile failing, we copy the following items from our contemporary of the Evening Journal, who seems to have taken them from late Cincinnati and St. Louis papers: GREAT FIRE.—Cincinnati, April 12, 7 P. M.—Cobb's Printing Office, which occupies a large lot of ground, was burned this afternoon. The loss is about \$150,000, all of which was insured.—The river still remains in a high stage.

TREASURY FIRE.—Pittsburgh, April 12, 7 P. M.—There were five fires last night, between 10 o'clock and 1 o'clock A. M. The loss is about \$100,000, and is insured. The loss is about \$100,000, and is insured. The loss is about \$100,000, and is insured.

TRIBUTE TO THE DEATH OF J. Q. ADAMS.—The New York Tribune contains the oration of Gov. Seward on the death of J. Q. Adams, delivered before the New York Legislature on the 6th inst. It is fully worthy of the high abilities of its author.

THE SENATE OF MICHIGAN INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.—The "Wilmot Proviso" Resolutions passed by the House two weeks previously.

BANKS IN PENNSYLVANIA.—Veto Veto!—In the Senate of Pennsylvania, on Saturday morning, 8th inst., the following bills, which had been vetoed by the Governor, most of them only the day previous, were passed by a constitutional majority of two-thirds:

The bill to incorporate the Harrisburg and Reading Telegraph Company; the bills to extend the charters of the Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank of Philadelphia; the Bank of Chambersburg; the Columbia Bank and Bridge Company; the act to authorize the election of prosecuting attorneys; the act to abolish the Mayor's Court of Lancaster; the act to extend the charters of the Farmers' and Drovers' Bank of Waynesburg; the bill to incorporate the Lancaster Mutual Insurance Company, and a supplement to the Hazleton Coal Company.

It is stated that the bank charters are amended with the individual liability clause.—At the election on the 10th inst., the Democrats elected their candidate for Mayor, and six members of the Council. The vote for Mayor was as follows: L. P. Garvin, (Dem.) 285; L. D. Ford, (Whig) 253; M. M. Dye, (Whig) 216.

Col. Fremont received an official announcement of the acceptance of his resignation by the President on the 14th of last month, and is therefore no longer attached to the army.

SISTERS OF MERCY.—The Roman Catholics of New York city have just purchased a house, and seven lots of ground, on the corner of Houston and Mulberry streets, at a cost of \$25,000, for the use of the Sisters of Mercy.

IS THAT PHILADELPHIA POLITENESS!—At a late performance in Philadelphia, Mr. Harro Haring, the Scandinavian patriot poet, was hissed while reading a poem on French liberty. The circumstances of the case made it a heartless insult to Mr. H., and the press very properly denounces it.

Gold is now at an exorbitantly high premium on the continent of Europe.

Another floating palace is now in the rapid course of construction to run between Albany and New York. She is three hundred and seventy-eight feet long, and is expected to attain a speed of about twenty-three miles an hour.

The town of Danville, Ky., has refused to grant the power of licensing coffee houses to the board of trustees of that town, by a vote of ninety-one to fifty-two.

FEARFUL ASSEMBLAGE.—The Annual Convention of the American Medical Association is to assemble in Baltimore on the first Monday of May next.

A MURDERER.—An indictment has been found against Mrs. Weidemeyer, in New York, for the murder of her child, to which she had given birth a few hours before.

ARREST FOR MURDER.—The Concord (N. H.) Freeman says that Rev. Enos Dudley, of Grantham, has been arrested, charged with the murder of his wife.

LARGE FIRE IN BROOKLYN, (N. Y.)—On the morning of the 7th inst., in the above named place, the Old Crown Glass Works, contiguous to the Jackson St. Ferry, were consumed by fire; various works, belonging to Keeler & Co.; a large malt house, of J. Haskins; glass manufacturing of Murphy & Clark; pipe works of J. A. Smith; gold refinery of R. Longman, and six or eight dwellings, houses, were also destroyed.

It is stated in the Continental papers that the army of Russia numbers 800,000 men, including 160,000 cavalry and 20,000 pieces of cannon. In addition to this regular force there are 80,000 Cossacks.

REMARKABLE LONGEVITY.—On Sunday last a female named Moran, died near Moystown, King's county, at the age of 121 years. Her husband was the minister of the Moystown Church for sixty years.

Washington Correspondence of Crescent.

WASHINGTON, APRIL 10, 1848. The President had laid before Congress the correspondence between the American Minister at London, Viscount Palmerston and Lord Clarendon, upon the subject of postal arrangements, and the British regulations. The British Government drew the attention of the British Minister to the subject early last summer, and the correspondence was continued without interruption until mid-winter, no result having been reached. In the meantime there is no relief for the sufferings of the British postal system. Mr. Bancroft appears to have pushed the matter very creditably for his own Government, but without success, unless Parliament should charge one ocean postage where no service is performed, and the American Government will receive and carries the letters charges extra. A more perfect system of reciprocity is demanded by our Government; and in addition, some regulation of inland postages which shall conform to the inland postages of both Governments. The inland rates here are in England than in the United States, and not uniform here. (Five and ten cents, according to distances over or under 300 miles, and one penny in England for all distances.) a difficulty arises here; and neither Government is willing to concede to the other even upon so small a point of difference. In the meantime there is no relief for the sufferings of the British postal system. Mr. Bancroft appears to have pushed the matter very creditably for his own Government, but without success, unless Parliament should charge one ocean postage where no service is performed, and the American Government will receive and carries the letters charges extra. A more perfect system of reciprocity is demanded by our Government; and in addition, some regulation of inland postages which shall conform to the inland postages of both Governments. The inland rates here are in England than in the United States, and not uniform here. 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