

See Third Page for City News, &c.

The entertainments given by the ladies at the Commercial Exchange will be continued through this day and evening.

The northern mail has failed for the last two days.

In company with quite a number of gentlemen and ladies, we last evening heard Professor Bernard lecture upon the polarization of light, a science of very modern origin and quite recent development. The experiments with which the Professor illustrated his subject were novel to most of the audience, and intensely interesting to all.

The telegraph from Halifax to Boston will shortly be completed, and the New Yorkers will have news from Europe in nine days.

See 3d page for report of yesterday's Race.

THE MEMPHIS CONVENTION.—The proposition for holding a Convention at Memphis, on the 4th of July next, for the purpose of concerting measures to procure the construction of a National Railroad from the Mississippi river to the Pacific Ocean, appears to be received with much favor in the South and Southwest.

HAVANA LOTTERY.—The extraordinary drawing of the Royal Lottery at Havana took place on the 23d ult., and the following numbers drew the principal prizes: No. 11,118, \$100,000; No. 2007, \$25,000; No. 12,770, \$12,000; No. 16,970, \$6,000; No. 10,487, \$4,000; No. 1604 and 16,822, \$3,000 each; Nos. 1511, 3121, 6157 and 6209, \$1,000 each; and several others of \$400, \$300, and \$100.

THE GOLD DOLLARS.—These coins are to resemble the other American gold pieces, except that on the reverse of the dollar the eagle is to be omitted.

ORLEANS THEATRE.—That admirable artist, Mr. Develle, will take a benefit at this theatre on Sunday the 8th inst. We consider this gentleman one of the best scenic painters in this country, and all those who have been in the habit of visiting the French theatre, will not doubt, bear us out in the assertion. Mr. Develle has peculiarly given evidence of his talent in the scenery and decorations of numerous operas, among which we would mention the Queen of Cyprus, the Martyrs, and Haidée.

DEATH OF DR. P. S. TOWNSEND.—This gentleman, well known in both the editorial and medical professions, died at New York on the 26th ultimo. He was for some years connected with the Crescent in the conduct of the Evening Star, and after the discontinuance of that paper resumed the practice of his original profession, and devoted a considerable portion of his time also to the translation of important works on surgery and medicine from the French.

THE OLYMPIC.—Among the novelties to be seen this evening, the extraordinary performances of the celebrated George Street will be found well worth the witnessing. The bill throughout is one of the most attractive of the season. The beautiful Rosine and the celebrated S. P. Stickney will ride their choicest acts, and the whole of the efficient company will appear in a variety of pleasing entertainments.

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Telegraphed to the "Daily Crescent."

Arrival of the Steamship Thames.

Crescent City and Northern arrived at Havana.

INSURRECTION IN ST. LUCIA.

MOBILE, April 5th, 1849.

The steamer Thames arrived at Mobile Point on the 2d, bringing the mail and a number of passengers. She will leave to-day.

The steamer Crescent City and Northern have arrived at Havana from Chagres. They were both quarantined at Havana, and were to leave for New York on the 2d.

There has been a terrible insurrection of the black population at St. Lucia. It occurred on the 14th ult., when the negroes made a general assault on the whites. The authorities sent to Barbadoes for assistance, and the steamer Thames was despatched with 300 British soldiers. After killing 12, tranquillity was restored.

DEATH OF REV. HUGH SMITH, D. D.—This gentleman, rector of St. Peter's Church in New York, died at his residence in Chelsea, on the 25th March, after a protracted illness. Dr. Smith was much respected, not only in the denomination to which he was attached, but generally, for his mild and urbane demeanor and catholic spirit, and in his own congregation for the fidelity with which he discharged his ministerial and pastoral functions. His disease was consumption.

CHICAGO NEARER TO NEW YORK.—The Central Railroad through Michigan is now completed from Detroit to Lake Michigan. Two lines of steamers each will run in connection with the road, on Lakes Michigan and Erie as soon as navigation is open, and with the aid of the new arrangements on the railroads in New York and the Hudson river steamboats, passengers will then travel the whole distance between New York and Chicago in less than three days! In the words of the company's advertisement "from fifty-five to seventy hours." Thus a man may sup one day in New York, the second in Buffalo, the third in Detroit, and breakfast at Chicago the next morning.

YANKEE TELEGRAPH TO THE PACIFIC.—A Vera Cruz letter to the Courier and Enquirer says: "Mr. George W. Skinner, from Providence, R. I., has arrived here, and has had a conference with the Mexican authorities in relation to constructing Morse's Magnetic Telegraph from Vera Cruz to Mazatlan, in the City of Mexico. He receives strong encouragement from the Government, and will proceed on an examination of the route in a few days. I shall start with the Boston party within an hour for Mazatlan."

CALIFORNIA AND THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT.—The following in regard to California, transpired in the House of Commons on the 28th of February: Mr. Wyld begged to ask the noble lord (Viscount Palmerston) if it was the intention of Government to appoint a Consul at San Francisco, or at any other part of California? (A laugh.)

Viscount Palmerston said, that was a question which had not now been put to him for the first time, (a laugh), for it had been frequently addressed to him privately by individuals—some of the members of the house—interested in others or willing themselves to proceed to California in a consular capacity. In reply he had to say, he had no intention, at present, of appointing any consul; and he thought the honorable gentleman would see the impossibility of doing so, for there was not any form of government, that he (Lord Palmerston) was aware of, yet established in California, with whom a consul could communicate, and therefore he would have nothing to do, unless, indeed, he set about to pick up the gold dust. (A laugh.)

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.—There is no probability of the passage of the law restoring capital punishment in Michigan.

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Russia and the United States.

In closing his "Democracy in America," De Toqueville remarks: "There are at the present time two nations, which, starting from different points, seem to advance towards the same end; they are the Russians and the Anglo-Americans. Both have grown in obscurity, and whilst men were looking elsewhere, they have suddenly taken a place in the first rank of nations, and the world has heard at the same time of their birth and of their greatness. All other people appear to have reached the limits imposed by nature and to be engaged only in preserving; they increase while others have stopped or advance with great effort; they only march with an easy and rapid step in a career to which the eye sees no limits."

Striking as these sentences were when they were published, some twelve or fifteen years ago, they seem more remarkable still when we read them at the present time. Within the last year the discovery of the gold in California has made the parallel which the French writer draws doubly impressive. Since the Ural mines were first worked, in 1828, the amount of gold in circulation has been vastly increased—according to some statements they furnish more than one-half of the annual produce of gold at the present time; and it is only by the increase in general production that the price of gold has been maintained. Now the United States have found large deposits of gold in their new territories, and will hereafter cooperate with Russia in facilitating commercial interchanges by making the circulating medium more abundant.

It is not surprising, therefore, that we see the gold start of us in furnishing the world with gold; and it is probable that the Ural mines will prove richer and more inexhaustible than those of the Sierra Nevada. And in securing the Eastern trade, which will enable us to command the commerce of the world more effectually than by digging and coining gold, we think that we have secured the Russian Empire. We have a little ahead of California, and hold San Francisco, in peaceable possession. We are now talking about a railroad from that port to the Mississippi. But Russia has not yet got to be contemptible; and it may cost her some time and considerable trouble to reach the Golden Horn which she expects to make the Horn of Plenty that is to pour out on Europe all the goods of China and India. She must get Constantinople, or else she cannot get the trade of the East; for a railroad over the Ural Mountains is impracticable, and Nicholas, in all his gigantic schemes of improvement, has never thought of such a project.

In our article of yesterday on the Russians in Transylvania, we endeavored to make it appear that through all the troubles and difficulties of European politics, Russia is steadily pursuing the great prize of Constantinople. And if the czar succeeds in gaining possession of that port, he may raise his fallen fortunes and make it what it was in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, the chief European emporium of Asiatic trade. A railroad across the isthmus of Suez would be but child's play to him who planned the road from Odessa to St. Petersburg.

In other things, too, besides time, we have the advantage of Russia. We have more commercial enterprise, more maritime experience, more self-relying habits. We have history, also, in our favor. The trade of the East has been steadily traveling westward—if we may be permitted to use something of a bull. First, it was the Tadmor of the Desert, then Tyre, then Constantinople, Venice and Genoa, that commanded the Chinese and Indian commerce. Afterwards Portugal, and lastly England, got the rich prize into her hands. Now we are struggling for it; and we may depend upon it that if the czar ever emerges Constantinople to his possessions, it is with the Russian and not the British Empire that we will have to contend for the Eastern trade.

The recent events in Transylvania, and the demand lately made for the passage of a Russian fleet through the Bosphorus and Dardanelles into the Mediterranean, show us that the czar is not disposed to wait for Constantinople. The year has been a long time ripening; he is becoming anxious to pick it. If we are wise we will make no unnecessary delay in getting a connection with California. If we wait ten years for the road that is to connect the Pacific with the Mississippi, we may find out that we have been too late. And double will be the shame if we are forestalled by such a people and such a government as the Russian—double ought to be our disappointment if we find out that we have been beaten in the race by a government founded on despotism and utterly subservient of all human liberty. For the sake of the whole human race, as well as for our own sake, we ought to hasten our movements and speedily build up a port on the Pacific that will make us the neighbors of Canton and Calcutta. With a city at San Francisco, we will be nearer to China and Japan than the Russian Emperor is, though he hold all the wastes of Siberia, and tear down the Great Wall that has resisted storm and tempest and man's rage for so many centuries.

RUSSIA THREATENS TO FORCE THE DARDANELLES.—The letters which reached Malta late on the 25th of February, by the Erin, from Constantinople, which took her departure thence on the 20th, and from Smyrna on the 22d idem, announce that M. Tirow, the Russian minister at the Sublime Porte, had officially demanded the passage into the Mediterranean, of a Russian fleet; which demand having been submitted by the Divan to the representatives of the other great Powers, these, after holding a conference, had shown the Sultan the absolute necessity of refusing the request. The letters which reached Malta late on the 25th of February, by the Erin, from Constantinople, which took her departure thence on the 20th, and from Smyrna on the 22d idem, announce that M. Tirow, the Russian minister at the Sublime Porte, had officially demanded the passage into the Mediterranean, of a Russian fleet; which demand having been submitted by the Divan to the representatives of the other great Powers, these, after holding a conference, had shown the Sultan the absolute necessity of refusing the request. The letters which reached Malta late on the 25th of February, by the Erin, from Constantinople, which took her departure thence on the 20th, and from Smyrna on the 22d idem, announce that M. Tirow, the Russian minister at the Sublime Porte, had officially demanded the passage into the Mediterranean, of a Russian fleet; which demand having been submitted by the Divan to the representatives of the other great Powers, these, after holding a conference, had shown the Sultan the absolute necessity of refusing the request.

FROM THE RIVER PLATE.—An arrival at New York on the 25th ult. furnishes with accounts from Buenos Ayres to the 20th of January. The British Packet notices favorably the reappointment of Joseph Graham as United States Consul at that port. Admiral Brown, of the Buenos Ayres navy, had arrived at that port in a vessel from Liverpool. The message of Rosas to the Legislature is published in full, which gives assurance that the Anglo-French difficulties with that Government are in a fair way for an early settlement. Admiral Le Preduer, commander of the French squadron at Montevideo, had left for Buenos Ayres. The object is reported to be the withdrawal of the Argentine forces from the Banda Oriental. Rosas had given orders to the Governor of Corrientes, to demand from Paraguay the delivery of the Arripe Islands, and in case of refusal he would immediately commence hostilities. The Government of Montevideo has declared the continuance for three months longer of the duty imposed upon flour.

MAMMOTH PAIL FACTORY.—As every body knows that Niagara Falls are "got up" on a rather respectable scale, the object of the present voyage that we have at this place perhaps the largest pail factory in the world. We were ourselves quite surprised and highly gratified by a visit a few days since to the great pail factory of Messrs. Patterson & Murray. We found every part of their famous four-story stone factory, fully occupied by the different departments for turning out pails, tubs and keelers. Besides an abundant supply of the necessary saws, turning lathes, &c., they have in operation machines enough to turn out one thousand pails per day; and half as many tubs and keelers. The factory consumes a million of feet of pine logs a year, and band and wire iron in proportion. The machinery is all of the latest and improved description, and the assiduous and experienced foreman, Mr. L. H. Bradley, seems to be determined that he shall not waste any time. The facility and rapidity with which the pails are now made, are striking contrast with the slow and laborious process of hand manufacture practised a few years since. And the beauty and uniformity of the article are as striking as the celebrity with which it is now being made. The facility and rapidity with which the pails are now made, are striking contrast with the slow and laborious process of hand manufacture practised a few years since. And the beauty and uniformity of the article are as striking as the celebrity with which it is now being made.

COUNTERFEIT COIN.—Dr. Hatch and Michael Foltz, charged with counterfeiting the coin of the United States, were arrested at Philadelphia and committed in default of \$5000 bail. The defendants are old offenders.

LARGE FLEET.—Nearly 100 sail of vessels arrived at New York on the 25th ult.

THE TEMPERANCE REFORM IN NEW ORLEANS. Messrs. Editors.—After an absence of five years, I am once more permitted to walk the streets of New Orleans. I am glad to find so little change in the city since I last saw it. The Temperance Reform has advanced the Temperance Reform. Five years ago there were several boarding houses open on the Total Abstinence principle. And now I cannot find a single one. The Temperance Reform has advanced the Temperance Reform. Five years ago there were several boarding houses open on the Total Abstinence principle. And now I cannot find a single one.

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