

# THE NEW ORLEANS DAILY DEMOCRAT.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA.

VOL. II--NO. 157.

NEW ORLEANS, SATURDAY, MAY 26, 1877.

PRICE, FIVE CENTS.

## BY TELEGRAPH.

### APPOINTMENTS.

**More Louisiana Applicants for Office.**  
WASHINGTON, May 25.—Mr. Brulotour, of New Orleans, is here after the consulate at Bordeaux. It is urged against him that his father is extensively engaged in trade with Bordeaux.  
Major Rogers, steamboat inspector at New Orleans, is here to see about the report that Capt. Norton was appointed in his place. Major Rogers has had no notice to quit.  
Gov. Alken is gaining strength for the Collectorship of the Port at Charleston. Patterson, however, is obstinate in favor of retaining Worthington.

### THE CHEYENNES AND SIOUX.

**The Cheyennes Wish to be Transferred to the Indian Territory.**  
CAMP ROBINSON, Neb., May 24.—The Cheyenne Indians at this agency are feeling very bitter against the Sioux for the harsh treatment received at their hands after being defeated last fall, and not wishing to live near them longer, requested, some days ago, to be removed to the Indian Territory.  
After consulting with the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Gen. Sheridan has given authority for the transfer. They will start about the 28th inst., under charge of Lieut. Lawton, of 4th Cavalry. This band numbers about 1150 persons, all told.

### Base Ball.

**PITTSBURG, May 24.**—Alleghenies 7, Athletics, of Philadelphia, 3.

### Fires.

**READING, Pa., May 25.**—The Scott iron establishment burned. The fire originated in the pattern house. Loss \$300,000.

**NEW YORK, May 25.**—J. B. Doubledman's glass works, Brooklyn, burned. Loss \$137,000.

### FOREIGN.

#### WAR NOTES.

**The Russians Seeking to Crush Turkey With Superior Forces.**

**LONDON, May 25.**—The Turks captured and burned a small Russian war vessel near Isale.

**Abdul Kerim Pasha,** after garrisoning the fortresses, will have but 75,000 for the field.

The *Standard's* special from Constantinople reports the Ottoman troops and the insurgent Circassians have advanced from Soukhoum Kale, about forty miles into the interior.

The *Standard's* has the following from various other points:

The Hungarian Government issued a decree forbidding the exporting of arms and munitions.

The Danube is still rising.

Mahmoud Nedim Pasha was openly denounced at Constantinople as a traitor, during the public discussion relative to the advisability of recalling Midhat Pasha.

Midhat's recall is seriously discussed.

Prince Charles, of Roumania, is already addressed by his royal title in Russian official documents.

The *Standard's* correspondent at Vienna telegraphs that the rumors which are current there of German mobilization are traceable to the fact that Prussian subjects who are liable to service as reserves have received notices reminding them to be ready to join their regiments within four days from order of mobilization, if such order should be issued. This notice only refers to a limited mobilization on the Polish frontier, as a precaution, in view of a possible Polish agitation.

**LONDON, May 25.**—Preparations for war continue in Serbia.

A religious war has been proclaimed in Bosnia.

Russia is adopting measures for the gradual mobilization of her entire army, to crush Turkey by superior strength.

Russia will probably postpone an attempt to cross the Danube in force until the middle of June.

**The War in Asia—Turks Driven Back.**

Moukhtar Pasha has been unable to hold the mountain passes between Kars and Erzeroum. He retreated without giving battle.

The English commissioner, with the Turks in Asia, is represented as fearing Erzeroum will not be able to hold out long.

Two repulses of the Russians before Kars are confirmed, but the third assault was progressing at last accounts.

The Russian movements have been amazingly rapid. It is impossible to follow them or describe the exact situation. It is impossible to exaggerate the critical importance of the military situation at this time.

#### THE AMERICAN PILGRIMS.

**They Wait on the Pope and Are Welcomed Cordially.**

**ROME, May 25.**—The American pilgrims, who were received by the Pope to-day, numbered fifty ecclesiastics and 150 lay members, and were led by the Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Bishops of Allegheny, Natchitoches, Albany, Louisville, Galveston, Detroit, Green Bay, Hartford and other dioceses.

About 150 American Catholic residents and visitors were also present, with students of the American College and American students of the Propaganda.

After an address they were presented to the Pope, who was seated on the throne. His Holiness replied that he remembered how an eminent Cardinal had told him at the commencement of his pontificate, that from America would come great comfort to the church. He now relied on the fulfillment of that prediction. He spoke in great praise of the American nation—the greatness it had accomplished, and how, in the flower of its youth, it had acquired strength sufficient to arouse the jealousy of European nations. But there were errors of youth in nations as in men, and he would remind them of two he had noticed in them—too great pre-eminence in pursuit of material things and too proud a feeling of independence. They prided themselves on being Republicans (there was a laugh in which the Cardinals joined), but they must remember that all must bow the head to enter Paradise. They must be humble, and not let material things interfere with prayer. He blessed the American people—Catholics, that they might continue firm in faith; Protestants, that

they might be illuminated; and he prayed that good might descend in abundance upon them all.

#### THE PARIS EXPOSITION.

**The Cabinet Discussing What to Do About It.**

[N. Y. Tribune.]

**WASHINGTON, May 21.**—The managers of the French Exposition of 1878 have informed our government that if the United States is to participate in that exhibition it will be necessary to take immediate steps for representation in the American section. The Cabinet has had the matter under consideration and will probably decide this week as to what action shall be taken by our government.

Secretary Evarts' position is understood to be that an American commission should be appointed provisionally upon the understanding that the commission shall not have any compensation unless Congress shall ratify their appointment. Upon careful inquiry it is stated that there is no constitutional impediment to such a course, and in the case of the Vienna Exposition the invitation to participate in it was accepted by the Department of State before action was taken by Congress. The Secretary of State has been notified, through our Secretary of Legation at Paris, that the space reserved for the United States is still available. The minimum expense supposed to be necessary is \$300,000.

#### THE PLAGUE IN THE EASTERN WAR.

[N. Y. World.]

The anxiety of Europe concerning the complications of the Russo-Turkish campaign is likely to be increased by the entrance into the field of battle of two unexpected hostile forces, inimical to both sides in the conflict, and threatening, moreover, to carry devastation into neutral territories. Cholera and plague, from their recruiting stations in India and Mesopotamia, are on the march, and under the fostering conditions of war it is impossible to foretell the limits of their invasion. Last year cholera was on its route through Persia toward the Russian possessions on the Caspian, and early in the present spring grave apprehensions were aroused as to the violence and rapid diffusion of the epidemic. Within a few weeks several local outbreaks have been reported, one at Aktyab, killing twenty-five per cent of the European population in thirty hours, and new local outbreaks will doubtless be multiplied. On the other hand, plague, which has been gradually extending its ravages for some years past, had, even before the commencement of actual hostilities, spread to the regions north of Bagdad with alarming speed. Under these circumstances the war now in progress not only threatens disaster to the combatants themselves, but menaces all Europe with a visitation of pestilence which no precaution may be able to avert.

The part played by the disease in Turkish conflicts between Russia and Turkey has been so terrible that these precautions cannot fail to be watched with extreme concern on both sides. In the campaign of 1828 and 1829, which resulted in the treaty of Adrianople, the victorious Russian army was almost literally destroyed by the plague, which broke out in the army of Marshal Diebitch soon after it entered the Crimea.

In the month of October, 1828, alone, 20,000 Russian sick were received in the Roumanian hospitals, without counting the field hospitals; and in February, 1829, one out of every four Russian soldiers who were taken sick died.

During the ten months from May, 1828, to February, 1829, there were no less than 210,000 men borne on the Russian sick list, so that on Count Von Moltke's estimate of the whole Russian force, non-combatants included, at 169,000 men, every man had, on an average, been twice in the hospital, and Count Von Moltke estimates that this first campaign cost the Russians nearly one-half of their actual effective force. During the second campaign of 1829 the same high authority reckons the loss inflicted by disease on the Russians at 60,000 men. The Sultan and the foreign envoys at Constantinople were kept in complete ignorance of the fearful state of the hostile army, and as their own was ravaged, though much less terribly, by the same influence, the Turks actually made a humiliating peace with Diebitch when he had less than 20,000 effective bayonets at the foot of the Balkans, and had the truth been known, might have been compelled to surrender at discretion. Not more than 15,000 Russian combatants returned from the crossing of the Balkans and recrossed the Pruth. These are evil memories under the shadow of which this new war begins.

#### THE GOULDS OF MISSOURI.

**Association to Protect Illicit Distilleries.**

[Courier-Journal.]

**ST. LOUIS, May 21.**—The *Republican* this morning calls editorial attention to the fact that an organization of lawless men exists in several border counties of Missouri and Arkansas, who call themselves Gouls, but are more familiarly known as Kuklux, whose chief purpose is to run and protect small illicit distilleries in the mountains, and kill or whip or otherwise punish all persons who pursue them and show any disposition to enforce the laws. There is a reign of terror in these counties, and the *Republican* urges the Governors of Missouri and Arkansas, as well as the Federal government, to take measures to break up the organization and bring the offenders to justice.

#### ARDABAN.

The town of Ardaban, which has been captured by the Russians, is about forty miles from Achaizich, the Russian post whence the invading army set out. It is fifty miles from Kars. Ardaban is a town of great strategic importance, being situated between two mountain chains, one separating it from Kars, the other from the coast. Its possession gives the Russians command of a great valley as far as the Souzan mountains, where the way is barred by Moukhtar Pasha's forces, which hold a chain of posts by which they maintain communication with Kars. The fall of Ardaban will enable the Russian army which invested it to cause a diversion that may lead to the speedy surrender of that city.

## WAR NOTES.

### TURKISH CONTRIBUTIONS.

The proceeds of the voluntary contributions for the prosecution of the war in Turkey amounted, up to February 1, 1877, to 40,351,321 Turkish goshens, or piastres. (About twenty-five goshens are equal to one American dollar.) Of this amount the military departments have contributed 7,793,980 goshens; the inhabitants of Constantinople, 1,925,529; of the provinces, 30,390,110, and the Mussulmans of India, 341,703 goshens.

### Shumla, the Virgin Fortress.

[N. Y. Tribune.]

Shumla is a town of about 40,000 people, and also one of the strongest fortifications in Turkey. Roads from Varna, Constantinople, Silistria, and Rusehuk meet there. The town lies on the north slope of the Balkan, about midway between its crest and the lower Danube, in a gorge, horse-shoe shaped, and enclosed on three sides by mountains. In all the wars between Turkey and Russia it has been the point of concentration for the Turkish forces. In the vicinity is an entrenched camp capable of accommodating from 40,000 to 60,000 men. At the summit of the cliffs which surround it is a wide tableland, covered with brush and underwood, intersected by narrow confined paths. The fortifications which crown the heights are of great extent. Besides the strongly bastioned wall, there are numerous detached works, massive barracks, and hospitals built since 1810. The most accessible approaches are guarded by strong forts. It was burned by the Emperor Nicophorus in 811. The Turks took it in 1367 and embellished and fortified it in 1693, the work continuing for nine years, mainly under the Grand Vizier Hassan, whose tomb is the most notable monument in the city. The Russians attempted to take it in 1774, 1807, 1810, and in 1828, but without success. In 1853 its fortifications were greatly extended.

### Silistria.

[N. Y. Tribune.]

Silistria is a strongly fortified Turkish town, which has been prominent in the wars of the past hundred years. It has a population of about 30,000, has several mosques, a large Greek church and public baths. It is a very ancient city, and in the vicinity are the remains of fortifications which were erected during the Byzantine Empire. In 1773 it was besieged by the Russians, and still again in 1779, when they suffered severe losses. In 1810 it capitulated—the first and only time but one in history. In 1828 another siege was laid and continued several months, the Russians at last reduced, and held as a pledge for the payment of an indemnity by the Porte.

When new troubles with Russia were apparent in 1849-50, the fortifications were greatly strengthened by the addition of twelve detached forts, of which the one on the hill commanding the town is said to be one of the best military works of the time. In April, 1854, it was invested by an army of 60,000 Russians, which was afterwards increased to 70,000, and a siege begun which continued until near the 1st of July. A bombardment was kept up for three weeks, midnight attacks were made, 30,000 men attempted to gain the town, but all without success. The Russians retired and retreated across the river. It is recorded that 50,000 shot and shell were thrown upon the town, while the Russians lost 12,900 men and had 20,000 laid up in hospitals.

### Obstacles to Crossing the Danube.

The *Cologne Gazette*: The Turks have on the Danube a fleet of sixteen, mostly iron-clad, small, fast-sailing steamers, which are armed with twenty-four pieces of Krupp's breech-loaders, while the Russians have no single ship of that kind there. These men-of-war, which everywhere can sail on the deep Danube with facility as far as the Austrian frontier, might offer the greatest difficulties to the throwing out of the Russian pontoon bridges. Not alone that, but with their heavy cannon they could command the entire length of the river at a great distance, and consequently destroy the Russian pontoons. They also can, by the power of their ramming against the already accomplished bridges, sever them and run down the single pontoons.

To secure themselves against these hostile monitors the Russians have no other chance than to lay torpedoes within proper distances from the places where they intend a crossing, and so bar the water. This laying of torpedoes under the fire of the Turkish batteries from the high Bulgarian rocky shore will be a venturesome enterprise for the Russian engineers. Then, before the Russians have reached the Turkish territory, there first might be an interesting engagement between the Turkish monitors and the Russian torpedoes as Europe has never seen. If the Russians should not succeed in destroying the Turkish monitors, or at least make them harmless, then their pontoon bridges are, even if their throwing is happily effected, in great danger of being thoroughly destroyed by the hostile steamers. In this case an army advanced to Bulgaria would be cut off from its country, and could easily get into the greatest straits for want of ammunition and provisions.

Beyond the mouth of the Pruth as far as Taltcha the outlook is similar from the city of Reni. Far extending lakes, into which the streams from the north disembogue, must hinder military operations. On the west from Galatz, where the Sereth with its many tributaries empties into the Danube, the prospect is equally hazardous, but all these drawbacks fail to render the occupation of Galatz less important and desirable as it is secured to them. Galatz is the only place in the long extent of the river from Kalafat to its mouth from which the Turkish shore can be dominated. The northernmost part of the Dobrudscha is as flat as a board, with the exception of a very small portion occupied by the Tartars. The subjugation of the Dobrudscha as an introduction to the war is evidently a necessary as it secured to them. Galatz during the troubles of 1828-29, when he made it the fundamental idea of the plan of the war.

### Tae Dobrudscha.

[N. Y. World.]

The report of a Russian cavalry and

artillery advance into the Dobrudscha, and that two of the Muscovite army corps are despatched to work there, renders a description of the country desirable. The occupation of this stretch of country, where in former campaigns countless Russians have laid down their lives—the bones of at least 100,000 of them lie in the marshes—is most important before any general attack along the whole line. The Pruth rises only twelve miles to the east of Galatz. The intervening terrain is no place in which to conduct campaign, since as far as the eye can reach it sees only lakes and swamps, and in early spring, when the Danube overflows, the landscape becomes one stretch of water, from which only here and there the hillsops rise like islands.

### Persia and Turkey.

[Algemeine Zeitung.]

The Russian envoy at Teheran, Gen. Zinoviyeff, has, during the past year, labored to bring about an alliance between Russia and Persia, in view of the eventuality of a war with Turkey, and there is reason to believe that he has been successful, although the Shah was very unwilling to enter into such an alliance. As to the influence of England, which had for some time been wanting, it received its last blow when Baron Ruter's concession was canceled through Russian intrigue. The present concessionaire, Gen. Falkenhagen, has not been made successful; but he has the Russian government as his back, and it would certainly have assisted him if it had not more important things to consider just now.

The Persians have no great love for the Russians, but they have long had a grudge against the Turks as the possessors of the tombs of the Shiite martyrs, Ali and Hussein, at Nedjed and Kerbela. These tombs are in marshy districts, inhabited by Bedouins, who often attack the Persian caravans or pilgrims for purposes of plunder; and Persians hope that if she should herself become the possessor of the holy shrines, with Bagdad, the nearest large town, she will be able to put a stop to these predatory expeditions.

Already, beside the troops stationed by Russia's request at Tabriz, Persia has a corps at Kirmanshan, on the line of operations to Bagdad, and other troops are being raised all over the country. All these military movements, however, are probably only a disguise to attract a diversion in order to detach a portion of the army which is now being attacked by the Russians on the frontiers of Asia Minor. "The Persian army," says the writer, "is so inefficient and demoralized that a few of the Turkish battalions would suffice to put to flight a whole army corps of Persians." And he concludes, the only reward Persia has to expect from Russia for her compliance is the dangerous right of a strategic line of railway from Tiflis to Teheran.

### The Armies of Russia and Turkey—Their Relative Strength.

[Paris Correspondence London Times.]

Independently of the vast numerical superiority that Russia can bring into the field, she can now fully reckon on the aid of a large number of whom geography has placed at her discretion: Servia, Bosnia and Montenegro, whose accounts with the Porte are not yet satisfactorily settled; of Greece, whose armaments have been for months carried on with undisguised ostentation; of Crete, where anarchy is rampant in town and country, and insurrection openly organized; of Persia, which has been treasuring up grudges for years, and cloaks her ambition well; and, finally, of the disaffected subjects of the Porte throughout the Empire, all of whom, Christians in the European provinces and Mussulmans in Asia, especially in Syria and Arabia, and even in Constantinople—all of whom, I say, unite in their intense feeling of hate to the overbearing Osmanli, and look to the struggle which has now become imminent as an opportunity for the gratification of their long pent-up vengeance. Were Turkey's ruin decreed by fate, she would be sure to fall without a friend, for nothing can be more hollow more skin deep than the attachment which many of the self-styled Turkish patriots whom interest binds to her fortunes, profess to feel for her cause.

For their own part, the Turks, beside their regular army, which even the Russians reckon at 500,000 combatants, and the Bashi-Bazouks, who thirst for blood and plunder, can swell their force to almost an indefinite extent. Besides their position on the Danube, unequalled in strength for defensive purposes, and besides the command of the sea, which insures them easy communication between their two main armies, they seem to set no limits to their imagination when they conjure up the auxiliaries which Mohammedan enthusiasm may muster in the field under the banner of the Crescent. We hear of Kurdish chiefs calling together the nomad tribes of the desert, and preparing to come to the rescue with 150,000 horsemen. We hear of Egypt, some of whose battalions are still encamped in the Bosnian or Albanian districts, arming and equipping a fresh contingent of 25,000 men. Equally zealous in his duty as a vassal of the Porte is said to be the Bey of Tunis, and lavish both of his men and money. He of Tripoli alone, it appears, evinces a lukewarm, if not actually unfriendly, disposition towards his Suzerain. What more? Yakoub Khan, of Kashgar, who one hears has enough to do to keep off the Chinese, is expected to be able to spare the Sultan fifty thousand of his Turkomans; and as to the Mussulman multitude which is to flock here, no one can say by what route, from British India, it is something positively baffling calculation.

Many days will not pass before these auspicious dreams fade into thin air, and the Turks see themselves confronted by sober and stern reality, for independently of the madness of relying on the aid of the wild warriors of the desert, or on that of ambitious and disaffected dependents, were even all Asia and Africa to supply the men, one does not see whence the Porte could draw the means to support such vast hordes. No doubt her own soldiers will fight well, and her fortresses will hold out with great firmness; but the want of organization and good leadership, and the exhaustion of her means, will soon tell against the Ottoman armies in the open field, and upon any serious reverse overtaking them, the discouragement which has already seized the Government will soon extend to the march-enduring countries.

## CLIMATOLOGY.

### THE PROPOSED DESERT OF SAHARA CANAL.

A SYSTEM OF CLIMATIC INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS.

How the Climate and Fertility of a Country Can be Modified and Changed.

The terrible forest fires even now prevailing in New York are owing, says the *New York Herald*, to "the absence of the usual spring rains and the phenomenal temperature prevailing in Northern New York."

"This absence of spring rains and this phenomenal temperature are getting too customary; they are now no longer phenomenal but annual.

A study of the droughts and consequent forest fires of the past few years has resulted in the discovery that a distinct belt of country has been most affected, while on both sides piteous rains have fallen, and the earth has yielded uncommonly good crops. Beginning below Washington, the drought has every year followed a regular pathway, varying between one hundred and two hundred miles in width, northward through New Jersey and Pennsylvania to Philadelphia, thence across New Jersey to New York, taking in Long Island and a portion of Westchester county, and then returning following the line of the Erie Railway to the lakes, taking in Southern Canada and Northern Ohio, and then westward across Michigan, Southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois. The forest fires yet raging, partially confirm this discovery. Beginning at Nova Scotia to Philadelphia, thence across New Jersey to New York, along the Erie Railway to Southern New York.

The climate of this country, once good, is fast becoming worse and worse, until it looks as if America was destined to the same fate as the once rich regions of Northern Africa, now a desert; and all of this terrible change in our climate is due wholly to human agency.

The Valley of Mexico has completely changed its nature and its climate since Cortez discovered it. The Spaniards tried to make it an imitation Spain by cutting down the forest. The result has been that the once beautiful lakes that made Mexico an American Venice have shrunk into shallow ponds and swamps. Rains are less frequent, the temperature hotter and the soil less fertile.

With certain negligence the people of this country are following the example of the Spanish conquistadores and fast ruining its climate. We are now suffering from a host of evils, the fruit either of ignorance or of a defiance of the principles of climatology; the grasshoppers, the forest fires in the North, the alternate drought and freshets, and the increased risings and crevasses of the Mississippi, all these evils have been clearly traced to the outrages on nature; all these evils are growing more threatening as we neglect more and more to make to prevent such things happening in future, America will soon be altogether an uninhabitable country, a Western Sahara.

At the same time that we are recklessly spoiling our climate and its fertility, Europe is maturing some of the grandest schemes to restore its worn-out fields to their pristine fertility, and at the same time improving its climate and health.

The climate of Europe has undergone a great change within historic periods, just such a change as we are now undergoing. In the days of Virgil and the elder Pliny the Tiber was covered with a firm sheet of ice every year, and the depth of snow in Tuscany often reached a foot and a half, while now hardly any ice is formed south of the Alps, and snow commonly melts an hour after it reaches the ground. The first Roman colonists of the Rhine tried in vain to cultivate the grapes of their native country; they could never survive that hyperborean winter, and even the hardy variety of Dalmatia refused to put forth flowers in a land that now produces the vintage of Hochheim and Johannisberg. The European Caucasus, which now enjoys a climate resembling that of our North Carolina, was once afflicted with such mountainous loads of snow that a Latin poet imagined the touch of a hot iron might be compared by more than one of "frozen Caucasus." The Danube in the days of Tacitus was in icy letters for seven months in the year from Ratisbon to Vienna, where ice is seen rarely now after the middle of March.

The disappearance of the forests has gradually modified the temperature, and the old world has grown warmer and dryer, often to such a degree that the cultivators of the soil would gladly welcome a Siberian winter if they could only get a little rain now and then.

North Africa, which seems to become slowly, but surely, engulfed by the sand drifts of the Sahara, was once equal to Mexico in fertility, and far surpassed it in cultivation, as well in regard to the soil as to the minds of the inhabitants. As late as 670, a good while after the rise of the Mohammedan power, the country now known as Tripoli, and distinct from the Sahara only through the elevation of its mountains, was the seat of eighty-five Christian Bishops, and had a population of six millions, of which number three-quarters of one per cent are now left. The climate which, according to authentic description, must once have resembled that of our Southern Alleghenies, is now so nearly intolerable that even the humanity of an African despot forbears to exact open-air labor from a p. m. to 6 p. m. Steamboats that pass near the Tripolitan coast in summer, on their way from Genoa to Cairo, have to keep up a continual shower of artificial rain, to save their deck hands from being overcome by the furnace air that breathes from the barren hills of the opposite coast.

All this change is due to the insane destruction of forests. An animal fayed or a tree stripped of its bark, does not perish more surely than a land deprived of its trees. The Mediterranean, once a forest lake, is fast becoming a dead sea, surrounded by dusty and burning coasts, often for hundreds of miles without a vestige of organic

life. The gardens of Syria, the land of Palestine, once flowing with milk and honey, the Campagna, all are now deserts.

By the destruction of woods along the general value of earth to mankind has been reduced at least one-third. Lands that now entail only misery on their cultivators, were once the garden spots of our planet. On the plateau of Sidhi Belbez, in the very center of Sahara, Niebuhr traced the course of former rivers and creeks by the depressions in the soil; and the shape of the smooth-washed pebbles, which also found their way, now almost entirely, and covered by a six foot stratum of burning sand.

"And so the astounding truth dawns upon us," he says, "that this desolator may have once been a region of groves and fountains, and the abode of happy millions. Is there any other crime against the physical laws of God which calls down a more terrible vengeance than that of striking our Mother Earth of her sylvan covering? The hand of man has produced this desert, and I verily believe, every other desert on this globe. Earth was Elen once, and we have converted the garden into a sand waste. The burning sun is the angel with the flaming sword, who stands between us and paradise."

It was about a century ago that this discovery was made. Since that time it has been the effort of all European countries to correct the evil and restore their former lands. In almost all the countries of Continental Europe strict forestry laws are in force prohibiting the destruction of trees. But perhaps the greatest schemes for the improvement of climate yet tried are those immense public labors even now being carried on in Egypt. According to Baker Pasha, F. R. S., the region between Karkak and Rouman enjoys now a yearly rainfall of sixteen inches, where nine inches were the maximum before 1830, the change being due to the persistent tree culture of the Khedives, who have planted six millions of palm trees and a million and a half of willows on the tableland of Wady Halfa alone. Not only these tree plantations, but also the adjoining districts have been benefited, currant bushes and wild mulberries having sprung up where they never grew before, and the summer heat in the upper valley of the Nile is not nearly so oppressive as it was within the memory of men now living.

Utah, too, has been metamorphosed by the same means. The Uintah Mountains are now full of springs, where fifty years ago only an occasional cloudburst furnished water to the parched cañons, and the Green river did not deserve the name till the tall peach trees and spruce groves, the hospitable steward of Fort Bridger reports that during the last fifteen years the annual rainfall has more than doubled; twenty inches now, where the observations of a scientific Lieutenant of Cavalry showed only nine inches and a half in 1855. The great Salt Lake is slowly rising, and only Mormons speak of mirages, formerly produced by the extreme dryness of the air, which are now never seen.

So successful has been these schemes and so many acres of desert land have been given back by them to cultivation, that it has given rise to a scheme, now being discussed by the French government, the Sahara Canal project, by which the Atlantic Ocean is to be poured into the Desert of Sahara, a considerable portion of which is below the level of the ocean, and form there a lake. Such a lake would give Northern Africa and South Europe a heavier rainfall and make even the desert bloom.

It has been demonstrated that the so-called basin of the desert, once communicated with the Mediterranean, and constituted an interior sea, known as the Great Bay of Triton, but that this reservoir had dried up toward the beginning of the Christian era, after the formation of an isthmus which cut it off from the sea. This isthmus needs only to be cut, to convert the bed of the Bay of Triton into a lake.

There seems to be no doubt of the beneficial effect of this inland lake. The only question seems to be its practicability. The *Scientific American*, the *New York World*, and certain other Northern papers, seem to regard it as too monstrous an undertaking, but the report of Capt. Roudaire, an eminent French engineer, shows how the work can be begun by digging a canal across the isthmus of Gades of only twelve miles in length, which can be done at the small expense of \$6,000,000. For this sum, wasted a dozen times over on many a building in Paris, the French government can convert the entire Southern portion of Algeria, as well as Tunis and Tripoli into a fertile, healthy and pleasant country, and there seems little reason to doubt that it will be done.

The lake that Mr. Roudaire proposes to make would be comparatively a small one. If it should be successful, however, there is little doubt that the magnificent scheme of filling the entire Desert of Sahara, covering, perhaps, eight hundred thousand square miles, will be attempted. The latter scheme of forming a sea larger than the Mediterranean is certainly so gigantic as to undertake that it might well cause us to hesitate as it would vitally affect the level of the ocean, and probably completely change the climate of Europe.

It is therefore, perhaps, so great an undertaking that it will not be done for many years. There seems, however, to be little doubt that the scheme of Mr. Roudaire will be attempted and completed soon.

If it proves successful, there is little reason to doubt that it will be the first of a number of similar schemes to restore the forests of Nature, or rather to restore Nature where she has been destroyed by man, and begin a system of climatic internal improvements by which the climates of Iceland and Central America be modified drought and freshets alike abolished, low water and crevasses in the Mississippi both done away with, and the necessity for levees ended.

The Western newspapers are fast leaving the New York papers behind in the matter of enterprise. The *Chicago Times* shows that one day last week (May 17) it had a special of 842 words from London, costing \$338.80, a piece of enterprise that none of the New York papers seem to care to rival. Newspaper enterprises is moving westward with the population.