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BY TELEGRAPH.

CHARLES FOSTER, M. C.

His Visit to Washington to Consult With Hayes.

Impossibility of Electing Garfield Speaker Admitted.

No Love Lost Between Foster and Garfield.

[Special to N. O. Democrat.]

WASHINGTON, May 27.—Charley Foster, as soon as he had got the cinders out of his hair, on his arrival here this morning, left the hotel, and to all inquiring friends the answer was given—"Gone out for a ride." But he did not ride any further than the White House, where he has been all afternoon and evening in consultation with Hayes.

His visit here is said by his friends to have two objects—one is to make some suggestions with reference to the coming canvass in Ohio, and the other is to recast the horoscope for the Speakership. Last spring, when Hayes requested Foster to waive any chance he might have and employ any influence he might possess in behalf of Garfield for the Speakership, Foster cheerfully acquiesced, although he knew very well that almost any Republican who could be named out of the 149 in the next House stood a better chance of being elected Speaker than Garfield. But Hayes could not then see it in that light, nor could Stanley Matthews; their eyes have since been opened to the fact of Garfield's terrible unpopularity in the South, whence alone they could hope to draw the votes that would give the organization of the House to the Administration.

Garfield himself pretends to keep up his hopes, but the fact is, he never had any to speak of, and his movement was made mainly to crowd Foster off the track.

It is well known to Foster's friends that Garfield would rather see a Democrat chosen Speaker than Foster, whom he fears and hates as a rival in his own party in Ohio and in Congress. Foster's visit is partly for the purpose of advising Hayes of these facts. BUELL.

MR. ELLIS' VIEWS.

Milton Saylor the Favorite of the Gulf and Cotton States for Speaker.

Randall's Hostility to Southern Internal Improvements.

[Special to N. O. Democrat.]

WASHINGTON, May 27.—Congressman Ellis, of Louisiana, arrived here yesterday. He speaks encouragingly of the business outlook in New Orleans since the era of peace, and predicts that ere long the *ante bellum* days of plenty will return to the impoverished State of Louisiana.

He says that so far as his observation goes, it leads him to believe that Milton Saylor is the most popular candidate for the speakership among the Gulf and Cotton States. He does not think that Blackburn has any strength, for the reason that a great many of the Southern representatives are of the opinion that if the South gave him its votes it would be constrained on behalf of the Administration that the Southern people are not willing to recognize that Hayes means to do all he can to relieve them from the fettered condition which eight years of Radical hate and bondage had reduced them to. He says Randall will not be a candidate of the Southern people because of his heretofore known hostility to the Texas Pacific Railroad scheme and Southern internal improvements generally. BUELL.

REPORT OF THE GRAND JURY,

In Matters Relating to the Parish Prison and Prisoners.

NEW ORLEANS, May 25, 1877.

Hon. W. R. Whitaker, Judge of the Superior Criminal Court for the parish of Orleans:

The Grand Jurors for the parish of Orleans beg leave to submit to the court by way of special report, the result of their investigation at the Parish Prison, and to direct the attention of the court to the condition of several cases which in their opinion require the early attention of the law officers of the State.

Within the walls of the Parish Prison are many prisoners sentenced by this court to serve in the State Penitentiary, terms of imprisonment, varying from five years to life, whose cases, because of suspensive appeals granted, are still awaiting final determination.

The date of some of these appeals reaches as far back as April 1, 1876. A case in point is that of Gus Anderson, confined in the parish jail since July 22, 1874, sentenced March 18, 1875, to suffer imprisonment for life; the case upon appeal was remanded to be tried anew, and on February 3, 1876, Anderson was again convicted and sentenced to undergo a similar penalty. He applied April 7, 1876, for a suspensive appeal, and his case is still on the docket of the Supreme Court unjudged.

This is but one of many like cases. These prisoners are supported in jail at the expense of the tax-payers of the city of New Orleans, and some steps should be taken to secure the final decision of their appeals. The members of the Grand Jury appreciate the numerous and continuous labors devolving upon the Attorney General, and they therefore desire to give utterance to no complaint when they request that his attention be directed to these matters. Confined in this jail were also found a number of prisoners detained for trial before the Second Judicial District Court for the Sixth and Seventh Municipal Districts of New Orleans, who have been denied a speedy trial, and are detained without an opportunity to be heard, far beyond a reasonable time. Three instances will serve to illustrate our meaning and give point to the complaints made by these prisoners against the course pursued by the law officers of the State in that court: Frank P. Walton, held to appear and answer three complaints before that tribunal, has been a burden on the city since July, 1876, and has as yet found no opportunity to meet the grave charges made against him. C. P. Collins, charged before the same court with having carried a weapon concealed about his person, has been in custody since March 6, a period far in excess of the probable term of his sentence in the event of conviction. Manuel Johnson, who was sentenced before the Superior Criminal Court to suffer imprisment for a term of ten years, has remained in the Parish Prison since the time of such sentence, October, 1876, awaiting the good pleasure of the District Attorney of the Second Judicial District in a case pending against him before Judge Pardee's court.

These delays in the administration of public justice work an injury to the prisoners, in no manner benefit the prosecution, and entail a heavy and useless expense upon the city of New Orleans. These are not isolated cases, for a dozen such in this one district might be suggested. It is therefore the request of your Grand Jury that the necessary steps be taken to abate this negligence, and economize the expenses attending these trials.

The condition of the Parish Prison building requires that the Grand Jury make a formal request upon the Administrator of Public Buildings immediately to repair the floors and plastering in the cells of this institution. In closing a special report upon this subject, it is but fair to the Criminal Sheriff and his employes that they be commended for the cleanliness, discipline and hygiene of the Parish Prison.

JOHN A. O'BRIEN, Foreman.

A MYSTERIOUS DOCUMENT.

Showing that in 1875 Kellogg Borrowed $25,000 from the State for Police Purposes.

A most mysterious document was picked up at the State-House on Saturday, which reads in this wise:

STATE OF LOUISIANA,
Treasurer's Office,
New Orleans, October 24, 1875.

Received of Wm. P. Kellogg five warrants militia, on general funds 1874, numbers 5864, 5865, 5866, 5867, 5869,

AS COLLATERAL SECURITY

in matter of $25,000 advanced to J. H. Oglesby, city fiscal agent, for pay of said amount to police; the said amount to be refunded to Treasurer's account when said fiscal agent receives receipts of taxes from the city and from the first receipts. Said general fund warrants to be returned to Wm. P. Kellogg when said amount is repaid to account of Treasurer. F. DUBUCLET, Cashier.

From this receipt it seems that Kellogg borrowed $25,000 from the State Treasury, hypothecating for the same five militia warrants, the money for which went to the Metropolitan Police Board.

The question now is whether Kellogg ever returned that money to the treasury.

The Churches Yesterday.

After the week's labor, after the six days of hurry, care and perplexity, the church-going people yesterday seemed to heartily appreciate the dawn of that day of rest, and that they might testify their gratitude, they flocked to their sanctuaries to attend service.

At High Mass the Cathedral, St. Patrick's, Church of the Immaculate Conception and St. Alphonsus were crowded, and even up to the hour of opening service streams of people were centreing toward their portals. The music in all of these was very fine.

Dr. Palmer's church, as usual, was filled to overflowing, and the wrapped attention of his congregation testified how fully they enjoyed the words of advice and consolation that came from the lips of that eloquent divine.

Christ Church, which may be called the aristocratic church of the city, held a large number, and the impressive services of the Anglican Church were hardly ever before rendered more earnestly and effective. The Carondelet street Methodist Church was also largely attended, and when the services had ended the number coming out seemed more almost than the building could hold.

It was, without doubt, a church-going Sunday, and the several denominations were fully represented. The cloudy sky served to moderate the temperature considerably, and the short shower, during service, by half-past 12 o'clock gave way to a pleasant breeze, making the walk home pleasant. The spring continues, and the ladies, brilliant in their bright colors, now the fashion, never looked lovlier, and the faces beneath flower bespangled bonnets never sweeter.

We Need Shade Trees.

Next to imposing architecture there is hardly any one thing that strikes the eye of a stranger quicker or gives more pleasure in a city than to see its thoroughfares lined with shade trees. The relief to the eye given by the different shades of green in a long avenue of trees is something most every one has felt, and the softening effect it gives to the back ground of bricks and mortar, make it esthetically a necessity. Notwithstanding the fact that we have many varieties of oaks that grow rapidly and stretch their branches sometimes fifty and sixty feet, it seems singular that we have so few streets adorned by them.

In mid-summer they become almost a necessity, and the grateful feelings of a pedestrian who has to thread his way beneath the rays of a noon-day sun are sufficient recompense for the small expense required to give him the boon of refreshing relief.

In Europe and at the North there are many tree planting societies whose object is to inculcate a taste for tree culture as well as to beautify neighborhoods. Here these are not necessary, for saplings can be obtained almost without cost, and it only needs a few examples on a street to induce neighbors to follow in the wake. Let us beautify our streets.

THE WORK OF NEW YORK CAPITALISTS.

Endeavors to Defeat the Levee and Railroad Appropriation.

[Courier-Journal.]

WASHINGTON, May 24.—Certain New York capitalists and politicians are actively at work to control the policy of the Administration on all business and fiscal questions. They are organizing influences hostile to the extension of Government aid to the Mississippi levees, and the completion of the Texas and Pacific Railway. The occasion of the President's recent visit to New York was adroitly improved by these persons, in order to prejudice the Administration against these measures. Some impression was probably made, but I am informed that, in the main, the attempt was a failure. Of course, these capitalists are not the sort of men to give up easily their purpose of capturing the President on these questions, or at least toning down any recommendation he might make to Congress on the subject, so that it will have no practical value.

The Singer is acknowledged by all to be the best sewing-machine in the market.

LIBERAL RADS.

WHO ISSUED WARRANTS TO THEMSELVES IN ROUND NUMBERS.

What the Investigating Committee Will Find by Boring into the Ex-Auditor's Books.

Now that the matter of the investigation of the Auditor's office has gotten fairly under way the committee will soon devote its attention to the old and new appropriations; the following items derived from the books in the Auditor's office will receive attention, and inquiries will be made as to the law under which some of the warrants were issued by the late Auditor.

"Appropriation to pay balance due for mileage and per diem of members, salary of officers, etc., House of Representatives, session of 1875."

January 10, warrant to L. J. Souer, as member and services as member Board of Audit, $600; J. S. Matthews, same, $600; F. N. Sholtz, Secretary Board of Audit, to services, $450; R. R. Ray, as member and to per diem on Committee of Enrollment, $80.

Amount appropriated under act No. 8 of 1877.

SEVENTY-TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS

for mileage and per diem and salaries of officers, and under that head for the months of January, February and March, nearly four hundred warrants were issued under act No. 8 of 1877, amounting to $71,637 30, the last entry being for Chas. W. Lowell, $420, for services as enrollment clerk.

Under act 46 of 1876, $1250 was issued to C. B. Andreas for the relief of the widow of the late Judge J. J. Morgan, and under act No. 4, regular session, 1877, $2500 for the relief of the widow of B. H. Dinkgrave was issued, and was received in settlement "on account of amount

DUE THE STATE

by B. H. Dinkgrave, late tax collector, parish of Ouachita."

The New Orleans Gaslight Company received a warrant for $154 40 from the "appropriation for gas in the State-House," and H. W. Benjamin for R. E. Rivers, received two warrants for $1000 each, act No. 6 of 1875, from the appropriation for the purchase of a State-House, the warrants dating January 6 and 10, 1877, "in exchange of two other warrants of 1875, canceled," and that being charged to the State-House fund.

CONTINGENT EXPENSES.

Under this head and under act No. 8 of 1877, $28,000 was appropriated, and warrants were issued from January 20th to March 5th, in various sums, to L. J. Souer, chairman of the House Committee on Contingent Expenses, for the entire amount, $28,000.

Act No. 8 appropriates $39,000 for the Senate, and warrants were issued to the members and employes for the entire amount, the last one being issued April 14 to T. C. Anderson for $856.

Act No. 8 appropriates $19,000 for auditing and supervising the expenses of the Senate, session of 1877, and warrants for the entire amount were issued to J. A. Gla as chairman.

FOR THE MILITIA

$200,000 was appropriated by act No. 3 of 1877, and some six or seven hundred names appear as having drawn warrants.

The warrants issued on January 10, shows that one warrant was issued to R. R. Ray as "member and per diem on committee of enrollment," when it is known that

RAY DIED MONTHS AGO.

There are other names mentioned, one of which is credited with a warrant, when the individual bearing the name stated to a DEMOCRAT reporter that he still held the voucher for the warrant and presented it as a Packard memento to the reporter.

In some cases warrants were issued under appropriations made in 1875, which were enjoined by the late Attorney General Field, and up to the present date no public notice has been made as to the dissolution of that injunction, as it was perhaps dissolved by Packard's corpulent Judge Shaw, and under such a dissolution the question suggests itself as to the legal *status* of Shaw's rump court.

A KNOTTY PROBLEM.

Which is Referred to the Investigating Committees to Solve.

A Three-Year Old Report Which May Make a Lively Kick From Ex-Radical Officials.

In 1874 the State Treasurer presented a report to the General Assembly, a copy of which is appended, as it may be of some service to the committee now investigating the affairs of the Auditor's and Treasurer's office:

NEW ORLEANS, Jaunary 3, 1874.

To the honorable Senators and Representatives of the State of Louisiana, in General Assembly convened:

Gentlemen—Your attention is called to the anamalous condition of the

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

For several months past the office of State Treasurer has existed only in name, its functions in reality having been absorbed by the State Auditor, through judicial aid or connivance.

The offices of State Treasurer and Auditor are constitutional. * * * Their distinctive functions are clearly defined by law. * * * In the economy of the law one acts as a check upon the other in the management of the finances. The one is the accountant, the other the custodian and disburser of the public funds. The former, after adjusting the debts and claims, orders the payment of moneys into the treasury, and warrants against them for all disbursements to be made by the latter.

The plain provisions were flagitiously

DISREGARDED BY THE AUDITOR,

and, as a consequence, there resulted between him and the Treasurer a controversy, during which, by means of judicial proceedings of the most extraordinary character, the functions of the State Treasurer actually devolved upon the State Auditor.

In the first place the Auditor, in adjusting the returns of the tax collectors, eliminated the item of general funds, and, instead of having them paid in due course into the Treasury, had them deposited in the Louisiana National Bank, subject to his (the Auditor's) orders. There they remained under his absolute control, a large portion of the same being withdrawn by him to take up warrants outside of the rules and regulations

ESTABLISHED BY LAW.

It was next found convenient to cover this usurpation with the garb of judicial proceedings. Suits were brought, in which the Treasurer was made nominal defendant, without the privilege of being heard by counsel, *or even by himself in person.* He was condemned and denied the benefit of appeal. Swiftly followed so-called proceedings in contempt of the Superior District Court, and the State Treasurer, without a dollar of general funds on hand, as was patent to the whole world, was sent to the Parish Prison for his inability to disburse these funds, which were notoriously in the

HANDS OF THE STATE AUDITOR.

In these mandamus proceedings against the State Treasurer, which were instigated by the State Auditor himself, the latter was made a co-defendant to save appearances. The mandamus was dismissed as to him, although he actually held the coveted funds; indeed, as to him, the whole proceedings were carried on collusively with the plaintiffs, through the instrumentality of the

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL,

who did not, on that occasion, hesitate to appear on behalf of both the antagonistical State officers. The Treasurer in vain applied to dispense with the services of this unfriendly assistant. The application was denied by his honor the judge of the Superior District Court, who would not even allow the Treasurer to appear in person.

The consequence was, that the whole case was made up between the plaintiffs and the Auditor, through the efficient services of the Assistant Attorney General, who was allowed to misrepresent the Treasurer.

The execution of the decree thus gotten up was in keeping with the previous proceedings. Armed with the peremptory order, the warrant holders came, escorted by an Auditorial clerk having

THE VERY FUNDS IN HAND;

and the Treasurer, just released from imprisonment for the so-called contempt of court, figured as an automaton when the confederates exchanged in his presence the general funds and the warrants.

Recently suit was brought by J. Ray et al. in the Superior District Court, for the purpose of compelling the State Treasurer to pay out of the levee trust funds, amounting to $192,000, certain State warrants drawn against the general fund. The court found no difficulty in making the mandamus peremptory; but at the Treasurer's suggestion the Attorney General took an appeal to the Supreme Court. Of a sudden and

WITHOUT PREMONITORY SYMPTOM

the appeal was discountinued, and the judgment appealed from vacated. So far so well. But this, however, was a shift—a mere device; for in quick succession the same proceedings were renewed in the Superior Court, culminating in a peremptory decree to pay the same general warrants out of the Trust Fund. The Treasurer again called upon the Attorney General for an appeal, but was officially informed that no appeal would be taken. There was no option left; the Treasurer, under the peremptory order served upon him,

DELIVERED HIS CHECKS

accordingly, but the restraining order, issued from the Circuit Court of the United States, arrived in time to stop the funds in the hands of the Fiscal Agent. So that by prompt action in the premises, the Legislature may yet have this matter disposed of in a proper manner.

Such is a succinct narrative of the

USURPATION OF THE TREASURY

department by the State Auditor, through judicial connivance and perversion of the functions of the Attorney General. The remedy is with the law-giver. Some legislation is needed to prevent the recurrence of such evils. Respectfully,

ANT. DUBUCLET, State Treasurer.

It is in order now for Senator Stevens' joint committee to inquire into the facts concerning this report, which heretofore has not been given publicity through the columns of a newspaper.

Kellogg reigned supreme when this report was made, and as he had a quiet way

OF SMOTHERING DOCUMENTS

it may be possible that in this instance the "good of the party" demanded that it should be kept from the public eye.

FROGMOOR.

The Washington Artillery at Rifle Practice Yesterday.

The Crescent City Rifle Club's grounds were never livelier than on yesterday afternoon. The crowd of visitors continued to increase with the arrival of every car, and by 5 o'clock the stand was well filled. The ladies—and by the by these fair ones are now taking an unusual interest in the sport—were there in full force, encouraging the competitors in their contests. Glass ball and long range shooting were indulged in by some of the sprightlier of the shooters, after which the members of the Washington Artillery took their turn at the target. They used the army rifle, open sights, 200 yards, off-hand, with no sighting shots.

Lieutenants Adams, Kursheedt, Brown; Sergeants Mahan, Harris, Selph, Brown and Baker; Corporals Cobb, Lefe, Florance, Henderson; and Privates Harris, Kelly, Yates, Huger, Fassman, Black, Scratchley, Simpson and others participated.

Sergeant Dudley Selph had a narrow escape from defeat, Corporal Baker tieing him, and it was only on the second shot that Mr. Selph came out ahead.

It is expected that on next Sunday there will be a large attendance of the battalion at the practice.

New Orleans Rifle Club.

There seems to have been given a new impetus to rifle shooting in New Orleans of late, and where now we have riflemen by fifties—three years ago we had but very few. The international matches and the improved guns, have had much to do in improving this sport, and some of our best shots now, are what might be called but beginners. Yesterday, at the grounds of the New Orleans Rifle Club, there was a sample of this increased taste for the rifle, for the park was crowded with marksmen from quite an early hour, and in the afternoon to enliven the scene, scores of ladies arrived.

The contest of the day was for the President's badge, at 200 yards' rest. After some very fine shooting, Mr. B—— won it for the fourth time. The next battle for it will take place in two weeks, and Mr. B.'s friends are confident of his fifth success.

On next Sunday the contest for the championship badge will take place, the distance being, off-hand, 500 yards, and it is open to all riflemen. We may expect some crack shooting on that occasion, for many are already practicing for it.

Short Items.

Anatole Pennegay, alias Francis, was incarcerated in the Suburban Station, charged with having a horse in his possession supposed to have been stolen.

On the 26th inst. the body of a child, aged seven years, was found floating in the river, nine miles below Algiers. It is supposed to be another victim of the Walloon disaster.

Nebs Davis, alias Charles Ford, was arrested and locked up in the Fourth Precinct Station, charged with being an accessory to the stealing of a horse and buggy, the property of Joe Shawhan.

Officer Lux brought to the Fourth Precinct Station a lady's basque, which he found on the neutral ground on Claiborne street, an article of wear which is awaiting identification.

John Baptiste Dabezies spent Sunday in the Third Precinct Station, charged by Morneaive Lo Normand with shooting at him with intent to kill and also with robbery.

Robt. Blake languishes in the Third calaboose, charged with breaking and entering the house of Jane Connelly in the night time.

Sixteen teams were placed in pound yesterday for not having the proper license on them.

Felix Clarke is in Capt. Manning's hotel, on charge of larceny of chickens.

There is no excuse for buying a cheap or old machine at $25 when $40 gets one of the latest improved *Singer's*, with all attachments. Office, 91 Canal street.

WAR NOTES.

The Turkish Line of Defense in Asia Minor.

A letter from Erzeroum, in the Hamburg *Correspondent*, describes the Turkish military position in Asia Minor:

The Russo-Turkish frontier, says the writer, is about 400 versts long. The first line of defense of the Turks covers the whole of this frontier, but is some miles behind it. It extends from the important harbor of Batoum, on the Black Sea, along the river Adjartchai to Ardahan, on the left bank of the river Kura, thence the line of defense proceeds southward to Kars, after which it bends round, following the frontier to Bayazid.

This line may be compared to that of the Danube in Bulgaria, only that its natural bulwark is not a river, but a confused mass of rocky mountains. The troops which occupied the first line of defense consisted, at the beginning of the war, of some fifty thousand men, a third of whom were stationed at Kars, and the rest at Batoum, Ardahan, Bayazid and the villages between these towns.

The second line of defense passes through Trebizond, Erzeroum and Van, but the troops destined to protect it are nearly all concentrated at Erzeroum, in order that they might be rapidly directed against the advancing Russians in case they should break through the first line. This second corps consists of only about 40,000 men, as it is considered necessary to keep a distinct corps at Bagdad, consisting chiefly of recruits from Kurdistan and Mesopotamia, to defend that town against a sudden attack by the Persians, who have assumed a very menacing attitude in that quarter.

A War That May Last Two Years.

[Correspondence N. Y. Sunday Mercury.]

ST. PETERSBURG, May 5.—The belief here is general that just about the time this letter reaches you, the middle of May, the Russians will be in force along the Danube ready to cross the great river. If it be necessary for them, however, to throw torpedoes near the various crossing places, and to have a heavy mass of artillery on hand ready to protect the operation of crossing, which must be by bridges, a large corps of men is already at its post. In 1828 it took the Russians eight days to effect a crossing, and then they did, to a certain extent, control the navigation of the Danube. All this is changed now. Turkey has any number of monitors on the Danube, and Russia has no fleet there as of old. If the Turks understand their business they will be able to resist the crossing of the Danube successfully for several days to come. When it is considered that even after crossing they will have to resist the onslaught of the Turkish forts, and that whatever may be the result another number of weeks must necessarily elapse before they can at all make an impression upon them, it will readily be seen how tedious will be the progress of the campaign. About the end of October military operations in Bulgaria are simply impossible, and patience must be endured, then, until the climate and state of the roads permit the Russians to go still further south. That the Russian War Minister understands the difficulties the army has to encounter after having crossed the Danube is evident from the fact that the entire army has been equipped with great care for a two years' campaign.

A Proposed Division of Turkey.

[Courier-Journal.]

The Greek government is experiencing some difficulty in calling out the reserve force. Several districts are indisposed to furnish their quota, and as it is necessary to raise at least 60,000 men, if Greece designs aiding the revolt in Thessaly and Epirus, the lack of patriotism may seriously affect the programme. The idea dominant among the diverse nationalities in Turkey is to erect in place of the Ottoman empire three Christian States, Roumania, South Sclavonian and Greek, divided in accordance with their ethnographical conditions. By this arrangement Greece would have Thessaly, Epirus, a part of Albania and Macedonia, and Crete. The Sclaves would have Servia, Bosnia, Turkish Croatia, Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Bulgaria. The Bulgarians are not of Sclavic descent, but have become completely Sclavianized since they came from the Volga in the fifth century, as the Ougri, whence has been handed down the name "ogre," expressive of ferocity and hideousness. The Roumanians would retain their present territory, which is peopled almost exclusively by Roumans. The Greeks are not as enthusiastic over the erection of a symmetrical Hellenic Kingdom as are the Sclaves over their dream of a restoration of the old Sclave empire, which, in the fourteenth century, extended from the Adriatic to the Black Sea.

Kars and Erzeroum.

[London Standard.]

Kars is a strong fortress. It repulsed invaders several times prior to the Russian attack in 1828, when it fell after a very short siege. In the Crimean war it fell again, but this time by the slow process of starvation. The garrison upon that occasion was a very strong one, almost as large as the besieging army, and the Turks have always maintained that it ought to have fought in the open. The position of Kars as a fortress is faulty, except as covering a large intrenched camp. As a citadel only it is useless, as the country to its south is sufficiently level and open for an army to march past out of reach of its guns. There is another road through Kaghizman, twenty miles further south, and the position can be turned altogether by invading armies advancing either by the Joruk road or that by Ararat. If, however, it be well provisioned and used as an intrenched camp for a *corps d'armee*, it must be reduced and its garrison defeated before an army can move forward either by the main or southern road. We believe that the fortifications have been increased and strengthened, and another famous siege may be looked for. Erzeroum is stategically a far more important fortress than Kars. It blocks the main road and that coming up the Joruk Valley from the coast, and, in fact, bars the passage of any army coming to the northward of the Bingol Dagh range. It is fairly fortified, and if new redoubts have been thrown up on the sides from which it is to some extent commanded by modern artillery, it should make a long and stout resistance. It has, however, the disadvantage of being a large and populous city, being the capital of Asia Minor. Food may be laid in by an active and energetic Governor for the use of the garrison for months, but it is scarcely possible for the inhabitants of a large city to do so. If, therefore, the Turkish army be routed in the field, we can scarcely expect that Erzerum would be able to stand a lengthened siege.

The Valley of the Danube and its Inhabitants.

The density of the population of the Danube Valley will surprise most American readers. The military frontier between Austria and the Turkish provinces has a population of 1,195,000, and an area of 12,850 square miles, equal to 93 inhabitants to the square mile; Wallachia and Moldavia, now Roumania, 80 to 85 to the square mile; Servia, 74; Bulgaria, (Northern Turkey) 82. These countries produce an extraordinary amount of wheat for export, almost all of which is collected on the Danube and sent to Odessa. There are also immense herds of cattle pastured along the river and exported as salt beef by the Black Sea, Mediterranean and Atlantic to the west coast of France, Belgium, England, Denmark, etc. Swine are also raised extensively in the Christian principalities and exported with the beef. The Bulgarian territory is very fertile, and is occupied almost exclusively by Mohammedans, who are really a finely formed race of men, physically. This has been accounted for by the Turkish system of the purchase of wives, by which each man selects for the mother of his children those females who will give these physical forms best adapted to his own pursuits of life. The Turkish soldiers of this region were all observed to be a fine race of men, brave and hardy, and by their religious fanaticism almost unconquerable. But their officers are so imbued with cupidity and with so little bravery that the Turkish armies are often beaten by troops far inferior to them. The Russian army, as heretofore, will find themselves in the midst of an extremely hostile and dense population, who will harrass them at every step and seek to cut off their trains of supplies, and most reluctantly yield to demands for food for the enemy.

The Flag of the Prophet.

[Constantinople Correspondence of the New York Mercury.]

The sacred emblem of Turkish faith will play a great role in this war. It is dark green, about two yards long and one and a half wide, and was originally a curtain in the bedchamber of Aischa, the best beloved wife of the prophet, who died in her bed. When Mohammed was on his deathbed and about to take leave of his Generals, who were about to enter upon a new campaign against the heathen, the dying prophet gave them the curtain that overhung his bed as a battle flag, so that the faithful should forever remember that they were doing battle for God and His prophet. Ever since that time, whenever the Caliphs went into battle they took this flag with them, but in later years it was resolved to carry this holy relic into battle only whenever a war of religion was being waged. In 1683 the same flag waved from the walls of Vienna, and again whenever the cause of Islam had to be defended it was unfurled to rally the faithful and encourage them to deeds of heroism. What, however, is the most important feature of this flag is the belief that any Mussulman who fights and falls under its shadows dies as a martyr, for whom the portals of Heaven are opened at once. From the Caliphs of old this banner has been sacredly retained by the Sultans of our day, in order to inspire still more zeal in their soldiers. Yesterday the unfolding of this time-honored banner took place with great pomp and ceremony by the Sultan, Abdul Hamid, in person, who handed it to the Scheik-El-Islam in solemn trust. The latter was mounted on a horse literally covered with gold, and, while holding the sacred banner in his hand, he was accompanied by the Sultan, himself also on horseback, with sword in hand, through the principal streets of Constantinople. Couriers and heralds preceded the two high dignitaries of State, and, pointing to the unfurled banner, loudly proclaiming to the people that the war for the faith had commenced. This morning the same relic—which the Turks regard with the same holy awe as the Israelites of old did the Ark of the Law—was sent under heavy escort to the Danube, there to lead the Turkish hosts to battle for Allah and his prophet.

THE USES OF RATS.

A Chance to Make a Gigantic Fortune—A Word to the Wise.

It is in Paris—that home of the utilization of everything—that the rat is turned to the greatest number of uses. He furnishes employment for an army of hunters, who pursue him in his sewer fastnesses for the sake of his skin. In the great abattoirs of the city rats exist by the million. One proprietor, on becoming nearly driven from his premises by the rodents, threw a dead horse in a walled inclosure, and then stopped up all means of escape, so that the rats attracted by the bait could not get out. In one night 2050 rats were caught in the trap and killed by men armed with clubs; in a single month 16,000 of the animals were thus destroyed. We notice this case mainly in connection with a curious utilization of rats, wherein dead animals of all kinds are placed where they can get them, as an easy way of disposing of the refuse flesh and securing the valuable bones. A regular pound, surrounded by a massive stone wall, is provided for this purpose by the city authorities of Paris, and it is the regular morning work of those in charge to remove the beautifully polished skeletons.

Of course, when thus pampered, the rats multiply amazingly, and, therefore, once in a while a grand battue is necessary to reduce their number. The way in which this is conducted is curious. Horizontal holes are bored all around, in and at the foot of the inclosing walls, the depth and diameter being respectively the length and thickness of a rat's body. Upon the morning of the battue, men armed with tin pans, kettles, drums and other articles for producing horrible noises, rush in at daylight. The astonished rats precipitately rush for the nearest openings, which are those in the walls. But these, while large enough to contain their bodies, will not accommodate their tails, and the walls are soon ornamented with a vista of those anatomically superior members, whisking about like live icicles. Then arrives the rat collector—a scientist in his way—who, with admirable dexterity, seizes the pendent tail, jerks forth the owner, and deposits him in a bag worn over the left shoulder. The privilege of catching the rats is farmed out by the authorities, and a profitable business it is. The rats are sleek and fat, and fetch high prices for their fur, skins and flesh—the latter doubtless appearing in the restaurant where one may have "dinner for one franc with wine, and bread at discretion." Rat flesh is not bad eating, at least so say those who have tried it, our knowledge in the matter being limited. It is delicate, white, firm, tastes like chicken, and in China the soup made from it is considered to be equal to our well known ox-tail. In the Celestial Kingdom rats are worth $2 per dozen.

The credit of suggesting the most extensive utilization of rats is due to P. L. Simmonds, who has lately printed an admirable work on these and other undeveloped sources of profit. Mr. Simmonds suggests that a profitable venture might be made from Kurrachee to Canton and Hong Kong of salted rats. About 7,000,000 could be cured and packed aboard a four-hundred-ton ship. For the sake of curiosity we quote Mr. Simmonds' estimate of profits: 7,000,000 rats at six cents per dozen, $35,000; salting, curing, etc., 60 per cent, $21,000; total cost, $56,000: and 7,000,000 rats sold at $2 per dozen, $1,666,666 66; shows a profit of $1,610,666 66. There, now is a chance for somebody to become a millionaire. Who will try it?

DIPLOMATIC POSITIONS.

Our Representatives Abroad will not Resign as They Are Expected to Do.

[Courier-Journal.]

WASHINGTON, May 24.—The administration is having considerable embarrassment in respect to the diplomatic position. The theory of the President and the Secretary of State is that those appointments are of such a personal and representative character that the present incumbents ought all in delicacy to tender their resignations, and thus give the President an opportunity to make his own selections. With a few exceptions, there does not appear to be any disposition on the part of the present incumbents to resign. On the other hand, individuals are embarrassing the President by a too persistent urgency in pressing their claims for these positions. The Secretary of State is not overpleased with the unauthorized announcements of appointments made from this city. There will be a pretty general change made in the diplomatic appointments.

CAMELS.

The Number in Use in the World.

An estimate has lately been made of the number of camels in the world. Algeria has 180,000; Tunis 50,000, of which 30,000 belong to the Bey; Egypt and Arabia are believed to have nearly 200,000; Spain is credited with about 3000, most of them being in the Canary Islands. The central portion of Asiatic Russia has 350,000; in the Punjaub, India there are 165,000; 6000 are employed in the caravans between Bokhara and Russia; China and Mongolia have more than 250,000, and Persia and Turkey nearly 200,000. The latter, in common with Egypt, uses camels and dromedaries largely for military purposes.