New-York Daily Tribune.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1863.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE WAR.

News from Fort Smith, Ark., to the 2d inst., states that the Rebels are stretched along the Little Missouri River (a branch of the Washita in the southwestern part of the State, from 75 to 100 miles south of Fort Smith). The right wing of the Rebel forces, under Gen. Price, is near Washington; the left wing, under Cabel, is at Suddo Gap; and the center, under Marmaduke, is in the vicinity of Murfreesboro. It is thought that these forces are preparing to attack Fort Smith or Little Rock. The Rebel General Cooper is in the Red River Valley, and Stuneval is in the Creek Nation. Their total force is estimated at 22,000.

The military authorities at Washington received a telegram on Thursday morning from Gen. Foster, who was joined at Cumberland Gap by the forces previously sent thither from Gen. Burnside to guard that important point. The few troops under the former might perhaps be able to inflict some damage on the rear of Gen. Longstreet, who is retreating into Virginia. Gen. Sherman would reach the neighborhood of Knoxville on Thursday.

A dispatch from Chattanooga, dated Dec. 2, says: "The movements of this army now going on cannot be reported. There are questionable reports of a Rebel raid across the Chickamauga River at Red-House Ford, and that the families there took refuge in the town. Rumors continue to thicken of Rebel doings in the border counties of Tennessee.

We have New-Orleans dates to the 23d ult. On the 14th, Gen. Banks sailed from Brazos with a fleet of six steamships, and took possession of Corpus Christi Pass. The latest dispatches say that we now possess and will hold Brazos Santiago Island, Point Isabel, Brownsville, Fort Brown, and Mustang Island.

A Chattanooga dispatch of the 2d inst. says: The movements of our army are contraband. The hospitals are full of the wounded of both armies. Refugees and deserters report that Gen. Bragg has been reinforced near Dalton, Ga., by Joe Johnston.

A dispatch has been received at Cincinnati from Gen. Custer's Chief of Staff, dated Cumberland Gap, the 1st instant, which says nothing of the capture of 5,000 Rebel prisoners at Knoxville.

Memphis advices of the 30th of November say that the steamer Black Hawk was fired into by guerrillas near the mouth of Red River, and several on board were wounded.

Gen. Blunt, whom Quantrell had killed (in the Rebel papers) several times during the month of October, was safe and sound at Fort Smith, Ark., on the 2d of December.

GENERAL NEWS.

A good time was enjoyed at Omaha, Nebraska on Wednesday, the occasion being the opening, beginning, breaking ground or inauguration (a vile phrase) of the Union Pacific Railway. Commoners, Aldermen, Legislators, Governors, &c., were there; Uncle Abraham sent a varioloid note of regret for absence; Mr. Seward regretted also, and offered his foreign relations for excuse; Mr. Chase found time to sign a long letter giving a history of the road (that is to be) from the last century; Mr. Usher was not ushered in, but he, too, sent post-paid regrets in a clever note—in fact, the whole Cabinet was in a state of apologetic regret. Even Gen. Shoot-him-on-the-spot Dix, the President (of the road), was under the necessity of saying that he could not come. Gov. Yates couldn't come; and John J. Cisco (of the money-chest) couldn't come; and T. C. Durant couldn't come; and Mayor Opdyke couldn't come—in fact, almost all the big bugs couldn't come it, and the affair was—like a Democratic meeting—more notable for the absentees than for the presentees. In the evening the Mayor of Omaha gave a symposium, and the city was lighted up, and a great many less talked-about, but equally valuable citizens, enjoyed the good time.

Timothy McEvoy, the Grand-street merchant who attempted to kill his wife on Sunday morning last, by shooting her with a revolver, at his residence, No. 380 Grand street, was on Thursday committed to the Bloomingdale Lunatic Asylum by Justice Dowling—two physicians having certified to the fact of his being in an unsound state of mind. Mrs. McEvoy is still in a critical condition from the effect of the injuries received.

Gold opened at 152, and soon rose to 152⅞, with considerable business. This rate was not long sustained, and at the Stock Exchange the rate was 151⅞@151¾. In the afternoon the price rose again to 152, receding to 152⅛. On the street, Stocks were strong. For some time full Stock Exchange rates were paid, and in some cases an advance, but it was of short duration, and upon sales to realize profits prices broke and closed dull. At the Second Board the market was irregular. Money among Stock houses is quoted at 7 ℘ cent, with a good demand. This class of borrowers supply their wants as readily as merchants. Commercial paper is more abundant, and the best can be bought at at 7 ℘ cent.

The War Meeting at the Cooper Institute last evening was one of the great meetings of the War. A letter from President Lincoln will be read with much interest. The Mayor presided. Judge Dean showed how solemnly city and State were pledged to continue the War to the end; Judge Daly and the Hon. Wm. D. Kelly of Philadelphia made most earnest and effective speeches; Gen. Sickles spoke with rare and touching eloquence of voice and person; James T. Brady consigned all who are lukewarm in the struggle to the contempt which will be heaped upon them; Parke Godwin placed our heroes and their works high in the scale of military achievement; the Rev. Dr. Boole developed force and capacity for which few of his auditors were prepared; Dr. Hitchcock and Col. Stewart L. Woodford spoke the intensity which always characterizes them; the Rev. Mr. Trumbull gave some account of his recent visit to the Confederacy as a prisoner, and Gen. Anderson said a few words in conclusion. The meeting was not adjourned until after 11 p. m., and was a triumphant success. We give an extended report.

MEXICO.

It is hardly necessary for us to remark that the vague report which reaches us from Vera Cruz, via New-Orleans, about the capture of Puebla by the Mexicans, deserves no credit. However active the operations of the guerrillas in the State of Puebla may be, it cannot be for a moment supposed that the French would leave the most important fortress of the country insufficiently protected. We have, moreover, dates from Vera Cruz several days later than the date of the departure of the Breeze, by which this report was received in New-Orleans, and there is nothing in the later intelligence to confirm the rumor.

The accounts which reach us about the progress and prospects of the French expedition are so contradictory as to make it entirely impossible to ascertain the truth in the case with any degree of probability. We may state, however, as an interesting fact, that the Mexican correspondence of the organ of Prince Napoleon, the *Opinion Nationale*, represents the sympathy of the Mexican population with the French as anything but satisfactory, and that it appears to be obviously on the decline. This, it will be seen, fully agrees with the Mexican news which we publish this morning from *The New-Orleans Era*.

WHAT IT COSTS, AND WHAT IT IS THAT COSTS.

The Providence Post seeks to make Copperhead capital as follows:

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES.—The Washington correspondent of *The Baltimore Sun* writes on the 23d of November as follows:

"As the opinion is semi-officially promulgated and reiterated that the estimates of the budget for the next fiscal year will be $1,200,000,000 (those for the Navy Department alone being about $150,000,000), we can approximate the total Government expenditure from the beginning of the war to the end of the fiscal year in 1865. For the several sessions, they are as follows for definite objects: For extra session of 1861, $265,150,000; for regular session of 1861, $931,000,000; for regular session of 1862-3, $976,120,000—total, $2,172,170,000; add for estimates for the next fiscal year, $1,200,000,000—total, $3,373,170,000."

We beg our readers to dwell for a moment on these figures. Our appropriations under Mr. Lincoln's Administration already amount to two thousand one hundred and thirty-three millions of dollars. The next fiscal year, beginning on the first day of July, 1864, is to cost us twelve hundred millions—making a total of upward of three thousand three hundred and thirty-three millions. This may be set down as the cost of Mr. Lincoln's Administration—eclipsing the entire expenditures of the Government from its first organization, under Washington, down to the close of Mr. Buchanan's term!

The total expenditures of the Government during the seventy-two years preceding the inauguration of Mr. Lincoln's Administration were $2,235,077,161. The sum of $424,516,447, included in this amount, was for the reduction of the public debt, and should be deducted in order to arrive at the actual expenditure of the Government. Making this deduction, we have, as the total actual expenditure $1,811,161,714. This is what it cost us to support our Government, carrying it through two foreign wars, from the day on which George Washington was inaugurated down to the day on which James Buchanan left the Presidential office—a sum much smaller than has already been expended by Mr. Lincoln and but little more than half as large as his Administration will have cost us when he retires from office, on the 4th of March, 1865.

These are startling figures, but they should be pondered by the American people. Are we not paying dearly for four years of Abolition rule?

—We print the above without the change of a letter, and without caring to inquire whether the cost of resisting and putting down the Slaveholders' Rebellion be or be not exaggerated by our Democratic cotemporaries above quoted. It is very certain that the cost of this War is enormous, and that it is very likely to equal the whole vast sum at which the Four Millions of Slaves held in 1860 under the American flag were then valued. The official valuation of the entire private or individual property of the American People in 1860 was a little over Sixteen Thousand Millions of Dollars. (We presume the *actual* value of that property was not less than Thirty Thousand Millions.) If, then, the War shall cost Four Thousand Millions, it will consume nearly *one-seventh* of all the property that it found in the Country; which proportion, if we estimate all the private property in the Republic as worth only Twenty Thousand Millions, will be swelled to *one-fifth*. So much is to be wrenched from the sweat and toil of our People to establish the fact that slaveholders must obey the laws and keep the peace the same as other folks, and that those who break up their own party and nominate a bolting ticket on purpose to be defeated, must not make the defeat they have thus contrived and invoked a pretext for Rebellion and Civil War.

This Rebellion is, in all its impulses and incitements, a child of the Democratic party. When it broke out, sixteen States had Democratic Governors to fifteen Republican, and two (Sprague of Rhode Island and Hicks of Maryland) who were of neither great party. Of those sixteen Democratic Governors, *twelve* early and ardently enlisted in the work of dividing and destroying the Union; while of the other four—(Burton of Delaware, Downey of California, Magoffin of Kentucky, and Whitaker of Oregon)—*not one* has given a hearty and thoroughgoing support to the struggle of the Republic for existence. Every Governor who did not call himself a Democrat stood for the Union against the Rebellion—twelve of the sixteen Democratic Governors openly took the other side, while, of the other four, at least three have betrayed a very decided sympathy with the Rebels.

This gigantic treason was for years fermenting and preparing in the bosom of the Democratic party before it burst out into Rebellion and Civil War. Many Democrats have nobly resisted and still resist it; but this does not affect the truth that it is essentially and practically a Democratic revolt, fomented and inaugurated by Democratic leaders, and finding sympathy and support, even in the loyal States, mainly among the most bigoted devotees of partisan Democracy. Find a sympathizer with and apologist for this atrocious Rebellion where you will, you may be certain—even though he were a violent Federalist in the olden time, and a bitter Whig since—that he now calls himself a Democrat.

Suppose, then, that it shall cost a sixth, a fifth, or even a fourth, of all the property in the land to suppress this Rebellion, who shall bear the blame—the Rebels, or those on whom the Constitution imposes the duty of putting them down? Were the Democratic party to carry the State of Rhode Island next April, and their opponents thereupon break out into a rebellion and inaugurate a civil war which, before it could be closed, would whelm the State in blood and ruin, destroying half its property, would *The Post* consider *that* a reason for blaming the Democrats and restoring their antagonists to power?

MISSOURI.

The Commercial has a St. Louis letter of the 27th ult., which says:

"The State Election returns continue to arrive at the State Capital. The rejection of a few soldiers' votes in each county has given the Conservative State ticket a majority of about 1,500. It is not much of a victory to crow over. The Radicals carried six of the nine Congressional districts, a majority of the Counties, three-fourths of the large cities, and the soldiers' vote entire. The party will enter upon the next canvass with the most confident assurances of success."

—The Conservative party has probably as many soldiers in the field as the Radical; but, being in the Rebel service, no provision has been made for taking their votes in a Union canvass. Unless this oversight shall be corrected, the Conservatives will probably fly the track at the next election, as their Delaware brethren did three weeks ago. It is but another form of the hateful "test-oath," which compels a good many Conservatives to perjure themselves by swearing to support the Constitution and oppose the Rebellion, on penalty of losing their votes. Was there ever before such despotism?

The Conservative strength is mainly concentrated in a dozen strongly pro-Slavery Counties which the guerrillas and bushwhackers have very nearly cleared of Radicals. Having ascertained by experience that men shot through the brain from behind a convenient fence or thicket seldom make much trouble thereafter, the Conservatives of these Counties have left hardly Radicals enough in them to say 'we;' so the vote is practically unanimous and quite heavy. These Counties, with "the rejection of a few soldiers' votes in each County," have reëlected the present able and popular Judges of the Supreme Court of Missouri by a handful of votes over their comparatively unknown Radical competitors. It is evidently the last success of Conservatism in Missouri—at least, until its voters now serving under Price and Bragg shall return to swell their vote. Until then, they will probably be driven to adopt the Delaware dodge of not voting at all.

THE CENTRAL ISSUE.

The Herald, echoed by *The Express*, sees fit to say that

"The New-York Central Railroad war progresses charmingly, and has now resolved itself into a regular political campaign over the election of a new Board of Directors. The bulls and the bears of Wall street, heartily disgusted at the aspect which the battle has assumed, have withdrawn from the contest, and left the leaders and the leading journals of both political parties to occupy the arena and to carry on the conflict in a purely partisan style. The cause of the difficulty and the basis of the war may be found in the following four lines:

Erastus Corning, Democrat, President.
Dean Richmond, Democrat, Vice-President.
John V. L. Pruyn, Democrat, Treasurer.
Chauncey Vibbard, Democrat, Superintendent."

—We beg leave to state, with all possible courtesy, that the facts are quite otherwise than the above statement would make them. The fact that the four leading, controlling managers of the Central are all Democrats is *not* our reason for wishing a change in the direction. Their individual politics are no concern of ours. But the managers of such a powerful, gigantic corporation, employing and patronizing so many thousands of voters, ought not to be eternally running the machine of any political party. Now look at the four gentlemen named above in their political capacity:

Erastus Corning, Democratic candidate for Congress in 1856, '58, '60 and '62;

Dean Richmond, perpetual Chairman and autocrat of the Democratic State Central Committee;

John V. L. Pruyn, Democratic candidate for Senate in 1861 and for Congress in 1863;

Chauncey Vibbard, Democratic candidate for Congress in 1860.

Suppose this were all, we put it to the candor of experienced business men to say whether it is right. Either Mr. Corning or Mr. Pruyn has been a candidate in Albany County—where the Central has a pecuniary hold on thousands of voters—at every important election since 1854. Under their management, that County, which had previously gone the other way, has been made to roll up very heavy Democratic majorities. So the Central's extensive patronage at Schenectady and in the Counties just above on the Mohawk, elected Mr. Vibbard to Congress when no Democrat without that patronage could have been chosen. So the Central's patronage last year sent its Attorney Kernan to Congress from the strongly Republican County of Oneida, which he will misrepresent for the two years ensuing. So it bewitched Mr. Cutler, elected to the last Assembly from the Republican district in Albany, he having always before been a Republican, though working for the Central. And we are well assured that Buffalo City and the great County of Erie would have gone our way this year but for the Central Railroad patronage wielded by Dean Richmond. And these are but samples of a constant and steadily increasing abuse of power by Messrs. Corning, Richmond & Co.

We beg the stockholders of the Central to meet the issue squarely at their ensuing choice of Directors, and let the People know what is to be hereafter. It is not pleasant to have men in Congress and the Legislature who represent Corning and Richmond while they grossly misrepresent the districts from which they hail; but we can generally stand it, as has been conspicuously evinced in the late Election. But the People do n't want to fight the Central Railroad, and it is not the interest of its stockholders to force a contest upon them. They do not ask that A., B. or C. shall be a director; they do not care whether there shall be more or fewer directors of this or that party in the Board; they ask simply that the stockholders shall take their Road out of the arena of politics, and let the State govern itself. And this, we feel confident, will be conceded.

KNOXVILLE.

Gen. Burnside was attacked on Sunday last, beat off the enemy after a hard fight, and still holds Knoxville inflexibly. He did *not* capture Wheeler's division of 5,000 cavalry as previously reported—but credited by no sane man—*via* Cincinnati, for the sufficient reason that they were not engaged in the assault. Nor do we recollect any recent occasion, unless Philadelphia may have favored us, in which cavalry has been employed against fortifications. But Gen. Burnside was completely victorious. The very determined effort of the enemy cost them 100 killed, 234 prisoners, and about 400 wounded, against which we have to offset a loss on our side of less than 25, all told. Longstreet was allowed a truce to bury his dead, and his wounded were sent into his lines. All was quiet next day.

Assured that Burnside was safe so late as Monday, we see no reason to doubt that he will hold out till Wilcox or Granger reaches him. The siege was a fortnight old on Monday. Longstreet's hope of carrying Knoxville by a sudden dash had been utterly disappointed. He had been driven to undertake regular siege operations, and these culminated for the time in Sunday's assault. There can be no doubt that that assault was delivered on the reception of the news of Bragg's defeat. Longstreet then knew that no time was left him to continue and complete his investment of Knoxville—knew that he was in hourly danger of being cut off from Bragg, and of being himself attacked in rear—knew that the bayonet was his only chance of getting Knoxville and securing his own retreat. So the Rebels stormed in upon Burnside early Sunday morning—and did *not* take Knoxville. Their heavy loss is enough to indicate that they made the attempt in force; put all the men to the work that could be used. Beaten, they must give over the siege unless they mean to try once more what they have just failed to accomplish.

On the whole, therefore, and for the first time, we incline to believe Burnside's position secure. Wilcox cannot be far. Granger must be within, at most, three days march. Ere this it is likely Longstreet has abandoned the siege, and is making what haste he can into Virginia. He may or may not have renewed his assault, but in any case there is nothing to indicate a likelihood of his success.

The country ought to recognize the gallantry of Burnside's defense, and indeed to award high praise for his whole campaign in East Tennessee. We have no general who could have done better. It is the fashion with Copperhead and some other journals, to abuse General Burnside because of the Vallandigham arrest, and they have very malignantly and persistently endeavored to blacken his military reputation. Gen. Burnside is now entitled to the more generous credit for recent as well as past services.

FREEDOM AT THE TOP.

We hear from Washington that the third and last section of the colonal statue of "Freedom," has been hoisted to its place, and that the completed work now crowns the capital. Of the artistic merits of this image we do not propose to speak. It is enough to know, that baptized as it has been, by a name which should be dear to us all, it stands there, in its huge proportions, and will be, as we please to make it, a mentor, a censor, a scoffer, or a satirist. It may indicate the living present, full of great ideas reduced to palpable social concretes, or it may be no more than the mocking memorial of fading traditions and of virtues which have grown antique; so that, in the fitness of things, it would have been better for us to have left it there, unfinished, uncrowned, a fragment, a torso, an indicative beginning of an impossible conclusion. If we are to achieve no more, may the merciful Muse of History forget what we have already done! If Freedom be only a false-tongued prophetess, leading us merely into the quagmires of anarchy, it would have been wiser to have symbolized the melancholy fact by a counterfeit presentment which should represent not our virile power but our incapacity to live up to the light vouchsafed to us—not our moral strength but our moral dreams! But the time for this prudent disposition of the question has passed. If we must be renegades, we can no longer be consistent ones. With this enthusiastic eye fixed upon the lotty lady, while the other traverses the ground for things pleasant, profitable, and perishable, we shall be in danger not alone of a physical squint, but of a wrench in our moral nature, which will be fatal to all integrity and intensity of purpose. As a people, we have not been remiss in the erection of statues to our dead great. The ghost of George Washington might upbraid us, but it would be for the quality and not the quantity of his personal monuments. We have Franklins, and Clays, and Websters, in stone, in brass, and in plaster. Now, as a kind of aggregate and plastic compendium of what they did and taught, we solidify the central and informing idea of all their toil, and confess once more our faith that Freedom alone can give to political institutions justice, permanence and consistency. By our command, the artist has put the formulas of the Republic into a visible shape, and sought to typify the religion of politics. If he has done his work well, it is we alone who can make it laughable.

It must be admitted that while Freedom has charms enough to attract us, we have been but timorous wooers, and just a little afraid of the deity in her sterner and more exacting moods. We have sworn big oaths, but we have been too apt to mitigate them by mental reservation. We have been afraid to accept a grand, original stand-point, and have muddled ourselves with moldly models, seeking to become not what men should be in this nineteenth century, but what men were in Athens, in Carthage, or in Rome. If we succeeded in our parody of historic virtues, we took our success for a licence to indulge in historic vices, and called Greeks, and Romans, and Jews from their graves to speak to our good character. It was, however, in the slaveholding South that this silly necromancy was most in vogue; it was there that, in defence, for they disdained simple extenuation of a giant wrong, the custom of the world's sprawling infancy was pleaded as a precedent for the blunders of the world's maturity; it was there that property in man was vindicated by an appeal, now to the classics, and anon to the Holy Scriptures. Alas! what dreary and dry pamphlets have we read, the productions of Divine Doctors or Diabolical Lawyers, in which the writers, at once fiery and "fogy," stumbled from their conclusions up to their premises, and stuck between the two in a dreadfully dubious and bemired condition! If the Confederates merely took up arms, to rid themselves of this comic inconsistency, and the never-ending necessity of making bricks of the logical description without straw, we have hardly the heart to blame them. Standing face to face and foot to foot with the Free North, child-stealing chivalry has thrown away its historic mask, and challenges the world to admire its native Satanic features. We are really much obliged to it. If a man tells us that he is a slaveholder because he cannot help himself—that he inherited his human goods from his grandmother—that the laws of his State deny him the privilege of emancipating his serfs—that he continues to hold them from motives of benevolence—that he loves them as he does his own children—that he keeps their backs warm and their bellies full—that he tries to be as nearly like Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as possible—if a man uses language like this, you see at once that if he is not ashamed of himself, he feels that he should be, and you are somewhat inclined to half pity him. But the Confederacy comes to its conclusions by a shorter and less tolerable cut. It contents itself with dogged assertion. Freedom is a humbug. Equality is a delusion. Liberty is a snare. Social justice is sheer infidel theory. Might is right. That is property which the law makes property. Argument is out of the question. And so, like other tyrants, they rush to the *ultima ratio* of war, and propose to make good by bloodshed what they cannot make good by Biblical commentary. Thus the issue is made up, as it should long before have been, and we come at last to understand that Freedom has work for the soldier as well as the singer, and needs our battle-slogans more than our pretty rhythmic hymns. This hard schooling can scarcely be regarded as a misfortune, unless some lamentable concurrence of events seduces us from our fidelity to truth and our traditions. The nation never so much as now needed to feel the priceless value of Human Freedom—the ineffable iniquity of denying it to the least of God's creatures—the inestimable importance to the future of working wisely for Liberty in the present—the countless hopes of mankind which are now in jeopardy. The world has gone wretchedly backward once, and it may do so again. It may overleap the dividing lines of Feudality, and tumble into its primitive barbarism. The race has reached a point at which it is absurd to expect it to pause—infinitely better must be, or infinitely worse. We have placed over the edifice in which our laws are to be enacted the effigy of Freedom. We put it there, with no Slave crouching at the feet of the brave figure, to indicate any deceitful reservation. We have put it there in token of our acknowledgment that, in the sight of Justice, no man is born a Master, and no man born a Slave. May it tell that beautiful truth to many generations, and attest to our descendants that our hands were not afraid to obey the promptings of our minds and hearts.

GRATIFYING.

We learn that the Rt. Rev. the Bishop (Hopkins) of Vermont was never in better health, or better able to do the quantity of writing he has to do just now; not only his book, but to answer the hundreds of letters that he receives from every part of the country, principally to praise him, and to show their gratitude to God that there is one man among the clergy who has boldness enough to stand alone and battle against the fanaticism that is endangering the Church. Many say that thousands of prayers are offered daily for a continuance of his life and health, and the blessing of God on his faithfulness. [N. Y. Express.

—The "fanaticism that is endangering the Church," which this Rt. Rev. man of God has had the "boldness" to resist, is the novel and singular notion that one man should not have secured to him by law the right to whip other men's wives into submission to his baser appetites, nor to sell his own daughters to wealthy libertines on the auction-blocks of Richmond or New-Orleans. It is quite possible that this "fanaticism" is "endangering" some things that call themselves "the Church" or churches; but how any one but a fiend could regret that, or why prayers should be offered to any good being for "a continuance" of *such* "boldness," we cannot imagine.

C. L. Riddell, Postmaster at New-Orleans under Buchanan's Administration, is in Washington for the purpose of effecting an arrangement with the Federal authorities for reorganizing the State Government of Louisiana.

Mr. Riddell, as a "Buck and Breck" office-holder, of course did his full share toward *disorganizing* the State Government of Louisiana, and it is but fair that he should now take a leading part in *reorganizing* it. If he could only persuade his Democratic brethren that they had destroyed Slavery by their rebellion, so that it can never be restored to a safe and healthy vitality, his task would be an easy one.

PROBABLE SUCCESS OF THE CONGRESS OF SOVEREIGNS.

Progress Made by the Congress in Public Opinion—Character of the English Reply—King Leopold of Belgium Selected as the Draughtsman of the Points to be Debated—The Consent of England will carry with it that of the German States—The Majority of the Sovereigns in Favor of Louis Napoleon's Plan—The Pope to be President of the Congress.

From an Occasional Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2, 1863.

Notwithstanding what has been said in England and in Germany of the impracticability of a European Congress, the discussion which that proposal has provoked, and the examination of the consequences likely to grow out of it, have in no way injured its prospects. There is hardly any doubt to-day that the measure is immensely popular among the masses, and finds opponents only among the conservative and privileged classes of society, always afraid of a change, however beneficial it may be for the people at large. But these classes, and particularly the aristocracy of England, will fill the necessity of yielding to the popular current. You may see already an indication of it in the reply of the English Government to Louis Napoleon's letter. This reply is not a protest against the principle set forth in the letter, but simply an explanation of the measure and form in which the principle is to be applied. It is not a refusal, but a conditional acceptation. As such, it may even be looked upon as a triumph for the French Government.

This explanation will be given, I understand, in such a way as to facilitate greatly the unconditional assent of England to the European Congress. King Leopold, the experienced and sagacious monarch of Belgium, has been empowered by Louis Napoleon to draw up the points to be debated in it, and to use his influence, great as you know, upon England, in order to conciliate differences, should there be any in the way; in a word, to act as an arbiter between France, the promoter of this movement, and the other nations whose consent is required to make it successful. The choice could not be better; the old king is the creature of a revolution, and understands perfectly the revolutionary ideas of the age. His popularity, as well as his wisdom, are a guaranty of the success of the task he has undertaken.

The assent of England once known will carry with it the assent of Austria and Prussia, for the reason that those two nations, the most exposed in Europe, Russia excepted, are not in a condition to reject a proposition which may be looked upon as a guaranty of the integrity of their kingdom, or as a means of compensation for the losses they may incur in the remodeling of the map of Europe. You may then be certain that when England shall signify her assent to France, the whole of Germany, with which she is now conferring, will follow her example. As to the second and third rate States of the German Confederacy, they are secretly—some of them openly—in favor of the French scheme. The sovereigns of those States know that they have nothing to lose and everything to gain in a meeting in which the humble and the weak will be the equal of the proud and of the great. They have still before their eyes the example of that great statesman Cavour, who, in the Congress of Paris of 1856, then the representative of the very small kingdom of Sardinia, did so much by his talents and adroitness, that he attracted the attention of the august assembly there convened, and actually set down the foundation, in that very Congress, of that magnificent work which now bears the name of the Kingdom of Italy.

Among the influences now at work to put an end to the irresolutions of England and of Germany is the startling fact that the majority of the sovereigns invited to the Congress has acquiesced in Louis Napoleon's scheme. The whole of the sovereigns invited were, as you know, fifteen or sixteen; of that number, eight are said to have given their assent: France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Rome, Turkey, Sweden, and Denmark. The assent of Russia is yet doubtful; still my informations lead me to believe that before the invitations to the Congress were sent, Louis Napoleon had received the assurance of the consent of Alexander to his project.

The sovereign mentioned as the probable President of the Congress among diplomats and statesmen is the Pope. This unprecedented honor is likely to be conferred upon him not on account of his spiritual character, but simply because he represents the oldest government among the nations of modern Europe.

Anniversary of the Third Decade of the American Anti-Slavery Society.

From Our Own Reporter.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 3, 1863.

As a sequence to the foundation of the American Anti-Slavery Society in Boston, in 1833, by Mr. William Lloyd Garrison and coadjutors, the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society was founded at a series of meetings in Adelphi Hall, in this city, during the 4th, 5th, and 6th of December, the same year. At the close of each period of ten years, anniversaries have been held in commemoration of the event; and this morning, at 10 o'clock, a large assemblage of ladies and gentlemen filled the magnificent Concert Hall as a renewed memorial of the period. Of the sixty persons who signed the Declaration of Sentiment on the 6th of December, 1833, forty-five are still living. A few of these fainted by the way, and relapsed into an ignoble concurrence with the general Pro-Slavery feeling of the time, but the majority pushed on with high and holy purpose, and have lived to see, in a blessed old age, a rich fruition of their hopes. Upon the platform were several of these, including Mr. James Mott, President of the Society, accompanied by his widely-known and esteemed wife, Mrs. Lucretia Mott. Back of the stage numerous American flags were draped around a picture of John Brown, the grandest martyr to the Cause, and above, in gigantic letters, was the motto of "Liberty and Union," also enfolded by Stars and Stripes, and accompanied by various Anti-Slavery quotations from the writings and speeches of American statesmen. Prominent among these, and fully in front, was the following extract from a letter of Washington: "It being among my first wishes to see some plan adopted by which Slavery in this country may be abolished by law." Also an assertion of Monroe in a speech to a Virginia Convention, which ran thus: "We have found that this evil has preyed upon the vitals of this Union, and it has been prejudicial to all the States in which it has existed." Around the hall were numerous banners inscribed with mottoes. Of these, one from a poem of Whittier was perhaps the most striking:

"Lo! the waking up of nations
From Slavery's fatal sleep!
The murmur of the Universe,
Deep calling unto deep!"

And another from William Burleigh:

"Hope and wait!
For though long the strife endure,
Freedom's triumph shall be sure!
Toil in faith, for God hath spoken,
Every fetter shall be broken,
Soon or late!"

Among the notables taking places on the platform were, William Lloyd Garrison, President of the American Anti-Slavery Society; Theodore Tilton, Assistant Editor of *The Independent*; Oliver Johnson, Editor of *The Anti-Slavery Standard*; J. Miller McKim, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society; Charles C. Burleigh; Abby Kelly Foster, with her husband, Stephen S. Foster; Mrs. Lucy Stone Blackwell; Miss Susan B. Anthony; Miss Mary Grew; Robert Purvis; J. Elizabeth Jones; Fred. Douglass; Dr. Hudson, President of the New-York City Anti-Slavery Society; the Rev. Dr. Furness; the Rev. Sam'l J. May of Syracuse; Sam'l May, jr., of Boston, General Agent of the American Anti-Slavery Society; Rev. John T. S. Sargent of Boston; James Buffum of Lynn; Miss Mattie Griffith of New-York, formerly of Kentucky, who nobly gave freedom to all her slaves; Miss Sarah Pugh; Thomas Garrett of Wilmington, a sturdy Quaker, who, in a Slave State, dared to harbor, in a series of years, two thousand fleeing bondmen, and dispatch them to a land of freedom; Thos. Whitson; Aaron Murray, and Wendell Phillips Garrison, son of the President of the meeting. To the regret of all, Mr. Wendell Phillips, though expected, did not appear.

After several secretaries had been appointed in conjunction with the President, Mr. Garrison, the latter, remarked, that this the celebration of the third decade of the Society, would probably be that of the last, for Slavery could not last another ten years, and we were evidently near the jubilee, when the freedom of every American slave will be finally sung. Seeds sown in weakness, had been raised in power and glory, and the spectacle was no longer that of a few humble individuals struggling against a nation, but a nation rocking in the throes of a mighty earthquake. As far as the Anti-Slavery field was concerned, the labors of all coadjutors would probably soon close, but yet another sphere of incessant and colossal work presented itself, that of inducting into thrift, education and well-being, the millions of wronged beings lately freed from thrall and awoke to a higher life. Mr. Garrison then caused to be read by his son letters from Arthur Tappan, John G. Whittier, Samuel G. Thurston, and Samuel Fessenden of Maine, James Freeman Clark, the Rev. O. B. Frothingham, the Hon. Owen Lovejoy, the Hon. Joshua R. Giddings, John Rankin of Ohio, B. Gratz Brown, Senator from Missouri, Charles Sumner, Judge Conway of Kansas, Geo. W. Curtis and others, who were unable to attend. Mr. Lovejoy announced himself as in favor of an act of Congress abolishing Slavery throughout the limits of the United States, and making it a penal offense to hold or claim a slave. Mr. Henry C. Wright quoted a late assertion of a United States Senator, that an amendment to the Constitution would soon be offered that should prohibit forever Slavery within the limits of the Union.

Here the meeting was interrupted by the measured tramp of entering soldiers, who proved to be a squad of a dozen sergeants and corporals of the 8th U. S. Colored Regiment, lately recruited, and stationed at Camp William Penn, on the city outskirts. On motion of Mr. J. Miller McKim, they were invited to a seat upon the platform, as indicating a new phase of the Anti-Slavery movement. Mr. Garrison said that this alone was enough to show that the death-warrant of Slavery was sealed in our country. As the soldiers marched up the aisle, and took their places, tears among the audience were abundant. Few, doubtless, could define the cause of their emotion. These humble, honest-faced men, elevated to manhood, and wearing the honored badge of soldiers of the United States, typified the culmination of a great and noble work. The soul being fused with deep sympathy for that work, found the ready accompaniment of tears. Dr. Furness remarked that the first time he sat upon a platform with Mr. Garrison, Isaiah Rynders and his crew stood threateningly behind him. He little foresaw that in a few years afterward Mr. Garrison would have behind him black soldiers of the Union. He then read the Declaration of Sentiments of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society, and remarked that the Fire-Eaters of the South and the Abolitionists had one bond of union. The latter undertook to kindle the Northern heart, forgetting that they would also fire the Southern heart. The former undertook to fire the Southern heart, but little thought what a tremendous firing they would give the Northern heart. The only difference was that the Abolition fire was borrowed from Heaven, and that of the Fire-Eaters from another unmentionable place.

In the afternoon another session was held, when Mr. J. Miller McKim gave in detail an interesting description of the foundation of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society at Adelphi Hall, when Beriah Green was the first President, and Lewis Tappan and John G. Whittier were Secretaries. He was followed by Mrs. Lucretia Mott and Miss Mary Grew, who described the hesitation with which women were received as members. This led to the formation of a Woman's Anti-Slavery Society, until the two were finally incorporated.

Mr. Garrison addressed the society last evening by way of preliminary. Rev. Henry Ward Beecher will speak before it this evening at the Academy of Music.

Henry Ward Beecher in Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, Thursday, Dec. 3, 1863.

An immense audience assembled at the Academy of Music to night to hear the lecture of the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher. Gov. Curtin's introductory address was principally an appeal for the widows and orphans of deceased soldiers. Mr. Beecher treated national topics principally, in reference to the views entertained of them in Europe.

Mr. Beecher spoke with evident satisfaction of his efforts in England, and paid a high tribute to the general character of the English people. A comparison between Presidents Jackson and Lincoln, very favorable to the latter, brought a storm of enthusiastic and long-continued applause.

ARRIVAL OF THE SCOTIA.—The R. M. steamship Scotia, Capt. Judkins, from Liverpool 21st and Queenstown 22d ult., arrived last night with merchandize and passengers.

HOTEL ARRIVALS.—Senators Doolittle, Iowa; Harris, Albany, and Anthony, Rhode Island; Capt. S. Gardiner and family, Boston, and J. W. Gosler and wife, Ky.; N. Yocum, Memphis, Tenn.; D. B. Smith, Toledo; A. B. Morgan, Troy, and H. Sibley, Rochester, arrived at the St. Nicholas Hotel yesterday.

Senator Chas. Sumner, Boston; Gen. Sherman, U. S. Vols.; Col. S. S. Smoot, Washington; John S. Rideford, Boston; F. M. Reazor, Philadelphia, and S. P. Moore, Pa., are at the Metropolitan Hotel.

Senator J. Collamer and wife, Vt.; Commander G. M. Ransom, U. S. Navy; the Hon. Wm. Wasson, M. C., Auburn; the Hon. Stephen K. Williams, M. C., N. Y.; the Hon. D. C. Littlejohn, Oswego; Judge J. R. Swan, Columbus; Dr. Philpots, England, and Mr. and Mrs. Ritchie, Canada, are at the Astor House.

Most of the Senators and Representatives in Congress above mentioned proceeded to Washington last evening.