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GENERAL FOREIGN NEWS.

FRANCE.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE ASSEMBLY—POSTPONEMENT OF THE DEBATE ON THE ELIGIBILITY OF THE ORLEANS PRINCES—ANOTHER INCENDIARY FIRE IN PARIS—SUICIDE OF A COMMUNIST OFFICIAL—ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE THE GERMAN PREFECT OF STRASBOURG.

LONDON, Monday, June 5, 1871.

Dispatches from Versailles represent that the French Assembly presented an animated appearance to-day. Many notabilities occupied seats on the floor, and the galleries were crowded with spectators, in anticipation of the debate of the right of the Orleans Princes to seats in the House. Among the distinguished persons present were Prince Metternich and nearly all the members of the Diplomatic Corps.

President Thiers moved a postponement of the discussion. He said he had passed hours in consultation with the members of the Committee having charge of the subject which now engaged the attention of the Assembly, and the Committee had acknowledged to him that it was impossible for them to come to an agreement to-day, and he had requested them not to hasten their deliberations. He stated that he was very unwell, and begged that the Assembly would consent to a postponement of the consideration of the grave questions at issue until Thursday. The Committee, he said, favored a simultaneous decision on the verification of the elections of the Orleans Princes and the abrogation of the decree of exile against them. The Assembly then agreed to an adjournment of the debate.

Deputies in the Assembly from the Departments occupied by the German troops intend to move that the disquieting debates in regard to the position of the Orleans Princes be postponed until the conclusion of a loan and the payment of the war indemnity has freed the country from the Germans.

The Committee appointed to consider what action should be taken in regard to the acts of the recent Governments of France, reported in favor of investigation into the administration of the Government of National Defense at Paris, Tours, and Bordeaux, and of the Government over which M. Thiers presided.

Dispatches from Paris state that the insurgent Lieut.-Col. Boursier committed suicide to-day just as he was about to be arrested. There was a serious fire in the Montmartre quarter last night, which is suspected to have been caused by a petroleum bomb. Arrests continue to be made in all parts of the city. Belleville, La Villette, and Montrouge are still patrolled day and night.

La Liberté has a report that an attempt has been made to assassinate the German Prefect of Strasbourg, who was fired at with a revolver and wounded.

The prisoners at Saint Sulpice endeavored on Sunday to get possession of some arms. The attempt was discovered and frustrated. Several of the soldiers, who abetted the prisoners, were arrested, and immediately sent to Versailles.

There is a rumor, which has not yet been confirmed, that Felix Pyat was arrested in Paris to-day.

An address to the Pope is circulating in the provinces. It expresses the hope that regulated France will lend an avenging arm to the Holy Father. The document is freely signed.

French soldiers returning from imprisonment in Germany replace the Mobilized Guard as fast as they arrive. In the Colony of Algeria none of the Mobile Guard will be retained under arms.

BELGIUM.

VICTOR HUGO THANKING HIS DEFENDERS.

BRUSSELS, Monday, June 5, 1871.

The *Independance Belge* of to-day publishes a letter from Victor Hugo expressing his thanks to the five Deputies in the Belgian Chambers who voted for an order of the day regretting the vigorous measures adopted by the Government for his expulsion from the country.

ANOTHER SUB-MARINE CABLE LAID.

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION ESTABLISHED BETWEEN ENGLAND AND CHINA.

LONDON, Monday, June 5, 1871.

The submarine cable between Singapore and Hong Kong was successfully completed on Saturday, the 3d inst. London is now in direct telegraphic communication with China.

THE TREATY OF WASHINGTON.

EARL DE GREY AND RIPON IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

LONDON, Monday, June 5, 1871.

In the House of Lords, to-day, Earl de Grey and Ripon, who had just returned from his mission to the United States, as a member of the Joint High Commission, appeared and resumed his seat. He received a pleasant welcome from his fellow members, and was warmly felicitated upon the conclusion of the Treaty with the United States.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Gladstone declared that the existing laws were ample to enable the Government to fulfil the conditions of the Treaty of Washington.

ITS RATIFICATION ASSURED BY THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

WASHINGTON, June 5.—Private letters, received in this city from England, state that Mr. Disraeli will positively support the Treaty of Washington. His influence, added to that of Sir Stafford Northcote in the House of Commons, is expected to carry a majority of the Tory party.

THE NEW DOMINION PRESS ON THE TREATY OF WASHINGTON.

OTTAWA, Ont., June 5.—*The Times* of this morning, apparently speaking as representing Sir John A. Macdonald, says the statement in *The Montreal Witness*, and accepted in good faith by the American papers, to the effect that the Dominion Parliament would not be asked to consider the Treaty, that Lord Lisgar had signed it, and that it was ratified as far as Canada was concerned, is without a shadow of foundation. The Treaty can only be ratified by Her Majesty, and when so ratified, the whole takes effect, except those clauses which relate to the Fisheries and transhipment of goods. These will come into effect when the Legislatures of Great Britain, the several Provinces, and the Congress of the United States have passed the necessary acts.

The same paper, in replying to some newspaper strictures on the Treaty, says that it speaks with authority when it says that neither the Government of Canada, as a whole, nor Sir John A. Macdonald, as Premier, are committed to the Treaty; that they have reserved to themselves complete freedom of action in the matter; that it is utterly untrue that Sir John A. Macdonald or any one authorized in his behalf, have claimed that he did anything under compulsion or reservation. The article concludes by saying that the Premier's course as a politician and statesman ought to be sufficient to assure the public that when able, with propriety, to state his position, it will be found satisfactory.

MEXICO.

AN ABORTIVE REVOLUTION AT TAMPICO—THE PUBLIC FUNDS IN DANGER—EXCITEMENT OVER THE APPROACHING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION—THE RETURN OF SENOR ROMERO TO THE UNITED STATES AGAIN RUMORED.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

MEXICO, May 11.—On the morning of the 2d inst. the garrison of Tampico pronounced under the leadership of Lieut.-Cols. Molina and Calleja. The force consisted of over 400 men of the Federal army, with a good store of artillery. In their plan they repudiate President Juarez, and demand that his place shall be occupied by the Vice-President, Mr. Lerdo, until a new election can be verified. They caught and keep as prisoners, Gen. Lopez, the military commander, Don Francisco Rojas, the administrator of the Custom-House, and several other Federal officers. The chief of the artillery, Don Juan Garcia, escaped to Pueblo Viejo, from whence, on the 3d inst., he informed the Government by telegraph of what had occurred; and he, in company with some other escaped officials, immediately commenced to organize National Guards to counteract the revolutionary movement. Gen. Corella, second chief of the Third Division, happened to be in Altamira, seven leagues from Tampico, with his escort, and he instantly collected some police and interposed them between Tampico and the bar. The communications of the revolutionists with the interior were thus cut by a few men.

An American steamer happened to be in Vera Cruz, and the Mexican Government ordered Gen. Ceballos to embark in her with the soldiers he had in that port, to proceed against Tampico. Similar orders were given to Gen. Rocha in San Luis Potosi. Gen. Ceballos disembarked 300 men at the bar on the 8th inst., with which the position taken up by Corella were immediately reinforced, just in time to assist in repulsing a sally of 200 of the revolutionists against Gen. Corella in Puente Blanco. The sortie was evidently a vigorous one, for Gen. Corella, Commander Amaila, and Lieut. Carrillo of the Government forces, are among the wounded; but it was repulsed, and the revolutionists in their retreat left a mountain gun, their dead and wounded, and 14 prisoners.

At 8 o'clock on the morning of the 9th the revolutionists endeavored to surprise an advanced force in the position of Andenegui, but were repulsed, leaving several dead on the ground.

The municipal authorities of Tampico and the townspeople appear to have abstained from any participation in this revolutionary movement.

As a matter of course, the first act of the revolutionary chiefs was to take possession of $10,000 which had been collected in the Custom-House for duties; but the chief of the stamped paper managed to escape with his funds.

In San Luis Potosi, Gov. Escobedo had previously been authorized by the State Legislature to organize the National Guard. It is said that he intends to put 40,000 men under arms, and that he is improving the fortifications. As he is known as a supporter of Mr. Lerdo, many people think that he is preparing to support the latter gentleman by force.

The belief is universal that in consequence of the great excitement of parties about the coming elections, there will be attempts at revolution, and all parties are preparing therefor.

In the important question regarding the maintenance of legitimate local authorities in the State of Guerrero, this Government continues to have a majority in Congress. But on most other matters the Government is in a minority in that body, and the coalitionists are making laws to their own satisfaction. The Juarista deputies have protested that in the expedition of the new electoral law, constitutional forms and guarantees have been violated, and thus a pretext for armed resistance has been established.

MEXICO, May 23.—On the 17th inst., Gen. Don Sostenes Rocha arrived before Tampico with 150 National Guards from San Luis Potosi, and 450 federal troops. As he is the superior officer, he of course assumed the chief command. But his position is a painful one, for the revolutionary garrison is formed of soldiers belonging to his division, and Maximo Molina, who figures as chief of the revolt, is married to the sister of Rocha, and owes to the latter all his military education and promotion.

The communications received from Gen. Rocha by telegraph up to yesterday at mid-day indicate that his troops are drawing their lines closer to the besieged, who are now entirely isolated, and that no fighting of importance has taken place since the arrival of Rocha.

This attempt at revolution in Tampico has not been seconded elsewhere, and probably it will be put down completely in the course of a few days. Gov. Canales of the State of Tamaulipas has issued a proclamation condemning the revolt in Tampico, and is organizing State forces to cooperate against it, in the event of his aid being required.

Gov. Romero Vargas of Puebla has been impeached for arbitrary acts, especially against the Federal Judge in his State, and has been ordered to appear for trial before the General Congress. The Legislature elected as his temporary substitute the Licenciado Don Manuel Romero Rubio. Both gentlemen are prominent members of the Lerdista party.

Guanajuato is peaceful. A small band of revolutionists appeared with some proclamations from the "Directory of Mexico," but it was immediately defeated and dispersed by the inhabitants. The coinage in the Guanajuato mint, in April, amounted to $440,000 in silver and gold.

The electric telegraph from this capital to the port of Matamoros was finished on the 16th inst., and as soon as the Texans complete their line to Brownsville we shall be in magnetic communication with the United States and Europe.

The Governor of Durango informed the Federal Government by telegram on the 11th inst. that Gen. Canto had been found guilty of the assassination of Gen. Patoni, and sentenced to death by the Judge of the First Court.

The report is gaining strength and credence that as soon as the Congress closes its sessions the Minister of Finance, Don Matias Romero, will resign, and will return to Washington to fill the post vacated by Mr. Mariscal. It is rumored that Don Manuel Payno will take charge of the finances.

SOROSIS.

If anything could depress feminine energy it might be supposed that the recent high temperature would have had that effect, but the spirits of the ladies seem to have risen with the thermometer, and the parlors of Delmonico were yesterday more than usually crowded. The Recording Secretary reported that it had been resolved to solicit subscriptions for the purpose of erecting a monument to Alice Cary in the Central Park, and suggested that it should be the work of a woman's hand, if possible. The Executive Committee reported, among other suggestions, that a reception should be given early in the Autumn, by the Sorosis, to which gentlemen should be invited. This was received with acclamations. Miss Clara Louise Kellogg, Miss Adelaide Phillips, and Miss Maria Mitchell were elected honorary members, as a testimony to their distinguished genius in music and astronomy. Mrs. Celia Burleigh gave an interesting sketch of Anniversary Week in Boston, especially the Anniversary of the Woman's Club. The subject of discussion for the day was announced to be: "Is the moral intention of Reginald Archer a sufficient justification of the book?" A member of the Literature Committee read a review of the book, in order to introduce the debate. The reading of the review was followed by a recitation from Hans Andersen, given by Mrs. Ella Clymer, and a trio sung by Miss C. V. Hutchings, Mrs. Abby Hutchinson Patton and Miss Fletcher. Miss C. V. Hutchings, the President of the Sorosis Music Committee, is also Director of Music at the Normal College, and is the first lady in the country known as a conductor of both vocal and orchestral music. At the coming Commencement of this month, two of her own compositions are to be performed, and many interested in chorus-singing look forward to this occasion with much interest. After the Club had been given time to digest the review of Reginald Archer, by the interposition of music and poetry, the topic of the day was called for, and a spirited debate ensued, if debate it can be called, where the general sentiment was in one direction. That sentiment protested against the selection of the topic chosen by the author, and maintained that its working out did not justify that unfortunate choice. The author was defended from any charge of intentional immorality, as her wish to do good was fully recognized, but the book itself was stigmatized in the strongest terms. The conversation was long and interesting, but had to be stopped on account of the lateness of the hour. The Society then adjourned until October.

A MAJOR-GENERAL DIES IN THE TOMBS.

A few weeks ago, Major-General Charles Mundee, left his home in Tallahassee, Florida, to attend the reunion of the Army of the Potomac, at Boston. After the reunion he returned to New-York and called on Gens. Wright, Newton, and Hamilton, who had been his former companions in arms. He was at that time very finely dressed, but was unusually pale and nervous. Upon leaving his friends he went to the low drinking den, No. 110 West-st., and bought a partnership interest for $20. He went there regularly each day, taking no part in the business of the shop, but sitting quietly behind the bar. The whole transaction occurred without the knowledge of his friends, who supposed he had returned home. On Friday three men entered the saloon and were waited on by the partner of Gen. Mundee. After quitting one of them declared he had been robbed, went out for an officer, and had the barkeeper arrested. The following morning Mundee was also arrested on a charge of grand larceny and conducted to the Tombs. About 8 o'clock that night he was seized with convulsions, and died within two hours.

The deceased was a man of great wealth and high standing, and had been an officer in the Regular Army of the United States for 20 years. His friends can account for his conduct only on the ground that he was insane. Gen. Hamilton declares that while with him in the army he was never an intemperate man, and was always highly esteemed by his fellow officers. He was 44 years of age, and leaves a wife and six children. When his friends saw the body at the Tombs it was clothed in very coarse garments, and a ring had been stolen from the hand. The remains will be taken in charge by Gens. Newton, Wright, Shaler, and Hamilton, and forwarded to Tallahassee.

EXTENSIVE FIRE IN WAVERLY, N. Y.

WAVERLY, June 5.—At 6 o'clock this morning a fire broke out in the grocery store of O. W. Shipman & Co., on Broad-st., which destroyed a large portion of the business part of the village. Among the sufferers are the following: O. W. Shipman & Co., grocers; Meyers & Langford, hotel; Frederick E. Spencer, boots and shoes; L. S. Richardson, liquors; E. L. Green, restaurant; W. G. Singhi, photographer; F. M. Sutton, hotel; Faulkner & Dorset, market; Henry Striver, grocery; Robinson & Co., restaurant; Dunn & Field, dry goods; A. J. Nichols, jeweler; A. S. Mott, tailor; Sidney & Murray, bakery; Baker & Co., grocery; A. E. Spalding, millinery; T. S. Walker, produce. Loss, $75,000; insurance, $50,000.

THE ERIE RAILWAY STRIKE.

ELMIRA, June 5.—The strike of the Erie Railway brakemen, at Hornellsville, Corning, and Buffalo, continues, though some of the men have gone to work, and a few freight trains are running. Some trouble has been experienced at Corning and Hornellsville, to-day, by the uncoupling of the cars. Several of the men complain that they have been deceived by their comrades, and say they are ready to go to work.

PERSONALITIES—BY TELEGRAPH.

....Gen. Sherman is expected to return to Washington on the 19th inst.

...."Ted" Lincoln has been very ill in Chicago for the past three or four days. He was slightly better yesterday.

....William A. Van Wagener, Police Justice of Fishkill Landing, was found dead in his bed yesterday.

....The Rev. Wm. Young, widely known as "Father Young," died suddenly at Cleveland, on Sunday.

....Gen. Crook, who is to relieve Gen. Stoneman now in command of the Department of Arizona, left San Francisco for Tucson yesterday.

....Mr. W. W. Corcoran, the Washington broker, has so far recovered as to be able to sit up, and for several days he has spent much time on his piazza. He is still unable to ride out, but he soon expects to remove to his country seat.

....The Arctic steamer Polaris is expected to leave Washington this week for New-York. The names of her officers and crew are as follows: Captain, C. F. Hall; Captain, J. O. Baddington; Chief Mate, Hubbard C. Chester; Second Mate, William Martin; Chief Engineer, Emile Schumann; Second Engineer, John Wilson; Steward, John Glover; Boatswain, Charles Brandt; Firemen, T. S. Berggren and Walter Frederick Campbell. Seven additional experienced seamen complete the crew.

WASHINGTON.

OUR RELATIONS WITH CUBA—VIEWS OF THE AMERICAN CLAIMANTS—AN INTERESTING LAND DECISION—THE CENTRAL RAILROAD TAX CASE—NO PROSPECTS OF AN INDIAN WAR.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Monday, June 5, 1871.

Reports recently sent from this city in relation to the Cuban question, apparently emanating from the Spanish Legation, are claimed by American owners of estates there to give only one side of the subject, and that the most favorable for Spain. It is true that Spain has agreed to settle the claims of American citizens through a Commission to sit in Washington, and that the Commissioners and Officers of the Commission have been named by the respective Governments, and at the first glance it is said this looks like fair dealing on the part of Spain. The American sufferers, however, who have lost property to the amount of many millions, stoutly maintain that the whole arrangement on the part of Spain is but a cheat, and that the Spanish authorities in Cuba are perfectly willing to have the Commission in Washington award judgments against the Home Government to any extent, provided they are allowed to continue the seizure and confiscation of estates belonging to American citizens, sell the large crops of sugar and tobacco for gold, divide it among themselves, and send the owners to Washington for their pay. It is notorious in the history of Spain, they say, that she never pays anything except at the cannon's mouth, and her bonds are worth but 17 cents on a dollar to-day in London. These sufferers further assert that the Captain-General of Cuba is carrying on the war on that island from the proceeds principally of plantations belonging to American citizens. Spain issues orders for the release of these estates to their owners, and the United States officially thanks her for it. The orders pass through the Spanish Legation here, and are acknowledged by the Captain-General, who then pockets them. But the destruction of the plantations continues, in several instances the order for their sale having issued within a week after the order for the release was acknowledged. The Captain-General, it is said, pays not the least attention to the orders from Spain. In several instances these orders for release from Spain have been accompanied with strong official requests from Mr. Fish, but these, too, are pocketed, and, indeed, not even honored with a reply. Nor is this all. Official "black mailers" in Havana are sending dispatches to New-York, in which they inform the owners of the plantations, for the release of which orders have been given, that, if they will pay $100,000 or $200,000 in gold to some one to be named in Havana, the request of Mr. Fish will be respected, and their property will be restored. All this, the owners of these estates maintain, is more than they can bear. "What," they say, "do these bandits in Cuba care about Commissioners in Washington? They are confiscating our property, and we, months after our property has been ordered to be restored, are told to go to the Commission for redress!"

An important case, involving the title to nearly 200,000 acres of valuable land in Minnesota, has just been decided by Acting Secretary Cowan of the Interior Department. The case was between the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company and Geo. F. Brett. The latter claimed to have preempted the land, while the Company affirmed that it was covered by the land grant of March 3, 1857. Secretary Browning decided that no lands whatever should be conveyed to said Railroad Company until the right of Brett to the lands in controversy was recognized by the Company. This decision was confirmed by the subsequent Secretary. Gen. Cowan, to-day, reversed this decision, and all lands due the Company will be certified to them, excepting the tract claimed by Mr. Brett. A warrant will also be issued to Mr. Brett for the lands claimed by him, when the validity of his title will doubtless be tested in the courts.

The report in a New-York Sunday journal that the Attorney-General will decline to recommend an appeal or compromise in the case of the New-York Central Scrip Dividend Tax is incorrect. The case has not been submitted to the Attorney-General, but to the Solicitor of the Treasury Department, and he will not act on it until his return from California. The New-York Central Railroad Company has secured the services of Caleb Cushing to argue the appeal, and he has applied to Commissioner Pleasonton for certain papers filed with him by the counsel of the road. Gen. Pleasonton has refused to give these up, on the ground that upon them he based his decision, and that the public service requires him to retain possession of them. If ordered by a [Court] to produce them, he will allow them to be used in evidence, without, however, constructively going out of his possession. The plea of the railroad company that they never had the money on which the tax is levied, and that there is no longer any New-York Central Railroad, that corporation having been consolidated with the Hudson River Company, is not considered by good lawyers to be valid, especially as the resolution declaring the dividend admitted that it was made from surplus earnings, and no consolidation can deprive the Government of its dues. The Collector has been ordered to collect the tax immediately, and if there is any delay in paying it, Commissioner Pleasonton will seize the property of the Company and sell it according to law.

The Attorney General left town, to-day, without deciding the question of conflicting claims for lands and bonds made by the Kansas Pacific Railroad and the Central Branch of the Union Pacific Railroad. The decision will now be postponed for a month at least.

Some New-York importers of cork slabs have instituted a suit against the Government for the recovery of an excess of duty, which they claim to have paid to the Collector of the Port of Perth Amboy, where the goods were entered. The Collector held that the slabs were not in the same state as when stripped from the trees, and could not, therefore, be admitted at 30 per cent, the duty on cork in its crude state. Secretary Boutwell has informed the District-Attorney that proceedings have been commenced.

Mr. H. M. Williams, formerly Deputy-Collector of the Port of New-York, had a hearing before Secretary Boutwell, to-day, in behalf of a New-York importing firm, who ask an abatement of duty on an invoice of prunes, valued at $100,000, which were spoiled by the excessive heat last Summer, while in a Government warehouse. The Secretary has decided that it was not in his power to grant the relief asked for, and, the goods being worthless, the owners will have to export them, at considerable cost, in order to obtain a rebate of duty, the freight to a foreign country being less than the tariff.

Reports received at the Internal Revenue Bureau, from officers in the South, are more favorable than they have been for several months past. No opposition is now made to the collection of the taxes in regions where the greatest trouble has formerly been met with.

The salaries of the Postmasters throughout the country are to be readjusted on the basis of their receipts during July and August of this year, and the new schedule of salaries will go into effect July 1, 1872.

[GENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.]

There is high official authority for denying the truth of the various disquieting reports which have recently gained currency, to the effect that the War Department apprehends a general Indian war this Summer; that serious differences of opinion and conflicts of authority have arisen between the Interior and War Departments in relation to the treatment of the Indians, and that the subject of Indian Affairs has lately occupied the attention of the Cabinet. There is also sufficient authority for stating that the reports of impending changes in the District and Department Commanders, with a view to a better enforcement of the Ku-Klux legislation of Congress, are equally unfounded, it being especially denied that Gen. Sheridan is to be ordered East to command the Division of the Atlantic.

THE REV. MR. TYNG IN MR. CHENEY'S PULPIT.

CHICAGO, Ill., June 5.—The Rev. S. H. Tyng, jr., of New-York, who preached yesterday for Mr. Cheney, had previously received a note from Bishop Whitehouse informing him of Mr. Cheney's deposition, and reminding him of the canon forbidding a participation in the services with a deposed clergyman. Mr. Tyng paid no heed to the letter, but preached both sermons, Mr. Cheney reading the morning and evening services for him, and the two gentlemen uniting and administering the Eucharist. The congregation was the largest ever assembled in Christ Church. In the evening, even the chancel and vestry were crowded, and hundreds of people were obliged to go away, not being able to obtain standing room.

In the morning sermon no allusions were made to the existing troubles; but in the evening the sermon bore more directly on them, the text being: "Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him he said unto him, Dost thou believe in the Son of God? John ix, 35. Mr. Tyng, among other things, said that when the Church interferes with the rights of individual conscience illuminated by the Word of God, and the liberty of the Christian in his relations to his Lord, then the Church becomes Anti-Christ; for it assumes the functions of Christ, and substitutes itself in Christ's stead. At such a time of apostacy from Christ and His truth it is a blessing to be excommunicated, for the "cast-outs" of the Church are found to be followers of Christ. This passage was received with applause, which Mr. Tyng immediately checked, reminding his auditors that they were in the Church of God and not a lecture-room. Mr. Tyng concluded by exhorting his hearers to hold fast to the old Catholic doctrine—"In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity."

A STARTLING PHENOMENON.

DESTRUCTIVE CYCLONE IN ILLINOIS—ITS PATHWAY ONLY EIGHTY FEET WIDE—NOT A BLADE OF GRASS LEFT IN ITS TRACK.

CHICAGO, June 5.—A terrible cyclone devastated a narrow strip of country near Mason City, Ill., last Friday morning. The storm-cloud was first observed gathering on an open prairie, six miles from Mason City, and from this cloud soon shot out three narrower and spire-like cloud columns, which continued to ascend rapidly, until they reached and seemed to amalgamate with a passing cloud above. This startling phenomenon then moved slowly toward Mason City, but finally changed its course, much to the relief of the people of that place. A mile from its track, an odor, much like that of burning sulphur, was inhaled by several persons. A gentleman, who was within a hundred yards of the cyclone when it passed, says that small flashes of electricity were constantly visible in the storm column, passing from the earth to the clouds above, and that rapid crackling reports were heard, reminding him most forcibly of volleys of musketry. The pathway of the cyclone was nearly three miles in length, and from 20 to 80 feet in width, and in that pathway not a spear of grass, not a stalk of corn or wheat, not a shrub, and not a particle of vegetation, was left alive. For some distance the earth was literally plowed up to the depth of six inches. The column of whirling air must have been intensely hot, as every green thing in its path was dried to a crisp. Another feature of the cyclone was that, while its rotary motion must have been of inconceivably great velocity, its forward motion was only about six miles an hour. The outlines of its pathway were so well defined that, five feet from the outer line of total destruction of vegetation of every kind, not a vestige of its effects could be seen. Fortunately, no house stood in the line of the tornado.

TAMPERING WITH TELEGRAMS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: In common with all who use the telegraph extensively, I thank you for your article in this day's TRIBUNE, commenting upon the course of the Senate in the recent investigation. The value of the telegraph as a medium of communication will be much impaired if there is not an assurance of perfect secrecy respecting the contents of messages. If the gratification of idle curiosity, as was plainly the case with the Senate Committee, be a sufficient pretext for divulging the nature of telegraphic communications, the public will be driven at much inconvenience and expense to adopt measures of security.

The telegraph companies are simply messengers employed to perform confidential duties, and should not be compelled to violate the contract impliedly made with them. I have had occasion from time to time to examine into the management of the telegraphic service abroad, and I found that under the arbitrary, inquisitive, and justly suspicious regime of Napoleon III., Viscount Vougy, the Director General of French telegraphs—a Government officer—declared:

"Far from seeking to extend its supervision into correspondence, the French Government has promoted in international correspondence, and introduced into domestic correspondence, the use of secret dispatches, which enables the public to secure itself from all surveillance."

It is plain from this that the French Government desired to invest the telegraph with absolute security, as private cyphers are common.

The sentiment of the American people was strongly set against establishing a Government postal telegraph, when that project was proposed, mainly because they did not wish to confide their secrets to innumerable Government officials. If a Government employé, who perhaps was indebted for his position to Senator Conkling, filled the place of Mr. Tinker, does any one doubt that he would not have come before the Committee with the copy of the message in his pocket, in anticipation of the wishes of the master of his fate? Some time ago a grain merchant in Chicago lost $200,000 by other operators learning the contents of a telegram addressed to him. Is it not clear that the laxity which would accompany Government control under our non-centralized political system would entail still further losses and annoyance to the public?

This is a subject upon which people are very sensitive, and may be easily roused to indignation. Then shall they utter language as resolute and as scornful as Carlyle used against those who tampered with the British Post-Office in the interest of despots. Here are his words:

"Whether the extraneous Austrian Emperor and miserable old chimera of a Pope shall maintain themselves in Italy, or be obliged to decamp from Italy, is not a question in the Post-Office, what is England's, a question vital to its last extent letters in an English post-office be, as we all fancied they were, respected as things sacred; that opening of men's letters—a practice near of kin to picking men's pockets, and to other still viler and far fatalier forms of scoundrelism—be not resorted to in England, except in cases of the very last extremity. When some new gunpowder plot may be in the wind, some double-dyed treason, or imminent national wreck not avoidable otherwise, then let us open letters—not till then.

"To all Austrian Kaisers and such like, in their time of trouble, let us answer, as our fathers from of old have answered: Not by such means is help here for you. Such means, allied to picking pockets and viler forms of scoundrelism, are not permitted in this country for your behoof. The right honorable Secretary does himself detest such, and even is afraid to employ them. He dare not: it would be dangerous for him! All British men that might chance to come in view of such a transaction would incline to spurn it, and trample on it, and indignantly ask him what he meant by it?"

Substitute the telegraph for the Post-Office, and you have what every wise American feels regarding the reckless scrutiny of telegrams. M.

New-York, June 5, 1871.

FOSTER'S PLEA.

HOW IT WAS OBTAINED—THE WORK OF A BUSY-BODY REPORTER—LETTERS FROM FOSTER AND HIS COUNSEL.

To the Public: The article appearing in *The Star* of Saturday morning last, and from that paper copied by the press, entitled "Foster's Plea," although bearing my signature, was not written nor its publication authorized by me. The facts are these: A gentleman who, it appears, is a reporter for *The Star* paper, came to my prison cell on Friday last, took from his pocket three or four sheets of writing, saying that he had an appeal which he wanted me to sign, and that he would read it to me. I told him I could sign nothing without first seeing my counsel. He said he would read it to me, and then if I would sign it, it should not be published without being first shown to my counsel, and having their full consent. He read it to me: I still declined to sign it without first seeing Judge Stuart. The writer said he would immediately take it to Judge Stuart, and that he would not print it unless with his consent. I then unwillingly and with hesitation signed my name to one of the written sheets, and he left. The whole article was already written when brought to me. I made no communication whatever, and did not dictate or suggest a thought upon any subject or about any matter contained in the article. I had no previous communication with the writer about the matters in the article, and was in no expectation that any paper whatever was to be presented to me for my signature. I am informed that the writer, after obtaining my signature, did show it to Judge Stuart, who protested against its publication, and did all in his power to prevent its being printed. Two of the deputy keepers of the prison know that all I have said is true.

WILLIAM FOSTER.

I desire to say that the signature of Foster to the article alluded to in his card—first printed in *The Star* of Saturday last, and since then copied by several papers—was procured from him without my consent or knowledge, and that immediately on learning what had been done, I resorted to every means with the editors of *The Star*—on account of the great impropriety of the publication of such an article—to prevent its being given to the public, but failed to do so. S. H. STUART.

INTERNATIONAL TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION.

BALTIMORE, June 5.—The International Typographical Union assembled this morning. An address of welcome was made by Frederick Young, President of the Baltimore Typographical Union, which was responded to by President Hammond. The Committee on Credentials reported 64 Unions, represented by 78 delegates. Among the delegates is Miss Mary Moore, from the Woman's Typographical Union No. 1 of New-York. This lady, and Miss Gussie Lewis, Corresponding Secretary of the Union, are the only ladies on the floor. An informal ballot for President resulted as follows: William J. Hammond, 52; M. R. Walsh of New-York, 18; T. A. Crosby of Montreal, 3, and scattering, 2. Hammond was then declared reelected by acclamation. M. R. Walsh of New-York was elected first Vice-President, and J. A. Caseley of Baltimore second Vice-President. John Collins of Cincinnati was reelected Secretary and Treasurer by acclamation, and Frederick K. Wasey of Chicago Corresponding Secretary.

HOW MURDERERS ARE DISPOSED OF IN CALIFORNIA.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 5.—Australian George, alias Portuguese Joe, who murdered Miss McDaniel because she refused to marry him, was hunted out of his hiding-place in the mountains near Cherokee, to-day, and shot, and his body burned to ashes by the infuriated citizens.

THE NEW-ORLEANS INUNDATION.

THE FLOOD SPREADING—SIX SQUARE MILES UNDER WATER—TERRIBLE SUFFERING AMONG THE INHABITANTS—IMMENSE DAMAGE DONE.

NEW-ORLEANS, June 5.—The flood is increasing. The water is up Canal-st. to Rampart-st., with the exception of the neutral ground on Canal-st., which is not entirely covered. East of Claiborne-st. there is an unbroken sheet of water from Villery-st. to the Metairie Bridge and from the new to the old basin—an area of five or six square miles—including about 300 thickly inhabited squares. The sufferings of the inhabitants of this quarter, especially among the poorer classes, is very great. Thousands living in single-story houses have moved out, while most of those living in two-story houses have been compelled to move into the second stories. Back of Claiborne-st., on the canal, there is an average depth of two feet of water. The city authorities seem to be doing all they can to alleviate the sufferings of the people. Every available boat and skiff has been brought into use, and policemen are moving in every direction, rendering such assistance as they can, removing those who are in danger, and distributing provisions to the needy. The damage by this overflow cannot be estimated. The shrubbery and gardens have all been ruined, the houses damaged, and property depreciated.

The overflow directly from the Lake in the Gentilly road quarter has caused heavy loss in the destruction of many fine market gardens. The Milneburg and Ponchartrain Railroad, from Gentilly Station, is still over flowed. The water in the Lake is receding slowly. A train came through from Mobile yesterday on the Chattanooga Railroad. A passenger reports about four miles of the road under water. A passenger over the Jackson Railroad, who came in this morning, reports that the road is under water for seven miles north of Pass Manchac.

The dead body of George A. Freeret, Vice-President of the Union Bank, was found in the new canal this morning opposite Hagen-ave. He was last seen at the Halfway House on Friday evening. Joseph Frezard was found in Canal-st. canal yesterday.

WEST POINT.

THE RIOTOUS CADETS OFFICIALLY REPRIMANDED AND RELEASED FROM CONFINEMENT.

WASHINGTON, June 5.—The following order has been issued by the Secretary of War:

Such of the members of the First Class at the Military Academy as were concerned in the late disgraceful mobbing of certain members of the Fourth Class, and who were confined (by virtue of Special Order No. 3, U. S. Military Academy, Jan. 10, 1871,) within certain limits and deprived of all privileges and indulgences granted cadets, are hereby relieved from the further operation of said order. The action of these cadets of the First Class, which led to their punishment, cannot be too strongly condemned. A combination on the part of cadets, under any pretext whatever, for the purpose of visiting punishment upon their comrades is so flagrant a violation of good order and subordination as to require the severest reprimand. It is to be hoped that these cadets who have been guilty of this offense, and who are soon to graduate and become officers of the Army, will never again place themselves in any situation which may be discreditable to them or require the voice of authority to remind them of their duty as officers and gentlemen. (Signed)

W. W. BELKNAP, Secretary of War.

The above order applies to the entire First Class of 43, with the exception of some five or six members.

THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM—GRANT AND HIS FRIENDS—THE PLEASURES TO COME.

WEST POINT, June 5.—The days best loved by landlords have come. Not the semblance of a vacancy now remains for the anxious crowds who propose to come in the train of the President. For the latter, rooms have been awaiting a week or two, but his suite, if made up of half the notables on the lists for the pleasure season here, will be obliged to call on the Quartermaster for accommodation. The President means to stay a week or more, and means, beyond all, to be very quiet, and have some of the time to himself. Several of his classmates are on the Board of Visitors, and there are rumors of vast and varied schemes for the bettering of things at the Academy. Gen. Hunter, irreverently termed "Black Dove" by the ancients hereabout, has been haunting the pale glimpses of the old school days. In fact, there is almost a class of graduates here, and the reminiscences from these veterans of two or three wars are singularly significant and suggestive in this nursery of soldiers.

The disposition to criticise the institution finds no favor with these old soldiers; that there are abuses they aver warmly, but they say they can be reformed with little difficulty, and that every day of the last war told beyond all cavil the vital need of West Point and its training. The German-French war still more significantly attests the danger a free country encounters, left without skilled, educated defenders. It was the West-Pointers of Prussia who overcame the loose training of the French officers—for all admit that the former were better trained in the art of war.

The ranks of fashion are at present turned hither, and, while the President remains, there will be a season of unexampled gayety. Up the river at Cozzens, Nilsson, with her friends, Prof. Doremus and family, has taken a cottage. In all directions there is anxious expectation. No one seems to be quite sure of what is coming, but everything waits upon the President's advent. The examination of the graduating class began this morning before the Board of Visitors, and will be continued the best of the week. Drills, reviews, parades, and guard mount still relieve the tedium of the day, and the delightful music of the military band renders the soft moonlight nights unspeakably entrancing.

THE INDIANS.

EIGHTY INDIANS MASSACRED AT CAMP GRANT—TESTIMONY OF LIEUT. WHITMAN CONCERNING THE GOOD CONDUCT OF THE APACHES.

WASHINGTON, June 5.—The latest dispatches from Lieut. Whitman, commanding the post at Camp Grant, say that 80 Indians were killed in the recent massacre. The party committing the outrage was composed of a few prominent citizens and Mexicans of Tucson, with renegade Apaches and Arrapahoes. The Indians and Mexicans used Government arms from the supply furnished to the Territorial Government. All the wounded that have been found received prompt medical attendance at Camp Grant. All the chiefs and leading men of the Apaches have called on Lieut. Whitman, and express an unalterable determination to live at peace with the Government. Lieut. Whitman repeats his statement that the Indians had conducted themselves in a proper manner since they had been at that post, and had furnished the Quartermaster's Department with nearly 150 tuns of hay.

SUICIDE OF A YOUNG GIRL.

Mary McManus, an orphan, age 15, residing with her uncle, Nicholas McManus, at No. 138 West Nineteenth-st., was found, last evening, dead in bed in her room, having shot herself through the heart. She had stolen a piece of silk belonging to Mrs. Robinson, a fellow-tenant, and trimmed a hat with it. The theft was discovered by Mrs. Robinson, who told her that she would inform her uncle of it. Mary implored her not to do so, as her uncle would punish her if he learned of her crime. Taking a single-barreled pistol from her uncle's trunk, and retiring to bed, she placed it against her heart, and discharged it. Death must have been almost instanta