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THE SUN.

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THE WEEKLY SUN.

SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 5, 1862.

The New York City Press.

The TIMES thinks that the new National currency, $1,000,000,000 will have a beneficial influence on Government finance and commercial operations, and that it will practically amount to a resumption of specie payments.

The TRIBUNE says that the rebel plan of the campaign seems to indicate a removal of the war to the South West, where the rebels are massing their forces. It seems doubtful of the "anaconda" plan of surrounding and crushing the rebellion, but expresses confidence in the sagacity of our Generals.

A Nashville correspondent writes:

While at Somerset, in South-Eastern Kentucky, I had occasion to become familiar with the spirit of the exiles forming the East Tennessee Brigade in the Union service. Enthusiasm for the Union was then nothing new to me. But the religious devotion to its holy cause revealed by these simple-hearted but fervent-feeling mountaineers, far surpassed in intensity the loyalty of the people in the Northern States. They looked upon their allegiance in the light of a duty to their God, and sincerely believed a war of extermination upon secessionism the godliest work they ever felt called upon to perform. Like the Cromwellian legions, they invoked, every morning and evening, the Lord's good will toward themselves, and His wrath on all the rebels. Indeed, the most solemn and inspiring spectacle seen by me in all this war, was the loud praying and psalm-singing of the Tennessee regiments, after dress-parade.

I am informed by Parson Brownlow that a similar spirit pervades all East Tennessee. In town and country the people have daily prayed for deliverance by the Union troops since last Summer; and better, they keep their powder dry and rifles ready.

I have conversed with several prominent business men of decided Southern inclinations within the last few days as to the prospect of bringing the cotton and tobacco crop of this state to market. They all expressed the opinion that the growers would offer their produce for sale as soon as they could safely do so. One of these remarked: "No class of people love money better than the Southern planters. The high prices of tobacco and cotton in the North will overcome the political antipathies of by far the greater number." He also pronounced the threatened burning of the cotton "all bosh." He thought that the small quantities stored in the cities might be destroyed.

The JOURNAL OF COMMERCE remarks that the favorable aspect of commercial affairs is somewhat clouded by the prodigality of the public expenditures and the obvious incompetency and partisan spirit exhibited by Congress.

The WORLD remarks that the recent efforts of the Republican leaders to revive their distinctive party organization is with a view of controlling the election of a U. S. Senator in place of Preston King, whose term expires in 1863.

The HERALD'S Washington correspondent writes:

The Government has learned through parties under arrest for disloyalty that General Beauregard stated several weeks ago that he should never fight General McClellan at Manassas, for that his plan would be to draw our army as far into the centre of the Southern country as possible, and cut off his retreat.

Unequal Taxation.

To the Editor of the Sun:

I am a working man with a large family, with a parent's wish to and as much as possible to the attractions of home. At the solicitation of my daughters, I purchased by monthly payments a piano for $150. With every true American, I wish to bear my share of the expense of crushing this unnatural rebellion, but I think it rather hard that I have to pay four dollars a year duty on it, while the millionaire, whose piano is worth $1,000, pays no more.

Respectfully,
A 12 years subscriber.

New York, March 26, 1862.

The complaint of our correspondent arises from the impossibility of devising a general law to meet special cases. An *advalorem* tariff would not only be vexatious and occasion prevarication—if nothing worse—but also increase the cost of collection to an extent that would almost swallow up the proceeds. If the principle were allowed in this case, it would extend to watches, carriages, &c., so as to multiply tax gatherers to the proportions of a great army. While admitting the hardship of this particular case, it would be well to appeal to the patriotism of our correspondent to bear it patiently, if not cheerfully, for his rich neighbor, who owns the $1,000 piano, will be taxed in proportion to his means—in other respects, it not in this.

Terrible Explosion in Philadelphia.

Harrowing Scenes and Incidents.

An explosion occurred in Philadelphia, at five minutes to nine o'clock on Saturday morning, by which upwards of fifty people were either killed or mangled. The scene of the accident was immediately opposite the City or Moyamensing prison. A pyrotechnist named Jackson had secured a heavy government order, to fulfil which he had employed upwards of seventy hands, and worked vigorously; but it is thought carelessly.

The cartridge factory was a one-story frame structure, located at the corner of Tenth and Reed streets, and about fifty feet square. It is thought that five barrels or kegs of powder were stored on the premises, and grains of that combustible are said to have been strewn loosely around the place. The arrangements for extinguishing fires were few and inefficient, and after the accident the flames burst out in the rear, and, it is believed, burned to death many of the stunned and bleeding victims of the explosion.

The accident was chronicled by a dull, booming sound, followed soon after by the ringing of the city fire alarm bells. The scenes were polygenic and terrible in the extreme, the ground being littered over with human figures around with patches of flesh, bones and brains. One correspondent picked up a bit of skull, with the hair adhering to it, more than a block (an eighth of a mile) from the place, and a whole human head, afterward recognized as that of John Mahaney, was found in an open lot against the prison wall. Limbs, flesh, fingers and fragments of scalp were found upon the roofs of neighboring houses, and blood was smeared upon all the adjacent walls. A police officer was seen leaving a barrel filled with entrails, legs and flesh, and relics of the terrible event rained in the hands of the residents in the shape of smoke and dripping fragments of flesh. The entire contents of a barrel was found upon the roof of a house in Tenth street, and several females, their clothes all ablaze, were running hither and thither, followed by the crowd, shrieking most piteously.

Some of the workmen were so literally and thoroughly blown apart that only the remotest fragments of their bodies remain. All the windows of the adjoining tenements were demolished and most of the household furniture prostrated. The occupants of some of the houses were literally taken up and blown into the street. Policemen were likewise treated, and some of the convicts of the prison says that they rocked in their cells and fell to the floor.

The whole building was blown to pieces, and what the explosion failed to destroy was accomplished by the names that almost immediately broke out. The tenements on Tenth and Reed streets were made hospitals for the time and, as one by one the dying and mangled were carried out the spectators shrieked and grew sick over the sight.

The following persons were either killed outright or so shockingly burned and bruised that they will scarcely survive. They were taken to the hospital:

Edward Jackson, dead.
John Mehaney, dead.
Horace L. Simms, fatally burned.
Joseph Mirkie, fatally burned.
Washington Black, beyond recovery.
Lewis Brown, boy, dreadfully burned.
Augustine Curtin, boy, badly burned.
[illegible], badly burned.

The following persons are injured by burns and bruises, and it is probable that many of them may die:

Ann Lynch,	Amanda Miller,
Ellen Lynch,	Eliza McAlber,
Mary Hager,	Sallie Fortesene,
Rebecca Emerick,	Kate McDermott,
Diana Norritt,	Agnes Weirson,
Mary Sloan,	Isabella F. Loney,
Eliza Delaney,	Lizzie Craven,
Margaret McEwen.	

In addition to those taken to the hospital quite a number were conveyed to their residences, after having their injuries dressed at neighboring drug stores, or in dwelling-houses in the vicinity, all of which were thrown open for the reception of the unfortunate persons. Among this class were the following:

Emma Thomas, aged seventeen years.
Samuel Griffith, aged seventeen years.
Charles Griffith, aged sixteen years.
Miss Jackson, daughter of the proprietor.
Joseph Cartledge, burned while rescuing a young lady.
Miss Naughty.
Mary Tilligan.
Elizabeth Newman.
Samuel Curtin and three sisters. They were all badly burned.
Mary Ann Moore.
Annie McCorney; resides in the Twenty-fourth ward; not employed in the place.
Mary Brown.
Ellen Murray.
Cecile Whitecar.
Anne Walters, burned about the face and head; resides at Twentieth and Walnut streets.

A young man named Washington Lane was badly injured about the head and eyes.

Virginia Thorp, badly burned; taken to her home, on Seventh street above Reed.

A young girl named Mallaby, badly burned.

A woman was blown across Reed street against the prison walls, but escaped injury beyond a few bruises.

It is generally agreed that gross carelessness was the cause of the accident; but as the son of Jackson was killed by the explosion, the citizens are disposed to sympathize with him. A street railway passes the place, and the cars have been unable to proceed for hours, owing to the incumbrances upon the track.

The following is the result of Fire Marshal Blackburn's investigation into the origin of the disastrous explosion Jackson's Pyrotechnic factory on Saturday morning:

It seems that the first explosion took place in the moulding room, in the Southwest portion of the premises, where were eight men and four boys.

The cartridges upon which the persons in the factory were employed were for cavalry pistols.

The powder, in the first place, is dampened with collodion; it is very inflammable and volatile. After the mixture is made, the moulds taken to the moulding room, and then forced into the moulds. The moulds consist of a case of brass, each sixteen inch long, and containing about twenty-five cartridge moulds. The composition is placed in the top hole, which is funnel shaped, and then struck down by a single blow with a mallet and plunger; this forces the powder into one compact mass.

As one of the men struck the blow as above indicated, the cartridge ignited, it is supposed by friction. In thirty seconds the work of destruction was complete.

There were 50,000 cartridges in the moulding and girls' finishing room, about 50 pounds of loose powder in the mixing room, and several kegs and one small barrel in the magazine—making, all told, about 200 pounds of powder, outside the cartridges.

These cartridges were on trays to dry, while some were in the hands of the females, to have the bullets inserted to them. Inside of them was a perfect train leading from one room to another.

Most of the persons in the moulding room are so badly hurt as to be unable to give any account of the origin of the disaster. One of them named Charles Griffith, informed the Fire Marshal that he saw the first spark from a match at which one of the men was at work, and the general explosion at once followed.

Mr. Jackson is of opinion that the ignition was caused by friction in the moulding machine, or in the evolving of latent heat by a session alone with the mallet upon the plunger. A scientist, who is familiar with the circumstances of the disaster, and the nature of the materials employed, considers that the gaseous vapor from the collodion found its way to the fire which was burning about twenty inches distant.

The explosion, which commenced in the moulding room, soon ran through the range of rooms to the varnish room and the magazine at the opposite extremity of the building, and the whole was completed in a minute.

Among the most distinguished cases was that of a Frenchman named John and Sarah Yeager, aged respectively 11 years of age, who were playing a box filled with cartridges when the explosion took place. The parents of the two children, and the poor little girl had both eyes blown out, one hand destroyed, and the parents otherwise injured. The recovery is deemed impossible. The sister was not injured.

A human cheek was found sticking to the sticks on the front of a house in Tenth street. A human head fell on the sidewalk, near Passyunk road and Federal street, directly in front of a man who happened to be passing at the moment of the explosion. A gentleman who was passing down Tenth street, had his arm torn off by the explosion. A gentleman who was passing down Tenth street, had his arm torn off by the explosion. A gentleman who was passing down Tenth street, had his arm torn off by