

VOL. XV.—NO. 97.

FIRST EDITION

THE MISSISSIPPI DISASTER.

The Situation Explained

The Black-McKaig Homicide.

An Exciting Scene in Court.

The Cuban Insurrection

Etc., Etc., Etc., Etc., Etc., Etc.

A GREAT DISASTER.

Terrible Crevasse in the Mississippi

Levees—Description of the Locality—The Danger to New Orleans.

Those familiar with the southern extremity of Louisiana and the Mississippi river will at once appreciate the character of the disaster announced by telegraph.

Between it and Lake Pontchartrain runs the New Orleans and Jackson Railroad, which, according to the despatch, is threatened by the inundation.

This lake is about forty miles long and twenty-four miles wide in its greatest width.

Most of the coasting trade with the ports of the Gulf lying eastward is carried on through the other canal, communicating directly with the lake and lying west of the Bayou St. John.

On the Metairie levee, near Lake Pontchartrain, which is somewhat higher and drier than the rest of this region of swamps, are situated the peculiar city cemeteries of New Orleans.

The famous levees of the Lower Mississippi extend 120 miles above the city, and to Port Plaquemine, 43 miles below it.

As all the world knows, are immense embankments some fifteen feet wide and six feet high, raised to prevent the inundations which would otherwise follow the floods in the Mississippi.

These freshets follow the melting of the snow in the spring about the sources of the river and its tributaries. It is needless to say that these overflows are followed by serious consequences.

Crevasse are formed in the banks, into which the flat boats are drawn and whirled through the swamps.

Levees are raised for the purpose of preventing these overflows, and even these levees are sometimes swept away, as in this case reported by telegraph.

Amongst their great enemies, are the muskrat and the crayfish, who burrow through them, making a passage-way for the water, are to be feared most.

The many evils arising from these freshets have long ago called for remedy. Several plans have been proposed.

Amongst other suggestions offered are the erection of higher and stronger levees in lower Louisiana, which will secure the deepest and most capacious outlet; the deepening of the channel Atchafalaya, and the deepening of the outlet for the Washita and Red rivers; the enlargement of the Bayou Plaquemine, the prevention of additional cut-offs in the upper portion of the river and its branches;

the placing of dams across them, with apertures sufficient to permit the uniform discharge, so as to retain a portion of the water till the floods have subsided below. This last suggestion is offered with the view of compensating for the loss of the natural reservoirs destroyed by the cutting of the levees, and the great increase in the capacity of the river and its tributaries, and of moderating the floods below.

Reports of the Crevasse by the Southern Papers—An Alarming State of Affairs.

The newspapers published on the banks of the Mississippi river are full of references to the condition of the Father of Waters:—

The New Orleans Bee says that on the 18th inst. the levee below Norbert Louer's Landing, near Bonnet Carre Point, fifty miles above the city, gave way, and at the latest advices the water was rushing through at a great rate.

The Mississippi Pilot is informed that the high water in the bottom, along the Yazoo valley, is now within eighteen inches of being as high as that of 1857. Many fine plantations are entirely submerged, and serious apprehensions are entertained that, if the flood does not subside quickly the cotton crop of that section will be a failure.

The incessant rains, in connection with the breaks in the Mississippi river levee, are the cause of the overflow.

The Memphis Appeal states that the caving in of all the bluffs on the eastern side of the Mississippi, from Cairo to New Orleans, has led to curious results. Fort Pillow has wholly disappeared. There is not a vestige of the earthworks erected by General Pillow and others at Randolph. The river has cut cavernous depths for its strong currents beneath the everlasting hills, and these have slowly crumbled and fallen, a grain of sand at a time, into the abysses of the mighty deep.

Now and then hill-tops have disappeared in a single night, and, curiously enough, this work of desolation goes on mainly upon the eastern side of the river. Here at Memphis, as at Vicksburg, Columbus, Fort Pillow, and Randolph, the resilient, fathomless river, whose course none may anticipate and none can resist, pursues its appointed tasks with a force and pertinacity which have lessened property values between Wolf river and Fort Pickens many millions of dollars.

The New Orleans Picayune, of a recent date, has expressed all fears of further overflow, and anticipated the crevasse was the one two miles below the Barracks. This has been stopped, and also the one at Villere's plantation. The danger so recently threatened should constitute a warning that ought not to be neglected. The levees should be repaired at once, and their height and strength so augmented that no similar feat can be indulged in the future. It is an old adage and a true one that "A stitch in time saves nine." Upon a matter of such great moment there is not even room for doubt or indecision.

—Somebody mentioned, the other day, something about jokes that are ten years old, whereas a party across the room sang out inquiring whether such be decade jokes.

VENGEANCE JUSTIFIED.

Homicide Trial at Frederick, Md.—Slayer of a Seducer Acquitted—Exciting Scene in Court—Ovation to the Released Prisoner.

The trial at Frederick, Md., of Harry Crawford Black for the homicide of Colonel W. W. McKaig, at Cumberland, in October last, was concluded on the 21st, having occupied ten days.

The deceased had seduced the sister of the accused, a beautiful and highly accomplished young lady, and kept up his criminal association with her even after he had married, taking her from her home to Baltimore. The fact becoming known to young Black, he sought out the seducer; they quarrelled and each drew pistols, but McKaig being taken at some disadvantage was killed in the street.

Somewhat previous to the father of the seducer had attempted to take the life of McKaig, having shot at and wounded him. The trial lasted ten days, and excited the most intense interest, on account of the high social standing of the families concerned, all of whom reside at Cumberland. Among the counsel engaged was the Hon. D. W. Voorhees, of Indiana, who appeared for the defense. The scene while "waiting for the verdict" and after its rendition is thus described:

At five minutes of 3 o'clock the case was given to the jury, and they retired to their room. Large crowds were gathered about the court house, while a number remained within the hall, believing that the jury would be out in a few moments. With slight delay the jury entered all the corners, were gathered groups of men, talking of the trial and its probable result, and ever and anon eager glances were cast towards the window of the room where the twelve men, in whose hands rested the life of young Black, were deliberating. Soon after they entered their room they sent for their dinner, and it was supposed by that they would have a long deliberation before they arrived at any definite conclusion.

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Sheriff Lamon, of Allegheny county, in whose custody Black had been since the deed was committed by him, stepped up from the dock in the most affectionate manner. An admission given by the Chief Justice, that no demonstration would be allowed, went for naught. The pent-up admiration and love that were resting in the hearts of the audience for Harry Black, even among those who had never before seen him, for the few days of the trial, could not be restrained by the forms of judicial tribunals. As soon as he could free himself from the crowd he joined his brother, who was standing within the bar weeping for joy over the acquittal of her son, and with her walking to the hotel, where during the day and evening he was visited by hundreds of friends and acquaintances who came to congratulate him upon his release.

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SECOND EDITION

TO-DAY'S CABLE NEWS.

The Rebellion in France.

Evidences of Reaction.

Napoleonism Again Threatened.

South American Advances.

The Crevasse on the Mississippi.

Railways and Property Destroyed.

Gigantic Frauds in New York

The French Consul Implicated.

Resumption in the Coal Regions.

Etc., Etc., Etc., Etc., Etc., Etc.

FROM EUROPE.

[BY ASSOCIATED PRESS.] Exclusively to The Evening Telegraph.

The Louisiana Crevasse. NEW YORK, April 25.—A special despatch from New Orleans, dated at 9 o'clock last evening, says the Bonnet Carre crevasse is still extending and

Twelve Miles of the Jackson Railroad have been washed away. The President and Engineer of the road set out to-night for the scene of disaster. At 10:30 P. M. the engineer in charge of the crevasse at