

APPALLING CATASTROPHE.

2,000 PERSONS, MOSTLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN, PERISHED.

New York, Jan. 18.—The steamer America, from New York, on the 18th of October, arrived at Panama, January 1st. She brought news from Yaguajay that the Cathedral in Santiago, Chile, caught fire on the 14th ult., when it was densely crowded with human beings.

CONFIRMATION OF THE TERRIBLE NEWS. The South American mail steamer reached Panama with \$918,000 of treasure for England, and brought the confirmation of the above, stating the number which perished at over two thousand.

The people rushed to the principal door, and it was soon blocked. Most of the men escaped by the side doors. Only a few minutes elapsed before the lights, supplied so plentifully from the roof, poured a rain of liquid fire on the people below, and in less than 15 minutes over 2,000 persons, mostly women and children, were killed.

The Providence Journal publishes a letter received by Mr. W. A. Pearce, of Providence, from his father, resident in Santiago, Chile, who witnessed the recent appalling catastrophe by which more than two thousand human beings were burned to death.

I hear you asking, Why were those sufferers not rescued? Yes, why were they not rescued? My heart aches within me at the thought of the determined, stupid ignorance of policemen—Fifty foreigners had been allowed to work, and to work in their own way, could and would have rescued the whole mass.

Our REMOVAL.—Next week we expect to remove our office into the new brick building on the opposite side of the street from our present location. As we have considerable material to move, and a number of presses, some of which are very heavy and will require considerable time to take down and put up, we may not be able to issue a paper next week.

THE TIMES contains a translation of a letter from a Frenchman, formerly of the rebel army, to a friend in New York, dated Richmond, January 11th. He regrets the arrival of another agent of the French Emperor, named Mortigny, who came via Mexico, and who has had several mysterious conferences with Jeff. Davis.

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A CHILD SUFFOCATED.—The Bedford Register says, on last Thursday several persons of this place visited Schellburg, among others Mrs. George Butler with a child about four months old. The child was suffocated by its mother, like all such cases, was very anxious that the child should die, and she was determined to do so.

General Foster's Department.

KNOXVILLE, Jan. 10th, 1864.—The rebels never want a pretext for a flag of truce when they get very anxious about the position and strength of the Union army confronting them, when they cannot obtain satisfactory information in any other way, they usually resort to that dodge.

On the 7th instant our pickets stationed beyond Bruins Cross Roads, upon the Railroad Pike, discovered a small mounted party approaching with a flag of truce.

The party was halted, and the officer having in charge a communication addressed to Major-General J. G. Foster, commanding the Union forces, was conducted to the headquarters of Major-General Parke, in the immediate command of the troops in the field, who received the officer with great courtesy, and extended to him those hospitalities which the laws of war and the civilities between gentlemen require.

General Parke forwarded the letter without opening it. Appended is a copy:— HEAD-QUARTERS CONFEDERATE FORCES, EAST TENNESSEE, JAN. 3, 1864.—To the Commanding General, United States Forces, East Tennessee, Sir:—I find the Proclamation of President Lincoln, of the 9th of December last, in circulation in handbills among our soldiers.

I respectfully suggest, for your consideration, the propriety of causing the copies of the rebel government to have upon this subject through me, rather than by handbills circulated among our soldiers. The few men who may desert under the promise held out in the Proclamation cannot be an examination of our people and army, they desert their cause they degrade themselves, if the eyes of God and man. They can do you no cause no good, nor can they injure ours.

As a great nation, you can accept none but an honorable peace, and a noble officer, you could have accepted nothing less. I submit, that your policy is the one that I suggest would not be more likely to lead to an honorable end than such a circulation of a partial promise of freedom.

I am, Sir, very respectfully, Your most obedient servant, J. LONGSTREET, Lieut-Gen. Command'g. REPLY OF GEN. FOSTER. HEAD-QUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE OHIO, KNOXVILLE, E. T. Jan. 7, 1864.—Lieut-Gen. Commanding Forces in East Tennessee.—Sir:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated Jan. 3, 1864. The object of the letter is the subject of the great object in view in the circulation of the President's Proclamation is to induce those now in rebellion against the Government to lay aside their arms and return to their allegiance as citizens of the United States, thus securing the reunion of States now at war, thus restoring peace and order to the country.

Very respectfully, J. G. FOSTER, Maj-Gen. Comd'g. Wants a Wife. The following appears in a Saint Louis paper:—WANTED!—I have lived solitary long enough. I want some one to talk with, quarrel with—then kiss and make up with, quarrel with—then kiss and make up with, quarrel with—then kiss and make up with.

REBEL ARMY NAKED AND STARVING.—The Mobile Register of a late date indulges in the plain talk: "In addition to two hundred thousand stragglers, it is denuded that nine-tenths of the army are naked and starving, and women, children and dotards be left alone to die of cold and hunger. In other words, we want every body to go into an army naked and starved, and nobody to supply them. Again, as to the size of armies. If the number of men or the handling of them that were better. We were Pemberton's men well fought at Baker's Creek? The same number, or nearly the same, won the battle of Chickamauga that were driven from one of the strongest positions of the continent, of Lookout and Missionary Ridge. Minus Longstreet's corps, he was repulsed at Gettysburg. Fifteen thousand fighting men won the first battle of Manassas, and less than forty thousand achieved the victories of Shiloh and Murfreesboro. More than forty thousand men have never, since the war began, been brought into action to advantage by either side.

A letter from Danville, Indiana, to the Indianapolis Journal, says that more trees were killed by the late cold snap than in any other year since the war. The trees were killed by the late cold snap than in any other year since the war. The trees were killed by the late cold snap than in any other year since the war.

A MORRIS LEADER.—All will admit, we think, that swimming the Hellpont for a lady who was a trifle fat, compared with passing the storms and plunging through the open drift on such a day as last Friday, especially when that feat is undertaken for an entertainment.

Our readers will understand what we mean when we state that among the passengers of one of the blocked trains on the St. Paul Road last week, was a fair young mother, with a "little pledge of affection" on her lap. The pledge derived its sustenance by gentle suction from a bottle, and as time wore on, and the beleaguered train still stuck fast, the lactical fluid was soon exhausted. The little cherub's sipping being thus cut off, his mother was filled with terrible apprehensions as to the result of abstinence. But luckily there were brave ones aboard as well as fair.

The party was halted, and the officer having in charge a communication addressed to Major-General J. G. Foster, commanding the Union forces, was conducted to the headquarters of Major-General Parke, in the immediate command of the troops in the field, who received the officer with great courtesy, and extended to him those hospitalities which the laws of war and the civilities between gentlemen require.

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Nichols' Elixer of Iron and Peruvian Bark. Nichols' Elixer of Iron and Peruvian Bark. Nichols' Elixer of Iron and Peruvian Bark. Nichols' Elixer of Iron and Peruvian Bark.

More Goods!

GREAT AND FINE REDUCTION IN PRICES. MURPHY & M'PIKE HAVE added to their stock of Merchandise a large and well-selected stock of SEASONABLE GOODS.

LADIES' DRESS GOODS. Ladies' Dress Goods, Bathing Cloths, Corsets, Watered and plain, Wash Beltones and Blouses, French and English, Calicoes, and all infinite variety of other Dress Goods. Our stock of LADIES' FURNISHING GOODS is the handsomest and most varied we have yet had in store, and is well worthy the examination of the fair sex.

OUR GROCERY DEPARTMENT has just been received with a large and fresh stock of Groceries and Provisions, such as Wheat and Buckwheat Flour, Corn Meal, Syrup, N. O. Molasses, Sugars, Coffee, Tea, &c., etc., to which we invite the attention of housekeepers.

Call and "See It!" Corner of Harriet and Julia Sts., East Altoona. CASH!—CASH!—CASH! NOTWITHSTANDING the rapid advance of every article of trade, the rapid advance of every article of trade, the rapid advance of every article of trade.

A NEW FRENCH INVENTION.—We have news from Paris of a remarkable extension of the use of photography. Strange as it may appear, one may now enter a photographic studio, constructed in a few seconds, and there, in the twinkling of an eye, instead of the usual photographic print of one's face or figure, an exact facsimile in the shape of a statuette in modeling clay is produced by the operator.

WITHOUT BLOWING OF TRUMPETS OR BEATING OF DRUMS! I WOULD SIMPLY ANNOUNCE THAT I HAVE JUST RECEIVED A STOCK OF NEW GOODS!

FOR CASH ONLY. THE GREAT CAUSE OF HUMAN MISERY. A Lecture on the Nature, Treatment and Radical Cure of Insanity, Idiocy, Dementia, Epilepsy, and other Mental Disorders.

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TRUSS & SHOULDER BRACES. FANCY GOODS & Toilet Articles, For Sale at REIGART'S Drug Store.

DON'T FORGET TO CALL at the Hardware Store on Virginia Street, opposite the City Hall. ANOTHER LARGE LOT OF THE OLEBRANT JERRY MANS (not received and not for sale).

HOSTETTER'S CELEBRATED STOMACH BITTERS.

A pure and powerful Tonic, and alterative, with wonderful efficacy in the cure of the STOMACH, LIVER AND BOWELS.

Cures Drispepsia, Liver Complaint, Headache, General Debility, Nervousness, Spasms, Cholera, and all Diseases of the Stomach, Liver and Bowels.

Persons who are not well, and who are suffering from the above mentioned diseases, should use Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, as it is a powerful Tonic, and alterative, with wonderful efficacy in the cure of the Stomach, Liver and Bowels.

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PRINTING. We have the most complete and modern printing establishment in Altoona, Pa. We print all kinds of books, newspapers, and all other printing work.

NOTICE. At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Altoona Gas and Water Company, held on the 10th day of January, 1864, the following resolutions were adopted:

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