

The Dispatch.

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PITTSBURG, FRIDAY, OCT. 4, 1861.

ANOTHER HORROR FOR THIS YEAR.

The unusually large list of fatal accidents which have occurred in this country during the current year, was again swelled yesterday by a terrible steamer explosion on the Mississippi, by which about 40 lives were lost. In such accidents the immediate cause is rarely discovered, and this seems to be no exception. All that can be told for certain is that the boilers of the steamer *Corona*, of the Onuchita Consolidated Line, exploded as the vessel was opposite Port Hudson, a little before noon yesterday. Forty men and women, in round numbers, were killed by the explosion or drowned, and the loss of life would have been far heavier had not the steamer City of St. Louis been near enough to render prompt assistance.

Of late years the explosion of boilers on river steamers has been of rare occurrence. The days of careless and irresponsible owners, and of captains more anxious to outstrip a rival packet than to make a safe voyage, have long gone by. The explosion of the *Corona's* boilers is the harder to account for because this was her first trip this season, and she had only recently been subjected to a thorough course of overhauling and repairs. It will be well if this accident leads to a prompt and proper inspection of the boilers of all steamers plying on the waterways in which Pittsburg is immediately concerned.

THE TRUE BEGUN.

The tour of the International American Congress has begun most auspiciously. Washington put on her fairest autumnal dress yesterday, and when the train bore the delegates away only the President pro tem. of the Congress was left behind.

The representatives of our Southern neighbors, and their hosts, will not need a President of any sort to insure their enjoyment of the picturesque nursery of the United States army, West Point. They will be delighted, of course, with the splendid scenery of the Hudson river, and the peerless situation of the academy itself; while it will be wonderful indeed if the unspeakable cadets do not march straight into the affections of the male denizens of South America.

It is to be strongly desired, however, that our guests from the South will not gather the impression from their initial experience at West Point that this nation sets great store by its fighting men. Even if it were possible, it is not the true policy of the United States to bid for the friendship and alliance of the South American States through a show of physical force and warlike armaments. What is wanted—and Secretary Blaine stated it clearly enough in his speech on Monday—is to effect by this tour to bring the South Americans to a thorough comprehension of this nation's advance in the art of peace; of her wondrous manufacturing and commercial interests, and of the sincerity of this continent's desire to be knit by tie of trade and mutual interest to that more southerly.

So little we hope that Crow's Nest and the other grand mountains and the incomparable Hudson itself, binding their feet with a shovelful handle chased another all over Wyle's avenue.

THE office of Pension Commissioner is still seeking a man, and some great statesmen at Washington are showing Mr. Harrison what he ought to have done before he discharged Corporal Tanner with all the wondrous clearness of hindsight to aid them.

It is pity any thought of money, or any quarrel over claims, should drag the name of poor Johnstown through the mire of disrepute.

RATHER strange they are making such a fuss about one man being away from Charleroi so long. Nobody stops to think that about sixty-five million people have been away from Charleroi for a long time.

ONLY two more successors to Tanner's place yesterday. Has material run out, or are politics really degenerating?

MURAT HALSTEAD says Candidate Campbell is a thief, and Mr. Campbell generally retorts that Murat Halstead is a double. The politeness of Ohio politics is their distinguishing characteristic.

DURING his engagement here Booth has risen to the occasion so often he must be quite tired of standing up.

A BALMY touch of Indian summer yesterday almost made the world forget that it is quite time to half-solve last year's usher and let it come to life with a new complexion by dying.

ROMANCES OF THE BIBLE.

The Dispatch Leads the Way Into New Fields of Literature.

Mr. ELIZABETH DONALDSON has the most valuable collection of diamonds in the world, except the crown jewels of Russia and Great Britain. One of her necklaces is worth \$600,000, and her entire collection is valued at \$2,000,000. The rarest gems from the caskets of the Queen Isabella of Spain and the ex-Emperor Eugene are now owned by Mrs. Stanford.

LOTTA is the richest actress in the United States, and her income is estimated at \$100,000, all made on the stage during the last 20 years. She has never married, although it is said she was in love with Joseph B. Polk, the clever actor who married Miss Julia Parker, formerly of the stock company of the Holliday Street Theater, Baltimore, but who retired from the stage upon her marriage.

ELIZABETH STANFORD has a novel by accident. In this way: He was the editor of the Overland Magazine, and failing to secure a story of California life, he wrote one himself. It was "The Luck of Roaring Camp," which received a storm of abuse or blame from the press. His health is delicate, but his imagination vivid and romantic, and all his stories have a weird and giddy back-ground.

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