

The Press.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1864.

Our city was somewhat startled yesterday with a foolish story in reference to the abandonment of the great expedition of BURMAN and PORTER. Although this statement was conveyed at the time the great confidence of the people in the continuing success of the Government was manifested in the fact that little impression was made upon the gold market.

Unfortunately for France, this political expediency appears contingent upon the success of the Emperor's army. One knows upon what a mere thread health and life are dependent. If a splinter of bone, only as big as the head of a pin, presses upon the brain where it ought not, the result may be madness, paralysis, or death.

The result will, we think, be shown in the South. The Southerners are much accustomed to think, and they cannot fail to see that the power which can fight them for four years with a victory through the heart of their country, is in a position to exact more than has ever been demanded.

Without intending to discuss the merits of the recent action of Select Council, we think that the intent to defeat the bounty bill by refusing to vote is exceedingly ill advised. One thing is certain, and that is, we will be recruited to fill up this draft, and that to do so we must pay large bounties.

The regime which the present Emperor of the French has established with such address and maintained with such pertinacity may be said to have been the result of a trick, if not a crime—for the coup d'Etat of December, 1851, was both—it was done by various circumstances.

Notwithstanding a heavy amount of taxation, irresponsible government, strong restrictions on the freedom of the press, and a most provoking system of espionage, France appears contented with her present ruler.

Public Amusements. ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—This evening the play of "The Merchant of Venice" was given, and was performed to the last time. It will be upon the stage in its original splendor, and with the most magnificent scenery.

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WASHINGTON.

AN EXPLANATION.—The suspension today announced the return of FORSTER and BURMAN to Fort Monroe, stating that the War Department had received intelligence that the two men had been taken to the coast of Virginia, and after only twelve hours of confinement, were released.

CAPTURE AND DESTRUCTION OF BLOCKADE RUNNERS.—The capture of the blockade runner "The Florida" by the U.S. Navy, and the destruction of the vessel, is a great success for the Union.

THE WAR.—The expedition against WILMINGTON, N.C., is progressing rapidly. The Union forces have captured several important positions, and the rebels are being driven back.

HOOD'S FLIGHT FROM TENNESSEE.—General Sherman's army has pursued General Hood's forces through Tennessee, and they have been driven back to Georgia.

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