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☞ READING MATTER WILL BE FOUND ON EACH PAGE OF THIS PAPER.

☞ PITTSBURGH WEEKLY GAZETTE.—The extensive circulation of our Weekly Gazette offers to our business men a most desirable medium of making their business known. Our circulation is between four and five thousand, reaching almost every village and county in Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio.

☞ TO ADVERTISERS—Neither the Editorial Rooms nor Printing Establishment of the DAILY GAZETTE, are opened on Sunday. ADVERTISERS who desire their notices to appear in the paper on Monday morning, will please hand them in before 5 o'clock on Saturday.

FOR MAYOR OF PITTSBURGH,

FERDINAND E. VOLZ.

EUROPEAN MATTERS—THE NEW PROTOCOL—ACTION OF THE FOUR POWERS.—The fact of a new combination of the four great Powers of Europe, the first intelligence of which reached us by telegraph, and which we slightly reverted to yesterday, is confirmed by the details of the advices brought by the America. The movement seems to have originated with France and England, and has been promptly acceded to by Prussia and Austria. A collective note, it is said, in which the Four Powers express their resolve, to maintain the integrity of the Porte, and their ardent desire that peace shall be maintained, has been forwarded to the Porte and Russia, and each of them is invited to send a diplomatic agent to confer with the representatives of England, France, Prussia and Austria, on some neutral ground.

The exact nature of the terms of the new arrangement have not transpired. The fact that Austria has so promptly acceded to it, looks ominous for Turkey. The Vienna Government most probably had instructions from the Czar before giving in its adhesion. The *Augsburg Gazette*, of December 5, says, that, rather than see the Danubian Principalities absorbed by Russia, "Austria and Prussia fill go with England and France." A Vienna correspondent of the London Times asserts, on the contrary, that he is informed by perfectly competent authority, "that the immediate evacuation of the Principalities will not be made a sine qua non!"

It is inferred in some quarters, that a great change of sentiment has been brought about in Vienna, favorable to a settlement just to the Porte. As evidence of this, a remarkable article in the *National Gazette*, of Berlin, is referred to. After noticing the current rumors of a leaning on the part of the Austrian Government towards that of Russia, the writer in the *National Gazette* proceeds to show that, even if these rumors be true, there are causes to prevent the Austrian Government from manifesting its sympathies openly. He says:

"The Magyars have been vanquished. Hungary like Lombardy appears to be a conquered country. Croatia, Servia, and Austrian Wallachia are not in a more satisfactory situation. And what shall we say of the German element? At Vienna, and in the whole of the territory of the Empire, the people declaim against the Russian policy, the Russian system, the Russian alliance, and not against a war in accord with Russia against Turkey, England and France.—The *Lloyd* of Vienna has said that every conservative ought to prefer Turkey against Russia. In Austria everything is fermenting against Russia—the bureaucracy, the bourgeoise, the peasantry, and even a portion of the army. Public opinion in Austria declares itself formally against Russia, notwithstanding the narrow limits allowed to the press."

The same writer goes on to show how dangerous it would be for Austria to take part with Russia in a war against Turkey, aided as the latter would be by England and France, and concludes as follows: "Let it not be forgotten that at a moment when Turkey would render it necessary for Russia to display all her disposable force in Asia and Europe, it would not be a trifle for Austria to have England and France for enemies." The altered tone of the Vienna papers, may also be understood from the manner in which the Austrian *Lloyd* speaks of Louis Napoleon, in the following extract:

"It is superfluous to repeat that the great powers of Germany have, since the commencement of the Turkish difficulties, always preserved the same attitude as any sincere promoter of peace would preserve as long as possible. But what will Napoleon III do? That is the question. Up to the present time the Emperor of the French has remained faithful to his programme of 'The Empire is peace,' although these words were certainly not pronounced in the proclamation of a Russian army crossing the Pruth and taking up its winter quarters on the Turkish territory. If he continues to be the friend of peace, if General Baraguay d'Hilliers is the organ of the same policy as the M. de Lacour, in that case Europe will be indebted to the elected of December 2 for peace, which, in fact, would be considered in a great measure due to the moderation of Napoleon III. The Cabinet of St. Petersburg has brought matters to such a point that at the present moment the Cabinet of the Tuilleries exercises a greater influence than it has exercised since the fall of the first Napoleon."

However true it may be that the government of Austria may have changed its policy, and whatever may be the nature of the terms offered for the acceptance of the belligerents, it is generally asserted that the four Powers stand pledged to each other, if necessary, to enforce the acceptance of any conditions which may be resolved on.

The *Paris Moniteur*, of Dec. 9, positively asserts the existence of the arrangement between the Four Powers, and holds the following language regarding it:

The same views, the same wishes—animate France, England, Austria and Prussia, and a protocol, signed at Vienna on the 5th of this month, is a conference at which the representatives of the Four Powers assisted, bears witness to their mutual resolutions.

To re-establish the peace between Russia and the Sublime Porte, upon conditions honorable for both parties, and maintain the territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire, the independent existence of which within the limits laid down by treaties has become one of the conditions of European equilibrium—such is the two-fold end which the Four Powers propose to pursue together. To lay down as a primal fact that in no case can the present war bring about modifications in the state of possession, which time has consecrated in the East, is to *restrict the field*, and bring back (it is to be hoped) the difference which has arisen between the cabinet of St. Petersburg and the Sublime Porte to a point which will permit European diplomacy to exercise an efficacious action, and to re-establish a solid peace between Russia and the Ottoman Empire under collective guarantee.

We cannot but reiterate our fears that the arrangement will not be just to Turkey, and that an effort will be made to bully the Sultan into the acceptance of conditions which he would resist were he left to his own choice.

The following articles from the *London Times*, on this subject will be read with great interest:

From the London Times Dec. 9.

The effect produced in Europe by the announcement that the four mediating Powers had resumed their united labors for the restoration of peace, and that they have recognized by a formal protocol the importance of maintaining the territorial arrangements of Europe unimpaired, has been fully equal to our anticipations. It seems, indeed, that the leading journals of the Continent were still very imperfectly informed of the progress made in this important negotiation, and the intelligence which reached them as to what was passing at Vienna arrived, singularly enough, from London. Thus, the Augsburgh *Gazette* published as early as the 3d of December, in its English correspondence, a correct statement of what was taking place, and that seems to have been the first intimation of the union which was just established between the Four Powers. It has since been declared by authority in Vienna that no *alliance* has been concluded between the four Courts; but we were not aware that any such alliance had ever been stated to exist, in the proper sense of that term. A protocol has been signed which records and establishes the concurrence of the Four Powers on the fundamental principle which must govern this transaction, and the measures thus far taken to give effect to this arrangement by a Conference have been taken in common. The result is, that for the first time since he ascended the throne, twenty-seven years ago, the Emperor NICHOLAS has contrived to place himself in the same isolated position in which he placed the French Government in 1840, and in which we hope to see every power placed which violates the laws of justice and public order. For the first time since the conclusion of the great Northern Alliance, which dates from 1813, the German Governments have subscribed a declaration of great moment to the affairs of Europe, not only without the concurrence of Russia, but, against her designs. For the first time it has been clearly intimated in conjunction with France, that the united Powers are equally averse to any territorial changes, from whatever quarter they may proceed, seeing that, whatever such changes may

sin, they will spring disturbances fatal to the general welfare and security.

But the most arduous part of the task of mediation still remains to be accomplished, and though the course which the Four Powers may be prepared to pursue is settled or understood, we are wholly uninformed of its probable effect on the belligerents. We are told, indeed, by a telegraphic message from Constantinople, through Vienna, that the Porte had rejected the demand of an armistice made by England on the 24th of November, and that an extraordinary Divan was summoned to meet. It is true, we believe, that Lord Stratford De Radcliffe had found it necessary to exert all his influence to endeavor to counteract the extreme and over-confident excitement produced among the Turks by their late successes; but we doubt whether any demand of an armistice was made at that time, and, at any rate, the convocation of a full Council denotes beforehand the undiminished ascendancy of the war party. Possibly, an armistice recommended by the four Powers may fare better, but we doubt it; and, in the present state of feeling at Constantinople, it will not be easy to bring the pretensions of the Porte within the bounds of moderation. The evacuation of the Principalities, upon which the Sultan insisted in his answer to the French Ambassador, and a revision of the abrogated treaties with Russia under the sanction of the other Powers, are the least that can be demanded. But, will that much be obtained? We are thus brought back to the root of this mischief in the arrogant pretensions of the Emperor Nicholas; and the question really is, whether, in the face of the united remonstrances and demonstrations of Europe, he will or will not renounce them. For it is evident from the very terms on which the contest now stands that this is *the last expedient between Russia and the armed resistance of Europe*. On this point we can at present venture to express no decided opinion. Every consideration of policy, of duty, and of prudence, is strongly in favor of a pacific settlement; but, on the other hand, we have the pride of an Autocrat who has grown old in immoderate confidence in his power, the zeal of a fanatic who has enlisted in his favor the passions of the Church, and the resentment of a military Power which has already defeats to avenge. The balance is equally poised. If wisdom and interest prevail, the Emperor will yield; if passion and pride, he will persevere; but on that alternative still rests the peace of the world.

From the London Times, Dec. 10.

The collective note signed at Vienna by France, England, Austria and Prussia, and addressed to Turkey, with a view to the restoration of peace, and likewise the protocol in which those Powers have recorded their own complete union of purpose in maintaining the territorial limits of the Ottoman Empire and the Sovereignty of the Porte, are two instruments, which, though still unpublished, have now taken their place in the history of these important transactions. The collective note, if we are correctly informed of its tenor, does no more than state the earnest desire of the Four Powers to stop the effusion of blood, and *obviate the dangers of a war which already seriously threatens the security of Europe*—For this purpose, and inasmuch as Russia has already given assurances of her readiness to treat, the allied courts tender their good offices; and, as a preliminary step they request, to be informed on what terms the Turkish Government is prepared to open such a negotiation.—The mode in which the negotiation might be opened, would be by the appointment of a Turkish and a Russian plenipotentiary to meet in conference, not alone, but with the representatives of the Four Great Powers, and, in the meantime the conclusion of an armistice is recommended. The protocol, signed at the same time, and originally proposed by France, is a document expressing in more precise and detailed language the views and mutual engagements of the four Powers at themselves; and, whatever may be the fate of the fresh overture now made to the belligerent States, this declaration places in an authentic form the assurances which Russia herself has heretofore made, and the resolution of the mediating Powers to insist on their fulfilment. Neither of these documents contains anything menacing or overbearing either to Russia or Turkey, and, while there is no misplaced deference to one empire, there is no attempt to dictate conditions to the other. The resolution which may be taken at Constantinople and at St. Petersburg lies not absolutely within the control of any conference of foreign Powers; nor are Turkish or Russian interests the primary object of their anxiety. The value of the conference and of its measures is, that it has succeeded in so unlocked-for extent in giving a common form and united expression to the public interests of Europe which this dispute has touched. It will avert a calamity far greater than that of a Turkish war, if it prevents a division between the most civilized nations on the earth, which might otherwise have been drawn into opposite sides in this quarrel, and it has restored to Austria and Prussia that independence of action which the emergency required, but which many of their friends in other countries almost despaired of seeing them assume. In this sense these acts of the conference are salutary and important, and they serve to define the basis of a negotiation of peace or a scheme of more positive intervention. Should the means of carrying these resolutions into effect not prove at once successful, it seems almost superfluous to remark that *the great Powers of Europe*, having thus declared their intentions, *are morally bound not to stop short of the measures requisite to fulfil them*. But on this point no distinct public engagements have yet been adopted.

THE POOR—A CALL UPON THE BENEVOLENT. We have been requested by the "Young Ladies' Benevolent Society," of Pittsburgh, to acknowledge the receipt of One Thousand bushels of coal, from A. KIRK LEWIS, Esq, and to express their heartfelt thanks to the benevolent donor for this timely and much needed aid. While it imparts a genial warmth to the homes of many poor families, it will also warm their hearts towards the generous giver.

From Mrs. Harmer Denny, who furnished us with the above, we learn, that there are at present a great number of necessitous cases at this time in Pittsburgh; and that the society, with all its efforts, cannot prevent a great deal of suffering. One humiliating fact mentioned to us was, that the late appeals of the society had not brought to their treasury one dollar of voluntary contribution, except the case mentioned above. Only one hundred dollars are now on hand, which will all be absorbed in a week, if the wants of the needy are relieved.—More coal is promised, and there will probably be enough of that article; but groceries, clothes, dry goods, and money are much needed. We understand that the gentlemen of Allegheny have come down handsomely in aid of the Benevolent Society in that city, with their twenties, thirtys and fifty's, while the Pittsburgh Society has had to depend almost solely upon the subscriptions of the lady members. The poverty of the Society's treasury could only have originated, we feel assured, from an ignorance of the true wants of the poor. We have a dozen men in our eye who would give a hundred dollars a piece, were the facts of the case properly presented. There is no need of the poor suffering in Pittsburgh, while there is so much substantial wealth and hearty benevolence among us; and we now call upon those whom God has helped, to relieve the wants of those poor whom He has confided to their care. We tell them that there is real suffering of helpless, intelligent women, and destitute orphan children, in sight of their doors, and that while they are fasting sumptuously every day during this festive time, persons of worth are actually suffering—famishing for bread. The cases have been stated to us, and if any one thinks we exaggerate, we refer them to Mrs. Denny, the President of the Board of Managers, who will be glad to receive the contributions of the benevolent, or to refer special cases to those who wish to be the almoners of their own bounty. Now let not those who read this, and design to do anything, put off the good intention. Do not let another day pass without discharging this noble, Christian duty.

We are requested by Mrs. Denny to state that a meeting of the Managers of the Society will take place on this afternoon at 2 o'clock, at the session room of the First Presbyterian Church. This will be an excellent occasion to hand in donations, as the managers will meet to take into consideration cases of urgent necessity.

THE "GREAT REPUBLIC."—The following is given by the New York Courier, as the principal freight of the mammoth ship "Great Republic," lately destroyed by fire in the harbor of that city:—9,000 bbls. flour; 60,000 to 70,000 bushels of corn and wheat; 1,000 bales of cotton; 3,000 bbls. rosin; 1,000 tcs of beef, &c, &c. Nearly all of this immense freight was on board at the time the vessel caught fire.

The London Quarterly Review, 1st October is a welcome visitant to our table. Its contents promise a rich treat. Sold by W. A. Gildenfenny and H. Miner of this city.

The steam tug Ajax, which was wrecked on the passage from New York to Boston, late in October, and from that time till now onheard of, has been discovered near the end of Cape Cod, in fourteen fathoms of water, and where she sunk during a heavy gale on her way to Boston, all on board having perished. An attempt will be made to raise the vessel.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

WASHINGTON Dec. 26, 1853.

The two Houses will meet to-morrow again.—The session of the Senate will be only to save appearances; but in the other House some business will be done, or, what at this stage of the session is equivalent to business, some speeches will be made, whereby the debate on the President's Message will be advanced. Mr. Wheeler, a Hardshell leader, will discourse upon the humors of New York politics, and perhaps lift a corner of the veil which conceals the purposes of the faction to which he belongs.

A crowd of "Hard" politicians arrived last week to swell the force of the lobby, and help organize the Democratic opposition to the administration in the House. The Senate being now perfectly drilled, and the Pierce majority there being whittled down from thirty six to a lean minority of sixteen—as shown in the late election for printer—the services of these orderly sergeants will not be required in that body.—But the House is yet loyal and subordinate to executive authority. The joint resolution for bringing Peter G. Washington to the guillotine has come to a halt, and that other scheme, equally dear to Senatorial ambition, of exalting Mr. Secretary Dickins to the position of a disbursing office, independent of the Treasury, with power to spend in secret corruption half a million of dollars a year, is found to lay far behind the wishes and hopes of its framers. Now both these propositions belong to the Hardshell formation and to the same identical stratum of political intrigue. In the first place Peter G. Washington is something of a Cerberus, as Guthrie is decidedly an Old Turk. No plans for robbing the exchequer *for the benefit of the Hards* can touch bottom while these watch dogs sit at the gates of the Treasury. They must be got out, if possible, and the tactics of the Hards are modeled upon those of Napoleon. They mean to divide the enemy and attack them in detail.—The Assistant brought to the block, the front of the Secretary will be exposed, and he may be assailed with a certainty of success; with a purse bearer devoted to their interests, and responsible to nobody but themselves, it is manifest that the the malcontents in the Senate will be well supplied with the sinews of war, and will be enabled to carry on their operations against the administration to great advantage. These considerations show the importance of adding to the strength of the insurgents in the House, by discipline and strategy. The proscription of Washington and the promotion of Dickins are objects to be first accomplished.—Wheeler's speech is looked for with interest, as it may develope the mode of proceeding in this interesting crisis.

Dr. Bailey, editor of the National Era, will commence the publication of a daily Free Soil paper from that office, with the commencement of the new year, to be continued through the session of Congress. In connection with the spirited and able debates on Slavery, the fugitive act, the slave trade, and the Amistad case, which have already taken place in the House, this must be regarded as an important movement. It will be the first experiment of a daily Free Soil organ in Washington, and the establishment of such a journal is suggestive of a great expansion of the Free Soil sentiment of the country, as well as a great melioration of opinion at the political capital. Besides Dr. Bailey, whose wife and editorial assistant in the Era is a Virginia lady, it is understood that a Virginian and a North Carolinian will be associated with him in the conducting of the daily edition of his print.

The Census document of Mr. De Bow does not meet with any great degree of favor. With the sensitiveness of most Southern men respecting the peculiar institution, he has rejected a great deal of matter prepared to his hand by the former superintendent, and has taken great and most discreditable pains to disparage the labors of that gentleman throughout the work. The very title-page of the volume, made up under his supervision, indicates a ridiculous assumption of merit that belongs to another. After a tolerably full inventory of contents, the superintendant has put the words

"BY J. D. B. DE BOW."

Now what claim has J. D. B. De Bow to the authorship of the census? Are the general plan and design of it his? Did he prepare the schedules for the collection of the information? Did he issue the instructions to the marshals? Did he arrange and digest the returns? Did he do anything but throw together some seventy-five pages of introductory remarks, bearing no necessary relation to the census, and expressly forbidden by law? Every man that knows anything about the matter knows that although Mr. De Bow had the good luck to supersede Mr. Kennedy when the work was almost ready for the press, to the latter belongs whatever credit there may be in conducting the labors of the work from the origination of the tables to the ascertainment of the results.

The Hardshells are industriously swelling themselves of every mistake of the administration. An attack has been made in Congress upon Col. Jefferson Davis for his extraordinary assumption of powers in the management of the public improvements here. The works of that character now going on in this District are of vast importance. The public are not generally aware of their magnitude and costliness. The Capitol extension, the aqueduct, the two hospitals for invalid soldiers and for the insane, the patent office, and the hospital for indigent strangers, are all in active progress, and will cost before completion from twelve to fifteen millions of dollars. Over the whole of these works the Secretary of War has set a military officer, one Capt Sleige, who prescribes the exact manner in which every thing shall be done, and disburses the whole of the immense fund used in the construction of the work. Hon. R. H. Stanton has presented resolutions for a general inquiry as to the authority by which these things have been done, and an interesting investigation is expected.

JUNIUS.

THE ERIE WAR.—The following is the version given by the Cleveland Forest City of the serious disturbance at Harbor Creek:

As the morning westward train was about starting from Harbor Creek, the mob commenced tearing up the track in front of the train. Mr. Coffin, the Conductor, proceeded ahead to the Engine, a few rods, as a looker on, when some of the mob discovering him cried out, "A spy!" There was then a general shout of "Kill him!" "Out him down!" and he was instantly attacked by the mob with shovels, pick axes, &c. He told them to keep off and let him alone; but his appeals were without effect, and, finding his life in danger, he drew his revolver and shot one nearly dead and wounded another. Finding that his life was further in danger, he jumped on to an engine and proceeded to Buffalo. Mr. C. is a highly respectable citizen, and nothing but extreme emergencies would make him resort to such means.

On the receipt of the news at Cleveland, volunteer forces started from Cleveland and Buffalo for the scat of war. The *Forest City* says:

The news of the fight at Harbor creek was received at noon yesterday. It spread like wildfire through the city. The excitement became intense. One hundred citizens immediately started for the seat of war, on the evening train. (Our reporter among the rest.) They were duly prepared for emergencies. We understand that 100 men went down on the morning train. Several hundred determined men were expressed from Buffalo, on receipt of the news to Harbor creek. Things have come to a crisis. The community have resolved to succumb to the outlaws no longer. The track must be laid down and *kept* down at all hazards.

Notwithstanding this latter boast, however, the same paper announces the restoration of order, as follows:

ERIE, Dec. 27—8 P. M.—The Sheriff has taken possession of the Road, and is determined no one on either side shall touch the Road, either relaying the track or tearing it up, unless settled by legal authority.

JOHN MITCHEL'S PAPER.—There is a perfect furore among the Irish in the United States about Mitchel's new paper—*The Citizen*—the first number of which is to appear on the 7th of January next. As an evidence of this, we may mention the fact that from one man in Brooklyn he has received an order for one thousand copies of the first number, and from an agent in Philadelphia an order for five thousand copies. Similar orders have come from other cities, insomuch that it will be very difficult, without one of Hoe's lightning presses, to supply both the local and general demand. We understand that the quality of the paper on which the new journal is to be printed is to be of a very superior article, and that a large quantity is already ordered. *N. Y. Herald.*

FURTHER DETAILS OF THE FOREIGN NEWS

The Turkish Disaster in the Black Sea.

A despatch dated Odessa, Dec. 5th, says:—"The Russian Admiral Nachimoff, at the head of six ships of the line, gained, on the 30th of November, near Sinope, a great naval victory over a Turkish division, composed of seven frigates, two corvettes, a steamship, and three transports, which were commanded by Osman Pasha. The whole of the Turkish ships were destroyed in the combat, which lasted one hour. Osman Pasha had been made prisoner."

The London Times has despatches dated Vienna, Dec. 12th, as follows:

On the 30th of November the Russian Admiral Nachimoff, with six ships of the line, forced the roads at Sinope, and destroyed, after an hour's engagement, seven frigates, two corvettes, one steamer and three transports.

The frigate which was least damaged, and which the Russians were carrying off to Sebastopol, they were forced to abandon at sea, after taking Osman Pasha and his suite on board the Russian Admiral's ship.

This intelligence was brought to Odessa by an aide-de-camp of Prince Menschikoff, and thence forwarded to Vienna by telegraph. It has been confirmed by advices from Bucharest.

The larger Turkish vessels which were destroyed had each 500 soldiers, besides artillerymen on board, and a large sum of money, being bound for the east coast of the Black Sea. A fourteenth vessel escaped undamaged.

The battle began at an hour's distance from Sinope. On the 2d nothing was known of the defeat at Constantinople. The Turks were successful in Asia.

This Osman Pacha must not be confounded with Mushaver Pacha, or Captain Slade, who also holds an admiral's command in the Turkish Navy. Mushaver Pacha had returned to the Bosphorus with the squadron under his command on the 26th of November.

The port of Sinope is on the north coast of Asia Minor, about 380 miles to the east of Constantinople, and about 200 miles south by east of Sebastopol. There is an arsenal of some magnitude at Sinope.

A Russian despatch received at Vienna, on Sunday at noon, states that Admiral Nachimow encountered the Turkish fleet near Soukon Kale. Admiral Osman Pacha intended landing troops there. The Russians gave chase, and pursued the Turks into the roadstead of Sinopoli, where they annihilated thirteen Turkish vessels. One steamer escaped. There was an immense loss of lives.

It is said in Paris that the Turkish vessels which have been captured had been sent from Constantinople to carry provisions and ammunition for the troops There, and had proceeded a considerable distance on their way, when they fell in with the Russian squadron, consisting of six ships of the line and several smaller vessels. Resistance was impossible, and there was a general *sauve qui peut*, when several of the Turkish ships were captured.

The English papers are all filled with comments on the Turkish defeat in the Black Sea, and the course of the ministry in withholding assistance from Turkey, and pretending to have faith in the success of negotiations is severely commented on. The London Times, of Dec. 13, has the following leading article:

The Intelligence from the seat of war, which we received yesterday with hesitation, has now been corroborated by several channels, and by a positive announcement in the official journal of France. War has begun in earnest. A naval action has been fought upon the coast of Asia Minor, ending in the total destruction of a portion of the Ottoman fleet; and for the first time in naval history a Russian squadron has returned to Sebastopol laden with the spoils of victory. The war, hitherto confined to the occupation of the Danubian Principalities and to a few partial encounters of the hostile armies, appears to have assumed on the Black Sea the character of direct aggression, and the Emperor of Russia has thrown down the gauntlet to the maritime Powers precisely on that element on which they are best prepared and by right should feel it our duty to uphold and defend the cause of peace, as long as peace was compatible with the honor and dignity of the country, and we feel no regret that to the very last we have adhered to a course of policy which a just concern for the best interests of England and of the civilized world prescribed. But we have never concealed our opinion that the events occurring in the East might every long compel us to more more resolute measures a sterner alternative, and we have repeatedly urged upon the Governments of England and France the necessity of being prepared with a plan of operations adapted to such an emergency. If the intelligence last received be confirmed in the manner in which it is related to us, the time for these resolutions to take effect is already come.

It must, however, be remarked that great perplexity and uncertainty still hang over the details of this important event. All the accounts received of it appear to have been despatched from Odessa on the 5th first, and to have passed through Vienna. They are, therefore, altogether foreign statements.

Whatever doubt may still prevail as to the circumstances which preceded this action and the mode in which it was fought, there can be very little as to its naval and political consequences. It tends to give the Russian navy an ascendency on the Black Sea which the Turks have hitherto disputed; and it calls upon the maritime allies of the Porte to put in very positive language to supply that naval protection of which she more than ever stands in need. If it should turn out that the Russian squadron fell in with a convoy bound for the army of Asia, and pursued these ships into Sinope, this act may in the present state of warfare between the two Powers, be considered justifiable. But it is equally probable, these Russian ships of the line have indeed come from Sebastopol to burn, sink, and destroy the Turkish squadron, not on the high sea or on the coast of Circassia, but at anchor in their own fortified harbor, this proceeding of the Emperor of Russia goes to the last extremity of aggressive war. It disposes at once the assurances, still more recently repeated, of his desire to stand on the defensive only, even since the Turkish declaration of war; and, had it not been for the presence of the English and French fleets in Beicos Bay at this moment, the enterprise which directed this blow against Sinope might have aimed a still more formidable attack upon the Bosphorus and the capital. A more violent and hostile measure cannot not have been resorted to; and the importance attached to it by Russia may be inferred from the fact that Prince Menschikoff, the original author of these calamities and the instrument of this fresh outrage, hurried from Odessa to St. Petersburgh to lay the news of this victory at the feet of the Czar.

The effect this event will have in Europe is not less serious. It dispels the hopes we have been led to entertain of pacification, for we cannot share the opinion that this success will lower in any degree the temper or pretensions of Russia; and it imposes upon the allied fleets more peremptory duties. Indeed, as this blow on the naval resources of Turkey interrupts her communications with Trebizond and Batoum, it is highly injurious to her Asiatic army, and all would be lost if the command of the Black Sea were suffered to pass into the hands of the enemy. The British government and its allies will have, from the moment this intelligence is confirmed, to deal with a state of affairs far more decided and momentous than any which this question had yet assumed; and we earnestly trust that the Cabinet will prove itself equal to the emergency.

Letters from Paris speak variously of the effect of the disastrous intelligence of the Turkish defeat on the opinion of that capital. The following would seem to afford a fair representation of its tone:—On Saturday, after the close of the Bourse, the news from Odessa of the destruction of several Turkish ships produced among the stock jobbers a slight fall in prices.—To day the news confirmed, and the funds have risen. The 3 per cents were at one time as high as 76f 15c for cash, and they closed at 76f 90c. The 4½ per cents closed at 102f 50c. The improvement is evidently founded on a belief that the recent disaster of the Turks will make the Divan more willing to consent to an armistice; and that point being gained, it is thought that in two or three months a treaty of peace will be concluded. It appears certain that the basis of the treaty must be the note of Vienna. All the letters from Vienna agree in stating that the Austrian cabinet has joined the conference on that condition.

THE VERY LATEST.

It is reported that the British Charge d'Affairs at Teheran has suspended his diplomatic relations with the Persian government, in consequence of *that Power having resolved, as it is said, to take part against the Porte and to march an army to the frontier*. This movement on the part of the Shah of Persia had for some time been apprehended, as his relations with Turkey were such as to induce him to take advantage of the increasing difficulties of the Ottoman empire. The news, however, still requires positive confirmation.

The *Morning Post* states that a Constantinople telegraphic despatch of the 3d, reports the prevalence of great alarm and excitement, owing to the news from Sinope. The account given of the action is substantially the same as the Russian. The fleets were bound to enter the Black Sea. *Persia had declared war against Turkey.*

With respect to the Persian declaration of war against Turkey, this is the natural consequences of a treaty offensive and defensive between Persia and Russia, concluded some months ago. It adds a new complication.

There is nothing late from the Danube.

Telegraphic despatches in the Chronicle give the details of the Turkish success in Asia.

Scamyl and Selim Pacha had taken various fortresses; and it is stated that they surround Prince Woronzoff on all sides, in the vicinity of Tefilis.

The Turks were repulsed in an attack on Alexandrienople, in Georgia, but have blockaded the citadel of Akista. Its fall was daily expected.

The *Journal de Constantinople* mentions a report that Schamyl had defeated 15,000 Russians, and a Vienna paper states that the attempt to land 18,000 Russians near St. Nicholas was repulsed with heavy loss.

The London *Times'* city article says:

"It is believed that the report of the probable negotiation of a Turkish 5 per cent. loan in Paris, for four millions sterling, through some of the financial institutions lately organized is not without foundation. The government, it is said, are indisposed to promote it, but in return a condition will be exacted, that the Sultan should bind himself unreservedly to consent to whatever terms of adjustment with Russia the allied Powers may think proper to propose."

The advices from Constantinople are as follows:—The Turkish passenger steamer Medari Tidjaret which was captured by Russian cruisers in the Black Sea several days ago, came into the Bosphorus on the 20th, and caused great astonishment. The vessel was taken before the exploration of the delay granted on both sides for placing merchant ships out of danger. As there were several Russian merchantmen at Constantinople when the Medari Tidjaret was captured, the Russians were unusually scrupulous of dealing with her.

The merchants of all nations at Constantinople are signing an address to the Sultan, expressing their best wishes for his cause.

A column of the new legion of Turkish Cossacks has arrived at Constantinople; 8,000 volunteer Scodrians have been organized in Albania and a new corps of 10,000 Kurds has been formed by the sheiks of their country.

The European and Turkish artillery officers have just completed the fortifications of the Ottoman coast of the Black Sea. It is now guarded by two hundred and fifty heavy guns, well placed to command the sea and forbid the approach of ships of war.

The Sultan maintains his resolve not to enter upon the path of negotiation while his territory remains violated.

Notwithstanding the war, commerce is active. Three hundred and twenty-three vessels have entered, and five hundred and seventeen left Constantinple in the course of the last week.

The Spanish Ambassador, recently arrived, had a long conference with Redschid Pasha; and on the following day he was to be received by the Sultan. His presence had produced a certain effect on the public, as it coincides with the news of the approaching arrival of a Spanish squadron of six vessels of war.

LONDON, Dec. 13, 6 o'clock, P. M.—At a Cabinet Council to-day, it was decided by the English Government to make a demonstration in conjunction with France against the Russian fleet in the Black Sea.

From the N. Y. Herald.

FURTHER PARTICULARS OF THE NEW YORK FIRE

About midnight our city became the scene of one of the most terrific if not the most destructive conflagrations with which we were ever visited. The flames were first discovered in a building in the rear of No. 244 Front street, occupied by Messrs. Treadwell & Son, cracker bakers. Owing to a stiff breeze from the West the flames spread very rapidly, and in a comparatively short space of time both the front and rear buildings with most of their contents were consumed. The adjoining premises, No. 242 occupied by Messrs. Jones, Rowland & Co., flour dealers, and No. 246, Mr. D W. Manwaring, were destroyed. The flour store of Messrs. Harris & Co, No. 240 was also destroyed.

While the fire was raging in the above named locality, the sparks were so thick in the vicinity as to assume the appearance of raining fire.—The streets and docks along the East river were literally alive with burning coals. The pier at the foot of Dover street was at one time covered to the depth of some inches with fire and the rigging and masts of the numerous vessels lying in the East stream were completely enveloped in flying sparks. The seamen and others were obviously exerted themselves to prevent the canvass from igniting, but in most instances the high wind rendered their efforts useless.

About half past one o'clock the rigging of the stupendous new ship Great Republic took fire—Owing to the immense height of her masts it was impossible for the engines to play upon the flames, and the consequence was that the falling spars soon set her deck in a blaze. At three o'clock her foremast fell, knocking her mainyard out of the slings, and shortly after the mainmast came down across the deck. Her mizzenmast followed carrying with it the spankermast.

The vessel was now a perfect wreck, being one mass of flame from the mainmast. From the rapid manner in which the flames were spreading, it was apparent that nothing could save her. She was still burning at half-past three, and by this time probably nothing remains of that magnificent floating palace but a charred and blackened hull.

From the Great Republic the fire spread to the ship Joseph Walker, near which the flames ran so rapidly as to bid defiance to the efforts to save her. She belonged to black star line and may be considered a total loss.

A large ship, supposed to be the packet ship De Witt Clinton or the clipper ship Red Rover, lying near the Great Republic, caught fire in the rigging and soon became a complete blaze. She was towed out in front of the Catharine Market by one of the Fulton Ferry boats, and afterwards floated up the river. She eventually burned to the water's edge.

In addition to the above, several other vessels—mostly schooners and sloops—had their spars and rigging burned. The majority of them, however, escaped total destruction by slipping their cables and drifting out into the stream.

About two o'clock, the fire crossed Front st., to Nos. 245, 247, and 249 occupied by Geo. Newman, boat builder, R. M. Reynolds & Co., flour merchants, and others whose names we were unable to ascertain. Much of the property in these stores was destroyed, and at the time of going to press the flames were still raging with great impetuosity, although it was thought they would be confined to these buildings.

The houses on South street were in imminent danger, and many of them were considerably scorched. The wind blew a perfect gale during the three hours that the fire raged, prior to sending this sheet to press.

Of course, it was impossible at the late hour of the night, to procure even a moiety of the particulars of this catastrophe, or give anything like a description of the thrilling scene.

A RIOT QUELLED—THREATENED ATTACK ON BADIN, THE POPE'S NUNCIO.—Since the arrival of the Pope's Nuncio, Badini, in this city, a great excitement has prevailed among the German portion of our population, known as "Liberals" and "Freemen." On Friday last an article appeared in a German paper called the *Hechenwechter*, edited by Mr. Frederick Hauserek, denouncing in the most severe language the Nuncio of the Pope, and recommending for him a treatment similar to that received by Kossuth in London. On Sunday night the "Society of Freemen" met in their Hall, on Vine street, between Twelfth and Thirteenth, and formed in a procession, numbering about eight hundred or a thousand strong. In the meantime, information had been received by Captain Lukens, Chief of Police, that the "Freemen" were about to attack the Bishop's residence, in the rear of the Cathedral. A police force of near one hundred men was immediately detailed and stationed in the watch-house, due square north of the Cathedral, on Ninth street. Shortly after 10 o'clock, the "Freemen" and "Liberals" left their hall and marched down Vine street to Ninth, along Ninth to Plum. The procession was preceded by a drum, and in it were carried a number of transparencies, a few of the inscriptions on which we copy:

"Down with Badini!"

On the reverse side, in German,

"Die Gallow bist Badini."

"No Priests," no Kings.

On one end of this transparency was painted a sword and spear, and on the other a musket.

Another with the inscription,

"Down with the Roman Butcher!"

On others—"No Papery," "Love, Liberty and Fraternity," "Equality," &c.

In the procession was carried a light frame work scaffold, having an effigy of Badini hanging by the neck from it, and a mitre upon his head with the cross emblazoned thereon.

As the front of the procession was turning down Plum street, towards the Cathedral, the Police force, headed by Captain Lukens, emerged from the watch house. They proceeded towards Plum street, separating into two divisions, one part taking the north and the other the south side of the street. As the Police force was crossing diagonally from the corner of Plum and Ninth streets, a shot was fired from the procession, when at a signal from Capt. Lukens, they immediately rushed among the "Freemen." A desperate fight ensued, during which, upwards of fifty or sixty pistol shots were fired on both sides, and stones, clubs, slung-shots, and weapons of every kind were freely used.

Henry Carroll, watchman of the Second Ward, was shot in the right leg above the knee. The wound is not serious.

Lieut. Housman was struck on the head with a club, and had his thumb broken. Those in the procession fared the worst. A German named Englebarger, was shot in four places, one ball entering his breast, the other three his legs.—He was conveyed to his boarding house, on Walnut street, between Twelfth and Thirteenth, where he died during the night.

Andrew Geisinger, German, was shot in the left leg; the ball passed through the flesh. He was one of the arrested parties, and his wound was dressed in the watch house.

The following persons received severe, though not dangerous, wounds from the maces of the Policemen:—George Heberman, Wm. Sherkerbeer, Christian Berkset, Michael Fisher and Frederick Smith. A number of others were slightly wounded by the Police.

The fight raged furiously for about five or ten minutes, but those composing the procession finally gave way and fled from the scene of action, leaving the ground strewed with pistols, clubs, canes, hats, cloaks, &c.—*Cin. Eng.*

SPECIAL NOTICES.

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NOTICE—The undersigned, Frederick Lorenz, of the firm of L. Lorenz, Stirling & Co., and Thomas H. Stewart, of the late firm of Stewart, Lloyd & Co. have this day formed a co partnership, under the name and style of LORENZ,