THE STAR AND BANNER.

GETTYSBURG.

Friday Evening, Dec. 17, 1852.

Naval Movements.

The Navy Yard at Brooklyn, New York, at present wears a very lively appearance. There are eight large Government war vessels moored there, [exclusive of the receiving ship North Carolina,] all of which are fitting out, or will be within the utmost dispatch. They form three, or 3 parts of three, distinct expeditions.

First, the expedition, under the command of Commander Ringgold, comprising the brig Porpoise, the sloop-of-war Vincennes, the steamer John Hancock, and a pilot boat.—These vessels are destined for the Japan and China seas, Behring's strait, and the South sea islands, on a voyage of exploration, for the promotion of commercial interests. It is expected to sail by the 1st of January at furthest.

Second, is the African squadron, under Commodore Mayo, consisting of the frigate Constitution, and the sloop-of-war Marion, which carries sixteen guns. The former will be the flag-ship. These are designed to relieve other vessels on the African station whose time has expired.—They are all ready, except the lack of a few men. The Constitution looks as well as in her younger days.

Third, is the Mediterranean, to join Commodore Perry's Japan squadron. She is now ready for her officers and crew.—Shine her return to the port she has been refitted, and her ports altered with a light spar-deck, so as to mount twenty guns on the main deck, and two of the largest size [on pivots] on the spar-deck—all intended for throwing shells. She is now one of the handsomest vessels in the navy.

Besides these vessels, the razee Independence and the store-ship Lexington, are fitting out with dispatch, destination not known. A store-ship Relief is expected, which sailed on Thursday, took out stores for the East India and Pacific squadrons, and for the Japan expedition.—*Journal of Commerce.*

FRANCE.—The vote of the Empire was cast on the 21st and 22d November. Both public and private accounts agree that the ceremony was conducted decorously, but without any show of enthusiasm.—From the pains taken to bring up the voters, the return will exhibit a large majority—greater, probably, than on any previous appeal to the people. By authority, we learn that up to the evening of the 27th, the least returns, including all the large departments and the great seaport towns, were—for the Empire, 7,500,000; no, 200,000.

In Paris the number of voters who abstained in December, 1848, amounted to one-fifth, and this time to one-seventh.

The result to the Department of the Seine was proclaimed on Thursday morning, at the Hotel de Ville, amidst cries of 'Vive l'Empereur!' On Thursday also the corps Legislatif met, and proceeded with the epplicnments of the committee.

The servility of the voters would compel some days—perhaps four; and probably on the 1st December the result would be announced, and the official proclamation of the new Empire made on the 2d December, the anniversary of the coup d'état and the coronation of Napoleon I. On the 2d will appear the senatus consultum, with the draft of a decree, which, in few, but the most exquisite of the Bourbons and of the Empire will be restored.

It is said the Emperor will address one manifesto to France and another to Europe. On the latter, we shall be essentially pacific. The President has sent a specially official message to the Legislative body, stating that the Government will adhere to the Empire merely in name.

SYMPATHY.—An excellent article in Harper, for December, on the causes of the revolution of crime, is so obscured and by a sound practical philosophy mixed with genuine benevolence, as to attract attention but in proportion as it is observed in Monsieur Hesterine. Notwithstanding the writer has treated his subject with a fullness that satisfies of little or no addition, his pen not omitted one very operative source of the increase of crime, in the sympathy so publicly manifested for the fate of the convict, when sentenced to the cell or doomed to the scaffold! Had contingent society no claim to pity and commiseration? And is not this sympathy for the fate of the criminal, by heroizing his violations of the laws, a very powerful influence in favor of crime? No doubt should ever be expressed against the course of law, or the punishments of justice; not even judicially—for such dissent implies that law is wrong, and that the judge, and not the jury, is right. Better repeal the whole penal code than abolition of its relentless; or, as it must appear, apologies for its punishments.—*Phil. Ledger.*

AN EXTENSIVE GANG OF COUNTERFEITERS has just been discovered in New York city. The officers found a complete set of implements for counterfeiting gold dollars and sovereigns; these consisted of a large furnace, a galvanic battery, a set of dies, chemicals for making gold dollars, a die in an unfinished state, for making sovereigns, a large quantity of sheet brass, from which thousands of counterfeit gold dollars had been made, together with a quantity of every description suitable for the purpose. They also found about twenty-five counterfeit gold dollars, and a large number in an unfinished state. The gold dollars are beautifully executed, and excepting their weight, are well calculated to deceive. It is believed that thousands of them are in circulation. Several of the counterfeiters are now in custody.

CONVENTION OF SCHOLDERS.—The Cincinnati Gazette says that a convention of owners of slaves from Missouri, Kentucky and other counties in Kentucky has been held, to devise some way of preventing the escape of slaves. They would have a Slave protection Society formed in each county in Kentucky, each to have a pursuing Committee. A census to be taken of all the slaves in each county owned by members, a fund raised to pay a stipulated reward for recapture and expenses of the pursuit of the slaves of members, to pay the citizens of the States for the capture of fugitives at the following rate: $200 for a slave over 16 years old. $100 for youngers, and $50 for slaves taken which results in the capture of a fugitive.

DAN'S WAVE IV.—The Charleston Mercury comes out in a vigorous article, in opposition to the acquisition of Cuba, on our present States for the extension of slavery by the United States. The Mercury argues that did we get possession of it, with her wishes, a war with Spain, it would only renew the Anti-Slavery crusade against the South, at home, and be the direct means, moreover of making Cuba itself free States, in which case the either thinks its condition, in most respects, would be worse than it now is.

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