



Wednesday Morning, December 12, 1855.

WILLIAM BREVSTER, SAM. G. WHITTAKER, EDITORS.

D. P. GWIN—Has just received a fresh supply of Plain Delains, Persian Twills, Bay State and Waterloo Long Shawls. Call and see them.

The Russian army in Finland, according to accounts, amounts to 50,000 men, beside 120,000 in reserve at St. Petersburg. It will thus be seen that Russia is in no danger from a Swedish invasion.

HUNTER'S MEDICAL SPECIALIST.—This is an invaluable work, and should be in the possession of every medical man, and every individual troubled with any of the diseases of the chest. One dollar a year. Sherman & Co., Publishers, N. Y.

GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK.—Godey is always ahead. The January number of this splendid magazine is before us—it's a glorious number. Ladies you are not half enjoying the good things of the world if you don't get Godey.—Only \$3. Address L. A. Godey, Philadelphia.

PENNSYLVANIA TELEGRAPH.—We invite our readers' attention to the prospectus of the above named paper, in another column. The incoming proprietors have expended a large amount of money, for the purpose of rendering the Telegraph a paper worthy the support of every citizen of the State. We bespeak for it the patronage of our good citizens.

The Whig Party.

The Whig Party does not seem to be dead yet in Missouri, though it is very dead in most other States. In Missouri, the Americans have not swallowed up the Whigs. On the contrary the Whigs still maintain their identity, and their members of the State Legislature have held a caucus at Jefferson city, and adopted a very patriotic series of resolutions proposing to hold a Whig National Convention. They earnestly exhort the Whigs of Missouri to preserve their old organization, and call upon the Whigs of all parts of the Union to rally with them.—They aver, with a distinctness which implies belief that the National Whig party is not dead but still lives. They reiterate the former principles of the party, and express their regret at the general defection. They propose holding a Whig State Convention of Missouri, in St. Louis, on the second Monday of April, 1856, for the purpose of appointing delegates to a Whig National Convention, to nominate candidates for President and Vice President of the United States, and also to nominate candidates for State officers. This is the first movement we have yet seen for a Whig National Convention, and in the present confused state of our politics it is of some importance. Whig organizations, composed of persons not members of the American party, exist in Maine and Massachusetts, and, as they have the advantages of some names of high repute, may elect delegates to a Whig National Convention. There is also a Whig organization in Pennsylvania, and in some localities the party is kept up with determined spirit.

The Kansas Difficulty.

We publish all the information received by telegraph concerning the difficulties in Kansas and some extracts from papers. It seems that President Pierce has taken no positive steps to the requisition of Gov. Shannon for United States troops. When Shannon's despatch was first received in Washington, its authenticity was doubted by the President and his Cabinet, but when the fact that the thing was not a hoax appeared to be satisfactorily established, the President telegraphed Shannon to employ all the authority at his command, to suppress the outbreak, and when a full and formal statement of the facts in the case should reach Washington, the Government would act as the exigency of the case should seem to demand. It is regarded by the President as a question requiring in every aspect very delicate treatment, particularly as the County Sheriff and not the United States Marshal appears to have been the executive officer. In this state of the case a summons by him to the Government troops at Fort Leavenworth would hardly meet with a favorable response, as such troops are entirely beyond his jurisdiction, and not subject to the posse comitatus call. If the President finally concludes in accordance with the requirements of Gov. Shannon, he must first issue his Proclamation of Warning, unless there be indeed open positive rebellion. So the imminent danger of grave consequences at present is not seemingly impending, as far as the armed interference of the Government is concerned. The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun, says Gov. Shannon may have acted upon false or exaggerated complaints, and there is also reason to believe that it was intended to create a row just at the moment of the organization of Congress. Governor Shannon being armed by the United States, may so use his authority as to quiet the agitation, if any prevails, or to increase and aggravate it. It is not stated in the despatch of Governor Shannon what particular laws have been resisted by the inhabitants, but it is known that a portion of them regulate all the laws of the Territorial Government, though they do not resist their execution by violence. They do not sue for certain before the Justices, nor resort to the Courts of Probate. But it is understood that they intended to resist the actual execution of the twelfth section of the addition law, which provides for the punishment of any person who provides for the punishment of any person with fine and imprisonment who may, in words spoken, deny that Slavery exists legally in Kansas. A person was convicted under this act, and the Free State people have determined not to resist the law until sentence should be passed, when they would interfere to prevent its execution. So it is possible that this is the cause of the present disturbance.

THE NEWS.

Beyond a doubtful rumor of the Prussian Envoy having obtained the Czar's consent to inform the Western powers of his willingness to negotiate for peace, the telegraphic despatch which announces the arrival of the America, contains little or nothing of interest. The intelligence, however, though consisting of mere surmises, reveals the important and auspicious fact, that amid the roar of cannon, and in the very height of the excitement of war, a feeling in favor of peace has grown up silently and quietly among the nations of Europe, which has gathered strength with every victory or defeat, with every disaster or success, until it has become strong enough to find expression from the very lips which pronounced the declaration of war. The Emperor Napoleon in his speech delivered at the closing scene of the Paris exhibition, declared, with as much frankness as truth, that a final victory in war is not achieved by public opinion. He expressed himself as strongly in favor of peace, as, under the circumstances it was consistent in him, the guardian of the national honor of France, to do.—He gave a bold and unreserved utterance to his sentiments, because he was fully aware that they were those of the people of Europe, and that they would be responded to, notwithstanding the warlike harangue of Lord Palmston, by an influential, if not at the present juncture of affairs, a numerous class in England.

Whether the Prussian envoy has really been entrusted with the mission of declaring the Czar ready to treat for peace or not, it cannot be doubted that that monarch, in view of the wholesale destruction of life and property already accomplished, and the uncertain chances of an indefinitely prolonged and bloody contest, feels it incumbent upon him as a solemn and sacred duty, at least to try whether it be not possible to devise a settlement of the vexed and intricate question by other means than those of steel and iron bullets. The inclemency of the Crimean sky will gain a triumph over the passions of the combatants, it will compel them to pause, and, for a time, at least, to sheath their weapons. The blasts of winter will do that what human reasoning, perhaps, could not have accomplished as promptly and effectually, it will hold the belligerents face to face on the bleak hills and snow covered valleys of the Crimea, inactive and motionless, and thus give their governments time to reflect on the hazardous and, perchance, ruinous game they are playing—ruiuous, perhaps, to both parties, and to doleful profit even to him who might be fortunate enough to grasp the laurels of victory on the field of battle at the expense of a defeat elsewhere—at the expense of suffering and famine at home. Such, at least, history teaches us are the sad consequences of the glory and pomp of war—the dark side of the brilliant picture.

It may be objected against a renewed attempt to arrange the difference by negotiation that no yet definite advantage has been obtained by either party, such as would prove decisive or ponderous enough to incline the scales to one side; that though Russia has been compelled to destroy by the hands of her own sons, the forts and houses of Sebastopol, and to sink her cherished fleet to the bottom of the Euxine; though she has been forced to gaze upon the smouldering ruins of Kerch and Tamau and Fanagoria, and to surrender Kinburn, she has still a national vitality exuberant enough to enable her to resist any claims derogatory to her honor or detrimental to her interests. It may be said that her armies yet hold the heights of the Crimea from Perekop to Simpheropol, and that the Allies, though in superior force, recoil from the attempt of attacking their formidable position—a position which offers a commentary upon the relative condition of the combatants, more accurate than diplomatic skill and eloquence could define it. It portends that after fourteen months of terrible slaughter, and in spite of the heavy losses incurred, and the unexampled difficulties of providing for ammunition, subsistence and succors, the soldiers of the Car are still a match for their enemy—that they are yet unconquered. But this is exactly the point upon which the prospects of the rumored negotiations may be based, with some hope or chance of a successful termination. As matters stand, both parties have incurred immense losses: both have exhibited their bravery and skill of leadership; both have upheld their military prestige; both have found the exact limits of their strength and their weakness, and each has learned to respect the prowess of the other. Had one of them gained a complete and decided victory, the national pride of the vanquished would have revolted against the very idea of negotiation. The conflict must have been carried to a total exhaustion of the weaker power. And it would seem that the alternative of the Eastern question, is either peace by negotiation or war to exhaustion. But would a cessation of hostilities in consequence of exhaustion form any solid guarantee of a durable peace? We think not.—With returning strength, the war would break out with renewed fury, unless extermination of one of the parties were a possibility. The four points are obsolete. They are lost with the fleet of the Black Sea, and have been consigned to oblivion. But surely it cannot be entirely impossible to revise and reconsider the status quo before the war, with a view of discovering its weak points and its discrepancies, and of devising such measures as might be consistently adopted by both belligerents, without injury to their national honor. It cannot be impracticable to substitute reason and argument for the edge of the sword, in order to bring to a satisfactory conclusion a question of political importance. We hope that the impending conferences influenced by public opinion, which evidently evinces most decided inclinations towards peace, may succeed in solving the problem.

The capture of the Crimea—as yet far from its final consummation—should it be actually accomplished at the expense of enormous sacrifices, could not force Russia to terms inconsistent with her honor. Such a victory would be as incomplete as the partial destruction of Sebastopol is in reference to the acquisition of the Crimea. Sevastopol is not the Crimea, nor would the possession of the latter render the invasion of Russia proper in any way less hazardous, or ruinous, or impossible. The conquest of Moscow could not paralyze the power of resistance of the Car. Of this fact Europe has had ample, ample proof. What, then, is the

use of carrying on a contest whose consummation is beyond the capacities of the aggressive powers. The mere destruction of life and property, however skillfully it may be conducted, however gloriously accomplished, is, after all, but a means to the end. Before engaging in the terrible and demoralizing work, the fact should have been well ascertained whether there was actually a chance of the means leading to the proposed end. This simple but all important question was overlooked completely at the outset, and the expression that the Allies' drifted into the war remains as true as the fact is deplorable. That a settlement of the differences between the Western Powers and Russia is surrounded by immense difficulties and perplexities, every one must admit, but that those difficulties are, at the present juncture of affairs, insurmountable, or less capable of being regulated by treaty than before the outbreak of hostilities, we are inclined to doubt. It would seem, on the contrary, that the knowledge and experience derived from the test of each other's military and financial capacities, might form an important element in adjusting and regulating the claims of the two opposite parties. They entered upon the war because they were ignorant of their own ability as that of their antagonist. The Vienna conferences failed partly because the relative resources of the contending powers had not been accurately ascertained.

At the moment the unequal strength of two combatants is positively known, a struggle for physical or military supremacy becomes an absurdity. The difference may be arranged by negotiation and diplomacy should take place of armies. Viewing the matter in this aspect, and considering at the same time, the menacing political, social and financial complications which a continuation of the war might aggravate and develop, most likely, into insurrection, rebellion and anarchy, it does not seem wholly impossible, nor even improbable, that the endeavor to convoke another conference, and to arrange the difficulties by diplomatic action, may be followed by results satisfactory to the principal parties.

The receipts at the State Treasury during the year ending on the 1st of December, were \$5,399,474 11, and the expenditures \$5,385,705 52.

A tremendous fire broke out in Sing Sing prison, last week, by which \$50,000 worth of property was destroyed.

POETRY.—The following extraordinary jangle of trochees occurs in Longfellow's new poem, Hiawatha: "Seized his grandmother and throw her, Up into the sky at midnight; Right against the moon he threw her, 'Tis her body that you see there!" Now is it not incredible that the author of "Hearts like muffled drums are beating Funeral marches to the tomb?" could have written such ineffectual trash as this? Perhaps the professor would tell us why this unfortunate grandmother was thus pitched "right against the moon?" We confess we do wish to know!

News by Telegraph.

European News.

Terrible Explosion at Inkerman—Rumors of Peace—Fire in France—The Position of Sweden—Prussia for the Car—Menschikoff Dismissed—Critical Aspect of Affairs between the United States and England, &c., &c., &c.

PARIS, Monday, Nov. 19—8 30 A. M.—The Monitor announces that the Minister of war received yesterday the following telegraphic dispatch from Marshal Pelissier, dated Sebastopol, Nov. 16, 6 P. M.:—Our park of artillery (called Park of the Mills) near Inkerman, was completely destroyed yesterday at 4 o'clock in the afternoon by an explosion of three magazines, containing altogether 30,000 kilograms of powder, 600,000 cartridges, 300 charged shells, and other projectiles.

The ignited materials, hurled to a distance, caused a violent conflagration in the English park next ours, and there also partial explosions took place. At 6 o'clock the English and French workmen were masters of the fire. Our loss consists of 30 killed, including two officers, and some hundred wounded among whom are ten officers.

However serious an event it is, we must still congratulate ourselves that the consequences have not been more serious and disastrous. I am not able to state the losses of our allies. I believe they are about the same as our own.

As nearly always happens in similar cases, it is difficult to ascertain the cause of the first explosion. This is certainly a very lamentable accident but our stores are so considerable that the resources of the army are not in the slightest degree affected by it.

Lord Panmure has received the following telegraphic despatch from General Sir W. Colingridge dated Nov. 16:— "A heavy explosion of a store of powder at the French siege train took place about 3 P. M. yesterday; it communicated fire to our siege train close to it, where there was no powder, but some naval live shells, most of which were recovered; but the loss of life and damage done is considerable.

"The great explosion threw shells over the camp of our siege train, the huts of the first Brigade being entirely damaged, but not by fire.

"All officers and men were on the spot at once, and worked with good will and energy, and I saw all safe when I quitted at 7 P. M.

PEACE REMOVED.—Rumors of a disposition on the part of the Russian government to make the first advances to negotiate for peace continue to prevail, but excepting reliable information that the mercenary classes in Russia are weary of war, there is no apparent ground for the rumors. It is, however, confidently reported that Mr. De Munster, military envoy of Prussia at St. Petersburg, had visited the Czar at Nicolaeff, with a view of inducing him to recognize certain conditions of peace such as would be laid before the French and English Cabinets. The Czar listened favorably to M. De Munster's propositions.

The Prussian cabinet is now in possession of the views of the Emperor Alexander, and is empowered to make them known to the Western Powers, who on their part have not refused to listen to them, though at the same time they have declared them to be insufficient. The great fact is that negotiations between Russia and Prussia are still proceeding.

A terribly destructive fire occurred in Paris, by which the Government bakery was consumed. It contained 28,000 quintals of corn and equal quantity of flour and biscuits were burned.

The ship America, wrecked near Calabria, which was sold by the underwriters, has been got off by the purchasers.

A large amount of Russian grain on the coast near Gibraltarian, had been destroyed by an Allied flotilla, sent for the purpose. The grain was intended for an army in the Crimea, and was packed in six tiers, which extended along the coast for two miles.

The Czar has dismissed Prince Menchikoff as chief of his staff and appointed General Olenbutin in his stead.

On the 11th inst. the Czar stated that Gen. Mouravieff, overcome by his defeat before Kers, had become insane and Gen. Bubusoff had been summoned to assume the command.

SWEDEN.—Respecting Carobert's mission to Sweden, we have only a Paris rumor—but the rumor is important, and is as follows:—The terms of the convention, as regards the fact that Sweden will furnish a contingent to act with the allies next spring, if peace be not previously restored, and that an army of French, English and Swedes, will be sent to Courland to force Prussia and Austria to declare their empires; and in return for their alliance, the allies will guarantee Finland to her.

Canada states that an officer belonging to the military organization of Free State men had been captured at Atchison, and written orders found upon his person to burn down the town and murder Mr. Laughlin.

As the male population had gone to Leocompton under orders of the Governor, a request was sent to Weston for assistance, and a party left last night for Atchison to defend the place.

[From the St. Louis Intelligencer.] SECRET SLAVERY SOCIETY IN MISSOURI.—It has long been known that a secret League is in existence in Missouri, the avowed purpose of which is to plant Slavery in Kansas. It was formed long before any ever heard of the Free-State League, which was lately exposed in the West, and resulted in the death of Laughlin, one of the leaders of the Free State League.

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The "Law and order people of the Territory" which means the Pro-Slavery men, are rallying to the aid of Jones, who was sent to Shawnee Mission for a wagon load of ammunition, and for cannon. Jones has a warrant for the arrest of forty-two men at Lawrence, and will proceed to execute it, we presume, as soon as he is satisfied of the sufficiency of his force for the task. Then the contest will come unless moderate concessions and retreat prevail, and we may have to chronicle the slaughter of American citizens by those who should be their brethren. The people of Lawrence refuse to deliver up the offenders, defy the law and declare that they will hang Jones and Coleman.

As we said yesterday, the Free State men of Lawrence wish other towns are gathered to Lawrence to side with the people of that place on the light. The sky of the West looks lurid and we tremble every moment lest we may hear the clash of rattling arms and see the smoke of civil strife curling over the fresh fields of Kansas.—St. Louis Evening News, 1st.

St. Louis, Tuesday, Dec. 4, 1855.—Accounts from Kansas state that an officer belonging to the military organization of Free State men had been captured at Atchison, and written orders found upon his person to burn down the town and murder Mr. Laughlin.

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difficultly arising under the law for the organization of the territorial government of Kansas. In fact there has been great misapprehension in the public mind as to the powers of the Executive in this relation. These powers are strictly defined by law and very limited.

Under the Constitution, it is true, the President is to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, but his authority in the subject is to be construed in subordination to the provision of the Constitution, which declares that Congress shall have power to provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the Union, suppress insurrections, and repel invasions. Accordingly, Congress has enacted laws applicable in terms to the contingency of insurrection in any State against the government thereof.

But here, the law to be executed being one of Territory, and the ministerial officer the Sheriff of a county, nothing regarding it can be done by the President until his interposition be invoked for the emergency of insurrection, and at the call either of the legislature or the governor of the Territory. In the former case the President might give direction, but in the latter he cannot.

Thirty-Fourth Congress—First Session. No Speaker yet—Probable Election of Mr. Banks—The British Minister Dismissed, &c.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8. SENATE.—On motion of Mr. Pratt, Mr. Hickey was appointed Chief Clerk, and J. H. Nicholson, Reading Clerk.

Mr. Sumner presented a petition from Commodore Joseph Smith, remonstrating against the action of the Naval Board in placing him on the retired list.

The Senate then adjourned. Mr. Hale, *cote voce*, looking at the Clerk:—We have made over a dollar a minute to-day, the day having lasted only seven minutes. [Laughter.]

House.—The roll having been called, the balloting for Speaker was resumed; resulting as follows: Richardson, 23th 20th 30th 31st 32d 33d 34th 35th 36th 37th 38th 39th 40th 41st 42d 43d 44th 45th 46th 47th 48th 49th 50th 51st 52d 53d 54th 55th 56th 57th 58th 59th 60th 61st 62d 63d 64th 65th 66th 67th 68th 69th 70th 71st 72d 73d 74th 75th 76th 77th 78th 79th 80th 81st 82d 83d 84th 85th 86th 87th 88th 89th 90th 91st 92d 93d 94th 95th 96th 97th 98th 99th 100th 101st 102d 103d 104th 105th 106th 107th 108th 109th 110th 111st 112d 113th 114th 115th 116th 117th 118th 119th 120th 121st 122d 123d 124th 125th 126th 127th 128th 129th 130th 131st 132d 133d 134th 135th 136th 137th 138th 139th 140th 141st 142d 143d 144th 145th 146th 147th 148th 149th 150th 151st 152d 153d 154th 155th 156th 157th 158th 159th 160th 161st 162d 163d 164th 165th 166th 167th 168th 169th 170th 171st 172d 173d 174th 175th 176th 177th 178th 179th 180th 181st 182d 183d 184th 185th 186th 187th 188th 189th 190th 191st 192d 193d 194th 195th 196th 197th 198th 199th 200th 201st 202d 203d 204th 205th 206th 207th 208th 209th 210th 211st 212d 213th 214th 215th 216th 217th 218th 219th 220th 221st 222d 223d 224th 225th 226th 227th 228th 229th 230th 231st 232d 233d 234th 235th 236th 237th 238th 239th 240th 241st 242d 243d 244th 245th 246th 247th 248th 249th 250th 251st 252d 253d 254th 255th 256th 257th 258th 259th 260th 261st 262d 263d 264th 265th 266th 267th 268th 269th 270th 271st 272d 273d 274th 275th 276th 277th 278th 279th 280th 281st 282d 283d 284th 285th 286th 287th 288th 289th 290th 291st 292d 293d 294th 295th 296th 297th 298th 299th 300th 301st 302d 303d 304th 305th 306th 307th 308th 309th 310th 311st 312d 313th 314th 315th 316th 317th 318th 319th 320th 321st 322d 323d 324th 325th 326th 327th 328th 329th 330th 331st 332d 333d 334th 335th 336th 337th 338th 339th 340th 341st 342d 343d 344th 345th 346th 347th 348th 349th 350th 351st 352d 353d 354th 355th 356th 357th 358th 359th 360th 361st 362d 363d 364th 365th 366th 367th 368th 369th 370th 371st 372d 373d 374th 375th 376th 377th 378th 379th 380th 381st 382d 383d 384th 385th 386th 387th 388th 389th 390th 391st 392d 393d 394th 395th 396th 397th 398th 399th 400th 401st 402d 403d 404th 405th 406th 407th 408th 409th 410th 411st 412d 413th 414th 415th 416th 417th 418th 419th 420th 421st 422d 423d 424th 425th 426th 427th 428th 429th 430th 431st 432d 433d 434th 435th 436th 43