

# The Charleston News

VOLUME IX.—NUMBER 1326.

CHARLESTON, WEDNESDAY MORNING, MARCH 23 1870.

SIX DOLLARS A YEAR.

## WASHINGTON.

### UNIVERSAL AMNESTY FOLLOWS UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE.

#### GOVERNOR SCOTT AT THE CAPITAL.

##### A DORGE TO SAVE WHITTEMORE.

##### [SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE NEWS.]

WASHINGTON, March 22. Governor Scott, of South Carolina, arrived here to-day. The object of his visit has not transpired. It is reported as coming from him that he will not issue a writ of election to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Whittemore.

To-day the President informed several Southern men that as soon as the Texas bill was passed, he would send a special message to Congress favoring universal amnesty as a fitting close of reconstruction.

##### [FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.]

WASHINGTON, March 22. The Suro Tunnel is up in the House. The Reconstruction Committee heard Perkins, Speaker of the Tennessee Legislature. No action. The Tennesseeans will have a further hearing on Thursday.

The Foreign Relations Committee agreed unanimously to report adversely on the Denmark treaty for the acquisition of St. Thomas. In the Supreme Court, in the case of Benjamin F. Flanders vs. John P. Tweed, in one of the Louisiana cotton cases, the judgment of the lower court was reversed, and the case remanded back for a new trial.

LATER. The Committee on Foreign Relations in the House agreed to report a resolution of neutrality between Spain and Cuba, and repealing the neutrality act of 1818.

Associate Justice Strong will be assigned to Grier's district; Bradley will be assigned to the fifth district, comprising Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas.

The Foreign Relations Committee, in addition to action adverse to San Domingo and St. Thomas, agreed to set their faces against any further acquisition of territory.

Revenue to-day one hundred and sixty-nine thousand.

The Naval Committee, by a vote of seven to three, favor selling the Brooklyn Navy Yard property.

Spain has eighty-nine vessels, six hundred guns, and thirteen thousand seamen in Cuban waters.

In the House there was no action on the Suro Tunnel.

The Elections Committee reported in favor of Booker, in Booker vs. Tucker, from Virginia.

The Utah Polygamy bill was resumed and discussed to adjournment.

In the Senate, Sumner's bill to strengthen the legal reserves and promote specie payment was indefinitely postponed.

Johnson introduced a bill to divide Virginia into two judicial districts.

The Judiciary Committee reported Ames as ineligible, which was discussed to adjournment.

## THE WAR IN RICHMOND.

RICHMOND, March 21. The city is quiet to-night. Ellyson's police are in possession of the city. Chahoon's force of forty men are still in their station-house, around which a large crowd of blacks have gathered all day. Governor Walker has sent a reply to General Canby's letter, in which the Governor quotes all the acts of Congress on the subject to show that General Canby had no shadow of authority for interfering in municipal affairs unless called on by the Legislature or State authorities, nor has he any authority under the orders issued by the President or Secretary of War. He says it is clear from a letter written by General Canby to Chahoon, on the 15th instant, that he (Canby) had determined to protect Chahoon in exercising the functions of an office which, under the laws of the State, he did not and could not hold.

Governor Walker says, that as chief executive of the State, he will see its laws faithfully performed, and when he finds the power of the State inadequate, he will call in the aid of the United States. He contends that in a municipal difference in New York, neither General Canby or any other military officer would have interfered, nor should it be done in Virginia, a State that stands on the same footing in the Union with any other. An appended letter from Mayor Ellyson, states that General Canby, on the night of the 17th instant, said he would get Chahoon's friends to advise him to withdraw his men from the station-house, and Ellyson should discharge his special police and take possession. The next day General Canby himself took possession.

LATER. A dense crowd of blacks, which have been standing all day around Chahoon's headquarters at the third station-house, so blocked up the streets that Mayor Ellyson determined to clear them. At 11 o'clock he sent a force, who proceeded to clear Jefferson street, when they were fired upon by the negroes, and Richard Bush, a special policeman, was instantly killed, and Captain Wm. Knox wounded. The Ellyson police then fired upon the crowd, and after a short fight drove off the negroes, who carried their wounded and dead, if there were any, with them. The police succeeded in clearing the streets, and at this time (midnight) all is quiet. Bush's body was brought to the City Hall.

## ARMED RESISTANCE TO LAW IN VIRGINIA.

FORTRESS MONROE, March 22. Another attempt was made to place the owners of the Cely Smith farm into possession, which failed, by the sheriff of Elizabeth City County, with a posse of fifty men, who found some two hundred armed male and female negroes—five or six shots passed close by the sheriff. The posse reached Hampton in safety. The sheriff has called on the Governor for assistance.

## BOILER EXPLOSION.

MINNEVILLE, Pa., March 22. A large boiler in a colliery here exploded, killing several and wounding many.

## AID FOR THE SOUTH PACIFIC RAILROAD.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., March 22. The Governor signed one million worth of bonds for the South Pacific Railroad, the proceeds to remain in the State Treasury, to be used as required.

## EUROPE.

### Proceedings of British Parliament—Discussion of Religious Equality in Schools—Trial of Pierre Napoleon—Funeral of Count Montalembert, &c.

#### LONDON, March 19.

In the House of Commons last evening, after some unimportant business, the Educational bill was again taken up.

Vernon Harcourt supported the amendment suggested by John Bright, viz: That the basis of the bill should be religious equality; without this its provisions were unjust. He objected to relegating sectarian controversy to vestries. Schools in the rural districts are sure to be monopolized by the Church. Parliament, to prevent this, should settle the question on a basis of religious equality.

Mr. Mundella, the member for Sheffield, spoke in favor of the bill, taking the ground that merely permissive clauses alone should be made compulsory.

Mr. Hoare, the member for Southampton, demanded the withdrawal of the religious clause of the bill.

Mr. Bright, the member from Manchester, spoke in favor of the bill, claiming that it provided a school for every child, and made attendance compulsory. The debate was continued until adjournment, at an early hour this morning.

Mr. Temple favored the project for religious teaching, and Bessford Hope, of Cambridge University, thought the plan heathenish.

Mr. Ricard, of Merthyr Tydfil, charged the government with underrating the religious sense of the people, and Messrs. Bailey, of Herefordshire, and Fawcett Bright opposed the bill on general principles.

Mr. Dilke, of Chelsea, favored the Bright amendment.

Mr. Gladstone deprecated it as having a tendency to under the liberal party. He vindicated the bill in a long speech, and eloquently appealed to both parties to support the measure. He reviewed and analyzed the arguments that had been made against it, and showed that it was an imperial measure, and that it was non-partisan in its character.

After speeches by Mr. Hardy and others in support of the bill, Bright's amendment was withdrawn, and the bill was read a second time. The House then adjourned.

### The Trial of Prince Napoleon.

PARIS, March 19. The high court for the trial of Prince Pierre Napoleon Bonaparte, for the homicide of Victor Noir, convened at Tours yesterday. Prince Bonaparte and her children have already arrived there. An enormous crowd of people collected at the railroad depot to see the distinguished visitors. The city is crowded with strangers.

PARIS, March 20. Prince Bonaparte has arrived at Tours, in charge of an officer of the gendarmes, and accompanied by the chief officer of the police. Paschal Grousset, who sent Victor Noir to Prince Bonaparte on the morning of the fatal affray, and Milliere, both on the editorial staff of La Marseillaise, are also in Tours, as witnesses. Rochefort, Grousset and Milliere were transported in charge of officers, because they are undergoing sentence as prisoners at Sainte Pelagie. Arrangements have been made to send telegraphic reports of the progress of the trial to the Emperor every two hours.

PARIS, March 22. The trial of Prince Napoleon commenced at noon. The utmost solicitude prevails in the court. Paschal Grousset was so irrelevant and indefinite in answers, the court refused to hear him.

### A Crisis in Spain.

MADRID, March 22. The truce between parties in the Cortes is broken. Prim, in a speech, said: "Since the Unionists give us battle, tadicals, let us defend ourselves." The cause of the rupture is in the Unionists supporting Figuera's amendment to the new loan for ten millions sterling. The amendment was defeated by 123 to 117. A crisis is imminent. Prim's victory apparently involves the retirement of Regent Serrano. Admiral Beranger succeeds Topete in the Cabinet.

### Rome.

ROME, March 19. The funeral of Count Montalembert, organized by General De Meridi, in which Bishop Dupanloup was to take part, was countermanded by the Pope, being regarded as a manifestation against the Council. As the incident produced a bad effect, mass was ordered to be celebrated in honor of Montalembert by an Italian priest of the Pope's selection.

### Rome, March 20.

The Marquis de Bauneville, Roman ambassador, is expected to arrive in Paris to-day. He has received conge for eight days, and has been summoned there for consultation. It is believed that the absence of Bauneville will last three weeks. Discussion in the council on the twenty-one canons of the church will not begin until he returns to Rome.

The answer to the note of Count Dora, demanding the admission of a French representative to the council, has not yet left Rome, as was reported.

The Pope forbade the French prelates from celebrating mass for the soul of Count Montalembert, considering it a demonstration of hostility to the Ecumenical Council. An Italian bishop officiated, and the Pope attended in one of the galleries. As the ceremonies took place while the council was in actual session, but few of the bishops could assist.

The arrival is expected here of an agent of Ali Pasha, charged with obtaining concessions to calm the agitation of the Armenians, caused by infringement of their privileges by the Papal Court.

### The Steamship Samaria.

QUEENSTOWN, March 22. The steamer Samaria reached this harbor to-day, all well. The passengers and mails were forwarded on the steamer Java.

### Mitellancous.

The officers of the Bank of England have determined to express the assay of gold in thousandths hereafter, instead of carats. Thus bars will be calculated in parts of one three-thousandths, instead of one seven hundred and sixty-fourths, as at present.

The contract for the construction of the Honduras Railway was signed in London on Thursday last. The work is to be begun within a year.

The Madrid Official Gazette publishes a decree requiring bishops and the clergy to take oath to the constitution within one month.

Among the sporting men of London the odds are against the Cambridge crew in the coming race with the Oxford.

An American named Booth has been imprisoned at Londonderry for killing a man named Tyle, in November last.

The French Emperor and Empress are to be godfather and godmother to the grandson of Ambassador Lavallette.

The Portuguese Government will send an expedition to restore order at Macao.

The Bishop of Barbados died on Saturday, at his home, in western England. King William, of Prussia, on Friday received the eldest son of the late Hon. Mr. Burlingame. Ollivier is a candidate for the Academy of France.

## QUIET IN NORTH CAROLINA.

RALEIGH, March 21. The insurrection in Alamance is overrated and affairs are quiet. The people here are astonished at the reports in Northern papers about it. The report of another negro being hung here is groundless. There is no resistance to law in any county in the State and has not been. Persons accused of crime have been arrested, when discovered, without trouble, and there has been no attempt at rescue. The statement that disguised men visited the postmaster at "the Company's Shops" is untrue. Some negroes who, in disguise, whipped other negroes in Alamance, have been arrested and are now all in jail. The murderers of Outlaw have not been discovered, but should they be there will be no more difficulty in arresting them than there was in arresting the alleged Kn-Klux in Lenoir last year. Spies and detectives are understood to be in various counties, but have made no discoveries of conspiracy or insurrections.

### MORE FRAUDS IN WALL STREET.

#### The Women Brokers Victimized.

Another fraud was made public in New York on Saturday in the matter of altered checks. On the 17th instant, says the Post, Woodhull, Claflin & Co., (the firm of women brokers recently started in Broad street) deposited at the Fourth National Bank, where they kept an account, a check purported to be a check of \$4368 52, drawn by Park & Tilford on the Greenwich Bank. The Fourth National Bank on the next day sent the check through the clearing-house to the Greenwich Bank. As an extra precaution, the Greenwich Bank sent the check to the Fourth National Bank to be certified by the latter bank, and the latter bank pronounced the check and certification good. Later the Greenwich Bank discovered that the check was not good, and that it had been raised from \$40 to the amount above given. The Greenwich Bank will be the losers, provided Woodhull, Claflin & Co. can show that they were induced to hold the check in addition to the above there has been discovered a fraudulent check of the amount of \$6000 on the New York County Bank, drawn by Park & Tilford to the order of Woodhull, Claflin & Co. The Greenwich Bank, certified by the said bank, but that the certification was afterwards cancelled.

### WEATHER AND CROPS IN THE UP-COUNTRY.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

PENDLETON, March 30. I wrote you about the cold snap before and up to the 21st of February, when our thermometer stood at 14 degrees, and others in our neighborhood were at 10 degrees. I expressed my hope, from appearances on that day, that we should have better weather for the preparation of our farms, which had been very unfavorable before; but we whooped there we got out of the woods that day, and on Tuesday morning, 23d, thermometer 20 degrees; hazy; by night thick and cloudy. At 10 P. M. commenced snowing, and in the morning, on going out early, we found snow to be rather above, than at, five inches. Our friends of the Intelligence were four inches late in find the snow only three or four inches at Anderson; but it was deeper at Wallaha, than at Pendleton, and our being north of Anderson accounts for the difference.

From the 22d to this date the weather has been unsettled, and from rains and frozes but little ploughing has been done.

The range of thermometer, where noticed, is as follows: 23d, 20 degrees; 24th, 25 degrees; 25th, 25 degrees, with rain and high winds; up to March 30, 30 degrees; 1st, 32 degrees, with rain and high winds; up to the 9th, 24 degrees; 10th, 26 degrees; 11th, 32 degrees; 12th, 15th, clear; 16th, 26 degrees; 17th, 25 degrees; 18th, 26 degrees; 19th, 30 degrees; 20th, 34 degrees, clear. In all probability most of the late snow spring has been melted, and the sprout by the recent frozes. Preparations for planting very backward, and as we could not afford to feed our cattle on cotton, cow food was never known to be so scarce. All gardens unusually backward. May potatoes frost-bitten. S.

## JORDAN IN CUBA.

### News from the Cubans in the Field—Puello's Defeat Described by an Eye-witness—His Losses Not Exaggerated—How Goyencache Escaped—Valor of the Negroes and Chinese—Jordan Finds a Champion.

The New York Tribune prints the following interesting letter from the "brisk, familiar hand" of an American filibuster in Cuba. In its editorial comments, the Tribune says:

The letter is of the first interest, inasmuch as it gives an account which will not be impeached, by an eye-witness, of the battle that ended so disastrously for General Puello, and so victoriously for General Jordan. The number of Spaniards killed and wounded exceeded the number of Cubans engaged in this battle—a piece of information which the patriots acquired in part by the capture of the Spanish uniforms and their clothing. It is General Jordan's own testimony that none fought better in this battle than the negroes and the Chinese; but the account of our correspondent strongly corroborates the report of the Tribune that Jordan fought the battle with 648 men, including negroes and Chinese, and some of them so ragged that they had to strip the dead. But it will be seen that the need of the Cubans is not men, but arms.

The letter is as follows:

CANAOA, CAMAGUEY, February 14. The bombastic reports of the New Year's Day fight at Minas, where Puello was driven back with great loss, and the subsequent check of Goyencache, caused much amusement in camp. The facts are these: A small picked detachment of five battalions of the best regular troops, amounting to 2200 men, with four pieces of artillery, went to Nuevitas by rail from Puerto Principe, thence by water to Baga, and advanced into the interior of the province of Camaguey. General Jordan had prepared an ambuscade, and was posted with 548 men, all told—infantry, cavalry and artillery (but one small piece)—behind his hastily prepared entrenchment. The Spaniards advanced with great security, and did not discover the "lion in his path" until within thirty yards of the muzzles of the Cuban guns, when a withering fire was opened in their faces and on both flanks. For a few moments they stood the fire bravely, but the Spanish ranks were broken, and the Spaniards were driven back with great loss. The Spaniards buried their dead on the field, and retreated seven miles to fortify themselves in a strong position, where they remained for two weeks, without daring to leave their entrenchment for food, which became very scarce. Their loss included 200 killed and buried on the field, and 125 who died and were buried in their refuge. This is beyond doubt, as our men discovered the dead to obtain their clothing. Alas! what a sad picture of this war—dire necessity and unrequited devotion! To succeed or perish on one side, and the most savage ferocity of the Spaniard on the other. Describers confirm this Spanish loss, and place their wounded at about 350, making a total loss of the number of our men engaged in the battle. Among their dead was one colonel and 32 officers. Our loss was two killed and twelve wounded. The fight reminded me of the ambush of Braddock at Fort Duquesne, and had we an abundance of ammunition, Puello's command would have been cut off to a man.

Puello retreated to the coast by a circuitous route, enabled to do so by the necessity of our looking after his comrades. Goyencache, who had come into this district from Espiritu Santo with a body of 3000 men, was threatening Guaimaro, where we had some supplies, besides looking for his friend Puello. General Goyencache was ambushed in the same manner as Puello, and had it not been for a premature shot, and the giving way of some raw troops, before the coron was completed, enabling the Spaniards to break through our entrenchment, the whole would have had no reason to reproach Puello for his bad luck. As it was, he lost 159 killed.

### GOLD AND PRICES.

The New York Tribune remarks that the general trade of New York has steadily improved since the price of gold has become more steady. Among buyers, it says, there is considerable comparison of the present prices and those ruling before the war; a few articles are selling as cheaply as at that time, and some even cheaper, considering the price of raw material and the increased rates of duty.

The following is a record of the comparative prices of staple dry goods in January, 1861, and at present. The Tribune says:

It must be remembered, however, that the cost of labor, the cost of building factories and constructing machinery, the rates of duty and the prices of raw materials are very much greater now than in 1861, and that much time and money were expended in cost of anti-war times, even with gold at par and specie payments resumed.

Prints, Jan. 1, 1861, March, 1870. Merrimack, W. 10 12 Sprague, 9 10 10 11 American, 9 9 11 11 Lodi, 7 7 9 9 Manchester, 8 8 8 8 1/2 9 1/2

Yorks, 30 inch, 12 1/2 16 26 York, 32 inch, 16 1/2 22 Amoskeag, A. C. A., 14 27 Amoskeag, B., 13 22 Amoskeag, C., 12 20 Amoskeag, D., 11 16 1/2

There is, no doubt, even among our most intelligent business men, an impression spreading that this country is an exception to one great law of political economy—that is, that gold is the standard of value. The case of our business of science in practical matters of business, is that a man of business must always look at the probable prices of the few weeks or months just before him, and they are sometimes misled by the general law, and are not by him. He loses thus the habit of judging from principles, and confines himself to facts, and is usually all the more successful for it. But, for that very reason, the ordinary business man is often misled by the authorities on any general measure of finance which must be based on broad principles.

The financial history of the last ten years is the history of an abundant and valuable contribution to economical science, and will, we are persuaded, only demonstrate more clearly its great laws. But it has yet to be written. In the meantime we can only refer to facts and figures as they present themselves in the daily press, and we can only hope that the authorities on any general measure of finance which must be based on broad principles.

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Water, at ordinary temperatures, readily absorbs carbonic acid, and, under the usual pressure of the atmosphere, it takes up its own bulk of it. When the gas has passed from the water, and become a constituent of the atmosphere, it is not again absorbed, and there are afterwards unavailable for purposes of organic life. Thus, the water of the ocean is forced to draw from the air immediately above it in order to maintain its regular and natural proportion of carbon. This is constantly doing, to replace every atom of the gas which is consumed, the ocean extracts one atom from the air, which is thus steadily rendered less and less fit for the growth of plants, and consequently less and less fit for supporting animal life.

Mollusks were the very first beings who set about to take away our carbon. The most ancient forms of animal life found in the lowest geological strata were the mollusks, and in the early times a weak and pusillanimous race, destitute of backbone—they merely had back-carding; but, as time went on, they took the advantage of carbon, and soon learned the art of stiff-necked and overbearing, multiplying, as they did, to an alarming extent. It is heartrending to think of, but it is nevertheless a fact, that the first fish who gave so far as to the carbonic acid, and have firm cartilagenous backbones, appear in our own State in the coralline formation of the upper Heidelberg; nor can the Gattskill group be entirely gattskilled, for the same reason. Eye oysters got bigger and fatter, and more of them, and the fish became more officious, and grew under the superfluities of the sea; and, since that time, they have been taking away our carbon, but not, therefore, less fatally.

Then plants followed in the conspiracy. In the old times carbon was as plentiful as heart's ease. In the carboniferous age, the earth, not content with its fishes and clammy sent out trees to rob us. Giant ferns and all imaginable shapes and forms of plants grew in rank luxuriance, and as soon as they had got all the carbon they wanted, the earth shook its back and laid them away for coal. But the thing is being carried too far. It should be stopped now; but, unfortunately, the fishes have the best of us. If the worst comes to the worst, we must set fire to our coal mines and release the carbon there stored, for, as Professor Wurtz says: "Geologically speaking, the end is near." Let man do his best to ward it off; let him build his Birmingham, his Pittsburg, and his Sheffield, and thus endeavor to restore the rapidly vanishing equilibrium, but by so doing he is only partially and temporarily winding up the machine only to see it run down again. Nothing better could be said in conclusion than in the Professor's own words:

"A sea-change Into something rich and strange;" never to reappear in form available to life, unless, indeed, that time shall arrive when "the elements shall melt with fervent heat," and which, under the influence of this heat, the calcic and magnetic carbonates shall be converted into highly soluble carbonates, rendering up the treasure of carbonic acid in their marble grasp, the atmospheric oxygen, representative of affinity, energy of vitality, shall also then be at least partially withdrawn by oxidation of sulphides and ferrous oxide, and the earth be thus far advanced in preparation for a new zoic cycle.

### GOSSIP FROM ABROAD.

The minister of a Glasgow church recently referred to the Mordaunt case in his prayer, and requested divine sympathy in "Her Majesty's affliction."

The Israelites of West Russia are at present suffering severely from famine and disease, and, lacking the impulse of liberal laws to encourage their industry, have lost heart and energy, and have appealed to the proverbial benevolence of their brethren for relief. It is proposed to remove the sufferers to the interior of Russia, where a more moderate climate, a fertile soil, abundant crops, and milder laws, may restore them to comfort, and inspire them with encouraging hopes for the future. Contributions in aid of this project have been solicited by the Board of Delegates of American Israelites, the president of which body is Abraham Hart, Esq., of Philadelphia.

The French Court which is trying the claim of Don Francisco de Assis, husband of the ex-Queen Isabella, to deal with their joint fortune in the interest of his children, has prohibited the ex-Queen and Count Ezelata, her steward or majordomo, from all acts of administration pending the final decision of the cause. This financial difference seems to have produced a coldness between the husband and wife, for it is reported that the former has left the common residence, and has taken up his abode with his friend Senor Meneses, on whom the title of Duke of Banos was a few months ago conferred, the Queen, although dethroned, still claiming the right to confer such honors.

This startling announcement, made by Professor Wurtz, is, according to some authorities, based on strict deduction from physical law. Carbonic acid forms one-thousandth part of the atmosphere of our globe, and is the fundamental nutriment of all plants. It is evident that, compared with other constituents of the atmosphere, this gas exists to but a very limited extent in the form in which alone it can sustain and nourish the air that we breathe. But, as it is restored to the air by the combustion and decay of organic bodies, and the respiration of animals. If the gas were used only by plants, these means of restoration to the air would be sufficient to counterbalance its consumption, and for this reason: The approximate number of living species of plants is 100,000—the individuals of each species outnumbering those of each species of animals. The approximate number of plants in the region of approximately, radiates, 10,000; mollusks, 20,000; articulates, 300,000; vertebrates, 20,000—making in all 350,000. It is seen, then, that animals are not more numerous than would be sufficient to support the vegetables, taking bulk by bulk. Plants, in decaying, would restore carbon to the air, and, as nearly all that animals take from the air they restore to an equilibrium would be kept up. But there are other instrumentalities which are unnecessarily disturbing this equilibrium and withdrawing the gas from the atmosphere. What are these instrumentalities which are thus disturbing the equilibrium of the globe until support organic life?

Within the sphere of living beings preparing destruction to all life. The devil-fish, of which Victor Hugo has given such a romantic and horrible description, is as much a devourer of the delicate and deadly oyster, like the heartless monster that he is, lies in his bed and bites his time, watching in grim repose his evening prey. Babbage undertakes to show that the destruction of one animal by another produced more happiness than the world would know, if no such destruction went on, which was a scientific way of saying that no animal would be able to live, and that animals like to live. It took many pages of the Bridge-water treatise to prove this astounding fact; but what solace is that to the eaten—although it gives moral support to the eater? We feel justified in eating the oyster, and the fish which we eat, while pretending merely to be assimilating inferiority. Yet such is the horrible fact. Disguise it as we may, shut our eyes to it, turn our backs and refuse to see it—it is still there. The oysters are after us.

The ocean covers about three-fourths of the earth's surface, or 150,000 miles, but it is not nearly so deep. Marine animals with calcareous shells or skeletons secrete carbonates from the ocean water, the carbonic acids of these carbonates having originally come from the atmosphere. When we consider the almost infinite number of these fish with calcareous shells or skeletons, we must admit with Professor Wurtz, that they are likely to cause the "great machine to run down," and let "affinity obtain its final victory over sympathy."

Water, at ordinary temperatures, readily absorbs carbonic acid, and, under the usual pressure of the atmosphere, it takes up its own bulk of it. When the gas has passed from the water, and become a constituent of the atmosphere, it is not again absorbed, and there are afterwards unavailable for purposes of organic life. Thus, the water of the ocean is forced to draw from the air immediately above it in order to maintain its regular and natural proportion of carbon. This is constantly doing, to replace every atom of the gas which is consumed, the ocean extracts one atom from the air, which is thus steadily rendered less and less fit for the growth of plants, and consequently less and less fit for supporting animal life.

The country is filled with enthusiasm over the prospect of the dry season. The passing away, and the time is at hand when the Spaniards must remain inactive, while we can operate everywhere and in new fields to advantage. We hold the interior lines, and the country is one of the most fertile of freedom. The Spaniards have no power beyond the shadow of their bayonets, and hold only the ground they stand on. The end is near, and this suffering and bleeding country will soon be freed.

The recent landings of our friends Cisneros and others on our coast have brought us many useful things; and our active friends in your country will not allow their energy to flag in aiding us by moral force and powder and ball. Willing arms and hands enough we have; weapons we need.

General Jordan is greatly indignant at the Spanish falsehoods that he offered to surrender, and holds General De Rodas responsible for the calumny. Colonel Ryan is with us, and his friends, and those of Peters, Johnson, Warren, and others, will be glad to know they are in excellent health.

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### GROUND-RENTS.

#### How Houses are Built in Philadelphia—A Hint for Charleston.

An admirable plan of building houses, first adopted in Philadelphia, is rapidly becoming popular in the Northern and Western cities, and might, we think, be followed with advantage in the rebuilding of the burnt district of Charleston. The following, from Lippincott's Magazine, gives an interesting explanation of the mode of carrying on building operations in Philadelphia:

It is estimated that from fifteen to twenty millions of dollars—earning an average of six to ten per cent. a year. The rent-charge is sold by the capitalist, and the process begins again. The builder retails the houses—known as "bonus houses"—to persons of small means, and each being subject to an agreement that the house shall be sold for no less than the amount to be paid by the purchaser is small. The greatest demand is for houses of six to eight rooms, with bath, gas, hot and cold water, and kitchen sink, for about twenty-five hundred to three thousand dollars apiece. A mechanic or clerk who can raise seven or eight hundred dollars can buy a comfortable little house with his money, and pay off the ground rent, at least in Philadelphia. The ground-rents are peculiar to Pennsylvania, and, joined with the comparative absence of "banking facilities," they have done much to make Philadelphia a cheap and desirable place of residence.

To the above statement of the facilities afforded by ground-rents should be added a notice of an institution comparatively new in this country, but which has been in operation for half a century in Scotland. We speak of the "Building Association." There are, it is estimated, between one and two thousand of these associations in operation in this country, each discharging about twenty-five hundred to three thousand dollars apiece. Their number at the lowest figure, say one thousand, we have here twelve millions of dollars annually invested in real estate—for that is the only security taken by these associations in the purchase of real estate in this city. Truly it is no wonder that Philadelphia is growing at the rate of a square mile of buildings annually, and that nearly every family occupies its own house.

### THE CRACK OF DOOM.

#### The Dissolution of the Planet we Inhabit—Professor Wurtz's Theory in Regard to the End of All Things—The Destruction of Carbon by the Mollusks—The Coming New Zoic Cycle.

[From the New York World.]

"There are chemical changes now active on the earth's surface whose continuance must inevitably bring about the final extinction of our planet. \* \* \* Comparatively and geologically speaking, the end is near."

This startling announcement, made by Professor Wurtz, is, according to some authorities, based on strict deduction from physical law. Carbonic acid forms one-thousandth part of the atmosphere of our globe, and is the fundamental nutriment of all plants. It is evident that, compared with other constituents of the atmosphere, this gas exists to but a very limited extent in the form in which alone it can sustain and nourish the air that we breathe. But, as it is restored to the air by the combustion and decay of organic bodies, and the respiration of animals. If the gas were used only by plants, these means of restoration to the air would be sufficient to counterbalance its consumption, and for this reason: The approximate number of living species of plants is 100,000—the individuals of each species outnumbering those of each species of animals. The approximate number of plants in the region of approximately, radiates, 10,000; mollusks, 20,000; articulates, 300,000; vertebrates, 20,000—making in all 350,000. It is seen, then, that animals are not more numerous than would be sufficient to support the vegetables, taking bulk by bulk. Plants, in decaying, would restore carbon to the air, and, as nearly all that animals take from the air they restore to an equilibrium would be kept up. But there are other instrumentalities which are unnecessarily disturbing this equilibrium and withdrawing the gas from the atmosphere. What are these instrumentalities which are thus disturbing the equilibrium of the globe until support organic life?

Within the sphere of living beings preparing destruction to all life. The devil-fish, of which Victor Hugo has given such a romantic and horrible description, is as much a devourer of the delicate and deadly oyster, like the heartless monster that he is, lies in his bed and bites