

Civil War in Mexico. Late advices from Mexico give a most fearful account of the state of affairs in that chronically restless and disturbed country. Peace and quiet and the blessings of good, orderly government have been denied to that unfortunate section "from a time whereof the memory of man runneth not to the contrary." There has been no period for a number of years, during which it has been altogether secure from the depredations of insurgent bands, more or less large in numbers and formidable in the skill and influence of their leaders. But now, the rebels, or revolutionists, as they are termed, are not confined to single bands or remote localities. They are reported as mustering 30,000 soldiers, and to hold the ascendancy in Puebla, Vera Cruz, Gaudalajara, Guanajuato and other wealthy and important States or provinces. President Juarez has become alarmed, is assuming dictatorial powers, and the despatches say has applied to President Grant for aid to suppress the revolutionists, and been assured that he should receive assistance from our Government, as a last alternative. Juarez, perhaps, knows what he is about, and may be only playing into the hands of certain officials at Washington, who will readily transfer their greed for San Domingo to the rich silver mines of Mexico. If he thinks, though, that he is to receive gratuitous assistance from Grant, in our judgment, he will find himself mistaken. Once the troops of the United States get a foot-hold upon Mexican soil, Mr. Juarez will learn to his sorrow that it is a difficult matter to dislodge them, without parting with a handsome slice of his territory, and mayhap will soon find the whole of it forming a component part of "the best Government the world ever saw." It is difficult to see upon what principle of international law or polity the United States can assume to interfere in Mexican troubles, and dictate to that people that Juarez, instead of Diaz, or any other man they may select, shall be their Chief Magistrate; but if the accession of the whole or a part of that rich region should be the result of such illegal intermeddling, there will, doubtless, be found in the "progressive ideas" of the day some sufficient, or, at any rate, satisfactory, justification for the wrongful act.

Salt Lake City, it appears, is a woman's rights paradise. The women of Utah have been admitted by territorial enactment to the suffrage, and now, in spite of all that has been said of enforced polygamy, the complaint reaches us that it was owing entirely to the votes of the discontented wives that the recent municipal election in Salt Lake City was carried for the Mormon candidates, and against the Gentiles. We recommend immediate emigration to those aspiring females whose strenuous efforts have failed to acquire for them here the right to vote and hold office. In Utah, they will possess what they have so long aspired to—political power—and what may please some of them equally well, they will there have a sure thing of it about getting married. Who knows but that the gentle Anna Dickinson might supersede Hooper as the delegate in Congress, if she could be prevailed on to go to Utah?

Old John Burns, the hero of Gettysburg, is dead—a man whose name is destined to live on canvas and in poem—to pass into the country's history side by side with that of John Champe. Already the press is ringing his glories throughout the land, and of course Pennsylvania will be on hand with a Heaven-piercing monument. Yet this man, deserving so well of his country, was starving in the streets of New York two months ago, without money and without friends, and begged piteously from a gentleman, who now relates the fact in the New York Tribune, for enough charity to "take him home to die." Since that time he has not been housed and cared for as well as Gen. Grant's horses. The moral needs no pointed application.

A new play, by Sardou, recently performed in Paris, containing some expressions favorable to the Bonapartes and Imperialism, recently called forth an enthusiastic demonstration in favor of the exiled Emperor. A disturbance was at one time threatening, since which time, however, the Government has interdicted the future performance of the play. Such straws upon the tide of politics invariably mark the course of the current, and this is a bubble not destined to be the last in a series in which the cry of "Vive l'Empire" will echo through the streets of Paris.

Don't forget the Palmetto Fireman's Fair, to-night.

The Columbia Canal and the Congaree River.

We publish a communication from Senator E. S. J. Hayes, inviting such of the citizens as feel interested on the subject of the Columbia Canal, to meet a committee of the General Assembly, to debate and advise upon the expediency of the location of the dam at a point just below the State Penitentiary. Col. Pearce, a partner of the Spragues in the Columbia Water Power Company, and their agent here, has a bill now before the General Assembly, granting the company the privilege of locating the dam as they desire; and the committee to whom the bill has been referred, deem it best to hold counsel with the citizens of Columbia before deciding upon their report. This course adopted by the committee merits our highest commendation. It is both wise and just. Much evil legislation might have been prevented, had such a custom prevailed in the past.

Upon the subject of the canal, our views have been frequently expressed. We have reason to believe that the Spragues are in earnest, and intend to give us a bona fide development of our great water power, and we are in favor of lending them every encouragement. The benefit claimed for a change of the location of the dam from Geiger's Mill to the Penitentiary, is that nearly double the amount of power will be obtained. The principal objection urged against it, is that it will tend to create malaria, and thus seriously affect the healthfulness of the city. On this latter point, Drs. Darby, Talley, D. H. and G. S. Trezevant and Gibbs, express the opinion that the sanitary condition of the city will not be injuriously affected. It is but fair to state, however, that there is a difference of opinion on this question—two old and experienced physicians holding opposite views to those mentioned above. We publish communications both pro and con. They are all from reliable and trustworthy sources. We hope there will be a full and free discussion before the committee to-day—and that the report will be framed in accordance with the wishes of the people; and should there be a doubt here, that the matter will be submitted to a vote of the citizens.

SENATE CHAMBER, February 20, 1872. EDITOR DAILY PHOENIX: As Chairman of the Special Committee of the Senate, to whom was referred a bill to authorize the Columbia Water Power Company to construct a dam across the Congaree River at Columbia, in order that the Committee might have an expression of opinion from those immediately interested, I caused a notice to be published, inviting the citizens of Columbia to meet in the Carolina Hall, to-morrow (Wednesday) morning, at 11 o'clock. It escaped my attention at the time that the Court of Common Pleas is in session, and consequently the hall is not attainable. Upon consultation with Mr. Crews, of the House Committee, we have concluded to meet in the State Library Room, in the Capitol.

I, therefore, respectfully request that all persons who favor, as well as those who are opposed to the construction of the proposed dam, will meet at the place indicated, at 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

E. S. J. HAYES, Chairman Special Committee of Senate. MR. EDITOR: In addition to the question of health, it—the damming of the river—is considered by many as a huge speculation, which will monopolize the whole river—shutting out all else—even the use of the Saluda and the valuable water privilege on the Lexington side. Looking to the antecedents of the parties asking for this great gift—said to be worth as much as the Lowell water site, millions of dollars—are the citizens of Columbia willing to trust their comfort and safety—for the city could not use a drop of water, without purchase, for extinguishing fires or for household purposes—in the hands of these speculators? It is a scheme to make the rich richer, and our poor State and city poorer. If the citizens understood the various ramifications of this matter as projected, they would rise in their might and settle the question, "no dam" forever, and thereby assist to remedy the costly contract to supply the city with water—a contract that is simply outrageous. While we are as anxious for the future growth and prosperity of Columbia as any one else can be, yet we are not willing to sacrifice the health of the citizens that the city may become a first class manufacturing town. Better by far that no manufactory of any kind should be erected in this vicinity, than that the health of the city should be prejudiced by any such action on the part of those who desire to establish a fever-nest in our very midst. We append the testimony of one who, for thirty years, was a practicing physician in this city—Dr. Green—and who is revered by all who knew him. He says:

"I arrived in Columbia in 1822. I was informed that before the dam was thrown across the river at Young's Mill, that all that portion of the city West of Main street was healthy. But since the construction of said dam, but few families above 'Hall's Hill,' but were subject to bilious and intermittent fevers, which continued until after the dam was taken away. The canal afterward became a nuisance for want of care in cleaning out, and the people complained. The Legislature then made an appropri-

ation to extend the canal from Young's Mill to Bull Sluice, and leave the dam to decay. But even the dam was found to be injurious, and the inhabitants complained of the obstruction in the river, and a further appropriation of \$11,000 was made, and Mr. John J. Kissler empowered to complete the destruction of the dam. Since then the health of Columbia has been constantly increasing until now, when all know no place is more healthful. I am satisfied that the damming of the river, as now contemplated by the present owner of the canal, would be disastrous to the health of the city, and in this view of the case, I am sustained by many of the old citizens of Columbia and vicinity."

And another from Dr. Thomas Wells, of date New Haven, November 27:

"I have been looking for the papers referring to the matter. I cannot now find them, but hope to do so. One thing is very clear to my mind, that what I then did, or any assistance that I rendered to others, was in accordance with a clear understanding and knowledge of the facts, and for the best interests of the city of Columbia.

"No change should be made in the river that will prevent a free and full flow of the same; any change would end in increasing miasma, and the sad results of the former trial of damming the river near Young's Mill, might, and probably would, recur again.

"You have too much involved in Columbia to make any experiment of that kind. The two colleges, Theological Seminary, Legislature, courts, etc., etc., and general prosperity, all stand upon the question of health. Should this be constructed, your city will decline. It is with great difficulty that I have attempted to write so imperfect a note as this, and only the great interest I feel in this matter has caused me to do so at this time."

Now, we ask the good citizens of Columbia, and the Legislature, if in view of what is above stated by men who lived here when there was a dam across the Congaree, and when the health of the city was much impaired thereby, is to be offset by specious promises of future wealth and abundant prosperity, which really exists only in the imagination?

We publish the following abstract of the opinion of Dr. D. H. Trezevant, upon the question of the effect of the proposed location of the canal dam upon the health of the city:

"I do not remember the subject of the river dam being mentioned in connection with the city's health. I know there were but few persons residing in that section of the country. But I do know that in 1811-12-13, the inhabitants who had little farms about the river and the lower end of Bridge street generally left them in the summer, and went into the suburbs. Old Captain Waring and others were especially known to do so. John Taylor and those about him always went into the country. It is perfectly familiar to me that the unhealthiness of the location was attributed to the stagnant waters about the park, and from there to the river, and that those were occasioned by a mill dam which kept them back, and was used for Waring's paper establishment. (This dam was situated on the branch which now runs through the tan-yard and empties into Hall's basin, just above the penitentiary.)

"We have had several of those alarms during my residence here, both in the upper and the lower end of the city, and both were settled by draining the lands. Colonel Blanding, with his water works, settled the upper, and Colonel Gregg, by the purchase of Dr. Wells' lands by the college and draining them, settled the latter. Those lands, if I recollect aright, had been cleared but not drained; and Rocky Branch was interferred with and the place became very sickly. At that time the Stark Place could not be inhabited for the summer, and I have seen as many as nine out of ten of the inmates ill in the house, now occupied by —, near the Blanton Duncan House. I have also seen in a house on the hill, close by the steam mill of Glaze's, out of eleven sick, the father, mother and nine children of the family of Mr. West. Upon the grounds being cleared the sickness gradually ceased, and persons began to build in that direction. The City Council, several times, addressed the physicians on the subject, and I believe invariably received as a reply, that the low grounds about the city were the principal sources of the disease."

AN INTERESTING TABLE.—An interesting table, showing the receipts and expenditures of the United States Government since 1791, by years and administrations, appears in the World Almanac for 1872. The statement of the total expenditures of the last Democratic administration, compared with those of the last Republican administration, is suggestive. Buchanan, in four years, spent \$328,183,266. Grant, in two years, has made away with \$1,127,224,605. Both periods were years of peace.

DEATH OF A MISEE'S DAUGHTER.—The Albany Knickerbocker tells a sad story of the death of a young lady residing in that city, who was to have been married the day on which she died. She suffered from a prostrating though not necessarily fatal disease, and her father, who is reported to be worth \$100,000, refused to secure medical care. Finally, the young lady's betrothed secured a physician, but it was too late. The funeral was a very large one, and it is reported that the expense of the coffin, carriages, &c., was borne by the young man to whom the lady was engaged to be married.

The Palmetto's Fair is for the good of the people of Columbia.

COLUMBIA, February 20, 1872.

MR. EDITOR: The call in your columns, that the citizens of Columbia in convention consider the proposition of building a dam by the Columbia Water Power Company, across the Congaree River, has induced the following reflections, which are respectfully presented to the public. I propose to submit medical opinion, as opposed by the views of other physicians, that weigh the balance and give credit to the strongest side. Next, to quote facts and actual experience in support of such balance expressed. Dr. Wells, a former resident of Columbia, an eminent physician, but an absentee for many years from this city, declares the proposed dam prejudicial to health. Per contra, the dictum of these eminent physicians, Drs. Taylor, G. S. Trezevant, Darby and Gibbs, is, that the proposed dam, so far from being injurious, would prove highly conducive to the health of the city. A distinguished physician from North Carolina—Dr. McKie—invited to inspect the canal, unhesitatingly confirmed the verdict of these gentlemen, and added, that when "the crests and adjoining lands to the canal were occupied by cottages of operatives, the sites built up with mills and factories, that the smoke and other auxiliaries of factory life would serve as valuable aid in the promotion of health." So far, the weight of the medical profession is in favor of the dam; but actual experiment verifies the theory upon which the physicians have based their opinions.

Your correspondent is empowered to submit the experience of a gentleman, a builder of dams and acute observer of the effects and consequences attendant. In the State of Pennsylvania, in the year 1840, at Columbia, a dam was thrown across the Susquehanna; that section of the city—before unhealthy—after completion of the dam (now standing) was exempted from sickness, and continues, in this respect, free from reproach. At Safe Harbor, in the same State, across the mouth of the Oconostoga River, about forty miles above Havre de Grace, a dam was thrown, in 1842. This locality, sickly before, became healthy. About 1866, this dam was destroyed by an ice freshet; it has never been rebuilt, and the locality has relapsed to its former status—unhealthy to the last degree. These facts are presented for the scrutiny of our citizens; it is a grave question, whether health shall be sacrificed to prosperity. But it is urged that the sanitary condition of the city will not only be unimpaired, but promoted. A fair, impartial consideration of the views expressed is asked, in the verdict which shall be rendered by the public.

WHAT MR. SUMNER PROPOSES TO INVESTIGATE.—The investigation which Mr. Sumner proposes in the resolution he introduced in the Senate on Monday, is one of great importance.

In September and October, 1870, heavy sales of arms and materials of war were made by the Ordnance Department to the agents of the French Government for use in the war with Germany then going forward. In effecting these transactions, it was at the time understood in this community that the military ring which surrounds General Grant and some of his intimate civilian associates, were deeply interested. Everybody who was cognizant of the affair believed that they were making a great deal of money, but how much was not known. It now appears, however, by the official statements of the French Government that they paid for these purchases about \$11,000,000 in gold, equivalent, considering the premium on exchange, to \$14,000,000 in our currency, while in his recent report upon the subject our Secretary of War states that the War Department received but \$10,000,000. This profit of \$4,000,000 was not made by the purchasing agent of the French Government, for they had a regular commission of two and a half per cent., which is not counted as a part of the purchase money. This leaves the \$4,000,000 to be shared, as the facts now appear, among the military ring and the other parties who engineered the business. These facts Mr. Sumner desires to have completely investigated.

Another point of equal, if not greater importance, is the fact, which also seems to be proved by official evidence, that the work-shops of the War Department were employed during the period in question in manufacturing cartridges for the French Government. It appears that France would not buy the arms unless ammunition was furnished to use in them; and so great was the power of the military ring of speculators that they were able to cause the War Department to furnish these cartridges. This was a violation of the laws of neutrality and of international obligations far exceeding all that England can be charged with for allowing the Alabama, the Florida, and the other Confederate cruisers to depart from her ports upon their errand of destruction. In that case she was guilty of negligence; but in the case of the ammunition manufactured for the French during their war with Germany, General Grant's administration was guilty of taking direct part in the war. This appears the more criminal because it seems to have been dictated exclusively by the desire of the military ring to realize their \$4,000,000 from the sale of the arms. It was not only a treacherous act against a friendly power, but it was worse from being committed in secrecy and for mercenary ends.—New York Sun.

A big snake entered a Mexican house and swallowed a fawn, which was fastened securely by a rope. The result was, that the ugly thief found itself hatched, and had to stay there until despatched with a knife.

Remember the Palmetto's Fair to-night.

LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1872. SENATE.

The Senate met at 12 M., President Ransier in the C. air.

The following bills were introduced: Mr. Smalls—To provide for the sales of lands purchased by the Land Commissioner of the State of South Carolina; to provide for the appointment of an inspector of phosphates, and to declare his duties; joint resolution to authorize the County Commissioners of Richland and Beaufort Counties to levy a special tax; to authorize the payment of commissioners and managers of elections during the year 1871.

Mr. Corbin offered a resolution, that the sinking fund commission be requested to inform the Senate who constitute the members of the private corporation to whom they sold the stocks of the State in the Blue Ridge Railroad Company, and also to furnish a copy of the contract made with said company. Adopted.

A communication was received from Attorney-General Chamberlain, in relation to certain blocks of granite being removed from the State House grounds, stating that, after an interview with the Governor, he had taken the necessary steps to stop the removal, unless by direction of the General Assembly, of any more of the granite or material upon the ground.

Mr. Whittemore offered the following concurrent resolution:

Resolved, That on and after the passage of this resolution, no more granite or marble, or any other building material, shall be removed from the State House grounds.

Adopted and ordered to be sent to the House.

A number of reports from Committees were received and laid over.

A joint resolution to authorize the County Commissioners of Abbeville to levy and collect an additional tax of two mills on the dollar; bills to incorporate the Journeymen Mechanics' Union of Charleston; to charter the Raleigh, Columbia and Augusta Air Line Railroad Company; to incorporate the Brotherhood Association, of Charleston; to incorporate the Bull River and Port Royal Railroad Company, were passed.

At 2 o'clock, the Senate adjourned until to-morrow, at 12 M.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 12 M., Speaker Moses in the Chair.

The Senate sent to the House a number of bills and other papers, which were read and referred.

The following bill was passed: To make appropriations for the per diem of the members of the General Assembly and the officers and employees.

Mr. Barker introduced a bill to establish a new judicial and election district from Edgefield County, to be known as Saluda County.

Mr. Boseman—To incorporate the Firemen's Insurance Company, of Charleston.

A very large number of bills upon the calendar were taken up and disposed of. At 3 P. M., the House adjourned until 12 M., to-morrow.

HORRID.—The Selectmen of Columbia, New Hampshire, (says the Baltimore Sun,) have been indicted for theft. It is said that for four years they have been appropriating the town cash to their own use and behoof, until the amount of their pickings has reached the sum total of \$16,500. Everybody has heretofore regarded them as upright and honorable men, so that it is especially mournful that they should turn out no better than pick-pockets after all. There are eight of them, from which it would appear that they have made only about \$2,000 apiece out of their evil manipulation. This, be it observed, is only one side of the story. A Northern contemporary, however, seems to be horrified by the idea that "the Selectmen of a town" should be "indicted for theft." Whether his horror arises from their being "indicted" or for the "theft" does not appear. It can scarcely be the latter, because nothing is more common than for the "select" or "elect" men of municipalities, and even nationalities, to defile their hands with picking and stealing. To be "indicted" for it, however, is not very common, and when indicted, to be convicted, rarer still. The immorality of crime, in the opinion of many of the public plunderers, seems to consist in being found out.

The late gale in England exceeded in violence any tempest known there since 1842. One of the tall pinacles of the buttress of the central tower of Westminster was blown down. The mass, weighing over two tons, fell into the street, and smashed stone-work and massive iron girders in its descent. The South-western Railway was choked by the crumbling embankments, and travel was entirely stopped. Many of the villages near the Severn were almost submerged. The flood in the Vale of Glamorganshire is greater than has been experienced for forty years. Trees were torn up by the roots in various places and carried considerable distances. Many vessels on the coast were sunk at their moorings, and great damage was apprehended in the North Sea. Telegraph poles went down in all directions, and the reading of the barometer, when the gale was at its height, marked 28.30, lower than has been recorded for many a long day. The destruction of chimney tops and tiled roofs in London, and other towns, is described as prodigious, and many buildings, public and private, were seriously injured.

"Tom Scott," the Pennsylvania railroad king, having become President of the Southern Pacific Railway Company, it may be safely conjectured that the late snow blockades on the Union Pacific have satisfied him that there is a riot of money in this Southern line, and that he "means business."

Local Items.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.—The Northern mail opens at 3.00 P. M.; closes 7.15 A. M. Charleston day mail opens 4.00 P. M.; closes 6.00 A. M. Charleston night mail opens 6.30 A. M.; closes 6.00 P. M. Greenville mail opens 6.45 P. M.; closes 6.00 A. M. Western mail opens 9.00 A. M.; closes 1.30 P. M. On Sunday office open from 3 to 4 P. M.

REPUBLICAN CONVENTION.—After considerable canvassing, the following delegates to the Philadelphia Convention were elected last night:

First Congressional District—H. J. Maxwell, S. A. Swails, W. H. Jones, Jr. Alternates—F. H. Frost, J. P. Green, B. F. Whittemore.

Second Congressional District—E. W. Mackey, Robert Smalls, G. F. McIntyre. Alternates—P. P. Hedges, J. N. Hayne, C. D. Hayne.

Third Congressional District—R. B. Elliott, W. B. Nash, J. L. Orr. Alternates—S. J. Lee, C. M. Wilder, Lawrence Cain.

Fourth Congressional District—T. J. Mackey, J. J. Patterson, J. M. Allen. Alternates—J. S. Mobley, P. J. O'Connell, Jos. Crews.

Representatives at Large—Franklin J. Moses, Jr., A. J. Ransier.

CITY MATTERS.—The price of single copies of the PHOENIX is five cents.

The March number of *Le Bon Ton*—a monthly report of the Paris fashions—is before us. It is published by S. T. Taylor, 816 Broadway, New York.

The Peaks were greeted with another full house last night, and dispensed sweet music as usual.

We have received the March number of the *Galaxy*. It contains a number of well written and instructive articles on attractive subjects. Among others there is a history of the great Erie Fight, by Hon. J. S. Black; Life on the Plains, by General Custer, and another instalment of the Eustace Diamonds.

The members of the Palmetto and Independent Steam Fire Companies will parade, this morning, in full uniform, at 10 o'clock, when the merits of the new machine, recently brought out by Mr. Jeffers, will be fully tested. See the programme in another column.

Mr. C. F. Jackson, the Chairman of the Fair Committee, requests us to say to all ladies who can assist those who have so kindly tendered their services in managing the "Palmetto Firemen's Fair," to meet them in Irwin's Hall, this morning, at 10 o'clock, for the purpose of decorating the hall.

Yesterday was a particularly pleasant day. The sun shone brightly and the thermometer ran up several degrees.

Our Israelite friends will keep up Purim in appropriate style, this year. A masquerade ball and supper will wind up the celebration. It occurs on the 25th March.

To-morrow is the anniversary of the birth of the "Father of his Country."

The "Ladies' Fair," in aid of the Palmetto Steam Fire Company, will be held this evening, in Irwin's Hall. Besides fancy articles, there will be elegantly furnished refreshment tables, attended by numberless young ladies, who will take great pleasure in supplying their patrons with salads, game, ices, etc.

PHOENIXIANA.—England has 25,000 or 30,000 acres of land planted in oak trees for naval purposes. As it will be at least fifty years before these trees are large enough to be converted into men-of-war, it would be really unkind in Gen. Grant to declare war against Great Britain before those fifty years expire. No gentleman would do it.

What is that which has a mouth and never speaks, and a bed in which it never sleeps? A river.

An old bachelor who edits a paper in the West, puts "Melancholy Accidents," as a head for marriages, in his paper.

The *Journal of Horticulture* says a very pretty vine can be grown from the sweet potato, by putting a tuber in pure sand or sandy loam, in a hanging basket and watering occasionally. It will throw out tendrils and beautiful leaves, and will climb freely over the arms of the basket and upward toward the top of the window. Not one visitor in a hundred but will suppose it to be some rare foreign plant.

A minister, not long ago, preached from the text, "Be ye therefore steadfast;" but the printer made him expound from "Be ye there for breakfast."

It is of no advantage to have a lively mind, if we are not just. The perfection of the pendulum is not to go fast, but to be regular.

Coleridge tells of a man who had such an overwhelming self-esteem, that he never spoke of himself without taking off his hat.

LIST OF NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. Acts of the General Assembly. E. W. Seibels & Co.—Auction Sale. D. C. Peixoto & Son—Hay, &c. Meeting Palmetto Steam Fire Co. E. Hope—Gourd Seed Corn. J. D. Bateman—Fish, Cow Feed. Meeting Independent Fire Company.