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BREVITIES.

Pumpkin pie festivals are churchly diversions on Long Island just now.

"The zenith city of the unsalted seas" is the fond title which the people of Duluth, Minn., apply to their town.

Not a single dwelling house has been erected in Halifax, Mass., within the last eighteen years.

The first velvet factory in the United States has been started by a French colony at Franklin, Kansas.

Forty thousand thalers have been paid in Prussia as a premium for the invention of a new sort of sausage.

A Mrs. A. Patterson, alias Mrs. Warren, has been swindling the New Yorkers to such an extent that she is called the "queen of confidence women."

Mark Twain wants to have an armistice proclaimed until his map of Paris is translated into French and German and supplied to both armies.

The saying that "the Dutch have taken Holland" gives way now to the new one that "the Italians have taken Rome."

A fellow in Albany has been twice reformed from drinking at the Binghampton Asylum, and still gets drunk, with a little stealing mixed in.

Mrs. Blanchard, the recently appointed Justice of the Peace in Portland, Me., is called in her commission, "Inez A. Blanchard, Esq."

A suit, involving \$2.50, the price of a pair of trousers, has just been decided in the Melean Circuit Court of Indiana. The trousers eventually cost the plaintiff \$100, and the county about \$50 more.

The guests of a Nashville, Tenn., hotel were thrown into a state of unusual excitement, the other night, by the attempt of a lunatic lover to abduct a young lady, toward whom he had at one time occupied the position of accepted suitor.

A Cleveland man was lately so mortified at his wife's asking him for pocket money before strangers that he shot her twice to keep her quiet.

Humboldt was mistaken in saying that "old letters lose their vitality"—nearly every breach of promise case shows what extremely lively things old letters are.

An exchange says: "The 'Hub' is in a hub-bub because the males don't get their mail, on account of the females who placed the males as clerks in the post office, and do not distribute the postal matter until several hours behind time, for want of experience."

A chap with a black eye, a piece of a shirt, and a nose bleeding, rushed out of a house in St. Joseph, Mo., the other day ahead of a broomstick, in the hands of an excited female. When asked "what was the matter," he blew his nose, wiped it on his sleeve, and replied, "O, nothing, only I've got a mother-in-law."

The manufacturers of Turkey are reported, on recent reliable authority, to be on the decline. The steel manufacturers, for which Damascus was famous, no longer exist. The muslin looms of Scutari and Tirnova, which numbered two thousand in 1812, are now reduced to less than two hundred spindles; and Broussa and Diabekir, once famous for their velvets, do not now produce one-tenth the amount they did forty years ago.

A correspondent near Metz writes: An old woman was seen by a Prussian "Doppelpost," or double sentry, of the 33d regiment engaged in an orchard picking up sticks. Suddenly the old woman took refuge behind a tree, disengaged a carbine from her petticoats, and taking aim at the nearest Prussian sentry, shot and wounded him severely. The sentry, however, had not been so quick but that his comrade saw it, and raising his rifle to his shoulder, he fired and killed the supposed woman. He had just time to advance and discover a French tirailleur so disguised, when an advance of the French compelled him to retire, taking his wounded comrade with him. A proclamation of General Von Goben, posted in Ars this evening, informs the French inhabitants that any of them found with arms, either in their dwellings or upon their persons, whether they belong to the mobile garde or the National Guard, will be taken out and shot upon the spot.

It is said that in the vicinity of Indian reservations innocent sharpshooters at cards are often astounded to find that where they expect to beat they are beaten at their own game. A game of euchre or poker is proposed to them as soon as they have received the money due to them from the government, and they, nothing loth, sit down and with the most solid faces "beat the eyes" out of those that picked them up for flats. They see through all tricks and take them as a matter of course, evidently believing them to be a part of the game to be met by skillful counter-checks on their part. Chicago has lately seen at Hillards so well that he beat even "Cracker Jack," "Pete Snyder," and other billiard sharps. He was what a local paper calls "an overgrown, gawky customer," who looked as though a cue would be as much out of place in his hands as a pen. One night he beat the great Charlie Saylor at the Sherman House, and took his money like a white man. Then an innocent youth, who had been watching the game, but "he couldn't do it again," and was inveigled into being \$50 on Saylor. The game was played, and soon the professional gentleman and friend of Saylor, who had inveigled the poor boy, saw with surprise, the half-bred play as well as he possibly could, allowing his confederate, the innocent youth and poor boy to walk off with the stakes.

By Telegraph.

For WESTERN UNION Telegraph Line.

All Fugitives from Paris and Metz turned back by the Prussians!

THE MAYOR OF VERDUN DEFIES THE PRUSSIANS!

Russia Treats England with Indifference!

AN EX-MAYOR CONVICTED AND IMPRISONED!

THE PEOPLE OF BERLIN CLAMOR FOR PEACE!

NEW YORK.

England feels snubbed—Slow progress of siege preparations—The condition of Paris—The people of Berlin sick of the war.

NEW YORK, 27.—A correspondent at the headquarters of the German army, writes on the 20th, that the Saxons at Aulnay, Sevean, Livre Vertigallant and other points around the forest of Bendaux are kept alert night and day; and at Chateauroux and Sochaux the Bavarians are nightly disturbed by shell falling around them. The besiegers have not yet replied with a single cannon. Notice is made of the fact that they do not intend to commence until they have brought enough of heavy guns into position to bombard effectually. A number of guns have been brought up by slow and painful process, having been dragged over the common roads. Guns of a larger calibre cannot be moved in that way, but must wait until the obstructions of the tunnel of Nanterre have been cleared, and the bridge over the Marne at Lagny has been rebuilt. The latter work is nearly completed but the former is not. When the guns are brought up, no one here has the slightest doubt of the result. Still the men are getting impatient of delay.

There are various reports of the strength of the army at Lyons. It is believed here it does not amount to any importance and can be readily disposed of; but the Germans are beginning to fall into the grievous error of despising and underestimating their enemy. A special telegraph from London, on the 26th, says great annoyance and uneasiness is caused in the minds of the English ministry by the guarded but absolute refusal of Russia to take any part in the recent English attempts at negotiating for peace. As chief of the cabinet, the Russian Chancellor, after passing three days at Brussels, went to Tours at the beginning of last week, and is expected in London to-night. It is feared that Russia is quietly negotiating on her own account, with a view to isolating Great Britain on the eastern question, both from France and Germany. The attitude of the Austrian government too, though at first regarded as decided and encouraging to England's proposals, is now pronounced to be unsatisfactory in a high degree. The steps taken by the English government are felt to have resulted only in mortification for Gladstone and the ministry, and in expressing the weakness of the influence of England in continental affairs; without, in any way, contributing to advance the prospects of a settlement.

A cable to the Herald, from London, says a private letter from Paris on the 18th says, that all is going on comfortably at present. There is no starvation nor bombardment. The city is perfectly tranquil. The mobile are gradually becoming soldiers.

Bismarck seems disposed to allow the American delegation to send and receive a weekly bag through the Prussian lines; but absolutely refused to allow a messenger.

"I look upon Paris as impregnable to assault; until one or more forts are taken no great danger is anticipated from bombardment; famine is all we have to fear; that, it is supposed, will begin to pinch cruelly towards December. About two-thirds of the Americans here want to leave. They are tired of the situation. The Prussians will let them go directly, but the French interpose objections, being afraid of the moral effect it would have on the population."

NEW YORK, 27.—A Berlin letter, dated the 24th, says the uppermost feeling in Berlin at present is an intense longing for peace, especially among the lower classes, whose desire is emphasized more strongly day after day. They feel the inclemency of the season, and picture to themselves the sufferings of their friends in the field. Their last penny has been invested in woolen under-clothing and socks, to be sent off to the army. They loudly clamor for a termination of the war. A single battalion of the landwehr, under General Bummer, at Metz, in repelling Bismarck's sortie on 7th, lost over four hundred fathers of families, leaving as many bereaved widows and orphans. In the suburbs of Berlin the shops of the smaller merchants are closed, so are those of the small butchers, and bakers and artisans, who are all gone to the front. So it is written on placards on the doors of shops and lodgings. These and other evidences of distress have aroused the feelings of the people in favor of immediate peace. Disaffection prevails in political circles in this city. Secrecy is observed by the government relative to the negotiations for the evacuation of the Southern States into the German Confederation. The only information to be vouchsafed comes from Versailles, and represents Bavaria and Wurtemberg eager to rush heedless into the arms of the Confederation, while it is well

known that the liberals of Munich, Stuttgart and other places openly demand a German parliament and a new revised constitution. The position of the Prussian leaders is by no means the same now as at the opening of the war, when everybody approved the situation, and was willing to make any sacrifice in behalf of the country. Now they are tired of war, satisfied with the victories, and unwilling to go further for the purposes of ambition and aggrandizement.

MISSOURI.

Fatal railroad accident.

ST. LOUIS, 27.—The eastern bound express train on the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad, on Tuesday evening, collided with a coal train near St. Louis Station about midnight. The fireman of the express train, a woman and a girl in the first passenger car, names unknown, were killed; and about a dozen persons injured, none seriously.

WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, 27.—So much of the order from the War Department as directed the Superintendent General of the recruiting service at New York to forward two hundred recruits to the Fourth Infantry in the Department of the Plate, is revoked. Orders are issued to assign to the Eighth Infantry, upon arrival at Davis Island, all the recruits now at that post, and a sufficient number from Fort Columbus, until the total assignment numbers four hundred and fifty.

VIRGINIA.

An ex-Mayor sent to prison.

RICHMOND, VA., 27.—In the city court this morning, ex-Mayor George Calhoun was convicted of forgery, and his punishment was placed at four years in the State prison. The case was one in which the prisoner with others had by a forged note defrauded the State of \$70,000, the value of an escheated estate. Calhoun was appointed to the position of Mayor by Gen. Schofield three years ago; he was a candidate for the same office at the municipal election. His counsel will ask for a new trial. There was much excitement in the court room when the verdict was announced.

FOREIGN NEWS.

FRANCE.

Provisional government will soon leave Tours—Active military measures—A cowardly mayor.

LILLE, 24, via Tours, 27.—Among the persons lately arrested at Versailles by the Prussians was Le Pout, formerly secretary of the French legation at Berlin, who delivered to the Prussian government the French declaration of war. He was sent to Mayence. There is no doubt that the French provisional government will soon have to leave Tours. Arrangements are now making for transferring the national headquarters to Clermont.

The Prussians persevere in their starvation policy at Paris and Metz. All fugitives from those cities are turned back.

TOURS, 27.—Thus far no safe-conduct has been forwarded from the Prussian headquarters for M. Thiers. This proceeds from fear of having the Parisians informed of the true state of affairs elsewhere in France. The Prussians thus far have taken extraordinary pains to conceal from the beleaguered city the capacity of France for resistance. From all parts of the country come but one expression and hope: that the government will accept no conditions as the price of peace that involve territorial cession. The journals of this city are unanimous that the only hope for fair terms lies in the prosecution of the war. In the east the Prussian army has been suddenly and decisively whipped. Their march on Lyons has been checked by the French under Garibaldi. The latter, ever since he took command, has acted vigorously, has taken many prisoners and cannon, and accomplished the object for which he set forth. The Prussians in Normandy and in the Vosges find it extremely difficult to move their artillery. The more difficulties the Prussians are compelled to encounter, the more is the inhumanity with which they treat the French people, needlessly destroying farming interests and manufacturing, tearing down dwellings, killing horses and cattle, and destroying food they can't eat or carry away. The Franc-tireurs take advantage of this bad weather to inflict severe losses on the enemy.

The Mayor of Montdidier has been dismissed from his office for cowardice. The Prussians at Dreux levied a tax of 50,000 francs on the people.

Kerry has ordered all the Mobiles in Brittany to concentrate at Mons, in order to operate against the Prussians, who seem to be moving in that direction. It is understood that when the troops are collected there, as contemplated, Kerry will organize them himself for offensive warfare. Many regular troops will also be incorporated in this army. He has already issued a stirring proclamation to the mobiles, promising them they shall have the best weapons and be supplied with cannon and mitrailleurs. They are to be submitted to the strictest discipline. Wagons, under the charge of soldiers, have gone through the streets of this city to-day collecting supplies of all kinds for the inhabitants of Chateaudun, whose houses were burned by the Prussians. Subscriptions have also been opened in their behalf.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Prince Napoleon sent to the Emperor—Two German ships burned—Part of the "Cambria" washed ashore.

LONDON, 27.—Prince Napoleon is in

this city and has written a long communication to the London journals, contradicting the charge recently made by the Emperor and Empress, He denies having seen either Bourbaki or Boyer, who came to England on a mission from Bazaine to the Empress. He says he repeated personally to the Empress the expression of his devotion and fidelity.

The Prussians investing Verdun recently sent a communication to the Mayor of that town, demanding its surrender. The Mayor indignantly refused, inviting the Prussians, if they thought the town would become an easy prey, to come forward and take it.

The military situation on the Loire is unchanged. The news from Metz is interesting and important. Rumors have been current in the Prussian army that Bazaine was dead, but they are now proven false. The activity of the garison is greatly increased lately, and the Prussians have been compelled to destroy the bridge at Aub-sur-Moselle, as a precautionary measure. The French make vigorous sorties whenever they see the slightest opportunity for advantage; and have also reopened artillery on the besiegers from the right bank of the Moselle, whereby the villages of Grigny and Coigny, which gave the Prussians shelter, have been utterly destroyed.

The stern of the Cambria has drifted ashore at Islay, Scotland. So far as known there is but one survivor, McGartland. It is reported that England, Prussia and Italy have acquiesced in the candidacy of Austria for the Spanish crown. SHIELDS, 27.—It is reported here, on the best authority, that two German ships, recently captured by the French in the English Channel, have been burned about 100 miles east of Newcastle on Tyne.

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