

THE DESERET NEWS.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

NO. 25.

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1862.

VOL. XII.

FOREIGN NEWS.

THE QUESTION OF INTERVENTION.

The retirement of M. Thouvenel from his position as French Minister of Foreign Affairs and appointment of M. Drouyn de l'Huys to the vacant office, says a Paris correspondent, is an event of grave import; and, instead "imperial liberalism," indicates the adoption of a more obstinate, dictatorial policy—a policy of intervention and of abrupt reactionary movements. To this change in the Cabinet of the Tuilleries may be traced the recent proposition—we had well-nigh said demand—by Napoleon on Russia and France, for intervention in American affairs—the Emperor earnestly seeking to enhance the glory of France by becoming himself the first patron and defender of the Southern Confederacy, thus securing to France and her manufacturing interests a pre-eminence above all other European powers in the great American cotton trade. Though this is an object of primary importance with him, the ostensible co-operation, at least of the other two powers is a matter of great moment in preserving the equilibrium, or "balance of power"—an essential element in diplomacy—which, in the present critical, disjointed state of affairs among the nations, may be inconsiderately destroyed by the most trivial movement.

Whatever obstacles may intervene to defer prompt and independent action on his part, it is not doubted that, whenever in his judgment, the section struggling on this continent for identification among the nations, shall exhibit a settled and indisputable power of self-sustenance, none will be more eager to exhibit his munificent liberality in the recognition of the Cotton Confederacy than the Emperor of France.

We give below an opening paragraph from a late dispatch respecting intervention or mediation in American affairs, addressed by M. Drouyn de l'Huys to the Ambassadors of France at London and St. Petersburg, as published in the Paris *Moniteur* of Oct. 30:

"Europe watches with painful interest the struggle which has been raging more than a year upon the American continent. The hostilities have provoked sacrifices, certainly, of a nature to inspire the highest idea of the perseverance and energy of the two populations; but this spectacle, which does so much honor to their courage, is only given at the price of numberless calamities and a prodigious effusion of blood. To these results of civil war, which from the very first assumed vast proportions, there is still to be added the apprehension of servile war, which would be the culminating point of so many disasters. The suffering of a nation toward which we have always professed a sincere friendship would have sufficed to excite the sincerest solicitude of the Emperor, even had we ourselves not suffered by the counter blow of these events, under the influence of intimate relations which extensive intercourse have multiplied between the various regions of the globe. Europe itself has suffered from the consequences of the crisis which has dried up one of the most fruitful sources of public wealth, which has become for the great centre of labor, a cause of most sad trial."

In reply to the dispatch of the French Minister, Earl Russell, in behalf of the British government, addressed to Earl Cowley, Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, a note, indicating the unwillingness of Great Britain to cordially concede the propositions of France—in which Earl Russell closes as follows:

"After weighing all the information which has been received from America Her Majesty's Government is led to the conclusion that there is no ground at the present moment to hope that the Federal Government would accept the proposal suggested, and a refusal from Washington at present would prevent any speedy renewal of the offer. Her Majesty's Government thinks, therefore, that it would be better to watch carefully the progress of opinion in America, and if, as there appears reason to hope, it may be found to have undergone, or may undergo hereafter, any change, the three Courts might then avail themselves of such change to offer their friendly counsels, with a greater prospect than now exists of its being accepted by the two contending parties. Her Majesty's Government will communicate to that of France any

intelligence it may receive from Washington or Richmond bearing upon this important subject."

The reply of Prince Gortschakoff on the part of Russia to the note of Drouyn de l'Huys is in substance as follows:

"After recalling the constant efforts of Russia in favor of conciliation, Prince Gortschakoff says it is requisite above all things to avoid the appearance of any pressure whatever capable of chilling public opinion in America, or of exercising the susceptibility of the nation. We believe that a continued pressure of the three great powers, however conciliatory, in an official or officious character, would be the cause of arriving at a result opposite to pacification. If, however, France should persist in her intention of mediation and England should acquiesce in her course, instructions should be sent to Baron Sokel, at Washington, to lend to both his colleagues there, the French and English Ministers, if not official aid at least moral support."

SLIDELL'S INTERVIEW WITH THE FRENCH EMPEROR.

The late interview of Mr. Slidell with Napoleon is variously commented upon by the American press and by Paris correspondents—some regarding it in the light of a high assurance of the Emperor's favor towards the Confederacy and as one of the most important incidents that has of late occurred in the political world; others, on the contrary, are not only disposed to slightly estimate the importance of the conference in a political point of view, but consider it as a most trivial act of common courtesy personally shown to the distinguished gentleman, irrespective of his position as Confederate Commissioner. Of the latter class is the correspondent of the *London Star*, who, in a letter dated Paris, Nov. 3, says that "the Confederate Commissioner was accorded an interview with the Emperor at the oft-repeated request of a gentleman who enjoys the friendship of His Imperial Majesty. I am in a position to state that politics were not on this occasion alluded to, either by the Emperor or Mr. Slidell, and the latter was received in the presence of several persons. A gentleman who cannot be mistaken on the subject assured me last night that the Emperor confined himself to a bow, a few formal and polite sentences, such as he addresses to all who are presented him under ordinary circumstances, and dismissed the Southern emissary a few moments after his introduction."

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS ITEMS.

A great revival of the old-fashioned kind seems to be in full blast in Hamilton, Canada West, under the management of the Rev. Mr. Hammon. The *Times* of that city gives a graphic description of the scenes exhibited on two evenings of the "performance." It says: "Lawyers, merchants—poor, rich—young, old—male and female, were there, eagerly inquiring the way of salvation."

Large numbers of Sabbath school children were also deeply affected. "The people," continued the *Times*, "seemed to cling to the very walls of the house of God. They would not leave. Many sat weeping and reading their Bibles; whilst ministers, laymen and Christian women, were going from pew to pew, and praying with them and for them."

The interest seemed to be daily becoming more intense. It was known that men were praying for their families who never prayed before. Young men were turning from their course of iniquity, and a general feeling of solemnity seemed to pervade the whole community. The Rev. gentleman is reported to have been "literally inundated" with letters from young and old, parents and children, male and female, of all ranks, communicating to him what they have felt, endured or enjoyed since the commencement of his evangelistic labors in that city. Fathers were asking the prayers of the church for their sons; sisters were asking the prayers of the congregation for their brothers; children were sending requests in for the prayers of the congregation for their pa-

rents; and wives were asking prayers for their husbands.

The *Times* does not vouch for the favorable results of this excitement; but, as a chronicler of passing events, says, "We only state present appearances."

The *Toronto Leader*, one of our exchanges and the most influential of the Canadian newspapers, is printed on paper made of sawdust. It is of very fine texture, fair color and exceedingly durable. We are reliably informed, also, that it is the cheapest paper now manufactured. The patent was issued for it during the past few months.

Drafting orders in the States have been met by the people generally with so much indignation that nearly everywhere the attempt to fill up the Federal armies by forcible conscription has been abandoned. So strong were the law-abiding proclivities of the people, that in many instances the draft could not be strictly enforced!

A Jamaica journal says that among the legislative measures on foot in that island, there is one "to provide for the introduction and location in our island, of a portion of the forty thousand black and colored people in America, who are seeking a new home, where they may enjoy civil and religious liberty."

At Erie, Pa., as we learn from private letters recently received, wood is selling at \$5 per cord; flour \$8 @ \$10 per bbl.; butter, 30c per lb.; eggs, 25c per d. z.; cheese, 25c per lb.; and other supplies at similar high rates. But a little over a year since, the single article of cheese in that section was obtainable at 2½ @ 3c per lb. Labor is reported to be very scarce and wages unusually low. It was feared that much distress, if not actual starvation would be felt among the people in that as well as other sections of the Northern States.

The U. S. Government has profited to the amount of thousands of dollars, by its wear in its postage shipplaster operations—the "small change" being thus destroyed, the people of course become the losers—and Government reaps the benefit of the loss, while its currency has totally failed to answer the reputed object of its issue.

Eighty-one of the persons engaged in the late draft mutinies in Wisconsin have been arrested and taken to Milwaukee.

The report of the committee to investigate the surrender of Harper's Ferry is published. Severe censures are administered to Major Baird and Col. Ford, of the 126th New York, to Col. Miles, Major-Gen. Wool and General McClellan, for bad conduct, bad management, disgraceful behavior, incompetency, too slow, not fast enough, &c., &c.; all because of the "disgraceful surrender" of Harper's Ferry, a point which as yet has been of little or no strategic importance.

Collector Barney has been authorized to keep revenue cutters cruising off the harbor and coast in the vicinity of New York to give warning of the approach of any rebel war vessels. It is seriously apprehended that New York and Boston may be battered down by rebel iron-clads—this intention being avowed.

ASTRONOMY.—During the past week three lectures have been delivered upon this subject by a gentleman who styles himself Dr. Matthews. The first lecture was delivered in a room formerly dignified with the title of "Music Hall," but now so dilapidated as to render it almost unworthy of the name, being quite unsuitable, in its present condition for lectures or parties. On the evening of the lecture there, we are informed that there was danger of injury to those present from the frequent breaking of seats, &c. The succeeding lectures were held in the large Assembly Room of the 13th Ward.

The illustrations of the planets of the solar system were very creditable and, with the magic lantern, the lecturer showed himself an adept—the views of which were both novel, instructive and highly amusing, more especially to the young.

Such exhibitions would doubtless be well appreciated by the people in the settlements, where there are but few novelties to attract attention.

THE WAR IN NORTH-WESTERN ARKANSAS.

Some three weeks since it was announced that Gen. Blunt had had a fight with the Confederates, under Gen. Marmaduke, at Cave Hill, Arkansas, and repulsed them. The battle was said to have raged with great fury for three hours, after which the enemy began to fall back, but hotly contested every inch of ground, till night ended the conflict, when Gen. Marmaduke sent a flag of truce, asking leave to carry off his killed and wounded. The slain of the enemy was stated at sixty; the number of the wounded not reported. Gen. Blunt estimated the force of the enemy at eight thousand. The Federal force engaged was stated at five thousand. Nothing was said about the casualties on the Federal side, neither was there any mention made of the number of prisoners captured, nor of the amount and value of the spoils taken, but Gen. Blunt reported that he had whipped the enemy so severely that they had been induced to retire to their favorite hiding place beyond the Boston Mountains, from which safe and secluded retreat they probably would not emerge again till spring. He is also represented to have stated that the enemy having consumed and wasted everything there was in Arkansas in the shape of provisions, they would soon have to retreat into Texas in order to escape starvation. A few days afterwards he reported that the Confederate Generals, Hindman and Marmaduke, were concentrating their forces, and there was a fair prospect that another battle would soon take place at or near the scene of the first engagement. Later accounts state that the Confederates, under Gen. Hindman, attacked Gen. Blunt's position, on the 6th inst., at Cave Hill. Their forces are said to have numbered twenty-five thousand, notwithstanding which they were forced to retire, but made another attack on the next day, Sunday, with but little better success, as they had to fall back on Gen. Blunt receiving reinforcements, after having made quite a demonstration against the Federal position.

A severe battle is reported to have been fought on the 8th, near Fayetteville, Arkansas, resulting in another victory over the enemy, said to have been twenty-four thousand strong, with eighteen pieces of artillery. Gen. Hindman, who was in command of the Confederates, divided his army into four divisions, commanded severally by Generals Rains, Parsons, Marmaduke and Frost. According to the published statement, General Hindman had succeeded in flanking General Blunt's position, at Cave Hill, which enabled him to attack Gen. Herron, who was advancing with seven thousand men—infantry and cavalry, with twenty-pieces of artillery, to reinforce Gen. Blunt. The fight is represented to have been fierce and bloody, continuing from about ten o'clock in the morning till the close of the day. Gen. Herron, as per statement, maintained his ground till General Blunt arrived with a strong force from Cave Hill, at four in the afternoon, and attacked the enemy in the rear, when a tremendous struggle for the mastery ensued. At dark the Federals held the field, and soon after the Confederates are represented to have started for that place to which, so far as known, no Federal army, since the commencement of the war, has followed the retreating foe, for reasons which have never been assigned, situated beyond Boston Mountains, which have become as celebrated in the history of the war as Bull Run.

The Federal loss is set down at six hundred killed and wounded; that of the enemy fifteen hundred, among whom were several officers. The number of prisoners taken was comparatively small, and Hindman lost none of his artillery, so far as reported. When all the facts in relation to the operations of the combatants before, during and after the battle shall have been made known, some of the mysteries which now attach to the Boston Mountain regions may be dispelled, and the reasons for not following the enemy beyond them, after they have been defeated as has been the case in several instances, fully explained.