

EDITORIALS.

OUR readers have seen occasional notices, of late, in the telegraphic dispatches, of the Bonnet Carre Crevasse, the damage and danger it has caused, and the serious apprehensions it has given rise to; but although frequent allusions have been made to this subject, they have been too meagre to gain any clear conception of the actual condition of things at Bonnet Carre. The editor of the New Orleans Times recently paid a visit to the scene of the disaster, and in his issue of April 30th he furnishes his readers with a short account, from which some of the following particulars are taken.

These crevasses, or breakages of the Mississippi beyond the levees which have been constructed to keep them within bounds, are almost of annual occurrence in Louisiana; but this year they have been on a more disastrous scale than usual, the cause of which is said to be the bad state of the levees, they having been neglected for some ten years past. Bonnet Carre, a small village, forty or forty-five miles above New Orleans, has been the scene of the main breakage this season. But the origin of the difficulty there this season is said to have been the act of a planter who cut a road through the levee to roll sugar to the landing, leaving the breach unrepaired; and when the rising waters reached this level they found an outlet and then it was too late to provide a remedy, for they quickly enlarged the gap, until in a few days it was more than a quarter of a mile wide.

The levee at Bonnet Carre is about twelve feet high, and extends at the same height for several miles each way from the village. Through the opening thus made the waters rush at the rate of about eight miles an hour; and have submerged this and several other parishes, including about 500 sugar plantations, and comprising a district of country many miles in extent, the waters, presenting the appearance of a turbulent arm of the Mississippi river, being as much as ten or twelve feet deep. They have now gained such headway that no mortal power can arrest their progress, but a large force of laborers are engaged in constructing bulkheads to prevent further damage to the levee.

The desolation and damage in Bonnet Carre and vicinity is unspeakable. A short time since it was a beautiful and pleasant location; but the people have been rendered homeless, and comfort and industry have been supplanted by ruin and desolation.

Bad as things are there, one good result is likely to follow the present disaster, which it is believed will prevent their recurrence in future. The policy pursued on the Lower Mississippi, to prevent an outbreak of the waters, has been to build the levees higher and higher. This custom afforded only present relief, owing to the continual deposits of sediment on the bottom of the river, which, each succeeding year, raised the surface level of the waters higher; but by this tremendous crevasse at Bonnet Carre the waters of the river were made three feet lower, and they have formed a junction with Lake Pontchartrain, and the supposition is that this will constitute a permanent canal, which, if not sufficient of itself, to prevent the outbreak of the waters in future, will prove, it is believed, so beneficial, that other canals for a similar purpose will be constructed.

THE Inman steamer *City of Boston*, as will be remembered, sailed from Halifax in March, 1870, and was never heard from afterwards. Her disappearance was a cause of considerable excitement and newspaper comment at the time. Captains of steamers crossing the Atlantic were instructed to keep a look out for her; but no tidings was received, and gradually the conviction settled upon the public mind that she had gone down at sea. Now there comes news from Shediac, on the south-east coast of New Brunswick, that a paper has been picked up on that shore, of which the following is a copy:

"March 21, 1870—City of Boston—Ship sinking: over half full now. Good-bye all. Look after my boy. THOMPSON. "be gone in two hours."

The original paper is in the hands of a Catholic priest at Shediac, who sent a copy on the 8th inst., by telegraph, to his brother, who is a lawyer at Boston. A copy was also sent to the agent of the Inman line. The name signed to the

paper is said to be one which is on the list of passengers which sailed on the ill-fated vessel.

THE telegraphic dispatches to-day contain an account of a singularly exciting scene, which occurred in the city of Paris last Tuesday afternoon, and which furnishes another striking illustration of the extremely volatile character of the French people. We allude to the destruction of the Napoleon monument or column in the Place Vendome, which for years has been regarded as one of the most splendid triumphs of art in the French capital or in the world. It was erected in commemoration of the victories of the first Napoleon; was of the Doric order, 135 feet high, with a shaft twelve feet in diameter. It was a stone column covered with bas-reliefs of bronze, representing the various fields upon which French arms under Napoleon triumphed up to the year 1805, and by which he rendered himself the idol of the fickle and glory-loving masses of France. Some idea of the magnitude of these bas-reliefs may be gained when it is understood that they were cast from twelve hundred pieces of cannon taken from the Russians and Austrians.

The account of the destruction of this wonderful column must be humiliating in the highest degree to every thinking, reflecting Frenchman. The giddy masses of Paris assembled in thousands on the Place Vendome and the streets contiguous, and manifested their impatience to see the work of demolition accomplished, in a manner far more consonant with the character and mental standing of children or idiots than of rational men and women. To read that national guards and citizens spat in the face of, and struck and shot with their rifles, the statue of the Emperor which surmounted the column is simply disgusting, and shows as clearly as can be shown that with all their love of pomp, pageant and grandeur, and with all the skill and ingenuity so characteristic of the people of *la belle France*, their mental constitution is sadly deficient in those elements necessary to rear and perpetuate a truly great nation or people.

This proceeding alone, carried out and consummated, as it has been, under the auspices of the Commune and its leading spirits, proclaims it unworthy of existence; for however useless the column might be, in and of itself, it was acknowledged to have been a wondrous work of art, and they who deliberately planned, and by their rabid demagoguism incited the feeling of the ignorant masses to demand and compel its destruction, are vandals of the worst type, and instead of demonstrating their capability to institute a form of government and proving their fitness to rule, they only show by such an act of folly and imbecility, their fitness for a dungeon.

The moral effect of the destruction of the column on the Place Vendome will, we think, be powerfully in favor of the Versailles Government,—the Government of the people and of law and order in France. The triumph of the Commune, now, as in 1789, would be the triumph of excess and misrule, as it has thus far been of the inauguration of a new reign of terror. Its history thus far proves this; and this crowning act of folly in their programme, it is to be hoped, will prove the feather that breaks the camel's back. The people of France must know, by this time, that order and security can not be hoped for from Paris and the "Reds," and this may and ought to so increase their adherence and loyalty to the government of their own choice as to insure its speedy triumph.

GENERAL BUTLER had a reception from the colored people of Boston on the 8th inst., and delivered an address to them in the most aristocratic colored church of that city. In this address he bestowed unstinted praise upon the negro race. He contrasted their goodness and peaceable demeanor with the conduct of the white men in the South:

"The negro, after the day of toil, is well taught enough to go to his peaceful home and quiet rest. He knows enough to respect every man's rights of person and property; and the white man rides a night masked, disguised and armed, to the terror of the people and for the purpose of murdering the officers of the law or burning the cabins of the peaceful."

In drawing a comparison between the governing qualities of the two races he

set forth his ideas in the form of questions, which left no doubt upon the minds of his hearers as to which he thought was the better race to rule in the South. He asked:

"I submit to the calm judgment of the country, upon fair and not strained comparison of the two races as they stand together to-day in South Carolina, which is the fitter to govern? In whose hands life, liberty and property are and will in the future be more safe? In a community under the government of which class would any prudent, well-behaved, considerate man rather cast his lot?"

As to oratory and statesmanship he told of a speech delivered by a colored colleague of his from South Carolina on the subject of the Ku-Klux bill, which was so well delivered and so well considered and well argued, that he would have been proud to have been the author of it himself, and he said he only wished that the one he was then delivering to them were half as good as it was. And then as to the negro's willingness to work, that was established now beyond a doubt; also his lack of taste for whiskey. He hardly remembered to have seen a drunken black man. During the war the experience of every officer of the army who served with colored troops, he said, prompted him to prefer negroes as sentinels over the commissary train carrying whisky supplies. Another thing had been proved and that was that the negro would fight. He had seen them storm, in solid column, the enemy's works, and a better and braver charge was never made. The negro was patient and desired peace; but he admonished the Southern men that they had better not trespass too far upon his kindly nature; for if, said he, "the Government fails in its duty to protect him, and he once takes up arms for his protection, his hunters will quail and flee before the determination of his defence and the courage of his battle; and they may, perhaps, be shocked and stand aghast with horror at the cruelty of a peaceful and kindly nature, when it is too much aroused and bursts the bonds of patience under accumulated suffering and wrong."

COMPLAINTS come from Chicago of the expense to which the citizens are put to raise the grades of streets so as to obtain the necessary drainage and to open and widen streets, which would have cost little or nothing to lay out when the city was first settled. These improvements make the rate of local taxation very high. Property there, both real and personal, is said to be assessed at very nearly, if not quite, its full cash value. The tax levied on it for general purposes alone is two per cent.; but, beside this tax, there are special assessments which are only limited by the cost of the work to be done, and which are made with very little reference to the wants or wishes of the owners of property. Of course, in addition to these local taxes, there are those levied by the State. It is suggested by the *Evening Post* of that city that the example of the State of Ohio, which has a law fixing the limits of municipal taxation for every kind of purpose, be followed, and if these limits be overstepped, that the whole tax be rendered void. It says:

"The levies made on the citizen have not only increased faster than his means, but have swelled far beyond the real wants of the public. To this must be added heavy loads of debt, the proceeds of which, in the form of bonds, were generally thrown away without any benefit to the masses taxed to pay them. It is high time that this thing was stopped, and it should be done at the earliest possible period."

HOME NEWS.

BEAVER, 15.

The stage from Pioche arrived at 10 a.m., having two passengers for Salt Lake.

The *Ely Record*, of the 14th states that Wells, Fargo & Co. shipped, May 12th and 14th, through their agent, B. F. Sides, by way of Salt Lake, bullion valued at 11,717 dollars and 5cts.

The wife and daughter of G. W. McLane, living at Cold Spring rancho, in Pahranagat Valley, discovered, in the mountains, the partially decomposed body of a young man with dark auburn hair, supposed to have been killed by Indians some two years ago. The body was too far decomposed to be recognized.

They are preparing to bring water into Pioche from Marshal Springs, by means of wooden pipes secured with iron bands. Improvements are progressing rapidly in Pioche. Money is plentiful and the mines

are yielding abundantly. From the assessor's returns, the Ely district proves to stand second only to Virginia city, as a bullion producing section, in the State and, outside of Virginia, second to none on the coast.

BEAVER, May 15.

Grasshoppers are in many places between here and Salt Lake City but not many in a place except at Scipio. Apple, and all other kinds of fruit trees are full of blossoms, in the fruit bearing settlements. A steady improvement is seen in all the cities and towns, in buildings, orchards, etc. Crops are looking fine.

There is but little mining excitement between Mount Nebo and this place.

A. M. MUSSER.

PARIS, Rich Co., 14, via Franklin May 16.—General activity prevails throughout the settlements, with prospects for the most extensive harvest we have ever had, providing the grasshoppers are neither too numerous nor too hungry. Trout and other fish are very abundant in our streams, and report says that grasshoppers are very abundant in many parts of the county.

BEAVER, May 17.

The stage arrived from Pioche at 12 o'clock, noon, having four passengers and 2094 pounds of bullion for Salt Lake.

The horse race came off at Pioche on Saturday afternoon. The bet was \$500 but was run up to \$800 as the horses came on the course. The horse Trenchy, owned by Norvel, was the winner, having beaten Wilson's mare by 160 yards. The mare is supposed to have been drugged.

SALT LAKE CITY,

May 18th, 1871.

Editor *Deseret News*:—Many applicants for naturalization have felt a sort of timidity when approaching his Honor Judge McKean, but his Honor's urbanity and courteous manner soon dispel such timidity. Such questions as the following show what interest the Judge takes in the family affairs of the applicants:

Judge. Mr. Jones, have you got much of a family?

Alien. I have got one wife and three children.

Judge. Is that all?

Alien. Well, I have got one more child, but it is dead now.

Judge. You have got but one wife?

Alien. Yes.

Judge. You have got only one wife?

Alien. Yes.

Judge. Yes? You mean, no; don't you?

Alien. Yes—no.

Then follow questions whether the laws of the United States ought to be preferred to those of the different European countries, the former always, as a matter of course, to be preferred, which makes his Honor's patriotic heart swell with gratitude for the great privilege he enjoys of being an American born citizen, and he relieves himself by making a patriotic speech to his new fellow-citizens, who doubtless felt highly gratified.

What a glorious thing to be a patriot—when it pays.

Mr. Wirtlem did not succeed in getting admitted to citizenship yesterday. He furnished, however, Judge McKean a text for a short but highly entertaining sermon to the great comfort of an appreciative audience. Many of the qualities which go far to make up a zealous missionary, in any age and in any country, enter largely into the composition of Judge McKean. Had he lived in the fourteenth century instead of the nineteenth, and had he been a dependant of the Avignon popes instead of being a modern politician, he might have been preferred for a benefice in Castile, where he would have administered justice according to the Roman chancery practice. He doubtless would have deserved so well that his silver gray locks would have been adorned by the calotte of the Grand Inquisitor.

CRISP.

["Is not 'Crisp' mistaken? We have been informed that the Judge hails from 'Auld Reekie?']—Ed. D. E. N.]

BAD EFFECTS OF BASE BALL.—The Ogden Junction of yesterday says:

"On Saturday last, a number of boys were playing base ball on the Bench, in this city. Two of them—Thomas Cunningham and Aaron Jackson were running to catch the ball, when their heads came into violent collision, striking the former in the mouth and the latter in the temple—both fell to the ground insensible. Cunningham had several teeth broken out, and Jackson received a cut on the temple. They are both rapidly recovering from the effects of the collision."

CRICKETS IN NEVADA.—The *Elko*, Nev. *Independent* says:

"An army of crickets is forming into regiments and battalions on all the surrounding mountains and hills, preparatory to a grand movement in that direction."

A bill has been introduced in the House of Delegates of the Territory of Columbia, to extend to females the right to vote and hold offices.