

MONDAY EVENING, DEC. 2, 1867.

SIGNS AND PORTENTS.

By the dispatches to-day it will be seen that another earthquake, accompanied by volcanic eruptions, has occurred at the island of St. Thomas, in the West Indies. We are not informed what the extent of the damage is, though it is stated to be heavy, and attended with great loss of life. This can be readily believed, if, as the dispatch says, the sea rose fifty feet above its ordinary level. It is but a short time ago that there was great loss of life at this same place by one of these convulsions of nature. We were informed, too, but a few days ago, of an entire island—that of Tortola—being submerged, and every living thing upon it destroyed. This has been in part contradicted and the facts have not yet been received so that reliance can be placed upon them; but the severity of the hurricane which was said to have caused it, and its destructive effects are fully admitted. Not long since a part of the southern coast of Asia suffered terribly by a typhoon, and the loss of life and property caused by it was immense. We learn again of another typhoon at Macao which has been attended with serious results. Last winter the storms and disasters by sea were almost unparalleled, and the loss of life attending them carried mourning to thousands of firesides. Scarcely a day passes but we learn of some terrible conflagrations, of some fearful railway disaster or steamboat collision, or colliery explosion, or something of an appalling character, by which life and property are destroyed.

The means of almost instantaneous communication with so many nations by the telegraph which we now enjoy, and the rapidity with which people can travel from one country to another, certainly spread such news much more widely and rapidly than it was possible to do half a century ago. But these can not account for the vast increase chronicled of earthquakes, hurricanes, disasters by land and sea, and the convulsions witnessed in nature and felt in the political world. There is in these, as in other significant evidences of daily occurrence, strong ground for the faith of those who look upon them as the fulfillment of the words of the Savior, who said that such signs should herald the advent of the rule and government of God upon the earth.

Some may make light of this idea and belief; but those who diligently seek to understand the purposes of the Lord, who ponder over the sayings of the Savior and the Prophets, and desire to be prepared for the future, see in them strong confirmation of their faith and hopes, and look for events in a not distant future which will startle the nations.

(Special to the Deseret Evening News.)

By Telegraph.

SOUTH CAROLINA CONVENTION DEFEATED.

Indians Still Belligerent!

SEVERE GALES ON THE LAKES!

Opposition to paying for Alaska!

SOUTH AMERICAN DIFFICULTIES!

ANOTHER EARTHQUAKE AT ST. THOMAS!

Hancock has restored the Civil Authority to its natural functions in New Orleans!

Montgomery, 29.

In the reconstruction convention an ordinance giving the legislature power

to disfranchise the rebels who have not aided in reconstruction was reported from the committee. Its consideration was postponed until to-morrow.

The convention granted eight divorces to-day and dismissed one suit of bigamy.

An ordinance reported, to declare void all marriages between white and freed people and requiring the Legislature to prescribe severe penalties against such marriages, caused considerable discussion, and was tabled until Saturday.

An ordinance passed declaring valid all special acts of public officers under the military authority.

Charleston, 29. The Convention is certainly defeated, the total vote being far short of the requisite majority of the registered voters.

Havana, 29. Private accounts from Mexico say Tegothoff has settled all the personal accounts of Maximilian, including a number of impositions.

Berlin, 29. The citizens of the United States celebrated Thanksgiving-day with a banquet. Minister Bancroft presided, and a number of eminent foreign guests were present. There was a grand ball in the evening.

Richmond, 29. Thirty colored Republicans held a meeting last evening, and passed resolutions requesting John Minor Botts, Governor Pierpont and others, to call a State Convention with white Republicans to assist and direct the colored Republicans in carrying the election for the ratification of the Constitution.

Cincinnati, 30. The coroner's jury in the case of the recent disaster on the Hamilton & Dayton railroad, returned a verdict of collision caused by gross neglect of duty on the part of certain employees.

Chicago, 30. A dispatch from North Platte says, Spotted Tail and 300 Indians are here waiting for the Commissioners.

The Northern Indians are still belligerent. A sutler train, with an escort of thirty soldiers, was attacked near Phil. Kearney, by Red Cloud's band and two men were killed. The Indians ran off six wagons containing \$20,000 worth of goods. On the 15th, 14 Indians came within two miles of Fort Laramie and ran off 70 head of horses. The troops followed but were unable to overtake them.

London, 30. Additional particulars have been received of the explosion of the steamer *Jouboulina* at Liverpool yesterday. The steamer belongs to the Grecian government and was built by Frazer, Trenholm & Co. for the Confederates.

The explosion happened at 6 o'clock in the morning. One hundred and thirty-seven persons were aboard, of whom it is thought at least forty were killed. The steamer had a large quantity of arms and ammunition for the Grecian Government.

The Cunard line receives £800,000 sterling annually for carrying the British mail weekly.

Liverpool, 30. The New York *Commercial's* special says the President's Message is moderate and conciliatory, but argues that the Congressional plan of reconstruction is a failure, and the country pronounced against it at the last election. Economy, retrenchment and uniform taxation are advocated.

London, 30. The proposed income tax to pay the expenses of the Abyssinian war, has passed the second reading in the House of Commons.

Warren, Halpine and Costello, the Fenians sentenced at Dublin, have been brought to Pentonville to undergo their sentence of imprisonment.

Ottawa, 30. A resolution is to be introduced on Monday to provide for a memorial to the Queen, asking the annexation of Rupert's land and the North West territory to the New Dominion.

Chicago, 30. The weather has turned bitterly cold. Severe gales have been prevailing on the Lakes, and several disasters to vessels are reported.

The *Journal's* special says several members of the Committee on Appropriations are opposed to the appropriation to pay for Alaska, which will be fiercely opposed in Congress.

Berlin, 30. A large meeting was held yesterday at which American politics and finances were discussed. T. S. Tay, an American, severely attacked Thaddeus Stevens as a demagogue and repudiator, and denied that his views were those of the American people.

Florence, 30.

A dispatch from Naples to-day says that Vesuvius is now in a grand state of eruption.

Vienna, 30.

In the Reichstadt yesterday a draft for a new constitution was presented which was adopted after a strenuous resistance by the Liberals.

Florence, 30.

Italy has not yet acceded to the proposed Conference. Yesterday an official note was sent to France, asking certain explanation; the final answer of Italy will depend upon the nature of Napoleon's reply.

London, 1.

There is considerable excitement on account of the Fenians. An outbreak is feared at Manchester, where arms had been seized by the police. Dispatches from Cork mention that serious apprehension is felt there also.

Montgomery, 1.

The Convention has passed an ordinance to organize the volunteer militia force, which authorizes one company for every thousand voters; all the officers are to be appointed by the Governor, and are to be of known loyalty. A great many officers with heavy emoluments are provided for. The Conservatives declare this measure places the State under a militia dynasty.

An ordinance has passed declaring all State liabilities contracted directly or indirectly in aid of the rebellion, to be null and void.

New York, 1.

The Henry Chauncey, from Aspinwall on the 22d, has arrived.

The steamship Nevada reached Panama on the 21st, in 44 days running time from New York.

Advices from Bogota to Oct. 16th say that the trial of Mosquera had concluded. The demonstrations of sympathy for Mosquera compelled the President of the Senate on several occasions to have the spectators removed. Congress is constantly guarded by soldiers to prevent any attempt to rescue Mosquera by his friends.

The Acosta Government is in a dangerous position, several of the States having entered a protest against the interference of the general government in the affairs of the State of Totoma. The press of the state of Canca openly speaks of severing connection with the Federal government and declaring itself independent. A Commissioner from the state of Antioquia has arrived with a proposition to arrange the common line of action in case Acosta continued his unconstitutional meddling with the sovereignty of the States.

A new revolutionary force has arisen under Jolinea with whom it is feared Antiquas and Canca will make common cause and a bloody civil war ensue.

Troubles seem brewing in other sections of the Republic. Congress has withdrawn the annual subvention of \$50,000 to the State of Panama. The annual budget shows a deficiency of over \$2,000,000 for the current year; over \$300,000 have been expended in two months, of the million paid to Government on the ratification of the Panama railroad contract.

A new guano deposit has been discovered in CHII, between Caldera Puerto and Engles.

President Prado at the head of his army is immediately in front of Arquipa. Some of the rebels have deserted, but the great bulk have adhered. It is said the whole country is prepared to revolt if the rebellion in Arquipa is not speedily crushed. Some small outbreaks in the country districts have been suppressed.

Some exiled Spaniards have returned to Callao; and the President is determined to annul the decree of exilement, except in the case of those who have been hostile to the Republic.

Peru proposes that the representatives of the four governments allied against Spain meet annually to deliberate on the best means to maintain and strengthen the confederacy.

In the Court of Appeals in New Jersey it is finally decided that the Camden and Amboy business shall (not?) be interfered with by the Delaware and Raritan Bay railroad, which was built as a connecting line and has shared the monopoly of running trains between New York and Philadelphia.

Washington, 1.

The report of the Comptroller of Currency shows that since the first National Bank was organized in October, 1863, ten banks have failed with an aggregate capital of \$1,870,000. Their aggregate liabilities were little less than \$1,200,000.

The public will suffer no loss on circulation. The assets realize enough to pay their creditors seventy per cent., so that the total ultimate loss to the

public will be about \$1,000,000. The failures in every instance were traced to the incompetency and dishonesty of the bank officers, and to the habitual violations of the plainest provisions of the banking law.

Paris, 1.

Moustier, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in addressing the Senate yesterday, said the stay of the French troops in the Roman territory would be brief. The question between Italy and the Pope was one of distrust; and the object of the General Conference proposed by the Emperor, was to remove this distrust.

Havana, 1.

The Austrian frigate *Navara* has arrived with the remains of Maximilian. The people assembled en masse along the road, but no demonstration was permitted. The body was not permitted to be seen in the coffin; the physician who embalmed the body having mutilated it by cutting off the hair and clothes for purposes of speculation.

At St. Thomas, on the 18th, another earthquake accompanied by volcanic eruptions occurred. The sea rose 50 feet, doing much damage to the shipping and causing great loss of life.

Chicago, 1.

The *Times'* special says it is now definitely known that Commissioner Rollins intends to resign. This action has been long contemplated, and is not the result of any present pressure.

Hancock, in an order taking command at New Orleans, declared the military power should cease to lead, and the civil administration would resume its national functions. *Habeas corpus* is to be respected. It is believed that this indicates he will depart from Sheridan's course, and possibly revise some of the latter's official acts.

A court martial has sentenced General Custar to be suspended from rank and pay for one year. Grant has approved the sentence.

Greely declines the Austrian mission. The President has signified his intention to nominate Plumb as Minister to Mexico.

Chicago, 2.

The Rising Star for California sailed Nov. 30th, with a large number of cabin passengers.

The Post Master General's report gives details respecting the ocean mail service. The demands of the Cunard line have been exorbitant. The Government has been paying for the last six years from \$150,000 to \$300,000 in gold, over receipts, to the British Government. This amount we have been compelled to pay under the old treaty which expires on January next. The Postmaster General has refused to renew. Two other lines have entered into contract, agreeing to transport all foreign letter mail for fifteen cents per ounce, making the cash on each letter five cents; books, papers, etc., six cents per pound; payable in currency, giving three mails weekly. The report shows an unexpected balance of \$700,000 available for the current year, and estimates the deficiency for '68 at \$2,500,000.

Ex-Senator Foster will probably be appointed Minister to Austria, if Greely declines.

COMMERCIAL.—From Bishop N. Davis we this morning learned that the woolen and cloth factory of Messrs. Smoot, Burton & Sharp will commence carrying to-day. They tried the machine a little on Saturday, quite satisfactorily. Their spinning machinery and power looms will commence work in a short time.

THE WEATHER.—It rains without any effort here to-day. We heard a gentleman remark the other day that he could account for the late change in our climate only by attributing it to the influx of people from Great Britain. We have weather now that would either answer for California or England, and is unusual in these latitudes at this season of the year. Umbrellas are in demand at present. We have been kindly furnished with a report—received by Deseret State Telegraph Line—of the state of the weather this morning in the following places:

Logan; cloudy and damp; snow nearly gone in the valley; rained hard last night.
Ogden; dull and looks like rain.
American Fork; warm, but raining; very muddy.
Springville; muddy; raining a little.
Nephi; cloudy and raining.
Scipio; rained all night; very muddy; still raining.
Cove Creek; cloudy; has the appearance of a storm.
Beaver; cloudy and warm.
Parowan; cloudy, but very pleasant.
Tukerville; very cloudy; looks like storming before long; no frost.
St. George; cloudy; thermometer at 60.

POLICE.—William Johnson was arrested on Saturday for being drunk and obtaining money under false pretences, for which he was fined \$15, by his Honor, Alderman Clinton.

Edward Crawford had indulged in alcoholic potations until they obtained control of his upper story, for which and for drawing a pistol, an article dangerous in the hands of a drunken man, he was fined \$5.

Frank Dodds, William M. Dodds and William H. Carmichael were also arrested for being drunk and disturbing the peace. As the first and last named "didn't mean to, but couldn't help it," they were discharged, things not being quite so bad against them as at first they seemed; but William M. Dodds was fined in \$15.