

bridge over the Allegheny river, at Franklin, Penn., took fire this morning. The flames communicated to the bridge and the cables soon becoming red hot parted from their anchorage, precipitating the bridge structure into the river. About twenty persons were on the bridge at the time. W. Neil, farmer; Mrs. McIntyre and Miss Mary McIntyre, wife and daughter of the toll keeper, who were engaged in removing the furniture on the bridge, were fatally injured. Their bodies were recovered. George McIntyre, John and Alex. McCartney, J. Herrage and two unknown persons were seriously injured. Wilford Kilgore, freight agent of the Allegheny Valley R. R., is supposed to be buried in the ruins, as he was known to be on the bridge. The river is frozen over to the second pier on each side, and great difficulty is experienced in reaching the sufferers with skiffs. A boy named Johnson, aged 13, jumped from the centre of the bridge and swam ashore through the slush and ice.

A cable dispatch to the *Herald*, London 30, says much speculation is indulged in as to what may be the action of the approaching Congress, on the Black Sea question. It is believed that the preliminary difficulties to be encountered will be hard to overcome, as it is almost certain that the Russian representative at the beginning, as a precedent, will announce formally, as a fixed policy of his government, that the abrogation of the clause, in the treaty of Paris regarding the armament of Russian vessels in the Black Sea, is already an accomplished fact by the will of the Emperor of Russia, who cannot allow such abrogation to be an open question. On the other hand, many suppose, from Bismarck's last diplomatic note published in the *Herald*, that Prussia will refuse to meet with an accredited representative of the French government which commissions officers who have broken parole. Another difficulty is anticipated from the protests against the meeting, on the part of Prussia and Russia, unless it is held on an understanding that all matters foreign to the Paris treaty be excluded. The belief is general that the meeting will be delayed long beyond the appointed day.

A cable dispatch to the *Herald*, dated Madrid 29th says, to-day information was received from papers seized, which shows that the conspiracy was of an extensive character. The members even swore to exterminate all public enemies to a republic. It is believed that the murder of Prim was opposed by some, on the ground that nothing should be attempted until the arrival of the Duke of Aosta, but advocated immediate action. Lots were drawn for the selection of three persons to undertake the killing of Prim. It is said the Minister of War is in possession of proof of the identification of the actual assassins, but has not yet succeeded in making arrests. It is certain that the conspiracy is of a most extensive character, and the plots well laid. To-day there were some expressions of indignation at the attempted crime, but a general sullen indifference is evinced by the masses of the population. Great activity is evident at the war office. The ministry contemplate changing the programme for the route by which the newly elected King will make his entry into Madrid. This is to be done in view of the attempt on the life of Prim, and in order to baffle the conspirators. Prim has been congratulated on his escape by the foreign ministers.

John H. Surratt is advertised to repeat his lecture here to-night, but was persuaded to abandon it by the mayor, who advised him to withdraw the appointment for fear of trouble. It is said a number of persons had determined to prevent the delivery of the lecture, in any event.

NEW YORK, 31.—James W. Smith, the colored cadet, is again in trouble, and is to be tried by court-martial on the charge of falsification in explanation of some delinquency.

The following report is published, of the statements of Gen. Schenck, in an interview with him yesterday, in regard to the fishery question. The General said: "My impression is, that the government of Great Britain is not half so difficult to deal with, in relation to the fisheries, as the Canadians themselves, and I have reason to believe that the conduct of the latter is not stimulated by instructions from the mother country, but, on the contrary, causes much concern to Great Britain herself. Of course, England will not entirely disavow and rebuke the unfriendly manifestations of the provinces towards the people of this country; but my opinion is that England feels annoyed at the conduct of the Canadians, and will

probably send out a delegate to the government of the Dominion, with instructions to put a curb on their arrogance, and to bring them to a sense of the duty they owe to the people of the United States. Without regard to the merits of the case, I must say that their behaviour has been churlish and offensive, in the highest degree. I believe that if England could, without the sacrifice of her traditional pride, give up her colonies in America, she would most willingly do it. If Canada would sever her connection with the mother country, and declare herself an independent State, the British government would have no objection to such an arrangement. The trouble is, that the Canadians stick too closely and prefer to be an English province. The English interests lie in the east, and her possessions in that quarter are the means by which she can check the ambitious designs of other powers; and it is my opinion in the natural course of events, Canada will lapse into the Union."

He thinks that there will be something more than dollars and cents required in the settlement of the *Alabama* claims, such as the opening of the St. Lawrence and the same rights for American fishermen as for Canadian. He could not exactly tell in what form our claims would be presented, and what terms they will embrace, but money alone will not suffice as compensation due us. Said the General, "We have had enough of feasting and toasting; we want some decided action on the matter, and we shall certainly try to get all we can. I can say that the fisheries question will be drawn into the discussion, along with the *Alabama* claims; and we shall try to obtain a settlement of all these questions now and forever." The General remarked that he had not received his instructions yet, but he had no doubt that they would leave a very fair margin for his own discretion.

Great fears are entertained for the safety of the ship *Swiftsure*, which sailed from Leith for New York, September 3rd, laden with gas coal. She was commanded by Captain Robert Scott, and besides the crew had about twenty passengers on board.

The European mails say Sir Stafford Northcote, speaking recently against the annexation of Canada to the United States, said he believed no other part of the Empire was of greater value to England. He had no doubt we should see the resources of Canada largely developed, by the completion of the great railway system. As a home for English emigrants, Canada was invaluable; very few countries offering such advantages.

BOSTON, 31.—In speaking of the failure of the Ames Plow Co., the Boston *Traveler* says the principal creditors are of the opinion that with the ample resources and large amount of income of the Ames Plow Co. and Oliver Ames & Son, the entire indebtedness can be paid within eighteen months. Oakes Ames has been carrying, for the past two years, two millions of Union Pacific bonds, and has almost entirely sustained its credit; but the depression of its securities in the market was too much for him.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The following officers have been honorably discharged:

Captains W. J. S. Nicodemus, C. N. Graves, H. I. Ripley, J. T. Grimes, G. W. Higby, N. Thomason; unassigned Captains Wilson, 14th Infantry, H. T. Brownson, 25th Infantry, A. C. Kisseler, 23rd Infantry; and James W. Long, 25th Infantry. First Lieutenants Edward T. Budgett, 13th Infantry; John Hunter. Unassigned: Charles Bausehoff, 5th Cavalry; Weldon Guthrie, 23rd Infantry, John W. Johnson, 7th Cavalry.

Second Lieutenants, E. W. Brady, 6th Cavalry, and O. L. Weiting, 3rd Cavalry, have resigned.

First Lieutenant Albion Howe, 4th Artillery, is relieved from duty as ordnance officer in the artillery service at Fortress Monroe, and ordered to join his company in the department of the east.

The President expresses confidence in the passage of the San Domingan resolution by the House. It is said the President has already decided upon the names of the commissioners, but declines to give them to the public at present.

#### FOREIGN.

BERLIN, 29.—The official organs say Fort Avenon was first attacked as a stand-point whence to assail the adjacent forts. It is said the French prison-

ers near the Rhine conspired to revolt, and escape on Christmas eve. The project was defeated.

MADRID, Dec. 28.—This evening, while Prim was proceeding from the Cortes, some individuals in the Calle Alcala, fired at the carriage, wounding Prim, and his Adjutant but not dangerously. No disturbance occurred. The authorities took prompt measures to prevent an outbreak and the arrest of the assassins. There is great indignation.

Last night as General Prim was leaving the Cortes, eight shots were fired into his carriage by a band in the street. Prim was wounded in three places, in the left arm and right hand. No arrests.

LONDON, 29.—The French army on the north has left Arras and retreated to Vietry, falling back on the strong holds.

It is said the Crown Prince of Saxony has been sent to Amiens to assist Manteuffel.

Communication between Cherbourg and Calais is now by water instead of by land. Fifteen French ironclads are in Cherbourg harbor.

Dijon was evacuated on the approach of the French.

The French claim the battle at Pont-Noyelles was a success for the army of the north.

Beust's reply to Bismarck on Luxembourg was similar to Granville's.

The *Provincial Correspondence*, of Berlin, says the bombardment of Avenon is considered introductory to the bombardment of Paris. When taken, operations will be facilitated.

The Germans assaulted Belfort twice, but were repulsed with considerable loss.

The Prussians evacuated the left bank of the Seine. They are in large force at Yvelot.

Granville has received a dispatch from the Prussian government, apologizing for the outrage on English vessels on the Seine, stating a pecuniary indemnity will be given if demanded, and announcing that the military commander, who was guilty of the outrage, has been court-martialed and dismissed from the service.

The Prussians on Wednesday occupied a line between Duchoir and St. Pierre. An engagement is imminent.

Faidherbe congratulates the troops on the Pont Noyelles battle. The mobiles, improved by experience, may be trusted.

PARIS, 27, 4 a.m.—There is an excellent spirit for defense, but the cold suspends operations. The inhabitants are imbued with confidence by the increased warlike preparations.

The Saxon regiments are dislodged from Maison Blanche.

The Roumanian government declares its independence and repudiates the treaty of 1854.

France complains that Austrian rolling stock is employed for South German military purposes. Austria sends commissioners to inquire into the accusation.

BORDEAUX, 29.—A dispatch from Limoges of the 28th, gives news by balloon from Paris to the 27th. Military operations have been suspended since the 22nd, owing to the intense cold. The population is enthusiastically confident. Our engines of war are formidable.

A dispatch from Chalons on the 28th, says the advance guard of Garibaldi entered Dijon this morning. Gambetta has just arrived at Bordeaux.

Official dispatches announce that the Prussians hastily evacuated Dijon at the approach of the French forces. This is the result of a campaign undertaken in the east by order of the war department. The movement was hastened by Gambetta. The French have completed, beyond Mont Valerien, fortifications which throw shells beyond Versailles, which is rendered untenable for the Prussians.

A meeting of the creditors of the American Plow Manufacturing Company, whose suspension has been announced, was held, to-day, at which a disposition was manifested in favor of granting an extension of three, six and nine months. The suspension is, in some degree, attributed to the failure of Treadwell & Co., a large hardware house in San Francisco.

CONSTANTINOPLE, 29.—The declaration of the independence of the Danubian Principalities has been announced here and causes a profound sensation.

LONDON, 29.—The Germans in the eastern department are retreating. They have already evacuated the town of Gray, in the valley of Saone. A proclamation has been issued, by the Prussian government, placing under blockade all the ports of France now oc-

cupied and hereafter captured by the German forces. The harbor of Kiel is closed by ice.

A cable dispatch to the *Tribune*, dated London 29th, says the English government, upon application of Count Bernstoff, stopped a ship chartered by the French, having on board a submarine cable, to connect Dunkirk, Cherbourg, Brest and Bordeaux. The ship was given in charge of the Custom House officers.

VERSAILLES, 28.—Averon is silent to-day. The other forts replied to the German guns.

The Prussians advanced to and occupied Bapaume, fourteen miles from Arras, on Monday.

LILLE, 27.—Official contradiction is given to the dispatches of the Prussians, falsely representing the battle of Pont Noyelles as a victory and claiming they took prisoners, whereas they took none. In the north and north-east the Prussians lost heavily by battle and sickness. The villages are encumbered with wounded. Numbers of Germans also suffer from sore eyes. At Chalons-sur-Marne there are 18,000 sick and wounded Germans.

BESANCON, 27.—In the departments of the east the population is fully roused, and assist the troops in all the battles and skirmishes. The government is taking measures to distribute arms to the people.

HAVANA, 29.—Advices from San Domingo say that Cabral was in the neighborhood of San Juan, with eight hundred half-starved men.

The U. S. steamer *Gantic*, returning from her trip to assist in laying the Aspinwall cable, ran ashore at the entrance of the harbor of St. Domingo, with a full head of steam on. It will be necessary to discharge her armament and coals to get her afloat.

ROCHE-SUR-YONNE, 29.—From a balloon landed we have news that the Prussians furiously attacked yesterday, Rosney, Nogent and Mont Avron. The Prussians unmasked some siege batteries and attempted bombardment, but were repulsed with heavy loss. The moral condition of Paris is excellent.

RACROI, 29.—The artillery of Mezieres prevents the Prussians establishing batteries. Accounts show that the Prussian and French troops have suffered terribly from cold. In order to replace the French thus incapacitated, strong reinforcements have been sent, also vast quantities of material to increase the comfort of the troops.

VERSAILLES, 29.—The twelfth corps occupied Mont Avron, after one day's bombardment. The French left behind many gun-carriages, rifles and dead.

BORDEAUX, 29.—The presence of Gambetta has given an impetus to the sending forward of troops. Many have gone to-day from the south of France. A great number of new cannon are forwarded. Bourbaki's army is marching to cut the Prussian communications. Chauzey has sent a column to Moutoir, driving the Prussians several miles, taking prisoners and killing a number.

Gambetta has desired that there will be no reception of him here. Cold continues.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—The French defend Cambray. Two thousand Prussians are at St. Quentin; none are at Arras.

Belfort has made a successful sortie, in which the Prussians were severely punished.

From private sources: London, 30.—Tours estimates the entire number of French troops at seven hundred and fifty thousand. Bourbaki's command is charged especially with the duty of revictualing Paris and has already on hand a vast amount of live stock and provisions for this purpose. At the proper moment, this army will make a desperate effort to join Chauzey's force and reunite the army of the Loire, which will then, with great energy, push on for Paris. Gen., Paladines reverse is now charged to the meddling of politicians, who persuaded Gambetta to interfere with his military operations.

Earl Granville has received an official dispatch from the French government at Bordeaux, in which, France declares its determination not to send a delegate to the peace conference to be held in London, unless the British government shall first recognize the republic. A dispatch of similar tone has been sent to each of the other powers.

Advices from Madrid state that Gen. Prim has announced his determination to resign in person to King Amadeus, and plead his desire to retire to private life.

Dispatches from Versailles, received here, state that the general evacuation of the departments of Paris, which had been occupied by the German troops, still continues. It is thought this is being