

with the northern soldiers ever since the war. Gen. Grant always maintained that Johnston was the most competent soldier in the Southern armies. It was the opinion of the Northern generals that he was by far the most skilled of the Southern officers. He was never a favorite with Jeff Davis, and it is said that if Johnston and Davis had changed places the civil war would have terminated differently. It was better as it was, and Johnston so accepted it during the latter part of his life.

Johnston was respected by soldiers of both armies and the wearers of the blue, as well as of the grey, will mourn the departure of a gallant soldier, a good citizen and a man of talent and renown.

BEHRING SEA COMPLICATIONS.

It is definitely stated that a proclamation relating to Behring Sea, will soon be issued by the President. It will be given through the State Department, and be made in accordance with the act of Congress approved by President Cleveland, relating to fisheries. This act takes cognizance of all the waters in the dominion of the Behring Sea, and extends to it all the penalties provided by former acts prohibiting the killing of fur seals within the limits of Alaska.

The Cleveland act requires the annual promulgation of a warning to all persons against entering the water dominions of the United States in Behring Sea for seal poaching. United States vessels of war are to cruise in these waters, and arrest all persons and seize all ships found seal hunting.

The forthcoming proclamation will quote in full the act against seal killing, and all its provisions and requirements. The Cleveland act extending the seal killing act to the Behring Sea, will also be quoted. It will define emphatically the attitude the Government will assume towards seal poachers, and it will state that the provisions of the acts of Congress will be enforced. The geographical question will not be touched. The settlement of disputes of this kind will be left to the District Court of Alaska.

The Fifty-first Congress made a liberal appropriation for distributing and publishing any and all proclamations relative to the Behring Sea question. The forthcoming document will be printed in circular form at the Government printing office, and distributed to all Collectors of Customs on the Pacific Coast, and to all the U. S. Consular agencies in British America.

It was thought a few days ago, that this question was all but settled. The

official correspondence which passed between the State Departments of England and this country, indicated that a happy conclusion was about to be reached. The issuance of this proclamation would lead to the belief that there is something still unsettled. Only a day or two since, dispatches from Canada stated that unusual activity prevailed in Government shipbuilding yards in that dominion. That may mean something or nothing. But it appears that the District Court of Alaska has the most important part to play in this drama. The geographical question is the only issue in the Behring Sea complication. And it seems rather a heavy part for so unimportant a functionary as the judge of that court to assume, unless he is made the mouthpiece of the State Department.

A DANGEROUS ALLIANCE.

TRANSATLANTIC dispatches bring us the startling intelligence that Russia and France have entered into an alliance, both for offensive and defensive purposes. The Czar did not manifest until recently a disposition to enter into any relations with France beyond the external forms of comity, demanded by international courtesy.

The Paris treaty of 1887, though approved by the Grand Dukes Vladimir and Nicholas, yet was rejected by the Czar. After the late elections in France this same treaty was again presented to him for ratification, but by him a second time rejected. Now comes the news, by way of Berlin, that this treaty has been accepted by the Czar, and that the fact will be announced officially in a short time.

The Czar of Russia has invested President Carnot with the grand cross of the order of St. Andrew. This is the highest Russian decoration, and heretofore has been confined to members of the Imperial family, or to sovereigns peculiarly favorable to the Russian throne. The question is, what induced Russia to this action? It is well known that up to a very recent date the Czar was opposed to an alliance with France. Was it because Germany, Austria and Italy had formed a sort of triple alliance? Was it because the Czar knew that alliance with England was out of the question, and that there was a possibility, in the event of war, of England going with that triple alliance.

The Czar saw that the only power in Europe to ally himself with was France. Between Germany and France a cordial feeling can not exist for some time at least. As to Great Britain, her interests have been

threatened by the Czar for many years, and it will be her benefit to ally herself with powers hostile to him. She has her Asiatic provinces to protect and retain. She has also interests in Egypt and in the Suez Canal, and in the event of Turkey getting embroiled, she could not well stand aloof.

The Czar is pushing his dominion in Asia with mighty strides. He is building railroads and working schemes by which he can establish a vast industrial empire on that continent. Already he has announced his intention of raising cotton by irrigation, and enough of it to supply the whole of Europe. He has demonstrated that it can be done. At the present time he has commissioners in this country, who are informing themselves of the latest and most improved methods in cotton raising and manufacture. The best market for American cotton is in Russia, and if this scheme should prove a success, it would hurt one important industry of the United States.

But what appears most serious of all, is the prospect of a great European war. With alliances offensive and defensive of the kind now in force among European nations, it is fearful to contemplate what that would mean. Independent of the life and property that would be destroyed, it would mean a reconstruction of the whole map of Europe and possibly of Asia. Whether it would affect this Continent, it is hard to tell, but then when confusion is king, what is safe or what is unsafe, cannot be well defined.

Europe wants a war and war is one of the probabilities. Its millions of standing armies must have employment, or they will turn and rend their own governments. Then it is likely that the shrewd and ambitious rulers at their heads may turn them loose on each other, and let them exercise their martial callings. There is danger in the air of Europe.

UTTERLY UNTRUE.

THE *Christian Register*, a religious paper published in Boston, gives, as a piece of startling news, that a "Unitarian apostle" has actually held a memorial service in honor of George Washington in Salt Lake City! This service, the world is informed, "crowded the Theatre" on Washington's birthday and "made a deep impression." The further statement is made that "lack of patriotism" is "one of the chief evils of Mormonism," and that "Washington's birthday, for instance, has not been held worthy of honor."

We presume the *Christian Register* is speaking from hearsay. Of course