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TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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SPECIAL TO THE DESERET NEWS.

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

Explosion and fire—immense damage done—Internal revenue decision.

WASHINGTON, 22.—At 3 o'clock this morning an explosion occurred in a small magazine at Washington Arsenal, which was used for preparing rockets, lights and shells for signal corps; the explosion was almost immediately followed by a fire, for it caused a serious conflagration, involving the destruction of at least a million of dollars worth of government property. The flames communicated to a frame building near by and was carried there to what is known as storehouse No. 2, and in which were stored all kinds of cavalry and artillery equipments, which was a total loss. In this building too was a model room in which were stored all kinds of models and designs of foreign arms and equipments, and which is a serious loss to government. The fire broke out in the magazine, which exploded this morning at Washington. The arsenal was fourteen feet square, double walls, with slate roof. This building is not only entirely destroyed but the foundations of the adjacent buildings are injured in several places below the level, the ground and bricks are scattered in all directions; one of them went through a blacksmith shop about a quarter of a mile distant. Storehouses near by are so much damaged that only cracked walls are standing, and a building in which were stored over six thousand boxes of cartridges, and which were damaged, the ice-houses are leveled nearly to the ground, and trees near by are stripped of their bark, branches broken and their life, perhaps, destroyed. In person, they were, however, considerably alarmed by the pelting of flying bricks against their frame tenements. Fortunately a large quantity of shot and shells stored in one of the buildings were empty.

The Republican members of the Congressional Ku-Klux Investigating Committee deny that the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate has countermanded the subpoenas issued to come to the hearing of a Democratic member. The committee notified them they need not appear. The Democratic witness, Hardman, of Georgia, has been accused in consequence of what he said, that he was the only one of the kind. It is further stated that the leader of the Ku-Klux in Exchange county, North Carolina, Stradford, a member of the legislature, was arrested by the State Marshal for delay; finally he came to Washington and reported to the Sergeant-at-Arms, but the day previous to his trial he was released, he left this city without leave. He was again summoned and asked for further time, saying he was sick. He has not yet appeared before the committee. W. L. Sanders, a reported chief of the Ku-Klux in North Carolina, was also summoned and asked for further time. Durham, alleged to be the grand chief of the Ku-Klux in Cleveland county, N. C., deposed to come till after the 3d of August. H. W. Guyone, supposed to be connected with the Ku-Klux in Flint county, Georgia, was summoned on the 1st of July, but has not yet obeyed.

WASHINGTON, 23.—The Commissioner of Internal Revenue decided, February 1st, as to the liability of corporations to tax interest on coupons, that no tax be withheld from interest on coupons due and payable within five months from August 1st, 1870, and that interest due and payable on the subsequent January 1st is taxable at the rate of two and a half per cent. It is reported prior to August 1st or subsequent to December 21st, 1870. Certain companies are suing under this decision, claiming the proportion of tax accruing in 1871, on the 15th of May 1871. The Attorney-General decides that the whole tax be paid, and the commissioner of Internal Revenue revoked his

former decision, in accordance with that of the Attorney-General, and has requested companies who had already paid under other decisions to pay the full tax instead of a pro rata proportion, on their refusal to do this, the question was submitted to the Treasury Department. F. C. Bonfield, solicitor of the Treasury, in his opinion, says the opinions of the commissioner of Internal Revenue, when promulgated to the public, is a law on which applicants in this case have a right to act. Under all circumstances, I am of opinion that, legally and equitably, the department will be under the necessity of yielding to the present request and desisting from enforcing the collection of the tax in question from companies who prefer an application.

NEW YORK.

Governor Hoffman defended the Cuban successful inquest on persons killed at the riot.

UTICA, 23.—General McQuade, of Governor Hoffman's staff, has written a letter to the Utica Observer relative to the charge made by the New York Tribune against Hoffman. He says that Governor Hoffman did not learn through him on Monday July 10th, Mayor Hall intended to suppress the Orange procession, and states that the only grain of truth in the matter of falsehood is the fact that the Governor was in New York on Monday for a short time. The General went with the Governor to the Clarendon House. On the way the proposed Orange procession was discussed. The General expressed himself confident that there would be no serious disturbance. He says, "Whatever the people may say now after the affair is over, I believe there were but few who anticipated any serious riot on the 12th until Monday morning, when the people learned that the Archbishop of New York had found sufficient cause of alarm to induce him to meet the Orange procession, and even then the public supposed that his admonition and those of his priests would prove effectual in restraining the violence of the mob. I believe, forgetting that rioters and ruffians are not habitual church goers."

The Governor, when McQuade left him at the Clarendon to go to another hotel, requested him to learn what he could about the matter and telegraph him at Albany in the p. m. About 11 o'clock McQuade went to Superintendent Kelso's office, and found him closeted with the commissioner of police. After waiting he obtained an interview when Kelso said a serious riot was threatened but in response to a question as to whether or not the riot was prepared. He said he was not at liberty to communicate the particulars, that Gen. Shaler had charge of the military. McQuade went to Shaler and told him the object of his inquiries and Shaler asked him to see Mayor Hall. About three o'clock McQuade went to the Mayor's office, but it was some time before he found the Mayor. He substantiated what had been said by Kelso and Shaler, that proper precautions had been taken to preserve the peace, although he said the affair threatened to be very serious.

I left the mayor about 4 o'clock and telegraphed the Governor that I thought everything right, but would watch.

NEW YORK, 22.—A satchel containing a hundred and fifty thousand dollars in bonds which was stolen on the Pennsylvania R. R., a few days since, which belonged to George Opydyke & Co., of this city, has all been recovered.

NEW YORK, 24.—This morning Coroner Young commenced an inquest on the bodies of those shot during the riot. The inquest took place in the 5th District court room, but few were present when it commenced. A number of witnesses testified that shots were fired first from the crowd before the military.

Twelve persons wounded in the late riots are yet at Mount Sinai hospital.

The General Sheridan Club of the Irish Confederation yesterday adopted resolutions characterizing the firing by the militia on the mob, on the 12th instant, as the foulest blot on the civilization of the 19th century.

NEW YORK, 23.—Private letters from Cuba, via Jamaica, dated the 5th inst., mention several important engagements in which the Cubans were successful; one of them it is said saved five hundred and resulted in the capture of six hundred Spanish prisoners; in another, forty-five Spaniards were killed and 150 prisoners taken by the Cubans.

Another letter of July 18th says the revolutionists under Herras have defeated Guzman Blanco's force at every point and he will not be able to hold out much longer. The starting of the crusade expedition for Cuba it was feared would cause a war with Spain, as it is in contravention of the treaty between the two countries.

TENNESSEE.

MEMPHIS, 22.—The Avalanche this morning contains the following card: Memphis, July 21, 1871. Before and since my arrival in Memphis, this day, my attention has been called to slanderous articles in certain radical newspapers which attack my private character, in connection with that of a lady who it is falsely stated was traveling under my charge. It is deemed due to myself as well as to my personal friends to state unequivocally and without delay that the story in the whole and in all its essential parts is unmistakably the invention of malice and is hereby pronounced untrue and false. [Signed] JEFFERSON DAVIS.

MASSACHUSETTS.

A fire broke out at 3 o'clock in the evening and burned until nearly 11 p. m., with such fury that it was feared the whole village would be destroyed; it was at last subdued by the assistance of firemen from the neighboring towns.

FOREIGN NEWS.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Democratic meeting in Hyde Park, London, 23.—Favre has promised to accelerate proceedings relative to the fate of foreigners who are prisoners as political agents.

A letter from Persigny attributes the French disasters to the isolation of the armies of Russia.

The free shooters arrested will probably receive the sentence of death.

It is reported that an agreement has been arrived at between the Legation, Fusionists and Orleansais deputies.

The weather continues fair and favorable to crops.

LONDON, 24.—The meeting at Hyde Park yesterday was a failure. Heavy rain prevailed during the day preventing any considerable crowd assembling.

The Emperor and Empress of Brazil have gone to Birmingham.

FRANCE.

The Assembly and the Pope.—A proposition tending to the island of Corsica to the Pope.—Favre insists on resigning.

PARIS, 23.—In the Assembly to-day there was a very excited debate upon the subject of the petition of the Bishops in reference to the temporal power of the Pope. Thiers, who was chief speaker, declared unequivocally that while he would not in any way compromise the policy of the country, he would do his best to secure the Pope's independence. Gambetta followed in a speech approving the sentiments of Thiers, and supported a motion for an order of the day, which was rejected by the Assembly. The subject was then referred to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Thiers, in the National Assembly, speaking on the Italian question, said it was impossible to adopt a course which would lead to war; the true policy of France was peace and reorganization. No steps must or should be taken which will ever tend to alienate Italy from the French.

Faidherbe has been elected to the Assembly by three constituencies, and has chosen to represent the department of Aorth.

Lamonde to-day proposed that the island of Corsica be tendered to the Pope as an inviolable residence, by which means it is claimed that the supremacy of France as a defender of the Catholic faith will be maintained.

Prince Napoleon, who has been staying for three days at Havre, has been ordered to leave France.

Official reports show Paris healthy.

PARIS, 24.—It is reported that Favre persists in his resignation, because the petition of the Bishops urging the government to support the temporal power of the Pope has been referred to the ministry of foreign affairs.

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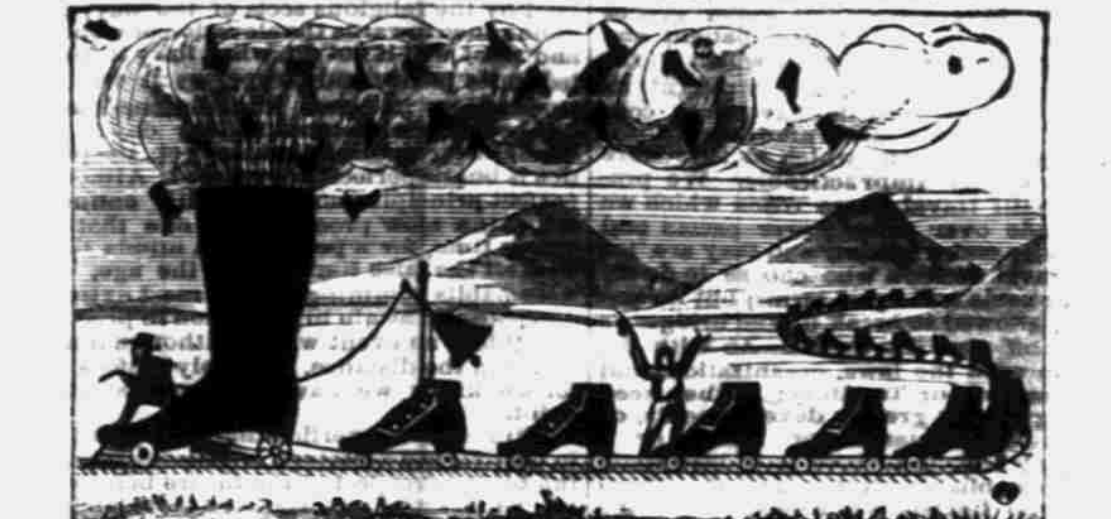
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