

## THE DESERET NEWS.

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Wednesday.....May 18, 1859.

We publish in this number, the correspondence between His Excellency Gov. Cumming and Adjutant General Ferguson, induced by a report, that some person had discovered a cache of cannon near the Territorial arsenal.

We believe that all are satisfied with the facts elicited. However, if some legal gentleman would get up and publish a small work defining the duties of ministerial officers in general, it might be a material aid to them in the discharge of their several functions, and prevent some from interfering with the affairs of others without authority of law.

## A Mountain Tempest.

On last Thursday evening, the wind commenced blowing in this city from the east and continued to increase in velocity till three or four o'clock on Friday morning when it reached the height of its fury and came rushing down from the Wasatch range of mountains through the canyons opening into Great Salt Lake valley, sweeping every thing before it that was not sufficiently strong, or firmly enough attached to terra firma to resist its force.

Much damage was done to buildings, fences and other erections that could be operated upon by the raging storm in Great Salt Lake, Davis, Weber and Box Elder counties, but so far as we have heard, no lives were lost and no person materially injured by the blowing down and unroofing of houses in the night time when the occupants were in bed.

The gale seems to have been the strongest at Farmington, Davis county, where the house of Wells Smith and of David Hess were completely demolished, eight more unroofed and many others materially injured, as reported by H. W. Miller Esq., a resident of that town, and nearly one half the fences in that vicinity were prostrated.

The house of Mrs. Gern, four miles south of Farmington, was seriously injured—one end blown off nearly down to the foundation, the barn of J. L. Stoddard Esq., was razed to the ground, and much other damage sustained in that neighborhood.

At Centerville, the storm was very severe. The house of Thomas Rich was blown down, ten or twelve other houses and barns were unroofed and many others badly injured.

There was more or less damage done at Bountiful and in North Canyon Ward but the wind there was not so severe, being further from the base of the mountains.

From Ogden City and the settlements and villages in Weber county, no report has been received further than that the wind was tremendous and considerable damage was done to buildings, fences, &c.

The mail carrier reports that the large Court House at Brigham City, Box Elder county, was laid low by the fierceness of the wind and a house at North Willow Creek took fire and burned whilst the storm was raging and many other buildings were unroofed or otherwise injured in that county.

In this county there was not so much damage done, but moveables were scattered about profusely, wagons and carriages upset and so much dust, sand and gravel was in motion during the day, as the wind did not lull much till Friday evening, that out-door business was generally abandoned and people kept out of the streets to avoid suffocation.

The storm was the most severe and destructive that has been witnessed for a long time in this valley, though there have been several gales within the last few years that would make a man wish he was somewhere else out of this cold, high, airy, mountainous region, if there was any other place on the earth where he could dwell in peace.

Since writing the foregoing we received a letter from our old friend J. C. Wright Esq., of Brigham City under date of April 13, from which we extract the following:—

"I haste to inform you of the accidents and losses that have accrued to our city, during the last twenty four hours. Yesterday, at about 6 a.m., the inhabitants were rallied by the alarm of fire which proved to be in Lorenzo Snow's saw mill, the wind was blowing a heavy gale from the N.E., and all efforts to save the building were ineffectual, and, in about one hour, it was burned down with every thing appertaining thereunto; we have no knowledge of the way the fire was communicated.

"The wind continued blowing from the same direction through the day until about 4 p.m. when it increased to a tempest; during the night it carried away the roof of the Court House and blew down the E. and W. walls to the basement story, making the building a total wreck.

The building was three stories high, sixty five feet long, and forty five feet wide, and was built at an expense of nearly 25000\$; the loss to this community, at present, is irreparable."

It appears that the wind commenced blowing at Brigham City, sixty five miles north, on Thursday morning, some twelve hours before it did here.

## The European War Question.

The latest accounts received from the old World seem to indicate, that no particular progress had been made in arranging the preliminaries relative to the proposed international congress to settle the Italian question.

The selection of Aix la Chapelle as the place for the meeting of the congress did not suit either Louis Napoleon or Francis Joseph, and the matter appeared quite complicated.

The French Emperor was continually increasing his army, and had given orders to add another battalion to each regiment. The Austrian Emperor was still marching troops into Italy, to strengthen the garrison in Parma, and was erecting fortifications all along the banks of the Po. The Emperor Alexander had given orders for the officers and soldiers of the Russian army on furlough, to return to their colors. Such movements look more like war than peace.

A correspondent of the New York Tribune, in a letter from London, dated April 1, says:—

"My impression is, that the Congress is still-born, and either will not assemble at all, or will become the pretended cause of the impending war. The Vienna Exchange takes precisely the same view, especially since it is rumored that Francis Joseph is not less bent upon war than Napoleon, in the belief that he is now fully prepared for a campaign and cannot undertake one at any more favorable opportunity. Indeed, it is one of the most difficult tasks of his ministry to restrain his military ardor; he insists upon attacking Piedmont before Napoleon has finished his preparations, and desires to meet the French ruler on the Alps rather than on the Ticina."

As to Germany, she is again divided against herself. Bavaria, bigoted, and subservient to Austria, first raised the war cry against French conquest, and found a most enthusiastic response in Hanover, where the people are much disatisfied with the aristocratic misrule of the blind King, and where the ruling aristocracy thought it a capital plan to stifle domestic complaints by Teutonic enthusiasm. For a moment all Germany was excited, and the times of 1813 seemed to have returned.

The Regent of Prussia, however, knew from experience how dangerous it was to rouse the Germans, since, once awakened from their heavy sleep, they would not easily be quieted without attempting a blow for German unity. Accordingly, he succeeded in bringing a more sober style of thinking into fashion. The journals of Northern Germany have become less Austrian; they do not think it indispensable to German interests that Italy should be oppressed, and the priests fawned upon, nor that Austria should be supported in a case with which Germany has little concern. Russia's conduct is certainly not very friendly toward Austria. The Petersburg Gazette has published several hostile articles against her, one of them winding up with the following words:

"Moreover, let us not forget that the Emperor of the French has gone too far to recede; it would be an act incompatible with his character and dignity were he to do so. Let us also remember that if, at the commencement of the present century, France, notwithstanding her revolution, and her want of money and men, was able to make head against the whole of Europe, what would she not be capable of achieving when she is accompanied by the visible sympathy of Russia, and of every noble heart that desires the welfare of humanity?"

Nor is the following reasoning of the same paper less important:

"Let us admit that Austria consents to create a danger at home, and will grant political rights to Lombardy, what will result therefrom? First of all, Hungary, then Bohemia and the Slavonic provinces, will desire to be treated no less favorably than Italy, and by their own agitation will aggravate the internal dissensions of Europe. Austria has heaped up the measure of Italy's patience by her political conduct for these five-and-forty years; she can no longer hope to acquire any sympathy there; and, should she take the path of concessions, the demands made will increase to the maximum of the question, which is the complete independence of Italy."

"If such language is tolerated by the censorship of the Czar, the prospects of a peaceable settlement of the Italian difficulty by the proposed Congress are certainly not the brightest, and fully justify the alarm of the moneyed classes all over Europe."

It is, of course, the interest of England and Prussia to promote peace, and to avert, if possible, by diplomacy, the war which, if once commenced, will unquestionably involve the whole of Europe. The confidence of the money changers, in the success of the peace measures, is more limited than it was a short time since, and consequently there is a corresponding depression in business in that quarter of the world.

Speaking of the prospects of preventing war, by the proposed Congress, the Tribune, of April 23, says:

"As to the great peace congress, it begins to be manifest to all but the wilfully blind that it is likely to end in smoke. The fact that both the prospective belligerents, whom it is intended to bind over by this congress to keep quiet, object to the proposed selection of Aix-la-Chapelle as the place of meeting, is a significant indication of their readiness to 'cavil on the ninth part of a hair.' But in fact the question at issue is for each of them a vital one.

Louis Napoleon's speech to M. Hubner, on the 1st of January, was in effect a challenge to Austria, and as such is accepted by her. Had the French emperor desired the maintenance of peace, he never would thus publicly have thrown down the glove, since he must have known that Francis Joseph had no choice but to take it up. The latter might have canceled without loss of prestige his secret treaties with Naples, Tuscany, Modena and Parma, had he been privately urged to do so; to do it now, in view of the menace to M. Hubner and the lowering armaments of France and Sardinia, would be to confess himself a vassal and abdicate the position which Austria has held in Europe for the last two centuries.

We say Francis Joseph could not do this without humiliation; he says he will not do it, which is even more conclusive. If he consents, then, to a congress, be sure it is with reservations that render that congress an illusion. If England and Prussia shall vote in the expected congress that he shall cancel the obnoxious treaties, he will interpose a veto that can only be overborne by a congress of half a million plenipotentiaries, arguing the case with grooved cannon and Minie rifles on the plains of Lom-

bardy. And Louis Napoleon, after his bravado to Hubner, cannot rest content under the refusal of Austria to revise the political map of Italy. He, in turn, must triumph in council or try the fortunes of war. Of course, while the sword still lingers in its sheath, the arts of diplomacy or the march of events may avert the impending storm; but the chances are still two to one that a few months will find France and Austria once more in deadly conflict, and that the rivers of Lombardy, on their impetuous passage to the Po, will run red with the blood of slaughtered thousands.

New loans, new weapons of destruction, new battalions, new fortifications, new depots of provisions and munitions—such is the average tenor of our recent advices from Europe. We know that it is nevertheless possible that war may be averted, but it is far more probable that it will not be. And that war, come when it will, must leave another Europe at its close than that it finds at its beginning."

## Preparing for the Millennium.

The Christian world have been trying for a long time to bring about the millennium, so called, by the formation of societies for the purpose of sending forth missionaries to convert the heathen; for the promotion of peace, and divers other objects, supposed to be necessary in order to usher in that desirable period.

But after all, the exertions that have been made in the premises, very little has been done towards the accomplishment of the object of their solicitude, if the present state of things the world over, has in any way been brought about through their agency; and we have been of the opinion for years, that the preludes to the millennial period would be of a different nature to what was generally anticipated. Be that as it may, the following extracts show conclusively that the means of death and destruction are being increased and perfected beyond anything ever before known or recorded in the annals of war:

"Since the commencement of the Russian War, in 1854, no less than six hundred patents have been taken out in England for military inventions. This is more than double the number that was given between 1623 and 1854, a period of two hundred and thirty years. This is a fact that is well worthy of the consideration of the members of the Peace Society, and of those who think that the days of war are passing away, and that the millennium is at hand."—[Can. Enquirer.

Now listen to the London Illustrated Times:

ENGINES OF WAR.—When all the signs of the times portend war, and that on a desperate scale, the anxiety here and on the other side of the channel to perfect the engines of war is natural enough. No subject engages more attention at the present time, and never before was it prosecuted so earnestly. The efforts which the Emperor of the French has long made to improve his artillery especially oblige us to look to our own. He is said to have perfected a wonderful gun. We read, "it is rifled; the projectiles are hollow, and produce a double effect—that of solid shot and of shell. Their form is conical, and leaden allettes give to the ball a precision never obtained before.

In order to give an idea of the terrible effects of these new pieces, it suffices to say that a 12-pounder (new model) will, with one-half the number of shots of the old pieces of 24, produce the same effect; and the new pattern 12 pounder produces at 70 metres the same result as the old 24 at 35, and requires no more than one-sixth of the charge. The projectiles penetrate into a block of stone or the hardest cement, to an extent of 80 centimetres, and an enormous breach is made by the explosion.

The advantages of the 4-pounder are still more remarkable. It requires but 500 grammes of powder to throw a ball a distance of one kilometrical league. The precision is such that at the distance of 3,100 metres it strikes a single man on horseback, and at that distance would destroy a body of cavalry or infantry." All the pieces constructed on the new system are loaded at the muzzle. Two hundred guns of this kind are already furnished to the Imperial Guard, and numerous others of various calibre are being cast. One with which they are now practising at Vincennes is said to weigh 2,500 lb., and to require six men to work it. This gun can, at 2,000 yards, put 20 musket-balls in a target six feet square.

An Englishman, Mr. Shaw, claims to have invented an "Enfield rifle battery," consisting of twenty four barrels, and weighing only 300 lbs., which can also put twenty balls in a target six feet square, at about the same distance; if this be so, we are prepared for the Vincennes gun in the field.

But the great secret of our Government at present is in the Armstrong gun, which has obtained for its inventor a baronetcy and the appointment of "Engineer to the War Department for Rifled Ordnance." In order to secure the secret of this gun's construction, the Government suppressed Sir W. Armstrong's application for a patent, and will now have to bring in a bill to justify that proceeding. Great care is taken to prevent any unauthorized person from seeing the gun.

During practising, strangers are kept at a distance, and when not in use it is safely housed. It would appear, however, that all these precautions proved useless; for the editor of the "Mechanics' Magazine," like a patriot as he is, has given to the world a detailed description of the construction of the gun. We are told before that it is formed of an internal steel tube, bound over with strips of rolled iron laid on spirally, somewhat after the fashion of small-arm barrels, the alternate strips being laid in opposite directions." This system of construction is expensive, but it gives great strength with small quantity of metal. The internal steel tube is rifled with a very large number of small grooves close to each other.

The shot or shell Mr. Armstrong usually makes of cast iron, of about three diameters in length, and covers it entirely over with thin lead, so that it may conform itself to the rifled interior of the bore. The gun is to be fired from the breech in a new and ingenious manner, and herein, it would seem, is the chief excellence of the gun. With his shells Mr. Armstrong uses a percussion fuse of his invention, for causing the shell to burst on striking an object, in case the striking takes place before the time the fuse has operated.

The Armstrong gun is much lighter, compared with the shot she throws, than the best guns now in use; and as for effect, we are told that on this system shot or shell, weighing eighty or ninety pounds, are cast a distance of from five to seven miles.

Another war-engine which will probably be adopted in our naval service, is Captain Norton's Liquid Fire Shell. It has already gone very successfully through experiments, intended to prove that one or two of these missiles fired into the hull of a vessel would set it in flames. The shell was tried against some pieces of sailing, which represented the sails of a ship; and, though they were soaked with rain, they took fire immediately. The same result followed when a shell, charged with about a tea-spoonful of the "liquid fire," came in contact with a timber boarding.

Then we have Mr. Warry's Breech-loading Gun, which, on a recent trial, fired ten rounds in a minute, a distance of 2,000 yards, and with good aim. What next? Already war has been made almost impossible with these inventions, or, at any rate, a pitched battle in open field. Let us hope that somebody will devise a means of blowing armies away column by column; and then, perhaps, we shall hear no more of warfare, save as a thing gone by.

Surely if the armies of the nations are ever

thus blown away, war must cease whether the millennium commences or not.

## FROM THE STATES.

By the mail on Friday we received dates from New York, Washington and Philadelphia to the 23d of April, from which we glean a few items.

The legislature of New York adjourned on the nineteenth—the same day that the California legislature closed its session. Like the law makers of the Golden State, the members of the legislature of the Empire State are spoken of as having been a very industrious set of men.

The session continued one hundred and six days. Four hundred and twenty eight acts were passed, averaging over four each day, many of them important to the people of that State, requiring much labor and care in their construction.

The anti-rent cases, that have so long been pending in the courts of that State, have been decided by the Court of Appeals adversely to the tenants. The judges were unanimous that the rents and arrears must be paid. That decision ends the controversy so far as courts are concerned.

The Pennsylvania legislature adjourned on the 14th. More acts were passed during the session than ever before by any legislature in the Keystone State.

The late elections in Connecticut and Rhode Island having resulted in favor of the Republicans, the eyes of politicians are turned towards Minnesota, as the election in that new State, according to their calculations, may decide the question of superiority of numbers between the Republicans and Democrats.

The Republicans have already elected 104 representatives and the Democrats 47. The latter claim that the elections yet to be held will increase their numbers to 110, and admit that the Republicans will have 107. Neither claim a majority, as the Americans, it is conceded, will elect 14 or 15 members. If Minnesota goes for the Republicans they will most likely have a plurality, and if she proves to be Democratic, that party will probably outnumber their opponents in the next Congress. Under these circumstances there is a fair prospect that the Americans will hold the balance of power, and will be considered in market by political demagogues. Time may prove whether they can be bought or not.

The Sickles trial had not terminated, but was progressing as fast as could be expected.

Dispatches had been received at Washington from Mr. McLane, minister to Mexico, stating that out of the 21 states 18 are in favor of the Juarez government and only 3 adhere to Miramon.

There was some prospect that the Nicaragua affair would be settled. The President had the amended treaty under consideration, and if it was not accepted in its present form, it was thought that it would be remodeled so as to conform to the wishes of the Government. It provides that Nicaragua shall keep the transit route open, and if she should fail to do so, the United States have the right to land troops to protect persons and property.

ARRIVAL.—Benjamin Halliday, Esq., formerly of the firm of Halliday & Warner, merchants, in this city, arrived on Monday evening in 29 days from New York. He spent several days at Leavenworth and made the trip from there in 20 days.

Mr. Halliday, we are informed, is in good health and fine spirits, and is much pleased to meet again with his old friends in this city.

POWDER AND SULPHUR.—We were recently shown a fine specimen of rifle powder, manufactured by Mr. E. Edwards, of Iron county; also some brimstone taken from the mine between Fillmore and Beaver, refined by the same gentleman, equal to any ever offered for sale in this market.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—Samuel Henriod, of Nephi city, about seventeen years of age, had the misfortune some two weeks since, to have a harrow fall on him, the teeth of which were very sharp; one of the teeth entered his body near the heart, inflicting a mortal wound of which he died in a few days.

Mr. E. Sayers will please accept of our thanks for the splendid present of Asparagus and Pie-plant. It was truly a treat, as the vegetable kingdom has not produced many edibles thus far, this season, in this vicinity.

Advertisements, to insure insertion in the current number, must be handed in previous to Tuesday morning.