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The Daily Bee.

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THE DAILY BEE.

Wednesday Morning, May 24, 1854.

☞ For STEAMBOAT DEPARTURES see FRONTS SIDE.

THE NORTHERN MAIL came through yesterday with the latest dates.

THE CHARACTER OF THE EASTERN WAR.

The strategic character of the war now undertaken by England and France against Russia, is a subject of frequent speculation. It would certainly seem out of the question for the Turkish allies to aim at an invasion of the dominions of the Northern Colossus. All Europe banded together would be unable to subjugate that enormous Empire; for the Czar would, in such a conjuncture, only have to retreat and fall back into the interior of his territory, completely to defeat the intentions of his foes. The disasters of 1812 are fresh in the memory of the historical student. The almost boundless resources, the unsurpassed military skill, and the splendid genius of NAPOLEON failed utterly and ignominiously in the attempt to conquer Russia, by overrunning her possessions. The success of invasion of Russia strikes us as a mere impossibility. An Empire which is bounded by so many seas, and which, in its Northern latitude, is only limited by the eternal snows of the Arctic region, may be said to be unconquerable by direct assault and occupation. Were it practicable to capture Moscow and batter down St. Petersburg, the integrity of Russia, for all necessary purposes, would remain as entire and unimpaired as ever.

Considering that reflection and experience must evidently suggest the same views to the Western powers, we hold that the operations by land of England and France will be confined to the expulsion of the Russians from the Danubian principalities, and to the placing of a solid barrier to all efforts of NICHOLAS to traverse the river Pruth a second time. Yet even this presumption involves the indefinite duration of the war, since it is as questionable that just as long as the Czar chooses to station an army near the boundaries of Wallachia, the Turkish allies would be compelled to maintain an equal force on the other side of the Pruth, in order to dispute its passage. Such a system of strategy might suit NICHOLAS, who would be apt to harrass the English and French troops, and keep them in a perpetual state of vigilance and inquietude. Besides, the expense would be nothing to the Czar, who must necessarily have a large standing army, and who, in the contingency referred to, would be within his own dominions; while the allied powers, forced to keep up a formidable host in a foreign land, would be grievously burthened by the cost of its equipment, transportation and support.

Russia indeed presents but a single vulnerable point—viz: her navy. With immense labor, frightful expenditure and unwearied solicitude, her monarchs, in obedience to the traditional principles of their predecessors, have aimed at the acquisition of sea ports, and at the eventual command of the Baltic and the Black Sea, with a final prospect of the control of the Mediterranean. This was the policy of PETER the Great, when he invaded successively Sweden, Ingria, Livonia and Viborg; it was the cherished idea of CATHERINE when she seized Courland in 1795, and it impelled ALEXANDER when, in 1809, he invaded and annexed Finland. These sovereigns had in view the ownership of the Baltic; just as NICHOLAS has now in view the possession of Constantinople and the command of the Mediterranean. To become a vast naval power has been the unswerving ambition of Russia. To annihilate this hope, by breaking up and destroying the accumulated efforts of years would seem the simple and intelligible aim of the Western powers. No doubt too that this will be accomplished, for the overshadowing strength of the combined naval armaments of England and France justifies the belief that the ships and steamers of the Czar will be eventually captured or destroyed.

Does it thence follow that NICHOLAS will be driven from his designs upon Turkey, or that the war will be terminated? By no means. The Russians have all the bigoted, unyielding and obstinate brute, of wonderful strength and tenacity. Suppose his navy demolished, and that he still thinks proper to resist. What is to prevent him from persevering in concentrating his armies on the borders of the Danubian provinces, of retaining his belligerent attitude, and of thus providing England and France with the possibility of withdrawing their forces, and of suspending hostilities? His policy would clearly be to annoy and exhaust his enemies as long as possible, to subject them to enormous expenses, and to prolong the war after the Fabian method. His commerce, as has been frequently demonstrated, would suffer comparatively little—the exports of his empire being insignificant, when contrasted with those of the great commercial kingdoms of Western Europe. We are disposed to believe that the Emperor NICHOLAS will prove a far more troublesome customer than is generally imagined, and that at small sacrifice he may procrastinate this war until England and France become heartily sick of it.

☞ In another part of our paper will be found a communication from a respectable and intelligent source, deprecating the evils of a war with Spain and denying that any just cause of quarrel with that power exists. We have given it insertion, and may publish other articles of similar character—not being quite at liberty to decline temperate discussion, even though the views advanced should be—as, in this instance, they undoubtedly are—wholly opposed to our own. We need scarcely inform the reader, that we do not agree with our correspondent in any of the positions assumed by him, save in the general and undeniable axiom that war is a great evil and that by none will its calamities be more sensibly felt than by commercial people.

A MILD AND WELL-BRED AFFAIR.—An amusing case of a very grave nature, says a N. York letter writer, will be that of a milksman endeavoring to compel a gentleman to pay for a certain quantity of Orange Pekoe, which the gentleman to whom this morning indispense bile was duly delivered, having suspicions about the purity of its quality, attempting to be revoked a liberal quantity of the identic nostrum, and upon testing his supply, found that it contained on an average, but from 75 to 87 parts of cocoanut milk. The gentleman in due course of time, presented his bill of $25 80 for five hundred and sixteen quarts of pure milk. The bill was not allowed, the gentleman offering to pay $20 64, thus deducting twenty five per cent for the spacious addition. The milkman was of course indignant, not that the bill was accepted, but that the quality of the milk should be questioned. He called upon a lawyer and the lawyer wrote a letter. It is to be hoped that the matter will be allowed to go into court, just "for the fun of the thing."

EXPLOSION AND LOSS OF LIFE.—About half past 12 o'clock on Monday week, a terrible explosion took place at the "English Coal Pits" in Chesterfield county, Va., about fourteen miles from Richmond, resulting in the death of twenty persons, all white, (eighteen men and two boys,) who were in the pits at the time. It is supposed that some of the men thoughtlessly approached some of the "old damps," with their lamps, and the explosion was caused by the escape of gas from unknown leaks. The pit is 150 feet deep, and explosions have occurred in it two or three times before.

☞ Relative to the personal controversy between Messrs. HUNT and CRAIGE, the Washington correspondent of the Charleston *Standard* writes as follows, under date of the 16th inst:

It was supposed, of course, that Mr. Craige would challenge Mr. Hunt for his letter. He was understood to hold himself and others to the responsibilities of the code of honor, and had been publicly branded a falsifier. No challenge passed however, and both gentlemen appeared in their seats this morning. As soon as the journal was read, Mr. Hunt rose and stated to the House that the report of the occurrence of yesterday was inaccurately reported in the *Union* and *Globe*, and accordingly in all the other papers. For the truth of this assertion I am prepared to vouch. The *Globe* of last evening contained a report essentially different from that of this morning—the latter representing Mr. Craige with having told Mr. Hunt that he could not bully the House, and should not bully him, or words to that effect. I am very certain that I heard no such words fall from Mr. Craige's lips; yet the report is admitted to have been upon his representation.

When Mr. Hunt stigmatized the report as inaccurate, he made no charges against anybody. His manner and language were kind, conciliatory, and unexceptionable. Mr. Craige immediately rose, endorsed the accuracy of the report of his own remarks in the *Globe*, and went out of his way to say that he stood by his remarks of yesterday. Mr. Hunt indignantly replied that he had branded his falsifier yesterday as false, and that the brand was still binding; to which Mr. Craige rejoined, charging the gentleman from Louisiana, Mr. Hunt, with being a scrape yesterday," and telling him he could not "sneak out of it to-day." Here the excitement became very great, and both parties took their seats.

It is understood now that Hunt has challenged him, and that Mr. Cullens, of Tennessee, and Brooks, of Mississippi, are his friends.

☞ Our citizens have been very much interested during the past few days by a visit from a distinguished Engineer, who had been induced to come among us at the instance of some European capitalists who have determined to make a large investment in our Railroad. We are not fully informed, nor would it be proper to speak of them if we were, of the precise state of the negotiations now pending between the Directors and the agent of the capitalists; but we learn that no national doubts is now entertained that they will result in the speedy completion of the work.

A large meeting of stockholders and others was held at the Exchange, on Monday, at which Professor Hosmer, after giving a brief account of his late visit to New York, introduced to the company Captain Whitmore, who informed and delighted the large audience, for some fifteen or twenty minutes, and for all the following evening, with the information of what they heard and where confidence in the early completion of the road was not re-established and confirmed.—*Fayette Gazette.*

CONGRESS.

We brought down the proceedings of the House of the Sixth by the steamer by the Secretary-at-Arms of the disorder, but not Messrs. Hunt and Craige, fortunately the House adopted Mr. Richardson's motion to refer the debate on the Nebraska bill on Saturday, the 20th, by a vote of 114 to 59, and then adjourned.

In the SENATE on the 12th, a bill introduced by Mr. Pettit to uncertain and adjust the titles to certain lands in Indiana, was taken up and passed.

Mr. Mallory submitted the following resolution, which lies over:

Resolved, That the recent note and declaration of the Cuban authorities, considered in connection with Spain's policy with reference to that island, are calculated to excite the just apprehensions of the Government of the United States, and entitled Spain to throw Cuba ultimately into the hands of its negro population, and to revive there, within a few years out of our sharpness, the scenes of San Domingo's revolution, a result which the United States will deem alike inconsistent with their progress, their prosperity, and the civilization of the age.

Mr. Slidell presented a resolution providing for the printing of 500 copies of the document relating to the release of the Black Warrior.—Referred.

After some unimportant matter, the veto of the PRESIDENT, was taken up and discussed.

The Senate adjourned.

In the HOUSE, the following occurred:

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. Hunt—I ask the consent of the House to allow me to correct a statement which I have just read in the Globe of this morning. I desire to state here publicly, that the statement in the Globe of this morning, in respect to what occurred yesterday, is untrue, as far as my knowledge goes, and as far as I am informed by my friends. The statements which I have read in the other papers are substantially true.

Mr. Craige.—In regard to the statement of the gentleman from Louisiana, [Mr. Hunt,] I will say, that in reference to anything which I said on yesterday, my remarks are substantially reported in the Globe. What he said I did not distinctly hear or understand, and I do not, therefore, undertake to say what he did say. What I said is substantially reported in the Globe, and by that I am willing to stand.

Mr. Hunt.—One word in reply. I branded the statement made by the gentleman yesterday, and the brand still remains.

[Cries of "Order!" "Order!" from all parts of the Hall.]

Mr. Craige was understood to say, amidst great confusion: The member cannot strut into a scrape with me, and sneak out of it in that way by another falsehood.

[Renewed cries of "Order!" all over the House.]

The Nebraska bill was then taken up and debated to the hour of adjournment.

Communicated.

WAR—ITS EFFECTS ON COMMERCE.

There is no greater calamity that can befall a country than war. This is a fact that history and experience have proved in every age and every nation; and still it is a common thing to find men of intellect, nine out of ten, speaking of War as if it were a joke or a fine piece of fun. Even among merchants and tradesmen—persons who are more or less the pulse of society, and who should know so many that look upon it as an event to rejoice at or as a circumstance that will give them a chance of putting a few dollars in their pockets, the human nature is generally selfish, and we are apt to look more to our little pecuniary interests than to the sacrifice of life and other inevitable evils. We only look at the bright side of the picture, and we make our calculation as to the probability of the rise or fall in some articles of commerce, and the chances of making or losing a good round sum on a stock of merchandise, or on some risky speculation. We rarely think seriously of the disasters and calamities that follow in its train, and if they are upon us, and we feel almost suddenly their desolating effects. I regret to confess that it is among my own countrymen that we are apt to find a large supply of this more war-making spirit.

Nothing is less difficult than to sit down in the easy chair of an editorial sanctum, with a fine battery of pen, ink and paper arranged before you and fire away 'midst the smoke of a pure Havana, exalting the patriotism to the highest pitch, and making readers feel anxious to take up a musket in order to punish the aggravated or imaginary wrongs of a country against whom our worst feelings are excited and our prejudices are overbearing. All this will do very well for newspaper "buncomb," and it sometimes gives a little life in a mind up with sonorous expressions about "honor" and "patriotism," calling on the people and the Government to avenge some trifling wrong that they easily could have prevented or redressed. But let us reflect awhile and calmly examine the cause and its *effect*, before we plunge headlong into a war. It is one of the gravest, if not small, can always do as evil, and a trading or commercial nation like ours, should have nothing but friends, especially where those friends can be of service for commercial purposes. Almost every American knows what effect the European war produced in our commercial affairs during the last spring, and it will appeal to the mercantile community, to the merchants of the whole Union.—I have not the slightest doubt but they will all agree with me on this point,—whether the European war be soon ceased, and is daily causing decided injury to our commercial interests? It is not necessary to call attention to the glaring fact that the Russo-Turkish difficulties are of such a nature that they could have no direct bearing on our commerce at large; but, still, things have taken such a turn since Kossuth and Koszta have been dragged into those difficulties, that we are already feeling the evil consequences of a war in which we have no direct interest, and we cannot at present surmise how far it will go, or how long it will last.

And now, in the midst of all this, with the calamity of a fatal commercial crisis almost staring us in the face, we calmly and we might add foolishly, are talking about going to war with Spain for a trifling affair, of which only parties who have little or no interest in the happiness and welfare of our country, and are naughty or commercial interests of our great Republic, to embroil us into difficulties that will ultimately bring us into a war with that nation. No one, of course, dreams of insinuating that the people of the United States are afraid of a war with Spain, or with any other country; yet there are many who deprecate a war between the two nations, for consequences to commerce—and with us, more than with any other nation extant, "Commerce is King."

It seems to me that it is shabby and ridiculous in any paper that we have in our interests with Spain or oppose the *suspected* "African-ization" movement in Cuba. Some wiseacre or other imagines he has found out a mare's nest, and wishes to apply the same logic as argument that "if my next door neighbor is mad enough to set his house on fire, I can interfere with him, for the sake of the safety of my own property." This, apparently good argument, has been eagerly seized upon and it is paraded and repeated by all who cannot find a better one to support their theory of war. But no one has taken the trouble to see that there are six hundred miles of ocean separating "my neighbor" from my house, that Jamaica and St. Domingo were "set on fire" in the same manner without "my house" being burnt down, and that Cuba, after the Island of Cuba is only seperated from Kentucky and Virginia by a surveyor's boundary line; that Pennsylvania and Delaware are separated from Maryland and Virginia, Missouri, &c., at the will have Cotton of slavery in those States, did not run "my next door neighbor" in Kentucky, Maryland,