

A Buchanan special of the 17th says that it is known to many that the Czar was privately warned last August that, if Russia entered on a second campaign, it would be impossible to restrain England from hostile action. Influential Russians consider the present moment highly favorable for direct negotiations between Russia and Turkey.

A Vienna correspondent telegraphs that Turkey's first peace effort may be regarded as a failure. Germany hinted that treating directly with Russia would be the shortest way of coming to an understanding. It seems that, when the news was first mentioned, the Austrian Government replied that it could not hold out any hope of successful mediation on such lines.

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GENERAL FOREIGN NEWS.

The French legislative body has voted the budget, and the Government has introduced a measure abolishing the oppressive restrictions placed upon the press. The Chamber has adjourned to meet Jan. 8.

A London dispatch announces that Parliament will sit Jan. 17, three weeks in advance of the usual time, owing to the condition of affairs in Turkey.

Austria's policy of neutrality has been affirmed by Count Andrade in a speech to the Budget Committee, in which he stated that the Government would prevent the extension by Servia of operations in the direction of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Gen. Grant has been visiting Herculaneum and Pompeii.

Michael Davitt, a Fenian sentenced to fifteen years' penal servitude, has been released from Dartmoor on a ticket of leave, after serving half the term of his sentence.

MacMahon has once more succumbed to the inevitable. He has ordered that all prosecutions against editors, publishers, and newsmen, for alleged infractions of the press laws since May 16, be dismissed.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

East.

The suits against the estates of Peter D. Sweeny and Albert A. Woodward, of New York ring memory, have netted the city \$44,982.

John McAllister, Jr., optician, died lately, in Philadelphia, aged 92. He was the oldest living graduate of the University of Pennsylvania.

Three children of Mrs. Catherine Ryan, of Randolph, Mass., were suffocated, a few nights ago, by coal gas also Mary E. Berry, who was staying with them. Mrs. Ryan herself is not expected to live.

A frightful disaster, caused by the explosion of a boiler in a factory and the immediate gutting of the building, occurred in New York, on the evening of Dec. 20. From the New York papers we glean the following particulars of the calamity: "The people in the neighborhood of Barclay street and College place were startled by an explosion that sounded like the discharge of a canon. The concussion broke many hundreds of window panes, some of them two or three blocks away, and instantly extinguished every gaslight burning within an equal radius. The rattle of window sash and the crash of broken glass was accompanied by shock like that of an earthquake. This was followed by the crash of a building, and the people on Barclay street saw almost the whole inside of the five-story building. No. 63 Barclay street, torn out and shot up into the air with almost indescribable violence. The following of debris, according to the testimony of eye-witnesses, rose fully thirty feet into the roof, and before it had fallen the shell of the building, with such of its inner framework as was not torn away, was enveloped in flames. Thousands of people at once gathered, and in five minutes the engines were on the ground. The spectators were staggered a minute after by seeing a man emerge from the flames and appear on the rafters that supported the second floor. He was a horrible sight. His hair and beard were burned off, his skin blackened and smeared with blood, and his clothes on fire. He stood for a moment as if irresolute, and the crowd yelled, 'Jump! Jump!' He glanced back once, and seeing certain death behind him to the ground, was badly injured, but still alive when the ambulance took him to the hospital. A ladder was shortly placed against the broken front, out of the burning interior came three men and two boys, their clothes on fire and their hands bleeding. They made their way down the ladder and were

put to bed for treatment. Two or three men were taken from the Barclay street door. One boy

was taken from the front door before the flames

JAS. W. McEWEN, Editor.

RENSSELAER, JASPER COUNTY, INDIANA, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1877.

"A Firm Adherence to Correct Principles."

\$1.50 per Annum.

VOLUME I.

1877.

From Its Entrance to Its Exit.

The Old Year's Record of Great Events.

CHRONOLOGY.

JANUARY—1. Republicans and Democrats each organized Legislators in London. 2. The Paris Peace Conference opened in the International Conference. 3. Extraterritorial treaty signed between the United States and Spain. 4. French General L'Amour went ashore at Suez. 5. N. A. Browne, Gen. of the 2d Cavalry, was killed in a duel with J. G. Bennett and F. May.

5. Two Governors were inaugurated in London and the Metropolitan police were established. 6. The British Parliament elected George M. Grey, elected President of the French Chamber of Deputies. 7. The Nicholls Government in possession of New Orleans and became the 18th State. 8. The Louisiana Republican Legislature elected W. P. Kellogg to the Senate. 11. President Borens of Ecuador overthrown. 16. Gen. Diaz overthrown in Mexico. 17. Senators Blaine and W. C. Farnsworth were elected to the Senate. 18. Gen. J. B. Smith, now at work on Hutchinson's island, opposed the Porte, and the escape of some after the guard had been overpowered and murdered.

In the northern side of the building occupied by the forces as sleeping quarters there was a hole about two feet square, where the chimney of the sugar-refinery stood, which had been closed up with bricks, mud being used instead of mortar. About quarter after 1 o'clock George Bullups, a member of the Legislature, managed to free his feet from his shackles, and, pushing the bricks out, worked himself slowly through the hole, which was about three feet from the ground. In getting out however, he struck against the man who slept in the bunk next to him. The movement awakened the fellow, who, raising himself, discovered George's legs just disappearing through the aperture. He at once ran to the door, and, finding the man who was on duty at the door that a man was escaping. The guard darted around the building and caught sight of George running toward the bank of the Savannah river. He immediately opened fire on the fugitive, firing six times at him. About three hundred yards from the building one of the dogs caught the flying negro, who was impaled in his flight by the dense swamp reeds. After a short struggle, during which the guard fired at him, he was captured, and, being a negro, was hung by the neck from a tree, and, in a few moments the dog returned.

Henry Van Dyke was hanged at Canton, N. Y., last week, for the murder of his wife, on July 24. The criminal passed his last night on earth singing comic songs, clapping and joking. He told the Sheriff he wanted to be hanged at 11 o'clock, so as to be in hell for dinner. When some clergymen who visited him started to leave, he turned a couple of hand-springs, and, turning up with a crimson pose, shouted after them, "What do you say?"

A grand reception was tendered President Hayes by the Union League Club, on the occasion of his visit to New York last week.

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