

event. A bob-tailed coat upon a polite gentleman is a very pretty thing any where but in a Printing office; it acts upon the principle of the lever, as we had an opportunity of experiencing not long since; for while a particular friend of ours was making a particular bow to us in front, the mischievous bob-tailed coat was making sad work in the rear; for O sad to tell, the general assembly and judges of common sense in the state of R. Island, were hoisted from their seats, the actions on the civil docket, by short process, disposed of, and clients and lawyers all sent out of the court with the most marvellous despatch. These are but slight sketches of the incidents and awful calamities which are innocently caused by our visitors; and those who have a proper regard for such weighty characters, and brilliant conceptions as are scattered about the parlours of a printing office, will be careful least they create.

"A wreck of matter and a crush of worlds" which would squeeze Capt. Symmes' theory into it.

FROM EUROPE.

The Emperor of all the Russias—the soul of the "holy alliance," and director of the continent, has paid the great debt of nature. He died at Taganrock early in December last, after a few days illness.

When the immense power that Alexander immediately possessed, & the mighty influence which he exerted over the affairs of Europe, are considered, it may easily be expected that the most important consequences will follow his death; especially when the more rude and imperious, though, perhaps, not less honest, character of his successor, is taken into calculation. If it was the genius or disposition of Napoleon to forge chains for mankind; Alexander was no less an adept to a more humble work of riveting them. The former, in numerous cases, showed himself to be a hot-headed tyrant—but the latter ever was a cold-calculating despot; particularly acquiring power under the semblance of moderation, and gathering to himself influence while pretending that he had no desire to extend it; and, upon the whole, perhaps, he was the most dangerous man of modern times. It was he who advanced the doctrine that the people have no rights—that even the enjoyment of life itself was an act of grace on the part of "legitimate sovereigns"—it was he who was always ready to sustain this doctrine with a million of bayonets, in the hands of his ignorant and semi-barbarian slaves. He was at the head of the most foul and most dangerous conspiracy that ever was formed against the rights of human nature—he was continually adding power to power; and the mighty means that he possessed, while it checked the ambition of his brother kings; reduced their people into mere machines, without will to do except as he himself permitted them.

From the frozen regions of the north to the shores of the Mediterranean, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific, he stretched forth his gigantic arms; kings yielded to his admonitions, and their dependent armies marched when he gave the word that they should. He pointed to Italy and Spain, and despotism prevailed—he desired Greece, and would have possessed himself of all Turkey in Europe; but the time had not yet arrived when he could be expected to retain them by management, and he was fearful of disturbing that repose of slavery which so well suited his own overwhelming and ambitious views. He aspired to gain by cunning, what Napoleon sought by the sword—the actual dominion of Europe. We cannot regret his death. All was doing by him, and his fellow laborers of Austria, &c. that could be done, to return society into a state of barbarism; and the quiet that had been forced upon the people of the old world, was more detrimental to them than a season of war. It is believed that the "holy alliance" now stands as dissolved, and supposed that Constantine, the new autocrat of all the Russias, will rather show himself in the character of a soldier than that of a Jesuit. He is fond of military pomp and parade, rough in his manners, and called over-bearing and brutal; and the probability is, that he is so thoroughly a Russian, as to be disposed at once to take "the road to Byzantium," and fulfil the great desire of his grand-mother, and the celebrated Catharine. He is not of a temper likely to wait patiently for the event—it would appear more compatible with his ideas of glory to force them, and possess himself of Constantinople by the power of his arms, than to acquire it peaceably. And, indeed, we hope that he may—for, if some movement is not made for the relief of the Greeks, we must expect to hear either of their extermination, or reduction to a state of slavery and degradation worse than death itself. It appears impossible to us that they can withstand the forces now arrayed against them, disciplined and led by the Christians—chiefly Frenchmen and Austrians; and the death of Alexander may preserve the life of a nation. If so, we shall, indeed, rejoice at it.

An armed interference on the part of Constantine, (and he is prepared to use it, if he should interfere at all in the affairs of Turkey), will very probably cause the breaking out of a general quarrel in Europe. No one of the great powers will be content that Russia should occupy the present country of the Mussulmans—for its means would enable her emperor to take a front rank in commerce and naval affairs, and materially check the commerce and means of England, France and Austria. But what can either of them do to prevent the crush of Turkey, if Constantine wills it? And the matter seems resolved in this, that Turkey must be crushed or Greece extinguished. We wish the former; and, if war shall grow out of it, have the consolation to hope that, in the contest, the people of Europe may regain some portion of their long lost liberty, or at least be enabled to arrest a course of proceedings having a direct tendency to enslave and brutalize them more and more. They have been counted like herds of cattle and disposed of like hogs, by the head, to different masters. To hesitate in yielding submission to such arrangements, was accounted treasonable, and to imagine that they had rights, was a deadly sin against the "holy alliance." These things may be partially done away, or, at least, the barbarian operation be retarded, by a state of war; as in Spain and Italy, perhaps, the loss of life by war, will not be greater than it now is by law and the want of law—by which these countries are filled with royal executioners and religious hangmen, of the one party, and by bands of robbers and assassins of the other—opposed in every thing, except to do all the mischief that they can.

The death of Alexander is an exceedingly important event. We shall add some of the speculations of different European editors upon it. A feverish expectation of great changes in the relations of the continent, is every where evinced. We shall wait with impatience for further advices. It is not probable that the new emperor will be long in deciding upon the course that he will pursue, as to the Greeks and the Turks. But if his policy shall be opposed to that of the "holy" ones, he will run the risk of assassination. He is, however, the idol of the army; and recollecting the fate of his father, will be upon his guard.

One account says that the emperor died of the bilious fever, on the 1st of December. It appears to have been kept a secret for some days. A courier was despatched from Warsaw with the news on the 9th. It was not known at Vienna on the 11th. He was aware of his situation—his wife was with him. Taganrock is situated on the Black Sea, 500 leagues from the St. Petersburg. The emperor, Constantine, left Warsaw on the 8th December, was proclaimed at St. Petersburg on the 15th, and waited on by the civil and military officers on the 16th. When he was born, his grand-mother caused a medal to be struck with the inscription, "Constantine, king of the Greeks." He was with Suvarrow in the campaign of 1799 against France, and at the battle of Austerlitz, as well as in the campaigns of 1812, 1813 and 1814, and at Paris. All accounts agree in representing him to have an impetuous disposition. He has appointed his brother Nicholas to the command of the royal guard, which shows that they are on good terms with one another.

There is a report that Alexander was assassinated; but it does not appear worthy of credit, as his illness was known at several places before his death was announced.

Bell's Weekly Messenger, in speaking of the consequences of this event and the succession of Constantine, remarks:

"There can be very little doubt but that there will be an instantaneous attack upon the Turkish empire, and that the whole face of Europe, in that part of the world, will be immediately altered. It is not only the well known intention of Constantine to adopt this course, but it is his immediate interest. It is the only means by which he can conciliate his enormous and savage army. All accounts agree, that it is only by his army that he can hope to reign in safety, and he must therefore, at once employ them in some object conformable to their wishes. The effect of such a step by Constantine would be an immediate agitation of all those elements on the continent of Europe, which have lately been kept tolerably quiet by the principles of the holy alliance. If Constantine should take the part of the Greeks, against the Turks, it would be impossible for Austria to remain neutral. The fire would be immediately kindled in the centre, and burn onwards to the remotest corner of Europe. What the result might be, it is difficult to say. But, we trust, should such an event occur, as a general continental war, that Great Britain will perform a part worthy of her; by protecting from slavery and subjugation, those illustrious states, which are entitled, no less from ancient fame and recollection, to her assistance and support, than from the brave and glorious struggles which they have recently made, to escape from the most brutal bondage."

A Paris paper of Dec. 20, says—About a year ago it was reported, that an important interview had taken place between the emperor Alexander and his brother Constantine. The latter had long since declared himself in favor of the Greeks, and thought the Russian armies ought to march to Constantinople. Constantine maintained that Alexander suffered the fairest opportunity to escape him that had yet offered to make himself master of the Bosphorus; he reproached him with abandoning the national policy, and sacrificing the interests of Russia, to the self gratification of being the chief of the confederation of kings. These reproaches hurt Alexander. Constantine added, that as heir to the throne, he had a right to see the political directions of the government.

From the Quotidienne.—It appears certain that the internal affairs of Russia will not be for an instant troubled. Constantine will be recognised as emperor, and will dispose of the sovereignty of Poland—of Poland, calm for several years, and personally attached to its sovereign through his consort (a Polish princess). The vast empire of Russia, though composed of so many different elements, received from the hand of Alexander a regular administration; the bonds that unite the different states have been strengthened, and, from the frontiers of China to those of Germany, the *Ukases* find an easy and absolute obedience. If we except the wandering pastoral tribes which are subjected to independent chiefs, a system of municipal organization, and a strong and obedient gradation of ranks, facilitate the movements of the administration throughout the vast empire of the Czars. Besides Alexander had disseminated in different provinces, military colonies, a sort of armies always exercised and always subject to the laws of discipline, while they were at the same time fashioned in the arts of civilization.

"The Russian population is religious even to superstition. The remembrance of Czars lives in their hearts and their memories: the enlightened classes combine with the general illumination of the age, something which belongs to a particular species of civilization. Nobles and peasants inhabit vast territories; and *serfs*, following the will of their masters, are called to a more or less enjoyment of the rights of civil liberty. The emperor Alexander had protected the enfranchisement of slaves; this was with respect to the crown, an act once politic and generous.

"We are still ignorant of the attitude which Russia will take in her foreign politics. Constantine hates the revolution more, perhaps, than his brother did; but particular affections, remembrances of early youth, and national superstitions, impel him towards ideas which Alexander had with difficulty restrained among the Russians, and which may render the political situation of Europe more complicated with reference to Greece. Considerations of a high political nature, will no doubt restrain Alexander's successor, as they restrained Alexander himself. He will not separate the cause and interests of Russia from the cause and interests of the other cabinets. In the present day, it is of less importance to aggrandize territory, than to strengthen thrones which have been shaken by revolution. We wait then with impatience the first acts of the new emperor. It is said that he will visit in person the vast provinces of the empire, and will inspect the colonies to receive their oath of allegiance."

In Congress, February 2.

The Senate took up the following resolution, offered yesterday by Mr. Noble:

Resolved, That the Committee on Indian Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making an appropriation of 50,000 dollars, or such other sum as may be considered for the purpose of extinguishing the residue of Indian title to lands in the State of Indiana.

Mr. Noble said, in support of his resolution, that the adoption of it might be considered in two points of view: First, whether the Indians, within Indiana, had given any evidence that they were willing to sell the residue of their lands. His object in introducing the resolution was, to enable the Committee on Indian Affairs to inquire at the War Department to ascertain that fact. It would be found, upon inquiry, that abundant evidence was in the Department, obtained through Governor Cass, who had been engaged for many years as a Superintendent of Indian Affairs in the Northwestern country, that the Indians were willing to sell the lands in question; and the information, coming through Governor Cass, would be, as it ought to be, satisfactory on this point; for no man had excelled him as yet in point of information as to the Indian affairs, or in integrity, on such subjects, when and wherever he had been entrusted. Mr. N. said, he had the same information from Mr. John Conner, who was entitled to credit wherever he was known; who for many years had resided with the Indians, on the Kankakee river, and spoke the language of several tribes of Indians.

The second point to be considered, regarded the agricultural and commercial interest of the State and the United States, in extinguishing the title to the residue of Indian lands in Indiana. Hitherto the enterprise of the citizens of the State had been confined to the margin of the Wabash. By the extinguishment of the title of the Indians, they would be relieved from the difficulty, and in a commercial view, free commerce with the States, by an out let through the Lake Michigan and the straits at Detroit, to Lake Erie, would be the result, as well as a port of entry, at the margin of Lake Michigan. The benefits from obtaining these lands, would not cease here; it would put a check to foreigners embarking and participating in the valuable fur trade with the aborigines of the country. The fact is, at this time, said he, those traders who are engaged in the fur trade from abroad, with Indians, frequently transport their goods into the States, whether smuggled or otherwise, by ascending the river St. Joseph's, or the Lake to the head of the same river, and then conveying them to the river Kankakee, a portage of six miles, thence down the latter river to the mouth of Yellow River, thence up the same to a point, crossing over the fine and bold river Tippacanoe, a portage of only twelve miles. The fur trade is commerce, to all intents and purposes, is highly valuable, and should (embracing self-defence and preservation) belong to the citizens of the State and the United States. By the extinguishment of the Indian title to the lands in the State, commerce and agriculture will be promoted, and flourish accordingly.

Mr. Holmes thought there was another point in which the resolution might be viewed—it was that it was a naked proposition to appropriate 50,000 dollars out of the Treasury; and although Mr. N. said he knew that the Constitution only restricted the Senate from originating revenue bills, yet it was not customary for this body to originate appropriation bills, and it would be as well not to depart from the usage of the Senate in this respect.

Mr. Noble replied, that whatever the practice of the Senate was, in originating appropriation bills, there was no impropriety in doing so, as the Constitution prohibited it only in regard to revenue bills: But Mr. N. said the present resolution did not even propose a direct appropriation—it simply directed an inquiry into the expediency of making an appropriation for a certain object, and he hoped it would not be refused.

The resolution was then agreed to, *acm. con.*

From the London Times.

Perkins' Steam Gun.—The neighborhood of Mr. Perkins' safety steam engine manufactory near the Regent's Park, was on Tuesday thrown into great consternation by some tremendous reports, arising from the discharge of his steam gun. Since a fatal accident, which occurred several months ago, where a lady threw herself from a gig, in consequence, as it was at the time incorrectly supposed, of her horse having taken fright at the prodigious noise made by the steam gun, that terrific engine of destruction had not been permitted to be discharged by the individuals belonging to Mr. Perkins' concern. On Tuesday morning, however, soon after eight o'clock, patrols were observed stationed on all the roads leading towards the manufactory, accompanied by men with placards on boards, warning all passengers on horseback or in carriages to go through the Regent's Park, instead of proceeding by the high road leading in front of the manufactory. Soon after nine, numbers of military officers in carriages and on horseback, alighted at the manufactory. They were soon followed by the Duke of Wellington, and immediately afterwards the discharge of steam, which had been previously occasional, and of comparatively slight force, commenced with a continued roar resembling the loudest thunder we ever heard. The group of eminent persons then assembled consisted of his Grace the Master General of the Ordnance, and his Staff, the Marquis of Salisbury, Mr. Pitt, Sir H. Hardinge, Lord Fitzroy Somerset, the Judge Advocate General, and many military officers of the highest rank; together with a committee of Artillery and Engineer officers, who it appears, had been officially appointed by the Duke of Wellington to examine into the merits of this wonderful specimen of human ingenuity and destructive power. The discharge of steam became almost incessant for 2 hours, during which, its insupportable force and astonishing rapidity in discharging balls excited amazement and admiration in all present. At first the balls were discharged at short intervals, in imitation of artillery firing, against an iron target, at the distance of 35 yards. Such was the force with which they were driven, that they were completely shattered to atoms. In the next experiment the balls were discharged at a frame of wood, and they actually passed through eleven one inch planks of the hardest deal, placed at a distance of an inch from each other. Afterwards they were propelled against an iron plate one fourth of an inch thick, and at the very first trial the ball passed through it. On all hands this was declared to be the utmost effect of force that gunpowder could exert.—Indeed we understand that this plate had been brought specially from Woolwich, for the purpose of ascertaining the comparative force of steam and gunpowder. The pressure of steam employed to effect this wonderful force, we learn, on enquiry, did not at first exceed 65 atmospheres, or 999 lbs. to the square inch; and it was repeatedly stated by Mr. Perkins that the pressure might be carried

even to 500 atmospheres with perfect safety. Mr. Perkins then proceeded to demonstrate the rapidity with which musket balls might be projected by its agency. To effect this he screwed on to the gun barrel a tube filled with balls, which, falling down by their own gravity into the barrel, were projected, one by one, with such extraordinary velocity as to demonstrate that, by means of a succession of tubes filled with balls, fixed in a wheel (a model of which was exhibited,) nearly one thousand balls per minute might be discharged. In subsequent discharges or volleys, the barrel, to which is attached a moveable joint, was given a lateral direction, and the balls perforated a plank nearly twelve feet in length.—Thus, if opposed to a regiment in line, the steam gun might be made to act from one of its extremities to the other. A similar plank was afterwards placed in a perpendicular position, and, in like manner, there was a stream of shot holes from the top to the bottom. It is thus proved that the steam gun has not only the force of gunpowder, but also admits of any direction being given to it. But what seemed to create most surprise, was the effects of a volley of balls discharged against the brick wall by the side of target. They absolutely dug a hole of considerable dimensions in the wall, and penetrated almost one half through its thickness. We heard several officers declare their belief, that, had the balls been made of iron instead of lead, they would have actually made a breach through it—the wall was 18 inches thick.

WINCHESTER (VA.) JAN. 31.—Caught a Tartar.—A few days since, a waggoner having tugged and toiled throughout the day, "halted" at one of the numerous "Traveller's Rests," with which the great thoroughfare between this and Baltimore is so abundantly supplied, and having watered and fed his horses, snugly seated himself by a blazing fire with a pipe in his mouth, forgetful of his past fatigues, and disregarding these which were to come. By and by, a rogue passing by, discovered a box in the wagon, which he could not resist the desire of examining, and accordingly shouldered it, and carried it to an adjacent field, where the contents were speedily bro't to view. But instead of finding a comfortable piece of broadcloth or costly silks, a human skeleton was displayed to the bewildered vision of the midnight prowler. Need more be said? A snow having just fallen, it was discovered that the thief had jumped about ten feet from the box, and as far as he could be tracked his fleetness by no means flagged. It was now ascertained that a medical student at Baltimore had carefully boxed up a skeleton, which he was sending home, and had proceeded thus far safe, until so unceremoniously disturbed by the afflicted rogue.—*Gaz.*

Canal Spirit.—Three thousand men are advertised for, to labor, at good wages, on that part of the Delaware and Hudson Canal which is now under contract, commencing at the Hudson River, near the village of Kingston, 60 miles below the city of Albany, and 80 miles above New York, extending through the counties of Ulster, Sullivan, and Orange in the State of New York, to the Delaware River, a line of 65 miles of Canal, together with all locks, aqueducts, culverts bridges, fencing, to be completed during the present year.

On the 6th ult. between 6 and 700 people assembled on the bridge of Nienburg, to greet the Duke and Duchess of Anhalt, when half the bridge sunk into the river, and upwards of 90 persons perished.

On the 23th of October, a dreadful storm was experienced at Moscow, in Russia, the roofs of many houses were blown off. In the Black Sea, three ships were stranded: one, with all the crew, perished.—*London paper.*

Accounts from the South represent the ravages of disease, known here in a milder form by the name of Influenza, to have been very extensive. Whole families are prostrated by it and many have died of it. In some of the parishes near Charleston, it has been particularly fatal to the people of Color. In one village, we have heard, eight persons died of the disease in a single day. Language is scarcely strong enough to represent the distress on some of the plantations, where white or black, there is not one individual able to help another.—*Nat. Int.*

We are requested by Mr. R. Bates, Postmaster at Troy, Indiana, to state, that on the 28th ult. a number of barrels of pork, kegs of lard, &c. were adloat in the Ohio River, and the citizens on each side were employed in taking them up. It was not known to whom the property belonged. Troy is about 130 miles below Louisville.

Louisville Advertiser, Feb. 4.

Great Solar Eclipse.—On the 12th of February 1831, there will be a great eclipse of the sun, visible to us. At 11h. 20m. A. M. a small black dent will appear on the side of the sun, which will increase to the middle of the eclipse, when only a small edge of light extended beautifully down each side, will be visible. The whole duration will be 3h. 1m. The darkness will be so great that the largest stars will appear, and obscurity will shade terrestrial things. *Geneva Gazette.*