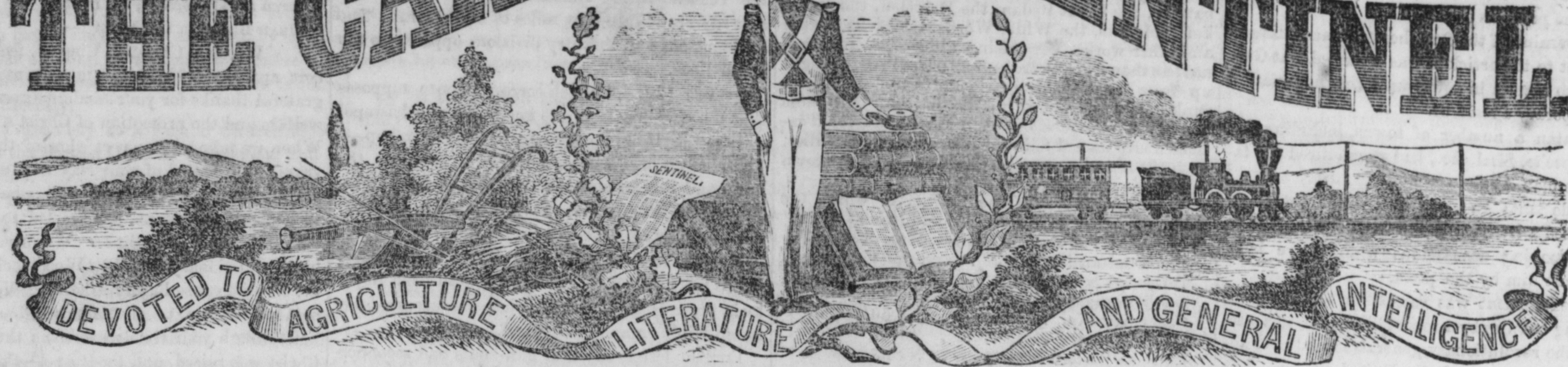


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[By JAMES McLAUCHLAN.

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General News.

THE FUTURE BASIS OF OPERATIONS OF THE RUSSIANS.—We take the following, in reference to the strategical importance of the town of Nicolaieff, from the editorial columns London Times, September 25. In case the war should continue, this place will doubtless attract a large share of the interest and attention which has hitherto been concentrated upon Sebastopol:

"The Russian naval, and perhaps we may ere long add the Russian military power, has been driven back from the whole coast of the Sea of Azoff, from the mouths of the Don to the Spit of the Arabat and from the great naval stronghold in the Crimea. It is therefore manifest that the country to the northwest of the Crimea, between the mouths of the Bug and the Dnieper, Nicolaieff and Cherson—will henceforth become the basis of their operations and the asylum of the last remains of their power over the Euxine.

"The Emperor of Russia himself is on his way to Nicolaieff. It is there that the remainder of the Russian fleet (if any) are collected; it is there that dockyards and arsenals exist in which an attempt may be made to repair these enormous losses and there, too, that an army may find a tenable position, whether it may be compelled to retreat from the Crimea by the approach of winter and the vigor of the allies, or whether fresh reinforcements be collected to dispute the possession of the Peninsula. Nicolaieff was the head-quarters of the Russian Admiralty for the Black Sea before the construction of Sebastopol, and, with characteristic tenacity, the cabinet of St. Petersburg falls back upon the second line of defence.

"Reports are circulated of a design to reconstruct the imperial fleet on a gigantic scale, but these reports are simply ridiculous, inasmuch as when it was in the height of its strength and efficiency the only use made of the ships was to sink them. If new ships are really constructed or launched at Nicolaieff, the only object they can be intended to serve is to figure in the terms of negotiation whenever the naval power of Russia is discussed at the peace. Nicolaieff, and not Sebastopol, has all along been the Russian arsenal of construction; all the Black Sea men-of-war are built there, though the draught of water in the estuary of the Bug and the Ingul is so shallow that these vessels are floated down to the sea unladen and on camels.

"It remains to be seen whether the mortar-vessels of the allied squadron can ascend to the dockyard—a point on which great doubt is entertained; but there is no doubt that a passage exists for vessels of any size between the forts of Kinbourn and Oczakow, and that if this passage can be forced, it places the mouths of the Dnieper and the Bug at our command. We cannot doubt that the attention of the Admirals has long since been directed to the northwest angle of the Black Sea, where, within a distance of forty miles of coast, lie Odessa, Oczakow, and the establishments of Nicolaieff and Cherson. No operations of any importance have been attempted there, yet that point is now becoming one of the most important strategical positions to be observed in the future conduct of the war.—The siege of Oczakow by Prince Potemkin, in 1788, was, in its way, a little siege of Sebastopol, for it lasted six months, and 40,000 men perished before its walls. The name of Oczakow is also memorable for a display of Russian sympathy by Mr. Fos which has hardly been surpassed in our days by Mr. Gladstone or Lord John Russell. But the great fortress which bore that name has long been dismantled, and the town was reduced to a few fishing huts. It is probable, however, that measures have now been taken to strengthen the defence of this important

gullet. We earnestly hope, however, that measures will be taken before the close of the present season to try the possibility of assailing the enemy on this side."

LORD ELGIN AND LORD STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.—On the subject of the rumor that Lord Elgin had been sent to replace Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, we find the following in the Paris Correspondence of the New York Commercial Advertiser:—

The Paris papers do not mince words in chronicling the extraordinary proceedings of Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, at Constantinople. He was worse than Menschikoff, even. The correspondent of the Pays says, this morning:—"It is time this intolerable pressure be put an end to; the Sultan has been compelled to order Lord Redcliffe from his presence. The influence and consideration of England will be seriously compromised, if," &c. We have not yet learned whether the ambassador has in reality been superseded by Lord Elgin as the despatch asserts.

NEUTRAL FLAGS IN THE SEA OF AZOFF.—VIENNA, Oct. 7.—The permission granted by the Allies to friendly and neutral flags to ship grain in the ports of the Sea of Azoff, under proper restrictions, as telegraphed to you on the 4th inst., was negotiated by the Austrian government at the instance of the Trieste house of Gopcewitsch, which had large stores of corn at Taganrog, and lost all during the bombardment.

I am now able to add that Russia has also given its consent to the measure, but, of course only as far as concerns the flags of neutral states.

The Philadelphia Bulletin publishes an extract from a private letter received in that city, and dated Scutari, Sept. 17th, which says:—"The most interesting person here, without doubt, is Miss Nightingale, with whom I have had the good fortune to have several interviews. My first visit was for the purpose of presenting to her a gift from a lady in Philadelphia. She was in a great store room of this mammoth establishment, dispensing good and useful things to the numerous applicants. I found her a tall, slender woman, looking younger than her real age, which is about 33, with light hair, blue eyes, and a very pretty mouth. Ordinarily her expression of countenance is almost melancholy, but when she speaks her face lights up, and she becomes very animated and attractive.—She is the theme of every one's admiration and praise, both in the hospital and in camp, and every soldier has given most cheerfully his contribution towards the Nightingale Hospital, which is to be erected near London, to commemorate the noble heroism of this self-sacrificing woman."

THE ZOUAVE AND HIS CAT.—The Gazette de Lyon of the 19th states that amongst the numerous wounded soldiers just arrived there, a soldier of the 2d Zouaves excited particular attention. He was dressed in a republican hat with a plume, a frock coat buttoned up to the chin, and had with him a cat minus one leg. It appears that he was performing a character at the French theatre before Sebastopol when the drum beat to arms. Without having time to doff his theatrical costume, he was soon in the trenches, where he lost one arm from the splinter of a shell, and had his right ear carried away by a musket ball, his cat, which remained during the engagement on his shoulder losing his paw at the same time. Even in the hospital he never parted from his cat, which has come with him to France, where the Zouave figures in the same dress that he wore when the alarm was given.

THE PROVINCE TRADE.—Some two months ago, when announcing that the firm of Powell and Sons, London, were about to open an establishment in Sligo for preserving meat, &c., we did not expect

to be now in a position to state that all the machinery necessary for working the concern has been erected and in full operation. The firm are at present slaughtering and preserving 70 beasts a day, and the number will shortly be increased to 100. An immense order for the French Government is being executed, and when completed other similar orders from the English and Sardinian Governments will be commenced. Upwards of 200 hands are daily employed.—[Sligo Chronicle.

THE ENDOWED SCHOOLS IN IRELAND.—The Commission appointed by the government for the purpose of inquiring into the state and condition of endowed schools in Ireland is now prosecuting its labours in the northern counties. During the last few days the commissioners have held courts at Armagh, Downpatrick, and Belfast.

Several young Americans, who have taken service under the Czar, as physicians, &c., find it easier to get into the Russian trap than out again.—It is said they cannot resign their positions until the close of the war, lest they should impart information to the disadvantage of their employers. Probably the young Russian-Americans will have a juster idea of the system of government which obtains in Russia, before they are done with the Emperor Alexander.

OUR PRIZED NEIGHBOURS, THE DUTCH, have brought their stupendous task of draining the Lake Haarlem to a close by the sale of the last parcels of land reclaimed. By pumping out the water they have gained 20,000 acres of excellent land, which sold for 8,000,000 florins. The cost of the work was 10,000,000 florins. In a few years all the outlay will be repaid, and a handsome profit will accrue. This success has revived that often debated question, the drainage of the Zuder Zee.—[Liverpool paper.

A despatch from Washington, dated the 22nd inst. says:—"It is reported here to-day in diplomatic circles that the British Minister asserts that the late attempt to convict him of a violation of the neutrality laws of this country was the result of a conspiracy of foreigners to embroil the two governments; that at the proper time he will show such to be the case. Furthermore, Mr. Crampton intimates that, should his recall be consummated, no successor would be appointed in his place."—[Quebec Chronicle.

A PRAIRIE SHIP.—Mr. Thompson, Kansas, has just completed a prairie ship or wagon to be propelled, by wind in which he proposes to make a voyage to the Rocky Mountains. Thirty passengers will embark in June next on the voyage.

Several years ago, a gentleman, who then represented the State of Illinois in the Senate of the United States, invented a ship of the same kind, and indulged the belief that the experiment of navigating the prairies of the West by canvass and wind would prove successful. If we remember correctly, the wheels of the concern did move with a stiff breeze, but the realization of the gentleman's hopes was never reached.—[St. Louis Republican.

THE CUNARD MAIL STEAMSHIPS.—The proprietors of this popular ocean line announce that it is intended to resume, early in February 1856, the weekly sailings of their vessels between the United States and Liverpool. They will thereafter be despatched every Wednesday, as formerly, to that port, from New York and Boston alternately.—[Quebec Chronicle.

NEWS FROM LAKE SUPERIOR.—We have received the "Lake Superior Journal," of the 13th instant, which says:—"It is now a settled fact that the business of the Upper Peninsula for the year 1856 will be nearly or quite double that of the present

year, provided that no unusual depression in the monetary world intervenes. The various Mining Companies in the Copper region are actively engaged in the work of getting out Copper for shipment and instead of contracting their forces as winter sets in, contemplate an increase. This will of itself afford a large amount of freight for propellers next spring and indeed for a large part of the season. The energy which is manifested by those in charge will be seen in the greatly increased amount of Copper made ready for shipment. We are confident that another season will bring out mines as dividend payers, which now are calling for assessments.

A POOR BOY NOW GOVERNOR.—The new Governor of California, J. Neely Johnson, was born in a squatter's cabin in Indiana. In 1849 he went to California where his first occupation was that of driving a mule team to the mines. He next took to the practice of law, and has since then been a rising man. At the age of 30 years and one month he is Governor of a large and thriving state.

INTERESTING FROM MEXICO.
ELECTION OF ALVAREZ—HIS MINISTRY—PROTECTORATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

The steamship Orizaba arrived at New Orleans from Vera Cruz on the 11th inst.

The news by this arrival is interesting and important. Gen. Alvarez has been elected President, and has formed a new ministry, as appears from the following, condensed from the Picayune correspondence:

The election has not turned out as I expected, and as people here felt confident it would, Alvarez having been named President by sixteen votes, whereas Comonfort obtained only three, Ocampo three, Vidaurri one. Now, if the old feather would only have sense enough to return thanks and shift it off upon Comonfort, all might be right, and a conflict avoided, which, as things go, I am afraid must take place, there being 20,000 troops in the city and St. Luis, and the great plotter Harro is at the bottom of it. He was apparently reconciled to Comonfort and Alvarez, but don't you believe that he is satisfied, even if he should get a share of the ministry, with the formation of which Ocampo is charged.

The foolish decree of Vidaurri, annihilating the army, has fallen like a thunderbolt among these worthies, and given them time to prepare, aided by the not less stupid acts of the Governors of this place and others, driving soldiers and officers off, all of whom have concentrated in the capital.

Lizardi, the chief of the tobacco monopoly, Grand Knight of the Order of Guadalupe, receiver of half a million of the Mesilla money in payment of two steamers which did not come forward, and complicated in the fraud of enormous sums of Bonds of the English debts, has fled from justice, according to newspapers.

MEXICO, Oct. 8, 1855.—Yesterday afternoon the garrison of this capital swore allegiance to General Alvarez, as Provisional President elect of the Republic. The election was celebrated with salutes of cannon and bell ringing. General Vega has been removed from his post as Commander-General of Mexico by Alvarez, and Gen. Jose Garcia Conde has been appointed in his place, and has taken the command.

General Alvarez has formed his ministry as follows: Melchior Ocampo, (lately in New-Orleans,) Foreign Affairs; Ignacio Comonfort, War; Jaurea (lately in the United States,) Interior and Justice; Guillermo Prieto, Finance.

The above news is official and you may rely on it. The "Trait d'Union," of the 3rd inst., says that on the previous Friday a report had spread that a us misunderstanding had arisen between Gen.