THE DAILY BEE, PUBLISHED BY
C. F. WEISSE & CO.
Editors and Proprietors,
C. F. WEISSE, S. HARNEY,
E. DUVERGER, N. DUFOUR.
DAILY PAPER, (one year in advance), $12 00
COUNTRY PAPER, semi-weekly, (one year in advance), 6 00
In all cases, subscribers must give one week's notice in writing, before they can be allowed to discontinue.

The New Orleans Bee.

NEW ORLEANS, SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 2, 1854.

RATES OF ADVERTISING
One Dollar for every TEN lines, in each insertion on the first insertion, and Fifty Cents for each subsequent insertion. No advertisement inserted for less than one dollar in each instance.
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{ Vol. XV.—NEW SERIES.
{ Vol. XXVIII.—Whole No. 7612.

THE DAILY BEE.

Saturday Morning, December 2, 1854

THE NORTHERN MAIL came through yesterday with the latest dates.

CONGRESS.

Congress meets on Monday next, the 4th instant. Fortunately for the country and its patience, the session is a short one, closing on the 4th March, 1855. This will operate as a serious impediment to the spouters in the House of Representatives who are in the habit upon any and every question, of pouring forth from the fountain of their garrulity "a weak, wishy-washy, everlasting stream." They will be necessarily compelled to restrain their loquaciousness within reasonable limits, or pretermit all business whatever.

It is to be hoped that one of the earliest subjects to engage the attention of Congress will be our army and navy—particularly the latter. We have just escaped a serious quarrel with France, thanks to the intervention of the British, who, more sedate and thoughtful than their mercurial allies, discerned clearly enough the intense folly of a contest with the United States at a time when the war with Russia called forth the utmost resources of the allied powers. The temper of the French Emperor towards us is indisputably unfriendly, and it once he manages to settle the Eastern question it may not be long ere he finds occasion to get up a vexatious controversy with us. At all events, when the whole world is buckling on armor, and preparing for danger, it is sheer fatuity for the United States to imagine that she will forever remain peaceful and undisturbed. The present condition of our navy is a by-word and a disgrace. It mantles the cheek of an American with shame to think, that in case of hostilities, we should be swept from the ocean by European fleets, and every town on our sea-board bombarded, or occupied by the enemy. If Congress possesses a spark of national pride, it will appropriate a goodly share of the revenue to the enlargement of our navy, and to the defensive works of our principal seaports.

The army is too small. We acknowledge the truth of the maxim that standing armies are dangerous to liberty, but such a force as we possess, threatens nobody, and is insufficient even to protect the frontier and keep the marauding and ferocious savage in check. A few thousand men added to the rank and file of our regular troops, would enable the Government to display some vigor in guarding the defenceless border, and chastising the insolence of a barbarous foe. With our present force, little or nothing can be accomplished.

If Congress will only see to these important duties, the people will forgive its neglect of many others. Little seek they whether the tariff be modified to suit Mr. GUTHRIE, or in conformity with the views of the Committee of Ways and Means; and they care still less for the bowls of the anti-slavery fanatics, and the threats of dismission fire-eaters. We have no fears that the clamor on both sides will be much more than empty breath. Congress ought by this time to be accustomed to the noise, and should discountenance, instead of yielding to it. We do trust that for once, the Representatives will apply themselves to the labor before them, and leave Buncombe to the long session.

ISAAC PIZA, RAGLAN.
His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, &c.

The Bombardment on the 17th.

A STIRRING NARRATIVE BY AN EYE-WITNESS.

The Albion and the Arethusa, bold and undaunted, entered close to the "Wasp" battery, and had scarcely time to open their fire when the vessels with which they were lashed to the steamers were severed by shot, and became unmanageable just at the moment when they were most exposed to the fire of the enemy. Albion and Arethusa cut the fire in three places, and would have gone on shore, as she was only in five fathoms of water, had not the Cambria come up in time to rescue her from destruction, unfortunately not before she had lost 12 men killed, and 70 wounded. The Arethusa, although she suffered less in men, having only 4 killed and 14 wounded, suffered even more in her hull.

The Rodney entered during the latter part of the action close to the forts, and went on shore on the shoal running out from Cape Constantine. Fortunately it was already dusk, and the Colombo at hand, which got her off without her having suffered any great injury. Not so with the Spiteful, which was lashed to her. She was so much damaged that she was brought in in a sinking state, and could only be kept afloat by the efforts of the crew at the pumps.

Like the Albion and the Arethusa, the Tribune could not long keep her place, or, rather, she never took it up properly, for the Rodney sent a snooroon shell into the mainmast of the Retribution, to which the Trafalgar was lashed, it burst in the mast, the mast down, and both vessels were unfit for action.

The Belleropion may likewise be numbered among the killed, together with the Sanspareil, the rest, although not without loss, escaped comparatively unhurt.

The old Britannia maintained her position, and was exposed to a hail of shot and shell. Both she and the Furious, to which she was lashed, kept up a very good rocket practice at the batteries. The latter is known to have run short of ammunition, and, like the English, materially to injure the defences of the place; but these are as yet far from being subdued, neither is a serious diminution of their fire perceivable.

Our fire has also been constant and effective, but the enemy having at their disposal large bodies of men, and the resources of the fleet and arsenal at their command, have been enabled by unceasing exertion to repair their redoubts to a certain extent, and to replace many of the guns that had been destroyed in a very short space of time, and to resume their fire from works which we had succeeded in silencing.

This facility of repairing and re-arming the defences naturally renders the progress of the assailants more tedious than could be wished; and I have it not in my power to inform your Grace, with anything like certainty, when it may be expected that ulterior measures may be undertaken.

The naval batteries have continued their exertions without intermission, and I regret to have to report the death of my gallant officer of the Royal Navy—the Honorable Lieutenant Ruthven, who has died of his wounds, and Lieutenant Crosbie, of Her Majesty's ship Britannia. Both are extremely regretted.

The latter received a mortal wound while laying a gun, other having, to use the language of Brigadier-General Eyre, "served me then in charge of the trenches," "performed his duty in the batteries in a manner that excited the admiration of all."

I have reason to believe that Prince Menschikoff is not in Sebastopol. He his stated to have placed himself with the main body of the army in the field, which is represented to be stationed in the plain south of Baczbi Serai.

Admiral Cornilloff, the chief of the staff, and temporarily in command of Sebastopol, is reported to have died of his wounds the day before yesterday.

I have, &c., RAGLAN.
His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, &c.

THE HERMANN'S MAILS.

Interesting Details of the War News.

OPERATIONS IN THE CRIMEA.

The Siege of Sebastopol.

OFFICIAL DESPATCHES.

The steamer *Hermann* arrived at New York on the 24th, with dates from Liverpool to the 8th. Although not so late as the accounts by the *Canada*, the intelligence is far more interesting, as it embraces official details of the siege of Sebastopol and despatches from the commanding officers. We surrender much of our space to this absorbing topic.

OFFICIAL DESPATCHES.

[From the London Gazette Extraordinary.]

PORTMAN SQUARE, Midnight, Nov. 6.—His Grace the Duke of Newcastle has this evening received despatches, of which the following are copies, addressed to his Grace by General Lord Raglan, G. C. B.:

BEFORE SEBASTOPOL, October 23, 1854.—My Lord Duke—The operations of the siege have been carried on unremittingly since I addressed your Grace on the 18th instant.

On that afternoon, the French batteries not having been able to re-open, the enemy directed their guns almost exclusively on the British embrasures, and maintained a very heavy fire upon them till the day closed, with less damage, I am happy to say, to the works, and with fewer casualties than might have been anticipated.

On the following morning, shortly after daylight, Gen. Canrobert not only resumed his fire from the batteries which have been injured, but materially added to the weight of his attack by the fire of batteries which he had caused to be constructed the previous day, and these have continued ever since and he has had it in his power to push his approaches forward, and, like the English, materially to injure the defences of the place; but these are as yet far from being subdued, neither is a serious diminution of their fire perceivable.

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