

SAN FRANCISCO MAIL TELEGRAMS.

(From our Daily Contemporaries.)

AUCKLAND, DECEMBER 31.

THE mail steamers Australia and City of Sydney arrived this morning. Owing to one of the passengers of the Australia dying of small-pox on the previous day, both steamers anchored at the Quarantine-ground. At Kandavaou, on the 16th December, the Australia was quarantined. She left San Francisco on the 8th (Auckland time) but had to put back owing to a collision with a ferry-boat. After awaiting instructions mails and passengers were landed, and both steamers proceeded to Sydney, taking on the New Zealand cargo.

The presidential election resulted as follows: Hayes, 185; Tilden, 184. The accuracy of the return is disputed by the Democratic party, and it is not unlikely that the matter will come before Congress for settlement, the majority of that body being Republicans. It is thought that Hayes, majority will be sustained now.

The Extradition Treaty having been agreed upon, immediate steps were taken to arrest all forgers.

A revolution, headed by Colonel Alsina, Minister of War, broke out in Buenos Ayres, and Buenos Ayers is in a state of siege.

Telegrams in the middle of November related to active military preparations, but they were less threatening at the beginning of the present month.

The soldiers on furlough in Ireland have been ordered to join their regiments, and all furloughs are temporarily suspended.

The authorities of Devonport Dockyard have received orders to prepare the ironclad turret ships Cyclops and Hydra for immediate active service. Great activity prevails in Woolwich Arsenal. An imperative order was issued that the production of rifle ball cartridge be increased to 2,000,000 per week. This was explained as being consequent on the change to Martini-Henry rifle in India.

The 'Pall Mall Standard' and other Conservative journals express complete distrust of the Czar's pacific assurances as expressed to Lord Loftus.

The 'Globe' states that all railroad companies in Russia have been ordered to place their lines at the absolute disposal of the Government.

The large hospitals are being abolished, and the physicians in the south of Russia have been invited to enter the army.

The Rothschilds are said to have promised to advance Russia money. The loan will not be made public. Russia's conditions are said on 'Change to be so favourable that the Rothschilds can easily dispose of the loans privately.

A large portion of the trains suitable for crossing the Danube are arriving in Bessarabia, and are being sent on to Pruth.

The 'Times' Vienna dispatch explains that there are two centres of military operation—in southern Russia Kisheneff is the headquarters of operations of the army, while at Odessa 120,000 men are being collected under General Todolexan, who is charged with the defence of the Black Sea coast. It is stated that part of the siege artillery, consisting of ninety-two guns, is being formed at Chottyd on the river Dniester.

Political correspondence report that beside 150,000 men of the first and second class of Turkish reserves who still remain to be called out to replace the regular troops in garrison, the Mukhtar Pasha is concentrating 20 battalions of Turkish troops at Caranova, near Derzatta, on the Austrian frontier. The troops will embark for Constantinople.

The Roumanian Government is preparing everything requisite for calling out territorial troops and the militia, which would increase the Roumanian forces to 100,000.

The entire Polish contingent of the Russian army has been sent out of the Polish provinces for service in the field. The Russian garrisons will remain in Warsaw and other large towns in Russia.

Intelligence from Warsaw indicates an impending Polish rising.

A dispatch to the 'Standard' from Berlin says that Prince Bismarck's statements are quoted by all Germany with the greatest satisfaction. In his remarks on Saturday Bismarck declared that if Russia threatened to be victorious in the impending war, he believed England would occupy Egypt should the Turkish Treaty be violated by the Russian forces.

The Italian Parliament has opened. The King in a long speech from the throne in reference to the threatening events transpiring, expressed confidence in the success of counsels of moderation to which his Government had given effectual support.

Three large islands, Hattiah, Sundeep, and Dakin Shahabazhare, and numerous smaller islands included in Buckergunge and Chittagong districts, were entirely submerged by a storm wave on 31st October, as was also the mainland for five or six miles. These islands are all in or near the estuary of the River Megna. The largest, Dakin Shahabazhare, was 500 square miles in extent, and had a population of about 240,000. Hattiah and Sundeep together had about 100,000. Up to 11 o'clock on the night of the 31st there were no signs of danger, but before midnight the wave had swept over the country to the depth in many places of 20 feet, surprising people in their beds. The dense grove of coconuts and palm trees around the villages enabled many to save themselves by climbing the branches. Some took refuge on the tops of their houses, but the water burst houses asunder and swept them to sea. Some were swept across the channel 10 miles to Chittagong, but the vast majority were never heard of again. There is scarcely a household in the islands and on the adjacent coast but has lost some of its members. There is much distress among the survivors, which Government is relieving. It is believed that not a third of the population survived. The stench from the putrifying bodies is insufferable, and a general outbreak of cholera is expected.

The Turkish commander of the Black Sea Fleet, in addressing his men, said: "This year you are destined to fight against the enemies of our religion. Remember that the sailors of the Black Sea gained glory at Sebastopol.

In an inundation at Adrianople a thousand houses were washed away.

A Roman journal says the Marquis of Salisbury's declarations exclude the idea of England and Russia going to war, but regards war, between Russia and Turkey as inevitable.

Sir Julius Vogel, interviewed by a 'Frisco reporter, said if the Colonial Government had negotiated for the American subsidy it would probably have been secured, but the contractors insisted on receiving it. He thought the Colonies had not been well treated by America. Extravagant promises of subsidy made at the outset were never fulfilled. If the Australian trade was worth having, America should assist in developing it. If the present contract broke down he did not think the Colonies would take any further action.

Bismarck has visited London. In his speech, on 4th December, at Berlin, he said, thanks to Germany, England would probably allow the inevitable Turkish war to be localised. Austria was placed in a difficult position by recent events.

The Roumanian Government have notified the Prefects of the early arrival, on the way to the Danube, of 150,000 Russian troops.

A 'Times' dispatch says Turkey has withdrawn her troops from Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the intention of not resisting Austrian occupation of those provinces. In the event of a Russian invasion Austria ordered the occupation of Transylvanian and Moldavian passes the moment Russia enters Moldavia.

Twenty-one battalions of infantry, seven regiments of cavalry, and eighty guns have been told off by the British Government for service in the East if necessary for the protection of the British interest.

Russia has placed torpedoes at the entrance to ports of trade. Russia is in a perfect state of collapse and bankruptcy.

THE PRICE OF NATIONAL AMBITION.

THE penalty which Germany pays even for national unity is a vast standing army. This she imposes on her neighbouring nations. How can a race which converts every citizen into a soldier, and every village into an armed camp, be called a peace? Europe is now an armed camp. This is mainly because of the battle of Sedan. Germany has 1,700,000 men under arms, including her army and navy. For these, although she is economical beyond any other nation in Europe, she pays \$100,000,000 a year. England's soldiers and sailors comprise nearly half a million men, at a yearly cost of \$124,000,000. Austria spends \$54,000,000 a year for an army of 535,000 men, although she has difficulty in paying her debts. We find even little countries like Belgium and Denmark with large armies, costing millions of dollars every year. Spain, whose credit is a mockery in the money markets of Europe, whose industry is paralyzed, and her commerce little more than a name—Spain, with every impetus to economy and retrenchment and peace—must have 270,000 men, for which she pays over \$30,000,000. France, with her army and navy, has 1,700,000 men under arms, costing \$135,000,000 per annum. Even Greece, who cannot suppress the brigands that infest her hills, must have 50,000 men. Italy, which would not send a commission to the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia for reasons of economy, can afford to keep several thousands of men under arms, at a cost of nearly \$50,000,000 per annum. While little Holland, one of the most useful and harmless countries in Europe, finds 100,000 men necessary for her independence. Even Sweden, away, we should think, from the sweep of European ambition, and protected by her isolation, is compelled to keep 160,000 men under arms. Switzerland has 180,000, and Turkey is rapidly going to the devil with an army of 30,000 men.

Altogether, therefore, Europe to-day has over 9,000,000 soldiers under arms, for which she spends nearly \$700,000,000 per annum.

A horrible story is abroad concerning Mr. Samuel Lester, of Shelter Island, who recently suddenly died, as was supposed, at Norwich, and whose body was taken home for interment. It is to the effect that the person employed to fill the grave while doing so heard strange noises coming from the coffin, as of a man trying to break his way out. The report continues that the man superstitiously fled, to return soon after and hear the noise repeated; that he finally filled up the grave, but said nothing concerning what he had heard until some days after. The coffin was after a while exhumed, and it was found that the man had been buried alive, the evidences of a struggle for release from his awful fate being painfully apparent.—New Haven 'Palladium,' September 19.

At Züllichau (Silesia), on August 23, the Emperor, William, received at the railway station, where he was passing, a deputation of Protestant clergymen. Addressing them his Majesty said:—You have a great and important charge in the Fatherland. You must maintain and strengthen faith and religion in the people. But this is not all; you must also wake up this faith. This is an important mission, and a heavy and toilsome task, especially now when faith has sunk so low, and religion is assailed in so many ways."

The s.s. Oriental was in the cyclone at 11.30 a.m. on Saturday, the 7th October, about 100 miles off Calingapatam. She passed right through the cyclone, and when in its centre experienced a perfect calm. Quite a number of birds and butterflies took refuge on the vessel when in the centre of the cyclone, and were so exhausted that they suffered themselves to be caught by the hand. The steamer lost three of her boats, while two of the crew nearly lost their lives. On emerging from the centre, and passing through the storm ring, the gale was terrific. The direction of the cyclone is supposed to have been from the east to west. The period occupied by the vessel in passing through it was about four and a-half hours.—'C. Examiner.'