

See 117A

# REPUBLICAN ADVERTISER

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 26, 1871.

Harold Greeley visited Alexandria, Va., Tuesday, and made a speech in the Methodist church of that city, on the subject of the late President Grant.

Secretary Boutwell has decided that he has no authority to authorize the reimbursement to the State of Kentucky of \$525,238 paid to the State Militia for service during the year '63-4-5, the troops in question never having been properly mustered into the service of the United States.

The Secretary of the Treasury has instructed the Assistant Treasurer at New York to purchase \$1,000,000 worth of bonds on each Wednesday in the month of August, or \$5,000,000 in all, and to sell \$1,000,000 in gold on the first, third and fifth Thursdays, and \$2,000,000 on the second and fourth Thursdays of August, or \$7,000,000 in all.

The Department of State has been officially advised of the death of the General of the United States at Dundee, Scotland, J. Smith, who was buried there July 10th. The utmost respect was paid by the authorities to his remains. The funeral procession included the naval and military officers, the lower officers, and the Council, the Chamber of Commerce, and other public bodies.

Despatches from reliable sources announce that the relations between Italy and France, on the Roman question, have assumed a very serious aspect. And it is generally believed that war will be the result. The news has created great excitement in New York. We must remember that France had been enough of war, and that she would rather concede a little, than to again enter upon the battle field.

It will be seen by Secretary Boutwell's statement for August that the public debt has been reduced during the past month nearly nine millions. This gratifying exhibit should go far to silence those enemies of the Administration who had no opportunity to pass their envenomed slanders upon Grant and his Cabinet, and whose highest ambition seems to be to injure the credit of our Government.

Gov. Hoffman is still traveling about the country, visiting the White Mountains, and other places of note, and is now at Saratoga. Why is it that the N. Y. Sun and the Democratic Press does not say something about it? They did not hesitate to devote more or less of their space in reporting President Grant because he left Washington during the hot weather, and at a time when business is dull. Is not Hoffman's time paid for the same as Gen. Grant's, or is it because Grant is a Republican, and it is expected that he will cure his salary, and Hoffman being a Democrat, as a rule would be exempt? "Oh! Consistency, thou art a jewel."

## In the Republican Camp.

Every day shows more conclusively that there would be very little question of Republican success in 1872 if it were not for Republican dissensions. The new departure of the Democratic party has ludicrously failed. Like an oiled of Falstaff's to purge and lustre, it provokes a smile. The Democratic professions of regard for constitutional rights and administrative economy have been brought to a tremendous test, and are totally disregarded. But meanwhile there are certain differences in the Republican party, and they are the only clouds upon the horizon. There are those who would prefer to see General Grant succeed, but they have no one to offer to replace him. To say that any body in the party could be more easily elected seems to us to be more folly. There is nobody in the Republican party who, as a candidate for President, could get nearly so many votes as General Grant; for there is no one in the party for whose services to the country there is a more general feeling of gratitude, or in whose practical sagacity and honest purpose there is more general confidence. Those, with the undeniable success of his administration in relieving the domestic public burden and in the generous settlement of foreign difficulties, plainly designate him as the Republican candidate.

There were, indeed, powerful Republican leaders, Mr. Schurz at the West, and Mr. Sumner at the East, who were strongly opposed to the re-election of General Grant. Their opposition was directly or indirectly, however, they could not now be considered, would be presented. Should Mr. Grant be elected, however, it is believed that both these gentlemen would stand by their party, upon this ground, if no other, that Republican

success, even with a considerable loss of the country. For it is not conceivable that either of these gentlemen would hold that the nomination of General Grant by the Republican party would prove that party to be as unworthy as the Democratic of the confidence and support of original Republicans.

The differences to which we alluded, however, are of another kind. They are such as are too familiar in the State of New York, and they spring from personal animosity. In the State of New York, they will, as we have formerly remarked, probably contest the Convention in the Autumn, and as Senator Fenton is regarded as the leader of the anti-Grant feeling in New York, his late speech at Niagara was read with curiosity and interest. The significant sentences of the speech were two: that in which the Senator says that he sincerely desires the harmony and union which come from a just recognition of all Republicans; and that in which he says that it behooves Republicans every where, "the highest official in the land" not less than the humblest member of the party, to act with magnanimity and generosity toward all.

This will be understood in New York to mean that the President sought out to slight Senator Fenton's friends, and it is another illustration of the lamentable condition to which patronage has reduced our politics. Senator Fenton speaks according to the tradition which has become almost a principle, that the national patronage in a State is to be equally divided between the friends or followers of the two Senators—a custom which explains the reason why a Senator that he and his colleagues were almost unfettered in New York to mean that the President sought out to slight Senator Fenton's friends, and it is another illustration of the lamentable condition to which patronage has reduced our politics.

Some rushed about the hall, when the smoke had partially cleared away, and devoted themselves to recovering the bodies of the dead or aiding the wounded. The efforts of the boatmen had saved many, but many also had sunk beneath the surface, drowning before the very eyes of those who stood on the pier and witnessed their desperate buffeting with the destroying element without being able to raise a hand to assist them. Strong men were seen to cry as they viewed the struggles of weak women and little children for life. But, alas! they were powerless. All that men could do was done, but in spite of all a large number of persons—probably the full loss will never be known—went to the bottom before aid could reach them.

Henry B. Roberts, ship news collector for the Associated Press, made the following statement to a Standard reporter soon after the accident: "I was standing at the Barge Office at a little before 1:30 looking at a ship in the distance. The ferry boat was in her slip almost ready to start. There were about 450 or 500 persons on board. Within a few seconds I heard the explosion, whose sound was followed by the shrieks of frightened women and children, and the groans of the wounded and dying. I ran out and jumping into my boat pulled for the ferry slip. I was so near at hand, and my boat was so conveniently located that I was the first on the spot. I picked up seven women and children and pushed them into my boat, leaving them on the pier. I then went back and got three more children. One was a child of four years, who was held in the arms of her dead mother. The latter floated on the debris of the wreck. I took the child and left the pier. When the hurricane deck blew off it rose high in the air, and when it fell, came down a spot where at least thirty persons were struggling, covering them as with a pall. As I pulled out the first time I saw a woman sinking. As I neared her she threw up her arms with an unearthly scream, and disappeared from view. I saw another woman imbedded in the debris. All of her that was in sight was one arm, horribly scalded and mutilated. It protruded from between two pieces of timber, and was waving up and down with the action of the tide. At the time of the explosion a one hundred and fifty pounds, blew over my head and landed a few feet beyond me. One man at this time was blown from the upper deck and fell near me. As I was getting into my boat I saw him jumping off.

Various causes are assigned for this and catastrophe, but until an investigation shall have been made there can be nothing but conjecture about it. Some say the boiler was an old one, to which a new cupola had recently been added. Others claim that the whole affair was old and worn, while still others believe that the accident was the fault of Henry Robinson, better known as "Nigger Henry." Henry says that he tried the water a few moments before the explosion and found a plentiful supply. It is said that certain residents of the island wrote to Mr. Vanderbilt, President of the company, a year ago, warning him that his boats were "unsafe and unsafe. It may here be re-

## FRIGHTFUL CALAMITY.

The Boiler of a Ferry Boat Exploded at the Dock.

At Least 150 Persons Killed and over 1500 Wounded!

Men, Women and Children Scalded and Drowned!

The boiler of the Staten Island Ferry-boat, Westfield, exploded at about 1:30 p. m., Sunday afternoon, just as the vessel was starting on her trip. There were on board at the time, as nearly as can be ascertained, about four hundred persons, generally of the working classes. The explosion shattered the upper works of the forward part of the boat, hurling the fragments of wood and iron and bodies of men, women and little children into the air. The scene was utterly frightful, surrounded by a heavy cloud of dust, steam and smoke. On the docks, on either side, were the dead bodies of those who had been blown thither, with pieces of boiler iron, huge beams of oak, and shattered timbers. Forward of the wheel-house the upper railings were shattered into fragments, some of which had been blown to great distances, while others had fallen into the hold of the boat. The boiler had broken into pieces, which fell in all directions, some of them killing and wounding numbers of those who were standing about amidships.

Those who witnessed the fearful scene, say that the explosion was accompanied by three distinct reports, similar in sound to the reports of gun powder exploding, in a succession of space. As the last fall that was heard fragments of the wreck and human bodies were seen to mount high in the air with fearful velocity, and then to fall into the water or on the pier on either side. The hurricane deck—a mass of

timber, probably thirty by fifty feet, was lifted bodily from the vessel, raised to the height of twenty or twenty-five feet, and then falling into the water near the end of the slip. Then came a cloud of smoke, and hot steam, and the scene was for a moment invisible to the horrified bystanders. But when the smoke cleared away a scene of horror, too intense for description, was presented. There lay the dismantled hull, still bearing a portion of her living freight, while around her, struggling in the water, were at least two hundred persons of all ages and both sexes. Clinging to the side-rails, at the stern of the boat, were many terrified women, some of them suffering intensely from cold. Those who went to their fright and suffering in heart-rending screams, which were swelled by the groans of the wounded and dying in the cabins and deck on the forward hold, and magnified into a very babel of agonizing confusion by the cries of those who were struggling for life in the stream.

The work of saving the drowning was rendered not only difficult but very dangerous, by the debris which covered the water for a great distance, and at times interfered with the progress of the boats, and also by the actions of the strugglers themselves, who, lacking presence of mind, made frantic efforts to get aboard, at the risk of capsizing the boats. In spite of this, however, the work went bravely forward. About fifteen boats each manned by an oarsman and a man in the stern, pushed into the stream, each returning shortly with a load of seven or eight persons. Those on the piers stood on the stringers, and stretching down managed to grasp the hands of a few who were struggling near by. Some rushed about the hull, when the smoke had partially cleared away, and devoted themselves to recovering the bodies of the dead or aiding the wounded.

Many of the rescued were badly scalded, and some of them had wounds inflicted by splinters of the wreck. The scene after the rescue was as affecting as the explosion itself was horrible.

The efforts of the boatmen had saved many, but many also had sunk beneath the surface, drowning before the very eyes of those who stood on the pier and witnessed their desperate buffeting with the destroying element without being able to raise a hand to assist them. Strong men were seen to cry as they viewed the struggles of weak women and little children for life. But, alas! they were powerless. All that men could do was done, but in spite of all a large number of persons—probably the full loss will never be known—went to the bottom before aid could reach them.

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marked that this is the general reputation among river men. The Westfield was built in Brooklyn in 1863. She was chartered by Government during the war, and it is stated that her boiler exploded at Fort Mifflin in 1863. This statement comes from men who profess to know her history.

## Another Interview Captain "Ike" Vreeland.

On Tuesday morning last a Standard reporter met Capt. Ike Vreeland of the Westfield, and his pilot James McLay, at the Park Hospital where they had gone in quest of the wounded German Finnegan, imagining that he was still there, and ignorant of his removal to Bellevue. The Captain bears the character among old friends of being a most steady and prudent man, and he has always refused to sail when there was a chance of danger through fog. He also bears the character of being a most considerate and humane man. After speaking with him about the terrible calamity, he said, addressing himself to Dr. Nichols and the Reporter, "I assure you, gentlemen, although it may appear to you an unmanly statement, yet over Sunday's work, God knows, that I have had a dreadful shock. When my friends say to me 'Cap.' I am glad to see you looking well and hearty, and that you have escaped all right. I feel a kind of choking in my throat when I think of all the poor souls launched into eternity, with such brief warning. The only thing I have ever dreamed of is the decks giving way, through being overloaded with people, but the Westfield was a staunch craft, and I never had any such fears for her, for I know her solidity. How the accident occurred I cannot imagine, and I hope that the strictest investigation will be made for I feel convinced that nothing will transpire to show any negligence on the part of the officers of the vessel who all declare the awful occurrence from the bottom of their hearts."

## Hardware!

ANDOVER, May 12, 1871.

Are now receiving a large Stock of

Spring & Summer GOODS,

which were bought for CASH at bottom prices.

PLEASE CALL AND EXAMINE FOR YOURSELVES.

Hunt & Burrows

Show what they Advertise.

Pittsfield Bed-Ticking 8 cents per Yard.

They have the best assortment of Prints at the Lowest Prices.

Their SHIRTINGS are as LOW as can be bought in the Country.

They defy COMPETITION in QUALITY and PRICES OF TRIM.

AT HOME OR ABROAD.

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