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V. H. X.

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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Many of the New Yorkers have adopted the Eastern custom of sleeping on the roofs of their houses, on sultry Summer nights, where their only chance of obtaining pure air and rest is to be found.

The Adjutant General of the United States army, in a communication to the Secretary of War, states that during the last five fiscal years ending June 30th, 1876, there were over 30,000 desertions from the army. During the fiscal year 1875 there were 2,500, or over ten per cent of the entire force.

Secretary Chandler has appointed a Commission to treat with the Sioux, as provided for in the Indian Appropriation Bill passed by the late Congress. The Commission will start at once and will meet in Omaha on the 28th inst.

The Emperor of Germany desired to have some purchase made for him at the Centennial Exhibition, and his Commissioners have selected a mantelpiece of Mexican marble, valued at \$3,000.

The Countess of Dufferin it is stated, will probably remain in New York until the October races. It is to be hoped that she will, as there will accordingly be more wind than there was during the late contest, and there will probably be a chance to test the accuracy of the opinions which Canadians acquainted with the yacht have been stating that she would do better with stiffer breezes. The Countess has been beaten now and could not do more than Boston in October, and if she obtained a good place in the fleet it would be something to her credit and to that of the Dominion which she represents.

A disastrous tornado passed over Milton, U.S., on Tuesday last, accompanied by hail and rain, doing considerable damage. The Catholic Church was blown down, and at Milton ferry station a portion of the iron roof was blown away. Trees were blown across the track of the Hudson River Railroad and telegraph wires prostrated. Damage to fruit very heavy.

The Imperial Parliament was prorogued on the 15th by Royal Commission. The principal items in the Queen's speech are those relating to—1st. "The efforts which in conjunction with the various powers I have made to bring about a settlement of a difference fortunately existing between the Porte and its Christian subjects in Bosnia and Herzegovina, have been hitherto unsuccessful. The conflict which began in those Provinces has been extended into Servia and Montenegro. Should a favourable opportunity present itself, I shall be ready, in concert with my allies, to offer my good offices for the purpose of mediation between the contending parties, bearing in mind alike the duties

imposed upon me by treaty obligations, and those which arise from the considerations of humanity and policy." 2nd. "A difference has arisen between my Government and that of the United States as to the proper construction of an article in the treaty of the 9th of August 1842, which relates to the mutual surrender of certain persons accused of certain offences. The inconvenience of both countries which would follow a cessation of the practice of extradition are great and obvious. I entertain the hopes that a new arrangement will soon be arrived at by which the matter will be placed on a satisfactory footing." 3rd. "I trust that peace and order will be established in the Malay Peninsula, and that the rulers of the native States will cheerfully accept the recommendations and assistance of my officers for the better government of their territories. The visit to this country of the President of the Orange Free States has resulted in a satisfactory settlement of the long controversy which has existed with reference to the Province of Griqualand, and an important advance has thus been made towards that friendly and cordial co-operation of neighboring States which is essential to the interests of South Africa."

The news from China is quite alarming, as it is stated that Sir T. Wade, the British Minister, has left the capital and established himself at Shanghai. There he has been in constant communication with the returned commissioners from Peking, Messrs. Grosvenor and Baker. As the Margary murder was the only serious question between China and Great Britain, the action of the Chinese authorities in regard to it, in that distant province, cannot have been at all satisfactory, for Mr. Wade is stated to have rejected all overtures made to him to return to Peking, and to have announced to the already startled officials, that troops had been summoned from India. A peaceful settlement of the matter, it is said, is desired by the most intelligent Chinese; but the army of Tientsin is said to be concentrating at the port of Peking, while general military preparations are unusually active. There is very probably a great deal of exaggeration and sensationalism in this despatch, and it is not well to put much trust in it. It comes via San Francisco, and alarming news which come from the same quarter several months ago has not since been verified.

A despatch to the Times says that Prince Milan has received from several if not all the Powers congratulations upon the birth of an heir, all of which contain expressions leaving no doubt in the mind of the Prince that the Powers are desirous of seeing an end to the war, which is dangerous to the general peace of Europe. The result is that

Servia is ready to treat for peace, but will not condescend, however, to the deposition of Prince Milan or the sacrifice of any territory, nor will he submit to Turkish administration. Every day that the war is prolonged adds to the danger of a general European conflagration.

The Scotsman publishes a despatch from London saying that Disraeli's investiture of the Privy Seal is probably temporary, pending the re-organization of the Cabinet. It is believed that Disraeli will retain the Premiership only during the recess of Parliament, if so long. Lord Derby will then succeed to that office.

The Thames professional four, who are to participate in the International Regatta at Philadelphia, sailed on Wednesday last.

The Prince of Wales' Indian presents, which are now on exhibition, are so popular that upward of \$2,000 are weekly taken at the doors.

The Scotch Rifle team which is to compete in the Centennial Rifle Match, embarked at Liverpool on Saturday last.

Prince Milan gave audience to Consuls of six different Powers separately. Strong pressure was brought to bear in favour of peace or an armistice, but this the Prince refused. The report is untrue that Belgrade is being prepared for a siege.

The correspondent of the Daily News writes from Phillippolis under date of August 11, as follows:—"The condition of the Turkish Army at Nish is deplorable, and starvation is threatening. The country around does not afford supplies of forage. The horses along the road between Nish and Sofia villages are all abandoned. The army will soon be obliged to advance into Servian territory for supplies or retreat."

A special to the Standard from Paris reports that a savage duel has been fought in Belgium between MM. Bindy and Chardon, two well known Communist refugees. The weapons were sabres. One combatant received six gashes and the other eight. The flesh was sliced from their faces, and both fainted from the loss of blood. The cause of the duel was the parties accused each other of robbing the Commune.

A Daily News despatch from Scutario says: The report of the Turkish defeat at Bressanski, on the 11th inst, is confirmed. The Turkish losses are estimated at 1,100.

The Servian Government has just received a loan of 3,000,000 roubles in Russia, and the war is gradually becoming an affair, not of the Russian Government, but of the Russian people, there is no doubt but that there is great danger of Russia drifting or being driven into war.

About 5,000 Turks have been defeated at Janakova on the 19th.