VOL. XX, NO. 71.

ASTORIA, OREGON, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1883.

FASHA ACCOUNTED FOR

The red sunsets have set the curious world affame to conjecture the The success of the French troops at cause of the strange phenomenon, Sontay leaves unaltered the position and, curiously enough, while it is found to follow the earth in its re-Tseng, Chinese embassador, and M. wolving round, and has been observed Ferry, French Foreign minister, in the east, in Europe, India and Marquis Tseng is awaiting a response Australia, each locality has its Sir to his communication sent to Peking, Oracle to explain the causes that have on the Sontay incident, but he freely produced the after-sunset glow; and expressed an opinion that the news of the capture of that place would not some local cause to account for the strange effect. A local quidnunc is said to have accredited it to the smoke of burning forests. Just where these government at Peking, he points out, forest fires are burning is not stated. has always maintained a clear dis-Some one has accounted for them tinction between the capture of Sonby reason of the atmosphere being filled with meteoric dust. We do not quite know all about meteoric dust, nor where the meteors have been rub-bing against each other; nor have we seen any special meteors kicking up a dust anywhere in the heavens; nor do we recall the fact that in the year of the great meteoric display there Annamite. The fire from the French was any particular dust raised. Some gunboats easily renched the inner descientist has suggested that the display is caused by a reflection of the sun upon Venus. The sun and Venus, so far as we know, have been upon son. After the capture of the enso far as we know, have been upon son. After the capture friendly terms for long ages; they cinte the defense ceased. bave traveled the universe together, and we do not believe that the sun, although we know he has spots on his character, has never reflected upon Venus. We are quite sure he would not do such a thing, and we are quite sure that her spotless reputation would not permit any reflection upon the part of any of the lumture. The Austrian government has sent two war vessels to join the English, observable upon our western sky as the | Chinese waters. sun sets below the horizon arises from the reflection of the sun's rays upon most notable fact in the general extian impalpaple dust now involving the mation here of the capture of Sontay world in its embrace. The universal is that it took 4000 out of the entire heavens are filled with this dust, invisible, and not in itself luminous. a loss of 233 men, and the enormou This dust we name as "cosmic dust," proportion of thirteen officers killed which is in process of formation into or wounded, to storm even the out-a new sphere. The particles of a new works. A resistance so determined is world now flying in space are in pro- beld, in spite of official denials, to cess of being gathered together, con-centrated as it were, by the great ereative force of attraction, and will in process of time become a new Whether this conflict represents a world. The meteors now gliding with panse or starting point in Franco

Christmas

this conundrum. - Argonaut,

"Christmas!" How many tender and loving associations cling to that word. As the spring by the wayside may be o'ergrown and embowered in tragrant flowers and evergreen ferns, so may the memory of Christmas be wrenthed in precious recollections. ne path of life may be through green tields and beautiful meadows, symbolic of prosperity and happiness; yet this will be a spot of superlative freshness. And the way may be hard and rocky, the journey toilsome, full of trouble; yet by the side of our spring is a goodly resting-place. The WATCHES CLOCKS, JEWELRY. memory looks back to happy days, to easier journeys, and refreshed by even a brief respite, goes on to new duties rejuvenated. And still the CHICAGO CLOCK COMPANY. path may be through desert wastes, where the work of the day brings nothing of cheer, with naught beaback but dreary nothingness, until, behold! we come upon the spring, creating a perfect oasis in the midst of the sterility. The oasis pre-figures the recollections of Christmas to the dreary mortal. Let him dwell in it for a time, let him drink of the waters of better memories, and per-chance take a new lease of manhood for his onward journey through life. Viewed in such lights, what a boon to humanity is Christmas. From the infant just lisping the name of the venerable man, the Christmas time is filled with good-will, peace, SILVERWARE plenty.

Capture of Sontay.

Paris, Dec. 21. Admiral Peyron minister of marine, has received the following from Sontay, dated the 17th: "Sontay is ours; the outer works were carried by assault at 6 o'clock on Sunday evening. The attack began at 11 o'clock in the morning. The assault was made at 5 o'clock in the evening, with a bravery above all praise, by the foreign legion, together with the marine infantry and sailors of the flotilla, who assisted in the bombardment. The citadel was evac-uated during the night, and occupied on the morning of the 17th without fighting. We do not know whither tue muck flags, rebel Anamites and Chinese have fled. It is impossible to learn their losses. We lost about 15 killed, including I officer; 60 wounded, including 5 officers."

Thirty-Eight Lives Lost.

Loxbox, Dec. 21.-Survivors of the steamship St. Augustine, which was burned on Sunday in the Bay of Biscay, state that 38 men were on board, when four boats pulled off. It is feared that all are lost, as when the steamer was last seen a heavy sea was running, and the vessel was all on fire and there were no other boats.

The talent of turning men into ridicule, and exposing to laughter those one converses with, is the quali-fication of little minds and ungener-ous tempers. A young man with this cast of mind cuts himself off from all manner of impovement.

The War in Tonquin.

A cable special from London says:

flagration caused by the Frenchshells left the interior of the citadel a mere

The next movement to be made by Admiral Courbet will be against Hoang Ho, where the forces which de

tion upon the part of any of the lum-inaries to put her to blush. We have no evidence that the world is on fire anywhere. We should be very much ashamed if we were compelled to say that we did not know the cause of make Canton the central station of this very splendid display of pyrotechnics. We do know. The editor bined squadrons present the most knows everything. The red glow now powerful naval force ever seen in

seeming eccentric movement, the Chinese hostilities is still undeter-comets with their luminous tails, are mined. While Marquis Tseng last all part of the same general move- Monday declared an attack on Sonment. All these forces will come tay meant war he was seen on together; meteorlites, forming the Wednesday evening in friendly connucleus of a new sphere will soon versation with Ferry. The smell of gather around them all this impalpa-ble matter, this cosmic dust, and into space will leap a new world. When Frehpel, the fierce ultramontane opthis thing does not happen, the false-ness of our hypothesis will be demon-publican, burst up in a jingo speech, strated. We are happy in the thought while in the senate De Freyeinet, that before that time it will not be. Jules Simon and Victor Hugo sup In the meantime, we complacently ported Ferry, and 3,000 officers and our place among the wise 20,000 savants who are endeavoring to guess | teered for Tonquin.

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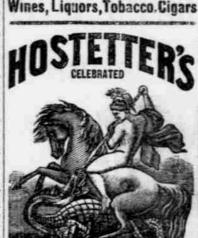
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