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Frederic Graff Jr. Scrapbook, 1854-1857**

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16 line-of-battle ships.	1 boom ship.
7 frigates.	1 ten gun yacht.
5 corvettes.	28 transports.
10 brigs of war.	15 steamers of war.
5 schooners of war.	19 merchant ships.
5 tenders.	In all 106 vessels.

The machinery of the steamers of war, before being sunk, was carefully covered with a preparation of tallow to prevent injury from the water. They were scuttled by boring three inch augur holes near the water line, and all this was done before the English and French appeared before the place, for the Russians did not entertain the idea of descending it, and one division of the army had advanced nine miles on the Perekop road, when word was brought that the English and French, instead of entering the city, had halted outside, and were fortifying their position. It was then that the Russian army returned, built the earth redoubts, and made that long and stubborn defence which has rendered the name of Sebastopol so famous. Thus the Russian officials at Sebastopol now tell the story. Mr. Gowen examined thirty ships, made a plan of the harbor and adjacent country, and returned to St. Petersburg. He found that there were no less than thirteen competitors for the contract from France and England, among the former being the company known as the Credit Mobilier. The government finally concluded to make the contract with Mr. Gowen on the most liberal terms, which cannot fail, we think, to be amply remunerative. The value of the ships sunk is said to be sixty-five million dollars, and he has a certain portion of the value of each ship raised at the moment it is placed in the hands of the Russian government.

The expedition which sails from this country will consist of two vessels, one of which leaves Philadelphia on or about the 1st of April, and the second soon after. The number of persons engaged to accompany it from this country is about one hundred and fifty, the well known shipbuilder of this city, S. F. Holbrook, Esq., being one of the superintendents. There will be also, shipbuilders, caulkers, machinists, engineers, &c. Some of the hydraulic machinery for raising the vessels is of the most colossal description, one cylinder alone weighing 54,000 lbs.; indeed it must be so, for some of the vessels to be raised are of 5,000 tons burthen. The value of the material to be furnished by the Russian government to be used in the raising of this fleet, will be about a million and a half of dollars, and the time occupied in performing the contract will, it is thought, be about eighteen months or two years.

At Kerch there are also some five or six Russian vessels sunk, which are included in the contract, and in the harbor of Sebastopol there are some \$600,000 worth of chains and anchors, which the French and English threw overboard from inability to carry them off. In addition to the expedition from this country, the Russian government bind themselves to furnish from three thousand to five thousand men, whose pay from Mr. Gowen, as usual in that country, will not be more than twenty-five cents per day, they "finding" themselves. Take it altogether, it is the greatest contract—submarine or other wise—ever entered into, and it will be with pride and pleasure that the countrymen of Mr. Gowen and his associates will hear of their entire success in the undertaking. Mr. G., as is well known, is a self-made, enterprising Yankee, who, though comparatively a young man, has travelled in nearly every country upon the globe.

Mr. Gowen, who was at Sebastopol in November last, gives us some interesting particulars from that now famous city. The Russian government are engaged in rebuilding it. Before the siege it was quite a populous place, containing, it is supposed, about sixty thousand persons. When Mr. Gowen was there there were about six thousand people in the place. Several thousand laborers were then engaged upon the works, and the number was to be largely increased. The old city was famous for its narrow streets, like Boston; the new city will be built in squares, like Philadelphia. It is also said that there are restrictions against the erection of wooden buildings. The forts about the city, according to the examinations of Mr. Gowen, are only about half destroyed. Of the immensity of the warlike material scattered with so much profusion about this celebrated spot, some idea may be formed from the fact that the Russians have already gathered over sixteen thousand tons of shot and shell, and yet they are still so thickly scattered around that it is impossible to tread without touching them. There are, however, no dead bodies to be seen, they having been all carefully buried.

There was one spot visited by Mr. G., of melancholy interest. It was a deep ravine, formerly crossed by a bridge. Into this ravine, the bodies of two thousand Russians, French and English, killed in one of the more fatal battles, had been placed, and covered with earth. A wooden cross above has a brief inscription, telling of the slaughtered thousands thus rudely entombed beneath.

The country between Moscow and Sebastopol, for eight hundred miles, Mr. Gowen describes as level and quite luxuriant. Wheat in some places sells as cheap as eight cents a bushel, and hay a dollar the ton. The climate, at the time he was there, was both beautiful and salubrious—one of the best, he thinks, he ever visited. In connection with his contract, Mr. Gowen is entrusted with a commission which may result greatly to the benefit of this country.

He has been requested by the Russian government to bring with him specimens of our iron work, in the form of agricultural implements, tools of various kinds, machinery, &c. Mr. G. has given orders for the manufacture of articles of various kinds in this city, New York, Albany and other places. So far as possible, the Russian government and people prefer to trade with this country in preference to England, for their hatred of the English is as intense as ever.

While at Sebastopol, Mr. Gowen says there were large numbers of French and English arriving. They were the relatives and friends of those who had fallen in the conflict, and were on a pilgrimage to find if possible the graves of the beloved dead. In many cases the last resting place of the soldiers and the name of the deceased were cut in rude characters, but in others the dead were buried in one undistinguishable mass, rendering identification impossible.

We are informed that many of the friends of Mr. Gowen, both in this country and in England, propose, during the performance of the contract, to visit Sebastopol, with the double object of seeing the place and witnessing the performance of this most stupendous undertaking.

The Case of Cyrus F. True.

The nominations for the Alms-house have been but partly made, but a portion of them have been postponed. Rumor says that one or two persons have been chosen by Caucus for situations in that institution who are not suitable for the designated trusts, in consequence of deficiencies in moral character. The delay made in the appointments may have been induced by those circumstances. If Caucus has made improper selections, we hope that he will be defeated.

The Directors of the Girard College have re-elected the Secretary, whose fidelity, intelligence, usefulness and thorough acquaintance with the economy of the institution, rendered his services extremely valuable. For the responsible post of Steward, rumor says that a person has been selected who was once a Guardian of the Poor, and who was implicated in the "tobacco and blanket" transaction in that institution. Such a choice would be an outrage upon every honest principle. We trust that there will be sufficient regard for their duty among the Directors to defeat this improper aspirant, and teach another lesson to Caucus.

The Inspectors of the Prison appointed by the Courts have also entered upon their duties. They have made no removals, and it is announced that they will not do so unless experience shall satisfy them that some of the present officers are unfit for their duties. This determination will meet general approval. This business of displacing faithful and experienced persons, upon every change of administration, is not for the public good. Besides producing great confusion in every department, and causing detriment by the induction of ignorant and oftentimes incompetent persons into important situations, it encourages the breeding of office-hunters by trade. Those who follow that business are among the most intriguing, dishonest and servile among men. King Caucus may be entitled to respect when his mandates are right; but when they are wrong, every one should rejoice when his subjects rebel and declare their independence.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 1857.

Raising of the Russian War Vessels at Sebastopol.

THE YANKEE EXPEDITION TO SEBASTOPOL.—CONTRACT TO RAISE SIXTY-FOUR VESSELS OF WAR—CONDITION OF THE VESSELS—MAGNITUDE OF THE UNDERTAKING—THE REBUILDING OF SEBASTOPOL, ETC., ETC.

[From the Boston Traveller, Feb. 23.]
A few years since the combined nations of England and France despatched to the shores of the Crimea a powerful and warlike expedition to exterminate and destroy. In a month or two an expedition will sail from the shores of this country for the same destination, but unlike the expedition first named, its purpose is to rescue and preserve.

It has been before briefly stated that Mr. John E. Gowen, of Boston, had obtained from the Russian government the contract to raise from the waters of the harbor of Sebastopol the numerous vessels of war which were sunk there when the allied armies were besieging that spot long famous in the history of the world. The magnitude of this contract has not been fully understood in this country. Mr. Gowen has heretofore been favorably known to the world by his success in raising the United States steamship Missouri from the waters of the bay of Gibraltar, a performance which engineers from England and other countries had attempted in vain. It happened that while at Gibraltar a Russian vessel came into the harbor in a damaged condition. To the relief of this vessel Mr. Gowen sent a number of his men, refusing any compensation, and it is probable that this act of courtesy, with the fame obtained by Mr. Gowen in the bringing up of the Missouri, induced the Russian government at the time they contemplated raising their sunken fleet, to send for him, which was done through the Russian Minister in this country.

Mr. Gowen accordingly went to St. Petersburg, had a number of interviews with the Grand Duke Constantine, and then proceeded across the country to Sebastopol for the purpose of making a personal investigation of the condition of the ships. He was engaged in this business for several months, having a Russian steamer at his disposal. Here he descended with his sub-marine armor to the bottom of the harbor and examined the sunken vessels. He found that the channel of the harbor was in the middle with banks upon both sides, that of the north being of sand, and that upon the south of mud. In the sand there were no worms; in the mud they were quite plentiful. Of course the vessels exposed to the attacks of the worms are now of but little value; but it fortunately happens that but a small portion, comparatively, were sunk where they would suffer from the attacks of these worms.

When the English and French approached Sebastopol, the Russians, to protect their harbor, sunk at the entrance, between Forts Alexander and Constantine, two of the 120-gun ships, two of the 88-gun, two frigates and two corvettes. The line occupied by these sunken vessels was about three-quarters of a mile long, the water being sixty feet deep. The vessels sunk here were among the poorest in the fleet. In the great gale which was so fatal to the English and French vessels in the Black Sea, this line was so much disturbed, that the allies, if they had known it, could easily have obtained an entrance to the harbor. This caused the Russians to sink a second line between Fort Michael and Fort Nicholas, about a mile inward. When the Redan was captured by the allies, all the balance of the fleet was sunk, preparatory to abandoning the place. The following is a list of the vessels sunk:—

SUNDAY DISPATCH.

SUNDAY MORNING, JULY 13, 1856.

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King Caucus Resisted.

A disposition has lately been shown in various branches of the city government to resist the tyranny of that imperious monster, Caucus, when his demands are altogether unreasonable and not dictated by any considerations of public good. For this independence the people owe their thanks to those members of the dominant party who are firm enough to prefer their duty to their constituents, to the arbitrary directions of some of their associates who assume a right to speak for the whole party. This disposition was shown in the Councils upon the vote for heads of departments. Caucus declared that Mr. Frederick Graff, Chief Engineer of the Water Department—a gentleman of science and reputation, in whom all have confidence—should be deposed, and that Mr. Samuel Ogden should be elected instead. Mr. Ogden is a practical mechanic, but it has not been asserted that he is a scientific engineer, or that he has many qualifications possessed by Mr. Graff, and which are most necessary for the superintendent of the important works of the city. Yet Caucus declared against Mr. Graff because the latter was not a pure, unadulterated, howling Democrat. He was not a Know-Nothing. The latter party tried hard to displace him last year, but were defeated by a combination of Democrats and old line Whigs. Mr. Graff politically represented the latter section, and the present majority having been put in power by the aid of old line Whig votes, the retention of Mr. Graff ought to have been a matter of policy and gratitude. The more independent and sensible members of Councils felt this, and they resolved to disregard the oppressive dictation of Caucus. Fifteen of them did so, and, although Mr. Graff was not elected, those who stood by him deserve credit for having preferred their duty to the public to the unauthorized attempt made to control them by their associates.

The new members of the Board of Health have also had a wrestle with Caucus, in which the latter was thrown and badly worsted. According to rumor, some of the nominations agreed upon by Caucus were scandalous and not to be borne. If ratified by election, they would have been received by the community with groans of disapprobation. Attempts made to induce Caucus to be reasonable, were in vain. He was absolutely inflexible and not to be moved. Some of the persons selected were well enough, but their fealty to Caucus ruined them. The result was that a number of Democrats, who believed it to be their duty to elect unexceptionable men to the offices in the gift of the Board, combined with the minority and killed Caucus outright. Of ten Caucus nominees, but two were elected. This punishment was just. If proper men had been selected for all the posts, there would have been no difficulty. Politicians generally do not like to set themselves up in opposition to their own friends. It requires a deal of moral courage to strengthen them in a resolution to do so. When they do assume such an attitude of independence, it may be imagined that there is good cause for it. There has been much indignation vented upon the honest contemners of Caucus tyranny; but those who have vituperated upon that account are small politicians and clamorous office-hunters, who consider moral worth as of no account in possessors of office, and who in fact deprecate the test of honesty, when applied to place-seekers, as personal affronts aimed at themselves. The denunciations of such people are the best certificates that the persons scandalized by them have done their duty, and that citizens who value independence and integrity will sustain them.