

NEWS SUMMARY.

At a meeting of the Board of Guardians of the Poor held yesterday, Mr. Kimball was nominated for the office of Hospital Warden. The President, Mr. Whittall, asked permission of the board to make a personal explanation, and said that for some weeks past there had been ill-considered remarks made in the board, and as the members were about entering upon a new year, he hoped that in future all such remarks would be dispensed with. So far as he was concerned, there might have been something said by him which it would have been better if he had not uttered, and hoped that he would be pardoned for so doing. He also referred to certain statements which had appeared in print, in which it was said a member had called him a liar. This statement he believed to be incorrect.

The Northern Soup House, located at the corner of Fourth and Peters street, above Brown, was opened for the season yesterday for the daily distribution of soup. A large number of applicants were on hand, and forty gallons of soup were distributed. During last winter there were made and distributed at this soup house from 250 to 300 gallons of soup per day, which was distributed to 350 applicants daily. The officers of the society are, Charles J. Sutter, President; Samuel T. Child, Secretary; and T. Morris Perot, Treasurer.

Yesterday afternoon, about 4 o'clock, one of the stills attached to the coal oil works of Tabor & Harbert, Monument road and Elm street, exploded with a loud report. The contents of the still at once caught fire, involving a loss of sixty barrels of oil, and the flames then communicating to the connecting benzene tank, 40 barrels of that fluid were destroyed. The fire was confined to these two localities and the shed covering the still, the arrangement of the works being such that the several buildings are separated in order to avoid the danger of fire. The force of the explosion destroyed the sash in the windows of Mr. Cochran and Mr. Carroll, on the opposite side of Monument road. A lady passing at the time was slightly injured by a falling brick. The loss to Tabor & Harbert will not exceed \$5,000.

Domestic Affairs. —Navigation of the Potomac has been closed for four days past.

—Senator Wilson is sanguine of his reelection by the Massachusetts Legislature.

—Some swindling operations in connection with the Indian funds are about to be exposed by Mr. Welsh.

—Jonathan Crandell, a bank watchman in Westbury, N. Y., was brutally shot yesterday morning by a burglar.

—The China mails were received yesterday, having come through from San Francisco by the Pacific Railroad.

—There will be three levees at the Executive Mansion during the season, one in January and two in February.

—The President will give a series of State dinners within the next two months, but the time for the first has not yet been fixed.

—John Thomas, colored, was yesterday, in the Court of Oyer and Terminer of New York city, sentenced to be hanged on the 15th of next February, for having murdered Walter Johnson.

—In Washington yesterday, a little boy, aged five years, killed his sister while she was lying in bed, by pointing a pistol at her, which, unfortunately, had been loaded the evening before by the father of the children.

THE WAR.

LAST NIGHT'S DESPATCHES.

THE ADVANCE ON HAVRE—THE OPENING OF THE PARIS BOMBARDMENT—PRUSSIA AND THE MARRIAGE OF THE ENGLISH PRINCESS.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—It is rumored that the Prussian Court has expressed its disapproval to Queen Victoria of the matrimonial alliance between the Princess Louisa and the Marquis of Lorne.

The Pall Mall Gazette warns Englishmen that they cannot do worse than to persist in the idea that the people of the United States are friendly to England. The fact is diametrically otherwise. At any moment the Americans may inflict intolerable insult on the British people.

The French Army of the North has concentrated around Arras. The health of the troops is excellent.

BERLIN, Dec. 27.—Information has been received here that the Porte ordered the Bosphorus and Dardanelles coasts protected by torpedoes.

The news of the opening of fire on the fortifications of Paris was received here with public rejoicings.

BOURDEAUX, Dec. 28.—General Faidherbe, in a despatch to the Minister of War, announces that, owing to the intense coldness of the weather, he will encamp his troops near Arras and await the prosecution of a general movement throughout France for the relief of Paris and the deliverance of France.

The weather in Southern France is intensely cold.

The Prussians canonaded the town of St. Calais on the 25th. They then moved the place, where they committed many disorders. General Chanzy sent a formal protest to the Prussian General, and subsequently issued an address of the day to his troops, in which he says:—

I have warned the Prussians against any further perpetration of such horrible actions as they committed against unarmed places and people who merit better treatment from the enemy, because of their extreme humanity to the Prussian sick and wounded.

The general adds that it is evident that France is not combating legal enemies but devastating hordes. But she will continue the struggle to preserve her honor and independence.

VERMILLES, Dec. 28.—The bombardment of Fort Avron continues. The French reply with vigor, but their fire is ineffectual.

VERMILLES, Dec. 27.—(Special to the New York World.)—Fort Avron, 2,500 yards east of Fort Rosny, is a new work, mounting naval guns, reaching the towns of Chilles, Mont Fernal and Clichy. The fire from this fort, in reply to the Baxon guns to-day, was accurate but not destructive.

THE ENGLISH MISSION.

General Schenck's instructions. The Dayton (Ohio) Journal publishes the main points of a letter written to its editor by General Schenck in reply to one asking for particulars concerning his mission:—

He is intrusted with the discussion of the Alabama claims, and all other questions which have been withdrawn from the London mission. They all go back there now. We had never supposed that General Schenck would consent to appear at the English Court as a mere figure-head, or be satisfied with the empty dignity of the position. His letter confirms our opinion that all questions at least between the Government of the United States and Great Britain are to be placed in his hands for discussion and negotiation, and that such an assurance was given to the leaders of the mission.

The General states that he will present his resignation as the Representative of the Third district on the reassembling of Congress after the holidays, and expects to sail for England on the 18th or 19th of January, though this has not been so definitely settled as to justify him in engaging his passage for either of those days. In regard to the contest, General Butler will take charge of that in the absence of General Schenck. In speaking of the English mission, General Schenck says that the present Secretary of Legation, Mr. Moran, who has been connected with the mission for some twelve or fourteen years, is perfectly familiar with all its details, and is a gentleman with whom he is well acquainted, will continue to occupy the position. This will serve as an answer to the applications which have been made for this important place. The general speaks of these applications as being "without number."

SAD AFFAIR.

The Jackson (Miss.) Clarion of December 30 says:— Hon. A. S. Wood, member of the Legislature from Yazoo county, and who has been a patient for several months in the Lunatic Asylum, committed suicide on Sunday evening last, about 8 o'clock, by hanging himself from an iron bar of his room window. He employed for that purpose a long towel, such as is used on rollers, one end of which he fastened to the bar, and making a loop of the other end, placed it around his neck.

His head, when found, rested against the window sill, the distance from which to the floor of the room was about three feet. He evidently threw the full weight of his body on the towel in a desperate resolve to make the work quick and effectual. He had been seen in the passage about fifteen minutes previous, and was found dead by one of the attendants who had entered the room with medicine. The deceased was a native of Vermont, and thirty-six years of age. He was committed to the asylum soon after the adjournment of the Legislature; had frequently applied for a razor, and on one occasion was detected putting a carving-knife in his pocket while at table. The deceased had informed the Superintendent that he had a fit of insanity about fifteen years ago, and that the disease was hereditary.

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH. The official statistical returns made by the several annual conferences at their sessions held during the current year will soon be issued by the Book Concern in a large octavo volume of over 300 pages. The figures show a year of noteworthy prosperity. The general summaries, stated in the briefest form, are as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Rows include: Annual conference, 1570; Bishop's conference, 72; Travelling preachers, 9,193; Local preachers, 11,494; Total preachers, 21,234; Members in full connection, 1,125,099; Members on probation, 194,625; Total lay members, 1,367,134; Adult baptisms, 66,481; Infant baptisms, 50,423; Total baptisms, 116,934; Summarized churches, 12,273; Number of parsonages, 4,179; Value of church edifices, \$74,614,591; Value of parsonages, \$7,292,513; Sunday-school scholars, 1,921,898; Benevolent collections, \$967,862; These figures are exclusive of the statistics of foreign missions in China, Bulgaria, and South America, the official returns from which have not yet been received.

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MARINE TELEGRAPH.

For additional Marine News see First Page.

ALMANAC FOR PHILADELPHIA—THIS DAY. SUN RISES..... 7:54 MOON SETS..... 7:54 SUN SETS..... 4:50 HIGH WATER..... 7:34

PHILADELPHIA BOARD OF TRADE. GEORGE L. HUBBY, GEORGE N. TAYLOR, J. PRICE WETHERILL, COMMITTEE OF THE MONTH.

MOVEMENTS OF OCEAN STEAMSHIPS. FOR AMERICA.

Table with 3 columns: Ship Name, Destination, Date. Includes: C. of Paris, Liverpool, Dec. 3; Savannah, New York, Dec. 6; O. of B. Ayres, London, New York, Dec. 6; Hammonia, Hamburg, New York, Dec. 7; The Queen, Liverpool, New York, Dec. 10; G. of Manchester, Liverpool, New York, Dec. 10; Helvetia, Liverpool, New York, Dec. 14; Colorado, Liverpool, New York, Dec. 14; G. of Mexico, New York, New York, Dec. 16; Deutschland, Bremen, New York, Dec. 17; Parthian, Liverpool, New York, Dec. 17; C. of Limerick, Liverpool, New York, Dec. 17; Anglia, Glasgow, New York, Dec. 17.

FOR EUROPE. Pennsylvania, New York, Dec. 21; Hants, New York, Bremen, Dec. 21; Caledonia, New York, Glasgow, Dec. 21; C. of Brooklyn, New York, Liverpool, Dec. 21; Colorado, New York, Liverpool, Dec. 21; G. of Bremen, New York, Liverpool, Dec. 21; Anglia, New York, Glasgow, Dec. 21; Wisconsin, New York, Liverpool, Dec. 21; Deutschland, Bremen, New York, Dec. 21; Parthian, Liverpool, New York, Dec. 21; C. of Limerick, Liverpool, New York, Dec. 21; Anglia, Glasgow, New York, Dec. 21.

FOR AUSTRALIA. Tonawanda, Philadelphia, Savannah, Dec. 21; Geo. Washington, New York, New Orleans, Dec. 21; Lafayette, New York, Havre, Dec. 21; C. of B. Ayres, New York, Southampton, Dec. 21; Cuba, Baltimore, N. Orleans, via R.W. Dec. 21; N. W. Everett, Philadelphia, Charleston, Dec. 21; Yazoo, Philadelphia, New Orleans, Dec. 21.

Mails are forwarded by every steamer in the regular line. The steamers for or from Liverpool call at Queenstown, except the Canadian Steamer & Londonderry. The steamers for or from the Continent call at Southampton.

CLEARED YESTERDAY. Br. ship Burnham, Churchill, Bremen, L. Westergaard & Co. N. G. bark Cardenas, Keller, Cardenas, Isaac Hough & Morris. Brig J. Comill, Comill, Cienfuegos, B. Crowley & Co. Sloop Lehman Biew, Clark, Galveston, D. S. Stetson & Co. Sloop J. V. Wellington, Parker, with coal for Boston, David Cooper.

ARRIVED YESTERDAY. Steamship J. W. Everett, Hinckley, 72 hours from Charleston, S. C., with cargo. Capt. J. W. Adams. Reports heavy ice as far down as Bombay Hook.

(By Telegraph.) LEWIS, Del., Dec. 22.—11:30 A.M.—Brig Herald left for Philadelphia this A.M., under sail. Other vessels uncharged. Wind S.W., light rain. Thermometer, 33. 4 P.M.—All vessels quiet since A.M. report, Schrs Fremont, of Provincetown for Norfolk, and Concord, of Staten Island, are reported in harbor.

Wind S.W., with gentle rain. Thermometer, 39. Brig Lena, on the point of the Cape, has been stripped of her gear and was sold yesterday. The underwriters will take charge of the cargo.

MISCELLANY. Ship Samuel Russell, Lucas, from Foochow for New York, via the straits of Sunda, Capt. J. H. Straits, Nov. 25, at 8:30 P.M., and became a total loss; captain safe. The wreck sold for \$370, and the effects for about \$180. She registered 75 tons, was built at New York in 1857, and owned there by A. A. Low & Bro., to whom the cargo was consigned.

Steamer Wilmington, Cole, from New York for Galveston via Key West, and anchoring at the latter port, and during the night of the 24th inst., off Tortugas, lost her propeller in a heavy norther, and put back to Key West Bar under sail. She was towed from thence up to Key West on the night of the 29th by steam-tug Nansemond.

Nor. bark Anne, Wiegand, 16 days from Havana, in ballast, at New York yesterday. The Anne was bound to Philadelphia