STANLEY IN AFRICA.

Heard from after a Year's Silence—Making His Way from the East to the West Coast in the Face of Dense Forests and Savage Tribes — Suffering Incredible Hardships.

[From the New York Herald.]

After nearly twelve months of anxious suspense, during which the gravest fears were entertained for the safety of the gallant African explorer, the welcome news has at length come that Henry M. Stanley, the special commissioner of the New York *Herald* and the London *Daily Telegraph* has arrived on the west coast of Africa after a terrible journey across the continent along the line of the Lualaba otherwise the Congo river.

Stanley's dispatch is dated from Emboma, Congo river, west coast of Africa, August 10, and informs us that he arrived at that point on August 8 from Zanzibar with only 115 souls, the entire party in an awful condition after their long and terrible journey through the heart of the African continent. After an arduous march of many days through a country filled with difficulties, and being compelled to transport on the shoulders of his men every pound of provisions and other stores necessary for the transcontinental journey, and besides carrying in a similar manner the sections of the Lady Alice exploring boat and the arms and ammunitions of his party, Stanley found himself brought to a stand by immense tracts of dense forests, through which all attempts at progress were futile. Finding that he could not advance along the line he had first intended to follow, Stanley crossed the Lualaba and continued his journey along the left bank of the river, passing through the district known as northeast Ukusu. On this route he endeavored to find an outlet westward, but the jungle was so dense, and the fatigues of the march so harassing, that it seemed impossible for him to succeed in passing the tremendous barrier of the forest. To add to the horrors of his position in these Central African wilds Stanley found himself opposed at every step by the hostile cannibal natives. The savages filled the woods, and day and night poured flights of poisoned arrows on his party, which killed and fatally wounded many of his men. From every tree and rock along the route the deadly missiles winged their fatal course, and the heavily laden bearers fell dead under their loads in the dark forest. Only now and then could Stanley and his men reply to this silent fire with their rifles, for the savages kept under the densest cover and rarely exposed themselves.

Stanley's march through these cannibal regions soon became almost hopeless. There was no cessation to the fighting day or night. An attempt at camping merely concentrated the savages and rendered their fire more deadly. The advance was a succession of changes in rude skirmishing order by an advance guard, whose duty it was to clear the road for the main body. A rear guard covered in like manner the retreat, for, although advancing against one enemy, the movement was a retreat from another. All Stanley's efforts to appease the savages were unavailing. They would listen to no overtures, disregarded all signals of friendship and of mildness of intention and refused to be pacified with gifts. The patient behavior of Stanley's men they regarded as cowardice, so that no course remained open to the explorer but to fight his way onward and with as little loss as possible.

To render Stanley's position still more deplorable his escort of 140 natives, whom he had engaged for the service at Nyangwe, refused to proceed further on the journey and deserted him. They were so overawed by the terrors of the forest and the continuous struggle that they believed destruction was certain to overtake the whole party, and prudently resolved not to be destroyed. Finding that his ranks were thinned by the desertion of the Nyangwe men the hostile natives concentrated for a grand attack on Stanley, with the object of completely crushing him. It became necessary, therefore, to organize a desperate resistance, which was happily successful so far that it repulsed the savages for the time being and gave the explorer a chance to reconsider his plans and make arrangements to adapt them to his trying situation.

There was only one way to escape from the hopless position in which Stanley now found himself, unless he accepted the alternative of returning to Nyangwe and abandoning the grand work which he had undertaken. This was to make use of canoes. With the Lady Alice as a last reliance, and good canoes for the party, Stanley concluded that he could advance with a better prospect of success than in any other way. Although he had a decided advantage over the savages on the water Stanley still found that each day's advance was but a repetition of the struggle of the day previous. It was desperate fighting all the time while pushing down the river with might and main. Fortunately it was still the rifle against the bow, but then the bow was covered by the dense woods and the rifle was exposed in the open canoe. In the midst of these successive struggles Stanley's journey on the river was interrupted by a series of great cataracts, not far apart from each other and just north and south of the equator. To pass these obstacles he had to cut his way through over thirteen miles of dense forest and drag his eighteen canoes and the exploring boat Lady Alice overland. This enormous labor entailed the most exhausting efforts, and the men had frequently to abandon the ax and drag-ropes for their rifles to defend themselves against the continuous assaults of the hostile natives. After passing the cataracts Stanley and his party had a long breathing pause from the toil of dragging their boats through the forest. They were also comparatively secure from attack and took measures to recruit their exhausted strength before again encountering the dangers of the journey westward.

Although fighting his way continuously Stanley did not neglect the objects of his journey, and found opportunity to note all the interesting changes and physical characteristics of the route.

In order to avoid the struggles with the tribes of desperate cannibals that inhabited the mainland on each side of the river, Stanley's canoe fleet, led by the Lady Alice, paddled along between the islands, taking advantage of the cover they afforded as a protection from attack. In this way many miles down the stream were made by the expedition unmolested by the natives. But this safety from attack was purchased by much suffering. Cut off from supplies in the middle of the great river, starvation threatened to destroy the expedition. The most extreme hunger was endured by the party, which passed three entire days absolutely without any food. This terrible state of things could not be any longer endured, so Stanley resolved to meet his fate on the mainland rather than by hunger on the river. He therefore turned his course to the left bank of the Lualaba, and, with the singular good fortune that has generally attended him, reached the village of a tribe acquainted with trade. These people had four muskets which they obtained from the west coast. They represent, in a degree, the advance guard of civilization toward the interior of the continent. They called the great river Ikuta Ya Congo. With these friendly natives Stanley and his party made "blood brotherhood" and purchased from them an abundance of provisions, which were sorely needed by the famished exploring party.

After a brief rest Stanley endeavored to continue his course along the left bank of the river. But three days after his departure from the village of the friendly natives he came to the country of a powerful tribe, whose warriors were armed with muskets. Here for the first time since leaving Nyangwe Stanley had to contend against an enemy on almost an equal footing as to arms. He, therefore, prepared his party for a struggle the issue of which was decidely doubtful. No sooner did these natives discover the approach of Stanley's expedition than they manned fifty-four large canoes and put off from the river bank to attack it. It was not until after three of his men were killed that Stanley desisted in his efforts to make the natives understand that he and his party were friends. He cried out to them to that effect and offered them clothes as peace gifts. But the savages refused to be conciliated, and the fight proceeded with unabated fury. For twelve miles down the struggle went on, and it proved to be the greatest and most desperate fight on this terrible river. It was maintained by Stanley's followers with great courage, and was the last save one of thirty-two battles fought since the expedition had left Nyangwe.

Stanley's losses during the long and terrible journey across the continent from Nyangwe have been very severe. The continuous fighting in the forests and on the river reduced the strength of the expedition daily until it became a question whether any of its members would ever reach the coast. Stanley states in his dispatch: "My grief is still new over the loss of my last white assistant, the brave and pious young Englishman, Francis Pocock, who was swept over the falls of the Massassa on the third of last June." He adds: "My faithful companion, Kalulu, is also among the lost." On the same day that Pocock was lost Stanley, with seven men, were almost drawn into the whirlpools of the Mowa Falls, and six weeks later himself, with the entire crew of the Lady Alice, were swept over the furious falls of Muelo, whence only by a miracle they escaped.

Where Lightning Strikes.

To reassure the timid and nervous some calculations and directions for security, which, from the frequent occurrence and unusual severity of thunder storms, might not be unacceptable to some, are given.

There are seventy thousand chances to one against an individual's being killed in this way in the whole year. But as there are perhaps ten of these storms in a season, the chances of being killed are as 700,000 to one in any one storm. At the worst, there seems to be a half a million chances against a timid lady's having her terrors realized, according to the doctrine of chances. If she lies down in her fright, as she is likely to do, on either a feather bed or hair mattress, these chances in her favor are multiplied to at least a million.

Another consolation is that she has little to apprehend from a flash of lightning which she has leisure to see. As light travels 227,260 miles in a second, and lightning only 1,142 feet in the same time, you may easily compute the distance of the electric discharge. If 4.62 seconds or six beats of the pulse elapse between the lightning and the thunder, the discharge is a mile off.

To guard against possible danger on its near approach you may insulate your bed or chair by putting their legs on glass. Feathers and hair afford great security. There is also less danger after the rain has begun to fall copiously than before, because a moist atmosphere serves as a conductor for the electric fluid, diffusing it and conveying it to the earth.

A man who is wet, being a better conductor than a tree which cannot be so thoroughly wetted, ought not to stand under one, and animals, on account of their bodies, are always better conductors than trees. But though wrong to stand near a tree, you will be very safe a little beyond the extent of its branches—a position which ought to be chosen, as the higher object will take the lightning first—or you might stand on dry wood, wool or silk.

The middle of a room is safer than near a partition, and this than near an exterior wall. A building is a better protection than a tree; but a barn or stable containing wet grain or hay is worse than an open field. Sitting on horseback or in a carriage is dangerous.—*Worcester Gazette.*

Differences in People.

There is a vast difference in people. However moralists and metaphysicians may class them, there are opposite points among the most similar which are broad contrasts—sweet and sour, winter and summer—or any other proverbial antithesis. To some folks the leaves of a forest are all alike, and a school full of boys presents only so many fac-similies of each other. Such personages regard all mankind as so many bipeds; of the difference between them they are scarcely conscious.

Some people soothe one like a strain of music, while others agitate every nerve with the irritating power of a discord. How much might be said about turn pale at the sight of cheese, and others who shudder at the mention of carrots; this one prefers hard eggs to soft, and that one does not like buckwheat cakes. These marks by which some of our race are distinguished from the rest, are but few of those which crowd the mind. There are people who actually detest children; those who never have a moment to spare and those who don't know how to get through the day. Your touchy people who are always pricking up their ears to catch the first faint sound of an insult, and your people without humor who can never either furnish a joke or understand one. There are two causes of the great difference perceptible in people. Much may certainly be ascribed to education, but much also to constitutional dissimilarity. Here is one on whom good music acts like enchantment; he cannot sit still while hearing it; his eyes fill with tears; he forgets all his troubles, and when the tune has ceased it is still in his mind, bursting out at intervals in fragments and exclamations, and keeping him awake in the night by its busy mental repetitions. Who shall say that his nature is the same as that of another who finds in the Italian orchestra only a disagreeable scraping, whose lips cannot hum, whose imagination cannot contain a tune? And thus on through life and in every day intercourse if we but observe a little carefully, we will scarcely ever find two people alike—even those pursuing the same avocations and united by the closest ties, are oftentimes the most dissimilar in their natures.

A Russian General.

The Plevna correspondent of the London *Times* writes: Major General Scobeloff is a character—one of the most striking men I have ever met; he is a son of Lieutenant-General Scobeloff, of the Russian army, and has been in every campaign the Russians have had since he was old enough to enter the field.

In Khokand, where everything was considered in a critical state, young Scobeloff was left to cover the rear of the army with five battalions and twenty guns. His elders in rank and years had selected him to bear the disgrace of the expected catastrophe; but he did not fancy this situation of affairs, attacked the enemy (numbering forty battalions) in the night, threw them into a panic, and utterly routed them, remaining master of the province. For this he was made a major-general at thirty-one, and became the object of much envy and calumny at the hands of the officers whose heads he had passed over.

At the recent battle of Plevna he had his brigade of Cossacks and a battalion of infantry, the latter numbering about seven hundred men. Three hundred and forty of this battalion fell in the desperate contest, one hundred and seventy of them being killed outright; unsupported the remnant were compelled to fall back, but they retreated in good order, bringing away all the wounded, and actually left the deadly line of battle singing one of their wild but very melodious mountain airs. A major-general, thirty-three years of age, tall and handsome, Scobeloff is the ideal of a *beau sabreur* of the old Murat type. Brave almost to recklessness, yet possessing a certain shrewd aptitude for estimating chances and the strength of position.

He will make his mark in this campaign should his carelessness of personal danger not bring him before some fatal bullet—he has already been wounded six times during his career. Having been appointed to the staff of the commander of the Plevna army, he was on the way to the camp of his cavalry brigade to turn over the command to his successor.

What makes a man feel nobler, braver, happier, more independent and stayed up, as it were, as he walks along the streets of a strange city, than to feel himself flanked with a good-sized rell or two of bank bills resting snugly and affectionately up against his physical corporosity?

OREGON BILL.

Some Facts About a Noted Scout and Hunter.

William Spence, *alias* Oregon Bill, is in many respects a remarkable man. In stature he is about five feet nine inches. His compressed lips and well set jaws indicate a determined will. His nose is well shaped; his eyes are gray, but full of animation, and more especially when interested in conversation, and his forehead is high and well shaped. With these features he has long flowing black hair. The whole *personnel* of the man is pleasing, and in marked contrast with his reckless daring. He converses intelligently, and after the fashion of well educated men. As a hunter, trapper Indian fighter, marksman and wanderer he is justly noted. He has been for about eight weeks, and is still, confined to his bed, in this city, from a cut on one of his feet. He is, however, convalescent.

His birth place is Port Natal, South Africa, and he has hardly yet reached forty. His father having been killed in battle, his widow, with her son William, the subject of this sketch, immigrated to England, where, through the influence of friends, he soon was placed at the Royal Naval School at Greenwich, where his progress was satisfactory; but he could not be contented. His daring and adventurous nature sought the sea, and to a man-of-war he went. He was at sea for years, and during the time distinguished himself for his bravery in two engagements with pirates on the coast of Africa. He participated with credit to himself in the last war with Russia, and was present at the fall of Balaklava. Becoming averse to being further on the sea he came to America and joined the Hudson Bay Fur Company. For this company he travelled much among the Indians, gathering peltry. The year 1860 found him in Portland, Oregon; from thence he went to St. Paul, Minn.; here he remained one winter and was employed during that time by General Solly in a service that was at once delicate and responsible, which he discharged to the entire satisfaction of his commander. From St. Paul he went to Kansas, and there alternately engaged in driving teams and buffalo hunting. From 1860 to 1865 he was an Indian fighter on the frontiers of Kansas and Texas, and in an engagement with the red men on an occasion in which the whites were victorious, after a bloody hand to hand fight, he is said to have killed seven warriors with his pistol and bowie knife. During this period he spent some time in Missouri, and was at Independence during General Price's raid. In 1872 he went East, attracting much attention, his exploits having preceded him. His companions were W. F. Cody, known as Buffalo Bill, and J. B. Omahundra, *alias* Texas Jack. In 1873 he was the bearer of important dispatches to General Garcia, in Cuba, which he safely delivered. Returning, he came West, where he has since been engaged in trapping, hunting and acting as guide for foreign tourists. As an evidence of the man's wonderful accuracy in shooting, and it must be said also of recklessness, I will give two remarkable instances: In Portland, Oregon, he had a friend, John O'Madigan, now of this city. While O'Madigan was walking along the street smoking his pipe, and at a distance of ten feet, and at about a right angle, Bill suddenly drew his pistol and fired, the ball taking the pipe from the mouth of his friend, but doing him no harm. Again, last fall, Bill was in Lake City with deer for sale, and seeing his old friend, O'Madigan passing up the same street, on the opposite side, he called to him to stop. When he had drawn his revolver John did so, facing him at the time. Bill fired, and the ball passed through the top of the hat of his friend. O'Madigan, in the best of humor, called out: "Bill, don't shoot any more; it is too close." The history of this remarkable man will at some future time fill one of the most important chapters in a book of romance.—*Denver Tribune.*

A Governor's Gratitude.

Probably the oddest genius who ever occupied a public position in Missouri was the late Robert M. Stewart. He lived in St. Joseph, where he rose in political power. The first president of the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad, he was called its father. He was elected governor in 1857.

When Doniphan's expedition was organized to go through New Mexico and co-operate with the main United States army in 1847, Bob Stewart was a member of a company raised in Buchanan county. Four days out his gun was accidentally discharged, the contents entering one of his legs, shattering a bone and disabling him. One of the company, William Grover, was detailed to remain with Stewart. Grover watched over his friend with the care of a brother, and Stewart, not then dreaming of his future distinction, said: "Bill, old fellow, I'll pay you back some day! The time will come!"

Ten years later Bill Grover, the friend of Stewart was arrested as a participant in a political crime, tried, convicted and sentenced to the penitentiary for ten years. Not long after his conviction, Stewart was nominated for governor. He saw his friend just before he was incarcerated, and said: "Bill, the first thing I do after I'm inaugurated will be to pardon you out. And I'm sure to be elected."

Bob was elected and inaugurated. True to his word and the native instincts of gratitude, he went to the penitentiary and inquired for Bill Grover. He was not there. He was one of a detail called out to dig a well in Jefferson City, and was then engaged in that work.

Off the governor posted to the well in which Grover was at work. On reaching the place, he leaned over the well and cried out:

"Bill, are you there!"

"Who's that?" asked a voice from the subterranean deeps below.

"It's me—Bob Stewart! Come up out o' there! I've pardoned you."

In a few minutes Grover was hauled up out of the well. Then was exhibited the curious spectacle of the governor of a great State walking through the streets of the capital arm-in-arm with a stripe-suited convict. He took his old friend up to a clothing store rigged him out in a new suit, and made him a guest at the governor's mansion, afterward providing for him a start in business.

A Bold Exploit.

The following is from the diary of the late Mr. Adolphus, the barrister and historian: "May 8, 1840: We had a dinner party, among them Mrs. Matthews and Curran, who told an amusing story of an agent to a nobleman in Ireland. It was known to some ruffians in the neighborhood that he had collected a large sum for rents due to his employer. In the middle of the night he heard thieves breaking into his house. He jumped out of bed, and arming himself with a carving knife stood behind the door, and closed it, so that only one could enter at a time, which one would be shown in the moonlight while he remained in the shade. Four of the thieves entered, and were dispatched one after another, those without not knowing what had happened. The fifth saw the gleam of the blade in the moonlight, seized the man, and a tremendous scuffle ensued. The agent struck several blows with his weapon, but made no impression. He was got down and his antagonist over him, when feeling the knife, he found the point was bent. He had the presence of mind to press it strongly against the floor, so as to turn it back, stabbed his adversary dead, and, as he was alone in the house and could have no assistance till the morning, retired to bed. He was knighted for the exploit. Some one said to him: 'I wonder you could go to bed while there were on the floor the corpses of five persons whom you had killed?' His answer was: 'It did make me very uneasy; I could not get a wink of sleep for nearly an hour!'"

Three and a half pounds of milk are equal to one pound of meat; and only estimate a cow to give 4,000 pounds of milk in a year, this would make the cow's product in milk equal in food value to 1,000 pounds of meat, and this 1,000 pounds of meat would require a steer, under ordinary feeding, four years to produce, so that the cow produces as much return from her food in one year as a steer in four.

THE PROPHET'S BIG WALL.

The Policy by which Brigham Young Strengthened the Mormon Church.

A writer in a New York paper says: One day I was riding with Brigham Young around the suburbs of Salt Lake. As we came in from the Hot Sulphur Springs, which run like a little river from the rocky base of the Wasatch mountains, about a mile north of the city, we passed a dilapidated *adobe* wall, a wall made from the unbaked clay. The wall had been eight or nine feet high, but it is now little more than a ruin.

"What was that wall built for?" I asked.

"That wall was built for two purposes," said the prophet. "It once extended all around Salt Lake. It was a little Chinese wall, with loop holes and gates and round houses."

"Then Salt Lake was once a walled city?"—

"Yes, it was walled all around, and the wall cost a great deal of labor, too. Hundreds of men worked all winter on it."

"But you have not told me the two purposes for which it was built," I suggested.

"Well, the chief purpose of this wall was to keep three or four hundred immigrants from being idle. You see, we had a large immigration one year, three or four hundred able-bodied men. They arrived in August, too late to do anything on their farms. Now, an idle man is always a bad man. Still, we had nothing for them to do. 'How can I employ them?' I asked myself. Then I thought of this wall. To make it seem necessary, we had to pretend that we were threatened by the Indians around us. This was easily done, for several parties of Indians had been hovering around the town. In a few days we worked up the enthusiasm for protection, and put these hundreds of idle men to work. The wages were small, but they all worked steadily during the whole fall and winter."

"And no Indians ever troubled the town?"

"No, and I never thought they would. But four hundred idle men would have troubled it. We were in more danger from idle men than from Indians. And this has always been my idea; whenever I have found an idle Mormon I have set him to work—kept him busy with his hands and brain, and then he is always sure to be a good citizen."

This I found had always been the Prophet's theory. If a poor immigrant came to Salt Lake without money, Brigham placed him on a farm and gave him implements and seeds. He made him self-sustaining. Everything in Salt Lake was built right there. A Mormon built the big organ in the tabernacle, Mormons build and officer their railroads, and Mormons are building their great temple. Before he died the Prophet had Mormon furniture factories, a Mormon mint where they once coined their own money, and six cotton and woollen factories. In fact, Brigham Young taught his people to make everything they ate, drank, or wore, except coffee, tea, sugar, pepper and spice.

The river running down from the Wasatch mountains behind Salt Lake is a good water power with 150 feet fall. The same water runs through two million dollars worth of irrigating canals, and waters the whole Salt Lake plain before it finally empties into the lake.

Brigham Young was a good mechanic. He could make anything he ever saw, and when occasion required he could invent new appliances. He was a rough, crude man, but terribly in earnest. He was like Zach Chandler in politics, Sherman in war, and St. Paul in the ministry. He was always aggressive. His son, John W., on the contrary, is always on the defensive. He is always patting people on the back, always tranquilizing and making peace. He is the most gentlemanly and quiet-mannered man I ever met. He wins everybody with his smile and kind ways. The morning we left for Ogden, John W. came down to the cars with us. In going from the depot to the cars no less than six Mormons put their arms around him. Some even kissed him. Brigham Young was feared, but his son John W. will and has made himself beloved. He will not fight. All strife will now end in Utah. Polygamy will gradually die out. John W. will let it die, but the Mormon church, with its 200,000 followers, will stand.

"We double once in seven years," the Prophet said one day.

"How double once in seven years?" I asked.

"Why in 1849 we had 12,000 people. In 1856 we had 24,000; in 1863 we had 48,000; in 1870 we had 96,000, and today in 1877 we have 192,000."

"And in 1883 you will have"—

"Two hundred and eighty-four thousand, and nothing but a national calamity or a judgment from God can stop us," said the Prophet.

There is no doubt in my mind that under the conservative policy of John W. Young, with the death of polygamy, that the Mormons will number 284,000 in 1883, and that they will control the politics of Utah, and perhaps of Arizona and New Mexico.

Population of Asia and Africa.

The entire population of Asia is larger by about twenty-five millions than the estimate given in last year's issue of Behm and Wagner's work. The increase mainly falls upon the East India islands and Anam, the figures in the case of the latter being more than double those given in the tables of last year—viz.: 21,000,000. The population of British India is rather less than last year, being 188,093,700, that Burmah being about 2,750,000, including tributary or protected States. The whole population of British India is close on 239,000,000. In a map of India, which accompanies the work, the varying density of the population in India is shown, from five inhabitants to over 750 per square mile. The greatest density is found, of course, about Calcutta, as also in patches all along the east coast and over all the northwest provinces. The population of China is given as 405,000,000, with 38,500,000 of outlying people. Hong Kong seems to have decreased by upward of two thousand since last year, the number now given being 121,985. Japan is set down as 33,299,014. With regard to Africa, the population of Algeria was, 1875, estimated to be 2,448,961. The population of Egypt shows a slight increase over last year, being now 17,000,000 The inhabitants of Port Said now number 9,650, and of Ismailia 3,779. Many details are given concerning the area and population of the Soudan and Central and West African States, the results of recent explorations. The British possessions in South Africa show an increase of territory and population, the latter numbering, according to the latest data, 1,338,702. According to the latest statistics, the whole population of Australia amounts to 1,867 000; of New Zealand, 421,326. In the Fiji islands the native population seems to be rapidly decreasing. It is calculated now not to exceed 70,000, while the white, who in 1872 numbered 2,940, were last year only 1,650.

He Sat on a Lion's Tail.

During a recent visit to the Philadelphia Zoological Garden we witnessed an amusing incident illustrative of Young America's love for adventure says a correspondent. In the rear of the lion and tiger house large cages are constructed, where the animals come out at pleasure to sun themselves. On this occasion, as we stood admiring two fine specimens stretched at full length on the sandy floor, one so near the bars that its tail extended through, and lay on the grass outside, a boy approached, in advance of his mother and sister, and, no sooner did he see the lion than an idea seemed to strike him, for with one bound, and before his mother could stop him, he was over the low rails, and quickly approaching the lion, sat down on its tail. But he had not long to sit, for in a twinkling the lion sprang to its feet and made for the boy, who barely escaped a stroke of the powerful paw, by turning a back sumersault. The mother stood speechless, as the boy ran shouting, "Well, I don't care. I'll have it to say I sat on a lion's tail."

Let pleasure be ever so innocent, the excess is always criminal.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

Items of Interest from Home and Abroad.

A decision of the New York court of appeals, in favor of the Gilbert and N. Y. Elevated railroad companies, seems to settle the questions of law which have long hindered the consummation of a much-needed scheme of rapid transit in the city of New York, and a swift means of communication from one end of the city to the other is probably nowa matter of time only. .....The rifle matches at the Creedmoor range closed with an individual contest for a series of eight prizes, amounting to $1,000, given by the New York *Spirit of the Times*. The distances shot at were 800, 900 and 1,000 yards, and the first prize of $500 was won by R. Washburn, of Connecticut, with a score of 207 out of a possible 225. C. E. Blydenburgh, of the American team, came second, with a score of 206, for which he took a prize of $200. Seventy-eight marksmen entered in this contest. .....Yellow fever prevailed to a great extent in Havana and at Pensacola, Fla., where the mortality was very large, and the dread disease took the proportions of an epidemic.....President MacMahon has issued a manifesto to the French people, in which he declares that he will cause the constitution of the country to be respected, and asks the people to place confidence in him.

It is stated that Secretary Evarts will deliver a speech at Washington in defence of the policy of the Administration previous to the special session of Congress, in October .....The State convention of the New Jersey Democrats was held at Trenton, and resulted in the nomination of Major-General George B. McClellan for governor, by a vote of 804 against 179, divided among three other candidates. The platform adopted by the convention embodies the principles contained in the National Democratic platform adopted at St. Louis in 1876, and denounces "the frauds and crimes by which our candidates for President and Vice-President are prevented from occupying the positions to which they were chosen by a decided majority of the popular and electoral vote;" congratulates "the supporters of free government throughout the United States on the fact that even the man who was placed in the Presidential chair by means of these frauds and crimes has found it necessary, in order to receive the respect and support of any portion of the American people, to adopt the Democratic policy of local self government in the Southern States, and to abandon all future devices to perpetuate sectional jealousies;" opposes all special legislation for corporate or individual interests at the expense of the people; sympathizes with the workingmen of the State in the prevalent distress, and advises the enactment of such legislation as will enable them to harmonize the interests of capital and labor; believes that the necessities of the people require a reduction of all official salaries, fees and costs; and asserts that the usury laws should be revised and reformed, and six per cent be made the legal rate of interest in the State ..... The Prohibition party of New Jersey met in convention at Trenton and nominated Rudolphus Bingham for governor. The resolutions adopted declare against the legalized traffic in liquors, attributing it to the increase of taxes, the general distress, and in a great degree the corruption of officials. The signers declare they will no longer vote for any man who is not in favor of prohibition.....The Massachusetts Republican State convention was held in Worcester, and was presided over by Senator Hoar. The first ballot for candidates for governor resulted in the renomination of Gov. Rice, who received 597 votes against 231 for Thomas Talbot, sixty-nine for John Lang, twenty-five for Paul A. Chadbourne, four for Henry S. Pierce and three for John E. Sanford. The committee on resolutions reported a platform reaffirming the principles of the party, congratulating the country upon the accession of a Republican President of conspicuous integrity, honesty of purpose, wisdom, moderation and firmness, expressing gratification at the pacification of the Southern States; declaring in favor of resuming specie payments at the date fixed by the resumption act; approving the civil service reforms inaugurated by the Administration, and opposing further grants of land or subsidies to private enterprises. That part of the platform which refers to the President's Southern policy and his reformatory civil service measures is as follows, in full: Resolved, That we hail with unspeakable pleasure every sign of promise of the final and permanent pacification of the Southern section of our country under local self government, based upon the full recognition of the equal rights of all; and we cordially approve the spirit and measures of the Administration as wisely adapted to hasten this result, as directed by a just sense of constitutional right and duty, as tending to promote a spirit of peace and conciliation between citizens of all sections, and as carefully justified by the bettered feeling and condition of the country. Resolved, That the work of reforming and improving the civil service, which the Republican party has undertaken, and to which it stands committed, ought to be persistently and resolutely carried forward. We fully indorse the utterances of the Cincinnati platform and of the letter of acceptance of President Hayes on this subject; that nominations to office ought to be made upon the sole responsibility of the Executive department, without the dictation or control of the members of Congress; that honesty, capacity, and fidelity constitute the only claim and qualification for office; that a partisan service should not be expected or desired from public officers, who should give their whole service to the government and the people, and that the term of office should depend upon untarnished personal character and the satisfactory performance of official duties, and not upon political changes; and we cordially sustain and approve the policy and action of the President in conducting his administration in fulfillment of his distinct pledge upon these principles. Recognizing that the work of correcting the abuses that have crept into the civil service is only begun, and that much remains to be accomplished in Massachusetts as well as elsewhere, in order to show convincingly that the principle of civil service reform is accepted as an enduring principle, and not a temporary method of administration, we call upon all departments of the government to give the President their cordial and effective support in making the reform thoroughly radical and complete. Resolved, That the order recently promulgated by the President, for the purpose of restraining the executive officers of the government from exercising an undue and improper influence upon the action of the people in the selection of candidates for office and in the management of political affairs is in accordance with the principles and practices established by the founders of the government. We heartily indorse the order as the first and most important step toward a practical reform of the civil service, and we assure the President of our cordial support in its enforcement.....The Greenback party of Pennsylvania met at Williamsport, and nominated Benjamin S. Bentley for supreme judge, James C. Emerson for auditor-general, and James L. Wright, nominee of the labor party, for State treasurer. The resolutions adopted were denunciatory of national banks, and favored inter-convertible bonds and elastic money sufficient for the wants of trade..... The President and party arrived at Nashville, Tenn., and were received by the governor of the State, the mayor and a committee of citizens. The assemblage was addressed by the President, Gov. Wade Hampton, and members of the cabinet.....A train on the Union Pacific railroad, at Big Springs, Neb., was stopped by thirteen masked men and robbed of $75,000 in gold coin. A number of the passengers were also relieved of money and valuables.

The Republicans of Maryland held their convention in Baltimore, and nominated Dr. S. E. Porter for State controller. The platform indorses the Southern policy of the President; favors a speedy resumption of specie payments; asserts that "the efforts of the Democratic party to usurp the title of Rutherford B. Hayes, as President of the United States, are only equaled by their audacity in claiming that John Lee Carroll is the legally elected governor of Maryland; and while the title of the one was confirmed by a high tribunal composed of Republicans and Democrats, and created by Democratic votes, the title of the other has never been acknowledged by any respectable majority of the people in the State, and was only acquiesced in because there was no tribunal in the State that was willing to decide it upon the proofs of fraud and violence through which only he became governor;" denounces "as shameful "the conduct of Democratic officials in administering the election laws;" holds the Democratic party responsible for the high taxes imposed upon the people and for imposing exorbitant tolls on the Chesapeake and Ohio canal, and unjust discriminations in freights on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad; claims that our great works of internal improvement, whether canal or railroad, were built for the people, and that freights and tolls should be so regulated as not to discriminate against local traffic or for or against special private interests." ..... The centennial of the killing of a number of American troops, under Gen. Anthony Wayne, at Paoli, Pa., was observed at that place by the dedication of a monument to the dead.... Lewis V. Bogy, United States Senator from Missouri, died at St. Louis, on the twentieth. He was appointed Senator in 1873, as successor to Frank P. Blair, Jr. .... The steamboats the First Republic and Carondelet were burned at St. Louis. Loss, $200,000, on which there is $67,000 insurance. .... An express train was thrown from the track near Casselman Station, Pa., and twelve persons were injured ..... The President was received by a large crowd at Chattanooga, Tenn., and made a lengthy address in response to a speech of welcome by Col. Cooke, an ex-Confederate soldier. Secretary Evarts, Postmaster-General Key, and Gov. Wade Hampton delivered addresses. In the afternoon the party were entertained by Judge Key in his own home.

The mayor of Ferhandina Fla., appealed to the country for moderate aid, as the yellow fever there was spreading and causing much want and suffering. Destitution prevailed in the town and all work had ceased....James Rhodes, a mulatto, was hanged at Newcastle, Del., for the murder of James Temple, a colored man....A misplaced switch near Rome, N. Y., caused a collision between an express train and a freight train. The two engines, mail and baggage cars were completely wrecked, Kirtenan, brakeman and mail agent were killed, and about ten others were injured in different degrees of severity....The Black Warrior river in Alabama suddenly rose sixty-thee feet and totally swept away the abundant crops of cotton, corn and fodder in the adjoining valley. It is estimated that 30,000 bales of cotton have been destroyed, and many planters are ruined. ....The New York State Association of Young men's Christian Associations met in annual convention at Hudson. E. B. Monroe, of New York city, was elected president....A fire at the Union Planing Mills, Chicago, caused a destruction of property amounting to $45,000 on which there is an insurance of $13,000; and a fire in Chickasaw county, Iowa, burned twenty-six business houses and five grain warehouses, causing a loss of $50.000. ....The Carroll County Savings Bank of Wolfboro, N. H., suspended payment. It is thought the bank will be able to pay its depositors in full.....General Grant was enthusiastic ally received in Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, and replied to an address of the Chamber of Commerce. In the evening he held a reception. ....The Republicans of France have replied defiantly to President McMahon's manifesto.

John S. Morton, president of the West Philadelphia railroad company, and president of the Permanent Exhibition Company, was found to be a defaulter to the amount of $75,000 or more. He issued over ten thousand unauthorized shares of stock of the railroad company over which he presided, and claimed that in doing so he had not made a dollar himself, but had been actuated by a desire to aid others. .....The President and party arrived at Atlanta, Ga., and were welcomed in a speech by Gov. Colquitt, to which the President responded. About 10,000 people surrounded the stand. Addresses were made by Secretary Evarts and Postmaster-General Key. In the evening a reception was held at the Executive mansion, and the President and people of Atlanta were entertained by the governor. At the banquet addresses were made by the President, Messrs. Evarts, Key, Ben Hill and Gordon..... Leverier, the celebrated French astronomer, is dead. .... An assemblage of 50,000 people welcomed General Grant at Newcastle, England. .....A kerosene lamp in a small frame building in Keyport, N. J., exploded or was tipped over, and before the flames could be extinguished they had communicated to other buildings and soon destroyed the business portion of the town. About thirty buildings were burned and as many families were homeless. The pecuniary loss will be about $130,000, half of which is covered by insurance ..... Clarence W. Gomersall, a New York broker, was shot dead in Newark, N. J., by a saloon keeper named Kerner, who claimed that he took the dead man for a burglar.

A Feathered Fortune-Teller.

Several months ago Gen. Gordon and Col. R. A. Alston, of Atlanta, Ga., while walking down Pennsylvania avenue, Washington, noticed a crowd standing on the sidewalk, and discovered a portable stand, upon which a speculative group of canary birds were telling the fortunes of the bystanders. A stranger would give one of the birds a nickel. The bird would then hop off to a basket near by, and pick up a little envelope in his bill and carry it to the customer. Gen. Gordon handed the wisest-looking canary he could see a nickel, and awaited the result. The bird returned with an envelope, which the senator opened. It announced that the senator "talked too much, had five children, and would live to be eighty-six years of age." Col. Alston determined to have his fortune told. The first clause was this: "You invite too many people to your house; many of those you invite are not your friends." The printed slip went on to recite that the colonel would in a short time receive a large sum of money as an inheritance, and that it would be the basis on which he would build a definite prosperity. He folded the scrap of paper in his pocket and went to Willard's, where he met Judge Lochrane. On showing the paper to this gentleman, he was interrupted by the exclamation: "Why, my dear sir, your fortune is already left you. I saw this very day, in a newspaper, that John E. Alston, of Brooklyn, had died, and had left a fortune of about $600,000 to be divided among his heirs and relatives in the South." A day or two afterward Attorney-General Devens asked him if he was any kin to John E. Alston, of Brooklyn, remarking that that gentleman had left a large fortune to be divided among his family. Col. Alston replied that he was not so lucky, and so went afterward went to Georgia. A few days ago, however, he received a printed copy of the will, addressed to him as one of the heirs of the estate. The will bequeathed various amounts to special heirs, and the balance, amounting to $137,000, to the heirs in Georgia and South Carolina through the agency of Albert Glover. Col. Alston may have as much as $50,000 from this inheritance.

A Curious Surgical Operation.

A boy named Frank Hanafin, who had been injured in a sawmill here, and had been, as we might say, almost skinned alive, was supplied with a new skin by taking pieces from the arms of eight or nine other boys. In the accident a very large wound was made in his back, the surface being one mass of red, quivering flesh, though healthy in appearance. The wound, of course, was very sensitive, and the operation must have been quite painful to him. Drs. Picot and Maynard and an assistant performed the operation. Around the bed were gathered six or eight Irish boys, from eight to fifteen years of age, from whose arms had been taken, or was to be taken, the skin needed to replace that which was lost. As each was called on by the doctor, he came forward, and baring his arm, a small piece of skin was skilfully cut out with the lancet and gently placed upon the raw flesh. About thirty pieces in all were so put on. Several of the boys gave up more than one piece, and Folger Picot, the doctor's son, contributed eight pieces. A younger brother of Hanafin's gave nearly as many. While the operation was going on the boys joked among themselves and helping to make up Hanafin, and banter each other on the number of times they had submitted to be cut into for the benefit of their playmate. The boys were generally very willing to give the skin required, but after a while they evidently began to think enough was as good as a feast, and they moved out doors, watching further operations through the window. It is thought, however, that enough will consent to give skin, so that Hanafin's wound will be entirely covered over, thus hastening his recovery, and adding to his comfort when the wound shall have healed.—*Auburn (N. Y.) Advertiser.*

A Demoniac Procession.

A correspondent of the London *Times* at Ragusa writes: I have just returned here from Trebinge. While there I was sitting conversing with the English surgeon attached to the hospital, when he observed: "There is not much to be seen in this place, but fortunately to-day I am able to show you a sight you never see in England. Come along and let us have a look."

We started for the Bazaar, a short distance off. At the end of the principal street we encountered a procession of 150 children, none of them over twelve years of age. The two in front