

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

During a small fire in the cellar of a dwelling in Pittsburg, on the morning of the 12th, Chief of the Fire Department Evans, Assistant Chief Steele and Firemen Haupt, Graham, Milligan and Benny were severely burned by an explosion of natural gas. A leak in the pipes is supposed to have been the cause. Three men were injured, one fatally, by the premature explosion of a blast in Richey's coal mines, at Butler, Penna., on the evening of the 11th.

An express train on the Erie Railroad ran off the track near Middletown, New York, on the 13th, owing to the spreading of the rails. The baggage master was slightly injured. A Lehigh Valley passenger train ran off the track near Attica, New York, on the night of the 12th, and the baggage car and four passenger coaches were upset. The conductor and one passenger were injured but not dangerously.

The ice in the Delaware river at Belvidere, New Jersey, is 15 inches thick. The streams are so low that all the mills are closed. The Yard Paper Ware Works have been closed for two weeks. More than 223,000 cubic yards of limestone and state rock on the bank of the Canadian side of the Niagara river, near the Horseshoe Falls, fell on the 13th with a crash that was heard and felt for miles around. The break has made a considerable change in the appearance of the bank, and has exposed the dark chasm behind the fall. The mass of rock that fell was sixty feet wide by over one hundred long and one hundred and seventy feet deep. The fall from the main rock has left a perpendicular wall. The tremendous weight of ice which has accumulated during the past three weeks, with the steady frosty weather and low water, was the cause of the break.

The Secretary of the Pennsylvania Board of Agriculture, accompanied by two veterinarians, on the 13th, visited two large herds of cattle in the lower end of Lancaster county, which a United States surgeon had reported to the National and Maryland authorities as suffering from pleuro-pneumonia. The Secretary found that the cattle were only afflicted with a common bronchial affection. He says there is not a case of pleuro-pneumonia in Lancaster county at present.

The fine residence of Norman B. Ream, on Prairie avenue, Chicago, was destroyed by fire early on the morning of the 14th. The loss is placed at \$150,000; insurance \$125,000. The house was new, and just finished, and was to have been occupied next week. The flames started in the basement and ran up the flues.

The severest snow storm of the season in Ontario, Canada, prevailed on the 14th, interrupting railroad travel. The body of Oliver Sleeper, supposed to have been one of the victims of Mrs. Robinson, the alleged murderer of Somerville, Massachusetts, was exhumed on the 14th, for examination by medical experts. This is the seventh body that has been disinterred for the same purpose, and in the other six cases large quantities of arsenic have been found. If arsenic is found in Sleeper's body the investigation will continue, and other bodies will be exhumed. It is alleged that Mrs. Robinson poisoned Sleeper in order to obtain possession of some of his property. A Chinese laborer on the Northern Pacific Railroad at Clallam, in Washington Territory, having a quarrel with two of his countrymen, a few nights ago, placed a giant powder cartridge between them as they lay asleep, and, then lighting the fuse, fled. One of the men was killed, and the other mortally wounded. At Cedar Falls, Iowa, on the 14th, William Crosby shot and killed his wife and then committed suicide. They had lived unhappily.

In San Francisco on the evening of the 13th, a dynamite cartridge, which had been placed on the track of the Larkin Street branch of the Sutter Street Cable Railroad, was exploded on Post Street by a dummy passing over it. The dummy was wrecked, the windows of the car and of the houses in the vicinity were smashed. A man named Helderbrandt and his wife and brother, who were sitting in the dummy, were thrown into the street and Mrs. Helderbrandt was severely injured. An officer named Conboy, who was also on the dummy, was stunned for a time. Another explosion took place on the same road, near Dupont Street, about an hour later, disabling a dummy, but no person was injured, the cartridge being a smaller one. Still later, an unexploded dynamite cartridge, which had evidently rolled off the track after being placed upon it, was found near Scott Street, on the Beary Street Road. W. H. Barry, Robert Warwick and Patrick Curley, striking carmen, have been arrested, charged with complicity in the explosions, and the police claim that they have strong evidence against them.

Six boilers in an engine house on the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company's Railroad, near Fairview, Penna., blew up on the morning of the 14th, fatally injuring Hawley Weed, engineer, and Perry Parson, fireman. At Long Swamp, Berks county, Penna., on the 14th, Alvin Rohrbach was killed by an explosion of frozen dynamite which he was thawing in a blacksmith shop. The shop was blown into fragments. While John Coll, aged 22 years, was hitching and unhitching cars at the foot of the plane in Packer Colliery, near Gilbert, Penna., on the 14th by some means his head got caught between two cars, though he was not killed. Two workmen tried to extricate him, when another car broke loose at the top of the plane and dashed down the incline. The rescuers sprang back just as the running car struck the others, smashing them into splinters and killing Coll.

Upon the arrival of a Reading Railroad train from Philadelphia, Pa., on the 14th, Mrs. Martha Lukers, aged 75 years, of Shamokin, was found dead in her seat. Her death was due to heart failure. Harry Levay, a well-connected and well-to-do young man, was arrested in Reading, Pa., on the 14th, and held in \$20,000 bail on the charge of setting fire to his grandfather's stable, which was burned a few weeks ago.

S. Samuels, died in Chicago on the 14th, of hydrophobia, contracted from a bite received from a pet dog about three months ago. John Tobin quarrelled with his wife near Albion, Indiana, on the night of the 14th, and tried to kill her with a knife. She pleaded for life and he kicked her senseless. He then took her to the railroad and laid her across the track a short time before an express train was due. She recovered consciousness just in time to escape, and crawled to Albion, where she told her story. The dead body of Nelson Borden was found in a clump of bushes at Point Pleasant, Virginia, on the 14th. Three years ago Borden killed John Letcher in a quarrel, and Letcher's fifteen-year-old son is suspected of having killed Borden in revenge. Jesse Smith was killed by Mark Clark in a quarrel over a small debt, in a boarding house, in Chattanooga, on the 15th. Napoleon Bonaparte Metcalf shot and killed a woman named Fox, a domestic in his house, in Middletown, Connecticut, on the 14th. It is believed he is insane. At New Boston, Illinois, on the 13th, James E. Doughty shot and killed his sweetheart, Bertha Benedict, aged 18 years, and then committed suicide. It is supposed he was jealous in the Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory, last week, James Baykin, being drunk, went to the house of Mrs. Mary Long, and, after abusing her for a while, drew a pistol and shot her in the heart, inflicting a wound of which she died next day.

The Clifford block, in Denver, Colorado, occupied by several stores and offices, was destroyed by fire on the afternoon of the 15th. The losses aggregate about \$125,000, insurances about \$110,000. The Terra Haute Distillery, in Terra Haute, Indiana, was burned on the morning of the 15th. Loss, \$100,000; insurance, \$70,000. The State Penitentiary at Frankfort, Kentucky, was burned on the evening of the 15th. The loss is estimated at \$75,000, of which \$50,000 is on the property of Mason, Ford & Co., lessees. A fire in Burlington, Vermont, on the evening of the 14th, destroyed Strong's block, Allen's engine house and Huntington's block. Loss, \$30,000; insurance, \$30,000. Five stores and the post-office at Ladoga, Indiana, were burned on the 14th. Loss, \$35,000.

A tornado passed through Washington county, Alabama, on the morning of the 15th. Much damage was done to timber, but no person was hurt. Five masked robbers, who probably got on in Pittsburg, were detected on a Pan Handle freight train at Sheridan Station, near that city, on the night of the 14th, while in the act of throwing freight from the train. A fight followed, in which a fireman named Curley was shot in the thigh and a brakeman was knocked senseless with a stone. The robbers escaped. They had set the brakes on three of the cars, broken open two cars containing arms and throwing out some of the guns and ammunition.

A "reign of terror" is reported at Catulla, capital of Laxalo county, Texas, in consequence of feuds. The County Commissioner and another man have been killed within a month, and their slayers, though known, have not been arrested. Captain Schmidt and a company of State Rangers patrol the streets at night to prevent bloodshed. Joel Bigham, a well-known lawyer of Pittsburg, disappeared some time ago. On the 15th, a petition was filed in the Orphans' Court asking for his removal from executorship of the estate of Daniel Davis, deceased, for failure to account for \$30,000 belonging to the heirs. Bigham's family have no knowledge of his whereabouts. His friends say that he has become deeply involved through unfortunat speculations in oil. John Murry, a notorious counterfeiter, was arrested in Chattanooga, on the 15th, with sixty-six dollars in bogus coin in his pockets. In U. S. Court, at Knoxville, on the 14th, J. W. Russell, Julian Reed and Thomas J. Russell were convicted of violation of the pension laws. At Fall River, Massachusetts, on the 15th, R. N. Winslow, Charles Cook and George Van Lora were arrested charged with fraud in connection with pension cases.

The Secretary of the Interior has requested the Attorney General to bring civil suit against Muckle Brothers, of St. Helena, Oregon, for the manufactured value of timber alleged to have been unlawfully cut from Government lands in Columbia county, Oregon. It is asserted that this firm has cut and removed from Columbia county over 5,000,000 feet of fir, cedar and maple timber, board measure, valued at from \$3 to \$10 per thousand feet when manufactured into lumber, and \$5 per thousand in logs at the mill.

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They were appointed the conferees. Mr. Cameron introduced a bill for the appointment of commissioners to represent the Federal Government at the centennial celebration of the forming and promulgation of the constitution, to be held in Philadelphia. Referred. After a secret session the Senate adjourned.

In the U. S. Senate on the 14th, Mr. Sewell, from the Conference Committee on the bill making an annual appropriation to provide arms and equipments for the militia, made a report reducing the appropriation from \$600,000 to \$400,000, which was agreed to. The consideration of the Inter-State Commerce bill was resumed, and a long debate followed. In the course of which Mr. Sherman favored the recommitment of the bill, and Mr. Edmunds argued in support of the conference report. Mr. Frye moved to recommit the bill with instructions, but the Chair ruled the instructions were not in order. Mr. Frye then moved simply to recommit, and the motion was lost—yeas, 25; nays, 35. Finally the conference report was adopted. The Senate then, at 11:40 P. M., adjourned.

HOUSE In the House, on the 13th Mr. Bland, from the Committee on Coinage reported, and the House adopted, the resolution calling upon Secretary of the Treasury for information as to the monthly purchase and coinage of silver during the last fiscal year and the first six months of the present fiscal year, and also information as to whether the law requiring the purchase and coinage of not less than \$2,000,000 worth of silver bullion has been complied with. A bill, reported by the Judiciary Committee, was passed, increasing the minimum jurisdiction of the Circuit Courts of the United States from \$500 to \$2000, taking away from the Circuit Courts jurisdiction of causes in favor of assignees of promissory notes and bills of exchange, and restricting to the defendant the rights to remove a cause from the State to the Federal Court. Mr. Tucker, of Virginia, called up the bill regulating the bringing of suits against the Government in the Court of Claims as it was passed. This act does not include cases of captured and abandoned property, cotton claims or war claims. Adjourned.

In the House, on the 14th, Mr. Caldwell, of Tennessee, submitted the conference report on the Electoral Count bill and it was agreed to without debate or a division. The rest of the session was devoted to private and local bills.

In the U. S. House of Representatives on the 15th, Mr. Crisp, of Georgia, presented the conference report on the Inter-State Commerce bill, and gave notice that he would call it up at an early day. Bills were reported for the consolidation of customs districts; the collection of more accurate statistics of export, emigration and immigration, and the retirement and recoinage of the trade dollar. The resolution for an investigation of the accounts of the Pacific Railroads was discussed until the expiration of the morning hour. A conference committee was appointed on the anti-Polygamy bill. The River and Harbor bill was considered in Committee of the Whole, pending which the House adjourned.

STATE LEGISLATURE.

SENATE. The following measures were introduced on the 13th, and laid on the table, to await the appointment of the committees. By Mr. Macfarlane, a Congressional apportionment. By Mr. Harland, an additional law judge in the Chester District. By Mr. Meredith, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the accounts (prohibiting the liquor traffic and omitting the compensation section.) By Mr. Henninger, a bill making combinations to regulate or limit the production of mineral coal, or to enhance the price thereof, criminal conspiracies, and providing for the punishment thereof. The Senate took a recess and, at noon, was escorted to the hall of the House to witness the formal computation of the returns of the election of last fall. Adjourned.

HOUSE. In the House on the 13th, Mr. C. C. Kauffman introduced a bill providing for the appropriation of \$81,000 to erect memorial tablets upon the battlefield of Gettysburg to mark the positions of the Pennsylvania commands on the three days of the battle—July 1st, 2d and 3d, 1863. The bill contemplates the appropriation of one thousand dollars for each command. Mr. Ballinger, chairman of the special committee of fifteen, to which was referred the bill for the establishment of four new Magistrates' Courts in the city of Philadelphia, reported back the bill affirmatively. The House then adjourned.

THE MARKETS.

Table with market prices for various commodities including PROVISIONS, FLOUR, GRAIN, and SUGAR. Columns list item names and prices per unit.

The Undertow.

Ripples of laughter on the beach, Wave after wave of careless speech; An under current of sober thought, With many a hidden meaning fraught. Lightly they talk but unceasingly A thorn is hid in his tortured breast; A womanly maiden will make no sign: "This pearl of pearls will never be mine."

A MOUNTAIN ROMANCE.

One April morning, while the sun was shining down in Silver City, Seleni and her father came slowly into town. There was snow still in the mountains—many feet of snow—but it had melted in the valley, and the wooden pavements of the little mining camp were as dry as though it were July. Over in Hallelujah Gulch a great strike had been made, and numbers of prospectors thronged the streets and stood in groups at every corner. One rough miner turned and looked after Seleni and her father and the old hand organ.

bright brussels carpet. Suddenly a young girl appeared at the window, and raising the sash, very carelessly tossed out into the street a beautiful, half-withered bouquet of hot-house flowers.

Seleni quickly glanced up at the lady, who was young and had fair hair. This much she remembered always. The bouquet rolled to the young girl's feet, then stopped. She stopped and picked up the flowers. They were only a little faded; some of the roses were quite fresh and fragrant. It must have been a beautiful bouquet once. Why did the young lady throw it away so soon?

It was near 7 o'clock. Seleni and her father had paused before a large hotel; the piazza in front was crowded with men. Some of them gazed at the girl who stood so patiently besides the old organ. Her hat had slipped back, and her hair lay in rings on her smooth, white forehead. Seleni did not know how pretty she was, and wondered why the men stared at her so. She wished someone would toss them some money.

A young man came down the steps. He wore a blue flannel shirt, and his coat was quite as shabby as the one Seleni's father wore. He stood in front of the organ, with his hands in his pocket. For a few moments he did not speak, but seemed to be listening to the music. And then his eyes fell on the flowers.

"Where did you get 'em?" he asked, suddenly. "Found 'em," answered Seleni, quite as shortly. He came a step nearer and held out his hand. "Let me see 'em," Seleni drew back hastily. "Pay for 'em first, I'll sell 'em cheap," she said.

He thrust his hand still deeper into his pocket, then tossed a silver dollar on the top of the old organ. Then he took the flowers, and studied them intently as he turned the bouquet around. "Tell me where you got 'em," he asked, pleadingly. "Found 'em," Seleni said again. "A lady throwed 'em out the window."

The young man said something under his breath, then turned and walked away. Seleni had seen the color come to his face and a hurt look in his eyes. As she looked after him he gave the bouquet a toss, and it fell in the muddy street, only to be crushed the next instant by the wheels of a passing wagon.

"Hain't there 'enough money yet?" asked her father, touching her arm. "Yes, dad," she answered. "We'll go and get some supper, and then we'll find a place to sleep."

The little parlor of Mrs. Murphy's lodging house was crowded with miners that evening. Seleni left her father seated contentedly in a corner, and stole quietly out of the front door. She was so used to an outdoor life that she felt suffocated in a small and close room.

Someone sat on the lower step, with his head resting on his hands. He looked up and saw Seleni, as she stood hesitatingly in the doorway. "Don't be afraid," he said kindly. It was the young man who had bought the flowers.

Seleni sank down on the steps, and drew her old blanket shawl still closer around her. "It's cold enough here," said the man. "Mebbe you'd better go in." "I hain't cold," answered Seleni. "I'm most always outdoors."

"Where'd you say you found the posies?" he asked, suddenly raising his head. "A young lady threw 'em out. She had yellow hair. It was a house with white curtains at the windows. I didn't set no price on the flowers," she added hastily. "You needn't have paid so much for 'em."

"I hain't complain' of the price," said the young fellow. "They cost me a pile to begin with." "Did you give 'em to her?" asked Seleni, curiously. "Yes, he answered, shortly, "more fool, too!"

"They were faded," remarked Seleni, consolingly. "Yes," he said, bitterly. "She'd had 'em twelve hours." His head dropped on his hands again. "I wouldn't care," said Seleni, softly. The young man glanced at her. Seleni's eyes were soft with sympathy; she looked so fair in the moonlight.

"How old be you?" he asked, abruptly. "Seventeen," she replied, wonderingly. "And you travel around with your father?" "Yes," said Seleni. "Dad likes to travel. He won't let me do nothin'," she replied, proudly. "He says he reckons he can support me."

and the girl seated herself at the pine table.

"Begin 'Darlin' Lizzie," said the young man, leaning anxiously over her shoulder. In a cramped hand, and very slowly, Seleni wrote: "Darling Lizzie."

"Tell her I love her!" he burst out. "Tell her I'm going over to Red Mountain to-morrow, but she can write to me. Jim Conroy'll read me her letter. She needn't say nothin' but yes or no. Got it all down?"

"Pretty near," said Seleni. "You told me such an awful lot." She was handling the pen awkwardly. A bright color had come to the young man's cheeks. His hair was light, almost golden, just the color of the young lady's, Seleni thought. She glanced down at the letter. Would "Darling Lizzie" say yes or no?

"Got lone?" said her new friend. "I'll take it over to the postoffice." He slipped the envelope carefully and put it tenderly in his pocket. Then he held out his bronzed hand. "Goodbye, I'm much obliged to you. I'll don't never see you again, I wish you good luck."

As he passed Seleni's chair a silver dollar dipped into her lap. The next April Seleni and her father found themselves once more crossing Red Mountain on their way to Silver City. Seleni had grown a little taller, but she looked much the same. Her dress was still shabby, and a forlorn felt hat replaced the old black straw. But her lips and cheeks were crimson with exercise and health. As they came in view of the town they passed a group of miners who were out prospecting. One of them shaded his eyes with his hands and looked long at Seleni.

"Gives a tune!" he called out to the organ grinder, and the old man obediently set down his organ and began to turn the crank. The young miner came slowly toward Seleni and held out his hand. The girl gave him a glance, and her black eyes grew bright with pleasure. "I can't get no answer," he whispered.

Seleni looked sorry; then a curious gladness came to her eyes. "Hain't you seen her?" she asked. "No," answered the young man; "she don't live here no more."

"I'm sorry," said the girl. "I write it plain." "Tain't your fault." Then he looked at her admiringly. "She'd be come to see you tonight?" "The old organ grinder took up his burden again, and as they moved away Seleni called over her shoulder at the young man with fair hair, who looked after her as he leaned lightly on his pick.

A month later a priest at Silver City married them. Seleni was very happy in her new home. There were no lace curtains at the windows, for her husband was a poor prospector, with only his y-h and hope. Her father still played the old organ, but he kept near home at Seleni might see him as she glanced up from her work.

One evening, during the winter, Seleni's husband came home, and as he seated himself by the stove, drew a yellow envelope from his pocket. It was old and worn by much handling, and he numerous post marks. "Wat is it?" asked Seleni, quickly. "A old letter for me," answered her husband. "They say it has bin foller me 'round everywhere. I hain't seen in one place long the past year. I guess it ain't much good now. S'posen read it."

Seleni took the letter and tore open the envelope. There was only a few lines. "It began 'Darling Jim,' and was signed 'Your own Lizzie.'" It pleased that a writer would marry him at any time. "I'll look so!" cried her husband, as she grew steadily white. She did not say a word, but stood perfectly still with the letter clutched in her hand.

Her husband threw his strong arm around her. "I'm glad I didn't get it!" he cried. "Do you know I love you best. Nolin can take your place now."

How American Girls are Fitted for Active Life. This is a fashionable boarding-school New York where the "young ladies are taught to enter and get out of marriage. A vehicle with the proped arrangements for this sort of cruise, which determines a lady's breeding and claim to social position, is kept at the back yard of the educational establishment, and there the "carriage-lasses" are put through the most duous training. Another accomplishment peculiar to this gilt-edged academy is learning to eat asparagus, orange grapes and other juicy and unmanageable viands in a style that shall represent the perfection of table manners. Of course these are luxuries, and like French and Italian, included in the "extras," but then the social creed of today sticks at nothing, not even at this sensitive form of higher education.

And if misfortune seems to be indispensable to the development of intelligence, energy and virtue. The proof to which the people are submitted, as with individuals, are necessary to draw them from their lethargy and to disclose their character.