

NEWS OF THE WEEK

In Shaler township, near Pittsburg, on the morning of the 1st, Jennie Oswald, 11 years of age, going into the dining room, found her father, Charles Oswald, sitting in a chair with his throat cut, and her younger sister, Bessie, lying on a lounge dead. It was a case of suicide on the part of Oswald, and all the signs indicate that he murdered his daughter before cutting his own throat.

The main steam pipe on the tow-boat J. C. Risher exploded on the morning of the 21st, near Allegheny City, Penna. A deck hand, named Hayes, was killed, and Jas. Campbell, engineer, and Edward Durgan, fireman, were fatally scalded. An explosion occurred on the 30th ult., at the saw mill of the Paducah Lumber Company, near Paducah, Kentucky, by which four men were injured, two of them fatally.

A freight train on the Pennsylvania Railroad was wrecked on the 2d near Gap Station, in Lancaster county. Ten loaded cars and their contents were badly damaged, and both tracks were blocked for several hours.

At Nicholville, St. Lawrence county, New York, on the evening of the 2d, Charles Morrow went home drunk and began abusing his wife. She fled from the house and he followed, and drawing a revolver shot her in the head and then committed suicide. She lived for about an hour. The wife of Charles Martin, a young farmer near Grand Rapids, Michigan, on the evening of the 2d gave rat poison to her two young children and swallowed some herself. She and one child are dead, but it is thought that the baby will recover. She had not lived happily with her husband.

A terrible marine disaster happened on the 2d at the northwest point of Channel Harbor, Newfoundland. The Glasgow steamer John Knox, laden with liquors, brick and rolling stock, struck the reefs near Channel Harbor and sank in half an hour. All on board perished. A furious gale of wind, with a heavy landward sea and a dense fog, prevailed at the time of the accident. She had a crew of 30 men. The bodies of 16 have been washed ashore.

A storm of extraordinary severity raged at Duluth, Minnesota, on the evening of the 1st and morning of the 2d, doing damage to stores, dwellings, streets and sewers estimated at nearly \$100,000. The cellars of over fifty houses were filled with water, and freight cars in the St. Paul and Duluth Railroad yards were overturned by the wind. A high wind storm prevailed at Jefferson City, Missouri, on the 2d, unroofing a number of buildings, among them the Lehman Opera House and the Music Hall. A side wall of the Opera House was blown in. A violent wind storm raged at Eau Claire and Ludington, Wisconsin, during the 2d. In Eau Claire signs were blown down, plate glass fronts demolished and houses partially unroofed. In Ludington a dwelling and a barn were demolished.

The boiler of a switch engine exploded at the Belle Dock Round House, in New Haven, Connecticut, on the morning of the 3d, injuring nine men, all of whom will probably recover. The round house was wrecked and two locomotives were damaged. The loss to the railroad company will exceed \$20,000.

Two sharp shocks of earthquake were felt at El Paso, Texas, at 8 minutes past 3 o'clock on the afternoon of the 3d. First came a vertical movement lasting several seconds, then after a minute's calm "a very pronounced horizontal wave-like motion." The shocks were felt in every part of the city, and the people ran out of doors. While the vibrations lasted, articles fell from shelves upon the floor, clocks were stopped, plastering was thrown from ceilings and walls, and in some instances, walls were cracked. It is said that "for probably two minutes preceding the shock many persons recognized a distinct and offensive smell of sulphur."

The largest gas well in the world, has just been discovered at Fairmount, near Muncie, Indiana. According to a test by the State Geologist of Ohio, its flow is nearly 12,000,000 feet per day. While driving a well on a farm near Mattoon, Illinois on the 3d, natural gas was struck. When ignited the flame rose thirty-five feet in the air.

Two men, named Brown and O'Hara, sitting on the railroad track at Swoeden Station, near Pittsburg, on the evening of the 2d, were killed by a shifting engine. Miss Emma Weiss, aged 29 years, of Wilkesbarre, Penna., was killed by an engine at Mocaqua Station on the afternoon of the 3d.

A circular saw in a mill at Sissonville, New York, burst on the afternoon of the 2d, killing Joseph Deshaw, 30 years of age, and severely injuring two other men.

While workmen were loading a gravel train at Dallas, Texas, on the 3d, the bank caved in. One man was killed and four others were badly injured.

While molten metal was being dumped into a mould in the rail department of the Chicago Rolling Mills, at South Chicago, on the evening of the 2d, an explosion occurred, scattering the liquid metal around. Nine men were injured, four of them—John Burns, James Garhan, Patrick Dolan and James Carney—fatally.

A severe shock of earthquake on the afternoon of the 28th ult., extended from Centreville, California, through Arizona and New Mexico to El Paso, Texas. The shock was also felt at Guaymas, Mexico. All the reports agree that the shocks were preceded by a rumbling sound. At Tucson, Arizona, buildings were cracked and otherwise damaged, and "great slides" of San Catalina Mountain were torn from its side and thrown into the valley, while vast clouds of dust rose above its summit, 7000 feet above sea level. One towering peak, known as the "Old Castle," has entirely disappeared. Soon after the earthquake a volcanic eruption broke out in the Total Wreck Mountains, 22 miles south of Tucson, and the sky was brilliantly illuminated at night. At Benton, Arizona, walls were cracked, water spouted from ground in the vicinity, and smoke appeared in the direction of the Whetstone Mountains, eight miles distant. Near Tombstone, Arizona, a lake, covering an acre of ground, was buried

of the 1st, some unknown assassin fired at Mr. and Mrs. John Carbell while they were riding in a wagon. Carbell was killed and his wife fatally injured.

A fearful explosion occurred in the Victoria Coal Company's mine No. 1, at Nanaimo, on the eastern shore of Vancouver Island, on the evening of the 3d. It is believed that one hundred and fifty men were in the mine at the time. At midnight, twelve men badly burned had been rescued, and several dead bodies found, when the rescuers, after losing one of their number by suffocation, had to give up further attempts.

Rev. Charles W. Ward, the minister of Englewood, New Jersey, charged with attempting to murder his wife, was found dead in the house of his counsel, Judge Drew, at Rockland Lake, New York, on the afternoon of the 4th. "It is supposed he took an overdose of chloral," as an empty bottle, which had contained that drug, lay beside him.

Governor Ross, of Texas, has written a letter saying he cannot attend the Prohibition Convention of that State, to be held in Dallas. He says he will vote against the proposed prohibition amendment, as opposed to the spirit of free institutions. He considers the present laws adequate to protect public liberty and private rights. He contrasts Texas morally and materially with Maine, where prohibition has long been obtained. Texas has more churches, spends more money on education, has more wealth according to population, has fewer divorcees, fewer labor strikes, and fewer paupers than Maine.

A terrific thunder storm, with heavy hail and hurricane wind, passed over the Allegheny Mountains, in eastern Somerset and western Bedford counties on the evening of the 4th, between 7 and 8 o'clock. Trees were torn up by the roots, the hailstones were "as large as eggs," and a barn was demolished by lightning. Great damage was done by a wind storm in the upper peninsula of Michigan on the afternoon of the 2d. Trees and telegraph poles were leveled, chimneys blown down and buildings unroofed and demolished. At one place a man was killed by a falling tree.

The Comptroller of the Currency on the 5th authorized the following, among other, banks to begin business: The People's National Bank of New Brunswick, New Jersey, capital \$100,000; the Fort Dearborn National Bank of Chicago, capital \$500,000; the First National Bank of Decatur, Alabama, capital \$100,000.

While six colored boys, aged from 13 to 17 years, were preparing to cross the river at Wilmington, North Carolina, on the morning of the 5th, on a bird shooting expedition, a gun which was not known to be loaded accidentally went off. Two of the boys were killed and two mortally wounded; the latter died soon after. Another boy was severely wounded, but is expected to recover. Rev. Robert Smith and his three sons were dangerously injured in a powder explosion in a coal mine in Dawson, Illinois, on the evening of the 3d.

In Quebec, on the 5th, Editor Maguire, of the Mercury, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment and \$200 fine for libelling Mayor Langelier and his brother. Maguire charged them with having received a large sum of money from a contractor for securing a contract for city work.

In Cincinnati, on the 5th, John M. Lewis, colored, who had been a trusted letter carrier for twelve years, was detected in stealing two dollars which had been placed in a decoy letter. He confessed his guilt, and was bound over for an examination.

At Tionesta, Pennsylvania, on the evening of the 4th, the house of Jacob Wagner was entered by five robbers who forced Mrs. Wagner "to tell where the money was." Wagner and his son appeared on the scene and one of the robbers was killed, whereas the others fled. Antonio Gatz, aged 26 years, was stabbed to death by two unknown men on one of the streets of Hazleton, Pennsylvania, at 1 o'clock on the morning of the 5th.

A number of adobe dwellings in Sabinal, about forty miles south of Albuquerque, New Mexico, were destroyed by the earthquake on the afternoon of the 3d, but no lives were lost. It is reported from El Paso, Texas, that, beside the great shock of the 3d at 3 15 P. M., four others had been felt, one of them, at half-past six o'clock on the evening of the 24th, being very distinct.

The supposed volcano in the Whetstone Mountains of Arizona has turned out to be a large wood fire built by Mexicans.

In the Senate on the 5th the House bill for the incorporation of friendly societies was reported favorably. The Married Persons' Property bill was passed finally. Adjourned.

In the House on the 5th the Rapid Transit bill was passed finally—yeas, 113; nays, 34. A number of appropriation bills were passed, among them the providing for Pennsylvania's representation in the Constitutional Centenary celebration. Adjourned.

A violent thunder storm broke over Buffalo at 2 o'clock on the morning of the 6th. Two dwellings and a church steeple were struck by lightning and a barn was consumed. Telegrams from various parts of Southern and Central New York and Northern Pennsylvania report violent thunder storms on the 6th. Much property was destroyed and several persons were killed by lightning.

While John A. Keiger was superintending work at his quarry near Bridgeport, Montgomery county, Penna., on the morning of the 6th, he fell from a ledge and suffered a concussion of the brain, which caused his death in half an hour. He was a town Councilman of Bridgeport.

Colonel W. H. Bolton, ex-superintendent of second-class matter in the Chicago Post-office, convicted of embezzling about \$25,000, was on the 6th, sentenced to four years in the penitentiary.

At Guaymas, Mexico, on the morning of the 5th, Colonel Arvizor, Lieu-

tenant Gutierrez and Louis Rencon were shot dead in accordance with the sentence of court-martial. A few weeks ago they crossed the American line with a squad of soldiers and attempted to release a man held in custody by the local officers.

Nine tenement houses in Allegheny City, Pa., were burned on the morning of the 6th, and sixty persons rendered homeless. Loss, \$15,000. The wood and brush on Clevelomountain, in the Catskills, caught fire within three hundred feet of the Hotel Kaaterskill on the morning of the 5th. The flames were extinguished. Early on the morning of the 6th the fire again broke out on the opposite side of the road, and in the afternoon the hotel was reported in danger. A fire company left Catskill early in the afternoon for the scene.

STATE LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

In the Senate on the 2d the Legislative Appropriation bill was read for the first time. A message was received from the Governor asking the bill to amend the law of 1897 to permit railroad and canal companies in Schuylkill county, by the purchase of the stock and lands of manufacturing companies, to engage in manufacturing. The Governor objects that the measure, being special legislation, has not been properly advertised; that it is in violation of a constitutional prohibition, and is antagonistic to that provision of the general corporation act which forbids corporations to invest their funds in the stock or bonds of other companies. The veto was sustained by a unanimous vote. Adjourned.

In the Senate, on the 3d, the bill repealing all laws for the election or appointment of tax collectors was indefinitely postponed. The House bills amending certain proceedings before justices of the peace, to prevent the mutilation or destruction of show bills, and empowering courts to direct the removal of remains from burial grounds were passed finally. The House Pharmacy bill was passed after striking out the clause prohibiting a graduate of a medical college from carrying on a drug business until he has had three years' practice in his profession. The Legal Holidays bill was amended to provide that when notes fall due on a day which may be a legal holiday they shall be payable on the following Tuesday. The Married Persons' Property bill was amended, passed to third reading and ordered to be printed. Adjourned.

In the Senate on the 4th, the House bill graduating wholesale liquor licenses was reported with amendments imposing a uniform license of \$500, including in its provisions brewers and distillers, and defining as wholesale dealers those who do not sell in smaller quantity than one quart. The Brooks High License bill was considered on second reading. An amendment offered by Mr. Schaeffer was adopted—23 to 17—providing that licenses shall be classed as general and special, the former of which shall be included among the liquors sold, and the latter where any vinous malt liquors are retailed. On motion of Mr. Ratan, the licenses in boroughs and townships were increased from \$150 and \$75 to \$200 and \$100 respectively. On motion of Mr. Cooper, the rate of license in cities other than that in first, second and third class cities was increased from \$300 to \$400. The rate for special licenses was made, in cities of the first, second and third class, \$200; in all other cities \$150; in boroughs, \$100, and in townships, \$50. An amendment was adopted giving the Courts power at any time to revoke the license of a disreputable place. Adjourned.

In the Senate on the 6th, the General Appropriation bill and the bill to prevent the sale of liquor on Memorial Day were reported favorably. The Revenue Revision and Representative Apportionment bills were passed finally. The Governor nominated and the Senate confirmed Joseph C. Ferguson to be the Associate Judge of the Orphans' Court in Philadelphia. Adjourned.

HOUSE.

In the House, on the 2d, the Elevated Railroad bill, known as the "Jones bill," was reported with the substitute proposed by the Philadelphia Councils, providing that railroads whose routes extend through or into any city may elevate or depress so much of them as are in the city limits, provided the consent of City Councils is obtained; and Councils shall have the right to impose restrictions and conditions. Such roads may issue stock and bonds to an amount per mile sufficient to build such road and to pay such damages as may result therefrom, but not to exceed the amount limited by Councils. The Council bill, providing for the general incorporation of elevated railroad companies, was reported. A communication was received from the Governor announcing that he had signed the bill for an additional Orphans' Court Judge in Philadelphia. Adjourned.

In the House, on the 3d, the following bills passed finally: Senate bill, for maintenance of associations for control of fires and saving of life and property; House bill to establish county boards of health. Bills were also passed for the better protection of wages of labor and supplementary to the Mechanics' Lien Law. The General Appropriation bill was passed to third reading. Adjourned.

In the House, on the 4th, the bill allowing labor organizations to call upon the Governor to appoint policemen for them was passed finally. A resolution, offered by Mr. Isenbarg, was adopted for the appointment of a committee to investigate the charges of a fraud in connection with the report of the Rapid Transit bill. A number of appropriation bills passed second reading. The General Appropriation bill was passed finally. Adjourned.

In the House, on the 6th, the supplement to the act establishing a health office at Philadelphia was passed finally. It gives the Register of Deaths and Marriages authority to ad-

NANKIN'S PORCELAIN TOWER.

The city of Nankin, once the capital of China, has for centuries been famous to the "barbarians" of the outer world for its porcelain tower—a relic of the splendor of its ancient days before Peking usurped its dignity as the seat of the empire. The place is now, to a great extent, a city of ruins; and the city proper has shrunk to one-fourth of its former dimensions. The porcelain tower was built quite early in the fifth century, by order of the Emperor Yuhghoh, and as a work of filial piety.

It was a monument to the memory of his mother, and he determined that its beauty should as far as possible be of any similar memorial as the transcendent virtues of the parent, in her son's eye, surpassed those of the rest of her sex. The estimated cost is more than three-quarters of a million of our money. The work was commenced at noon on a certain day in 1413, and occupied nearly twenty years in its completion. The total height of the porcelain tower was more than two hundred feet, and it was faced from top to bottom with finest porcelain, glazed and colored. It consisted of four stories, surmounted by a spire, on the top of which was a ball of brass richly gilded.

From this ball eight iron chains extended to as many projecting points on the roof, and from each chain was suspended a bell, which hung over the tower. The same arrangement was carried out in every story. These bells added very much to the graceful appearance of the tower, breaking its otherwise formal and monotonous outlines. Around the outer face of each story were several apertures for lanterns, and when these were illuminated, we are told in the magniloquent language of the Chinese historian, "their light illuminated the entire heavens, moving the hearts of men and entirely removing human misery." It is not difficult to imagine, however, that the appearance of the tower on such occasions must have been beautiful in the extreme.

On the top of the tower were placed two large brazen vessels and a bowl, which together contained various costly articles in the nature of an offering and a charm to avert evil influences. Among those were several pearls of various colors, each said to possess miraculous properties, together with other precious stones and a quantity of gold and silver. In this connection, designed to represent the best treasures of the state, were also placed a box of tea, some small pieces of silk, and copies of some ancient Chinese writings. The tower was demolished in 1853.

An Earthquake District.

Prof. Geikie says: "Undoubtedly the most curious earthquake district of the British Islands is that of Conisburgh, in North Lincolnshire. It lies on the southern edge of the Highland Mountains, which are marked off from the region of the lowlands by a great line of fracture in the earth's crust that runs across the islands from sea to sea. Toward the close of last century the earliest recorded underground movements of that locality were observed. In the year 1839 the shocks began to be more frequent and violent, and they continued with such vigor that no fewer than 274 were counted in the two years that followed the 3d of October, 1839. Since that time there has been comparative quiescence, though every now and then another tremor occurs to remind the inhabitants that the rocks below have by no means come to a final condition of equilibrium."

Iron and Brick.

The causes of the gradual loosening of the iron work in buildings constructed of brick and iron have been made the subject of a careful inquiry by a London engineer, who finds that the phenomenon is largely due to the difference in expansion of the two materials under the influence of temperature. Iron fronts facing to the south become loosened far sooner than fronts facing northward. Iron floors, girders and beams become sources of destruction rather than permanence; also, in buildings in which extremes of temperature are necessary.

THE MARKETS.

Table listing market prices for various commodities including Wheat, Flour, Beans, Pork, Lard, Oil, and other goods. Columns include item names and prices per unit.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

—A Chinese lady with a two and one-half inch foot is to be seen at a dime show in New York.

—A horse in Edinburgh, Scotland, dexterously catches rats that come anywhere near his manger.

—New engines and the removal of the paddies are expected to give the Great Eastern a speed of twenty knots.

—To the record of great physical exploits must be added that of a man in Texas who sucked two dozen eggs at a sitting.

—Efficient service was rendered by a female fire brigade—composed of the operatives—during a recent fire in an English mill.

—Residents of an avenue in Pittsburg arose on a recent morning to find that rascals had carried off the steps of their dwellings.

—The Maine Legislature killed a bill preventing the sale of cigarettes to minors, because its projectors made the fine too heavy.

—Fourteen clocks keep the time at the State House in Augusta, Maine, all eight-day. Two of the clocks are over forty years of age.

—A man in Pennsylvania bought a pair of white rabbits a year ago. He now has seventy rabbits, the offspring of the original pair.

—The tax on natural gas pipes in Pittsburg is reported to exceed \$1,500,000 per annum, indicating a marvellous rate of expansion in the natural gas industry.

—During a recent shower at Rockport, Indiana, 240 live catfish from 3 to 8 inches long fell to the ground. They were gathered and many of them eaten.

—The Hudson county, New Jersey, Board of Freeholders are preparing for the construction of a great boulevard from one end of the county to the other, to cost \$1,000,000 or more.

—A West Newbury farmer recently sent two tons of cabbages to a Boston commission house, and after the freight, commission and storage had been deducted, he had only 96 cents left.

—The wages of sailors at San Francisco have been increased to \$30 per month to Hawaiian Island, \$35 to bar harbors, and \$40 to outside ports. It is said the advance was prompted by a scarcity of men.

—Sait has been brought by one of the audience of a burlesque entertainment against one of the performers, because while singing a topical song, she pointed to him and otherwise rendered him ridiculous.

—An organ grinder living in Hoboken, N. J., took his savings, amounting to \$1066, out of his strong box recently and gave them to his son to deposit in a savings bank. Son has not been heard from since.

—The University of Zurich numbers this year 482 students (inclusive of 44 young women), of whom 41 are studying theology, 56 (one young woman among them) law, 205 (20 young women) medicine, and 143 (17 young women) philosophy.

—The Standard Oil Company are reported to be about contracting for an iron vessel to carry oil in bulk for the coastwise trade. It will be built at one of the shipyards on the Delaware river. The new craft will have a capacity of 250,000 gallons.

—The alloys of aluminum and silicon are now regularly quoted in the engineering journals. Aluminum brass, said to have a tensile strength of 75,000 to 80,000 pounds, with an elongation of five to ten per cent., is quoted at 20 cents per pound.

—The sanitary condition of the Treasury Department in Washington is being investigated, and the nuisances found abated. A ventilating shaft, heated by coils of steam pipe, will be erected to carry off the foul air from the large main sewer under the building.

—A crank from North Carolina was arrested in Washington recently as a vagrant. He stated that he had tramped to Washington to take the President's chair, if there was no objection. There were serious objections, so he was sent to the farm for thirty days.

—Mississippi tax collectors have been notified, in view of the recent decision of the Supreme Court on the subject, to stop collecting the tax of \$25 on commercial "drummers" (and \$25 on whisky salesmen) in that State. The State derived about \$40,000 from this source.

—The first steel cruiser ever built in China, it is claimed, was recently launched from a ship yard at Whampoa. She fulfilled the tests required and will be used by the Portuguese Government for the defence of Manila. The building of such a vessel by native workmen is a long stride in the industrial arts by the Chinese.

—It is estimated that 8,000,000 of umbrellas are made in this country annually. The number imported is not stated. There is hardly any article we use that we don't get somewhat attached to, but an umbrella rarely stays long enough to enter into this category.

Louisiana, and said to be the largest known, runs 100 miles north and south. The immense tract is divided into convenient pastures, with stations or ranches every six miles. The fencing alone cost nearly \$50,000.

—A natural curiosity has been discovered at Solothurn, Switzerland, the centre of a large watch manufacturing district. It is the nest of a wagtail built wholly of long spiral steel shavings, without the least part of vegetable or animal fibre used in its construction. The nest has been preserved in the Museum of Natural History.

—The bounty of five cents placed on each jack rabbit scalp is resulting in great slaughter of the pests in California. The Elko Independent says that, on a recent day, certificates for bounty on 20,000 scalps were presented to the Board of County Commissioners; and the Harney Valley News tells of a wagon load of 7,000 scalps starting for the county seat.