

# BY MINE GAS.

## Three Killed and Others Probably Fatally Hurt.

### CAUSED BY A MINER'S LAMP.

#### The Hurst Company's Slope at Smock Station, Near Uniontown, the Scene of the Shocking Disaster—Heroic Work of Rescue.

A special from Uniontown, Pa., says:—A terrible explosion of gas, the first in the Monongahela mines for many years, occurred in the mines of the Hurst coal company at Smock Station, about eight miles northwest Wednesday night. Three men lost their lives and several others were probably fatally injured.

The mine is a slope with three butt headings leading off to the left of the main heading. The killed and injured men were at work in the heading nearest the entrance. There were twenty-three miners 300 yards farther down the slope who had a most miraculous escape, but who were rescued after six hours' hard work. The mine is located in the Monongahela River vein of coal, which is not gaseous and in which the mines are worked with open lamps.

The men in the first heading were "drawing ribs," and brought down a big fall of coal. This liberated a pocket of gas, which had probably been concealed in the coal for centuries. The gas soon filled the rooms and was ignited by the miners' lamps, causing the explosion. The shock made the earth tremble, and buildings for many rods around were rattled as though by an earthquake. Coal, slate, pieces of broken timber and everything loose in the mine were shot up the main heading like cannon balls.

Part of the flying debris was carried several hundred feet from the mouth of the pit and driven into the walls and roofs of the buildings near by. John Mitchell, a hauler, was caught in the full force of the shot and carried sixty feet to the surface. He was horribly burned and mangled, and in this dazed condition, blinded by the coal and dirt blown into his eyes, he clambered over the foot log across Hedstone Creek, and at last reached home, where he sank down exhausted. He died that afternoon.

The other unfortunate men were hurled about in the mine and dashed against the walls and posts. As soon as the explosion occurred a rescuing party, headed by Mine Superintendent Holliday, of Boyd's mine, close by, went in after the unfortunate men. Owing to the gaseous condition of the main heading which they descended, they could not take lights with them, thus rendering the ghastly work all the more difficult. After groping around in the dark for five hours they succeeded in bringing the last victim to the surface. It was many hours after this that the other men farther down the slope were reached and taken out.

When the rescuing party reached them they were huddled together in a little room, some praying, others shouting for help, but all expecting to be dashed to death by a second explosion or suffocated by the deadly gas which was bearing down upon them slowly but surely. Many of them wept for joy when led safely into the open air and rejoiced by their wives and little ones.

Fortunately, by a peculiar prank, it did not go down the main heading, but broke through into an old digging in an adjoining mine, where it spent its force. Had it not been this it would have sent its fatal load of missiles and deadly gases down upon the helpless miners below, reaping a rich harvest of death. Out of all means of escape it is impossible to conceive how they could have escaped.

### CABLE SPARKS.

An official denial has been issued that any cases of plague existed at Masoowah.

There was a violent earthquake at Latach, Austria, accompanied by underground rumbling.

The Government of Dutch Guiana has granted 1,000,000 acres of selected gold lands to a British syndicate.

Twenty days' quarantine has been declared at Valetta, Malta, against vessels arriving there from Bombay.

The Ex-Empress Frederick received Mrs. Uhl, wife of the United States Ambassador to Germany, Mr. Edwin F. Uhl, in audience Friday.

The British Indian troopship Warren Hastings was totally wrecked off the Island of Reunion. The troops and crew, number 1,232 men, were all saved.

The native rising in Griqualand is growing more serious and the whites are leaguering. The three sons of Chief Lerototh, of Basutoland, have revolted.

An earthquake has occurred at Deivino, Turkish Epirus. Several villages, mostly inhabited by Christians, have been destroyed, and it is feared that many people have perished.

King Oscar opened the Riggsdag and in the speech from the throne expressed gratification at the request made to him to cooperate in the arbitration of future Anglo-American disputes.

There has been an enormous increase in the number of relief works in Bengal during the past week, and many people in search of employment are flocking to the British works from the central states.

Fritz Spahr, an American violinist, committed suicide in Berlin by taking poison, it is supposed, after a course of dissipation. He left the sum of 1,101 marks for his widow, who is in America.

Lieutenant-Governor Kirkpatrick, of Ontario, who is still in the South-Street Hospital, London, where he underwent an operation, passed a trying day, but the hospital authorities announce that the patient is doing fairly well.

The greater portion of the cargo of the British steamship Abana, from Hamburg for Boston, which was run into and sunk off Hankenshoe by the British steamship Dartmoore, from Hamburg for Norfolk, is a loss.

### THE NEWS.

Elmer E. Cox, under indictment for the murder of Hon. L. P. Crawford, three months ago, has broken jail at Pawnee, Okla., and is at large. It is thought he has gone to Texas where he has wealthy relatives.

The steel billet pool will not be dissolved, but will be reorganized upon a firmer and better basis. This action was decided upon at a meeting of the American Bessemer Association in Pittsburgh.

The trains on the West Jersey and Seashore railroads were blocked by snow. A mail train stuck in a snow bank 15 feet deep at Swain Station on the West Jersey Road.

William Porter, aged 41, a captain of the Chattanooga Fire Department, committed suicide by shooting himself through the right ear. Temporary insanity, resulting from a blow on the head, received some years ago, is given as the cause. He was unmarried.

Fire, which started in Bloomer's furniture store, at Patonsburg, Mo., destroyed that store and the remainder of the block, entailing an aggregate loss of \$50,000; insurance small.

Attorney A. S. Trule, who has been prominently mentioned as the Democratic candidate for Mayor of Chicago at the coming spring elections, has written a letter in which he positively declines to be a candidate. He strongly endorses Judge John Barton Payne for the position.

Adolph Meyer pleaded guilty to setting fire to the tenement house in East One Hundred and Thirtieth street, New York, about two weeks ago, and he was sentenced to serve 20 years in state's prison. The fire was set at night and endangered the lives of 65 occupants of the building.

### LYMAN J. GAGE CHOSEN.

His Selection as Secretary of the Treasury Anticipated at Canton, Ohio.

Lyman J. Gage, president of the First National Bank of Chicago, will be Secretary of the Treasury in President McKinley's cabinet. He made this announcement after a conference with Major McKinley. Mr. Gage said:

"Mr. McKinley offered me the treasury portfolio. I told him I would accept the high honor and fill the position to the best of my ability."

Mr. Gage arrived in Canton about 6.30 P. M., his train having been delayed by the snow. With him was National Committeeman Cyrus Leland, of Kansas.

The McKinley carriage was in waiting at the railroad station and the visitors were taken to the President elect's home, where they were guests at dinner. The other guests at the table were National Committeeman Leland, of Kansas; ex-Governor Cornell and Col. J. J. McCook, of New York; W. C. Deane, also of New York, and Gen. Wm. Osborne, the secretary of the republican national committee.

After dinner Mr. Gage stepped into the library and announced his appointment to the cabinet. Beyond this he had little to say. He declined to discuss any part of the policy to be pursued by the incoming administration.

### ABOUT NOTED PEOPLE.

Ex-Senator James Ware Bradbury, of Augusta, Me., is now 55 years old. Maine people call him their "grand old man."

Governor-elect Andrew E. Lee, Populist, of South Dakota, owns more land there than any other resident of the State, and is still adding to his possessions.

The election of Thomas C. Platt to the United States Senate reminds the oldest inhabitant of Massillon, O., that for several years Mr. Platt was a clerk in a drug store there, his brother, Fred Platt, being at that time cashier of the Bank of Massillon.

The Duc d'Orleans, Bourbon pretender to the throne of France, who never misses a chance to place his name before the French public, has just subscribed 25,000 francs to aid in the production of a religious play called "Le Mystere de Jeanne d'Arc," the work of a French priest.

An English explorer, Edward A. Fitzgerald, has set out with an elaborately-equipped party to climb Aconcagua, on the borders of Chile and the Argentine Republic. This mountain is 22,000 feet high, the highest peak outside of the Himalayas, and if Mr. Fitzgerald succeeds he will have climbed the highest mountain yet ascended.

### CURRENT EVENTS.

The Minnesota Medical Association is agitating the question of legalized expert witnesses.

A young physician of Illinois has built a private telephone line connecting his office with the residences of all his country patients.

It is estimated that at least 8,000 coal miners in the Monongahela Valley are in present idleness on account of the overcrowded condition of the Southern market.

The contract for the statue of ex-President Franklin Pierce, which is to be erected in Concord, N. H., has been awarded to H. C. Elliott, of Washington.

A Finnish college was recently established in Hancock, Mich., under the auspices of the American synod of the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church. The Rev. J. K. Niklander, the president of the synod, is at the head of the college, which, though small as yet, will probably soon become a large institution.

At a dinner in New York recently a prominent English publisher said that out of 315 manuscripts submitted during the year his firm had accepted only twenty-two. Another publisher stated that he accepted about four in every hundred.

Dr. Ceriot's claim that he can cure hunchbacks—or at least that he can greatly benefit such spinal troubles in children—has made more or less of a sensation in French medical circles. Large wadded bandages, plaster casts and other apparatus are used, and about ten months are consumed in effecting a cure.

A St. Louis paper recently gave an account of the organization of a society of young women in Carthage, Mo., whose mission was to raise money for Cuba. The story was pure fiction, but the name, picture and residence of the alleged leader was published, and received so many letters offering help and encouragement that she organized such a club among her friends, and it is meeting with great success.

# BIG FIRE LOSS.

## Whole Block of Philadelphia Buildings in Ruins.

### WANAMAKER'S ABLAZE.

#### Streams of Water Froze Almost as Soon as They Left the Nozzles—The Origin of the Fire Traced to a Furnace in the Basement of Hanson Brothers' Grocery.

The most disastrous fire that has occurred in Philadelphia in recent years broke out a short time before 7 o'clock Tuesday morning in the rear of the big store of Hanson Brothers, 1317 Market street. Before the flames had been gotten under control property valued at \$2,000,000 or more had been destroyed.

The heaviest losers are Hirsch Brothers, umbrella manufacturers, 1309 to 1315 Market street, whose stock and building were damaged about \$400,000. They had a large stock on hand, preparing for summer trade. Hirsch Brothers are among the largest umbrella manufacturers in the world. Walter Hirsch, a member of the firm, said the loss is fully covered by insurance. The firm employed 450 persons. The building which it occupied was owned by the estate of Henry C. Gibson and was valued at about \$5,000.

Other losses are as follows: Blum Brothers, \$150,000 on stock; Hanson Brothers, \$125,000 on stock; John Wanamaker, \$100,000; Bennett's restaurant, stock and fixtures, \$75,000; Steiner & Ball, \$50,000; Mizpah restaurant, \$15,000; Hillman Drug Company, \$75,000; Marshall's restaurant, \$25,000; George B. Wells, \$25,000; Showell & Fryer, \$20,000; James Goodwin, \$15,000; James Dickson, \$5,000; Du'lap Brothers, \$20,000; Furlon's restaurant, \$10,000; A. Niekolacky, \$14,000; A. McCane & Co., \$40,000; S. H. Skull, \$15,000; Budd & Kite, \$5,000.

The losses on small buildings are about \$400,000. Nearly all the sufferers from the fire are fully protected by insurance.

### Origin Traced to a Furnace.

The origin of the fire is supposed to have been the igniting of woodwork from a furnace in the basement of the Hanson Building. The flames were slight in volume and were accomplished by dense smoke when they were discovered by John Wagner, a reserve policeman, who was passing the Hanson store at 6.30 o'clock. He turned on an alarm. Before the fire engines arrived at the scene the entire rear portions of Hanson's store and Bennett's restaurant were ablaze. A second alarm was then sent in and a few moments later a general alarm was sounded.

### Flames Seemed Uncontrollable.

Adjoining Hanson's on the west was a five-story building occupied by Blum Brothers, manufacturers of ladies' cloaks. The flames spread with great rapidity, and the Blum building was soon a mass of flames. The water seemed almost to freeze before it touched the buildings, so bitterly cold was the weather. The fire for a time appeared to be uncontrollable.

The next building on the west to be discovered by the raging flames was one occupied by George Marshall as a restaurant. Then came the hat factory of George B. Wells, No. 1323, and the rear of the wholesale grocery of Showell & Fryer, No. 1325 Market street.

While the flames were sweeping west on Market street the umbrella factory of Hirsch Brothers caught fire. The inflammable stock of light silks were soon in ashes, and in half an hour the eight-story Hirsch building was destroyed.

On the east of the Hirsch building, between 1309 and 1301 Market street, where the Mizpah restaurant, No. 1307, Steiner & Ball, wholesale and retail cigar factory, No. 1305, the wholesale and retail confectionery of A. Niekolacky, 1303, and the drug store of H. Hillman, No. 1301. The upper story of the Hillman building was occupied by Potter Brothers as a photograph gallery.

### Spreading from Street to Street.

On the north side of Hirsch Brothers' factory, across Silver street, stood the new seven-story building of Duapl Brothers, printers. This extended from 1305 to 1319 Filbert street, and was 100 feet deep. The first floors were occupied by the Collins & Leary Company. The flames swept through this big structure and soon wrecked it.

The shop of Contractor Lewis Havens caught fire from the rear of Blum Brothers' building, and three firemen were injured by one of its walls falling.

### Wanamaker's Catches Fire.

At 8:15 o'clock fire was discovered in the tower of John Wanamaker's dry goods store. This store covers the entire block bounded by Chestnut, Market, Thirteenth and Juniper streets, and as it was erected years ago many of the fire-proof attributes of more modern structures are lacking. When it was apparent that the block which had been attacked at first was doomed, squads of firemen, with long lines of hose were detailed to try to save Wanamaker's. The building with the goods piled up within its four walls, represented a money value of over \$10,000,000.

All knew that if the flames in Wanamaker's once got beyond control there was no telling where they would stop.

### Most of the Big Store Saved.

The Wanamaker tower contained a handsome clock and chimes. At 6 o'clock the entire tower collapsed, the clock falling through to the first floor.

Two lines of hose were then gotten on top of the immense building, and the flames, which had threatened to destroy Philadelphia's most noted store, was soon under control.

D. H. Moffat, the heaviest mine-owner of the Leadville district, has gone to the camp in response to a telegram from Gov. Alva Adams, who has established headquarters, until he can reach a conclusion as to continuance or early termination of the strike. Dr. Moffat was accompanied by several leading mine owners of Leadville.

### FIFTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

#### Senate.

25TH DAY.—The Senate had a busy session. Mr. Turpie, of Indiana, closed his speech on the Cuban resolutions. The Volcott bill for an international monetary conference was considered for the first time. Mr. White, of Missouri, and Mr. Daniel urged that the conference would be futile, and was not intended as a serious movement toward bimetallism. The Nicaragua canal debate was resumed. Mr. Daniel speaking against the measure. Mr. Morgan offered an amendment designed to meet the objections presented by Minister Rodriguez.

25TH DAY.—A crisis in the debate on the Nicaragua canal bill was reached in the Senate. Mr. Vilas made a motion to recommit the bill to the committee on foreign relations, a step which Mr. Morgan characterized as an insult. The motion was changed, so as to make the recommitment to the special committee, of which Mr. Morgan is chairman. The Senate adjourned before a vote was taken and the Vilas motion to recommit it pending. The Military Academy appropriation bill, carrying approximately \$465,000, was passed, after the defeat of the amendment for participation of the West Point cadets in the inauguration ceremony.

26TH DAY.—In the Senate the bill for an international monetary conference was debated. Mr. Chandler speaking in favor of it. Mr. Chandler's speech was carefully prepared and was in the nature of the statement of the attitude of the Republican side of the chamber on the bill. The Nicaragua Canal bill and the bankruptcy bill was before the Senate for a brief time, but no progress was made on either of them. A lively discussion occurred over Mr. Allen's resolution questioning the President's right to foreclose against the Pacific Railroads.

27TH DAY.—By a decisive vote the Senate passed the bill for the appointment of commissioners to an international monetary conference. During the day, Mr. Morgan, failing to secure an agreement for a vote on the Nicaragua canal bill, announced that it would be urged to a conclusion Monday.

#### House.

24TH DAY.—The House passed over the President's veto a bill pensioning Jonathan Scott at the rate of \$72 a month. The rest of the day was devoted to a continuation of the debate on the Indian appropriation bill.

25TH DAY.—The House, after a debate of four hours, adopted the conference report on the immigration bill by a vote of 131 to 118.

26TH DAY.—The House passed the Indian appropriation bill and entered upon the consideration of the agricultural appropriation bill. Interest in these measures was overshadowed by two speeches—one by Mr. Grosvenor of Ohio, attacking ex-Governor Alford, of Illinois, and the other by Mr. De Armond, of Missouri, leading ridicule on Secretary Morton for the recent issue of a pamphlet entitled "The Farmer's Interest in Finance."

27TH DAY.—The House rejected the conference report on the bill to confer the rights of franchise of the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad on the purchasers under the mortgage foreclosure. There was a lively discussion between Mr. Powers, of Vermont, and Mr. Barrett, of Massachusetts.

### DISASTERS AND CASUALTIES.

By the explosion of a furnace at Wiliston, Ohio, three men were fatally burned.

A fire at Waxahachie, Tex., destroyed business properties valued at about \$100,000. The paper mills of the Fox Paper Company at Crescentville, Ohio, were burned; loss \$200,000.

Twelve stores and a hotel at Mingo Junction, Ohio, were destroyed by fire. Loss about \$50,000.

At Jackson, California, by the premature explosion of a blast in the main shaft of the Kennedy mine, John Truscott, a miner, and an unknown Italian were killed.

A freight train on the Ottawa, Arapahoe and Parry Sound Railway jumped the track at the siding at Bangs Bay, Ontario. One of the trainmen was killed and two others fatally wounded.

The British steamer Delmar, which sailed from Las Palmas, on December 31, for Hampton Roads, in ballast, stranded two and a half miles south of Washwoods, North Carolina.

A number of fishermen were carried into Lake Michigan by the breaking of the ice at Marinette, Wisconsin. Boats have been sent to their rescue, but their condition is one of great danger.

The Bellevue Hospital Medical College, in New York city was destroyed by fire. The patients in the hospital were taken from their cots, dressed and gathered in the corridors. None of them, however, had to leave the building. The loss is about \$30,000.

Through the error of a signal man, near Oakland, California, the engine of a limited express crashed into the rear car of a local train. Walter Cornish, fireman of the limited and Mrs. Lorenzen, of Oakland, a passenger on the local, was probably fatally injured.

### WEYLER'S STAR HAS SET.

The "Butcher" to Be Removed from Chief-Successor Chosen.

General Weyler will be relieved as Captain-General of Cuba on March 1. His successor will be General Azcarraga, the present Spanish Minister of War.

Weyler will remain in command of the military forces on the island, but will be a subordinate of Azcarraga.

The cause of Weyler's subordination is the discovery by Premier Canovas of the unreliability of Weyler's reports of the situation in Cuba and of the success of the military operations he has conducted against the revolutionists.

Marquis de Apeztegui, the leader of the Cuban Conservatives, came to Madrid and laid before the prime minister a truthful account of the existing condition of affairs in Cuba. So plainly did he show the incapacity and unreliability of Weyler that the prime minister at once decided to send some official to the island upon whose information he might depend.

The main object of the change of the Captain-Generalship is to end the war if possible. Canovas has realized that the mere offer of autonomy to Cuba will be useless. Such an offer must be accompanied by the strongest assurance and in a highly diplomatic manner to receive any consideration from the Cuban leaders.

Canovas' change of front is largely due to the influence of Secretary Olney, whose position has been exceedingly conservative during the negotiations between himself and Minister Dupuy de Lome.

Reports from Havana tell of engagements between Spanish troops and Cubans at Guanabacoa and at San Jose de las Lagas, in both of which it is said that the Cubans suffered heavy losses.

# HUNDREDS PERISH.

## Struggle for Life in a Chinese Theatre.

### A WHOLE TOWN DESTROYED.

#### The Audience Composed Mostly of Women and Children—A Lamp Overturned, Sets Fire to the Temple, and the Terrible Crash Follows.

The steamer Gaelic, from Hong Kong and Yokohama, just arrived at San Francisco.

Advice from Fou Chow, received at Hong Kong on January 2, report a terrible catastrophe in a temple at Kwang Fou, on December 8 last. A theatrical performance was held for the first time in the place, and was attended by a large crowd of natives and a few Europeans. One of the temple lamps was overturned, firing the building. The panic-stricken crowd tried to force a way through two small doors. In the crush three hundred persons were trampled to death.

The victims were principally women and children. Of the forty actors, only four escaped alive, and two of the survivors are in the native hospitals suffering from internal injuries, and may die.

A conflagration, attended by disastrous loss of life, occurred at Yoshino, Takaki district, Kanagawa Prefecture, on the night of the 23rd of December. The flames burst out at the end of the village, which was a place of one hundred and seventy houses, and fanned by a strong wind, devastated nearly the whole village. The place faces the Sagami River, and high cliffs rose behind, and some of the people, unable to effect their escape, were burned to death, and several seriously injured.

The Hakodate Steamship Company's steamship Hokkaido-Maru, which left Hakodate for the Kuriles, in November, and has not since been heard of, was wrecked in the neighborhood of Etzrup. The passengers and crew, numbering two hundred and fifty, were rescued by the Kokuyu-Maru, which was sent out to search for the missing vessel, and brought to Hakodate on the 31st inst.

### WORK AND WORKERS.

A general strike of miners in the Northern Illinois coal fields is threatened.

The New York State Senate has passed a resolution calling upon Congress to increase the pay of letter-carriers.

The miners in the Wilmington, Illinois, coal field, struck against an attempt to enforce the use of the two-inch screen.

No immediate curtailment of production of cotton goods is looked for at Lowell, Lawrence or New Bedford, Massachusetts. The steel mill plant at the South Chicago Works of the Illinois Steel Company was closed for an indefinite period. Twelve hundred workmen are idle.

The miners' strike in the Jackson, Ohio, district is at an end, the miners returning to work at the old rate of 31 cents, the same as is being paid in the Hocking Valley.

The Merino Mills at Olneyville, E. I., which manufacture several grades of woolen goods, has shut down. The resumption of work depends on improvements in the market.

The Ohio coal operators has consented to an increase of from 45 to 51 cents for January and February mining, to meet the increase of from 51 to 60 cents in the Pittsburgh district.

A despatch from New York says it is understood that Merritt Wrecking Company and the Chapman Wrecking Company are about to consolidate and continue business as one concern.

The weavers of Granite Cotton Mill No. 3 Fall River, Mass., who struck through a dissatisfaction of the wage scale, returned to work, with the exception of a few who have obtained work at other mills.

Representatives of thirty concerns attended the annual meeting of the Nash and Door Manufacturers of the Northwest in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, on Tuesday. An advance of 5 per cent. in No. 1 doors was ordered.

Leadville mine owners, it is understood, will pay no attention whatever to the strikers' request for arbitration of the questions at issue between them. E. V. Debs considers that the strikers made a mistake in rejecting the terms offered.

The movement to reduce passenger rates to two cents a mile is being opposed by the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen. The organization will present to the Missouri Legislature a memorial which practically claims that a reduction in mileage rates will mean a reduction in the force of employes as well as in their wages.

### WAS SHOT AS HE SLEPT.

The Killing of Stewart Attributed to His Employer.

From Blackshear, Ga., comes the news that S. W. Willford has followed up the killing of his superintendent, Charles Stewart, by a suicidal man. Stewart was found in bed with a load of buckshot in his head and Mrs. Willford with her four children locked up in a room against her infuriated husband.

Mrs. Willford is a young woman. Her husband died all his property away as soon as he was arrested. In order to create a theory of self-defense, Willison, it is said, placed a knife in the hand of Stewart, but it is beyond question that the latter was shot as he slept.

WIFE'S TERRIBLE CONFESSION.

The Tell How She Split Open Her Husband's Head With an Axe.

Mrs. Susan Decker confessed to the assassination of her husband near Bristol, Va., two nights ago, by splitting his head open with an axe. She and her husband quarreled while in bed. He threw her pillow on the floor, and she struck him with an axe while their little child slept peacefully between them. The murderer was hurried off to the Abingdon jail to avoid the possibility of a lynching.

### Novel Present for the Sultan.

The Smithsonian Institution has decided to make the Sultan of Turkey a present of a life-size figure of a Sioux Indian chief. The figure will represent a chief arrayed for a war dance in his costume decorated with a profusion of beads. If the Sultan had picked a war chief at the height of his glory from his band in Dakota he would not have a more realistic specimen than the one prepared for him at the Smithsonian Institution.

When Secretary Langley, of this institution, made a trip to Turkey in the summer of 1895 he was accompanied by Dr. Cyrus Adler, the famous orientalist. The Sultan presented them with several albums of magnificent photographs, and intimated that he would be only too glad to send a contribution to the National Museum.

It was naturally thought proper that these courtesies should be reciprocated, and Secretary Langley came to the conclusion that there could be no more appropriate gift than one that would be typical of the aboriginal life of this country. Orders were given to construct the figure of a Sioux chief, and this, after long care and study, has just been completed. The figure will be boxed and shipped, freight prepaid, to the Sultan this week. It will be accompanied by a number of articles used in domestic and martial life by the Sioux.

### Travels With Snakes.

Walter Ralston, a young man employed by the Smithsonian Institute at Washington and the Academy of Science of New York, arrived in the city yesterday with quite an aggregation of snakes, lizards, scorpions, tarantulas and insects, in a two-horse wagon, in which he has traveled all the way from New York.

Mr. Ralston's trip to Florida is for the purpose of capturing various specimens of reptiles and insects for the institutions he represents. He spent the past summer in the Cumberland Mountains in Tennessee, and there secured quite a number of specimens. He travels alone, so far as human companionship is concerned, but his horses, a dog, and his snakes and lizards are abundant company, and a warm friendship exists between them all.

In his collection are several iguanas, or South American lizards, each three feet in length, and tarantulas that he has tamed.

Ralston is perfectly at home with his strange pets, and takes great pride in them. He is camped on the vacant lot corner Monroe and Main streets, but will leave to-morrow morning for the Manatee River section, where he hopes to add a large number of Florida reptiles to the collection.—Florida Times-Union.

### A New and Novel Leg.

A European experimenter has produced an artificial leg. It is nearly assembles a human member as any that can be devised.

This artificial leg is a curious contrivance of hinges, screws and elastic bands. Extending downward from about what in the human leg is the ankle, to a point midway between the heel and the instep, are two steel rods, placed one in front of the other.

One rests on a sort of roller hinge, and allows the foot to give or bend with each step. The other serves the purpose of bringing the foot back into place after the step is taken.

Any lateral movement of these rods is prevented by the sides of the slot through which they move. A screw and a nut at the top of the rod also prevent the rod from turning and thus giving trouble in walking. An artificial heel tendon is placed within the foot, behind the ankle joint, and extends loosely through a hole in the leg, where it connects with a nut about midway up the limb.

### Two-Headed Tortoise.

There died at New Haven, Conn., consequent upon injuries inflicted by a cart, a most remarkable instance of duality of existence in the shape of a double-headed tortoise, or, more properly speaking, two tortoises inhabiting a single shell. It was found in the West River, and taken to the aquarium of a gentleman in New Haven.

The carapace, which was somewhat broader than long and slightly distorted, bore the customary legs and tail, but there were two perfectly developed heads and necks. Its charm was in the very perfection of its imperfection. Such a oneness of two with individuality preserved is not often to be found.

In one carapace there were two alimentary systems, two nervous systems, two respiratory and calculatory systems, two muscular and bony systems. Each was double, in part at least. There were two wills, for the heads fought continually for the rights of their common shell and for their food.

### Early Dictionaries.