MURDER AND SUICIDE.

A Man Kills His Wife and Two Children and then Commits Suicide.

PHILADELPHIA, Mar. 30.—A horrible murder was committed here yesterday under peculiar circumstances. Early yesterday morning a man threw himself into the Delaware river and was drowned. Subsequently a handkerchief was found in the water, bearing the name of Blackstone. This afternoon the body was recovered, and found to be Mr. Blackstone, of the firm of Funston & Blackstone, picture frame makers, No. 912 Market street. The body was sent to his house in the extreme northwestern part of the city. Arriving there the parties found a party of police in possession, and that Blackstone's wife and two small children were dead, chopped to pieces with an axe. It appears that previous to committing the act yesterday, Blackstone wrote a letter to his wife's father, in Connecticut, saying he had killed his wife and children, and would kill himself. The party in Connecticut this afternoon telegraphed to the police authorities here, who went to the house and found the dead bodies, as before stated, and were investigating the case when the dead body of the father was brought in. On Blackstone's body was found a paper stating that he had been robbed, and was a ruined man, and giving this as the reason for the deed. His wife appears to have been killed while lighting the fire in the stove, on Monday morning, as the neighbors heard a noise at that time. The children were killed in bed up stairs, and carried down and laid at the feet of the mother. Blackstone was probably insane.

The body of Mrs. Blackstone was lying about two feet from the range, her head to the south and her feet to the north, the body being straight, one leg drawn up, as were her dress and skirts. She was attired in a red figured delaine, trimmed about the breast with black velvet; was fully and warmly clad, and her dress was complete in every particular, both shoes being carefully laced. Her right hand was across the left, just over the finger containing her marriage ring.

Lying just below her left hip was the body of her fair-haired boy. He was upon his stomach, the left side of his little face being on his mother's dress; his left arm was under him, and the right extended. The head was to the east and the feet to the west, and very near to the door leading to the back parlor. Lying upon his arm, her head also resting against and above the mother's hip, was the little girl, her face inclined to the south. The boy had on a white night dress and the girl a figured night wrapper. Their little feet were close together and as white as the driven snow. Sturdy policemen warned you, with the feelings of a father, to be careful of their little feet, and not tread upon them. The poor mother's head was almost severed from her body, and the wounds in the children's heads were frightful.

The following wounds were found upon the mother:

A contused wound on the back of the head, left side, over the left ear, made with the pole of the axe.

A gaping wound, four inches long, cutting through the jaw-bone in the middle, and extending down the neck diagonally from the left side of the mouth downward under the ear, cutting the root of the tongue, and extending into the spinal column. Beneath this and further to the left a wound four inches long and three and a half inches deep, dividing the wind pipe and gullet.

Dr. Shapleigh now picked up the little girl, and for a moment the feelings of a father overcame those of a surgeon. He remarked: "Poor little thing, its head is all mashed to pieces."

The night-cap was removed from its little head. A horrible hole was in the right side of the forehead. Dr. Shapleigh inserted his finger in the hole, and it went on far back as the length of the finger. The hole was one and a half inches long, over the right eye, the bones of the skull being driven into the brain. The other side of the head is mashed to pieces. Then there are two marks of blows near each eye.

The son was laid upon its mother, and the body of the boy raised to the table. In removing his night-cap Dr. Shapleigh said, "what beautiful hair." The little fellow was a perfect gore of blood. In the right temple there was the mark of an axe, the bone being fractured badly.

A large contused wound was at the back and top of the head two and a half inches long, the bone being fractured beneath, the axe having glanced downwards.

On the back of the head, below this, the bones were all knocked in, and the head completely crushed.

Below this, on the right side of the neck, there was a frightful wound, the axe having penetrated through the jaw bone, breaking a piece of it off, and on further examination it was seen that two chops had been made in this place, each three inches long, severing the jugular vein.

Mr. Blackstone formerly lived in Branford, New Haven county, Conn., and was a member of the Congregational Church in that place. He married his wife in Madison. He has a brother who is engaged as farmer, is well off, and lives at Branford. His father is now living at East Haven, Conn., and is well to do.

Mr. Funston, the partner, states that in a conversation with Mrs. Blackstone on Thursday she stated that insanity was hereditary in the family of her husband.

After the horrid slaughter was perfected, the husband seems to have washed his hands, as a towel with blood upon it was found in the sink under the hydrant in the kitchen. He then left the house through a back window, bowing the shutters, which would lead the neighbors to suppose the premises were secured. These were not sealed off, and when an attempt was made to stop him on Chestnut street he was evidently on his way to the river to consummate his end.

Further Particulars

The murder of Mrs. Isabella E. Black stone and her two children, by the husband and father, James L. Blackstone, was every where throughout the city yesterday the subject of conversation, and every circumstance connected with the awful tragedy was eagerly sought after.

All the bodies were taken to the rooms of Mr. Cyrus Horne, undertaker, on Tuesday evening, and he had numerous applications for permission to view them yesterday. Had it been possible for him to have thrown open his place to the public, it would been thronged the entire day. The faces of Mrs. Blackstone and the children, yesterday, had a natural appearance compared to that of the day before. The expression on the husband's face was that of sternness, which was not at all natural to him. The bodies were all dressed, and white cushmere wrappers, enclosed in plain walnut coffins, and at twelve o'clock last night were taken in charge by Mr. W. C. Bushnell, an uncle of the murdered woman, and Mr. S. R. Crampton, both of Madison, Connecticut, and conveyed by railroad to that town, where Zelah Lee, father of Mrs. Blackstone, resides. From Mr. Crampton we learned that the letter which Blackstone wrote to his father-in-law after the murder, was in these words:

Dear Father—I send you what I am. I have killed my three angels; they are angels sitting by God. JAMES.

It was written on one of the blanks of Adams' Express Company, and probably in the office of the same. The penmanship was such that the words could scarcely be deciphered, an evidence of the condition of mind of the writer, as he ordinarily wrote a plain hand.

We learned yesterday that James Blackstone was a well-to-do Connecticut farmer, fourteen or fifteen months ago, had a good sized farm, well off, and lives at Branford. His father is now living at East Haven, Conn., and is well to do.

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We learned yesterday that James Blackstone was a well-to-do Connecticut farmer, fourteen or fifteen months ago, had a good sized farm, well stocked, and was as well situated as a young man could desire to be. All at once he conceived the idea of selling off and trying his fortune elsewhere. He finally did so, and removed to Philadelphia to see what business he could engage in, and left his family behind. Entering into partnership with Mr. Funston, in the picture frame making and gilding, of which he had not any knowledge, he sent on for his family and went to housekeeping. His conduct of late has shown that the result of his venture was not equal to his expectations. He has at times evinced great depression of spirits. He would occasionally sit, at his place of business as if in deep thought, with his chin resting upon the palms of his hands, and sometimes look the very picture of despair. Then he was dissatisfied with the house he occupied. "Is that a place," he would say, "for a man to occupy, who has owned and worked a handsome farm? He had reference to the smallness of the dwelling and the want of accommodations. What his conduct was at home is not known, but it is believed to have been recently strange and unnatural. A lady friend of Mrs. Blackstone visited her the other day, and as she was leaving, Mrs. B. asked her in a very earnest tone to come soon again, leaving on her mind the impression that she had something to communicate, but the visitor neglected to call.

The father of James L. Blackstone is a wealthy farmer residing in Branford, Connecticut, over 70 years of age. He has exhibited peculiar traits which have led some of his neighbors to believe him at least eccentric; and his peculiarity is that, notwithstanding his wealth, placing him beyond the almost possible reach of want, he fears he shall become an inmate of the poor house. The father of Mrs. Blackstone is quite feeble from age, and is not engaged in any business.

There is no doubt but that the murder was committed early on Monday morning, (not Sunday), as the family was seen about all day on Sunday, and were heard talking early on the following day. Mr. Funston, the partner, states it as his belief, that Blackstone intended to murder him, as for some time past he has followed him to the work room, taking care to close the door behind him, then seat himself near to him and pick up a heavy chisel, and sometime a hammer, and handle it in a peculiar manner, eyeing him with a strange wild look, but at the same time using the most affectionate language.

The report current on Tuesday, that one of the probable causes of Mr. Blackstone's disturbed state of mind arose from some derangement in the accounts of his firm by the inaccuracy of a book-keeper, had no foundation. The facts are that the former book-keeper had actually overdrawn his account by a few dollars. There was nothing whatever wrong with his books, and those of the present book-keeper are not in question at all.

Recapture of one of the Brodhead Murderers.

EASTON, Pa., April 5.—Brooks and Orme, the Brodhead murderers, made their escape on the night of April 2. One of them feigned sickness, and calling in the keeper, took his keys and threatened his life if he refused. Orme was captured yesterday, four miles from Stroudsburg, in a hay mow. They had stolen horses and left them on the road, having lost their way. Brooks is still at large. Parties are in pursuit and great excitement exists.

Congressional.

WASHINGTON, March 31.

In the U. S. Senate, yesterday, several bills and resolutions were introduced and referred. The Supplemental Currency bill was taken up, and finally, after a long discussion, passed, and the Senate adjourned after an executive session.

In the House, Mr. Kelley's Nickel Coinage bill was reported and passed. A message from the Senate, announcing the appointment of a conference upon the Tenure-of-Office bill, was taken up, and a conference committee of the House was agreed to. Mr. Dawes offered a joint resolution adjourning the session on April 6th, which was adopted. Mr. Hooper's Supplemental Tax bill was reconsidered, and the section relating to withdrawal of spirits from bond being stricken out, it was passed.

WASHINGTON, April 1.

The Vice-President laid before the Senate yesterday, the House concurrent resolution to adjourn on the 6th. A motion to lay the resolution on the table was lost. Messrs. Fessenden and Sumner opposed the resolution, and Mr. Howe favored it. Mr. Sumner thought that Georgia, Virginia, Mississippi and Texas needed looking after. Mr. Anthony replied that he had come to the conclusion to let Georgia take care of herself, and that the other States "do not seem willing to come in, and I do not think we can help it." The discussion was continued until the expiration of the morning hour, when the resolution went over, and the Indian Appropriation bill came up as unfinished business. Several amendments were agreed to, and at 3:45 the bill was laid aside. The report of the conference committee on the Tenure-of-Office repeal bill was taken up. After a brief debate the report was agreed to—yeas 42, nays 8. At 4:15 the Senate went into Executive session, and soon after adjourned.

In the House the Committee on Ways and Means reported and was discharged from the further consideration of the Senate bill to authorize the prepayment of the interest on the public debt, Mr. Schenck stating that there was now a law making the same provision. A bill appropriating $25,000 for the Bangor Maine Custom-house, passed. At one o'clock the bill for the organization of a provisional government in Mississippi was taken up and discussed. At two o'clock the discussion was interrupted and Mr. Butler, from the committee of conference on the tenure-of-office repeal bill, made a report, which recommends, with some changes, the Senate substitute, striking out, however, everything that gives the Senate the power to reinstate a suspended officer, thus making "suspension" a synonym for "removal," according to Mr. Cutler's explanation. After a brief debate, Mr. Butler moved the previous question, which was seconded, and the report was agreed to—yeas 108, nays 67. The Mississippi bill was again taken up, and Mr. Farnsworth continued his remarks. He concluded by moving his postponement until next session. Mr. Schenck said he would vote for the postponement, and would vote against the bill before the House if not postponed. Mr. Dawes also favored its postponement. Mr. Butler introduced a general bill for the removal of political disabilities by petition to United States courts; the applicant acknowledging that he had been a rebel and traitor, and that he truly repents. At 4:35, without action on the pending bill, the House adjourned.

WASHINGTON, April 2.

In the Senate, yesterday, A joint resolution was passed authorizing the Indian Commissioner to appoint guardians for minor Indians entitled to bounties or pensions; also, a joint resolution authorizing the construction of a railroad bridge over the Ohio, at Paducah, with a centre span of not less than four hundred feet; a resolution to reserve a grant of land for the construction of a railroad from Selma to Gadsden, Alabama, and a bill to authorize the purchase of lands from the Osage Indians by actual settlers. At the expiration of the morning hour the Indian appropriation bill came up as unfinished business. Mr. Harlan, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, offered a series of amendments, some of which were agreed to and others were rejected. The bill was still under consideration when, at four o'clock, the Senate went into Executive session, and soon afterwards adjourned.

In the House a resolution was adopted instructing the Committee on Ways and Means to report a bill for the revision of the tariff laws, and of the laws relating to custom-houses and bonded warehouses. Mr. Davis introduced a bill to define vacancies in office. The consideration of the bill to provide for the organization of a provisional government for Mississippi was resumed. Messrs. Ward, Maynard and Lawrence advocated the bill. Mr. Butler moved the previous question, which was seconded, and Mr. Butler proceeded to argue in favor of the bill. The House then voted on Mr. Farnsworth's motion to postpone till the first Monday in December, which was agreed to—yeas 103, nays 52. Mr. Cesena called up the Foster-Covode election case, and argued in support of Mr. Covode's *prima faci* right to the seat. Without disposing of the question, the House at quarter-past four adjourned.

WASHINGTON, April 3.

In the U. S. Senate yesterday, the Committee on Claims reported a bill for the settlement of claims for quartermaster and commissary stores purchased or taken by the United States within the late rebel States; it provides that parties making such claims have to prove their "loyalty." The bill to extend the time for the construction of a railway from St. Croix lake, or river, to the west end of Lake Superior, was under consideration until the expiration of the morning hour. The Indian appropriation bill came up as unfinished business. Several amendments were agreed to, and the bill was then passed. At 3.30 P. M. the Senate went into Executive session, and after some time spent therein adjourned.

In the House a joint resolution was passed authorizing the Secretary of War to purchase or lease a suitable building in New York, for the use of the several staff departments of the army as offices and store rooms. The Committee on Elections reported that in the contested election case from the Third Congressional District of South Carolina, J. L. Hong has the *prima facie* right to the seat. The House then resumed consideration of the contested election case from the Twent-first District of Pennsylvania, of Foster vs. Covode. The debate occupied the whole day's session. Mr. Paine moved to recommit, with instructions to report on the merits of the case, which was agreed to. So the whole subject was recommitted. Mr. Wilson introduced a bill, which was passed, authorizing the Northern Pacific Railroad Company to extend its branch line from a point near Portland, Oregon, to Puget's sound, etc., the company not to be entitled to any subsidies, money, bonds or lands, except such lands as may be included in the right of way. A quorum not voting on a resolution in regard to printing, the House, at half past four, adjourned.

WASHINGTON, April 5.

In the Senate, on Saturday, a joint resolution was adopted instructing the Judiciary Committee to report a bill more clearly defining the meaning of the law making eight hours a day's work for mechanics and laborers in the United States service. The bill to extend the time for the construction of a railroad from Lake St. Croix to Lake Superior, passed. The House resolution fixing a day for the adjournment of Congress was taken up and amended by striking out the 6th of April and inserting the tenth; as the amendment the resolution was adopted. Mr. Sprague made a personal explanation, denying that his recent speech was made under the influence of wine, whisky or any other stimulant. The House joint resolution to protect the interests of the United States in the Union Pacific Railroad then came up. Some amendments were offered and ordered to be printed.—Without action on the resolution the Senate went into Executive session, and some time after adjourned.

In the House, a resolution recending the order for printing the accounts of the Treasurer of the United States was adopted. The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the miscellaneous deficiency bill, which appropriates $2,563,951. At half-past four the committee rose and reported the bill and amendments to the House. The several amendments were agreed to, and the bill passed. The Senate amendment to the concurrent resolution for a final adjournment was agreed to. The House then adjourned.

WASHINGTON, April 6.

In the Senate, yesterday, Mr. Chandler called up the bill to authorize the New York, New Foundland and London Telegraph Company to land its submarine cable on the shores of the United States. The pending amendment was that offered by Mr. Stockton, authorizing any company chartered by any State to land its cable subject to regulation by Congress. Mr. Stockton made a long argument in support of his amendment. The expiration of the morning hour brought up the joint resolution to protect the interest of the United States in the Union Pacific Railroad. The question was on the amendment authorizing the President to fix the point of junction of the Union Pacific and Central Pacific Railroads, and to appoint, if he deems it expedient, a committee of eminent citizens to examine and report upon this subject, and upon the condition of the road. The whole day was spent in the consideration of the resolution. Without action on it the Senate went into Executive section, and afterwards adjourned.

In the House, the call of the States for bills and resolutions for reference occupied the morning hour. A resolution was adopted to annul and declare void so much of the Cherokee Indian treaties of August, 1866, and June 1868, as authorizes the sale of their lands and all contracts, &c, to be made thereunder. Such lands to be subject to settlement, entry and sale at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. At quarter past one the House proceeded to the business on the Speaker's table. The Senate joint resolution to continue the freedmen's hospitals in Richmond, Vicksburg and the District of Columbia, passed. The Senate joint resolution extending the time to construct a railroad from St. Croix river or lake to Lake Superior, excited some discussion and was referred. At half past four the House took a recess until half past seven. The evening session was for general debate.

Silly Stories From the South.

Mrs. Paulina W. Davis writes from the Providence (R. I.) *Journal* to deny a silly story that she had been poisoned in Florida. She speaks severely of the sensation writers who send on such tales of malicious temper and violence on the part of the residents of the South, and says: "Throughout the South, for the past three winters, I have met only kindness and courtesy from all classes, and by some I believe my visits are gladly welcomed."

The Pacific Railroad—The Quarrel for the Spoils.

The desperate onslaught of Fisk, Jr., to effect an entrance into the Union Pacific Railroad "ring," and the sturdy defence of those who have possession of the spoils, are giving to the public some developments of rare interest. To understand the case it is necessary to examine into the financial formation of that gigantic concern called the Union Pacific Railroad Company. It was created by Congress in 1862, and in an additional act of 1864 the stupidity of our Congressional lawyers virtually placed in the hands of the company the power to destroy all government interest in the road by allowing an issue on first mortgage bonds to take precedence of the amount per mile given by the original act. The company, therefore, in 1864 found itself in possession of means far more than adequate to the required purpose of building the road.

In the meantime a favored few, principally originators and directors of the company, had been permitted to subscribe to the stock, and, on the surface, a certain percentage of the subscription was called in. The resources, exclusive of capital stock, were, by the company's own estimate, as follows:

United States bonds on 517 miles, at $16,000 per mile	$8,272,000
United States bonds on 150 miles, at $48,000 per mile	7,200,000
United States bonds on 433 miles, at $32,000 per mile	13,856,000
Total	$29,328,000
Issue of first mortgage bonds of equal amount	29,328,000
Land grant of 12,800 acres per mile, at $1 50 per acre	21,120,000
Total	$79,776,000

But these 14,080,000 acres of land are and were worth more than one dollar and fifty cents per acre, as above estimated; for Congress itself passed an act refusing to sell its own reserved alternate sections for less than two dollars and fifty cents per acre. This price would swell the above amount to $93,856,000, giving $85,323 per mile for the eleven hundred miles—a little more than twice the cost per mile of the railroads of Massachusetts and Ohio, a cost which the Pacific Railroad should not exceed, especially as its maxium gradient is ninety feet to the mile. From the manner in which the road has been built it is probable that, even with the excessive cost of transportation, the expenditures have not exceeded the average cost of roads in the States above named.

With $85,323 per mile with which to build the road, and the stock already a clear gain, it became a problem with the directors, or stockholders, as you please, to devise some method of pocketing whatever surplus of the above amount there might be after deducting the cost of the road. Even with prodigal management, and estimating the cost at $55,322, this surplus could not be less than $30,000 per mile, or about $36,000,000—certainly a most tempting bait for the keen brains that managed it to evade the law and grasp the vast pile. For president and directors to take contracts signed by themselves, for themselves, and at their own prices, would be a most flagrant breach of law and Wall-street morality which even the United States government could not stand, especially where so few of its Congressmen and officials were interested. The astute managers, therefore, resorted to the French idea of the Credit Mobilier, and, to do the business quietly and avoid disagreeable complications and personal responsibility, obtained a charter from the Quaker State of Pennsylvania. The incorporators and stockholders were the same as the Pacific Railroad Company, and this chameleon only changed its color that it might absorb instead of reflect the golden light that shone upon it. To still further stand within the pale of the law it was considered best to look for a contractor in Nebraska, and a Mr. Hoxie conveniently appeared with a contract for 247 miles of the road. He very naturally, unable to carry out his contract, applied in due time to the Credit Mobilier for aid. This company loaned him money and became his financial go-between in the transfer of cash from the Union Pacific road to the safe of the Credit Mobilier, which it is proven is the same strong box. The balance of the road has been managed somewhat differently. I am been let under contract to Oakes Ames and Davis. The former is a member of Congress and has been working hard lately to get the company's affairs entirely removed to the jurisdiction of the District of Columbia. It appears that every stockholder has an interest in the Ames and Davis contracts—that is, these men represent the Union Pacific Railroad, the Credit Mobilier, or the contractors, or the stockholders. Quiet citizens, who are assessed for taxes, can "pay their money and take their choice." The contracts were thus kept in the family.

The great game moved on to fortune. The stock, for sake of show, had been assessed and paid from one pocket into the other by making enormous dividends from the Credit Mobilier branch of the company. The safe was not sufficiently large to hold the plethoric stream which swelled, and, crying to the sworn statement of a director, to $30,000,000 of profits.

Here Fisk, Jr., appears on the scene, having probably scented out the game and determined to share the plunder, which looked fatter even than Erie. He subscribed in 1867 for $2,000,000 of stock, and by some means obtained elsewhere by purchase six shares more. He tendered to the treasurer the cash ostensibly paid in on each share—fifty-five per cent; but the treasurer refused to accept it, for it would have given Fisk, Jr., a share in "thirty millions" of spoils, which would have insured him his share with an enormous existing profit and a still greater future one. At a stockholders' meeting they also kept Mr. Fisk, Jr., out in the cold upon his six shares of stock, and have even on this small amount, never let him into the golden "ring." "Erie," therefore, declared war against the Union Credit Pacific Mobilier Company, and on July 3, 1868, made a startling affidavit before Judge Barnard as to the transactions of the concern. This resulted in an injunction against the company, or its two branches, which has finally been made perpetual. The Credit Mobilier has lately been so prominent in our Supreme Court. After a hot contest among the lawyers, to see if the case should be removed to the jurisdiction of the United States Courts or retained in our Supreme Court, a receiver has been appointed, additional affidavits made and some startling evidence elicited, going far to confirm the statements above made. Even a United States Commissioner is charged with having been bribed with $25,000 to accept the last twenty mile section, so that the plunderers could at once put their hands on the government loan. It is stated also that large detours have been made in the road line for the purpose of increasing the length and thereby swelling the government subsidy.

The great contest for the past few days has been to get possession of the books of the company, and this has finally been done in part by ordering the safe of the company to be forced open. The evidence elicited from them is as yet meagre. A long and exhaustive examination will be required to demonstrate the exact condition of the company's affairs, which, from the general mixture of Credit Mobilier, Union Pacific, contractors, directors and stockholders, will give ample food for hungry lawyers, railroad speculators and managers. In the list of the stockholders the name of Fisk, Jr., appears twice.

Up to the present moment the development made are startling, and they show the general features of the most gigantic swindle ever perpetrated under the shadow of the law. The great mistake made in carrying it out has been the leaving of a very few of the minor stockholders out of the cold in the division of the spoils. Hence the assault of Fisk, Jr., upon their works. In the suit at law it is doubtful if Fisk, Jr., can prove himself entitled to more than six shares of stock; but those six shares are masters of the principles involved, and may, if well handled by the owner and his lawyers, cause the company to disgorge the millions they have virtually plundered from the United States people by their system of management in the trust confided to them. To increase their gains and prepare for the final grand financial stroke, as yet unplayed, it may well be imagined that, upon a thorough engineering examination of the road, it will be found that everything has been sacrificed to the single desire of distance, for through distance the public treasury of the people had been tapped continuously. It is easy to deceive the political commissioners with reference to the location, gradients, curvature, ditching, width of excavations and embankments, quality of culverts, bridge-work and general superstructure. The numerous worn out and broken-down locomotives are the best proof of the ruinous condition of the track. All these things tell us of the necessity of rebuilding the road before it can carry freight to advantage. The money required to put the road in order will not permit the payment of the interest on the first mortgage bonds for some years. The holders may, in consequence, foreclose the mortgage and cause the government interest, of sixteen, thirty-two and forty-eight thousand dollars per mile, to disappear. The holders of the greater part of these first mortgage bonds are the Union Credit Pacific Mobilier Company, Congressmen, President and Directors, Stockholders and Contractors. Unless the government looks to the interests of the people of the United States in our great Pacific Railroad we may expect to see it pass, as a clear profit, into the hands of those by whom, under the guise of law, it has been so cleverly manipulated.—*N. Y. Herald.*

The Culture of Trees.

The recent report of the U. S. Agricultural Department contains a valuable essay, contributed by J. M. Edmunds, late Commissioner of the Land Office. Great evils will result to the country, it is predicted, unless the axe of the woodman is restrained. It is asserted that, except in the mountain regions, nearly the entire surface from the Atlantic to the Mississippi has been despoiled of its primeval forest growth, and that nowhere have flat arable lands been allowed to reproduce their forest growth. Three-fourths of the original store of timber, it is belived, have already been consumed. The untimbered surface of the plains between the Mississippi and the Pacific amounts to fourteen hundred thousand square miles, and it is asserted that, by a little artificial effort, forests may be gradually extended over this large area. Experiments thus far made have proved successful. Trees to the number of millions have been produced from the seed of almost every forest species by the unaided efforts of a single association in Nebraska.

Joseph Jefferson's eldest son, now aged eighteen, is said to inherit his father's dramatic talent.

Ex-President Johnson at Knoxville—Enthusiastic Reception and Speech of Mr. Johnson on the Stump.

Ex-President Johnson was enthusiastically received in Knoxville, Tenn., on Friday, the 3d inst., and a dispatch says the city was crowded with his old friends, who thronged the depot to welcome his arrival. The ex-President was warmly greeted at the train by delegations of citizens, and escorted to the Lamor House, where he was introduced to the assembled crowd, numbering about five thousand, by Hon. Mr. Nelson, who referred to his previous political differences with the distinguished gentleman, and related the persecutions inflicted upon Mr. Johnson for his Union sentiments. He eloquently described his patriotic course during the war, and alluded to his wise and conciliatory policy of reconstruction.

SPEECH OF MR. JOHNSON.

Mr. Johnson, after returning thanks for the cordiality of the welcome, said he intended to devote the remainder of his life as a private citizen to the vindication of his official life, and his native State from foul obloquy which had been heaped upon him and her. Though bent, he had not been broken by the storm which had nearly wrecked the Ship of State. He had seen in the papers his own obituary, and he supposed he might now be as one risen from the dead, and he thought belief might be placed in one come from the grave. [A voice, "Not dead yet."] When the Congress of the United States, excited by interest and the spirit of tyranny, transcended the constitution, he vetoed their bills and sent them back.

I tell you here to-day, and as one speaking from the dead, that the danger to the government is in the legislative department. The executive has only negative power. The judiciary can only expound laws, but the legislature can pass laws of the most arbitrary character, and, under pretence of law, trample upon the liberties of the people. Those who are trying to undermine the Constitution can go on until Congress—yes, a capricious; yes, a despotic; yes, a usurping Congress—will take away the liberties of the people. But I feel that I stood as a break-water at the head of the American people, and arrested its progress for a time at least, until the people knew what was going on; and while others may boast of having established the government, I feel I can, without egotism, claim the credit of having been efficient in its preservation.

The time has come to talk about the first principles of the government. Take away the restraints which hold back Congress, and you have a despotic government. Wipe out the other two departments of the government, and you have a despotic government, as despotic, or, perhaps, I should say, in indiscretion, the measure of its power. Jefferson describes such a body as this the exact embodiment of despotism; and let me tell you here that a wise and good prince is infinitely better than such a governing, arbitrary, despotic Congress. (Voice, "That's so. Andy, go it!") Look at the course of Great Britain towards the colonies, and compare it with that of Congress. Look at the amendment of Declaration of Independence to the same; and that the Treasurer of the Society be authorized to pay the reward." When the question on the report of the committee was adopted.

The reading of essays being next in order Prof. S. S. Rathvon read an essay on "Snout Beetles."

Mr. John H. Beist next proceeded to read an essay on "Pears and Pear Culture."

Mr. John H. Brackbill remarked that last year he had planted a number of pear trees, and stated that he would like to know if any kind of pears could be relied on for winter fruit.

Mr. Engle suggested the Lawrence as an excellent winter pear.

Mr. L. S. Reist remarked that he had some pear trees on his farm, which blossomed regularly and luxuriantly but never yielded any fruit.

The merits of the substance known as "The Tree Invigorator," which is extensively advertised as a preventive remedy against the ravages of those insects that destroy fruit trees, &c., was next debated by Messrs. Engle, H. K. Stoner, and J. R. Erb. It was finally concluded that the investigation of the merits of the various fruitful qualities it may possess fairly tested by Mr. Stoner, who would report the result of his experimenting with it to the Society.

Mr. H. M. Engle next proceeded to read an essay on "Fruit growing in America."

Prof. S. S. Rathvon related an instance illustrating the persistence with which insects attack some kinds of vegetables and three times as much as those of the members of the House.

Mr. Ramsey, Chairman of the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, presented a communication from the Postmaster General in relation to cheap occunie postage.

Mr. Sumner said there was a movement on foot in England to secure penny ocean postage, and inquired whether it was necessary for our Postal Department should give us three cent ocean postage it would be a great thing to accomplish.

The bill to make San Diego, California, a port of entry was taken up and passed.

Mr. Patterson reported a bill to re-organize the clerical force of the Deadartments, and for other purposes.

Mr. Williams moved that the bill to aid in the construction of a branch of the Central Pacific Railroad to Portland, be taken up.

The motion prevailed, and it was discussed by Messrs. Williams, Conkling and Corbett.

HOUSE.—The House proceeded to the consideration of the bill providing for taking the ninth and subsequent censuses.

Mr. Garfield took the floor and explained and advocated the bill.

Mr. Butler (Mass.) demanded that the bill be read.

The Speaker remarked that it was quite unusual to have bills of its length' read.

Mr. Eldrige hoped it would be ruled out of order to have printed bills read.

The Speaker remarked that the bill had been read on file.

Mr. Garfield said that the importance of a bill on the census could not be over ruled. He should not have taken the floor if the chairman of the census Committee (Mr. Stokes), because he Mr. Garfield had been Chairman of that Committee last session. He reminded the House of the remarkable fact that the Constitution of the United States was the only Constitution of a modern government that in itself provides for the manner of taking the census. They were living under a new dispensation of the government when the population was just in time as now is the time to plant potatoes. For *cultivation* of the potatoe has much to do with its successful culture. The potatoe patch should be kept clear of weeds.

Mr. Ellis said the sooner the potatoe should be planted deep in sandy soil, but should not be so planted in rich soil or such soil as is damp and low.

Mr. H. M. Engle considered several things necessary in the growing of potatoes as good soil, good seed, and good culture. Sometimes a difference of a few days in the time of planting will make a great difference in the crop. The successful culture of sure crops of potatoes is a problem for the consideration of all farmers.

The President of the Association, Mr. H. M. Engle, appointed the following persons chairmen of the several committees of the Society—giving each chairman the power to add two other members to their respective committees:

Committee on Fruits—L. S. Reist; on Vegetables, G. W. Shroyer; on Plants and Flowers, H. K. Stoner; Seeds, A. L. Hostetter; Nomenclature, J. B. Garber; Premiums, P. W. Hiestand; Finance, Peter S. Reist; Botany, J. Stauffer; Entomology, S. S. Rathvon.

On motion the Society adjourned.

The attendance at the meeting was quite large, and before the members left for their homes a number of grape cuttings, blackberry roots, and garden and other seeds—the latter from the Agricultural Department at Washington—were gratuitously distributed. A number of Pear cuttings for grafting were also given away; also some fine ears of Early Sweet Corn grown by Peter Riley, of this city. Improvement in methods of cultivation, and in the varieties of fruit, vegetables, grain, etc., grown is the object of this distribution.

FIRE.—A fire broke out on Thursday evening between 8 and 9 o'clock in the long two-story building situated back of the "Black Horse Hotel" in North Queen street. The basement of the building was occupied by John H. Shirk, confectioner, as a Bakery. The first floor was occupied as a Ten Pin Alley by Mr. Louis Frick, and the second floor by Mr. Samuel Killian, Cigar Box Manufacturer. The building is a brick one, the roof being made partly of shingles and partly of slate, and is owned by Mr. Emanuel Shober, hotel keeper.—The material on the second floor consisted of the lumber used by Mr. Killian in the manufacture of his "Cigar Boxes," and was consequently of a light combustible character, and made in burning quite a brilliant light. The loss sustained by Mr. Killian is greater than that of any of the other parties interested, but it is covered by an insurance of $700 in the Columbia Fire Insurance Company. The loss sustained by the other occupants of the building, Mr. Frick and Mr. Shirk is inconsiderable. Mr. Shober, the owner of the premises, estimates his loss at $200, which is not covered by any insurance; the insurance on the building in the York County Fire Insurance Company having recently expired. Opinions respecting the origin of the fire are very much divided, some thinking that it was caused by an incendiary—others that it resulted from accident. The brick stable belonging to the "Black Horse Hotel" was during the fire in great danger of being burned, but owing to its slate roof and the noble exertions of the firemen its destruction was prevented, although the building caught fire at several different places. If the night had be windy and the fire occurred at a later hour a most disastrous conflagration must undoubtedly ensued as the adjoining stable contained a large quantity of hay and straw, and the buildings are situated in one of the best business portions of the city—built up with valuable business houses. All the firemen were on hand with their apparatus and did most efficient service in extinguishing the flames.

"ONWARD."—The April number of this excellent and handsome Magazine has come to hand, with a table of contents that cannot help but prove a literary feast to every one of its readers. It could not be otherwise under the editorial charge of Captain Mayne Reid, who has been the favorite storyteller of the youth of America for many years past. "Onward" is meeting with a success beyond the expectations of its proprietor and publisher. Terms $3.50 per annum; single copies, 30 cents; to be had at our bookstores, or of the publisher, G. W. Carleton, No. 497 Broadway, N. Y.

Latest by Telegraph!

THE CONNECTICUT ELECTION.

Radicals Claim the State—The Contest Close.

HARTFORD, April 5—9 P. M.—Returns coming in indicate the election of the Republican State ticket by about 1,000 majority, and the election of Strong over Dixon for Congress in the Third District. Returns from forty towns give 521 net Republican gain over last spring's vote. The full vote of Hartford gives for Governor, Marshall Jewell, Republican, 2,766; James English, Democrat, 3,275. Democratic majority 509. For Congress, Judus E. Strong, Republican, 2,757; James Dixon, Democrat, 3,267. Dixon's majority 510. Republican gain of 147 over the vote for Governor last spring.

Ten towns in Hartford county give a net Republican gain of 141 over last spring. Dixon runs behind his ticket so far.

Waterbury gives English, for Governor, 1,082; Jewell, 940. Democratic gain 250. Kellogg, Republican for Congress, 1,109; Babcock, Democrat, 845.

Seventy four towns show a Republican gain of 1,351. The Democrats give up the State. Dixon is surely defeated by Strong.

In the First Congressional District, Babcock, Democrat, is elected.

In the Second District, Starkweather, Republican.

In the Third District, Strong, Republican.

In the Fourth District, Beaman, Democrat.

The *Times*, Democrat, says the vote of the State will fall 10,000 behind that of last year.

Hartford falls off 400 and New Haven over 600. The result on the Governor is close with the chances in favor of Jewell.

The Democrats elect Congressmen in the 2d and 4th Districts, and the Republicans in the 1st and 3d Districts.

The Legislature shows considerable Democratic gains, but will probably be Republican in both branches by reduced majorities.

NEW HAVEN, April 5.—William Fitch, citizens candidate for Mayor was elected by 84 majority over Gallagher, Democratic candidate.

The City of New Haven gives Jewell 3,381 and English 5,010.

HARTFORD, April 6—3 A. M.—Hartford county complete gives Jewell 8,180; English 8,289.

Congressional.

WASHINGTON, April 6.

SENATE.—Mr. Chandler, from the Committee on appropriations reported the deficiency appropriation bill with amendment.

Mr. Cragin, from the Special Committee, made a report in regard to the mode of appointment and rates of compensation of the employes of the Senate, recommending retrenchment, chiefly by the non-payment of extra officers and assistants, and suggesting that Senators should aid in the work by refraining from urging the Sergeant-at-Arms to employ their friends when he has no need for their services. The report shows