Proceedings of Congress.

WASHINGTON, March 22.

In the U. S. Senate, Mr. Harlan, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, reported the bill to promote the civilization of the Indians. Mr. Sumner, from the Foreign Committee, reported adversely the resolution for consideration of foreign treaties in open session. Mr. Sherman, from the Finance Committee, reported Mr. Sumner's bill for strengthening the bank resources and resuming specie payments, with a recommendation that it be indefinitely postponed, which was agreed to. The report of the Judiciary Committee declaring Gen. Ames ineligible as Senator from Mississippi, was discussed, but the Senate adjourned without acting upon it.

In the House, Mr. Brooks, of New York, from the Sub-Committee of Elections, made a report in the contested case from the Fourth Virginia district, declaring Mr. Booker, the sitting member, entitled to the seat. Mr. Poland gave notice of a substitute declaring Mr. Booker disqualified because of disloyalty. The Anti-polygamy bill came up as the special order, and a motion to table it was defeated, yeas 40 nays 141. The bill was opposed by Mr. Schenck, and advocated by Mr. Butler. Pending its consideration, the House adjourned.

WASHINGTON, March 23.

In the U. S. Senate, joint resolutions of the New Mexico Legislature, asking authority to raise two cavalry regiments to operate against the Indians, were presented and referred. The bill to promote the civilization of the Indians was passed, and a motion to reconsider it was then entered by Mr. Stewart. The case of Senator elect Ames, of Mississippi, was considered, and his admission was opposed by Messrs. Carpenter and Davis, and favored by Messrs. Morton, Howe, Scott, Cragin and Corbett. The Senate adjourned without disposing of the matter.

In the House Mr. Scofield, from the Naval Committee, reported a bill to remove the Brooklyn Navy Yard, which was ordered, printed and recommitted. On motion of Mr. Poland, the Committee on Rules were instructed to report on the expediency of a provision that the previous question shall not be seconded on any bill until after two hours' consideration, except by a three-fourths vote. The Sutro Tunnel bill was tabled by a vote of 126 to 11. The Diplomatic Appropriation bill was reported, and made the order for Tuesday next. Itappropriates $993,047, being $127,687 less than last year. A special message was presented from the President on the decline of American Commerce and recommending the passage of two bills recently reported. The bill to punish polygamy in Utah was passed, several sections being struck out, among them one providing for confiscation, and another authorizing the President to send troops to Utah, and call 10,000 volunteers if necessary. Mr. Butler, of Mass., introduced a bill, which was referred, authorizing the President to accept the resignation of any Judge of any United States Circuit Court. The Tariff was debated at an evening session.

WASHINGTON, March 24.

The U. S. Senate went into executive session immediately after assembling, and several hours afterwards adjourned. The San Domingo treaty was under consideration, Mr. Sumner speaking in opposition to it, but no conclusion was arrived at.

In the House, Mr. Logan, from the Military Committee, made a final report on the Cadetship Investigation, with a bill and three resolutions. The bill, which made it necessary for the cadet to have been two years resident in the Congressional district from which appointed, was passed, being so amended as to make the time one year. The resolutions, which request a court martial for the trial of Commander Upshur, recommend the dismissal of Gen. Schenck, and direct the exclusion from the floor of all persons who have been or may be guilty of trying to corrupt Congressmen, were then adopted. The Tariff bill was discussed, Mr. Allison, a member of the Ways and Means Committee, favoring a reduction of the tariff and taxes. Debate was continued in evening session.

WASHINGTON, March 25.

In the U. S. Senate, Mr. Cole, from the Post-office Committee, reported the bill for increased mail service with China and Japan, subsidizing the Pacific Mail Steamship Company. Mr. Sherman introduced a joint resolution, providing a steamer and appropriating $100,000 for another Arctic voyage under Capt. Hall. Mr. Wilson introduced an Army bill, reducing the number of the army to 25,000, regulating its pay, etc. The bill fixing the junction of the Central and Union Pacific Roads was passed, after a long debate, on a motion of Mr. Sumner, went into Executive session on the San Domingo treaty. Mr. Morton spoke for several hours in favor of its ratification, and at the conclusion of his speech the Senate adjourned.

In the House, Mr. Poland submitted a resolution admitting Adolph Bailey to a seat as Representative from the Third Louisiana District. Mr. Paine objected, the subject having been referred to the Election Committee, and the resolution was not received. Mr. Hall introduced a bill compensating the officers and crew of the Kearsage for the destruction of the Alabama. On motion of Mr. Cox, the Judiciary Committee was directed to inquire into the expediency of allowing writs of error in criminal cases in United States Courts, and permitting defendants to testify. Mr. Randall introduced a bill to regulate the mode of paying pensions. The Tariff bill was discussed in Committee, Mr. Allison continuing his argument in favor of a reduction of the Tariff, and Mr. Kelley speaking in advocacy of the bill.

MONDAY, March 28.

The U. S. Senate was not in session on Saturday. The House met for debate only, and adjourned after several members had made speeches on the Tariff.

WASHINGTON, March 29.

In the U. S. Senate, Mr. Howell presented joint resolutions of the Iowa Legislature, urging the recognition of Cuban belligerency. Mr. Drake asked for information as to the cause of delay in reporting the bill for admission of Texas. Mr. Trumbull, in reply, said that questions of the highest privilege remained undisposed of since the introduction of the Texas bill; also, that the bill contained an amendment on account of a clause relating to the original conditions on which the State was annexed, which allowed slavery and which was contrary to the Constitution of the United States. Mr. Sherman offered a resolution discharging the Judiciary Committee from considering the Texas bill, which was objected to and laid over. The Senate went into executive session on the San Domingo treaty and afterwards adjourned.

In the House, bills were introduced by Mr. Hale, to prevent collection of State taxes on passengers; Mr. Boyd, to reorganize the Navy; Mr. Loughridge, for payment of pensions in gold; Mr. Fitch, to regulate Indian Affairs; and Mr. Chaves, authorizing the raising of two volunteer regiments for protection against the Indians in New Mexico. On motion of Mr. Prosser, the Secretary of the Treasury was asked for information regarding the payment of interest by the Pacific Railroad Companies, on bonds loaned to them by the Government. Mr. Arnell offered a resolution declaring the Christian religion part of the common law of the land, and approving the use of Bibles in the public schools. The previous question was moved, but not seconded, and the resolution went over. On motion of Mr. Mungen, the President was called upon for information regarding the San Domingo treaty. The persons to be benefitted by it, the amount paid under it, etc. On motion of Mr. Banks, the resolutions relating to Cuba were made the order for April 6th. The tariff was discussed at an evening session.

The State Legislature.

TUESDAY, March 22.

In the State Senate, the House bills prohibiting the erection of public buildings on Independence Square, and providing for a vote on the site, excluding that square, were concurred in. In the House, the bill regulating engineers of steam boilers to be examined and licensed was defeated. The Senate bill, requiring persons desiring exemption from jury duty to file an affidavit was passed.

WEDNESDAY, March 23.

In the Senate the House resolution to adjourn April 7 was concurred in. An evening session was designed for the consideration of a resolution pronouncing ex-State Treasurer Irwin guilty of contempt. After a speech by Mr. Purman the resolution was postponed for the present. Adjourned.

In the House a resolution was passed appointing Thomas Nicholson commissioner to investigate applications for pensions, with a salary of $3,000. A motion to suspend the rules for the consideration of the Police bill was lost. The Election Committee, in Mooney-Graham case reported in favor of Mooney, the sitting member.—A resolution for the adjournment on April 7th was passed; also a bill making the number of Supreme Court Judges six.

THE GALLOWS.

A Fiend Confesses to Having Committed Fifteen Murders.

WHEELING, March 24.—Thomas D. Carr, the murderer of Louisa C. Fox, was executed to-day at St. Clairsville, Ohio. The town was alive with foreigners to witness the execution. At one o'clock and twenty minutes the prisoner was taken upon the stand, and made a few brief remarks in which he blamed his father and whiskey for this sad end of his life. He offered a short prayer, in which he briefly sketched the many errors of his life. In twenty minutes after the trap fell and the man was hurled into eternity. His neck was not broken and he was strangled. A written confession was made, in which he says that was the perpetrator of fourteen cold-blooded murders before the killing of Miss Fox. The confession is full, the rehearsal of his life embracing an entire history of the Ulrich murder which was perpetrated near this city in 1867.

The Dominican Treaty.

WASHINGTON, March 27.—A Senator who has made a canvass of the Senate on the question of the ratification of the treaty for the annexation of St. Domingo says there are forty-two Senators against it, which is a majority of the Senate. From this it appears that not only will the treaty be rejected, but the proposed joint resolution providing for the annexation of the island could not command a majority of the Senate. The time for the exchange of ratification expires on Tuesday. Ordinarily, this would kill a treaty, if the Senate failed to reach a vote by that time. But it is understood that it will not affect the Dominican treaty for the reason that President Baez, of San Domingo, is so anxious to have the treaty ratified that he will consent to an indefinite extension of time. The President will probably inform the Senate of this fact in a special message.

Terrible Calamity—A Whole Family Killed.

About 2½ P. M., on Sunday, while the storm was at its height, the large unfinished five-story brick building, No. 627 West Forty-sixth street, fell with a terrible crash. The side and rear walls were complete. The front wall was only carried up to the second story. The side wall on the west side toppled over on a one-story brick building, occupied by Benjamin Donnelly, his wife, and four children, and were all buried in the ruins.

At the time the calamity occurred, Robert Henderson, residing at No. 642, a short distance below, and his daughter, were seated in the front room, the latter near the window. He heard a deep, rumbling sound, followed by the exclamation from his daughter, "Oh, God! look there," and hurrying to the window, he saw the unfinished building giving away, and fall with a crash, outward, all the parts apparently giving away at the same time.

Hurrying from the house he, with others, gave an alarm. It was scarcely necessary however, for the noise of the falling building had aroused the entire neighborhood, and in a comparatively short time over 1,000 people had congregated in the neighborhood. Information of the affair was sent to Capt. Bogart of the Twenty-second Precinct Police, and himself and a platoon of men were soon on the spot. The police, assisted by citizens, at once set to work to clearing away the mass of bricks and timber that covered the Donnelly family, but nearly an hour had elapsed before any member was reached.

All, with the exception of the boy Charles, were found in a heap near the front door. Apparently they had been seated around the stove in the front room, and hearing the crash, had started to escape, but had only reached the front door when they were struck by the falling mass. The dead are Benjamin Donnelly, the father, age 36, his wife, age 35, Catharine Ann, age 10, Wm. Q., age 4, and Hugh, age 15 months.

Charles, aged seven, was sitting astride a hobby-horse when the crash came, and when found by the searchers was lying beside it. Both legs were broken, and he was otherwise shockingly bruised and cut. His life was only saved by some beams falling across a portion of the walls of Donnelly's residence, and forming a sort of shield.

The bodies and the injured lad were removed to the residence of Mr. Carson Miller, a brother-in-law of Donnelly, at No. 604 West Forty-third street. Both parents had their legs fractured. Donnelly's face was much contused and his skull fractured His wife's face was terribly lacerated, and skull also fractured. Her body was a mass of contusions. Hugh had a cut on the back of the head, and William was cut on the cheek. Both had received severe contusions on the body. It is almost certain that all of these were instantly killed.

Some of those assisting in the search, say that they heard cries for help proceeding from beneath the ruins, but if these were uttered, it must have been by the boy Charles.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

ACQUITTED.

Pierre Bonaparte Declared Not Guilty.

[By Atlantic Cable to the Press.]

PARIS, March 26.—The Procureur General made his argument in the High Court of Tours to-day. He opened his discourse with an energetic denunciation of the political party to which Victor Noir belonged made frequent allusions to the *Marseillaise*—a journal, he said, "full of blame." Nearly all the evidence for the prosecution was set aside by the Procureur, who, however, demands the condemnation of the Prince because the shooting was not done in self-defense. The Prince was much excited during the delivery of this argument Messrs. Leroux and Demange, counsel for the defence, both denounced the *Marseillaise*. The Court will meet again at noon to-morrow, when the verdict is expected.

TOURS, March 27.—Prince Pierre Bonaparte has been acquitted in spite of the strong appeal made by the Procureur General for a verdict of guilty with extenuating circumstances. The jury was out only one hour. As soon as the verdict was announced the counsel for the *party civile* demanded 100,000 francs damages; and, in default of the payment of this demand, the Prince was not released from custody. He was exceedingly indignant because he was not allowed to leave the court-room instantly, and said he wished to prove that he was not afraid of the menaces against his life.

PARIS, Mar. 27.—The news of the acquittal of Prince Bonaparte produces everywhere an immense sensation and astonisment, and is the universal topic of conversation.

In their closing arguments the lawyers for the defence laid great stress on the constant and violent denunciations of the Prince in the *Marseillaise*, and on other circumstances calculated to exasperate the accused.

Tennessee.

NASHVILLE, March 27.—The action of the President, in failing to comply with Governor Senter's requisition for troops, is thought here to mean something more than was at first supposed. It has been stated that Governor Senter made the requisition in order to secure the recognition of the recognition of the State of Tennessee, and his authority as Chief Magistrate of the Commonwealth, in order to prevent any movement looking to reconstruction by Congress.

Mr. Senter has been summoned to appear before the Reconstruction Committee at Washington, by Gen. Butler, when he will have to show the necessity of sending troops into Tennessee by the National Government. Senter seems to understand that the result will be a total reconstruction of the State. He will withdraw the requisition, and declare good order now exists throughout the State. Governor Senter leaves for Washington to-morrow.

Partial returns from the election in different parts of the State show that the new Constitution has been ratified by about 40,000 majority.

The Conservatives claim for Tennessee the credit of being the first State to adopt universal suffrage, without regard to color and incorporating it in the organic law.

Allen Nickerson, of Hamilton, and A. M. Porter, of Knox, delegates to the Nashville Colored Convention that sent a committee to Washington, published a card against Congressional interference in the affairs of this State, and disclaiming any knowledge of crimes against their race.

A Romantic Tragedy—A Virginian Marries His own Daughter.

It was said by Solomon, who, in his day was the wisest of men, that there is "nothing new under the sun." It would seem, however, that the frequent occurence of remarkable incidents, that there is certainly nothing of an improbable nature, judging from the following wonderfully strange and hardly creditable story which came to our ears a few days since.

In the spring of 1849, when the gold fever was at its highest possible state of excitement in California, and the yielding earth was a rich prize on the north side of the Pacific and spread all over the country, luxuriantly in the southern clime, as its dew-sprinkled petals proudly kissed the morning sunbeams, there lived in the State of Virginia, on the banks of the flowing James River, a little village below the historical town of Yorktown, a gentleman of culture, whose parents were in moderate circumstances. It was during the gold excitement, he left the comforts of a home, his friends, relatives, a loving wife, whom he had led to the altar but a year since, and an only child—a daughter of two months—and took up his lonely journey to seek his fortune in the wild, distant West, over and beyond the Rocky Mountains, where the bright and golden sun sinks down to rest amid the blue waves of the grand Pacific.

After years of toil, drudgery and reverses of fortune in the mines, he came to this city and engaged in business. He being successful, soon amassed an immense fortune, and believing the lad died during a prevailing epidemic while on a visit to some relatives during the yellow fever season at New Orleans, as at the same time did a little girl of another family, of the name and age as his little daughter. He visited the States, but could find no clue to his deceased wife's sister; he thought naturally, she, too, had died. He returned to the Golden State, and time and the whirling excitement of business soon healed his sorrows, and effaced, apparently, all recollections of his old home on the banks of the placid York.

Shortly after the completion of the Pacific railroad there arrived at this city a gentleman, his wife and a beautiful, well-educated and graceful younglady just blooming into maidenhood, apparently and really of about eighteen summers. It was by chance the young lady and married widower met—and to meet was to love. They were duly married after a short acquaintance; the ceremony being celebrated with great *eclat*, and creating no little flutter in the fashionable and wealthy circles of our city. The fact that both parties bore the same Christian name excited no comment or enquiry, as it was one almost quite as common as that of Smith or Brown.

A few weeks after the marriage, as the husband and wife naturally inquired into each other's past history and antecedents, one were gradually becoming better acquainted with each other, the denouement came—they were father and daughter—man and wife; the instinctive love of the parent for the child and the daughter for the father had been superseded by strong emotional passion of sexual love. Both innocent at heart, but foully criminal in the eyes of man and of God.

His daughter was not dead, as he supposed, but, after the death of his wife, was kindly taken charge of by his sister-in-law, who had married and moved to a distant State, and who also, with her husband, accompanied his wife's daughter to this coast, to meet as strangers, lovers and subsequently parent and child—as they were—cultivated passionate love changed into filial and parental devotion.

Wonderfully strange indeed are the fortuitous circumstances which control and guide the footsteps of erring and susceptible mortals.—*San Francisco Tribune.*

From the West.

OMAHA, March 28.—The St. Louis and Omaha Packet Company, have made arrangements to run nine boats during the coming season one leaving Omaha and one St. Louis, every other day. The first is expected next Monday. Only two steamers, as yet, are advertised for the mountain trade.

Two cars of corn were shipped to Northampton, Massachusetts, to-day.

Moran, a farmer, was drowned on Saturday evening, while driving home; he rolled off his seat into the flood at the end of the river bridge, and although his brother and a woman were in the wagon, they were all so intoxicated that they did not miss him.

LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

From Washington.—Decision of Commissioner Delano.—The Funding Bill.—The Army Bill.

WASHINGTON, March 29.—Commissioner Delano decides that in assessing a tobacco manufacturer on penal excess of his bond when he commences manufacturing, after a part of the year has elapsed, that assessment should be made *pro rata* for the unexpired portion of the special tax year. In response to the application of manufacturers of snuff, to be allowed to repack their snuff in old jars, the Commissioner decides that no box, bag, or vessel, or other enclosure can be used a second time for putting up manufactured tobacco, snuff, or cigars, however thoroughly and completely the stamps have been removed therefrom.

Secretary Boutwell, with a large delegation of National Bank representatives from all parts of the country, is before the Ways and Means Committee to-day. The National Bank men are opposing the Funding Bill with all their might, especially that section which compels them to exchange their bonds. Secretary Boutwell defended the bill and urged the Committee not to accede to the bank men.

Gen. Logan made a personal explanation in the House to-day, relative to Gen. Sherman's letter to Senator Wilson, on the Army Bill. He had the letter read in full to the House, and then characterized the conduct of Sherman as extraordinary. He replied to Sherman's criticism of the Army Bill, and showed that he was mistaken in his facts.

A Terrible Accident in a Coal Mine.

SHENANDOAH CITY, Schuylkill county, Pa., March 29.—A terrible accident occurred at the coal mine of Richard Heckscher, situated a few miles from this place at an early hour this morning. It appears that while four men were descending the shaft to commence days work, the rope broke precipitating them to the bottom, a depth of over sixty feet; all were instantly killed. The names of the unfortunate men have not yet been ascertained, but full particulars are hourly expected.

Death of General George H. Thomas.

NEW YORK, March 29.—A Washington dispatch, just received in this city, announces the death of Gen. George H. Thomas, at San Francisco.

[LATER.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 29.—Major General George H. Thomas, Commanding Department of Pacific, was yesterday attacked by an apoplectic fit, which terminated in his death at 8 o'clock last evening.

Incendiarism.

ALLENTOWN, Pa., March 29.—About two weeks ago an attempt was made to fire the house of F. M. Fauser, of this place, but another attempt was made last night, and this morning the premises were again fired in two places, but discovered in time to prevent serious damage. These persistent attempts of some unknown incendiary cause no little excitement, and all efforts to detect the guilty party have thus far been unavailing.

Local Intelligence.

OUR SUBSCRIBERS.—Our subscribers who expect to move on the first of April, and desire the direction of their papers changed, will please send us word giving us the name of the post-office to which it is now sent, and the name of that to which they wish to have it sent.

LECTURE OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS.—There was quite a fair audience of whites present in the Court House, on Friday, to hear Frederick Douglass. The blacks did not turn out strong. Whether it was because they have a poor appreciation of the orator, or for some other cause, we can not say. There were not more than a score or so of American citizens of African descent present. The hour of eight o'clock having arrived, A. H. Hood, Esq., introduced the orator of the evening in that peculiarly graceful and elegant style for which he is so much distinguished.

Fred. Douglass is quite a light mulatto, with few of the peculiar marks of the African about his face or figure. He has long flowing, grey hair, with a slight kink in it, and wears a modest black moustache. He was well dressed, in dark clothes, with a broad turn-down collar of rather ancient pattern.

His subject was: "Our Composite Nationality," and he commenced by remarking, that he would consider it under these heads:—1st. What we are. 2d. What we are likely to become. 3rd. What we ought to be. He spoke in substance as follows:

There was a time when I could not conscientiously say aught to add to the self-complacency of American citizens. I was more fortunate now, in view of the war and what has since happened. Other nations have passed the zenith of their glory, ours is to come; they have exhausted their resources, ours are only beginning to be developed. I regard our future as very full of promise. Three classes of people dissent from that view. The first is a class of reformers, who think things move too slowly; 2d, those who believe in strong government; 3d, the constitutional croakers, who seem to have learned their lesson from Poe's raven, and eternally cry, "no more! never more!" The chief objection made by the latter class is that the government will never work well in the hands of two races so dissimilar as are the Caucasian and the African. I admit there is some danger that it will not, but hope for the best, especially since I have seen a negro take the seat vacated by Jefferson Davis in the U. S. Senate. Carlisle represents the monarchical creakers, and he sympathizes with alarm of every description, and predicts the most horrid future for this country. We are not faultless, and may learn from those who criticise us so harshly. The view is hopeful, however, and I see a time when the best clothed and the best educated people of the world. Individuals in Europe surpass individuals in America, but the elevation of the masses is much greater with us. I may be a little elated myself, and more than ordinarily inclined to hopeful views. The very sun looks upon me with a new brightness, and the heavens shine with greater refulgence since the proclamation of emancipation of my race. Twenty years ago wherever I went I expected to be insulted, and was not often mistaken. It is all changed now. How feeling one's self a man! How cheerful and hopeful! I hold ours to be the natural, and the Monarchical to be the experimental government. The mistake we made at first was in the attempt to circumscribe the Government within too rigid liberty to a class. Thus came trouble, thus trouble always must come while God is just. We have already among us many classes and creeds. The European and the African have long been here; the Indian was here before either. Poor fellow! I pity the noble aborigine as I see him dwindling away before the advance of a merciless policy.—The Indian civilization on the North saves him, Latin civilization on the South preserves his race; we alone destroy him. Your fathers made a mistake when they excluded the Indian and the negro from the body politic. But a new race, John Chinaman, is coming; already 100,000 have landed on the shores of the Pacific, and the time is not far distant when they will be numbered by millions. The checks to his coming will prove weak and temporary, the inducements strong and lasting. The bones of the Chinaman are now sent home for burial, but he will soon conclude that a land which is good enough to live and die in, is good enough to be buried in. The facilities for emigration will be increased, and these Asiatics will flock in whole communities to our shores. China might spare us forty millions and not feel the loss. The privileged classes of the South want cheap labor—the landholders are still powerful; they own thousands of acres, and their idea will not sell either to the white carpet-bagger or the negro. The land owners are always a powerful class, and those of the South are still so. The North felt their power in years gone, and will likely feel it yet again. They will make an effort to control the negro vote, and may succeed to a great extent. You know the negro. He is good natured, fond of rest—is great on rest; very religious; and effaced by the Roman Catholic priest, master had to do was to read to him "cursed be Canaan," and "servants obey your masters," and he was docile and obedient—content to work without pay all his life, and to take his pay in Heaven. The Chinaman believes in making the best of both worlds, and takes care to get a good share of this one first.

He has been educated to shrewdness, and the Southerners will not find John ready to step into the cast away shoes of Peter and Pompey; they can be had to labor, but will want their wages regularly according to contract, and will not work as the negro did for nothing. They will come. We want them in the North. They are good laborers and excellent cooks. Paddy is getting to be a little uppish, Biddy must wear a waterfall as big as her mistress, and the negro is running for Congress. We want somebody to do our work. The Chinaman is coming to do it; he will soon swarm on the shores of the Pacific and spread all over the country. What is to be done with him? It is a serious question. The query is no longer what shall be done with the negro. The Californian has already taken a hostile position to the Chinaman, and the Irishman, with narrow prejudice finds his bare forehead a good mark for the shillelah. It has been argued that there is a natural hostility between different races of men. It is not so in Brazil, where black and white freemen are on an equality. I know it is not so in Europe. When I was there I was treated respectfully: walked with lords and ladies, and mingled freely with the masses; went to churches and places of amusement on an equality. The prejudice of race is strongest in the lower classes of whites in this country; I could get my son into a lawyer's office easier than into a blacksmith's shop. I have no doubt the negro is practically inferior to the white man, but it is the result of education. What he wants, and what I demand for him is fair play. Let him alone. If he wants to go to your church, or to your school, let him go; if he wants to go to Congress, as I am going, let him go. I have a great respect for the Caucasian race, with its blue eyes, straight, light hair and three-storied head. My Democratic brethren class me with it. When Fred. Douglass is quoted as an example of what the negro can do, they say, "Oh! he is more white than black!! We have a mission. We are to set the world an example of the dignity and power of a nation in which the unity of the races and the common brotherhood of man is fully recognized. We can only have harmony and unity by showing fair play to all. The speaker alluded to the services of the negro in the rebellion, returned to the Chinaman and insisted upon giving the ballot and equality to all men of all races. He also announced himself in favor of female suffrage, and dwelt upon that point for some time. The lecture occupied over two hours in delivery. It was written, but the speaker did not confine himself closely to his notes. He has a fine, mellow voice, with but little of the patois which belongs to the negro race.

Sketch of St. John's Free Church, Lancaster, Pa.

In the year 1852 Rev. Samuel Bowman, Rector of St. James' Episcopal Church, commenced the agitation of an enterprise which had long been with him a cherished object—the establishment of a church which should demonstrate the merits and success of the free church system. The importance and necessity of the system had been deeply impressed upon his mind, during a visit to New York, where he had entered a fashionable church, an entire stranger, and took a seat in the most convenient pew. The owner soon after came in, *invited him out*, took possession and locked the pew door. After service he made himself known to the Rector of the church, who upon learning what had occured, was deeply chagrined that so eminent a Christian brother should have been treated with such indignity in the house of God. But Dr. Bowman assured him it was the fault of the system, under which he, though a clergyman, had no more right to claim immunity from such treatment than the humblest worshipper who happened to enter the house of God as a stranger. This incident made a deep and lasting impression upon the doctor's mind, and he was frequently heard to refer to it in after years when urging the claims of the free church system.

A circumstance almost similar to that related by Dr. Bowman, was the immediate cause that gave rise to the organization of St. John's Church. A bridal party had entered St. James' Church, and occupied a pew belonging to one of the members, who on entering the church, politely requested the party to vacate the pew. This they did and left the church. The circumstance made a deep impression upon the mind of a prominent member of the church, who took occasion within a few days to broach the subject to his Pastor, and urged the erection of a new church, the seats of which should be as free as the air to all who chose to avail themselves of them. Dr. Bowman listened with profound interest to a proposition that he himself had been meditating for some time, and after an interview had terminated it was resolved to look out a suitable location for the new church.

In the month of November, 1852, after laying his plans before a number of his friends and parishioners, arrangements were entered into by Dr. Bowman, (through the agency of that public spirited citizen, the late F. J. Kramph,) for the purchase of the lot of ground on the northwest corner of Chestnut and Mulberry streets, which was purchased for $900. At that time there was no place of religious worship in that section of the city, and the field to be occupied was legitimately missionary ground. This consideration had much to do with the selection of a location then regarded as almost out of the city.

On the 5th of December, 1852, Dr. Bowman preached a discourse to the congregation of St. James' in behalf of the new church enterprise. He was always a leader where he asked his people to go, and though his sermon were liberal, he leaded the subscription with a contribution of $1,000, to be paid in proportion as the entire amount should be raised. On the 19th of February, 1853, we find by a notice in the Church Record, that the committees were at work soliciting subscription for the new church, and met with encouraging success. On the 26th of March, of that year, the workmen were at work excavating for the foundation of the new edifice, and the work had so far progressed that the corner stone was laid on the third Sunday after Easter, (April 17,) 1853, at 3½ o'clock, the Right Rev. Bishop Potter, officiating.

The corner stone and marble slab which covers it, were the gift of Lewis Haldy.—In a time capsule placed within the corner-stone, the following was deposited, viz:—

A small block of Marble, containing the name of the church. 2. A Bible and Prayer Book of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States. 3. A copy of the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Pennsylvania. 4. A Church Almanac for the year 1853. 5. Several Periodicals of the day, both secular and religious.

Among those who co-operated with Dr. Bowman in the good work, were none more earnest and self-sacrificing, than his sister, Miss Mary Bowman, who will also be ever gratefully remembered as the founder of the Childrens' Home. She was active in the difficult work of organizing a Sunday School, which was begun in one of the public school buildings, Duke street, adjacent to the church. She went from house to house to urge the parents to send their children, and though often discouraged and sometimes even rudely repulsed, her perseverance was rewarded, a school was organized long before the new edifice was ready for its accommodation. This may, indeed, be claimed as the foundation upon which the congregation of St. John's was built. And so long as she remained in the city, she took a lively interest in its welfare.

The first formal meeting of persons interested in the erection of St. John's Free Church, was held on the 5th of May, 1853. There were present at this meeting, Rev. Dr. Bowman, Messrs. Edward Morton, Robert Clarkson, Henry P. Carson, Isaac Diller, Henry E. Slaymaker, Wm. Diller, Jacob M. Long, J. Yeates Cunningham, Nathaniel Ellmaker, Joseph Clarkson and Henry Wright.

At this meeting a form of Charter was agreed upon and "St. John's Free Episcopal Church" adopted as the name. The following persons were elected vestrymen under this organization:

Henry Carson, Isaac Diller, Rob't Clarkson, H. P. Carson, Wm. Diller, Wm. Wilson, sr., H. E. Slaymaker.

The vestry organized by electing Rev. Dr. Bowman, Rector, Henry E. Slaymaker, Secretary, and Robert Clarkson, Treasurer. Henry Wright was appointed Rector's Warden, and Isaac Diller elected Warden to the vestry.

The Rev. Dr. Bowman presented the plan and specifications for a Church edifice, in the Gothic style of architecture, which he had procured from John E. Carver, architect, of Philadelphia. This plan was adopted, and substantially the one carried out in the structure, some few changes having been made, such as the substitution of shingle for slate roof, the insertion of the circular window in the west gable, and the failure to carry out the details of the architect's plan for ventilating the nave of the Church.

At this meeting Messrs. Morton, Slaymaker and Isaac Diller, were appointed a committee to wait upon the Pastor-elect, and at the next meeting, they reported proposals from various parties, ranging from $5,630 to $11,750. On the 24th of May, 1853, the contract was awarded to the lowest bidder, O. C. M. Goines, (he being the lowest bidder,) for the sum of $5,630, "including the foundations," and a building committee was appointed consisting of Isaac Diller, Edward Morton and H. E. Slaymaker.—Although the contract price was $5,630, it may be mentioned in this connection that the entire cost of the ground and church edifice, as reported by Dr. Bowman to the vestry in 1855, was $15,000. This was exclusive of the Parsonage, since erected, and various other and more recent improvements.

On the 12th of April, 1854, Rev. Henry A. Coit, then Deacon, and for some time previous a teacher in St. James' Parochial School, was elected Assistant Minister, at a salary of $300 per annum. One-half of this sum was provided for by the "Society for the Advancement of Christianity in Pennsylvania." Dr. Bowman, though holding the position of Rector, and most zealously laboring for the promotion of both temporal and spiritual interests of the new parish, for years afterwards, would never consent to accept any pecuniary compensation.

The new building was so far completed that the Lecture Room was occupied for the first time for divine service on Easter Sunday, April 16, 1854. The services commenced at a quarter past three o'clock in the afternoon, and were conducted by Dr. Bowman, who, with the aid of Mr. Coit, maintained regular services until the completion of the building, in November following.

The church was consecrated to the worship of God on the morning of September 21, 1854, (the 15th Sunday after Trinity,) by the Rt. Rev Alonzo Potter, D. D., Bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, assisted by Rev. Dr. Bowman and Rev. Messrs. Passmore and Coit. The following is the

SENTENCE OF CONSECRATION:

"The Rector, Wardens and Vestrymen of St. John's (Free) Church, Lancaster, Pa., having requested me to consecrate the house of worship lately erected by them in said city—

Be it known, That on this twenty-fourth day of September, in the year of our Lord, 1854, I have in the manner prescribed, duly consecrated and set apart said house of worship, separating it henceforth from all unhallowed, ordinary and worldly uses, and dedicating it to the service of the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for reading and preaching His Holy Word, for celebrating His holy sacraments, for offering to His glorious Majesty the sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving, and for the performance of other holy offices, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

In virtue whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 24th day of September, 1854, as aforesaid, and in the 10th year of my consecration.

(Signed) ALONZO POTTER,
[L. S.] Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Pennsylvania.

On the 17th of November, 1854, Mr. Coit tendered his resignation, to take effect on the first December following, he "having received and accepted an appointment to a mission in the diocese of New York."—While residing in Lancaster Mr. Coit was married to Miss Wheeler, who for several years had been a teacher in St. James' Parochial School. He is now the principal of an educational institution in Concord, N. H.

Rev. J. E. Eccleston was elected assistant minister on December 14, 1854. He preached until March 30, 1855, when, owing to impaired health, he requested and was granted leave of absence for nine months; but before sailing for Europe he sent in his resignation, dated December 19th, 1855, which was accepted.

The services, in the meantime, were conducted by Dr. Bowman, until the 20th of July, 1855, when Rev. Horatio N. Powers was elected Assistant Minister during the absence of Mr. Eccleston. Mr. Eccleston returned from Europe in the spring of 1856, and on the 23d of March (Easter) preached to his old friends in St. John's. He then accepted a call to the Rectorship of St. John's Church at Clinton, Staten Island, N. Y., where he labored with great acceptability. He is now in New York, and has attained quite an eminent position among churchmen.

After the resignation of Mr. Eccleston, Mr. Powers was elected to fill the position of Assistant Minister permanently. He shortly afterwards married a niece of Dr. Bowman, the Rector.

On the 25th of February, 1857, Dr. Bowman tendered his resignation, to take effect on the following Easter. He had fostered his favorite child, with paternal tenderness during its infancy, and now with a church property costing $15,000, all paid, regular services established, and as he understood "the services of his assistant to be entirely acceptable to the parishioners," he proposed to sever his official relations with St. John's.

As an interesting fact, it may be mentioned in this connection that Bishop Bowman preached his last Sermon in St. John's Free Church, on the Sunday evening before his death, from the text. "For I have resolved to know nothing but Jesus Christ and him crucified." It was a very inclement evening, and there were only about a dozen persons present.

The congregation erected a tablet to his memory, which was placed at the east end of the nave of the church, and bears the following inscription:

Sacred
To the memory of
The RGT. REV. SAMUEL BOWMAN, D. D.,
Assistant Bishop of the
Diocese of Penn'a.,
And First Rector of this Church,
Born May 21, 1800.
Died Aug. 3, 1861.
The Existence of this Church is due
to his energy and watchful care.
"Ministering to the necessities of Saints;
given to hospitality."

On the 17th of March, 1857, Mr. Powers tendered his resignation as Assistant Minister, to take effect on the approaching Easter festival. His resignation was accepted by the vestry with great reluctance, for Mr. Powers had won the esteem and friendship of the entire congregation, and especially of the poor in the vicinage. He received and accepted a call to Davenport, Iowa, where his brother resided. He remained there two or three years, and had conferred on him the degree of D. D., and was elected President of Griswald College. From Davenport he removed to Chicago, to take charge of St. Paul's Church, a large and flourishing congregation, of which he still continues in charge. While in Lancaster he married Mary, daughter of Hon. Thos. E. Franklin.

On the 25th of April, 1864, Rev. Thomas Bowman, Assistant Minister of Christ Church, Philadelphia, received a unanimous call to the Free Church, which at the urgent solicitation of Bishop Potter he accepted, and entered upon the duties of his new charge on the 24th of June following, and has labored with great acceptability to the present time. He is a single man, but it is to be hoped that like his predecessors Revs. Coit, Powers, and Bowman, he will kiss, he may find amongst the fair daughters of Lancaster an help meet for him.—St. John's Church will sent comfortably about 500 persons. Its present membership numbers about 250. The Sunday School is in a flourishing condition, numbering about 250 scholars, under the superintendency of the pastor. The Sunday School Library numbers over a thousand volumes.

We cannot close this sketch without a word or two of commendation to Mr. W. O. Marshall, the leader of the Church choir, who from a very small beginning has made it up until it is now one of the best in the city, and contains a number of voices of unusual sweetness and cultivation.

The present vestry consists of the following gentleman: Isaac Diller and Henry P. Carson, Wardens; George J. Diller, Treasurer; J. W. M. Geist, Secretary; Henry E. Slaymaker, William O. Marshall, Jas. Shackara.

For many material facts embodied in the foregoing sketch, we are indebted to Messrs. Isaac Diller, J. M. Willes Geist and W. O. Marshall.

SAD ACCIDENT AT LITIZ.—A correspondent at Litiz informs us that "on Thursday afternoon about 4 o'clock, as some work men were taking down in that village an old building in the rear of the dwelling of Jno. S. Hacker, the east front, which had been temporarily supported with props, suddenly fell. Before Mr. Hacker could escape (he being engaged in superintending the operation), he was caught beneath the falling wall and so severely injured that he died in the course of fifteen minutes.

Richard Oehs, a boy of about 17 years of age, was also extricated from the ruins and escaped with a broken leg and some other slight injuries. This accident has cast a sudden gloom over our entire community. Mr. Hacker has been a resident of Litiz about a year, and was universally respected as one of our most estimable citizens."

SERIOUS ACCIDENT.—Tuesday morning between 7 and 8 o'clock as two boys, named Henry Gallagher and Henry Keller, employees in the *Inquirer* office, were ascending to the upper story of that establishment in the elevator, with about 250 pounds of straw-board and a large form of type,