

The four new States come into the Union with an area three times as great as the British Isles.

Since August 4, 1887, up to recent date, the Government has purchased bonds to the amount of \$201,720,650, at a total cost of \$234,497,744.

Captain Chapel, of the French Artillery, has devised a projectile which is literally "to shoot round a corner." It is to be sent over the heads of men behind breastworks, turn a somersault, return and take them in rear. "Projectile retrograde," he calls it.

The Bostonians are pluming themselves upon the fact that Sir Edwin Arnold said that they remind him of Englishmen. But, when he added that they "talk the English language in its native purity," the Commercial Advertiser says, they began to be doubtful of the value of the compliment.

Every one in Paris was surprised at the youthfulness of Mr. Gladstone during his recent visit. Being asked by some one how many lines of the "Iliad" he still remembered, he replied, after a moment's hesitation: "If some one would give me the first line of any page I think I could repeat what follows to the bottom of that page."

One of the most interesting localities to visit in London during the recent dock strike was the "Booth Arms," a hostelry conducted by members of the Salvation Army. The food was plain, but plentiful and good, and sold at an almost nominal rate. One hundred thousand dockers were estimated to have been fed there during the strike. Soup, bread, sandwiches, coffee, tea and cocoa were the principal items on the menu.

Some convicts in the penitentiary at Salem, Oregon, display energy in proving that they hate work. Several of them within a year have maimed themselves so as to be unfit physically for the tasks allotted them. Recently a colored man, John Snell, took a hatchet and cut off the fingers of his left hand. He is now resting in the infirmary. He has four more years of his sentence of five to serve out. Some one-handed work will be found for him as soon as possible.

According to the New York Sun Long Island can boast of a farm which is operated entirely by the labor of insane people. It is known as the Islip farm, and 250 lunatics are employed upon it. It was a wilderness a few years ago, but has been brought to a high state of cultivation. Grain, fruits and flowers are grown upon it, and the men engaged in their production are said to take a deep interest in their work. They are sent there from city institutions by the commissioners of charities and correction, and the experiment is declared to have proved a pronounced success.

A question upon which opinion was much divided at the international botanic congress, in Paris, was whether the grains of corn found in the Egyptian sarcophagi had any seminal virtue left. It appears that most of the so-called mummy corn, remarkable for streaks of tar on the surface and sold to travellers in Egypt at the rate of about \$1 per twenty-five grains, is a gross imposture. A gentleman who received a few grains from M. Maspero himself planted them in various soils and positions. A good many sprouted, some even grew about two feet, when they looked like ordinary spring wheat, and then rotted away, but none ever came to maturity.

A story full of pathos of the death of a brave man was made known to the London public the other week. He was a fireman, and in searching for possible sufferers in a burning factory his retreat was cut off. His companions escaped through a small window, but he being too bulky was prevented from following them, and though at the outset he called to his companions to let them know of his plight he said never a word when he saw that all hope of escape was lost, but stood and burned to death with the fortitude of a hero. When his body was found his legs were entirely consumed, but in his charred hand he still held the nozzle of a fire hose. He had done his duty to the last.

The experiments which have recently been brought to a conclusion abroad with a smokeless powder, the latest of the kind invented, have disclosed one defect which militates strongly against its introduction. Immediately upon the discharge of the shot, there is such an intolerable smell produced by the combustion of this new explosive that several of the officers and men at the firing-point have fainted. The powder creates hardly any perceptible smoke, and imparts to the shot a higher velocity than any former compound. The statement that it is noiseless is, however, erroneous. On the contrary, the discharges are louder than hitherto with the old black powder. The new smokeless powder has not yet been made applicable to artillery.

Dr. G. W. Knox believes that Japan will yet become the centre of the Christian agencies that are to revolutionize in the East.

The Government of Denmark has for years spent over \$50,000 yearly for the maintenance of dairy schools. The result has been an immense improvement in dairy precincts, and a lively demand for Danish butter.

The Argentine Republic will have an International Exposition of Agriculture next year, and has charged the distinguished engineers—Gamiza, Otamendi and Pereyra—with preparing the building plans. The Argentine Republic does not admit that in agriculture it plays second fiddle to anybody.

The Chicago is now the strongest fighting ship in the American navy. As she was not expected to do much running, her speed is not more than sixteen knots an hour. The Baltimore, San Francisco and Philadelphia were built more with a view to speed, but we hope not so much for running away as running after.

A City of Mexico correspondent says: "This city is in the midst of one of the biggest building booms ever known in its history. Hundreds of new houses are in the course of construction in suburban streets. Suburban real estate is relatively advancing in price. Most of the buildings being erected are for residences, and the sums put in the work runs up into the hundreds of thousands of dollars."

It is now confidently stated by advanced thinkers, as a result of the recent extraordinary progress in biological discovery, that almost all diseases, excepting, of course, that resulting from injuries and transmitted weaknesses of organs, is preventable, since it is the result of the attacks of lower forms of life upon us. When we know exactly what form of low life constitutes the germ of the disease, we can in time find out how to attack it in our turn and destroy it.

In the early days of petroleum an old lady wanted information as to what sperm whales were to do for a living when kerosene should become cheap. Since then petroleum has been discovered nearly all over the world, but the sperm whale thrives as heartily as ever, notwithstanding the competition imagined by the old lady. It is but the other day that a huge school of the monsters was sighted about fifty miles off Hatteras, sportive and caring no more for kerosene than if rock had never taken the place of blubber. Competition is the life of trade.

The Franco-German frontier running through the Vosges is being carefully rectified by officials from the two countries. In some places the frontier line passes through such dense forests that extensive clearings have to be made to mark the divisions and erect the frontier posts. The Germans have put up two hundred posts, strong iron columns cemented into granite beds so as to prevent any malicious removal of the boundary mark. At the top of each post is a big disk bearing the Hohenzollern eagle in black, surrounded by red and white bands to complete the national colors, and inscribed "German Empire."

Kimberly, South Africa, is fast obtaining a reputation that will compare favorably with that which Denver and Leadville possessed in their palmy days. The revolver is in daily action, and murders, robberies and burglaries are matters of continual occurrence. Editorial amenities are exchanged with a force, power and vividness of description that would shame the editor of the Arizona Kicker. Swindlers, frauds and blacklegs are almost in the majority. The script of the Tharsis Gold Mining Company was recently forged. The forger was arrested. There is no social life, and the barrooms are reaping rich harvests where the drinking is of the heaviest.

France is not satisfied with the results of Panama, and is projecting the building of a canal on its own soil. It is thought if Paris be connected by a canal with the outlying ocean it will become a seaport and thereby greatly increase its commercial operations. Paris is too greedy, remarks the Chicago Herald. It has the earth, and now it wishes a slice from the universe. It is the second city in the world. It has treasures beyond limit; it has palaces, parks, libraries and schools, grand old churches, vast wealth; what more can it have that will contribute to its greatness? Its art, its science, its manners, dress and refinement lead the world. Commerce would soil its silks and satins, and the coarse odors of hides and tallow would overpower its exquisite perfumes.

The Vanderbilts own several farms and each one is conducted on strict business principles and an account kept of all expenses and income. In this way turnips are raised at a cost of \$3 per bushel, hay at \$65 per ton and oats at about five times what they can be bought for at the feed stores.

THE NAVASSA MASSACRE.

Full Details of the Murder of Five Americans.

The Ringleaders Taken to This Country in Irons on a Warship.

Further and fuller details of the massacre of five white Americans on the island of Navassa by colored laborers, in September, are brought by the Atlas line steamship Athos, which arrived a few days since at New York. Navassa is a rocky island of volcanic origin containing about three square miles, and is situated about thirty miles southeast of Cape Marie, Hayti. It is rich in bird guano and is occupied by the Navassa Phosphate Company, which employs a large force of colored men to dig and prepare the fertilizer for shipment to the American market. There are no women on the island and none of the sex is permitted to land. For several years Navassa has served as a mail station for the Hayti-New York mails, a regular fortnightly service having been established and the Atlas Steamship Company giving gratuitous service between the ports on the southern coast of Hayti and the island.

The bags collected are left in charge of the Superintendent of the company, who delivers them to the first port of destination, which touches at the port after their reception. Up to the 14th of September last this service had been rendered by Mr. Shay, the Superintendent, an amiable and kindly gentleman, an American, and believed to have been a native of New York State. On the afternoon of that day, in endeavoring to escape from a murderous gang of mutineers, he lost his life, after first seeing four of his companions massacred in cold blood.

The trouble began on September 13 between one of the "digging superintendents" named Roby and the gang of men under his charge. Complaint had been made of inferior food, although the company's officers at the time had no objection, and resulted in a physical encounter. Roby was terribly beaten and was carried into camp wounded and bleeding. This was immediately followed by the assembling of an angry mob in front of Superintendent Shay's house, and the beginning of demonstrations and demands a change in the administration of affairs. The conduct of the mob became so violent that on the following day the Superintendent ordered the arrest of one of the laborers. The officer who was sent to carry out the order was set upon and beaten. A free fight ensued, and in order to frighten off their assailants the officers began discharging their revolvers. The negroes retaliated by throwing stones, and eventually drove their superior into Mr. Shay's house. Later on they obtained some dynamite, and drove the officers out. A parley followed, and then a man, who appeared to be the ringleader, proposed that if the eleven men would surrender their arms all the other laborers would be free.

This offer was foolishly accepted. No sooner were the officers helpless than the mob rushed upon them again. Two of them—Thomas Fales and Thomas N. Foster—were literally run over by the mob, and they were trampled and kicked to pieces. Fales, and the ground was dyed with their blood. John McMahon, the third victim, was shot through the head and almost instantly killed. Samuel Marsh was wounded in so many places that he could not walk, and he became insane and, leaping into the sea, was drowned. Superintendent Shay, finding such fearful odds against him, sought to escape by flight. He ran up a ledge of rock, and leaping overboard, struck out in the direction of the British brig Amorette, lying in the harbor. One of the mutineers threw a rock, striking the swimmer on the head. Poor Shay sank, but whether the blow stunned him or he was captured by a shark is a matter of conjecture. At all events he was never seen again.

The Captain of the Amorette, when he found what was going on, immediately weighed anchor and set sail for Morant Bay, Jamaica, and from there sent a cablegram to United States Consul Allen at Kingston. By Consul Allen's request the Forward was despatched to Navassa, to await there the arrival of the United States man-of-war Galena, which was at Port-au-Prince. No official orders were received, and the United States man-of-war had no knowledge of what was going on until October 2, when she fell in with the Atlas line steamship Athos at Gonaves and received from her a copy of a New York paper containing a brief account of the mutiny. The Galena immediately left for the island, and Admiral Gherardi upon his arrival made a thorough and exhaustive investigation.

The result of this was that several of the supposed ringleaders were captured, put in irons and sent to this country on the Galena. One hundred and twenty-four of the mob were put on board the brig Alice and Romance and sent to Baltimore. The mutineers were divided into three superior tents and a fresh lot of laborers. The Alice was in the harbor and was temporarily pressed into service as a prison ship by orders of the Admiral.

SWEEP BY A TIDAL WAVE.

Eight Hundred Lives Lost on the Japanese Coast.

A tidal wave has occurred in Japan in which nearly 800 persons lost their lives and about 2000 houses were washed away. At Okido all the houses, twenty-three in number, were washed away, and out of ninety inhabitants fifty-four lost their lives. At Jitsenku ten houses were washed away, and about fifty out of the population of 250 were killed. At Kutsu-Mura 150 houses were washed away, about twenty broken up, and about forty of the inhabitants killed. At Yotsida-Mura 330 out of the 650 houses were washed away, and 629 of the population of 2290 were killed. At Toba-Mura, containing 250 houses and a population of 1130, ten houses were broken up and ten persons perished.

MET DEATH UNDER GROUND.

Disastrous Explosion in an English Colliery.

An explosion has occurred in the Bentley colliery, at Longton, England. Seventy miners were in the pit at the time of the accident, only eleven of whom are alive. The pit was completely wrecked, and the task of recovering the buried miners was one of great difficulty. The men engaged in a search for victims found fifty bodies of the dead miners.

THE NEWS EPITOMIZED.

Eastern and Middle States.

QUARTERMASTER WILLIAM H. STOWE, of Admiral Foote Post, G. A. R., of New Haven, Conn., is short \$4000 in his accounts with the post.

GEORGE P. MARIS, once prominent in Baltimore society, died from chloroform poisoning in a lodging house in New York city.

THE grave of Ralph Waldo Emerson at Concord, Mass., was opened by vandals; the coffin was exposed to view, but the body was not touched.

A FIERCE storm raged off the Massachusetts coast and did much damage to shipping.

A WOMAN named O'Brien was killed with her babe by falling from the roof of a tenement house in New York city.

THE American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions began their annual session in New York city.

THE Episcopal General Convention in New York city decided that it was in favor of further revision of the Prayer Book.

MORE than three-fourths of the private land actually needed for the great fair of 1892 in New York city has already been voluntarily offered by property owners.

THE annual meeting of the Republican club of New Jersey was held in Elizabeth.

THE schooner Laura capsized in the East River, close to New York city, and three sailors were drowned.

THE first general assembly of the Democratic societies of Pennsylvania was opened in Philadelphia.

THE United States steamship Pensacola has sailed from New York with the African Solar expedition on board.

THE entire plant of the Brush Electric Light Company, of Boston, Mass., has been sold to the Thomas-Houston Electric Company for about \$3,250,000.

GOVERNMENT control of timber land was urged before the Forestry Congress at Philadelphia.

THREE lads, each about eighteen years of age, were run over by locomotive at Hudson, N. Y., and were all killed.

EX-GOVERNOR JOHN F. HARTRANFT, of Pennsylvania, died at his home in the sixtieth year of his age.

By the breaking of a scaffold at Bethlehem, Penn., two men were killed and three severely injured.

EX-CONGRESSMAN AMOS J. CUMMINGS has been nominated by the Tammany Hall Convention of the Ninth Congressional District to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Congressman S. S. Cox.

South and West.

THE total vote for Governor in South Dakota shows: Mellette (Rep.), 53,129; McClure (Dem.), 23,441. For prohibition the vote was 39,599, and against, 34,456. The contest for temporary capital resulted in Pierre's getting 27,096 votes, to 14,944 for Huron, 11,970 for Watertown, 11,763 for Sioux Falls, 7516 for Mitchell and 2414 for Chamberlain.

AN engine at Heinlein's sorghum mill at Bucyrus, Ohio, exploded, killing the engineer and two other men.

DAVID MENZIE and his son, Alphonse, quarreled on their ranch near San Antonio, Tex., and the father was killed and the son fatally wounded.

BOTH parties at last accounts were claiming the Montana Legislature.

DR. W. M. TERT, of Nicholson, Miss., quarreled with F. C. Collins and shot him dead. A few minutes after he met the same fate at the hands of J. W. Turner, Collins's brother-in-law.

THE nine-year-old daughter of C. G. Brown, a farmer living near Herrington, Kan., fell into a vat of boiling sorghum and was scalded to death.

FIVE THOUSAND railroad brakemen assembled in St. Paul, Minn., to attend the second annual convention of the Brotherhood and have an imposing parade.

NINE men and three women, all colored, have been arrested, charged with robbing over 100 residences and business houses in Charlotte, N. C. Robbery is a capital offense in North Carolina.

THE stern of the new coast-defense vessel has been successfully cast at the Pacific Rolling mills in San Francisco. Sixteen thousand pounds of molten steel were poured into the mould for the stem.

ROBERT BERRIER, who shot and killed his mother-in-law, Mrs. Walzer, near Lexington, N. C., was captured near Greensboro, and taken to Lexington, where he was hanged to a tree on the outskirts of the town.

REPRESENTATIVES of an English syndicate have purchased the three largest breweries in Indiana, all situated in Indianapolis.

A FRIGHTFUL collision has occurred at Sterling, Cal., between a Burlington and a Union Pacific passenger train, in which about thirty passengers were killed and many injured.

IN a fight between members of the Farmers' Alliance and the town party at Dothan, Ala., two men were killed and several severely injured.

THE Ohio River steambot Minnie Bay, bound from Manchester to Cincinnati with 125 passengers aboard, struck a snag opposite Moscow, Ohio, and sank. The passengers and crew were saved.

WHILE five men were digging a large well at the Victor coal mines, in Colorado, the walls caved in, killing two white men and one negro.

PAUL McBRIDE, drunk of a well-known St. Louis lawyer, while drunk shot and instantly killed Frank Lofton, a fireman, who accidentally fell against him on the street.

LESSING, SOLOMON & ROBERTSON, wholesale dealers in dry goods and cotton in Waco, Texas, have suspended, with liabilities of nearly \$1,000,000.

GOVERNOR HILL, of New York, spoke to a large crowd at the Atlanta Exposition.

TWO bands of brigands are raiding Cameron County, Texas. Many murders and robberies are reported, and the people of the county are in a state of terror.

GREAT destitution prevails among the farmers of Central Dakota, caused by the most total failure of crops. Many are without wheat, corn or vegetables. A relief committee has been organized.

JOHN ORLEN and William Draper have been hanged at Escrowville, Cal., for the murder of John Law. J. H. Myers was hanged for participating in the same crime some time ago.

MRS. SCROLL, of Santa Ana, Cal., murdered her two children to prevent them from falling into the hands of her husband, from whom she was divorced. She afterward attempted to take her own life.

ONE man has been killed and several fatally injured in a railroad wreck at Lebanon, Ind.

F. F. KIMBALL, United States District Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, has died in Kansas City.

By the explosion of a boiler in a sawmill at Marshall, Ill., two men were killed, and three badly injured.

JAMES HICKEY, who had confessed to being concerned in some brutal murders, was lynched in Chilton County, Ala.

R. F. PERTINACIOUS and Gideon C. Moody have been elected United States Senators by the South Dakota Legislature.

THE PENSION OFFICE.

Facts and Figures from the Commissioner's Report.

Green B. Raum Succeeds Corporal Tanner as Head of the Bureau.

The annual report for the fiscal year 1888-89 of the Commissioner of Pensions shows that at the close of the year there were 489,729 pensioners. There were added to the rolls during the year the names of 51,921 new pensioners, and the names of 1754 whose pensions have been previously stopped were restored, making an aggregate of 53,675 pensioners added during the year. There were dropped from the rolls for various causes, 16,597 pensioners, leaving a net increase to the rolls of 37,108 names.

The average annual value of each pension at the close of the fiscal year 1888-89 has been \$131.18. The amount paid for pensions during the year was \$88,275,113.28. The total amount disbursed by the agents for all purposes was \$96,131,968.44. Amount paid as fees to attorneys, \$1,393,660.48.

In the aggregate 1,248,146 pension claims have been filed since 1861, and in the same period 789,121 have been allowed. The amount disbursed on account of pensions since 1861 has been \$1,052,218,415.17. The issue of certificates during the year shows a grand total of 145,208. Of this number 51,921 were original certificates. At the close of the year there were pending and unallowed 479,000 claims.

Commissioner Tanner recommends that Congress be asked to amend the act of June 6, 1874, so as to extend the benefit of all pension laws, as to rates, to all pensioners whose pensions have been granted by special acts passed subsequent to said date, and that pensions be granted to the widows of soldiers who died from causes originating in the service prior to March 4, 1861.

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