

The loss of life by the recent floods in the Chinese provinces is placed at 100,000.

In South America one sees great fields thickly covered with oats, which have not been sown, but growing spontaneously.

A professional swindler who was sent recently to Blackwell's Island, New York city, boasts of having been arrested fifty-five times during the last nineteen years.

Now that Brazil is a republic, perhaps her coffee will have a finer flavor. Rio coffee, an exchange alleges, made in North America is not as good as it might be.

During 1889 slightly over a hundred million dollars' worth of gold has been dug from the earth on the four continents; the largest quantity came from Australia, California and South Africa.

The striking bakers in London have succeeded in reducing their working day to ten hours and, as a result of this, the master bakers intend to add a half-penny to the price of the fourpenny loaf.

Here are a few dates just now of peculiar interest:

- 1776—The United States of America.
- 1824—The United States of Mexico.
- 1861—The United States of Cuba.
- 1864—The United States of Venezuela.
- 1889—The United States of Brazil.

European powers are casting lots for Africa, and Africa is not allowed a chance in the game. Civilization preceded by appropriation may be a gain to the rest of humanity, but, in the opinion of the *Detroit Free Press*, it is a little tough on the Africans.

George Kennan, the well-known writer on Russia, in a lecture in New York city, as an instance of the severity of the climate, told his hearers how he froze mercury in a bullet mold, and then putting the bullet in a rifle, fired it through an inch pine board.

Some Italian observers have been recently testing the senses of criminals, and they find these duller than in the average of people. Signor Ottolenghi, in Turin, found last year a less acute sense of smell in criminals, and he now affirms the same for taste, which he tested by applying bitter and sweet substances (strychnine and saccharine) in dilute solution to the tongue. He finds also the taste of the habitual criminal less acute than that of the casual offender.

News has reached San Francisco of the attempted murder of Count Okuma, Minister of Foreign Affairs for Japan. The Minister had returned from a cabinet meeting and was about to enter the gate of his residence when a political enemy of his named Kudishma Tsuneki, threw a bomb at him. The missile struck the top of the carriage and exploded. The Count was severely wounded in the right leg and slightly in the hand and face. It was found necessary to amputate the leg. The would-be assassin killed himself.

It is safe to predict, says *Detroit Free Press*, that more blood will be shed in Africa within the next ten years than anywhere else in the civilized world. As the natives begin to appreciate the scope of the plans of England, Germany, Belgium and other powers, the hostility now shown is certain to increase and the collisions to grow more frequent. Of course the blacks have no chance of ultimate success, but their great numbers, their inherited disregard for human life and the remoteness of the invaders—for such they must be called—from supplies or reinforcements, will serve to make the contest more nearly equal than at first blush seems possible. This later carrying of the war into Africa will have a terrible issue.

In the deliberations of the international maritime conference at Washington, one resolution was insisted upon, the requirement, namely, that in a fog, mist, or falling snow, vessels shall go at a moderate rate of speed. Positive legal requirements in this direction, according to the *New York Observer*, are badly needed; for the recklessness of steam vessels at such times is continually on the increase. The argument of the ocean steamers that there will always be a possibility of a collision in a fog, and that on the whole the steamer running the fastest will have the best chance of escape, entirely ignores the chances of the second vessel. If it is a fishing smack or coasting ship, such as are most frequently met in the fog banks, the probability that it will escape entire destruction is very small, and diminishes in proportion to the speed of the colliding vessel. Still another point often overlooked is the fact that when a small ship is wrecked by the larger vessel, if the second ship is sailing at full speed, there is no chance that it can be stopped in time to rescue the survivors. A law restraining the speed of vessels in fogs is a law in the interests of humanity and common sense.

**THE MIDDLE STATES.**

A ferryboat Gratin of the Erie and Ohio Railroad Company, while en route to New York from Baltimore, was wrecked at sea. She cost \$90,000. All the crew were rescued.

An explosion from the bursting of an ammonia pipe connecting with a patent ice machine, blew the inside out of Charles Tretz's three-story brick brewery in Newark, N. J., wrecking fifty huge vats, flooding the neighborhood with beer and causing a loss of \$175,000.

EARTHQUAKE shocks which occurred at Alton Bay, N. H., and vicinity caused stoppage of clocks and breakage of glassware.

A FISHING boat, in which were Charles Hoyt, John Batchelder and Robert Bridges, was wrecked by Norman's Woe, Mass., and Hoyt and Batchelder, who lived in New Hampshire, were drowned.

A DOZEN Connecticut Postmasters have been fined \$50 and costs for selling stamps on credit.

TWELVE persons were hurt, some it was thought fatally, by a collision between an engine and a freight train near Greensboro, Penn.

THREE Italian women were shot in a tenement-house fight in New York city and one died.

THE TEXT of the bill to be presented in Congress for locating the International Exposition of 1892 in New York city was agreed upon.

HENRY CARLTON was hanged in New York for the murder of Policeman Brennan.

THE workmen of New York city held a meeting at Cooper Union to endorse the World's Fair project. The demonstration was arrested by Norman's Woe, Mass., and Independent labor bodies of the city.

A TERRIFIC mill explosion occurred at Marion, Del. Three men were killed and seven injured.

THE Monongahela House, the largest hotel in Pittsburgh, and one of the best known hotels in the country, has been damaged by fire to the extent of about \$150,000.

THE New York Chamber of Commerce at its monthly meeting pronounced the Chinese Exclusion Act ill-considered legislation, and passed a resolution asking the President to resume the interrupted negotiations with China.

**South and West.**

THE jury in the trial at Baltimore of the Navassa Island rioters found George S. Key guilty of murder in the first degree, Moses Williams not guilty, and failed to agree in the cases of the other sixteen prisoners.

TWO witnesses in the Cronin murder trial at Chicago swore that they had seen the prisoner taken from Dan Coughlin, one of the prisoners, and identified by T. T. Conklin as belonging to Dr. Cronin, in Coughlin's possession prior to May 4, the date of the murder.

JOHN STAPLETON and his wife, aged about thirty years, and their grandson, aged ten, were found dead at their house at Egin, Ill. They had been suffocated by coal gas.

THE Washington Hotel, of St. Paul, Minn., has been burned. Two men, one a Swede and the other an Italian, perished from suffocation.

A CORONER man and his wife, living near Franklin, Ky., went to visit a neighbor, leaving their three small children in the house. In their absence the house caught fire and burned to the ground. All three of the children perished in the flames.

CYRUS FILLMORE, a brother of ex-President Fillmore, died at Lagrange, Ind., aged eighty-seven.

IN a riot among colored men at Robeson county, N. C., three men were killed and several others injured.

IN a fight with four drunken Indians at Melrose, Kan., City Marshal Snyder was injured, killed, and one Indian fatally wounded.

MINER'S HOTEL at East Tawas, Mich., has been partially destroyed by fire. Two charred bodies were found in the ruins. Five men were seriously injured.

THE Senate of South Carolina unanimously adopted a resolution expressing the sense of the State in relation to the city of New York, and in relation to the city of New York, and in relation to the city of New York.

A COMMITTEE of the International Marine Conference reported that the establishment of a permanent International Marine Commission was not feasible.

JUST before the opening of Congress the Democratic members of the House held a caucus and adopted resolutions in favor of tariff reform as outlined by Cleveland's last message.

FRANK McARTHUR, son of an ex-Judge of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, jumped from an express train near Washington and was instantly killed. He was insane at the time.

A public debt statement shows that the reduction of the public debt during November amounted to \$4,869,672.52. The total cash in the Treasury is \$617,234,505.22.

THE United States steamer Enterprise, in English waters and under orders to come home, has been ordered by the Navy Department to proceed to Antwerp to receive the remains of ex-Minister Pendleton, and to convey them to the United States for burial.

GOVERNMENT receipts in November were \$30,716,957, and expenditures aggregated \$25,334,738.

THE Civil Service Commission in its annual report says that about 25,000 Government employes now come under its jurisdiction.

DAVID J. BREWER, of Kansas, nominated by the President to be Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, was born at Smyrna, Asia Minor, in 1837; his parents being missionaries at that place. He graduated from Yale College in 1856, and in 1859 settled down as a lawyer in Leavenworth, Kansas. After holding several judicial positions President Arthur appointed him United States Circuit Judge.

THE Board of Survey on the United States steamship Brooklyn, now at Norfolk, Va., has reported to the Navy Department that she cannot be repaired within the twenty per cent. limit and she will therefore be condemned and approved for sale.

THE National Wood Growers' Convention which met in Washington called in a body and paid their respects to President Harrison.

**LATER NEWS.**

JOHN GREENWALL, convicted of the murder of Lyman S. Weeks, whose house he had entered for the purpose of robbery, has been hung at Brooklyn, N. Y.

TWO children, who were locked up in a room in New York city by their mother while she went marketing, set fire to the furniture and were smothered.

CHARLES FRODOCK, aged 12 years, of Lincolnville, Me., was shot dead by the accidental discharge of a gun by a companion of his own age.

JOHN ROSS was on a ladder painting a school building at Paterson, N. J., when Maria Norman, aged twelve years, thoughtlessly caught hold of a guide rope and began tugging at it. The ladder and Ross fell on the child and killed her.

JOWA's official count shows that Boies (Democrat) had for Governor 180,111 votes to 173,538 for Hutchinson (Republican). All the other Republican candidates on the State ticket were elected. The Prohibition vote was about 1000, and the Union Labor vote about 5500.

THREE Apache Indians, who were to have been hanged at Florence, Arizona, tied strips of cloth tightly about their necks and strangled themselves.

W. H. FURMAN, a missing loan broker of Pontiac, Ill., is charged with forgeries amounting to \$200,000, and covering a period of ten years.

By the upsetting of a buggy in Portland, Oregon, one lady was killed and another fatally injured.

THE Pacific Mail steamship China reached San Francisco from Yokohama, Japan, having beaten the record by seventeen hours, ten minutes.

CONGRESSMAN TOM REED, of Maine, the new Speaker of the House, has appointed Amos L. Allen, of Alfred, Me., as his Private Secretary.

At a meeting of American missionaries in Constantinople it was resolved that those present should insist on the American Minister siding them to prosecute Mousa Bey, whose trial there on charges of incendiarism, pillage, murder and robbery, committed in Armenia, had ended in acquittal.

SHORTLY after Stanley's arrival on the east coast of Africa Emin Pasha fell from a balcony, sustaining a fracture of the skull and severe internal injuries. Mr. Stanley was compelled to leave him at Bagamoyo, and proceeded with the rest of his followers to Zanzibar. Emperor William, of Germany, ordered that daily reports concerning Emin's condition be telegraphed to Berlin.

A PALACE conspiracy has been discovered at Tangier, Morocco, and the Sultan's brother has been put in prison.

It is reported that General Boulanger has been engaged to lecture in the United States, and that he will deliver the first lecture in the New York Academy of Music.

METHODIST Episcopal missions in China have been wrecked by natives.

THE United States squadron of evolution, comprising the four new vessels, left Boston for Lisbon.

A BIG blaze at Union Square and University Place, New York city, destroyed property valued at about \$300,000. Four firemen were injured.

THE extensive flourmills of Lindsay & Robson, of Humboldt, Kan., have been destroyed by fire. Loss \$100,000; insured \$43,000.

CASPAR F. CLEBY, of St. Louis, committed suicide after shooting four other persons, two of whom were fatally wounded.

THE Pan-American Congress adopted the report of the Committee on Committees, and elected two Vice-Presidents.

THE United States steamer Pennacola, with the Eclipse Expedition on board, have arrived at St. Paul de Loanda, Africa.

NINE persons lost their lives in a blizzard at Presburg, Hungary.

EARTHQUAKE shocks have been felt in the central portion of Italy, but they caused no loss or damage to property. Mount Vesuvius is in a state of eruption.

THE new Government of Brazil has issued a decree proclaiming a Provisional Federal Republic.

DON PEDRO, ex-Emperor of Brazil, and his family, have arrived at Lisbon, Portugal.

**CONGRESSIONAL AID.**

National Commemoration of the Discovery of America.

Senator Ingalls has introduced a bill to aid and secure the commemoration of the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America. The bill provides that the President shall appoint, by and with the consent of the Senate, a Commission, consisting of two members from each State, of different political affiliations, two from the District of Columbia, and one from each of the Territories. The President is authorized to extend an invitation to all the American nations and States, inviting them to unite in celebrating the anniversary. Should Italy, Spain, or other European powers desire to join in the celebration they shall be invited. The bill provides that the Commission shall meet in Washington after thirty days' notice and organize. It shall then secure a site, by purchase or otherwise, for the convocation of nations of an area not less than 300 acres of ground. The President shall appropriate the land for the buildings of the various countries, each one to select its own style of architecture. The appropriations are as follows: For the purchase of ground, \$5,000,000; for grading and clearing, \$1,500,000; for buildings of the United States, \$2,000,000; for incidental expenses, \$1,000,000; \$8,000,000.

**A TERRIBLE ACQUASATION.**

Suspected of Causing the Fire in Minneapolis.

Charles Ostrom, cashier and bookkeeper of the Minneapolis department of the Pioneer Press, is in jail charged with having embezzled \$2300 of the funds entrusted to his charge and suspected, furthermore, of having fired the Tribune building, in which seven persons lost their lives.

When confronted with the charge of stealing he confessed a shortage and offered to assist in hunting the matter up. He was forced to admit that \$2300 was the correct amount. At once the rumour spread abroad that he had deliberately fired the Tribune Building to destroy the evidence of his pecuniations, and the Grand Jury will make a searching investigation.

He said: "I expected this charge would be made. I certainly had every incentive to destroy those books. If they had been burned up there would have been no proof against me. It is natural that I should be suspected. As additional proof against me, I left the books out of the safe on the night of the fire. I had often done this before and nothing had happened. I think I can prove, however, that I was not at the building that night. I left at 5 o'clock, intending to leave the country. I went to the Summit House for my wife, and visited several other places, going home about 9 o'clock."

A detective had been shadowing Ostrom for a week before the fire. Ostrom stated that the money had been lost gambling.

**MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.**

The advance sale of seats for Madame Patti's season in Chicago exceeded \$100,000.

MARIE VAN ZANTZ, the American singer, will receive \$500 for each of twelve performances at Barcelona and Lisbon.

SAMUEL BRADSHAW, one of the oldest American actors, died recently at St. John's, N. H. He was ninety-six years old.

As many as 238 female candidates applied for admission to the piano classes of the Paris Conservatoire at the recent examinations.

W. G. WILLS's version of "Clarissa Harlowe" will soon be produced at Coventry, England, with Isabel Bateman as the heroine. Friends of Christine Nilsson's hopeful health have been curious lately, but they are vigorously denied by her nephew, Mr. Bjorksten.

A BELLE publisher announces as one of the items in a forthcoming sale of autographs the MS. of a piano piece by Wagner, entitled "Polonia."

THE new opera of Gilbert and Sullivan has been withdrawn after four weeks' rehearsal. The authors themselves became convinced that it wouldn't do.

MME. MODJESKA takes a cold bath in the morning and a hot one before going to bed—one to make her hair, the other to make her sleep, and both for health.

ADELAIDE DETCHON, the young American actress, has been presented with a gold medal, set with diamonds by the faculty and students of Glasgow University.

MRS. JAMES S. NICKERSON, the wife of an ex-Assistant United States District Attorney, of Philadelphia, is the latest applicant for stage honors from the ranks of society.

THE revival of "The Silver King" proved popular at the Fifth Avenue Theatre, New York. A feature of this performance was the really admirable acting of little Olive Bonanza.

THE Vice-President and Mrs. Morton, accompanied by Secretary and Mr. Blaine, accompanied a box at the opening of Richard Mauffield's season at the new National Theatre in Washington.

The copy of Beethoven's cantata in celebration of the congress of Vienna, which he presented to King Frederick William III. of Prussia, has just been placed in the Beethoven Museum, at Bonn.

MISS KATE CHARD is the heroine of the hour in London. During a performance of "The New Corsican Brothers," the flies caught fire and she presented a panic by calmly going on with her song.

A NEW Italian opera, the "Vassal of Szigeth," by A. Smaraglia, was recently produced in Vienna. The music is said to evince real theatrical talent on the composer's part. There are not a few reminiscences of Verdi, Boito and Wagner.

AUGUSTUS HARRIS, a well-known London manager, is said to be considering a proposition to transfer the Christmas pantomime at Her Majesty's Theatre to this country bodily—scenery, principals, chorus, supers and all. The total number of persons employed in the representation is 400.

A VERY painful scene was witnessed the other night at the performance of a play called "The Hypochondriac" at the Deutsches Volkstheater, Vienna. The actor who played the title part went mad in the first act, and, after various futile efforts had been to conceal his true condition from the audience, the curtain was lowered and the play abruptly ended.

**NEWSY GLEANINGS.**

THERE have been several violent earthquake shocks in Servia.

THE Salvation Army's headquarters in London were recently burned.

THERE are five newspaper men and a police reporter in the Brazilian Cabinet.

IN Austria a great snowstorm raged for thirty-six hours, seriously impeding railway travel.

It is estimated that by March Italy will have a stock of 40,000,000 smokeless cartridges.

AN ice palace, according to the American and Canadian styles, is to be erected at St. Petersburg.

THE Dominion Government is considering the lighting of all public buildings in Canada by electricity.

A WEALTHY syndicate has been formed in London to engage in extensive mining operations in Honduras.

BOSTON distributes soup among its worthy poor during the winter months at an expense not to exceed \$2500.

A MONSTER gun thirty-six feet long has been constructed in France from a novel design and will shortly be tested.

A FIVE per cent. mortgage for \$150,000,000 on Atchison, payable in one hundred years, has been filed at Topeka, Kansas.

A French paper says that an English company has applied for a concession to build a bridge across the English Channel.

THE cost of a single discharge from a 100-ton gun, including deterioration, one-ninety-fifth, for each round fired, is \$1635.

THE Egyptian obelisk in Central Park, New York, is rapidly going to decay, notwithstanding the efforts made to preserve it. The climate is too severe.

THE first hippopotamus ever born in this country saw the light a few days since at the Central Park (New York city) menagerie. It weighed at birth forty pounds.

THE boiler of a passenger launch flying between the bridge near Foochow and Sharp Peak, China, exploded, and twenty passengers on board only twenty escaped alive.

**THE MARKETS.**

NEW YORK.

Bees	3 60 @ 4 85
Milk Cows, com. to good	25 00 @ 30 00
Calves, common to prime	2 40 @ 3 25
Sheep	4 00 @ 5 25
Lambs	6 00 @ 7 15
Hogs—Live	4 00 @ 4 30
Dressed	4 00 @ 4 25
Flour—City Mill Extra	4 40 @ 4 45
Patents	4 65 @ 5 00
Wheat—No. 2 Red	84 1/2 @ 85 1/2
Rye—State	37 @ 37 1/2
Barley—Two-rowed State	53 @ 54
Corn—Ungraded Mixed	30 1/2 @ 31 1/2
Oats—No. 1 White	27 @ 28
Mixed Western	27 @ 28 1/2
Hay—No. 1	80 @ 82
Straw—Long Rye	70 @ 80
Lard—City Steam	40 @ 45 1/2
Butter—Creamery	20 @ 25 1/2
Dairy, fair to good	12 @ 25
West. Ind. Creamery	15 @ 23
Factory	7 1/2 @ 10
Cheese—State Factory	8 @ 10 1/2
Swiss—Light	5 @ 7 1/2
Western	7 @ 10
Eggs—State and Penn.	28 @ 30

BUFFALO.

Steers—Western	2 00 @ 4 60
Sheep—Medium to Good	3 75 @ 5 50
Lambs—Fair to Good	4 50 @ 6 50
Hogs—Good to Choice Yorks	5 00 @ 7 25
Flour—Family	5 00 @ 5 25
Wheat—No. 2 Northern	84 1/2 @ 85
Corn—No. 2 Yellow	30 @ 32 1/2
Oats—No. 2 White	27 @ 28 1/2
Barley—No. 1 Canada	40 @ 45

BOSTON.

Flour—Spring Wheat Pat's	5 25 @ 5 75
Corn—Steamer Yellow	44 1/2 @ 48 1/2
Oats—No. 2 White	27 @ 28 1/2
Rye—State	60 @ 63

WATERBURY (MASH.) CATTLE MARKET.

Beef—Dressed weight	6 @ 6
Sheep—Live weight	3 1/2 @ 4 1/2
Hogs—Northern	5 @ 6 1/2
Hogs—Western	4 @ 5 1/2

PHILADELPHIA.

Flour—Penn. Family	3 75 @ 3 90
Wheat—No. 2 Red, Dec.	79 1/2 @ 80
Corn—No. 1 Mixed, Dec.	30 1/2 @ 30 1/2
Potatoes—Ungraded White	8 1/2 @ 23
Potatoes—Hoosier Extra	60 @ 60
Butter—Creamery Extra	20 @ 20
Cheese—Part skims	7 @ 8 1/2