

MERRY CHRISTMAS!  
The Dispatch tender the compilation of the "Merry Christmas" in its thousands. It will continue to give all the news every day in the week.

# Pittsburgh

PITTSBURG, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1889.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!  
Watch for new features early in 1890. The Dispatch proposes to keep pace with the city's progress, and its pages will be graced by...

FORTY-FOURTH YEAR.

THREE CENTS

## RICHER IN PROMISE.

### Sharpsville, the Heart of a Most Prolific Valley of

## TONNAGE ON A SHIP CANAL.

### Enormous Fields of the Famous Sharon Block Coal There

## AND FURNACES FOR LOTS OF ORE.

### Quiet Reminders of a By-Gone Time When the Canal Ruled.

## WHAT PROJECTOR GOODWIN HAS TO SAY

The most interesting and important of the ship canal letters appears this morning. While there remains a portion of the Beaver Valley yet to cover, this digression to a still more prolific section, a little further up, for a single issue, will add both variety and interest to the series in the canvas of the several valleys to be benefited by the great new project. The wonderful geological resources of the Sharpsville region, as well as its present great industrial activity, promise a rare development under the stimulus of real competitive transportation.

## FROM OUR SPECIAL COMMISSIONER.

SHARPSVILLE, Pa., December 24.—This town was one of the most important on the line of the old canal, as it will be on the new ship canal, if the latter is ever built. It was just below this town that the canal on its way from Erie to Beaver made connection with the slackwater of the Shenango river. The dam in the Shenango still remains, and the slackwater is utilized for running little pleasure steamers up to Trout Island, but for nothing else. Trout Island is a well-known summer resort, about three miles up the Shenango.

## A MIGHTY TRICK VEIN.

The material was the Connoquessing sandstone, of which there were, and still are, immense quarries from a mile to a mile and a half back of the line of the old canal. At Keel Ridge quarry the stone is 50 feet thick without a break.

## HISTORIC OLD CRAFT.

Within the lock above the upper gate lies sunken the remains of one of the old canal boats, whose name even has been forgotten. On the other side of the Shenango, half hidden among the trees on the bank, can be seen the ribs of another vessel, which was so noted in its time that its name is still preserved. It was the Kindushaws, and was so called for an Indian chief who, tradition says, once lived on the banks of the Shenango. It will soon pass into greater oblivion than did the aborigine whose name it for a time recalled.

## THE SHARON BLOCK COAL.

The fuel used, however, was not charcoal, but the Sharon block coal, which had been in use instead of charcoal since 1845. Sharpsville, therefore, has the honor of introducing the Lake Superior ores into the Shenango and Mahoning valleys.

## FOUR PERSONS GO TO THE BOTTOM.

A boat with the Deering Young Son of a Missouri Congressman.

## ROTARY SETS AN EXAMPLE.

Of Calumet in an Opera House Fiasco as the Madrid, December 24.—During the performance of the Opera House, an evening accident to the electric light machinery caused a panic, a cry of fire having been raised. By the efforts of the actors and manager the alarm was checked and the audience dispersed quietly.

## REAL RIOTS AT RIO.

The First Reports of Trouble in Brazil Have Been Confirmed.

## THE CHOICE OF SENATOR QUAY.

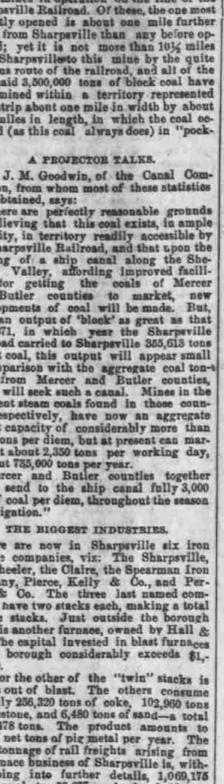
WASHINGTON, Pa., December 24.—E. F. Achesson, who has just returned from Washington, says Senator Quay is favorable to the appointment of W. H. Underwood as postmaster at this place. The talk about Quay opposing Underwood because the latter is a friend of Achesson, and a son-in-law of a friend of Achesson's, is regarded as absurd.

## A CASE OF MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE.

LAWRENCE AUSTIN, the young man who mysteriously disappeared from his home in New York, about three weeks ago, is under arrest at Cottonwood Falls, Kan., charged with the murder of a woman.

## MISS PITTSBURG'S MERRY CHRISTMAS.

### A Few of the Substantial and Costly Gifts Laid at Her Feet by Progress, Prosperity and Liberality Since Santa Claus Last Called.



There are now in Sharpsville six iron furnace companies, viz: The Sharpsville, the Wheeler, the Claire, the Spearman Iron Company, the Kelly & Co., and Perkins & Co. The three last named companies have two stacks each, making a total of nine stacks. Just outside the borough limits is another furnace, owned by Hall & Co. The capital invested in blast furnaces in the borough considerably exceeds \$1,000,000.

One of the other of the "twin" stacks is always out of blast. The others consume annually 250,000 tons of coke, 102,900 tons of limestone, and 6,480 tons of sand—a total of 319,380 tons. The present amount is 332,607 net tons of pig metal per year. The entire tonnage of rail freight arising from the furnace business of Sharpsville is, without going into further details, 1,068,175 tons, equal to 53,677 car-loads of 18 tons each, or 147 cars for every day in the year.

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## CABINET LADIES ANGRY.

### AN ACT OF MRS. HARRISON STIRS UP A HORNET'S NEST.

Her Daughter Gives Precedence of All Others in the Official Program for New Year's Day—Secretaries' Wives Wonder What Will be the Next Affair.

WASHINGTON, December 24.—Mrs. Blaine entertained to-day at luncheon the ladies of the Cabinet, there being present Mrs. Tracy, Mrs. McKee, Mrs. Windom, Mrs. Miller, wife of the Attorney General, and Mrs. Eusk. During the lunch the New Year's Day programme for the Cabinet Ministers' wives was discussed. At this lunch nothing was said about the action of Mrs. Harrison in assigning to her daughter, Mrs. McKee, the first place in the receiving line on New Year's Day, but the new departure in the etiquette of official society has raised a veritable hornet's nest among the wives of all the cabinet members.

## A MILLIONAIRE'S RUSE.

### He Becomes a Day Laborer and Works Two Days in His Own Mine, Thereby Securing Possession of Value.

CANANDAIGUA, N. Y., December 24.—W. H. Smith, a millionaire mine operator, has a claim against the Retsof Salt Company, of York, Livingston county, for two days' work as a common laborer in the company's salt mine at \$1.50 per day. Smith applied for work at the Superintendent's office the other day and was sent down the shaft with the miners. He worked two days, and on the morning of the third requested a day off on account of sickness. It was granted, and the miner hired a rig and took a ride for his health to the home of a farmer, S. H. Gray, who owned land supposed to be rich in salt deposits.

## TONY BOSTON RATS.

### The Hat Checked at the Escapades of a Redoubt Club, with Noted Members—Its Meetings in an Old Warehouse.

BOSTON, December 24.—Boston's aristocratic 400 are holding up their hands in holy horror over the escapades of sundry dignified members, whose names are supposed to be synonymous with sobriety and propriety. It leaked out to-day that several of the distinguished bluebloods have been holding meetings in a loft on Trilina wharf and that they were banded together under the dignified title of "India Wharf Rats," to have a good time in a manner that would not be allowed in the tony Somerset street Bohemian and Puritan clubs, of which the gentlemen were members.

## ALL ABOUT INFLUENZA. DR. ASHBURNER DEAD

### The Well-Known Scientist Dies Suddenly at His Residence.

### HIS ILLNESS OF BRIEF DURATION.

### Science Loses One of Its Brightest Stars by His Demise.

### DEATH WELCOMES GUESTS AT A FEAST.

### His Death Caused by an Attack of Bright's Disease.

### Contracted While in New Mexico.

### Readers of the DISPATCH will be surprised to read the announcement that Dr. C. A. Ashburner, the eminent geologist of this city, died yesterday afternoon. He has been ill but a short time and no thought was entertained that his disease would carry him off.

### Dr. Charles Albert Ashburner, the geologist and scientist, died at his residence, No. 363 South Highland avenue, yesterday afternoon at 1 o'clock.

### The announcement of the death of Mr. Ashburner will be a painful surprise to his

thousands of friends not only in Pittsburgh, but all over the United States, as it was not known until yesterday morning that he was dangerously ill.

Probably no man of Mr. Ashburner's years was so widely known among scientists on the western continent and in scientific circles his death will be mourned as an irreparable loss. A few weeks ago he went to Arizona to locate a copper mine. While up in the mountains he was attacked with a severe cold, but it was not considered dangerous. When Mr. Ashburner returned to Pittsburgh the cold had become worse and he concluded to remain at home for a few days.

### DEATH AT THE FEAST.

Every Christmas Eve while in Pittsburgh he has entertained his friends and their families at his residence. A few days ago he was engaged to give a lecture on the effects of his Western trip, he sent cards to his friends, inviting them to join him in his annual Christmas Eve festivities. The shock, doubly severe to those who had anticipated the spending of their time with him last evening on a night of merry making, and the loss of the fruits of his intellectual journey, as he gathered around his friends, instead of gazing upon his inanimate form.

The primary cause of his death was heart failure. The attack was so sudden that he was dying almost before even the physicians were cognizant of the gravity of the case.

When friends telephoned to his residence yesterday morning, inquiring about his condition, Mrs. Ashburner replied that he had passed a restless night, but even then she was not aware that she was so soon to be parted from her husband, and helpmate. She telephoned Joseph Woodwell, however, to procure a nurse. Mr. Woodwell came to the residence of the Homeopathic Hospital to fulfill his mission. When he returned to his store he was handed a message announcing the death of Mrs. Ashburner.

Mr. Ashburner was a member of Calvary Episcopal Church, of which the Rev. George Hodges is pastor. Mr. Ashburner and Rev. Hodges were the only persons in the city who the scientist breathed his last. He suffered the most excruciating pain until ten minutes before his death, and although conscious, was unable to respond to the ministrations of his friends.

### HIS RECORD AS A GEOLOGIST.

Mr. Ashburner was born in Philadelphia February 9, 1854. He was graduated of the University of Pennsylvania in 1874, ranking first in his class. During the summer of 1872 he was engaged in the survey of the Delaware river. On his graduation he accepted a place in the light-house survey service. In 1874 the Geological Survey of Pennsylvania was organized with the appointment of Prof. P. L. Silliman, Geologist. Mr. Ashburner at once resigned from the United States service to become an assistant in the survey. He was actively employed during the latter part of 1874 in surveys of Millin and Juniata counties. In 1875 he was appointed Assistant Geologist, in charge of the surveys in McKean, Elk, Forest and Cameron counties. In 1880 he was appointed geologist in charge of the surveys of the anthracite coal fields, where he originated a method of surveying and measuring the geology of this great coal field, which has received the approbation of mining engineers and geologists, both in the United States and Europe. The ability and skill with which the undertaking was performed led to his being appointed in 1885, geologist in charge of all the office and field work of the survey. Mr. Ashburner was a member of the American Philosophical Society, the American Institute of Mining Engineers, and other scientific societies, to whose proceedings he has contributed valuable papers. He also contributed to the scientific and mechanical journals. He prepared more than 20 of the reports of the geological survey.

### HIS PITTSBURGH CAREER.

He came to Pittsburgh about four years ago as scientist for the Westinghouse Company and the Philadelphia Gas Company. He has resided in this city since 1885. He was author of a number of coal, coal and minerals of every class and his services were eagerly sought by coal operators who were desirous of having a mine located. Although scarcely in the prime of life, his reputation among scientists is world wide. He was on the staff which leads the keystone of fame, and was also employed by the State to furnish the authorities with statistics relative to coal.

### HIS PERSONAL CHARACTER.

Personally he was a man of the most respectable habits, domestic to an almost

Continued on Sixth Page.

## TONY BOSTON RATS.

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## VIEWS OF AN INFIDEL.

### INGERSOLL DISCUSSES THE OBSERVANCE OF CHRISTMAS.

He Argues the Antiquity of the Custom Shows a Pagan Origin—The Sun Worship of the Past—What a Holiday Should Be.

NEW YORK, December 24.—Strange as it may appear, Colonel Robert G. Ingersoll has never given an opinion on the holy holiday of Christmas. In all his lectures, addresses and writings his idea of the greatest holiday of the Christian world has never been expressed. The following from his pen will therefore be of the greater interest, as it is on a subject of which the world has not yet heard the greatest infidel of his age speak.

## ANTIQUITY OF THE CUSTOM.

It is on the day on which the sun triumphs over the hosts of darkness, and thousands of years before the New Testament was written: thousands of years before the Republic of Rome existed; before one stone of Athens was laid; before the Pharaohs ruled in Egypt; before the religion of Pharaoh; before the Samsor was spoken; man and woman crawled out of their caves, and greeted the triumph of the sun over the powers of night.

## PAGAN AND CHRISTIAN CUSTOMS.

There are many other relics and souvenirs of the dead worship of the sun, and this festival was adopted by Egyptians, Greeks, Romans and by Christians. As a matter of fact, Christianity furnished new steam for an old religion—and as a matter of course, the old festival remained. For all of our festivals you will find corresponding Pagan holidays. For instance, take the Epiphany, the Communion, where persons partake of the body and blood of the Deity. This is an exceedingly old custom. Among the ancients they ate cakes made of corn in honor of Ceres, and they called these cakes the flesh of the goddess, and they drank her blood in honor of Bacchus, and called this the blood of their god.

## NUMEROUS SERIOUS CHARGES.

Preferred Against the Secretary of an Iron and Steel Company.

NEW YORK, December 24.—John Williams, Secretary of the Ramel-Conley Iron and Steel Company, and also representing the United States Sealed Postal Card Company, at 220 Broadway, has not been at his office for about three weeks, and gentlemen associated with him in business say that he is in an insane asylum. Edmond Huertel, Treasurer of the Ramel-Conley Company, has obtained from Judge Lawrence, of the Supreme Court, an attachment against Mr. Williams for \$4,000 money lent. In his affidavit Mr. Huertel alleged that Mr. Williams, as Secretary of the Ramel-Conley Iron and Steel Company, willfully and fraudulently alienated a check or checks drawn by the company to the order of sundry persons, collected the money, appropriated it to his own use, and in a conversation with Mr. Huertel admitted that he had misappropriated such money; had lost it in speculative ventures; had squandered and risked his money and property in reckless gambling operations; and was entirely insolvent.

## THREE OF A FAMILY KILLED.

Husband, Wife and Child Struck Down by the Locomotive.

WILMETTE, Ill., December 24.—Three persons lost their lives in a railroad accident here to-night. They were G. D. Bevil, formerly station agent at Wilmette, and his wife and child. While crossing the tracks they were struck by a passing train.

## OPERATIONS SUDDENLY STOPPED.

### A Bucket Shop Proprietor's Arrest Follows Exposure of His Methods.

PHILADELPHIA, December 24.—The Metropolitan Stock Exchange, a high sounding name for a bucket shop, came to a sudden end here this afternoon, for it was discovered that the grain quotations which they bulletined, ostensibly from Alexandria, Va., were sent from an upstairs back office, less than a block away, and by a member of the firm.

## A BOSTON PASTOR DIVORCED.

### Rev. William R. Campbell Separated From His Beautiful Wife.

BOSTON, December 24.—The Rev. William R. Campbell, pastor of the Highland Church, has at last secured a divorce from his beautiful wife, Minnie Scott Campbell, of St. Louis. Desertion was alleged. The father gave the custody of the little girl, over whom there has been such a bitter wrangle in the courts, but the mother may have her for three months in the year.

## GERMANY WILL TAKE A HEAD.

### LONDON, December 24.—The Daily News says that Germany will send an expedition to Brazil to protect the German colonies on the Rio Grande.

## KESPEE WILL GO BACK TO GAMES.

### BOSTON, December 24.—As soon as the Gammon question is finally settled Kessee will resume his position as German Consul there.

## RUBBER STILL ADVANCING.

### The Act of the Paris Government Brings up Prices 5 Per Cent.

NEW YORK, December 24.—Mr. Charles R. Flint received to-day a cable dispatch from the Compania Mercantil, the company in whose favor the provisional Government of Brazil recently granted a "special concession" in the shape of a tax upon all rubber for export, advising a decline in exchange of 3 per cent, and an advance in the price of rubber of 100 per cent, nearly 5 per cent. The stock on sale was said to be 75 tons and the market very strong. Mr. Flint said that the receipts of rubber in Para since December 1, amounted in all to 800 tons, being 40 per cent less than the average receipts of the previous three years for the same time. The decline in Brazilian exchange brings it to 25 1/2 per cent. The par value of a Brazilian real is 27 English pence, and the decline to 25 1/2 is a decline of 1/4 pence in a week's time.

## MORE REASONS FOR GRUMBING.

### Another year departure in the official programme, which causes alarm as much as the giving of precedence to the Justices of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia over the Senators and Representatives in Congress, and admitting them, with their legal brethren, the Justices of the United States Supreme Court during the first half hour of the reception, which is the most brilliant portion of the day. The Congressmen and their wives do not accept the new departure gracefully and the ladies especially are doing a large amount of grumbling.

## BURNING CORN FOR FUEL.

### The Farmers in Northwestern Kansas Have No Other Use for It.

TOPEKA, Kan., December 24.—A State official, who returned from a trip through northern Northwestern Kansas, says that thousands of bushels of corn are being burned for fuel. In some counties the price of corn is less than 15 cents per bushel, while coal is from 25 to 35 cents per bushel. The corn makes an excellent fuel. The corn crop is immense. In all the principal corn-producing counties it is stacked up in great mounds without protection of any sort. It having been impossible for the last 30 days to obtain cars to move it in.

## BOULANGER IN GREAT LUCK.

### A Woman Will Devote a Fortune of \$1,500,000 to His Cause.

PARIS, December 24.—Madame Bonnamant, an enthusiastic supporter of General Boulanger, has just inherited \$1,500,000, the bulk of which she will devote to the General's cause.

## WATERFUL OUTPUT.

During the period from July 1, 1885, to the present time the black-coal mines on the line of the Sharpsville Railroad have produced something more than 3,000,000 tons of coal, of which the furnaces in and about Sharpsville have consumed about 1,000,000 tons, while shipments abroad, through the territory between Rochester in the East and Chicago in the West, have aggregated about 2,000,000 tons.

## PROFITOR TALKS.

Mr. J. M. Goodwin, of the Canal Commission, from whom most of these statistics were obtained, says that the one most recently opened is about one mile further away from Sharpsville than any before operated; yet it is not more than 10 1/2 miles from the Erie Railroad, and by the quite devious route of the railroad, and all of the storesid 3,000,000 tons of block coal have been mined within a territory represented by a strip about one mile in width by about nine miles in length, in which the coal occurs (as this coal always does) in "pockets."

## THE MOST INTERESTING AND IMPORTANT OF THE SHIP CANAL LETTERS APPEARS THIS MORNING.

While there remains a portion of the Beaver Valley yet to cover, this digression to a still more prolific section, a little further up, for a single issue, will add both variety and interest to the series in the canvas of the several valleys to be benefited by the great new project. The wonderful geological resources of the Sharpsville region, as well as its present great industrial activity, promise a rare development under the stimulus of real competitive transportation.