

## Violent Scenes Disturb France.

Scandals Exposed in the Panama Canal Scheme That Make Deputies Mad.

## A DUEL AND A DEATH

The Result of the Sensational Charges of One of the Senators.

Thousands of francs used to bribe the members of the House—Confusion reigns supreme when the accusations are made—Passions rise and an investigation is ordered—Baron de Reinach, one of the compromised, dies suddenly—Suspicious created that he committed suicide to avoid the shame of the exposure—His family refused to allow an autopsy—Two hot-headed statesmen decide to fight over their dispute—De Lesseps' friends say the campaign is one of calumny from which he will emerge unscathed—Arrests likely to follow.

PARIS, Nov. 21.—By a unanimous vote the Chamber of Deputies to-day agreed that a Parliamentary inquiry should be instituted into the affairs of the Panama Canal Company. There was an unusually large attendance in the Chamber of Deputies to-day. The public thronged the galleries. Nearly all the ministers were present.

M. Argues opened the Panama debate. He said that his object was to defend the interests of the shareholders of the company. He reminded the Chamber that it had authorized the issue of shares in 1888, under exceptional circumstances.

M. Rouvier, Minister of Finance, interposed to say that the Chamber's vote had not pledged the responsibility either of the Parliament or of the Government.

M. Argues said that it was none the less true that the action of the Chamber was contrary to law and had therefore been in the nature of a privilege. The mere fact of granting it entailed moral responsibilities.

"I call upon the Government," said Argues, "to make a declaration reassuring the small shareholders."

M. De Lahaye arose and declared: "This is a question of public morality. I ask the Chamber for the sake of my honor and of your honor to order an inquiry into the facts I am about to submit to you."

Refuses to Give Names.

There was a commotion in the Chamber for a minute. Then a moment of suspense. M. De Lahaye then continued: "I will give no names, as I do not wish to appear as a denouncer." There was another prolonged disturbance in the Chamber.

When quiet was restored the speaker continued: "The scandals in the Panama matter exceed those of the Wilson affair. The inquiry demanded is in the nature of a general purification, to be effected in the broad light of day."

Here the speaker was again interrupted with an uproar among the Deputies. When he was able to resume he said: "M. De Lesseps in 1890 had vainly traversed France appealing for subscribers when an individual, whom I shall not name, proposed to the Panama directors a system of lottery bonds. He was the evil genius of the company. The directors duped the public; he duped the directors. He first asked for 5,000,000 francs, declaring that he could purchase therewith all the necessary concessions in both Chambers of the National Legislature."

There were renewed interruptions here and cries of "Name him, name him!"

Millions Given to the Deputies.

M. De Lahaye replied: "If you want names, you will vote for my inquiry. But I can say that the medium of these transactions was a man named Arton, who has since fled the country to escape punishment for embezzlement of a large sum from a dynamite manufacturing company, of which he was a director."

M. De Lahaye proceeded: "There was a sum of 3,000,000 francs distributed among 120 Deputies and a few Senators. (Violent uproar among the Deputies.) But the appetites thus excited grew greedier, and the financier managing the matter was compelled to ask the Panama directors for more millions of francs. The money was demanded for election expenses in the Department of Nord."

Intense excitement broke out again in the Chamber, and M. Floquet arose and exclaimed: "I was Minister of the Interior at that time and I desire to solemnly state that I received nothing."

M. De Lahaye waited for the confusion which existed to subside and then continued: "Three hundred thousand francs was spent in buying three papers. A minister now dead asked 100,000 francs, another 200,000 francs was paid for a journal of little value, but behind which hidden influences were working. A foreign paper was bought for 500,000 francs, a check for which was signed at its office. I can name the person who acted as messenger between the contracting parties." (Cries of "Name him.")

The Last and Greatest Scandal.

M. De Lahaye did not notice the interruption, but proceeded: "Now for the last scandal. The committee of this Chamber charged with the duty of examining into this lottery bond scheme comprised five favorable to it and five opposed. The eleventh member, before casting his vote, offered his services to the company for 200,000 francs. As the company refused his proposition he formed a syndicate, being aided by a banker and caused a fall in the shares and compelled the company to yield. The scheme was then approved by the committee. But the banker was not warned in time. The shares recovered and he was ruined. (Great sensation.) You ask me evidence, there are 100 here present who know where it can be found. There are two categories of deputies—those who received money! Those who did not!"

Indescribable uproar followed this assertion. M. Floquet, President of the Chamber, intervened to say: "You cannot come into this House and accuse the entire body."

There were renewed calls upon M. De Lahaye for names. He replied: "Vote for the inquiry." M. Floquet asked him to give names, as such a course would be more dignified than anonymous denunciation. "I consider myself attacked," said the

presiding officer of the Chamber. "I am not only unopposed to an inquiry, but I have demands therefor signed by our colleagues."

This announcement was greeted with prolonged cheering during which M. De Lahaye quitted the Tribune. As he walked to his seat there was an unparalleled scene of confusion. He was hissed and hooted, and a violent dispute began at the same time between M. Hubbard and Deroulade.

Herron Premier Loubet ascended the Tribune. He was unable to speak for a time, owing to the tumult. When finally he was able to make his voice heard he said he would not reply to M. De Lahaye's allegations, as he believed that the charges arose from violent political passions. The Government, however, could not refuse the demand for an inquiry. It was in the interest of all that light should be thrown upon the matter. The Government had nothing to hide.

The Chamber agreed that a committee of 33 should be appointed, with extraordinary powers, to examine all the charges.

A Searching Inquiry Demanded.

M. Delaunay urged that the most searching investigation be made, as the responsibility of the Government, the press, the leading financiers and contractors were involved.

M. Cassagnac called upon M. Delaunay to tell what he knew.

M. Boissy d'Anglas interposed that M. Cassagnac's own name had been mentioned in the lobby.

M. Cassagnac indignantly protested, whereupon M. Boissy d'Anglas remarked that he had accused him, and that he wished to know how the abominable M. De Lahaye's charges were.

M. Germain, of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, of the Credit Lyonnais, and M. Hely d'Assel, of the Department of Finance, and a Director of the Societe Generale, denied M. Delaunay's statement that their companies had loaned money to the Panama Canal Company at 80 per cent interest.

M. Delaunay then, by a vote of 311 to 284, decided that the investigating Committee should be appointed at to-morrow's sitting by Scrutin-de-Liste.

M. Deroulade moved that before adjourning the sitting which had been so humiliating to the Republic, they adopt a motion of congratulation on the success of General Dodo's expedition in Dahomey. This was carried by a unanimous vote and the Chamber adjourned.

M. Deroulade and Hubbard afterwards appointed seconds to arrange for a duel.

Recalls Days of Boulangism.

After the adjournment of the Chamber there was an animated discussion in the lobby. The scenes of the debate are described as recalling the days of Boulangism, in the conduct of the deputies the first character of De Lahaye's accusations.

M. De Lahaye's own friends blame him for his wholesale charges, while admitting that he kept his promise to avoid personalities.

The latest news is that a clue has been obtained which is likely to result in the arrest of Arton to-morrow. The leaders of the Right and Left parties are arranging to-night the numerical representation of those who are on the Panama Investigating Committee.

The death of Baron de Reinach, who was one of the men compromised in the Panama scandal, has caused considerable discussion here and stories are afloat that rather than face the Chamber he committed suicide. These stories find credence in many quarters. This morning it was said his death was caused by cerebral excitement, brought on by discovery that papers showing that he was compromised in the Canal scheme had been stolen.

His family refuse to allow an autopsy to be held and this is taken as confirmation of the suicide theory, though his family gave as their excuse the desire to allow an autopsy is contrary to the Hebrew religion. Baron de Reinach leaves a fortune of 75,000,000 francs (\$15,000,000).

Defending De Lesseps' Honor.

The Paris correspondent of the London Times says: "M. Loubet, became a condottier after Friday's vote that he related the acuteness of his vigilance. He has no idea of the impending danger and has said nothing to avert it. Unless the Senate annuls its vote on the bill, the Government will be left as powerless as before the bill was passed. The form of the bill is so different from the original conception that it may be said to be altogether another thing."

"The treaty of commerce resulting from the Panama Canal affair seems to be pure insanity unless it is a deep laid scheme of reactionaries eager for office. A protest is necessary lest foreigners be misled. When the Chamber votes much recklessness and waste will come to light, but certainly not this debauch of venality and corruption that is alleged by sensational papers. M. De Lesseps was sensibly deceived on the bill, but he will emerge pure and unimpaired from this, and that grievously impairs the luster of his name which would otherwise have gone down unimpaired to posterity. France will be seen with a noble folly, mingling with business, but he shall not see the rotten France depicted in Paris newspapers."

FOOTBALL BEFORE SERMONS.

A New York Pastor Will Hold No Thanksgivings.

NEW YORK, Nov. 21.—[Special.]—Rev. John R. Paxton, pastor of the West Presbyterian Church, announced from the pulpit yesterday that there would be no service Thanksgiving Day in his church, as from previous years he had found that religion invariably gave way to football. "I can get little or no congregation on that day," said Dr. Paxton, "and of the few who do attend at least half leave in order to go to the great game." Under these discouraging circumstances the doctor declines to hold services and has the courage of his convictions in announcing his reasons therefor. That his message will be generally followed is scarcely probable, most of his brethren holding as tantamount the time-honored observance of the day.

Rev. Dr. Parkhurst, when seen by a reporter, stated that he should most certainly hold services. "We have," he said, "something still to be thankful for, and changes of time should not bring any change in our gratitude or its offering. What will be generally done I do not know, but I think there will be few if any other churches that will close their doors Thanksgiving Day. As for myself, even if the congregation is small, I prefer to hold services."

PITTSBURG ALWAYS LAST.

\$2,000,000 to Be Spent Elsewhere by the P. R. R.—Our Turn Later.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 21.—At a meeting of the Road Committee of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company to-day \$2,000,000 was ordered to be expended for additions to third and fourth tracks and the enlargement of the bridge on the Philadelphia and middle divisions. Nothing was done toward making any improvements on the Pittsburgh division, but it is understood that the division will receive the same attention later on.

MURPHY IN EARNEST.

The Troy Protégé of Hill's Is He Is Out for the U. S. Senate.

TROY, N. Y., Nov. 21.—Chairman Edward Murphy, Jr., is a candidate for United States Senator to succeed Frank Hitchcock. This is authentic. When asked if he would be a candidate this afternoon he replied: "I can say that I am a candidate and that I will continue to be a candidate." Further than this declaration he was disinclined to talk.

## BACK TO PITTSBURG.

The Pinkerton Investigators to Sit Here Thanksgiving Day.

## CIVIL SERVICE FOR POLICE

One of the Arguments Advanced by Chief McLaughrey.

## A DETECTIVE WHO WAS SWORN IN.

Powderly Says the Homestead Affair Was Caused by Obstinacy.

## THE OLD K. OF L. OFFICERS RE-ELECTED

(SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.)

CHICAGO, Nov. 21.—The Chicago end of the Senatorial investigation of the Homestead trouble and the Pinkerton system was about closed to-day. The first witness for Senator Gallinger and Peffer was Chief of Police McLaughrey.

"Have you any suggestions as to the improvement of the police forces in great cities?" asked Senator Gallinger.

"I will say that the prime thing necessary is to take the police force out of the field of politics and put it under the civil service system. There would result a body of men efficient in the protection of public rights, in which capitalists and business men would have confidence, so that the employment of private watchmen would be unnecessary."

When asked why the police forces of cities and little communities were not able to cope with strikes and similar disorders, he said that the connection between the police force and political deals was so intimate that the efficiency of the police was usually not fully realized. "It is my opinion," he continued, "that it is individuals as well as bodies of men, whether trades unions or other corporations, employing large bodies of men, would apply to police departments in case of trouble, and give the departments the same support, pecuniary and otherwise, that they give to the outside agencies, these troubles could be much more easily and peacefully adjusted."

United States Marshal Frank Hitchcock said he did not think it advisable to employ private detective agencies, but the employment of strikes, and experience had shown detectives rather aggravated the moderate troubles.

Frank Burnham, one of the Pinkertons who went to Homestead, testified that he would not have gone if he had known his mission. He testified that he was sworn in, but could not say where the oath was administered.

The committee adjourned to meet in the Duquesne Hotel, Pittsburgh, Thursday, to continue the investigation.

## POWDERLY AGAIN ELECTED

As Head of the Knights of Labor—All the Other Old Officers Go In With Him—A Home for Aged Knights Sure to Be Built.

St. Louis, Nov. 21.—[Special.]—The Knights of Labor convention this morning transcended little business of general interest. Most of the forenoon was devoted to a discussion of the recommendation to strike out of the platform the demand for a graduated income tax. Some of the delegates were in favor of an inheritance tax, and if the income tax plank stands as an inheritance plank may be added. The discussion was still in progress when the time for the election of officers arrived, and final discussion was postponed until to-morrow.

The following officers were elected: General Master Workman, T. V. Powderly; Secretary and Treasurer, J. W. Hayes; General Workman, George L. Cavanagh; Executive Board, T. V. Powderly, John Davis, T. B. Maguire and A. W. Wright.

A Home for Sick Knights.

The question of establishing a home for aged and disabled Knights of Labor is being considered by the order. The West is the natural field for our work. My idea would be to have all the local assemblies get up lectures on labor topics, or other entertainments, say once a month, and charge a moderate sum for admission—10 cents or something like that—for the benefit of a Home fund. Plenty of money could be got together in this way, and it seems to me to be a very simple thing to do. I know it could be done very easily, when once we have got the members of the order interested in it. A college for the instruction of the young could be connected with the Home and its beneficial results thus increased. I think the idea will become popular when properly set on foot."

More Aid for Homestead Promised.

The following resolutions were adopted just before adjournment:

Resolved, That in the sense of this General Assembly of the Knights of Labor the outcome of the recent tremendous struggle at Homestead is deplorable, but it has been of great benefit to the laboring community, at least, great economic questions, and the discussion of the strike at Homestead, and the discussion following, we should not lose sight of the thousands of working people left in idleness, and on the verge of starvation. Therefore be it ordered that the General Executive Board be instructed to issue an appeal for those unfortunate people, and distribute the same to the best advantage of those who need help.

## POWDERLY'S VIEWS.

He Says the Homestead Trouble Was the Result of Obstinacy—The Labor Situation of the Country Was Never Better—Restriction of Immigration.

St. Louis, Nov. 21.—Terrence V. Powderly, General Master Workman of the Knights of Labor, has submitted to the first interview he has given on some of the questions that are agitating workmen. He was very emphatic in his statements, some of which are herewith given verbatim:

"What is your opinion of the Homestead trouble?"

"The Homestead troubles are as much the result of obstinacy and a desire to rule without question as anything else. Mr. Frick is overbearing and technical. Mr. Carnegie is in Europe studying the conditions of labor there, and reports his findings to Mr. Frick with instructions to do as he sees fit toward establishing similar relations in this country. I regret that the Amalgamated Association does not constitute a

branch of the Knights of Labor. Our relations, however, are very friendly."

The Labor Situation Excellent.

"What do you think of the labor situation in the country to-day?"

"It never was better. The recent election proved that. Mr. Frick, Mr. Carnegie and Cleveland were as good as no better than in 1888. But the impression that Carnegie and I speak of him as representing a class—was the real opponent of Cleveland, caused hundreds of thousands who never before gave thought to such a question to change their votes. That set demonstrated that they are thinking. They will continue to think, and in 1896 will have found the Democratic party no better than the Republican party and will then turn to the People's party—the only friend that offers relief. It now makes a Democrat mad to call him a free trader. The party stole into power under false pretenses and the people will cast them in 1896."

"The statement made before the election that it was a protectionist was a lie out of the whole cloth," added Mr. Powderly by way of reflection.

Whom the K. of L. Co-Operate With.

"Do the Knights of Labor co-operate with the Federation and other labor organizations?"

"The Knights of Labor co-operate with the trades unions and all other legitimate labor societies wherever and whenever the interests of labor can be improved, but we do not co-operate with and recognize the fake, which affords an outlet for the personal spite of expelled Knights, known as the American Federation of Labor. If that institution did not have the Knights of Labor to throw mud at it, it would collapse into a state of coma, or at other Cleveland puts it, 'innocuous desuetude.'"

"What is the principal legislation the Knights of Labor desire from the National Congress?"

"Restriction of immigration. Restriction of rail and telegraph lines under the right of eminent domain to the care of the people. The initiative and referendum, so far as it can be applied, in national legislation, and otherwise, that they give to the value for use, and such other matters as the General Assembly may direct."

## A FATAL EXPLOSION.

Powder Takes Fire at the Blanche Mine and Kills Two Miners—Nine Badly Injured—Some of Them May Die—Narrow Escape of Many More.

STEVENSVILLE, O., Nov. 21.—[Special.]—At the Blanche mine at the west end of the Panhandle Railroad yard at Collier's, W. Va., 25 lives were lost yesterday by a fatal explosion, and 125 others were injured at 12:15 P. M. to-day. It was providential that the explosion did not occur ten minutes later or every home at the Blanche mine would have been mourning its dead to-night. The explosion was caused by a fuming fuse throwing fire into a mine's powder can, the explosion of which fired others until the whole stock of loose powder exploded.

The scene that followed cannot be told in words. The women who had husbands, brothers, sons or sweethearts in the smoking pit were simply frantic. Crowds came swarming to the mine's mouth. As soon as they had time to recover from the shock of the mine explosion a squad of brave volunteers took their chances on the "bad air" and went in. Then the advance of the rescue party appeared, bearing among them the scared and mutilated victims of the explosion.

The following were dead: John Prasky, Wesley Anderson, colored.

The following were injured: Michael Choker, fatally wounded; William Anderson, colored, badly injured; John Anderson, colored, face torn; Willie Campbell, colored, arm recovered; Lawrence Campbell, burned about the arms and head; John Ziegler, burned about the arm, back and head; sent to Pittsburgh to the West Penn Hospital; Ed Cook, Cleveland, burned; died; John Gillespie, of Akron, O., badly burned about the head; Matthew Wright, burned about the arms, head and back; George Teeters, burned and injured internally; John Bess, badly burned about the body, but will recover.

The explosion did comparatively little damage, so far as is known, to the mine or its equipment.

## FLOODS IN WASHINGTON.

Two Steamers Wrecked in the Jam on the Snohomish River.

TACOMA, WASH., Nov. 21.—The high water of the Green, White, Pullup, Snake and Nisqually rivers still flood the railroads between Puget Sound and the Cascade Mountains. All travel on the Northern Pacific is suspended except to Portland. Hundreds of men are at work here or along the line of road replacing washed-out bridges and trestles. Reports to-day say the water is receding and that the railroad company expects to start a train to Seattle this afternoon and to the East Tuesday.

The jam at Snohomish consists of over 3,000,000 feet of logs and debris which have formed a huge crush in the Snohomish river at the Great Northern Railroad's bridge. The railroad company has a large force of men working to break the jam. If the Great Northern bridge goes it will take the Lake Shore and Eastern bridge and the City Wagon bridge with it. The steamers Mamie and Isabella were now in the center of the jam and probably totally wrecked. The first fatality reported is the death of J. A. Medora, a laborer, who was drowned while trying to save stock yesterday afternoon near Snohomish.

## BETTERS TO BE INDICTED.

A Lancaster Judge Instructs a Grand Jury to Return Election Risk-Takers.

LANCASTER, Pa., Nov. 21.—Judge McMullen, in his charge to the grand jury this morning, referred to an offense against the law to which little attention has heretofore been paid—betting on elections. He instructed the grand inquest to present for indictment all such persons known to them who made wagers on the recent election, as thousands of dollars were won and lost in this county on the Presidential contest.

The charge created quite a sensation and many bettors are alarmed. They fear that the grand jury will indict them.

## ONE WAY TO SETTLE A STRIKE.

A Firm Recovers So Big a Hurry Order That There's Plenty of Work.

CINCINNATI, Nov. 21.—[Special.]—The shipbuilders' strike, which has been on for nearly three months, and which after a long time nearly all the members of the craft in the Ohio Valley, threatened at one time to become general, ended here to-day unexpectedly to both sides.

A leading firm received from the Government a \$300,000 "hurry" order for model barges, yachts and other floating traps for Western rivers. All the ship carpenters in the city were wanted, and they went to work at their own figures.

## STROKE & NEW LEAD.

The Borden Case Goes Over Until December for Further Evidence.

TAUNTON, MASS., Nov. 21.—The grand jury, which has been considering the Borden case, has been dismissed until Thursday, December 1. This action is a surprise to the public. The assumed solution of the case, which has been a new lead and that this brief adjournment is to give them a chance to gather evidence that will result in more than one indictment.

## COMING RIGHT AT US.

Is the Comet, According to Prof. Young, Princeton's Famous Astronomer.

## IT IS SURELY NOT BIELA'S.

On That Point Nearly All Scientists at Last Agree.

## THIS ONE IS SOMEWHAT CHEERING.

He Says the Comet Couldn't Hurt the Earth If It Struck It.

## ANY MORE THAN A FEATHER BED WOULD

(SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.)

PRINCETON, N. J., Nov. 21.—The announcement made yesterday from the Dudley Observatory concerning the comet and its present distance from the earth, brought from Prof. Charles A. Young to-day the results of his observations from the Hales Observatory here. Prof. Young has watched the comet from the time it was first noticed by Holmes on November 6, and to-day he said:

"If Prof. Boss gave out these statements himself I would not like to dispute him, for I have known him for years, and know that he seldom makes assertions without being sure of their accuracy. But from the observations I have made I cannot yet be certain that he is right. I am inclined to agree with him that the comet is not Biela's, yet I am of the opinion that it is approaching the earth, and that it is nearer than he says. Its apparent motion has been so slight since its first appearance that we can hardly be sure yet what its orbit is. It is Biela's comet it should have worked a little to the north. It has, on the contrary, been working toward the south."

Working in Biela's Old Orbit.

"My opinion is that it is working in nearly the same orbit as one of the old Biela comets, but I cannot see how it can be either of Biela's comets unless something very strange has happened to them within 40 years."

"Biela's comet was first recognized in 1826. Its period was found to be six years and six days. Its orbit almost close to that of the earth. At one spot the two orbits come within 40,000 or 50,000 miles of each other. If the earth were at the nearest point in its orbit when the comet passed, it still would not be struck by it, if the comet kept straight to its proper orbit. Frequently, however, perturbations occur which might alter the present comet, if traveling nearly in the path of Biela's comet, to strike the earth."

"A similar scare to the present one occurred in 1832, when the original Biela's comet approached the earth in a similar way. It passed by on its orbit without causing any disturbance whatever. In 1838 it was not seen. 1842, however, it appeared again, and this time was accompanied by a strange phenomenon. Shortly after it became visible it split in two and the two parts moved apart several million of miles from each other."

Accompanied by Strange Signs.

"In 1852 the two pieces came around at the regular time of the original comet. The next positive sign of it was in 1858. Then it was accompanied by another strange phenomenon. Three or four weeks after it had passed there appeared on Thanksgiving eve a shower of meteors. Another shower was seen in its path in 1860. The impression prevailed that the comet had broken to pieces and that those showers were fragments of Biela's comet. I was suspicious of this belief. It is more likely that the comet has lost its power of shining, as sometimes happens, and that these phenomena are other comets following in its track, as often happens. This explanation will suggest my theory for the present comet."

"Biela's comets should have passed by in May and July, so unless they have been greatly disturbed, which is not probable, it cannot be one of these. This comet is seen in the same place as Biela's comet was in half a year later, and it is of the opinion that it is another comet following in nearly the same path as Biela's, which has lost its power of shining."

Why He Thinks It's Approaching.

"It has increased in size since I first saw it, so, in my opinion, it is probably coming toward us. It is traversing the sky at an hour and a half past midnight. I calculated it to be 5,000,000 miles from the earth. As the earth is approaching the place where the two orbits come together at the rate of 100,000 miles a day, the comet has lost its power of shining, as sometimes happens, and that these phenomena are other comets following in its track, as often happens. This explanation will suggest my theory for the present comet."

"The appearance of the comet is much different from the ordinary. At first its edges were as clear as if cut with a pair of scissors. Now, however, its tail has grown much longer, and last night it resembled a brush. Its spectrum is continuous, but without the dark lines, so probably it is not a self-luminous body. It is now three or four times as large as when I first saw it. It is bright in the sky, and many parts of its little shining particles, which with the telescope I recognized to be stars shining through it."

Couldn't Harm Us If It Tried.

"So it is a gaseous substance, and if it does strike the earth will cause no great harm. Its substance is extremely rare, our air is several hundred times more dense, and if it does strike the earth it will do no more harm to the inhabitants than a feather bed would to the fish if it should fall on the ocean. The greatest possible harm that could come would be the falling of a few hundred meteoric stones over the surface of the earth and a slight disturbance in our atmosphere caused by its gases mixing with our air."

"The diameter is about 25,000 miles, so the falling of as many meteoric stones as it seems to contain over such a surface would spread them so thinly that not very many would strike the earth, and there would be little damage. It is seen on the 11th of the moon very much exaggerated. At most it can raise them but 1-1000 of a foot. If it strikes the earth next Saturday night, all we will see is a nice display of meteoric fire works."

## THE COMET MOVING AWAY.

It Is Not Biela's, and Will Never Be Nearer Than 30,000,000 Miles.

NEW HAVEN, CONN., Nov. 21.—[Special.]—Prof. William L. Elkins, of the Yale Observatory, to-day confirmed the statement of Prof. Boss, of the Dudley Observatory, that the much-talked-of comet is not Biela's comet, and is moving away from the earth.

Prof. Elkins says the present comet will probably never come nearer than within 30,000,000 miles of the earth, and that nothing is expected of it. He characterizes it as a wanderer, and says that its orbit will not cross that of the earth again.

Prof. Elkins predicts meteoric showers from the 20th to the 28th, as the earth passes through the wake of Biela's comet that time.

## SAW JACK THE RIPPER.

A YOUNG GIRL TELLS A STRANGE STORY TO LONDON POLICE.

She Met a Mysterious Stranger Who Led Her to Whitechapel—He Seemed to Know about the Haunts of the "Butcher"—Gave Her a Conversation During Which He Said "I Am Jack the Ripper."

LONDON, Nov. 21.—A young girl, Emily Edith Smith, others, who had been in the London police station, on November 19, as I was walking down Cheapside, near St. Paul's Church, I was accosted by a tall man who greeted me with "good evening, Nellie." I did not reply, but the man followed me, proffering, after we had walked together for two blocks, to buy me a cup of tea.

I accepted his invitation, and together we walked up Cheapside to the Mansion House. When my escort turned into Lombard street I asked him where the tea shop was located to which he was taking me. He replied evasively, saying, "Little further ways down." After a while we entered a common and low looking place, where the man seemed to be well known but which I have never before seen. On leaving the man suggested that I should accompany him to his office in Upton Park. He took my arm and conducted me through several streets and byways, always seeking the most unfrequented courts, until I found myself somewhere in the neighborhood of Aldgate. I was thoroughly alarmed, and taking hold of his arm I said: "My God! where are we?"

"Whitechapel," he said with a low laugh as if enjoying my fear.

"Whitechapel?" I cried, "where so many girls of my class were cut to pieces?"

"Nonsense," he answered, "Jack never killed girls—only old women, and it's best for them to be out of the way."

"I said 'I will never remain at this place,' and hearing the noise of a tram car in the direction of Commercial Road, I ran over there, closely followed by the man. He kept at my side, and when he passed a policeman standing with his finger toward a dark spot and said: "That is where 'Jack the Ripper' is best known." He seemed to be thoroughly at home in the neighborhood.

## PLAYING WITH THE CLOUDS.

General Dyrenfurth and Party Prepared to Make Rain in Texas To-Day—A Couple of Satisfactory Preliminary Experiments Last Evening.

SAN ANTONIO, TEX., Nov. 21.—[Special.]—General R. G. Dyrenfurth and his party of rainmakers will, have everything in readiness for beginning their experiments here to-morrow. There was a little playing with the clouds done this afternoon, but it was merely a test of the power of the new Roselle explosive, and was not intended as an effort at producing rain.

There were two ground charges fired. The first was at 4 o'clock, when a 20-pound stick of Roselle was exploded by means of an electric battery. The concussion was terrific, breaking window panes and cracking residences within a half-mile radius. At the time of the discharge there were a few clouds passing over. Within a few minutes afterward a bank of black clouds gathered in the northeast and soon overcast the entire sky, and about 6 o'clock another 20-pound stick of Roselle was discharged, but beyond the fact that there was a dense gathering of the clouds no effect was produced.

General Dyrenfurth and Roselle were highly pleased with the test of the new powder, and expect that all that was required to bring down the rain was the explosion of a balloon in mid-air, simultaneously with heavier ground discharges. The real work will begin to-morrow, and the next positive sign of it was in 1858. Then it was accompanied by another strange phenomenon. Three or four weeks after it had passed there appeared on Thanksgiving eve a shower of meteors. Another shower was seen in its path in 1860. The impression prevailed that the comet had broken to pieces and that those showers were fragments of Biela's comet. I was suspicious of this belief. It is more likely that the comet has lost its power of shining, as sometimes happens, and that these phenomena are other comets following in its track, as often happens. This explanation will suggest my theory for the present comet."

## PROF. SMITH