The Times, New Bloomfield, Pa.



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BEN BUTLER says the extra \$5,000 paid members of Congress costs each tax-payer just three cents. He offers to forward a postage stamp to every man dissatisfied with the passage of the bill. He may hereafter be called "three cent Ben."

THE State Senate contains 10 lawyers, 2 manufacturers, 1 doctor, 1 miller, 3 farmers, 1 painter. 2 merchants, 1 editor, and one who records himself as a gentleman, but probably he does not mean that none of the rest can claim that title.

In Rhode Island the election on Thursday last, resulted in the success of the republican ticket. The vote for governor was-Howard, republican, 9,273; Chase, democrat, 3,565, with a few small towns to hear from. Howard's majority will be about 5,800.

Gov. HARTRANFT, is doing an extensive business in the veto line. Last week he vetoed one act which defeated over 1600 bills. This was an act extending the time for the payment of the enrollment tax, which now is confined to one year, and had the act received his approval, would have kept life in the above large number of bills, which now are dead.

IT The Supreme Court has decided in the case of the Union mutual fire insurance company of Boston that neither the expiration of a policy nor its cancellation release the holder from liability to assessment for all losses which occurred while he was a member of the company.

A Rail Road Decision.

On Monday of last, week the Supreme Court of the U.S., rendered a decision of considerable interest as follows :

In the case of Alcott agt. The Supervisors of Fond Du Lac County, Wisconsin, appealed from the Supreme Court of that state, the important question whether a State has a right to levy taxes for the purpurpose of aiding in the construction of railroads, or not, was involved. It is the opinion of the Supreme Court that railroads are public highways, no matter whether they are built and operated by the State or by private corporations. The building of railroads is, therefore, a matter of public concern, to aid which, it is just as lawful to levy taxes as for the building of a wagon road or any other public work, and the collection of these taxes cannot be resisted by authority of Article V. of Amendments of the Constitution of the United States, which provides that private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation.

On April 1st the new Coinage Act, in volving important changes in the management of United States Mints, went into effect. Under the old system, the Mint at Philadelphia was the headquarters, from which orders were issued to branches at New Orleans, San Francisco, etc. This was well enough so long as the Philadelphia establishment was the most important of

its class in the country, but since the discovery of gold in California, the San Francisco "branch" has really become the priccipal mint. The new law organizes a bureau of the Treasury Department, over which a director of the mint presides. He is to hold office for five years, unless removed by the President on recommendation of the Senate. Dr. Lindermann is the first incumbent, he having filled important offices in the mint for a score of years. The old "branch" establishments now become independent of one another, and report directly to the bureau at Washington. There is no change in the gold coinage, but there is to be a new "trade dollar" in silver, and the two-cent piece is abolished. The new dollar is worth five cents more than the gold dollar, and one cent more than the Mexican silver dollar, the design

being to do away with the necessity of importing Mexican dollars for export to China and elsewhere, as is now very largely done.

A New Orleans Judge. Weighing the Evidence.

A short time since a worthy magistrate of this city had rather a difficult question to decide, in the solution of which he struck out a path hitherto unknown in jurisprudence. It seems that twelve negroes appeared before him, one of whom swore positively that himself and the other eleven had done a certain amount of work on a steamboat, and was entitled thereby to wages. It was a steady streak, each of the dozen swearing precisely the same. On the otherside appeared the mate of the boat and eleven deck hands, who all twelve swore directly point blank to an opposite state of facts to those testified to by the twelve plaintiffs. Here the evidence closed leaving the judge to make up his own mind.

His honor scratched his head, looked wise, pondered a few moments, and then said : "The law makes it the duty of the court, when in doubt, to weigh the evidence. I shall proceed to do so in this case. " You,' turning to one of the sueing darkeys, "take your crowd over to Mr. grocery store in the vicinity) and have them weighed, and bring me a certificate of their weight from the clerk. And you,' turning to the mate, "do the same with yourself and witnesses. This court must make up a judgment somehow."

The mandate of the court was obeyed; the contestants appeared with their respective certificates, the mate's party outweighing the other by nine pounds, which was sufficient to turn the scale of justice, for judgment was given for the boat .- N. O. Picayune.

A Recent Tornado in Mississippi.

Reports regarding the loss of life by the tornado in the vicinity of Canton, Mississippi, on the 28th ult., are contradictory. A dispatch from Canton says buildings, trees, fences and everything in the course of the storm were handled like straws, and for a time the atmosphere seemed thick with limbs and fragments of trees, timbers from buildings and fence rails. Wild rumors were circulated as to the extent of

Panle in a Church.

On Monday of last week, a terrible ca lamity befel the congregation assembled at St John's Catholic church in Trenton, on the occasion of the funeral of the Rev. Father Makin.

The church was densely crowded, and thousands stood outside. There were some twenty officiating clergymen present, and while the organ was sending forth its peals, and the requiem for the dead was being sung, a loud crack was heard which the audience supposed came from the gallery, and from the general opinion that it was giving away there arose a most fearful panie. At once consternation seized every one in the house.

Loud screams from women and children took the place of the organ peals. A rush was made to the doors and immediately scores of women and children fell and were trampled beneath the feet of the mass of human beings which became wedged in between the front gate and the door. There the mass stood stubborn, immovable. The groans of those beneath were fearful.

It was fully ten minutes before the work of making an opening for the crowd to pass out into the street was effected. Stalwart men were all the time busily engaged in pulling out the women and children.

It was a shocking sight as they were taken out with blackened and bloody faces, and were carried to near residences .-Physicians were summoned and the extent of the damage began to be apparent.

In the priest's house two women were prostrated on the floor in a spasm, and a little baby with disfigured face and broken arm. A little girl about twelve years of age was suffering from internal injuries.

In the midst of the excitement ladders were thrown up to the windows, and women and children were taken out. Some of the windows were broken.

The appeals of the clergy who had jumped out of the windows and come to the front door for the mass to retreat back into the church, assuring them that there was no danger, were unavaling.

The noise did not come from the defect in the gallery, but from the breaking of a kneeling board in the gallery. The following are the names of the wounded: Mrs. Julia Slingerland, Miss Maggie Malony, Mrs. Bridget Clark, Margaret Callahan, Mrs. Richard Cook, Mrs. and Miss Deshire, Mrs. Benjamin Stokes, Rosa Evans and child. A boy and girl, unknown.

All the above were badly hurt, some of them in an almost hopeless condition .--None of them have died, although several are in a critical condition.

The event produced the greatest consternation throughout the city.

The Mary Celeste Mystery.

The Gibralter Chronicle of the 4th inst., has the following with regard to the abandoned vessel, which differs from the theory of the Secretary of the Treasury:

We have been favored with a copy of a report made by Captain Shufeldt,, United States ship Plymouth, after a visit paid by him to the derelect Mary Celeste. Captain Shufeldt, with every one who has examined the ship, is of opinion that she was abandoned by the master and crew without sufficient reason, probably in a moment of panic. He considers that she may have strained in a gale, and for the time leaked so much as to seriously alarm the master,



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A Civil Service Board.

The civil service commission has virtually ceased to be in existance, and it is conceded in administration quarters that it will never be resuscitated. George William Curtis resigned, to take effect on the 27th. Ex-Senator Cattell, another member of the commission, has been appointed special agent abroad, preferring to surrender his place on the civil service board for this office.

Mayor Medill, of Chicago, a third member of the commission, is excluded from serving by the President's order forbidding federal officers holding local offices, and being compelled to choose between the two places, retains the mayorship. Mr. Walker a fourth member, is not here now. Messrs, Cox, of the interior department, and Blackface, of the post office, the fifth and sixth members of the commission have always opposed the civil service system and opposed the adoption of the rules now in force.

The only remaining member is E. B. Elliott, of the treasury department, who is expected to close up the affairs of the board, and as sole survivor, submit the final report as to its operations.

A Temperance State.

The Supreme Court of Illinois has just rendered a decision which fixes the permanency of what is known as the State Temperance Law. Six agreed cases went to the court from Bureau county, and have been decided in favor of the law. Under this ruling the seller is put on the lookout for trouble, and made responsible for whatever evil may result from the traffic in which he is engaged.

137 James P. Wells, the head and front of the American gambling house recently broken up in Paris, was, ten years ago, a minister in good standing, and had charge of a Massachusetts church.

the number killed and wounded, but it has been ascertained that only two persons killed, and fifteen to twenty injured. The number of buildings entirely destroyed is estimated at thirty. Besides a large number are damaged to a greater or less extent. A dispatch from the interior says the loss of life will reach twenty. A dispatch from Jackson says about a dozen houses were destroyed, one negro killed, one lady fatally injured, and a number of other persons seriously injured.

Rutland, Vt., April 3 .- The mail train on the Harlem Extension Railroad that left Rutland at 9:05 A. M. to-day, met with a a serious accident at Hunt's Crossing, half a mile north of Bennington, caused by spreading of the tracks. The locomotive and milk car passed safely, but the baggage car, mail car and passenger car were thrown down an embankment twelve feet. The passenger car was turned over and remained bottom up. The following is a list of the wounded as far as ascertained : C. S. Malthy, of Millerton, New York ; S. S. Cromock, of Bennington ; Miss Julia Mattison, of Shaftsbury, Vt.; Miss Woodcock, of Manchester, Vt.; R. F. Hurd, of Arlington ; H. B. Brown, of North Adams ; M. R. Sackett, of West Leabnon ; Frank Wilder, of Rutland, Vt. . No person was killed.

Disastrous Fires.

A very destructive fire occurred at Parker's Landing, at an early hour on the 4th inst. Nearly the whole business portion of the town was destroyed.

On the same morning a serious fire occurred at Oil City, causing a loss of fully \$75,000.

Daniel S. Marsh, living in Charlestown, was arrested on Tuesday, charged with the murder of his son, nine months old, in September, 1871, by throwing him from Fitchburg Railroad bridge. He has con-fessed the deed and the manner in which he committed it.

and it is possible that at this time another vessel in sight induced him, as his wife and child were on board, to abandon his ship thus hastily.

Should this surmise be correct, the time which must elapse before he and his crew are again heard of must depend upon the distance of the port to which the rescuing vessel happened to be bound. Captain Shufeldt altogether rejects the idea of a mutiny, because there is no evidence of violence about the decks or in the cabins, and with regard to the damage about the bows of the ship, he considers that it amounts merely to splinters in the bending of the planks, which were afterwards forced off by the action of the sea, and not in any way betokening any intention of wilfully damaging the vessel.

The Mary Celeste is confessed on all hands to be at the present moment staunch and seaworthy, and Captain Shufeldt maintains that the master and crew will either be heard of some day, or, if not, that they have perished in the boat for which they abandoned their own ship. For the present the mystery remains unsolved, but it is satisfactory to note that the opinion of a practical man such as Captain Shufeldt, and an analysis made by Dr. Parton, of that city, of the alleged blood stains, coincide in refuting the theory of violence. The possible fate of those who were on board the Mary Celeste is sad enough without the addition of mutiny and bloodshed.

An April Fool. On the 1st inst., at Brooklyn N. Y. James Montgomery, aged eleven years, residing in Remsen street, while playing hanging, with his brother, put his head in the noose of a rope attached to the ceiling and hanged himself. His body was cut down shortly after, but life was extinct.

The premium on gold has been advancing until now it is selling at 1.17. The advance seems to be caused by a struggle between the Secretary of the Treasury and the gold brokers.

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