

SENSATIONAL CORRESPONDENTS.—The correspondent of the New York Times

who sent a special dispatch from this place on Monday last, to that paper, mentions that he had been misled as to the location of this town, and the danger to its inhabitants from the breaking up of the ice...

THE BREAKING UP OF THE ICE AT HARRISBURG.

A correspondent of the Harrisburg Telegraph, who had gone to Harrisburg to view the ice gorge at that place, and Marietta, Lancaster county, gives the following description of the crush of the ice on Friday last:

AT HARRISBURG.

The rush of ice came so quick that the residents of that little village residing along the railroad had barely time to escape from their houses. It was about noon when the crash commenced, and many of the citizens fled through the town and alarmed all. "The ice is coming! Fly for your lives! Come it did and right royally did it do its work of destruction. Along the line of the railroad the ice came tearing, crash on crash, sweeping everything in its way. Snapping off large trees as if they were but twigs, mowing down houses, sweeping away bridges, tossing huge canal boats clear across the railroad as if they were but the merest egg shells. I counted five canal boats that had been moved from their positions, and thrown up high on the banks, lodged against houses, or fixed against some impassable obstruction. The trucks were covered with ice thirty inches thick—such a thickness that required the labor of almost two thousand men to remove them before the trains could again run on time. It was at Harrisburg that the island incident, heretofore mentioned, occurred. A family consisting of Mr. Galbraith, his wife and several children, occupied the island opposite Harrisburg on the day of the rise. Sunday morning Mr. Hake, of Middle-town, succeeded in reaching the island in a boat, and heard the story of Mrs. Galbraith, who has remained on the island all the time. She says that when the ice began to move, in company with the children she started for the shore, but before venturing on the ice she saw the water which she had feared to cross, and she did not venture on it. She immediately turned back, and the ground beneath her feet gave way. She fell, and the water rushed over her head. She was nearly a mile in width, and that but about one third of that space is obstructed by the gorge. That the islands and gorges are much lower than the dam, that the water is more likely to run over the gorges before it will back even to the breast of the dam. He says "altogether the position of Harrisburg at this time is to the last degree unenviable." There are but few persons in this vicinity that entertain any idea of such dangers as this correspondent describes. Had he looked around the town he would have found it as well fortified against high water as any other town on the banks of the river. That the railroad interests here should have suffered severely since the ice commenced to break up in the Susquehanna, is certainly news to the Susquehanna, as well as to our citizens. Their "sufferings" have been small as compared with the past. Speaking of the Cattawissa road he says it "is covered with ice to the height of twenty-feet in some places and it will be a month at least before travel can be resumed." As an incorrect statement, the best proof is that the Cattawissa road is already nearly cleared of ice, and that travel of that road will be resumed within a week. Any one acquainted with the situation of our town, and will read the letter of this correspondent, will not doubt, conclude to believe many of the reports of correspondents from other points. It is well known that correspondents are sent abroad by the publishers of city papers to collect the most reliable news for publication, and their selves to any trouble to gather facts, but make up statements from hearsay of persons unacquainted in the place to create a sensation, where really no cause exists for any alarm.

THE NEW LICENSE LAW.

The following is a copy of the license bill as reported by the conference committee of the Senate and House and adopted by both branches of the Legislature:

AN ACT TO REPEAL AN ACT TO PERMIT THE VOTERS OF THIS COMMONWEALTH TO VOTE EVERY THREE YEARS ON THE QUESTION OF GRANTING LICENSES TO SELL INTOXICATING LIQUORS AND TO RESTRAIN AND REGULATE THE SALE OF THE SAME.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted, etc., That the act approved the 27th day of March, A. D. 1872, entitled an act to permit the voters of this Commonwealth to vote every three years on the question of granting licenses to sell intoxicating liquors, be, and the same is hereby repealed.

SECTION 2. That licenses for sales of liquors, when not otherwise provided for by special law, may be granted by the court of quarter sessions of the proper county, at the first or second sessions in each year, and shall be for one year. The said court shall fix by rule or standing order, a time at which application for said licenses shall be heard, at which time all persons applying for licenses, may be heard by evidence, petition, remonstrance or counsel: Provided, That for the present year, licenses aforesaid may be granted at third, or any earlier session of said court.

SECTION 3. That all hotels, inns and taverns shall be classified and rated according to the last annual return of the mercantile appraiser or assessor of the proper city or county, as follows, to wit: All cases where the estimated yearly sales shall be \$10,000 or more, shall constitute the first class, and pay \$700; where the classification shall be \$5,000, and not more than \$10,000, the second class shall be \$400; where the classification shall be \$2,000, and not more than \$5,000, the third class shall be \$200; where the classification shall be \$400, and not more than \$2,000, the fourth class shall be \$100; where the classification shall be less than \$400, the fifth class shall pay \$50: Provided, That no license shall be less than \$50: And provided further, That any person licensed the present or any portion of a year shall pay a pro rata share of the license fee, and the authority granting the license shall designate the classification for that year: And provided further, That no license for hotels shall be less than \$50.

SECTION 4. That any sale made of vinous, spirituous, malt or brewed liquors, or any admixture thereof, contrary to the provisions of this law, shall be taken to be a misdemeanor, and upon conviction of the offense in any city or county, the person so convicted shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than \$200 nor more than \$500, with the costs of prosecution, and to stand convicted until the sentence of the court is complied with, not exceeding ninety days, and upon a second or any subsequent conviction, the party so convicted shall pay a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000, and undergo imprisonment in the county jail for not less than three months nor more than one year, and if licensed shall, in lieu of imprisonment, forfeit his bond and said license and be incapacitated from receiving any license aforesaid for the period of five years thereafter; and any keeper of any drug or apothecary store, confectioner or mineral, or other fountain, who shall sell any spirituous, vinous, malt or brewed liquors, as aforesaid, to be used as a beverage, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and liable to the same conviction and punishment as unlicensed offenders.

SECTION 5. That it shall be the duty of constables, before within any ward or janally shall be recovered, to award said fine or penalties, as well as proceeds of all forfeited bonds to the city or county treasurer, as the case may be.

SECTION 6. That the constables of the respective wards, boroughs and townships shall make a return of retailers of liquors, and in addition thereto it shall be the duty of every such constable at each term of said court of quarter sessions of their respective counties to make return on oath or affirmation whether within his knowledge there is any unlicensed places within his bailiwick kept and maintained in violation of this act, and it shall be the special duty of the judges of all said courts to see that this return is faithfully made, and if any person shall make known in writing, with his or her name subscribed thereto, any such constable, the name or names of such constable, or the name or names of any one, who shall have violated this act, with the names of the violators who can prove the fact, it shall be his duty to make return thereon on oath or affirmation to the court, and upon his willful failure to do so he shall be deemed guilty of the crime of perjury and upon indictment and conviction shall be subjected to its penalties.

SECTION 7. The husband, wife, parent, child, guardian, or any person who has or may hereafter have the habit of drinking intoxicating liquor to excess, may give notice in writing, signed by him or her, to any person not to sell or deliver intoxicating liquor to the person having such habit; if the person so notified at any time within twelve months after such notice, sells or delivers any such liquor to the person having such habit, the person giving the notice may, in an action of tort, recover of the person notified any sum not less than fifty nor more than five hundred dollars, as may be assessed by the court or judge as damages. A married woman may bring such an action in her own name, and all damages recovered by her shall be her separate estate. In case of the death of either party the action and the right of action given by this section shall survive to or against his executor or administrator without limit as to damages.

SECTION 8. No person or persons, non residents of this Commonwealth, shall engage in selling, trading or vending intoxicating liquor, or as hawker, peddler or traveling agent, shall engage in selling for any person or persons who are non-residents, or in vending, trading or contracting in any manner whatsoever in intoxicating liquor within the limits of this Commonwealth.

SECTION 9. Any bond, given by any person under the provisions of this act, which shall have been given, or received by the respective parties thereto: Provided, That the sureties to be released from such, or any bond, shall be at risk pending thereon, so the event of canceling any bond and releasing of the sureties the principal shall provide acceptable substitute if he desires to continue the business, otherwise his license shall immediately be revoked.

SECTION 10. That no license to sell intoxicating drinks shall hereafter be granted to any person until he shall have executed a bond to the Commonwealth in the penal sum of \$2,000, with two sufficient sureties, to be approved by the court granting such license, conditioned to pay all damages, which may be recovered against him under the provisions of this act and all costs, fines and penalties which may be imposed upon him in any indictment for violating this act or any other law of this Commonwealth.

RELATING TO SELLING OR FURNISHING INTOXICATING DRINKS, AND THE SAID BOND SHALL BE FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE SAID COURT FOR THE USE AND BENEFIT OF ALL PERSONS INTERESTED THEREIN.

SECTION 11. That it shall not be lawful for any person, with or without license, to sell to any person any intoxicating drink on any day on which elections are now or hereafter to be held, or on any day on which a trial of a minor or on Sunday, nor at any time to a minor or to a person visibly affected by intoxicating drinks.

SECTION 12. That any license heretofore granted shall not be invalidated, and that none of the provisions of this act shall be held to authorize the manufacture or sale of any intoxicating liquor in any city, county, borough or township having special prohibitory laws.

BECHER'S TRIAL.—THE WITNESS COOKE'S THEORY OF THE CONSPIRACY.

A correspondent of the Philadelphia Times, writing from Brooklyn, about the Becher-Tilton trial, says:

Sometimes, in the midst of this trial, there seems a beam of light for Mr. Becher. Occasionally, it looks as if he was the victim of a train of evil leaguers, guided by evil angels. It looks, sometimes, as if blackmailers and devils had pressed him on, and as if it could be shown so. Again, it looks as if both sets of accusations were true; that he was first guilty, and then cruelly pursued for it. All in all, this trial is a satirical test of the infirmity of man's judgment.

INTERVIEW WITH THE WITNESS COOKE.

The importance of the testimony of the witness, Cooke, was so great that at the request I made his acquaintance, and the following parts of a conversation were given:

"Do you believe, Mr. Cooke, that Mr. Becher is guilty of the subject of a conspiracy?"

"I have believed from the time I saw Tilton's statement, last summer, that this charge against Mr. Becher was false. It began in Tilton's envy. Frank Moulton was for some time Tilton's half brother. Finally, Moulton was let in and then he was too obstinate or reckless to back out.

"Why did you begin to think this from Tilton's statement before the Committee?"

"Cooke. "Because I saw there that Tilton claimed that his intimacy with Woodhull was due to a desire to save his guilty wife from publicity. I knew that the contrary was true."

"Explain?"

"Mrs. Woodhull was struck with Tilton—in love with him. He reciprocated. They became intimate, and together they endeavored to bring Becher to the Spring Hill meeting. Woodhull never saw Becher but three times. He positively declined to address that meeting. That made them mad, and from that time forward Mrs. Woodhull was free with him, and constantly sought to drag me into attacks upon Becher on the score of his own infidelities."

"Did she get this whole story from Tilton?"

"I think so. He began with upbraiding Becher on general grounds of infidelity, and finally connected his own wife with these charges. Woodhull made sure that she would get under Becher's patronage by her knowledge of these secrets. But he was the only man of the whole set she could not drag. Then they laid him out."

"Do you know Vicky Woodhull?"

"No. I do not. Then you can't know any more."

"The smartest woman in this country, and if you were personally aware of all her schemes against purity and probity, still she would make the impression on you before she had finished one interview of a woman of mind and convictions. She is a free-lover, but not of the stamp of her sister. She has a theory, and I believe, she is true to it."

"Now, did she embrace Tilton in this theory of infidelity?"

"Yes. Of his guilt with this woman there is not a particle of doubt. She was dead struck with him. He was prowling around for a mission of some kind, so it might be radical; and his descent at home and sensuality made him an easy prey to this woman's theories. Together they determined to bring Becher into this free-love movement. Tilton had malicious intentions in it. Becher daily refused, and hunted her vanity and prolonged his enmity."

"Why did Tilton quit the Woodhull woman?"

"No. After Greeley was nominated, and it looked for awhile as if he might be elected, Tilton saw a chance for getting some important office abroad, or in lieu of this, succeeding Greeley as editor of the Tribune. So he discovered his unpopularity with the Woodhull connection on his hands, and he simply stopped coming to their house. Vick left out against being dropped in this way, and now she hates him."

"Don't you believe Tilton really loved his wife and grieves for her?"

"I think," said Cooke, "that at home he is a brute. If that woman were to return to live with him to-morrow, his conduct would make her quit him in a week."

"But Becher's letters?"

"Well, he was either a deep, wicked scoundrel, or a perfectly frank, emotional man. If he was the latter, and had injured Tilton, as he supposed, his letters would indicate the remorse of his great, genuine nature. Of course, he did think a good deal of Elizabeth Tilton, but not to the extent of the sentimental piety of the Plymouth Church has exposed it to such misbehavior and conspiracy as this. Becher will drop out, at last, as a fool. He is not content to be a fool to prove his innocence."

"What do you know about the conspiracy?"

"Well, the people are in the dark about it. I think I know more than most. I have Tilton's letters. I will take a good while, but I can give you a few points of evidence. Next they attacked Moulton and destroy his character absolutely. Mrs. Moulton will then be left with two such fellows, who had been her props, removed from either side. They will show her dependence on these two and dismiss her. But if Mr. Becher had not objected, saying that he would not see that family ruined, his counsel meant, also, to call equal disgrace upon her head."

"How could she be done?"

"Mrs. Woodhull said that so far from being called upon by Mrs. Moulton in relation to Tilton's affairs, it was Mrs. Moulton's own salvation that the latter called. She (Woodhull) had become possessed of some family knowledge as to the Moultons which brought Mr. Moulton to her feet."

"I said, only, to Cooke: 'Don't this bear some relation to the marvelous? How could Woodhull know anything about the affairs of a remote private family like the Moultons?'"

"How can she know anything?" said Cooke. "She has the private secrets of a large part of New York."

'Blackmailing. That's a great branch of modern commerce.'

"Yes she is the priestess of an idea, you think?"

"Well, Woodhull is a mixture of idealism and crime, egotism and cruelty. After you know her as long as I have, you'll want to drop her. You see that she is a family-breaker a devil."

"Does she control this man Wood?"

"Yes. He can't help himself when she gets smitten with Tilton and others. He is a sort of semi-illiterate scribbler, and she is wholly illiterate."

"Cooke," said I, "all this is very surprising to me. The visits of Mr. Woodhull to you at Detroit, her manifest utilization by Mr. Becher's lawyers, her coming and going, and all that. Will she be a witness?"

"No; neither side will hear. She would probably take advantage of the witness stand to assail human nature. In the witness box the lawyers can't manage her."

"You think Becher will be acquitted?"

"No. The testimony brought to bear on Tilton and Moulton, and Bowen, too, will be extensive, far-reaching and crushing."

"So said Tom Cooke, interviewer. I shall hold myself open to proof on this case. It seems to me that the jury might award Mrs. Tilton to Mr. Becher and give Theodore to Miss Anthony. Then Henry can preach it out."

BUTLER ON CIVIL RIGHTS.—A Washington city judge has given his opinion, that the provision of the Civil Rights bill that no person shall be denied the right to enter any public place, shall not extend to barber shops.

To this opinion General Butler was written to, by Robert Harlan, Esq., of Cincinnati, Ohio, when the general gave the following as an explanation of the bill:

WASHINGTON, March 18, 1875.—SIR: I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 14th, containing expressions of appreciation of my efforts in behalf of the civil rights bill, for which I am very thankful. You further say, "Will you be kind enough to inform me if colored men are entitled to the privileges of saloons and barber shops under its provisions?"

"To this I answer: I understand by 'saloons,' you mean drinking saloons, and am happy to say that the civil rights bill does not give any right to a colored man to enter a drinking saloon without the leave of the proprietor, and am very glad that it does not. I am willing to concede a friend of the colored man, that the white race may have at least this one superior privilege to the colored man, that they can drink in bar rooms and saloons, and I shall never do any thing to interfere with the exercise of that high and distinctive privilege. I would not advocate a bill which should give that right to the colored man. If I were to vote for any bill on this subject at all it would be one to keep the colored man out of the drinking saloons; and I hope no barber will ever let a colored man have a glass of liquor at any bar open for drinking. Indeed I should be glad whenever a colored man should go into a drinking saloon for the purpose of drinking at the bar if somebody would let him take him and put him out, doing him as little injury as possible. He could do the colored man no greater kindness."

"As to the other branch of your question, in reference to barber shops, let me say that the barber is like any other trade, to be carried on by the man who is engaged in it at his own will and pleasure, and the civil rights bill has nothing to do, and was intended to have nothing to do, with its exercise. A barber has a right to shake a right to repair a watch for whom he pleases, or a blacksmith to shoe such colored horses as he pleases. In other words, these are not public employments, but private business, in which the law does not interfere."

"From time immemorial all men have had equal rights at the common law in places of public amusement, in public conveyances and in such common law rights, and such business was for the public use and special privileges granted by the government. The theatre and like public amusements were licensed by the public authorities and protected by the police. The public conveyances used the 'highway.' The public inn had the special privileges of a lieu or claim upon the baggage or other property of any traveler who used it for his keep; and if any man was refused, while behaving himself well, and paying his fare, in any place of public amusement, or carriage by public conveyance, or shelter in a public inn, he had at common law a right of action against the proprietor for refusing. The civil rights bill only confirms these rights of all citizens to the colored man in consideration of the prejudice against him and an attempt in certain parts of the country to interfere with the exercise of such common law rights, and such business was for the public use and special privileges granted by the government. The theatre and like public amusements were licensed by the public authorities and protected by the police. The public conveyances used the 'highway.' The public inn had the special privileges of a lieu or claim upon the baggage or other property of any traveler who used it for his keep; and if any man was refused, while behaving himself well, and paying his fare, in any place of public amusement, or carriage by public conveyance, or shelter in a public inn, he had at common law a right of action against the proprietor for refusing. 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