The Somerset Herald.

WEDNESDAY. - - - - April 19, 1876.

ELECTORAL TICKET.

ELECTORS AT LARGE.

BENJAMINE H. BREWSTER, Philadelphia.

JOHN W. CRALPANT, Allegheny.

ELECTORS.

1. JOHN WELSH.
2. HENRY DISSTON.
3. CHRIS J. HOFFMAN.
4. CHAS. T. JONES.
5. EDWIN A. FITLEY.
6. BENJAMIN SMITH.
7. J. W. BERNARD.
8. JACOB KNAB.
9. JOHN B. WARFEL.
10. JOSEPH THOMAS.
11. ARIO PARDEE.
12. LEWIS PUGHE.
13. ED. S. SILLMAN.
14. WILLIAM CALDER.
15. MILES L. TRACY.
16. S. W. STARKWEATHER.
17. DANIEL J. MORRELL.
18. JEREMIAH LYONS.
19. WILLIAM HAY.
20. WILLIAM CAMERON.
21. J. B. DONELLY.
22. DANIEL O'NIEL.
23. WILLIAM NEBB.
24. ANDREW B. BERGER.
25. SAMUEL M. JACKSON.
26. JAMES WESTERMAN
27. F. W. WILBER.

FOLLOWING the example of their illustrious fellows at Washington, the "Boom investigating committee" at Harrisburg is sitting with closed doors. How excessively modest these Democrats have become! The first discovery of Belknap's infamy was rushed before the country with frantic haste by Clymer's committee, but no sooner was the crookedness of Pendleton and other Democrats stumbled over, than it was deemed advisable that future investigation should be held in secret. Democratic bribe takers are to be shielded if possible, both by the Washington and Harrisburg committees, and whitewashed in the reports. And this is what is meant by "reform" in Democratic parlance. The pettiness of the partisan outweighs every sentiment of fairness and honesty, and investigation is to be pursued only in the line of uncovering, dishonest Republicans. These mousing Democratic owls are afraid of the noon-day sun. Let no guilty man escape, say we.

THE Democracy, both National and State, are making a most delightful record for themselves on the tariff question. At Washington Morrison's committee by a party vote, have reported to the House a free trade bill framed in England, against the interests of our manufacturers, and at Harrisburg a resolution offered in opposition to this bill gotten up in the interest of British manufacturers which was the Senate, has been referred to a committee in the House, which means of course that it shall not be heard of again this session.—Pennsylvania is essentially a tariff State, both political partion professing to be in favor of protection to our domestic industry, and yet out of mere partisan cussedness, the Democrats in the House at Harrisburg are lending their influence to break down the industries of the Commonwealth. There is no mistaking the result, if not the intent of this action of the Democratic majority investigating the State, and as they have placed themselves on the record as supporters of the English free trade interests, we trust that in the coming canvass the manufacturers, miners, and other producers in this State will take them at their word, when overwhelming defeat will inevitably be visited upon them.

At this rate we fear that our Democratic friends will soon be without a single prominent candidate for President. Those upon whom we have looked so fondly and expectantly are slowly but surely going down before the mania of investigation like ripe wheat before the ruthless sickle. First it was Pendleton; then came Hendricks; and now that favorite son of New York, Sammy Tilden, is likely to be added to the list. Mr. Tilden, it seems, was one of the "purchasing committee," so called, of the St. Louis, Terre Haute and Alton Railway Company. He was also the counsel for the committee. It is alleged by Mr. Griswold, of St. Louis, the former President of the road, that in winding up the affairs of the committee Mr. Tilden and his associates "cabbaged" in the neighborhood of $284,000 from the road, placing that sum where it would "do the most godd"—to themselves. This is very sad, particularly in view of the existing prejudice against "crooked" men. We give below the closing paragraph of Mr. Griswold's spicy letter.

In 1859 I picked up this road—the Terre Haute, Alton & St. Louis Railroad—a waifs. Its men had not been paid for five months. For protection against executions its fuel was paid for as it was delivered upon the engines. I carried it along for six months, and I endorsed for it personally in all, including renewals, to the amount of more than $500,000. I gave it all my time and all my ability, and after four years I delivered it up worth $6,000,000. Five thousand dollars a year, without any commissions for indorsing, was all I was paid—all I demanded; but if, there is any such merit in service as is asserted, and if Mr. Tilden or the purchasing committee were entitled to steal $200,000 or $300,000 of bonds, then I claim that it was my honest right to have stolen the railroad itself.

THE more you stir it the worse it stinks, is the general verdict in regard to the investigations into the ways and means used to procure the passage of the boom bill through the House at Harrisburg. So far, the bribe giving and bribe taking patriots are all found in the Democratic party, and there is some tall and lofty perjury being committed, or some of these political sinners are certain to be caught in the meshes of the law, and punished according to their deserts. Here is the latest piece of testimony secured by the committee, which, if true, fixes the flint of Skinner, formerly a member and now Journal clerk of the House. A witness (Mr. Petroff) testifies as follows:

On Friday, March 31, between the hours of 8 and 9 in the morning, I met Mr. Skinner, the Journal clerk of the House. Skinner first opened the subject to me by saying that the boom bill would likely be reached on Tuesday, and that he would like to see the Philadelphians "fixed;" that the lumbermen would deal with them if they could. I told him I thought they could be dealt with. By that time we reached the Keystone, and he said he would see me again and left me. That morning, while in the House, Skinner came to me and asked me whether I could get ten men out of the Philadelphia delegation from both sides of the House for five hundred dollars each. I said certainly. He said that Embick had told Beck it would be necessary to get ten men out of the Philadelphia delegation to carry the bill, and he would let me know further about it on Monday night. That afternoon, as I was going to the depot, in company with O'Neill and Patterson, I stopped at the Lochiel Hotel, and while there met Skinner. He called me aside and said that Embick had gone to Williamsport to make arrangements with the lumbermen and would let me know what they would do on Monday night. So Skinner left me. After he had gone it occurred to me that I had paired off with Mr. Nissley on this bill and I had important business in Philadelphia that would likely detain me over Tuesday, so I wrote a note and left it with the clerk of the hotel for Skinner, in which I stated that in case he heard from the lumbermen before Monday to telegraph the same to me, so I would see the Philadelphia members while in the city. I did not hear from him.

$5,000 FOR TEN "MEN."

On Monday I came up, as the business I expected did not occur, and while in the House Skinner came to me and said that the lumbermen had agreed to give $5,000 for ten men out of the Philadelphia delegation, and that they were willing to put the money up in my hands or in anybody's hands whom we might suggest satisfactory to them. I said, "I am satisfied; I will see the rest of them and let you know to-morrow." On Tuesday morning I told Skinner that they were satisfied for him to hold the money. He said, "give me the ten names, with four others you can get in case they are needed." I said, "Low about the money?" He said, "If you meet me in the Clerk's room at 2:15 o'clock this afternoon we will settle that." I said, "all right." So I met Skinner at the time named. We went into the office together and had not been there three minutes before Mr. Embick appeared. He seemed to have a key of the door as it was locked and he came in without it being opened for him, and he said that he wanted the ten names. Skinner said to me that he wanted the ten names to see if there was any among them that they had already got. I gave Skinner ten names, which he wrote down upon a paper and then handed them to Embick.—He took them and examined them. Then he took a certificate of deposit out of his pocket, indorsed it upon the back with his name and payable to the order of Skinner, and handed it to Skinner, who started to say something to him, when Embick interrupted him by saying that he did not want anything further to say; that we could settle it between us, and then walked out of the room.—Skinner handed the certificate to me, saying: "Look at it yourself." I took it, saw Dougherty Bros.' signature on the face of it and Embick'- on the back, payable to the order of Skinner, and it was for seven thousand five hundred dollars.

FOURTEEN "MEN" WANTED.

That was the first intimation I had that they wanted fourteen men. Skinner said: "You will have to get four men more; that will make five hundred each and five hundred for me. To satisfy you that this is all right, I want you to get three or four of them to go with us to Dougherty Bros., and I will satisfy you that it is all right. I will meet you at the corner of Third and Market streets." I said: "All right." I started out to get somebody, as no one knew what I had done in this matter but Harry O'Neill. I went towards the Keystone; when I reached Third street I saw O'Neill and told him what had transpired between Skinner, Embick and I, and asked him to come along. He refused. I told him it was necessary for some one else to take part in this matter, in order to give it a bona fide appearance. He then consented to go as far as Third and Market streets. On our way down Third street we met Skinner. He said to us: "You walk down, and I will follow." When we reached Market street O'Neill left me and walked over towards the Lochiel. I stepped around the corner, when Skinner came up He asked what was the matter with O'Neill. I said that he would not go, that he and I would do as well. We went into the bankers' together Skinner called a man by name.

THE CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT.

We passed into a back room. Skinner submitted this certificate to him, saying: "Is this all right? Is this your signature?" He answered: "Yes, we will pay that to-day or to-morrow, or whenever presented." With that we walked out. Skinner left me at the door. I met O'Neill on the corner and told him what the banker had said. That afternoon, when the House was in session, Skinner called me into the Transcribing Clerk's room and said he wanted those four names. I told him I would see the men and give them to him. I left him and went into the post-office, wrote off the names and gave them to him, saying it would be well to have the bill brought up this afternoon, because the matter might leak out. He said they had not determined what they would do. They thought of making it the special order for to-morrow or postpone it until next Tuesday. However, he would find out and let me know. In about a half hour I went to him and asked what they intended doing, and he told me they would take up the bill that afternoon when reached, and, if necessary, would extend the session an hour in order to get it through. He said, "keep all of them here." I told him they were all right. When the bill was reached and a vote taken, all of the names I had given him voted against it. Skinner also told me, while in the Clerk's room that "they were bound to carry the bill through; to show you that they mean business, they gave me [Skinner] an envelope with $300 in it, without saying a word." That is about the substance of all that transpired between Skinner and myself.

THE bill providing for the issue of silver coins of the denominations of 10, 20, 25 and 50 cents to take the place of our present fractional currency has passed both Houses of Congress and is now in the hands of the President for approval. The old-time buckskin purses will once again be needed, and the possessors of that almost forgotten article may as well commence looking them up. In a few days the jingle of silver will be heard again in the land.

AT last the Democrats at Harrisburg have been driven to fix a time for adjournment, and after the 5th of May next the citizens of the Commonwealth will breath deeper and freer over their escape from the present daily danger of injury and disgrace from an ignorant and corrupt House. Surely have the people been punished for their folly in, two years since, permitting the lower House of the Legislature to fall into the hands of the Democracy, and profiting by the lesson, they are not likely to again perpetrate the folly within the next decade.

OUR NEW YORK LETTER.

NEW YORK, April 15, 1876.

THE CENTENNIAL POEM.

It is finally settled who will write the poem for the Centennial opening. The compliment of being requested to write it has been passed round among the elder poets of the country, and declined by each with thanks in return. Mr. Bryant considered that his years ought to exempt him from the task. Mr. Whittier never writes odes for occasions, and it would be contrary to the habit of his life to do such a thing. Mr. Longfellow hates writing to order. Mr. Lowell declined, and laureate's duty has at last been assumed by the man who of American writers is most capable of turning out the highest work, as one may say, under compulsion—Mr. Bayard Taylor. There is one poet who would have written up to the style of the occasion—not Bayard Taylor, but B. F. Taylor—who has the finest flow of florid English in verse, adapted to the general contour of the performance, who would have burned red lights and blue in numbers that would have soared and swelled and streamed like a holiday banner. I dare say that all the other poets would have been glad to relinquish the task to him, and he would not have done the time and audience discredit.

RENTS AND HOUSES.

The real estate agents are playing a hopeless game before the first of May, trying to get as near the old rents as possible, but the tenants have the best of it, and something like this course of proceeding goes on. The tenant asks for lower rent; agent of course declines and posts a bill on the house "to rent" Say the holder has been paying $2,700 for the last three years; he now wants to pay only $1,600. For the first two weeks he don't do much toward looking for a new place for himself, and agent sticks out pretty well, till tenant actually goes to Whitestone, Newark, or some other place of cheap rents, to hire a house. The day after he gets home the agent calls around early to say civilly that it didn't seem worth while to make a change, as they have been on good terms so long, the tenant may have the house at his own offer for a year, but he must expect a raise next May. He keeps his house, hugs himself at getting his own price, and calculates that he will get a new parlor carpet, risking the very hazy idea of having to move in earnest next year. Agents may talk about next year for a generation to come; nobody is afraid of them just now. Why should they be, when stores that rented for $14,000 within three years and last year for $7,500, tumble this year to $5,000? The building occupied by a well known dry goods firm year before last rented for $28,000. They offered 15,000 for it last year, which was indignantly refused and they moved out. The building stood empty all last season, and the owners would be very glad to let it for $12,000 to-day. Things don't fall in such away to get up again in any one year.

THE CENTENNIAL.

New York will be more of a point of attraction this year than Philadelphia. Everybody will, of course, go to Philadelphia and see the exposition—then they will come to New York and see the metropolis. I want to notify visitors that they may come to New York and stay here long enough to see the city, thoroughly, at not a very large expense. Avoid the large hotels, avoid the small ones, and, above all, avoid the European hotels. In brief, dodge the hotels altogether. Go to boarding-houses, where you can live from $5 to $6 a week, and be tolerably well taken care of. At least you will get all you can eat and good clean comfortable beds. These houses can be found anywhere below Fourteenth street, either east or west of Broadway, and the visitor whose ability to pay is limited can be accommodated at any price desirable. Those who have money will, of course, go to the first-class hotels and be bled for the style of the thing, but it is unnecessary. Stylish boarding-houses can be found at from $10 to $12 per week, in the vicinity of Lafayette Place and Tenth street; or, for the matter of that, on all the streets in that vicinity. And let me say right here, that when you come to New York next summer come prepared to stay long enough to see what a great city really is. Walking down Broadway and going up to Central Park is not seeing New York. You want to go down in among the poor; you want to see the shipping; Wall street ought to take up two days; and then you ought to penetrate the interior of the great business warehouses in the lower part of the city, and see something of the magnitude of their operations. By all means get into the inside of such an establishment as Harper's, and go over to Staten Island and up the East River, that you may enjoy the finest water-view in the world and the finest suburban residences. It wouldn't hurt you any to spend a day at Long Branch to see the frivolity of a summer watering-place. All this can be done for a very little money, if you only knew how. Your wives and daughters will, of course, want to see Stewart's and the great jewelry stores; and if you have any taste for art, the picture galleries are open all the time. To do this cheaply, go to boarding-houses to live, use the street cars and stages, and by no means allow yourself to be seduced into a carriage or cab. Street cars run everywhere in the city—indeed, on some of the lines you may ride seven miles for five cents. And on Sundays of course you will want to hear Beecher, Tyng, Frothingham and a dozen more of the great lights with which the city abounds, and in all their churches you find plenty of free pews and good, Christian courtesy and consideration. In all the metropolitan churches especial pains are taken to make strangers entirely welcome and at their ease. By the way don't fail to attend service once, at least, in old Trinity, where you will hear the best church music in the city. Come, by all means, and have a good time.

BUSINESS

is slowly improving, but it is nothing to speak of; the country merchants are here in some force, but they are buying very closely, as all of them believe that the prices have not as yet struck the bottom. The failures for the week aggregate 123, none of them very large. As an evidence of the closeness in business matters, there are 763 empty stores between the Post Office and 14th st., and they are likely to stay empty for some time to come. They cannot be rented, for there is no business to do in them. There will be no building of any consequence this season, for there are thousands of empty houses.

POSTAL TROUBLES.

The city had a scare this week. The appropriation for the expenses of public buildings being all exhausted, and Congress having made no provision for such an emergency, the postmaster here was notified to cut of the gas, water and fuel. This of course meant cessation of business in the post-office, and a virtual closing of it. The city took alarm, Postmaster James was helpless, and for a day it seemed very likely that the city would be without postal facilities. Imagine the consequences of closeing the New York postoffice! The business of the whole country passes through it, and the effect would be felt from Maine to Texas. But New York was equal to the emergency; the gas companies authorized Mr. James to go on, they taking their chances of getting their pay from the government, the water board did likewise, and the merchants pledged money enough to pay other expenses till the government could turn itself. So we get our letters as usual.

THE DEFALCATION OF JUDGE BARRETT

is worse than was supposed when he got away. He has swindled his old step-mother out of every dollar she had in the world, and the daughter of Miles O'Riley loses everything, as he was the trustee of her deceased father's estate. This villain ran away owing quite $200,000, and the terrible feature of it is, that this money was almost entirely trust funds, placed in his control because of his reputation for integrity. He sold mortgages and bonds belonging to estates, and squandered the money in a most reckless manner. As he was reputed to be rich no one objected to his high living, and no one thought it singular; but since his departure it has been discovered that he never had anything—that his whole life was an imposture He was a judge, and had held many positions of honor and profit, and up to the very day of his flight could have been elected to any position in the gift of the people — There seems to be an epidemic of scoundrelism just now.

THE FASHIONS.

The spring openings are rather late after all, but the new bonnets are out, and for the benefit of my lady readers I hasten to tell them not to buy scoop bonnets, (unless they are more becoming than any other,) for the newest and choicest style is a snug little Parisian shape with high square crown, and close brim, sloping very narrow toward the back, crown and brim being an inch smaller than last year's shape, and ever so much more becoming, having a peculiarly neat and modest appearance on the head, as I, though a mere mare mortal, can testify from inspection. The ladies say that they can tell the shape as far as they can see it, for it is so much prettier than the spreading, flaring bonnets of home design, it seems that no sooner does a peculiarly happy French design get over here, than our designers, as they say, begin to adapt it to American tastes, in which it loses all its distinctive grace and effect.

This particular fashion, I am told, is only to be found at the importers, so I advise ladies to insist on their milliners selecting it for them when they go on to buy goods. Rough and ready straws, in close forms, small and becoming, will be a stylish bonnet this season, and there is a satin finished French rough straw, of beautiful design, that is the prettiest thing out in bonnets in a masculine eye, it is so unpretending with all its style. As usual, this choice simplicity is not economical; an untrimmed hat of this sort costing $5, and the wreath of wheat or oats which trims it as much more. Rather coarse unfinished chips of a light ecru color, are the stylish dress hats either in the scoop or the other shape and scarfs of yellow net, lace, or wide crape-like silk ribbon, with wreaths and masses of fine flowers on or about the crown are the favorite trimming.

PIETRO.

Thieving Commissioners.

WILKESBARRE, April 12.—The auditors of Luzern county filed their report yesterday in the Prothonotary's office after about sixty days incessent and diligent application About twenty thousand dollars have been thrown out at the expense of ex-Commissioners R. Gerschbacher, A. J. Williams and N. Seibert. The report shows that bribery and malfeasance has been committed through a system of brokerage inconsistent with their official duties and in direct violation of the letter and spirit of the law. Various testimony was taken at great length, which resulted in the exposure of some of the most barefaced and reckless corruption ever perpetrated in this county. The ex-Commissioners are all reputed wealthy men, and are amply liable for the amount which the lien on their property or persons call for. It seems that a system of keeping creditors out of their dues for a long time, with a view of extorting large discounts, was practiced to a great extent, and the amount of discount afterwards divided among the Commissioners. Another, and perhaps the greatest fraud of all, is the county map, for which $12,000 was expended, the greater portion of which was paid to C. M. Cornwall, of New York, for lithographing, etc., an arrangement being entered into with him and the Commissioners by which the latter were to receive a large commission for securing him the contract. The Commissioners have undoubtedly exceeded the limits of their authority in many ways, and have got themselves into a very bad mess. There is considerable excitement in Wilkesbarre in consequence of the development of these facts, and great indignation is expressed on all sides. The ex-Commissioners have engaged eminent counsel for their defence, as they are fearful of the worst results.

Gold From the Black Hills.

OMAHA, April 11.—Mr. W. H. Wood has arrived, from Custer City, bringing with him samples of quartz from a lode within two miles of that place. An assay made at the Omaha Smelting Woorks to-day shows $1,516 gold, and ten dollars and forty cents silver. He declines to give the name of the lode. He has arranged to ship a car load of ore to the works at once.

A. T. Stewart's Funeral.

NEW YORK, April 13.—Great crowds were collected this morning from an early hour in the neighborhood of the late A. T. Stewart's house to witness the funeral procession, and all along Fifth avenue spectators were stationed in the windows and on the steps of houses. The vast assemblage was very orderly and subdued. A small police force, in front of the residence of the deceased, kept back the crowd and only allowed those to enter the dwelling who were provided with tickets of admission.

The funeral procession started from Mr. Stewart's house about 11:30 A. M. The body lay in state all the morning, and was viewed by fully 4,000 people. It was supported on a bed of flowers nearly two feet high; the other floral decorations were superb and could hardly be excelled in magnificence. The coffin was covered with black velvet and bore an inscription on a plate of solid gold, with gold handles and heavy gold fringe three inches deep all around it. The casket was lined with white silk, and the body was dressed in a suit of black clothes.

Bishop Potter and Rev. Dr. S. H. Tyng read a brief funeral service at the house body was lifted. After this service the employees of the deceased were allowed to enter and take a last look at the deceased. They passed at the rate of about forty-five to a minute, but at this place it took nearly an hour and a half to get through. The coffin was then lifted and the procession moved down Fifth avenue to Tenth street and across the latter thoroughfare to the church. The cortege numbered 200 carriages and extended a long distance.

The preparations at the church had been commenced early in the morning, and the floral tributes there were magnificent. The catafalque was at the lower end of the main aisle and consisted of a mass of flowers. Large crowds of ticket holders were outside clamoring for admission, and it required the utmost efforts of a strong police force to restrain them. Delegations were present at the church from the Merchants' national bank and the Union League club.

NEW YORK, April 13.—Fourteen ushers were in attendance all of whom had been detailed from the clerks employed by Mr. Stewart in his Tenth street store. After the funeral services at the church the body was committed to the family vault. The most prominent citizens attended the funeral. The pall bearers were headed by Gov. Tilden and Gov. Rice. Bishop Potter, assisted by Dr. Ryland officiated at the funeral ceremonies.

Semarkable Disappearance of Georgia Lakes.

Says the Valdosta (Ga.) *Times*: A third lake in Lowndes County has been emptied of its waters by subterranean passages during the last six months. What is the matter? The *Times* has several times alluded to the fact that Lowndes County had within its borders numbers of lakes five to ten hundred (and sometimes beyond a thousand) acres in size, and can it be that these lakes are all connected with a grand underground watercourse? It seems so. In September last one dried up or run off, and left bushels upon bushels of fish in holes of water about upon the bottom of the lake. In January another, about five miles from this, did the same thing, and now Grassy Pond, a lake covering about 500 acres, just between the two above mentioned, has left its millions of fishes out of water. About three weeks ago it was reported that the waters of this lake were sinking below the low-water mark, and every day or two we would hear that it was still going down. Last Friday a report spread over the country like wildfire that Grassy Pond was low enough to rake the fish out with nets, and by sundown more than 100 people had collected at the place. Some had dip nets, some cast nets, and there was one seine in the party. The first haul with the seine caught enough trout, jack, bream, and speckled perch to make a "mess" for every one present. During that night all the water disappeared, and there were millions of fish left dead upon dry land. Saturday, next day, the planters hitched up their wagons and hauled load after load and scattered them in their fields for manure, and thousands were left at the mercy of buzzards, hogs, and other creatures of prey. Such quantities of fish and such destruction has never been known in the history of Lowndes County. No one ever dreamed that there was half that quantity of fish in Grassy Pond, though it was celebrated for its fine fishing grounds in the spring of the year. The other two lakes above mentioned did not run thus completely dry, and the fish that were not caught were saved by the water returning in a few days from its hidden retreat in the bosom of the earth. We learn that Grassy Pond is filling up again, but it is too late to save the finny tribe. These statements are not at all exaggerated, and can be testified to by several hundred people living in this county, though it is marvelous to all.

Petroleum Tanks Struck by Lightning.

PARKER'S LANDING, PA., April 12.—At 8:50 a. m. a twelve thousand barrel oil tank belonging to Grandin & Neyhart, situated at Bear Creek Station, Allegheny Valley Railroad, was struck by lightning, bursting the upper ring of the tank and throwing the oil over two adjoining tanks of the Union Pipe Company.

At 2:30 p. m. the three tanks were still burning, involving a loss of about 45,000 barrels of oil, 10,000 of which belonged to Grandin & Neyheart, and the remainder to the Union Pipe Company. Should the wind shift to another quarter, an additional tank holding 20,000 barrels of the Union Pipe Company oil, will also be consumed Persons having credit balances in the line will be assessed pro rata according to the loss sustained. The tanks now burning are valued at $15,000, and the oil lost will amount to $18,000. Should the other tank take fire the total loss on tanks will be $23,000, ond of oil $125,000. The Atlantic Pipe Company's 25,000 barrel iron tank at Beaver's Pipe Station was also struck by lightning at 4:30 this morning, and after burning four hours was extinguished by the agency of steam.

War in Mexico.

GALVESTON, April 11.—A special to the *News* from Laredo, Texas, of to-day, says New Laredo was just captured by the revolutionists. The fighting is all over. The United States forces have fourteen Mexican Federal prisoners, with a portion of their arms. Quintaro, Federal, escaped down the river with part of his forces.

Three Days in a Sewer.

About noon on Thursday a man was discovered in the act of robbing Jackson's saloon, near the Singer works at Elizabeth, New Jersey. He immediately decamped when he found out that he was watched, and ran down towards Trumbull street, hotly pursued by a policeman, who was close behind him, when he jumped into the opening of the sewer at the corner of the street. The officer procured a lantern and followed him up the sewer, which is four feet by six, but could discover no trace of him, and returned. His story was hardly believed at the time, but its truth was satisfactorily proved on Sunday morning. That day a man was found in an insensible condition on the shore of the Sound, who, when taken to the police station, told the following tale: He said his name was Michael Gelgiman, and did not deny being the man who attempted to rob Jackson's saloon and escaped by way of the sewer, from which he had emerged at 8 o'clock that morning. He had seen the policeman's lantern after going three hundred yards, when, to escape capture, he crawled up a branch sewer, where there is only just room to crawl, until he got to a man-hole, through which he attempted to climb. The tide came in and nearly drowned him while attempting to climb up, and he utterly failed. On the third day he at length mustered courage to go backwards—the only way he could—to the point where he entered, risking the chance of being overpowered by the fetid air and drowning in the filthy water, a task that he finally accomplished. He is a large man, five feet eleven inches in heighth, and is hardly recognizable as the same man who was seen on Thursday. His head is one mass of cuts and bruises, his finger nails torn off and fingers worn almost to the bone in his frantic efforts to escape through the man-hole. He was sent to the Poor House, put into a warm bath and afterwards supplied with food, to which he had been a stranger more than three days and nights.

Destructive Wind and Rainstorm.

CRESTON, IOWA, April 11.—At 10 o'clock last night a fearful storm of wind and hail swept over this city, destroying a large amount of property, but, luckily, caused no loss of life. Five dwelling-houses, besides a large number of barns and outhouses, and chimneys almost without number, succumbed to the fury of the storm. Mr. Peck's dwelling-house, two miles south, blew down, injuring his little child, but not seriously. Mr. Linton's store-room and building, 12x18 feet was blown to pieces, scarcely two planks of it remaining together, and scattered over acres of ground. W. Perkin's story and half dwelling was turned over on its side and his wife and child received serious injury from a falling stove. A. L. Tennant's house, in the west part of the town, was destroyed, and Mr. Tennant's pants blown away, one of the pockets of which contained $200, J. Bartlett's house, on Pine street blew down, but none of the family were injured. The tin roof of Patt & Carpenter's brick block was torn off and the upper story of the building badly damaged by water. Shop fronts facing the wind were badly broken up, land signs and loose lumber distributed round promiscuously, and whole sections of sidewalk were carried out into the street. Your correspondent can form as yet no close estimate of the loss, but it will reach several thousand dollars.—*Inter-Ocean.*

A Thundering Fall.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., April 8.—At 3:30 P. M. to-day a large portion of the rock at Bragg's Bluff, Lookout Mountain, which has been moving from the parent ledge for two weeks, weighing about 2,000 tons, was forced down falling fully forty feet and striking the mountain road at the edge of the bluff. Here it was dashed into pieces, and hundreds of these, many ten feet or more in thickness, were hurled down the side of the mountain where the incline is some fifty degrees. The crash was terrific, and as the huge masses went rolling down the mountain side the tops of forest trees were twisted together, their trunks were snapped like reeds and everything was swept before them. Immense clouds of dust were raised, and the earth was shaken for a great distance around. The shock was violently felt by men a quarter of a mile distant. The effect combined all the sublimity of a thunder storm and the terror of an earthquake. The air appeared laden with mist, as it did during the famous battle which occurred there a few years ago. The rest of the ledge is expected to fall ere long.

Railroad Accident.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., April 10.—The train on the Lehigh Valley Railroad which left New York at 6 o'clock on Sunday evening met with an accident about midnight at Barndoor, three miles north of Pennhaven Junction. The engine struck a boulder which had rolled down from the mountain, and was thrown from the track next to the embankment. The baggage car, smoking car and one passenger car were thrown the other way and rolled into the river. No one was killed. William R. Williams, of Wilkesbarre, was seriously injured, and four employes of the train were more or less bruised, among whom were Kiltz, a conductor, and Thos. Moore, an engineer. All of the injured were brought to this city, where the train arrived at 7 o'clock this morning, six hours behind time. The engine and cars were but slightly damaged.

Five Men Mangled to Death.

The bridge belonging to the Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western Railroad Company, near Little Falls, N. J., is two hundred feet high. It is weak and trestlework is being erected beneath. Yesterday an ominous cracking was heard, and before all the men could save themselves by clinging to the top beam and climbling on to the bridge itself, the trestlework fell, carrying five men with it to the river bed, where their limbs were broken and mangled by the sharp rocks and fragments of timber. Two were instantly killed, and the other three are dying. All were horribly mangled.

Sequels to the Whiskey Frauds.

ST. LOUIS, April 13.—Gen. John McDonald has just been sentenced by Judge Treat, of the United States District Court to three years in the penitentiary and $5,000 fine. The imprisonment part of Gen. McDonald's sentence dates from the 23d of November last, the day of his conviction. Judge Krums, his counsel, made a strong appeal to the court to substitute the County Jail instead of the Penitentiary as a place of confinement, on account of the better sanitary regulations of the former, the General being in very poor health and suffering from chronic disease, but Judge Treat did not see the force of this, and named the Jefferson City Penitentiary as the place of imprisonment. The sentence is the maximum penalty under the law. After these proceedings were finished, the District Court adjourned and the Circuit Court opened.

W. O. Avery was called and answered, and the forfeiture of his bond declared a few days ago was set aside Judge Treat then overruled the motion in arrest of judgment in this case and sentenced the prisoner to two years in the Penitentiary and to pay a fine of $1,000, the minimum penalty. Mr. Avery was immediately taken to the county jail to await his transfer to Jefferson City.

Bold Attempt to Rob a Railroad Train.

FORT SCOTT, KS., April 12.—A bold attempt was made at one o'clock yesterday morning to rob the express and mail train on the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad at Bluejacket station, just over the southern border of Kansas, in Indian Territory The officers of the road had known for sometime that a gang of desperadoes had organized for the object, and the company had taken steps to frustrate their designs in sending out a small detective force to watch them. Three of the detectives had joined the gang and learned their plans, which included the robbery of this train. As the train was run on the side-track by the misplacement of a switch, a guard who had been placed in the cab with the engineer, losing his presence of mind, commenced firing at the robbers as they approached the train, at the same time giving the signal to others in the train to come out, thus giving the robbers a chance to retreat, which they availed themselves of in great haste. Two of the thieves were captured at Chetopa, Kansas, this morning and lodged in jail, and it is thought the others cannot escape.

Trains Blocked by Mud.

IOWA CITY, IA., April 13.—A slide occurred at about eleven o'clock last night, on the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad track, on the east side of the Iowa river at this point, by which two passenger trains from the West have been shut in all day, unable to come or go back. The track is covered with mud, and the wagon roads are so bad that it is only with the greatest difficulty that provisions can be sent to the passengers, forty of whom are ladies. The blockade will perhaps be raised at seven o'clock to-night.

Iowa river is rising, and there are fears of another flood like those of 1851 and 1858.

A heavy snow storm, extending along the Missouri river from St. Joseph and Fort Sully in the north, is now raging. No particular damage as to the crops is anticipated. The sowing of wheat all over the State is at present suspended. The Missouri river is riseing.

A Queer Old Woman.

Lancaster has lost one of its most mysterious characters in the person of a woman aged sixty three, named Manny Henderson, supposed to be a witch. She was conscious to the last, and in anticipation of her death expressed a wish to have no clergyman or religious services at her burial. Hid in different parts of the room was found $52 in money, $20 of it in greenbacks, some pennies, and the remainder in notes of old State banks, some good, some worthless. In another room were found about two barrels of stones, bricks, &c., which had been thrown into the house by bad boys; in another room were knives, a gun, powder, shot and caps, and in another about four barrels of cakes, which had been given to her by different parties and were dried up, besides pies, &c., tied up carefully, all of which she refused to eat because of her apprehension that some one was trying to poison her.—*Reading Eagle.*

Ohio.

CLEVELAND, April 14.—A riot occurred near Masillon this morning, between green hands who were about to commence work in the coal mines, and the striking miners, George Warmington, of this city proprietor of the mine, was struck on the head and severely injured, but not dangerously. Several others were more or less hurt. The Sheriff of the county has gone to the mines with a strong *posse.*

Richard Hattersley, a gun maker of this city, was killed this morning while getting off a train which was in motion.

An Absconding Teller.

NEW YORK, April 11.—John Seal, one of the tellers of the Security Savings Bank, is discovered to be a defaulter to the mount of $69,000. The bank is being wound up by a receiver, and the discovery was made through the settlement of depositors accounts for the payment of dividends. Seal has been an employe on the bank since 1872, and his frauds continued systematically through all this time. When the discrepancies were discovered in the books, but before suspicion of him had arisen, he finished up by taking five hundred more, and absconded with that sum and about a thousand dollars blonging to parties not connected with the bank.

Black Hills Dangers.

FORT LARAMIE, W. T., April 13.—A man by the name of Rowser, who used to belong to the Fourteenth Infantry, arrived here yesterday. He reports that he and his party of five men were attacked by Indians just south of Cheyenne river on the 7th inst., when returning from Custer City. One of the party, named Marmon Storms, from Iowa, was shot through the shoulder, but not seriously. The Indians are very numerous in that section. A great deal of stock has been run off.

Fall of a Wall.

PHILADELPHIA, April 12.—An old wall in a lumber yard in Delaware avenue, above Green street, fell to the ground this morning, burying in its debris three teamsters named Charles Morris, John Rodgers and Christian Sein. Morris died soon after being extricated. The others will recover, although both are severely injured.

Explosion of Fire-Damp.

ALLENTOWN, PA., April 12.—A terrible explosion of fire-damp occurred in the Nesquehoning mines at 11 o'clock this morning, killing Hugh Coffell, Jas. McGovern, Thomas Shields, and badly wounded Levi Maisden, Richard Bodine, Joseph Norwood, Jacob Meyers and Chas. Callan. The last named cannot recover.

(By Our Special
LEGISLATIVE CORRESPONDENT.

HARRISBURG, April 15.

The Boom investigating committee continued its labors with unremitting ardor during the whole of the past week; its secret conclave was most of the time, and consequently the debates of the investigation are not public property. The little which has leaked out has an ugly look upon it, and seems to implicate the Lumbermen rather more than the Herdicites. The testimony of Petroff a member from Phila. as written up and made public by himself, places in an ugly position Capt. Skinner the journal clerk of the House, in the absence of his own testimony which has not yet been made public. Petroff claims that he was directly approached by Skinner in the interests of the Lumbermen, with an offer to pay him $500 apiece for 15 votes from the Philadelphia delegation in favor of the boom bill, and that as evidence of good faith a check for $7,000 was shown to Petroff by Skinner. Petroff claims that he was only endeavoring to entry Skinner and had no intention of taking the money, voting for the bill or endeavoring to influence others to do so. On the other hand from Skinners testimony as far as it can be learned, the shoe appears to be on the other foot. That it was Petroff who offered to sell the Lumbermen 15 votes for $7,500, that Petroff approached him on several occasions about the matter and wrote him a letter asking what Embick would do in the matter, which letter is now in possession of the committee. It is said that Skinners testimony further alleges that he and Col. Embick of Williamsport whom your readers will understand was chief of the Lumberman lobby—determined to find out what Petroff meant, feeling convinced that he and his friends were bitter enemies of the bill, for that purpose a check or rather a certificate of deposit marked "good" was obtained at Dougherty & Co-, Bank which was given to Skinner and by him exhibited to Petroff.

The testimony of representative Douglas of Philadelphia, who at first refused to testify but at last did so on condition that it should be made public Sets forth that he was approached by Col. Embick and offered by him $300 for his vote on the boom bill, that he indignantly refused, stating that he could not be bought. He further states that he knew of two negotiations between Petroff and Skinner but placed no confidence in Skinner, as he thought he [Skinner] was not acting in good faith but was simply trying to draw them out by offers of money and make them show their hands.

Synott representative from Luzerne who refused to testify before the House Committee, is said to have done so before the Senate that after his vote for the bill on second reading, he was approached by John B. Beck of Williamsport, who congratulated him for his vote and handed him an envelope containing $300.

Synott afterwards voted against the bill on final passage. Becks is said to have declared before the House Committee that there is not a word of truth in this statement of Synott.

How this matter will end it is difficult to say at present. The committee has nearly completed its work, and will likely report to the House next week. One thing is certain; it has created a great sensation here, but everyone seems disposed to withhold judgment until the committee has reported.

At last the House has decided when the Legislature shall adjourn finally. A Democratic caucus was held on Tuesday last, when, after a lengthy discussion, in which Parson Plummer gave the Speaker a dressing complimenting (?) him with possessing "the ambition of a Napoleon and the brains of a Blind Tom," the time for final adjournment of the Legislature was fixed on May 5th. A resolution to this effect was adopted in the House on the following morning, and immediately agreed to by the Senate, which last named body has rescinded its decision not to consider bills coming from the House after April 1st, and has passed during the week a large number of House bills.

The House has been busy with the consideration on second and third reading of appropriation, printing and revenue bills.

Death of A. T. Stewart.

NEW YORK, April 10.—A. T. Stewart, who had been suffering for the past week from inflamation of the bowels, died this afternoon.

Alexander Turney Stewart