The Somerset Herald

WEDNESDAY . . . . . January 10, 1877.

THE latest dodge of the "Reform Democracy" to defeat the choice of people for President, is to prevent counting of the electoral vote by continuous debate until after the 4th of March, and thus force a new election next fall

WE are indebted to Governor Hartranft for an advance copy of his annual message. It was too late for this issue of our paper. We will lay it before our readers next week. It is a dignified, comprehensive State paper, which will commend itself to all who read it.

SINCE the election, the "Reform Democracy" have abandoned all pretense to honesty or decency. In Indiana, last week they secured control of the Senate through the open shameless purchase of an Independent, who had the controlling vote.

HON JAMES G. BLAINE was last week nominated for U. S. Senator for the full term of six years from the 4th day of March next, by a unanimous vote of all the Republican members of the Legislature of Maine. This deserved tribute to this eminent Statesman, is received with the liveliest satisfaction by his many friends throughout the country.

CRONIN, the bold Cronin, who constituted the electoral college of Oregon, and cast his vote for Tilden, knowing that the State had voted largely for Hayes—was before the Senate committee last week, and under fire of a searching cross examination was compelled to admit that he had been bought and paid for. This noble "Reform Democrat" received three thousand dollars for the dirty work he has done, and the money paid him was clearly traced to New York

THE Legislature met at Harrisburg on Tuesday of last week at 12 o'clock. The Senate organized by electing as Speaker *pro tem*, John C. Newmyer of Allegheny county, and the House organized by electing E. Reed Myer, of Bradford for Speaker. The usual number of clerks and subordinate officers were elected by both Houses. The Governors message was presented and read, and an adjournment was had until Tuesday (yesterday) to give both Speakers time to select and appoint the necessary committees.

THERE is no longer any doubt that Tilden and his friends inspired the Oregon rascality. Governor Grover of that State was examined by the Senate committee last week and was compelled to admit that Judge Hoadly of Cincinnati, Abraham H. Hewitt and Manton Marble of New York—Tildens right hand men, wrote him and furnished the authorities and presumed precedents, on which he based his decision appointing Cronin an elector. It is in testimony also that a large sum of money, not less than $15,000 was sent to Oregon about the time of Cronin's appointment, through Mr. Tildens bankers. Cronin admits that he received $3,000 of it, and the question now is how much did Governor Grover get? But Slippery Sam has'nt bought the Presidency yet, thanks to the integrity of the Republican electors.

THE Democrats having at last been compelled to abandon all claim to South Carolina and Florida, and the Oregon fraud having collapsed of its own graceless rascality, they have been compelled to fall back on Louisiana alone to sustain their claim of Tilden's election. In this last State they have not an inch of solid ground to stand upon. They assail the law creating the Returning Board, but the authority of the Board itself they have not seriously questioned. Its right to exercise judicial functions is generally admitted and from its decision there is no appeal, except to the nation's sense of justice. The Board has declared that the State was carried for Hayes, and its decision will stand. All the desperation of Tilden's adherents cannot change the result.

ON Monday, the Democrats according to prearranged programme, held meetings in several of the Northern States with the avowed intent of influencing Congress in the matter of the count of the electoral vote. We have not yet received the proceedings at any of them, and it matters but little what the persons participating in them did do, it is of the object and intent of them that we propose to speak.

It is a fact not in dispute, that either Hayes or Tilden received at the late election, a majority of the electoral vote, and hence one or the other of them is elected to the office of President. There is one way to settle this point—one legal constitutional way. This way is not to be ascertained by popular meetings and resolutions, by compromise, or barter. It is to be found in the constitution, and laws, and established precedents. And that way, established by authority, ought not to be, and must not be governed by meetings gotten up in favor of either candidate, or by partisan clamor, or threats, entreaties, or foolish fears. This thing of attempting to control the matter by the resolutions of public meetings, is a weak, dangerous, and cowardly device, gotten up by desperate political gamesters conscious of the weakness of their cause, and should not have the slightest weight with those whose duty it is to settle the question. The law alone, and *nothing else* must govern. This is a government of laws, and if he administration of law is to be controlled or influenced by partisans, or the demonstrations of demagogues, then things are in a pretty bad way. But we are confident that the supremacy of the law will be vindicated. The men who frothed and fomed, and behaved like fools and traiters, and talked about fighting, unless their views were conceded and Tilden's election admitted, were the moving spirits in getting up these meetings, and this their second movement, will amount to no more than did their first, in controlling public sentiment. Those who anticipated any serious trouble growing out of the menaces or folly of those conspirators will happily, be disappointed. The law will have its course, right will prevail, the people must and will accept the result, and this attempt at revolution, by the "Reform Democracy," will end in their total discomfiture.

POLITICAL NOTES.

Talk about counting out Tilden. Why, if justice could be forced outside of the forms of law, the bulldozed States of Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia would never be counted for him Upon a fair and honest vote he would be at least 20 or 30 behind in the electoral count.—*Troy Times.*

The *Tribune* says there is a good deal of talk in Washington in Democratic circles relative to holding a new election. No Democrat would talk of a new election if there was one leg Iquibble remaining to be resorted to in order to get Tilden in.

The law requires a deed of land to be signed "in presence of" witnesses. What for? That it should be a public act—not done in a corner out of sight. But these "in presence of" whom it is executed have nothing to do with the land, the title, or the consideration. They are the witnesses of the act, as the two houses are of the opening and counting.—*Letter of the Hon. Schuyler Colfax.*

The House Committee on Investigation of the recent election in South Carolina have returned with a flea in their ears. Members of the committee admit that, so far as their mission was concerned, they demonstrated to their full satisfaction that the vote of South Carolina belongs to Hayes and Wheeler. The Florida committee, according to private dispatches, have made a similar discovery, and will return in a few days. The Louisiana committee will make a last desperate effort to cover the chagrin of the others, who left here with such an air of business and importance so short a time ago.

Cronin has had his say, and, judging from the evidence alone, the operation in which he engaged, along with Governor Grover, was about as gracious a bit of rascalty as is often seen. He admits that at the first he did not intend to accept the certificate, that he was interriwed with a view of being bribed,—first refused, and afterward went to the place where the bribery was to be done, "examined the law," and changed his mind, and received $3,000 from the bribing parties to come on to Washington. All the while telegraphic communication was kept up with New York, and all movements were ordered from there. A plain case.—*Pittsburgh Gazette.*

What has become of the Republican vote of Mississippi? is the pointed question asked by the Washington correspondent of the New York *Times*. The Republican vote of the State in 1874 was 93,928, and in 1876, 56,298, or a loss of nearly one-half. As the Democratic vote in 1876 was over 8,000 less than it was in 1874, the missing Republican voters, 37,000 in number, cannot have thrown their strength in that direction. Where are they? No epidemic has swept over the State, nor has there been any emigration of the colored people. The explanation is plain. The negroes were afraid to vote. In dread of outrage or murder, they remained at home. Life was dearer than the freeman's prerogative. Mississippi is Republican to-day by a decided majority.—*Forney's Press.*

It is understood that Senator Morton is quite anxious to get the telegrams which the Oregon telegraph operator has thus far refused to give up. It is said that if the telegrams can be secured, they will show that $17,000 of Tilden's barrel of money went to Oregon, and was used to accomplish a dishonest purpose which failed in its realization ingloriously. It can be shown that Cronin received $17,000 in a telegraphic money order, and it is alleged that he offered two of the Republican electors $5,000 each under the promise that they would unite with him in forming the Electoral College and casting the Oregon electoral vote for Tilden. That they did not, however, act with him the country knows full well, but if the money was paid them it shows what Tilden was willing to stop to for that much coveted one vote.

The confession of Cronin that he received three thousand dollars for his agency in the nasty trick of smuggling himself in as an elector in Oregon, and that the money was paid in drafts upon Mr. Tilden's bankers in New York, brings home a very disreputable fact to the Democratic candidate for the Presidency. His professions of "reform," and his arrogation to himself of a personal purity above suspicion, have both been nullified by this development. The Oregon trick, there is now good reason to believe, originated with Mr. Tilden himself, and the disbursement of three thousand dollars to the corrupt instrument through whom it was carried out, proves Mr. Tilden to be as willing to use corrupt means as Cronin was willing to accept them. When a candidate for the Presidency gets down to the vile business of buying an electoral vote, we may well despair of possibility of preserving the purity of our Government if committed to Democratic hands.—*Pittsburg Commercial*

Intimidation in Louisiana.

When fifty men testify that they did not see a certain thing, and fifty, more or less, testify that they did see that thing, which side is to be believed? Everybody knows the rule of law and common sense. One man who saw and swears to it outweighs fifty who did not see and swear to that. Strip the Louisiana case of all disguises and excrescences, and it is simply an illustration of this well-known rule. One man who saw that his life was in danger if he voted as he pleased, ought to outweigh many men who did not see any violence or hear any threats. We are supposing that the witnesses are equally credible; that there is no reason to doubt that each swears to what he believes to be the truth. Yet the knowledge of one man outweighs the ignorance of thousands. Assassination, beating, intimidation of voters in any form, are crimes in Louisiana. No man takes pains to commit crimes with all possible publicity. The one witness who saw a murder committed and identifies the murderer is infinitely more important than the many who did not see and who think that the murder was not committed at all, or was committed by somebody else.

It is not denied that some horrible crimes have been committed in Louisiana. This the Democrats admit, but claim that they had no political origin. Two questions of facts arise: Were those crimes committed for political ends, and was the effect of them and of other acts of violence and threats such as to deter men who wished to do so from voting the Republican ticket? As to the purpose, we must say that the facts speak for themselves. A great many persons were killed or assaulted with violence; they were nearly all Republicans; and in nearly every case they were Republicans of such local importance that the fact of their assassination would necessarily alarm many others and deter Republican voters Precisely in the parishes where these things occurred the Republican vote most unaccountably decreased—unaccountably, if we propose that these acts of violence were not the cause. Nobody has attempted to give any explanation of the fact that, out of thousands of known Republicans in East Feliciana, for example, only one solitary man dared to vote, excepting upon the theory that they were deterred by violence. No man has given, and no man can give any explanation of the amazing decrease of Republican votes in certain localities and not in other parts of the State, who ignores the fact that in those very localities acts of violence were most frequent.

We come, then to the conflicting testimony as to the nature and effect of these misdeeds. The claim, which savors strongly of partisanship, that were ordered from party headquarters, may be dismissed as trivial and irrelevant. The same deeds, if perpetrated without such instigation would have been equally a violation of law, and would have been as likely to prevent a free and legal election. Several thousand witnesses swear that they saw the effects of this violence; some, that they were personally assaulted; some, that they knew of the murder of others, and were warned that it would not be safe to vote the Republican ticket; some, that they were personally threatened or warned; many, that they did not vote as they wished, because of the real or supposed danger; and many others, that among their acquaintances there were many Republicans thus coerced or driven from the polls by fear. Such is the nature of the evidence on one side. Thousands swear that they personally knew certain facts. On the other side, thousands swear that they did not see any intimidation, nor hear any threats, and that they know nothing to warrant the belief that the elections were not fair and free. Which set of witnesses is to be believed? Which would be believed, if the issue were the guilt or innocence of a man accused of horse stealing?

In these few words the Louisiana case as it now stands is summed up: thousands swear that they saw and thousands more that they did not see. The Presidency of the United States depends, in equity if not in actual result, upon the credibility to which such conflicting testimony is entitled. There are all manner of side issues Especially there is the strictly technical view taken by Judge Turnbull and others who composed the Democratic committee, which amounts to this: That the Returning Board had no legal authority to consider much of the evidence presented. Plain people of honest instincts will ask, not what the Board had a technical right to find out, but what were the actual facts. As to these, we must either believe the thousands who swear to what they saw and suffered, or the thousands who swear that they did not see and did not suffer.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

Roasting a Woman Alive.

One of the large tenant buildings on Harrison avenue in the Bergen district of Jersey City is inhabited exclusively by colored families. In one appartment lived Oscar Hudson and his mistress Martha Shuttle. They had been recently leading a very unhappy life, but during the past week they quarreled night and day. Yesterday at noon the whole neighborhood was alarmed by frightful screams in Hudson's apartment, and a crowd soon followed. He refused to give admission to any one, and the door was forced in. Then a shocking scene was presented. On the floor lay Martha gasping and groaning, the flesh pealed off her shoulders, arms and back, and her face betraying terrible agony. When an attempt was made to raise her the flesh adhered to her clothing, and she implored those in the room to allow her to remain lying. Beside her lay an empty tea kettle, still steaming. The stench in the room was almost intolerable. It appears that Hudson threw the boiling water in the kettle over the woman and then throwing her on the stove held her fast till she was almost roasted to death. Medical aid was summoned, but the wretched woman was so terribly burned that she cannot survive. Captain McVaig, of the Fourth precinct, was soon upon the scene and he had Hudson arrested and conveyed to the station. The only defence the prisoner offered to the charge was that Martha was too much addicted to beer and inclined to receive attentions from a man in the neighborhood of a lighter shade.—*N. Y. Herald, Jan. 4.*

Another Accident.

PORTLAND, ME., January 4.—The Montreal express train on the Grand Trunk Railroad, due here at noon, was thrown from the track at Gilead, ninety miles from here, by the engine striking a heavy snow bank. The entire train, consisting of the engine, baggage, express, smoking car and one passenger car went over an embankment fifteen feet high. N. B. Letchell, fireman, is believed fatally injured. Jas. Doyle, engineer, Frank Ross baggage master, R. E Larrabee, brakeman, and Mr. Small, of the Canadian Express Company, are more or less hurt. The passengers were terribly shaken up, but none are reported seriously injured. Assistance was telegraphed for, and trains have gone thither. The passengers and wounded will probably reach here to-night.

Murdered by an Insane Wife.

CINCINNATI, Ohio, Jan. 3.—A *Gazette* special says Henry Creighton, a resident of Bloom township, Fairfield county, was murdered by his crazy wife yesterday afternoon. She shot him twice and cut his head off with an axe. The parties had been married four years.

STILL ANOTHER HORROR.

SHIP WRECK AND LOSS OF LIFE.

Twenty-nine Wreckers Drowned.

The Wreck of the Circassian.

The Story Told by Four Survivors.

FUTILE ATTEMPTS AT RESCUE

BRIDGEHAMPTON, L. I., December 30.—At 4:30 o'clock this morning the ship Circassian, ashore on the bar off Bridgehampton, south shore of Long Island, was entirely broken up by the last southeasterly gale and lost.

Twenty-nine wreckers who were on board of her perished.

The men clung to the masts until the ship separated; they came ashore on a cask buoy.

It will be remembered that the Circassian went ashore in the storm on the night of the 11th inst. At that time the crew and officers were saved by the efforts of the officer of the life saving station. They were taken off by means of a rope thrown across the ship by a rocket from shore, no boat being able to be launched or to live in the sea.

It was expected at the time that the ship would go to pieces in the storm, and with the cargo prove a total loss. The storm subsided, however, shortly after she struck, and it was confidently hoped that she might be saved.

With this view the Coast Wrecking Company was engaged to save the ship and cargo. They accordingly went to work, but up to yesterday afternoon, on account of continued bad weather, were able to make slight progress. About 400 tons of her cargo only, which was assorted one, were taken out. But it is expected that another day's work would lighten her sufficiently for the tugs to pull her off at high water.

The storm of yesterday caught thirty four men, employes of the Coast Wrecking Company, on board, and there were no means provided for their rescue. Finally, at half-past four o'clock in the morning the ship went to pieces with an awful crash, according to the account of four survivors, who were washed ashore this morning, more dead than alive, on fragments of the wreck.

No one of the remaining twenty-nine men on board have been seen or heard from up to the present time, and there is but little doubt that all have perished.

NEW YORK, December 31.—The wreck of the ship Circassian is the most disastrous that has occurred on the Long Island coast since the wreck of the John Milton fifteen years ago. She ran ashore in a blinding snow storm, and all on board, thirty persons, were lost. The crew of the Milton were frozen stiff in the rigging, their arms standing straight out in front of them. The men on board the Circassian had finished on Friday night all necessary preliminaries for attaching a hawser with which she was to be drawn off. During the early hours of the night the wind freshed a little and the sea began to run very high until at about six o'clock it began to break over her. The men apprehending danger went into the fore-rigging, where they were ordered for greater safety. All on board, 32 souls all told, remained thus exposed until early in the morning, when it was deemed advisable to shift quarters, as the falling of the top hamper, caused by the rolling of the vessel, made it difficult to hold on. The crew were safely transferred to the mizzen, where signals of distress were shown. All this time the shore was plain in sight, the moon was shining brightly, and fires built by the crew of the life saving station showed plainly the figures of the crowd on the beach hurrying to and fro in vain endeavors to aid the men in the rigging. It was an awful suspense for the poor fellows lashed to the mast and yards of the ship. They saw attempt after attempt made to establish communication with them fail, and each failure seemed to measure their purchase upon life. Every effort to get a boat off shore proved futile. As often as it was attempted the sea drove it high and dry on the beach. Captain Henry Hunting, of Life Saving station No. 16, now brought a mortar into service, and several balls with a rope attached were thrown out to the ship. But one of the cords reached the ship. Its hold was not very secure, and it presently fell off, and the tender thread upon which thirty-two human lives depended was snapped forever. The station men all the while these endeavors were being made could see the men in the rigging quite plainly, and hear their cries for help.

Many of the weather beaten heroes on shore who have been wrecking vessels and saving lives since boyhood were moved to tears by the piteous importunities of the wretched men. The violence of their efforts to save them mitigated the suspense they would otherwise have felt during the early hours, but when the last charge was shot off and nothing else possible to human effort or bravery remained to be done they became unmanned, and many of them wept. The nervous excitement and sudden inactivity utterly incapacitated them for any duty. They could not leave the spot, and it only remained for them to remain inactive and see their fellows perish before their eyes. To leave the beach would only add to the terrors of the death that stared its victims in the face, and to remain inactive would probably give cause for unjust reproach from the poor helpless writers on the wreck. Superintendent Hunting and his men remained, and tried to answer calls from the wreck, but nothing that was said on shore was heard on the ship on account of the direction of the wind. In terror and suspense the morning wore on, the wind having veered around in the meantime to west-southwest. During the early part of the night, before the men went into the rigging, the cables were slacked, but the ship moved only a s o t distance, and continued during the night to strike the bottom. Every time she struck the men thought she would lose her masts, to which they had lashed themselves. While conscious of the great danger, and the utter impossibility of saving themselves if the mast should go by the board, it being of iron, they were unable to slacken the lashing Some of them with more self-possession than others had taken this contingency into their calculation, and had not securely lashed themselves, and and among these were the only four saved from the wreck. At half-past four A M the long dreaded crisis came, and the mizzenmast went by the board with a crash, carrying the mainmast with it.

A tremendous swell had struck the Circassian aft and raised her very high. When it receded she thumped heavily, and the terrific jar threw the mast over the side. The masts being of iron went to the bottom immediately, carrying with them twenty-eight souls. The custom house officer detailed to superintend the landing of the cargo in his description of the terrible scene says the ship was lying about six hundred feet off shore. Amid the howling of the tempest and roar of the waves there was borne to our ears the voices of the poor fellows in the rigging, singing hymns and praying in chorus to God. There was hardly a dry eye on shore among us, as we heard these thrilling and supreme appeals made to God. Among those on the wreck were ten Shenenecook Indians, who as a rule are very good men. During this agonizing scene which lasted for hours we heard these men praying. The beach was lined with hundreds of people, many of them women, sobbing piteously. Some of them were wives of the doomed men. The wind on shore the raged with terrible violence, driving people hither and thither. The life saving crews of Southampton, distant five and a half miles, arrived, bringing their mortars with them, but did not attempt to use their life line when firing, as nothing could be done. They, however, fired a number of blank shots to try and reanimate the courage of those on board.

OUR HARRISBURG LETTER.

By our Special Correspondent.

HARRISBURG, January 6, 1877.

Our Legislature 250 strong have again taken possession of the Capitol. They may be distinguished from the average Harris-burgers by the new silk hats which they wear. Every member of the legislature buys a new stove-pipe hat of the latest and most nobby style when he leaves home to assume his duties as one of the lawmakers of the State. This gives him an imposing and statesman-like appearance and fills the beholder with a certain degree of awe and defference which is grateful to his feelings. The first thing he does when he arrives at Harrisburg is to apply for passes on the different railroads. When these are duly supplied he is ready to proceed to business—or to Philadelphia. Mostly to Philadelphia. At least this is what the last Legislature did, but judging from the improved *personel* of the members of the present body, we are not without hope that there will be a marked improvement in their attention to public business, and that they will meet the reasonable expectations of their constituents more fully than did their immediate predecessors. The quiet and dignified manner in which the organization of the two Houses was effected argues well for the work of the session. There was an almost entire absence of the wrangling, scrambling and buttonholing for office which disgraced the organization of the last House. In the Senate Hon. J C Newmyer, of Allegheny was elected President *pro tem* by the Republican majority by a full party vote. The Democrats voted for Hon. Harman Yerks, of Bucks Thos. B. Cochare, of Lancaster, was elected Chief Clerk; Lucious Rogers, Journal Clerk, and E. W. Smily, Reading Clerk,—all Republicans. The new Senate is composed of 31 Republicans, 18 Demo rats, and 1 independent Democrat. In the House Hon E Reed Meyer, of Bradford, was elected Speaker; Dr. W. C. Shurlock, of Beaver, Chief Clerk, and Jno. A. Small, of Dauphin, Resident Clerk. The present House is composed of 119 Reps., and 82 Dems.

Recent developments show that the session of 1877 will not be as tame and unexciting as some innocent persons have supposed. Already the advocates of local option have marshalled their forces and are preparing for a regular siege of the capitol. They claim that unless many of the members of the Senate and House are false to their promises and pledges there will be a clear majority in favor of the measure in both bodies We fear, however, that in this matter "Hope tells a flattering tale" to the friends of L. O. It is doubtless true that some members made promises to them before the election, but, alas, it is equally true that the same men made promises to the other side also—it is a trick they have.

The "Boom Bill" brigade will also be on hand, and the booming of their heavy guns will be heard in the Legislative Halls. The quieter and more effectual weapons of gold with which they are wont to fight their battles, will also be felt, though probably not heard. Their opponents also have learned the use of this potent weapon and if the fight waxes warm it will be "diamond cut diamond." "Tis true, 'tis pity, and pity 'tis 'tis true"

The braves of "Minequa" too, are putting on their war-paint and will open a heavy fire upon our Solons from every tree and bush that affords the least shelter to these simple children of the forest and the mountain From every point of vantage they will make a Minequa spring upon straggling and demoralized Legislators who are known to be a little weak in the knees and pockets and endeavor to rapture them. "All hail! the new county of "Minequa."

And then, too, the annual bug-bear of the removal of the Capitol to Philadelphia will put in its appearance and fight this ancient burg from its propriety. We think, however, that the good citizens of Harrisburg need not be afraid of losing their darling lawmakers in the very near future. The matter must be submitted to a vote of the people and receive their sanction before any change can be made, and in this would lie their safety even if the legislature should be favorable to the project, which, however, is not at all probable. The subject of the government of the cities of our state will probably occupy largely the attention of the present legislature and a strong effort will be made in the direction of reform. Taxes in cities have become so burdensome to owners of real estate that measures of relief are loudly called for. The matter is of great importance to tenants as well as landlords and the interest manifested in it is general Altogether the session promises to be of great interest and I shall keep your readers informed of all that passes. B.

THE RAILROAD KING.

Death of Commodore Vanderbilt.

CONSCIOUS TO THE LAST MOMENT.

NEW YORK, Jan. 4.—Commodore Vanderbilt died this morning at 9 minutes to 11 o'clock, at his residence, Washington Place. He remained conscious to the last moment of his life and died almost without a struggle. Ever since Tuesday it has been apparent to his doctors that his hours were numbered, and at the most he could only live a few days or a week At four in the morning his condition became rapidly worse, and he expressed a desire to see the Rev. Dr Deems, his spiritual adviser. The latter arrived in a few minutes and Commodore Vanderbilt said, "I think I am nearly gone, Doctor." Dr. Deems prayed by the bed-side of the dying man, and then some members of the family sang a few hymns in low tones. The music seemed to sooth the sufferer. All his family were sent for during the night, and when he died they were by his bedside.

His eldest son, Wm. H. Vanderbilt, arrived soon after midnight, and remained to the end. All his daughters were present, and his wife, who has been present by his bedside during the entire period of his sickness, was at her post, as usual. Doctors Dudsley and Elliot were also in attendance. They warned both Commodore Vanderbilt and friends to expect the worst. The news of his death spread rapidly, and very many friends called at the house this morning and sympathized with the mourners. Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr., arrived just before his father died. The funeral will take place Sunday at 11:30.

His property is estimated by those in a position to judge that Commodore Vanderbilt was the owner of securities having a present market value of about $85,000,000, and that of this total fully $55,000,000 consisted of stocks and bonds of the New York Central and Hudson River railroads. It is understood the bulk of this vast property is to be kept together, and that provision has been made for reinvesting the accruing interest on it in his favorite securities.

As soon as the news had been received at City Hall the flags were lowered at half-mast—a course which was soon after followed by the principal hotels and other public buildings

VICE PRESIDENT WHEELER.

His Opinion on the Political Situation—A "Compromise" Scorned.

NEW YORK, January 3.—Vice President Wheeler has been interviewed. Mr. Wheeler spurns and rebukes all recent talk about "a compromise." He declares emphatically that there is nothing to compromise; that the Presidency cannot and must not be the subject of dicker or of barter between men of both parties, and that the great issue of the day shall and must only be settled by the strict carrying out of the letter and spirit of the constitution.

Mr Wheeler, by the *Herald* interviewer, is made to speak thus: It is my firm conviction that Congress can never be constituted a National Canvassing or Returning board. Congress cannot go behind the returns, beyond the mere questions of the regularity of the certificates. Understand me clearly, for it is a point on which I would not like to be misunderstood—Congress cannot investigate whether Louisiana has gone for Tilden or Hayes. The action of the Returning Board on this point has been final and conclusive. In Louisiana, it is my honest belief that if there had been a free and fair vote, unobstructed by intimidation or fraud, the Republicans would have carried the State by at least 15,000 In the five "bull-dozed parishes," the very registration shows that these parishes belong to the Republicans.

Mr. Wheeler reiterated that he would scorn to accept power by chicanery or intrigue, such as a so-called "compromise" would necessarily imply, and after heartily eulogizing Gov Hayes, of whose successful administration he felt convinced, he closed the interview with these words: I do not believe that this dispute will be wholly an unmixed evil. I believe it is going to teach the people the machinery of the Presidential election which they have never understood before, and that it will be the means of averting such troublesome strife in the future.

Florida.

NEW YORK, January 3.—The *Times'* special from Jacksonville, Florida, states that the Sheriff of Baker county was before the Senate committee, and he testified that a local Democrat offered him $125 to sign the Logan returns by which the Democrats are claiming a majority for Tilden on the face of the returns

The same dispatch says before the House committee it was proved by Democratic witnesses at friendship church, that the Republicans were swamped out of 145 votes.

A Republican member of the committee asserts that at two precincts the Republicans were cheated out of a sufficient number of votes to have given a majority on the face of the returns for the whole State ticket, and yet Drew has been inaugurated Governor. Thanks to the write work of the Supreme Court.

A *Herald's* special from Tallahasse states that the inauguration of Governor Drew took place about twelve M yesterday. The oath of office was administered by Chief Justice Randall The address was short and very conciliatory. It guaranteed full concession and protection in the enjoyments of all rights and privileges under the Constitution and laws of the United States to the freedmen. A great many colored people took part in the inauguration and but few Republicans were absent. Nearly, if not all of Governor Stearns' Cabinet officers were present. Governor Stearns himself did not attend The oath was administered to the Lieutenant Governor also by the Chief Justice. The Legislature is organized in both branches and both are Democratic

From the Indian Country.

NEW YORK, Jany. 4.—A Bozeman, Montana, despatch of Jany. 24 says: A soldier with Lieut. Doane's exploring expedition writes here that their party lost everything by the upsetting of a boat on Snake river. The party lived eighteen days on horse meat, and were three days without food of any kind before reaching the settlement Lieut. Doane left for Fils last October to explore the head waters of Snake river. He had with him six soldiers, seven horses and three pack mules. The animals were all lost.

Bennett Cowhided.

NEW YORK, January 3.—This afternoon, as Mr. James Gordon Bennett, editor of the *Herald* was coming out of the Union Club rooms, he was met on the sidewalk by Mr. Frederick May, brother of Miss Caroline May, who was to have been married to Mr. Bennett to day, but whose engagement was broken off. Mr. May had been waiting for Mr. Bennett for some time. He and his brother, William May, had watched the steamship Russia, in which it was said Mr. Bennett was to sail When Bennett confronted Mr. May he drew back, and taking a whip from under his coat, with much force and rapidity he struck Mr. Bennett across the face three times Blood streamed from the gashes under his eyes and from a frightful cut on his nose. He staggered for a moment and threw himself upon May. They clinched, but Mr. May, being the more powerful of the two, forced himself from Mr Bennett's grasp, and at this the latter made another plunge at Mr. May, who struck at him from the shoulder and Mr. Bennett fell at full length on the sidewalk. Blood stained the snow from the sidewalk to the gutter. Attaches of the club house and pedestrians ran to Mr. Bennett's assistance. No one attempted to stop Mr. May, who, with his hands in his pockets, walked leisurly towards Fifth avenue

It was said by some persons in the club rooms and in the hotels in the neighborhood that Mr. Bennett wrested the whip from Mr. May and threw him, but those who were nearest to the scene say that such was not the case. Mr. Bennett was carried into the house and his face was bathed. His sleigh was sent away and a cab was ordered. Then he was taken to his home in Fifth avenue, where he was attended by his physician

LATER.—The *World* says a hostile meeting between Bennet and May will probably take place today. Frederick May and his cousin from Baltimore, who left New York on Friday night, purchased tickets for Montreal, but it is probable that some point this side of that city, but on the other side of the border, had been already selected and that Mr. Bennett was already in waiting there, having taken a train by the Northern Railroad from Boston. This point is all probability is in the neighborhood of Stanstead, on the southern border of Canada, and just over the Vermont State line Dispatches from Montreal make it certain that the parties did not go there. A report that Mr. Bennett had secured the services of General Richard Taylor as second proves to have been unfounded General Taylor is confined to his room in Washington by a severe indisposition It is possible that Mr John Hecker will act in that capacity, as he could not be found in the city last night Both Bennett and May have certainly left the city. It was said by an institute friend of the two gentlemen last night that there is little or no doubt that they will fight Both are experts with the pistol, and that will undoubtedly be the weapon chosen It is said that this latter point was agreed upon before Mr. May left the city Neither ex-City Judge Gunning S. Bradford nor Recorder Hackett could be found last night at their residences, and a rumor was current that strenuous efforts will be made to arrage the affair amicably. Another rumor was that Mr Bedford and his brother Dr Bedford, had left the city to be present at the duel, the former as a second and the latter in his professional capacity.

A reporter of the *Times* called at Mr. May's residence last evening and had an interview with his father, Dr. Frederick May. The old gentleman was very much agitated, and at first declined to converse upon the subject of his son's whereabouts, but subsequently stated that he left home the previous evening. The doctor had evidently been weeping and his nervous depression and tremulous voice told but too plainly the solicitude he felt for his son.

Mutiny in a Jail.

The prisoners in the jail at Youngstown, O., made a desperate effort to regain their liberty on last Wednesday evening When Sheriff Drake and one of his guards went into the jail to lock up the prisoners, a little before eight o'clock they found them organized for a stubborn resistance. The officers went for help and soon returned with Deputy Platt and M. L. W. King. Too four then entered the prison and called upon the prisoners to submit to being locked up There were nine of them, armed with large chunks of coal, and slung-shots made of their stockings partly filled with small pieces of coal They stood together in the southeast corner of the prison, and Mr. Drake demanded that they should lay down their weapons. Two of them expressed their willingness to be locked up but the others howled in derision, cursed, swore and threatened as these two surrendered and submitted quietly. Mr. Drake informed the remaining seven that they must submit to being locked up, but they defiantly stood their ground and swore they would die in their tracks, but never again would they permit themselves to be locked in the cells. The officers knew the desperation of the men was such that bloodshed must follow any attempt to overpower them, and as the odds in numbers were decidedly with the prisoners, they left the prison, sent for help, and within a few minutes a majority of the police force were on hand. The prisoners during the Sheriff's absence had carried every available missile into a corner of the jail, and when the Sheriff and police returned were ready for them and began the attack by hurling coal at the authorities. The police then fired several shots, some of which took effect and ended the rebellion. Jack McLarrey was shot in the leg and Eugene Brannon in the foot. The mutineers then allowed themselves to be locked up, and the next day they were placed in the dungeon The trouble was all raised because the jail cook gave them molasses with their suppers instead of butter.

Fatal Sleighing Accident.

NEW YORK, January 4.—Last night a sleighing party from Astoria approached Hunters Point Ferry in Thirty fourth street, New York The large sleigh was drawn by two horses and contained besides the driver, three ladies and three gentlemen From some cause the gate of the ferry was open, though the boat had left the slip. The speed at which the horses were going and the slippery descent to the bridge, rendered it impossible to stop the team, and horses, sleigh, men and women were precipitated into the water. All but one of the party were rescued The missing man is Wm Fearens, of Astoria. One lady had an arm broken The horses went under the ice and were lost.

Railroad Accident.

NEW YORK, January 4.—A Cincinnati dispatch reports that early yesterday morning a collision occurred between two freight trains on the Marietta and Cincinnati Railroad, forty miles east of Cincinnati, by which one train was pretty nearly demolished. The other was considerably damaged, and two hundred feet of trestle work burned to the ground There was no loss of human life. A westward bound freight train of nine cars loaded with hogs for Cincinnati, had stopped to take water, and its conductor neglected to send out men to flag the approaching trains. When the through freight came along it crashed into the cars, driving forward such of them as were not jammed into splinters with the engine at the head, on a trestle which formed part of the track. A few rods further along the engine jumped the track, and by the time the trestle was reached, toppled over into the ravine, a distance of some forty feet, where the flames belched out of the furnace door and set fire to the timbers in the trestle In a few minutes the fire had caught along the whole length, some two hundred feet, and it and the five or six cars which were standing upon it were wrapped in a long sheet of flame. In half an hour the entire trestle with the cars came tumbling down. There were between two hundred and three hundred live hogs on the train, all of which were killed and most of them burned.

Several Coal Mines on Fire.

LARGE QUANTITIES OF COAL AND TIMBER CONSUMED.

LYKENS, January 5.—The Short Mountain and Lykens Valley Mines, which produce from 150,000 to 200,000 tons of coal a year, have been on fire since Monday afternoon, and the Lykens Valley Coal Company, which operates the collieries, has already suffered a loss of several hundred thousand dollars, which promises to be largely augmented. Several men, who have been driven from the mines by the fire, are engaged day and night in efforts to stop the work of destruction, but the difficulty of reaching it has rendered their labors only partially successful. The first four days they made no impression on the fire. Appearances to-day, however, indicate that their work is having a beneficial effect; but the temporary check has not relieved the people here of the fear that all the collieries in the county may be visited by the fire. They are connected by subterranean passages, and should an unfavorable draft cause they would all be in danger of destruction. The principal efforts of the miners are directed toward placing obstructions to the sweep of the fire eastward, where the Big Lyek and Williamson collieries are located, three and five miles above this town. About 40 miners are constantly stationed in the Lykens Valley slope to properly handle hose through which water is being conducted The smoke is so dense in this locality that they are occasionally prostrated by its effects, and are drawn in cars to the surface to be relieved by others. The course of two small streams have been diverted from their original channels, and the water conducted into the burning mines, several lines of wooden troughs carrying it to points where it is supposed to be most needed. At the mouth of each mine is a large slope-house, into which cars loaded with coal are ordinarily hoisted. These structures have been disconnected with the slopes to save them from destruction A similar precaution would have prevented the burning of a large engine-house and great damage to the machinery, which cost about $30,000

Between 80 and 90 mules in the burning mines are supposed to have been suffocated, all way of egress having been cut off by the fire. That no humane lives have been lost is, in a great measure, attributable to the fact that the fire occurred on a holiday, when the mines were almost entirely deserted.

FIRE LAST EVENING

A Wholesale Grocery Gutted.

About ten o'clock last evening an alarm was given from box 16, Duquesne Hotel, a portrait of which was had discovered flames issuing from the roof of the wholesale grocery house of Messrs. Johnson, Eagey & Earl, on First and Second avenues be.w Smithfield street. The fire department promptly responded, but with difficulty got the water started from the plugs through the engines. Smoke was issuing from the upper part of the building, and when the window of a third story was reached by a ladder, and opened, a dense volume issued forth. When an entrance was effected below but little could be effected on the Second avenue side, but on First avenue the firemen succeeded in reaching the flames through an adjoining building. Here also the thick smoke was with difficulty withstood, and often the playing of water was necessarily at random. In the course of an hour the flames were subdued, but at about of much difficult labor and the throwing of an immense amount of water. No estimate of the loss is possible, but the greater part of it was by water. The firm appeared to have a large stock of goods on hand, and the loss will be considerable. The stock and buildings are insured.—*Pittsburgh Gazette.*

Blaine Complimented.

AUGUSTA, January 4.—Hon. James G Blaine was nominated in the Republican Legislative caucus this evening for the short term in the United States Senate, and also for the full term of six years beginning March 4, 1877. Both nominations were made by acclamation amid a great display of enthusiasm, every one of the one hundred and forty members rising when the question was submitted. This is the first time a candidate for Senator in Maine was ever nominated by acclamation at the first election, and this exceptional method was selected as a special and emphatic compliment to Mr. Blaine. His name was presented to the caucus by Gen. Hyde, President of the Senate, seconded by Mr. Neally, Speaker of the House, and several eulogistic speeches were made in addition by leading members of both branches of the Legislature.

Killed by a Locomotive.

NEW YORK, January 3.—Thomas Dineen, one of a party of workmen who were cleaning snow from the track of the Pennsylvania Railroad in Jersey City to-day, was run over by an engine and his head was completely severed from his body so that they lay on opposite sides of the track.

New Advertisements

ASSIGNEE'S NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that John H. Mason of Somerset Tp., Somerset Co., Pa., by deed of Voluntary Assignment, has assigned all his estate real and personal, to me in trust for benefit of creditors. All persons indebted to the said John H. Mason, will make prompt payment to me, and those having claims or demands will present them duly authen