The Somerset Herald

WEDNESDAY..... May 12, 1880

Republican National Ticket.

FOR PRESIDENT:

ULYSSES S. GRANT,

(Subject to the approval of the Republican National Convention.)

REPUBLICAN STATE TICKET.

FOR SUPREME JUDGE:

HENRY GREEN,

Northampton County.

FOR AUDITOR-GENERAL:

JOHN A. LEMON,

Blair County.

IN Wisconsin whose twenty votes were confidently claimed for Blaine, he gets six, and one or two of these are said to be doubtful.

COL. THOMAS A. SCOTT, owing to continued ill health, has resigned the Presidency of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Mr. George B. Roberts first Vice President has been selected to fill the vacancy.

THE total coinage of the Mint during the month of April was something over nine millions. Of this amount over seven millions was in gold, and over two millions in silver.

THE bill to appropriate funds to carry on the Post Office Department for the coming fiscal year was reported by the House committee last week. It sets aside the sum of $38,775,420 for this purpose.

IT is said that both parties in Congress favor an adjournment by the first of June. The members being anxious to get home to look after re-nomination and take part in the canvass. They can if they will, but we doubt if so early an adjournment will take place.

THE public debt was reduced during the month of April over twelve million dollars. This wonderful reduction proves how strong are the financial resources of the country, and how ably they are managed by Secretary Sherman.

BUSINESS men should refuse to receive in change mutilated silver coin. They will find if they have any business with the Post Office or Treasury Departments that it will be refused. Petty thieves are engaged in clipping and punching the coin for the small amounts they can steal in this way.

A BRIEF period since, the Blaine boomers were turning up their noses at the idea of General Grant being supported by delegates from Southern States that could not throw their electoral vote for him in case of his nomination. We observe, however, that they exult mightily whenever they receive the assurance that a Southern delegate will support their favorite.

IT is very important for Republicans to bear in mind that, as the Democratic faction in this State patched up a truce at the Harrisburg Convention and will present an unbroken front in the coming campaign, that it is essential that there should be harmony in our ranks if we wish to carry Pennsylvania for the Chicago nominee.

THERE has been a large amount of prefunctory boasting that Maryland was a sure and fast Blaine State, yet at the convention held last week the Baltimore *American* (a bitter anti Grant paper) admits, that only three of the delegates elected can be safely counted for Blaine, while the other thirteen are reported to stand 10 for Grant and 3 for Sherman. As is usual the Blaine boomers attribute their defeat to fraud.

THERE is going to be an immense vote polled in this district according to the figures of the Altoona *Tribune*. That journal modestly asserts that nineteen-twentieths of the Republicans are for Blaine. Now as according to the other *Tribune* published in New York, one-half of the Somerset County Republicans (say 1600) are for Grant, the boy with a slate can discover that if these 1600 alone, are but one-twentieth of the whole, that there is going to be some tall voting done in this district, or else figures or journals lie.

THE poor fools that assailed Washington and accused him of monarchical designs; the shallow-pates who opened fire on Abraham Lincoln and pronounced him an incapable, have been covered by the merciful and charitable blanket of oblivion, except here and there where a name is remembered to be despised; but these detractors, the witless offspring of the times, were philosophers beside the stultified Republicans of to-day, who, unable to deny that Grant is the foremost man of the country, firm, unimpeachable and spotless, the man, who under God saved the Union, unimpaired, still proclaim that his re-election to the Presidency is "dangerous to the interests of the party," and implore those *who love their country* to resist it.

IT is understood that if General Grant gets the solid vote of the Illinois delegation at Chicago, his nomination is assured. The most desperate efforts have therefore been made by the Blaine boomers to prevent this result, and other means failing, an attempt was made last week to scare the voters of Illinois into a surrender of their convictions, by the assertion that all hopes of Grant's nomination were destroyed by a break in the New York and Pennsylvania delegations, a large portion of the members of each having declared their determination not to vote for Grant under any circumstances. It is needless to say that all these stories come not from Philadelphia and New York, but from Washington, and they are the coinage of the Blaine literary bureau established at the capital to do precisely this kind of work.

THE Blaine-Club-Koontz meeting among other things *Resolved* that the nomination of General Grant would be "distasteful" and *dangerous to the interests of the party* and called upon the chairman of the State and National Committees as they *love their country and the Republican party* not to urge it, and then in the next breath a pledge was given to support General Grant if nominated at Chicago.

Here is consistency as is consistency!! Here is patriotism of the penny a pound stamp. Here is political wisdom in solid chunks. The nomination of General Grant would be dangerous to the country and to the party, and yet these gentlemen who so love the country and the party will let both go to the dogs and support this dangerous man. It strikes us these gentlemen do protest too much.

IT is well enough to remind those professed friends of the Senator from Maine who think they are advancing his chance for the Presidency by denouncing or belittleing the former adminstration of General Grant, of what the "Plumed Knight" said of the ex-President in a speech made by him in Chicago, October 15, 1872.

Now, my friends, I don't stand up here to defend the administration of General Grant. General Grant's administration points to facts, and to its acts, not to its professions. It points you to four years of magnificent prosperity; it points you to peace, and respectability abroad, and to peace with all nations of the earth; it points you to a higher standard of diplomacy than has ever been known, with more brilliant results than with the cannon and sword; it points you to a domestic policy and a foreign policy animated by the highest Christian principle known to men; it presents, in other words, a "moddle of an American administration."

THE same men who are now declaring that the Republican cause is hopeless in every State of the South, cried, just as loud, the same thing in 1876. They thought Chandler a fool for wasting time in a canvass of the South. And yet with a candidate almost unknown to them, and exciting no enthusiasm for what he had accomplished, the Republicans of the South nobly responded. Without their aid the Republican President would not have been elected or seated in the White House. The contempt with which certain pretended organs of the party in the North speak of the Southern Republicans, and their constant efforts to work up a sentiment that they should be disfranchised, or, at least, allowed no active voice in the nominating convention, is contemptibly mean. The idea of stifling the voice of men who, through evil and good report, with danger surrounding them on every side, have stood firm for the Republican cause, is something which will not be tolerated for one moment when the honest voice of the Republican party finds expression.

No one will deny that a large and respectable portion of Republicans in this county favor the nomination of General Grant. Their voice was not heard in the State Convention. Why? Because in the county meeting that selected delegates to the Convention the Blaine men secured the three delegates and stood ready to instruct them if necessary.

In the State Convention by a vote of 154 to 95, the delegates to Chicago were instructed to vote for Grant, and the Blaine boomsters from that day to this have labored to induce delegates to violate instructions.

That the majority shall rule is an inviolate principle of the party. The Grant men of this county submitted to the action that sent Blaine delegates to the State Convention, because the Blaine men were in the majority and controlled the meeting, and now these same men who controlled the county meeting and appointed the delegates and were ready to instruct them if necessary, refuse to abide by the action of the State Convention where they were in the minority, and insist that the instructions are not binding. This is a violation of both principle and fairness, and the politicians sustaining it will, unless we are very much mistaken, live to see the day when they will regret their action. Refuse to recognize the majority rule, and what are your county nominations worth? The candidate who at a primary election receives a majority of one vote is declared nominated, and the votes of the minority count for nothing. Teach voters that it is wrong to submit to the majority of one, and you utterly destroy our entire system of making nominations, and yet that is precisely what the ring that engineered the late Blaine county meeting are doing.

WE learn from the Bedford papers that the Chairman of the Republican County Committee of that County, in fixing the time for the election for the purpose of selecting delegates to the convention to nominate a county ticket, names May 22 as the day and adds:

> There will also be submitted to the County Convention the question of instructing our delegates to Chicago, or whether it is expedient to elect new ones.
>
> *Thus the voters at the delegate election will have an opportunity to express their sentiments as to their choice for a presidental candidate.*
>
> The Delegate election will be held by the members of the County Committee of the respective election districts.

This is all regular, and done in accord we presume, with the rules of the party. But should the Republicans of Bedford, determine that it is expedient to elect new delegates to Chicago, and select conferees for the purpose of nominating them, we are just a little curious to know whether they will recognize Messrs. McKinley, Barnes and Frease, the conferees selected by the Blaine-Club-Koontz meeting lately held in this place. The Bedford conferees if appointed, will be regulars, accredited to the conference by official credentials; the Somerset conferees will have no sign of regularity, they are illigetimates, begotten and born outside the pale of party sanctity, and cannot be regularly vouched for or accredited. Can the Bedford men impugn their own regularity and legitimacy by confering with them as equals, and thus sanctioning the bolt in this county of which they are the product? And if they do, do they not thereby affix the stigma of irregularity upon any delegates they may appoint, and by this very act, bar their admission to any Convention claiming the seal of regularity?

We will see what we will see, but we suggest to our Bedford friends that harmony cannot be preserved in a district, if the regular Republicans in one county recognize, endorse or encourage kickers in another.

Senator Conkling Confident of Gen. Grant'S Nomination and Election.

NEW YORK, May 1.—The *Herald* prints the following interview with Senator Conkling, received from its Washington correspondent:

Q. What do you think, Senator, of the Republican Presidential outlook?

A. That General Grant will be nominated by the people and elected by the people and by a great majority.

Q. Why do you say by the people—won't the Republican party nominate him? A. Yes, but I say by the people, for the reason—nothing has been done for General Grant; everything has been done and is being done against him. I say nothing has been done for General Grant, because no committee, no combination, no bureau, no patronage, no money has been enlisted for him, but all these have been arrayed against, him, with a systemized and arranged combination of many newspapers besides.

The sole support General Grant has rebeived has come from spontaneous judgment and action. The common sense of men with no purpose save the success of the Republican party and the safety of the country, has espoused General Grant. If anything else has supported him I do not know it. Many persons write to me to know where they can get a Grant document. Sure enough where are they? Not a document or circular has ever been printed for Grant that I have heard of; not a clerk has been employed even to write a letter for him. Any other candidate would have been buried out of sight by this time. The strength of Gen Grant and his hold on the regard and confidence of the country has never shown more conspicuously than in the fact that, pummelled and buffetted on every side, not only by the whole Democratic press, but by the unheard of instrumentalities which have been resorted to by his competitors, yet without organized effort for him, he distances the whole field. No other man in either party could have survived such a constant concentrated fire. A few months ago no man could wink so hard as not to see that in a national convention of Republicans held then no name would be seriously convaseed.

So far as any change has been produced, what has caused it and what does it show? The condition of the country and the perils of the future are all the same. General Grant is the same, his competitors are the same. What, then, has caused any doubt or division of sentiment now which did not exist then? Nothing but the enormous activities and persuasions, combinations, machinery and push which have been put to work to get up the counter sentiment. Had every candidate done only as Grant has done and left the office to seek him, do you think you would care to ask any man what the Chicago convention would probably do? Why, the question would be settled now as clearly as it will after the convention adjourns. The whole question, if any question remains, is whether official power or patronage electioneering politicians and money can prevail against the conviction and conscience of an overwhelming majority of thoughtful, earnest Republicans. The prevailing idea of the convass against General Grant is most extraordinary. It is little less than menace not to support him if a majority see fit to nominate him. The party which allows itself to be bullied by a minority deserves the fate of a goverment which allows itself to be bullied by a mob. Neither deserves to live and neither will live.

Q Can Gen. Grant carry New York? A. In my belief, without a doubt and by a larger majority than any other man could obtain.

Q Can he carry any southern state? A. I believe he can, and my advices on this point are the greatest marvel of the canvass. After the south was made solid and the Republicans there abandoned and trampled upon it seemed impossible for any Republican to receive a majority or to have it counted in any southern state; but men not likely to be deceived in at least four southern states now describe a condition of things there which gives me great confidence that General Grant will receive a majority vote and a vote backed by a determination which will make it hard to choke or vitiate the count in several southern states.

Q Then you feel sure of Grant's success at the convention and at the polls? A. I have not a doubt of his triumphant election, and I feel just as sure of his nomination as I do of the courage and common sense of the Republican party, and I never doubt these.

General Grant at Springfield.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., May 5.—In replying to the formal speech of welcome General Grant said:

"In my travels through our country I am happy to say that I thought I saw signs of returning prosperity in the sections that we were lately in conflict with, that with prosperity a returning love for the flag that floats on this side of that platform. (Applause.) That is what we desire, certainly, and there shall be no sectional feel, that there should be a substantial, solid Union feeling in every section of the country, and no matter what was the public position of parties nineteen years ago, they should all feel that now they have a common interest in the country and are protected by the same flag, and, if necessary, should fight for it too." (Loud applause.)

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

(From our Regular Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, May 8, 1880.

West Point just now in the Senate of the United States is getting handled without gloves. Senator Burnside speaking the other day on a bill requiring the President to appoint two colored cadets annually to that institution is the theme for debate. General Burnside, himself a graduate of West Point and at all times the formost friend of the institution declared in a carefully prepared speech "that in his opinion it is the duty of Congress to see that no class of beneficiaries of the Government are allowed to abuse another class of beneficiaries, and if it is found to be impossible to make West Point a National Institution in which all classes of American citizens shall receive equal treatment, that it is the duty of Congress to strike it out of existence."

This opinion is becoming pretty general in and out of Congress, under the effect of the Whittaker outrage and the spirit exhibited at the academy in connection with the investigation of that occurrence. Probably it would be none the worse for the military service, if this affair should result in abolishing that aristocratic institution and causing the development of a system of promotion from the ranks. Such a system would draw into the army a much better class of private soldiers than now fill it and would greatly improve its morals by the stimulus it would afford to the soldier's ambition. It would narrow the chasm that now divides the officer from the private, and this in such a manner as to strengthen rather than weaken the legitimate authority of the former, since the soldier himself would feel interested in maintaining a first and necessary authority which he might some day be called upon to exercise.

The necessity of serving in the ranks before attaining command would possibly reduce the number of aspirants to military honors, but in a nation of fifty million people the enforcement of this condition would hardly occasion any difficulty in the proper officering of a little army of 25,000 men, or in building up besides an admirably qualified reserve from which to draw the necessary officers for an army of volunteers.

West Point is not a necessity and should be abolished.

Senator Ferry, of Michigan, at the request of the National Woman Suffrage Association, has taken a paper around among his brother Republican Senators, asking their signatures to a request that women be admitted as delegates to the Chicago Convention on equal terms with men. Of those approached only Conkling, Edmunds and Booth declined to sign it.

Hanlan, the Canadian oarsman who is to pull against Courtney on the Potomac here on the 19th has arrived and gone into active training. He is the guest of the National Club. Courtney is expected on the 10th, and it is expected he will be cared for by the Potomac Club.

There is a movement on foot here which has for its object an invitation to all the civilized world to send delegates to Washington in 1883, when from all parts of the earth, great numbers will attend the New York World's Fair. The design of the convention is to confer together on "Man's moral and social relations," and if possible, to inaugurate a Court of Arbitration to settle all disputes among nations, so that in time all military establishments on the planet can be disbanded.

Sunset Cox has introduced in the House of Representatives a bill imposing a tax of ten cents a pound on oleo-margarine. The thing which is really desirable is a tax on oleo-margarine *sold as butter*. But there is no use to say anything about it as no legislation of this kind will be attempted by the Democracy whereby the poor people would be benefited. The bill was introduced like a great many other bills "never to see the light of day."

Mr. D. W. Middleton, the clerk of Supreme Court of the United States, died last week. In Mr. Middleton's death the Government looses a faithful and long tried officer. For more than fifty-five years he had been actively connected with the office he held at the time of his death.

On Monday Congress adjourned early to allow the members a chance to attend Forepaugh's circus and menagerie. The show has been largely attended by old and young, black and white. It goes from here to Harrisburg.

The old veterans of the late war are holding meetings nearly every night, perfecting arrangements for decoration day. Arlington will be the central point of attraction. A good many of the old veterans will take advantage of the holiday and visit Gettysburg, Anteitam, Winchester and other cemeteries that can be reached by the early morning trains. A grand time is exected.

General S. P. Heintzelman is dead. His body was sent to Buffalo, for interment. The procession here conveying the corpse to the depot was very imposing. It was headed by the Marine Band. The escort consisted of two companies of the Second U. S Artillery and a battalion of Marines. Generals Sherman, Hunter, Ricketts, Alvord, Barnes, Drum and Reynolds acted ap pallbearers, and a detail of soldiers from the arsenal carried the casket which was profusely covered with flowers to the hearse At Buffalo, where the interment will be made, appropriate honors will be paid the deceased by the civil authorities and the National Guard of New York.

The Secretaries of the War Department and Navy Department are now busily engaged in the consideration of matters pertaing to the establishment of a United States post in the Artic regions according to a proposition advanced by Captain Howgate of the Signal Service. The vessel to convey the "first settlers" is now at Alexandria, awaiting crew and provisions. The house in which they are to live in is on exhibition in a lot on 14th street. The colony is to be composed of fifty enlisted men, who will be examined critically as to health before starting, and be subject to the strictest dicipline by the officers of the expidition. Army and Navy officers will have command and take with them supplies to last three years. After the United States Post is established, the vessel will return to the United States. Captain Howgate will send the vessel out each year to visit the post and bring back such members as are sick and tired of Artic life. Thousands of applications have been received from persons throughout the United States and foreign countries who want to go along, and scientific men generally believe if the North Pole is ever to be discovered, colonizing is the way to do it.

The spring races at Joy City near Washington will commence on the 17th inst. and last four days. Excursion or half rate tickets will be issued I understand by the railroads. "Our Fritz," however, will tell you all about it at his *sanctum sanctorum* in Somerset.

Last week Dr. George E. Connell and Mary G. Roose were married at the Christian Church on Vermont Avenue. Dr. Connell is the son of Dr. B. F. Connell of Georgetown, D. C., formerly of Connellsville, Pa.

For the benefit of the Somerset County Greenbackers I would state, that Congressman De La Matyr says, the Presidential nomination of his party lies between Hendrick B. Wright, General Butler and Solon Chase of Maine.

The President played the very old devil with the Democratic Congress again by vetoing the Deficiency bill. Joe Blackburn and the other Brigadiers are just itching for a fight with the Executive for spoiling their little game. Hayes has got more backbone than he is credited with, and taking everything into consideration he deserves at the hands of the Republican party a renomination for the Presidency. President Hayes is a good and noble man, and seconded by his good christian wife does what he considers right in all his daily life. He is a man that any person can approach. He treats everybody courteously as your present Sheriff Ed Kyle will tell you, as he and I had a long and pleasant conversation with him when the Sheriff was on a visit here a few months since.

Hayes' administration has accomplished the most important work since the war—the restoration of the currency—and the Democratic party searches its record in vain for wrongdoing, and is obliged to fall back in its platforms upon the "great electoral fraud" of 1876–77. General Grant himself testifies to the success of President Hayes' Southern policy. It is not improbable either, that the Chicago Convention may turn to him as its standard bearer.

The reduction of the public debt last month was $12,078,070 50.

Senator and Mrs. Don Cameron have given up their house—the former residence of ex-Governor Shepard—and are now at Wormley's Senator Cameron's new residence on 16th street and Massachusetts avenue opposite the Scott statue is now under construction and is expected will be ready for occupancy next December.

In reply to a resolution of the House calling upon the Treasury for an explanation of the cause of delay in paying the bounty and back pay due the soldiers and why the Secretary permits these claims to remain unpaid for six or twelve months before asking Congress for an appropriation to pay them. Secretary Sherman sent a reply, in which he sets forth in detail the appropriations heretofore made to pay these claims, and adds that under the law requiring unexpended balances to be converted back into the treasury, he had such balances of these funds so converted back in 1877 and 1878. The Secretary shows that his department strictly adhered to law, where it might have stopped, but anticipating complaints from the claimants, the Second auditor of the Treasury under instructions, reported to the Secretary of War, as the proper officer having jurisdiction of the matter, estimates of the amounts required to pay these claims. In 1878, 1879, and 1880, the estimates so reported amounted to over $910,000, and they were duly transmitted to the Senate and house, and referred to the proper committees, but Congress has not taken action upon them.

A party of ninety-five young ladies from the Staunton Virginia Female Academy, have been guests at the Metropolitan Hotel, the past week They visited the various departments, the White House and Capitol, in company with the Virginia Congressmen, who vied with each other in extending courtesies to the fair demoiselles. Major Snyder of Altoona, had the honor to seat them in the ladies' gallery of the House over which he presides. The gallant Major was found equal to the task I assure you, as no one knows better how to keep door than the Major on such occasions. When any of you seventeenth district people visit Washington and want a good seat to see the roaring law makers just look around the entrance to the galleries of the House, and when your eye catches the phis of a tall good looking gentleman, clean shaved, and sitting comfortable in a chair, one hand on the knob and the other holding the Altoona Democrat, whisper in his ear that you belong to the 17th district, and take my word you strike the man you are looking for. The Major always takes pride in showing our people every courtesy.

It is now asserted by members of both Houses of Congress, that they will adjourn early in the June, and there is a general disposition among members to work to that end. It requires no spirit of prophesy to foretell the failure of the early adjournment movement. Congress is capable of crowding a deal work into the last few days of the session, but the business remaining undisposed of is more than can be transtracted in a month. Joe Blackburn, the spokesman for the Brigadiers, says, that several weeks must be allowed for political speeches after the National Conventions shall have done their work, and in the end it will be found that he has put a low estimate upon the period thus to be consumed. Those that believe that this Congress will adjourn by June 1, will be as badly sold as old Company "B" was, when we marched over the mountains, through deep ravines and across streams in the night time, subsisting on raw meat and green apples, from Paw Paw as prisoners of war, under the special guidance of General Imboden, expecting to get paroled, set free and allowed to return to Stoystown, when we got to Winchester, but instead of this marched us up the Staunton turnpike "On to Richmond," and dumped us into Libby.

PICKET.

An Insane Man.

OIL CITY, PA., May 6.—Tom McBirney of this city is a powerful man, who is much addicted to drink. Recently he quit, and since stopping has become partially insane on religious subjects. Last Sunday he created great disturbance in the Methodist Episcopal Church. To-day McBirney and his wife called on a neighbor named Shingledecker for a friendly visit. While there McBirney grabbed Shingledecker's three years old daughter, held her by the head under his arm, and with his fist commenced pounding her. He said God had directed him to kill her. He nearly succeeded before her father could rescue her. He then attempted to kill him. It is thought that the girl cannot recover, and McBirney was arrested and is now in the lockup.

A DAY OF DISASTER.

THE FIRE FIEND SWEEPS WHOLE TOWNS AWAY IN THE OIL REGIONS.

BRADFORD PA., May 6.—To day will long be remembered in this region for the terrible disaster that has befallen our people, the terror that has taken possession of whole towns and cities, and the extreme destitution that has, with hardly a moments warning, fallen upon families that were yesterday well-to-do in this world's goods, with their futures apparently secure from all danger of privation. A more dramatic or sensational story the most vivid writer of fiction could not have portrayed. The intense horror that has been experienced by hundreds of people in this county today, the terrible terror that they have experienced in fleeing for their lives before an avalanche of fire can better be imagined than described. Bulwer, in the closing chapters of that beautiful novel, "The Last Days of Pompeii," described scenes that were no more thrilling and terrible, save for the immense loss of life, than were witnessed in this county to day. The avalanche of lava pouring with mighty force from Mount Visuvius upon the devoted towns of the beautiful valley of Naples was not more to be dreaded more than the terrible rivers of burning oil that have been sweeping through the forrests of Bradford county to-day, wiping out of existence whole towns in their fiery progress.

THE BEGINNING OF THE DISASTER

The terrible calamity originated in this manner. Early this afternoon two workmen were busily engaged in torpedoing an oil well on the Borden lands, when suddenly without a note of warning flames burst forth from the well, throwing the torpedo directly into the derrick, where it burst with a very loud detonation, throwing sparks and burning splinters in every direction. It was an awful moment. In less time than it takes to tell it the oil caught fire and burst forth from the well, one immense mass of crawling, seething flames, furious and fierce in its onward course, traveling over the ground with most frightful rapidity, swiftly communicating the flames to everything with which it came in contact. In a few moments it became apparent that the whole community was in the most deadly peril, for as the burning oil was fanned by the strong wind that was blowing at the time; it rapidly assumed the demensions of

A MIGHTY RIVER OF FIRE,

remorseless in its activity, and as vengeful as the devil as it went passing down through the woods, setting the trees on fire and destroying everything as it headed in the direction of Rew City. The ground was completely covered with burning oil in every direction and within an hour every well and tank within two miles around were destroyed and their contents were added to the devasting stream that was now fanning with its fiery breath, as it eagerly reached out its scorching tongue toward the devoted town of Rew City. One hundred and fifty oil wells in all were destroyed before the fire fiend cast his glowing mantle over that unfortunate town. The inhabitants perceiving that all hope of saving their household goods was useless,

FLED FOR THEIR LIVES,

striking the windward of the course along which the fiery torrent was advancing. Horsemen at lightning speed were riding down the valley calling to the residents of the detached houses to depart for their lives before the fire should be upon them. It resembled the scene in Massachusetts when the immense reservoirs near Northampton broke loose, only this time a still more terrible flood than one of water was enguifing the land. Every thing was left behind in the flight of the inhabitants. Children were snatched from their cradles and breakfast tables left stand with the meal prepared, but untouched. The moment the fire waves struck Rew City, involving its every street,

THE SCENE WAS GRAND

beyond description. The heavens were canopied with heavy clouds of smoke, completely shutting out the bright sunlight, while the lurid glare of the flames beneath, the crackling of the burning houses and the cries of the terified people falling upon the eyes and the ear strained to the utmost tention by the excitement of the moment gave the beholders an impression never to be forgotton while life lasts. It was an awful spectacle, far beyond the feeble powers of description.

LIVES LOST.

Among these terrible scenes the knowledge that there were women and children missing who had been unable to leave their homes in time, awakened the tenderest sympathys of all and caused many a shudder to run through the frames of those who escaped. It is feared that two women and four children fell victims to the flames. Suffocated by the smoke they doubtless fell insensible while trying to escape, and their suffering was ended before the flames licked up their flesh and made ashes of their frames. The people are scattered broadcast throughout the woods, without food or shelter, and it is not known how many are lost. After leaving Rew City without a house standing and with

SIX HUNDRED PEOPLE HOMELESS,

the fire swept on through the timber lands, gaining impetus from new oil wells, whose contents it licked up and added to its volume, towards Coleville and Bordell, several miles away. If the wind does not change before morning Coleville will be safe and it is though the fire will have subsided before Bordell can be reached.

ANOTHER FIRE STARTED.

At Gilmore, on the line of the Olean, Bradford and Warren Railroad, and in an other part of the famous Bracford oil field, a well was ignited by a spark of a locamotive at about one o'clock to-day. A high wind drove the streams of burning oil up the Fosterbrook valley to Red Rock and over the hills toward Duke Centre. The whole country was soon enveloped in one mass of flames and the reign of terror began afres in that part of the county. People fled for safety to the windward of the burning oil, with terror-stricken faces and blanched lips, looking on the sad but terrible spectacle, while they saw their homes swept away before their very eyes, and hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of property transformed into so much smoke in a very short space of time. Huge tanks full of oil

BURST WITH A TERRIFIC REPORT,

and blazing oil ran down the hillside and into the brooks causing the water to fall to boil and disappear in a steam, its place being taken by the liquid flames, so different from the cool, clear stream that a few minutes ago sparkled over the stones on its way to the river. Utter devastation followed in its tracks.

YET ANOTHER CONFLIGATION.

The high winds that were blowing all over the country to-day seemed to be especially favored by the fire fiend, for at two o'clock in the afternoon, another conflagation broke out at Lafferty station, on the Kendall and Elder Railroad, burning a large number of wells and tanks and miscellaneous oil property. About the same time about a half a dozen wells were burning on the hill about a half mile above Bradford on the hill. No danger threatens this city, however.

CUSTER CITY IN DANGER

At Custer City, south of Bradford, on the Erie Railway, several tanks and wells have been burning and the town is in imminent danger. The woods about town are one mass of flames. The fires of to-day are the most destructive, the most disasterous and the most remarkable known in the history of the oil country There were five or six different fires in as many different portions of the great Bradford oil field. one curious fact in connection with them is that they all started at about the same hour. Rew City, where the first fire started, is about six miles east of Red Rock, where the second fire broke out The wind was from the west. Custer City is eight miles south of Red Rock. Rew City is eight miles northeast of Bradford Thus it will be seen that the fire was all around the oil field, in a semicircle.

OVER EIGHT HUNDRED OIL WELLS

were destroyed, together with thousands of barrels of petroleum. The losses are very great, will foot up into the hundreds and they fall not on the rich monopoly but the poor and struggling producers who have invested all they have in this producing region in the hope of amassing competences for the future support of their families. Much distress will follow this wholesale destruction of property The houseless people will have to be cared for and provided against suffering. Once again will a call be made upon the famous liberality of the oil country people.

THE FIRE IS STILL BURNING

all over the country, and a report comes at a late hour that the flames have just reached Coleville. Two hours after the beginning of the fire the Bradford *Evening Star* came out and published full accounts from all quarters. What further damage may be done nobody dares to estimate. Several towns are in imminent danger, and our people are in an agony of terror.

Novel Position of a Cow.

The 5:55 o'clock train from Albany bounded into Peekskill with a fine, fat young cow tightly sticking to the cowcatcher. There was no one about the depot when the train come in, and had not the engineer taken to oiling his engine the animal might not have been discovered for many miles more. It was not possible to determine where the cow had been picked up. The train was forging along at such speed that it is supposed the concussion was too slight to be perceptable. Considerable difficulty was experienced in releasing the animal, and, to the surprise of everybody, the cow still lives. Conductor Hanford, who said he was twenty years in the service, declared he had never heard of an incident of the kind.

General Strike.

CONNELLSVILLE, PA., May 7.—A general strike among the employes of the coke fields was inaugurated this morning. Some of the works suspended operations yesterday, but the majority to-day. Frick's works are all idle. The men on the Mt. Pleasant branch came out this morning, those on the Fayette county branch yesterday. The Pittsburgh and Connellsville Gas Coal and Coke Company's men who stayed in during all the troubles in the fall and winter, struck this forenoon. Not a single works, except the companies manufacturing for their own use, are in operation. The town is filling up with men and by night the streets will be thronged with the strikers.

Outrage in Kentucky.

HOPKINSVILLE, KY., May 8.—Last evening a man committed rape near Fairview, Todd county, upon Mrs. George Salmon, who had been married about eighteen months. Her husband left here this morning to assist in moving a mill, and told her she had better go visiting. She started and had gone some distance from home when a negro plowing in a field near by, struck her with a stick and left her, doubtless thinking she was dead. He soon returned and finding she had somewhat recovered and had endeavored to reach home, he followed her and cut her throat. She is now dead. The negro was arrested and parties started to take him to Elkton to put him in jail, but it is said he was taken from the guard, shot several times, and left hanging to a tree.

Frightful Explosion.

STEUBENVILLE, O., May 9.—This morning about three o'clock a frightful explosion occured at the Steubenville Furnace, which will probably result in the death of Mr. Carsensten, an employe. Yesterday the work of blowing out the furnace was commenced, by the application of water on the pell, and about three o'clock this morning, while Mr. Carsenster was at his work on the top of his furnace, the water accumulated to such an extent as to force the bell down, letting a large amount of water into the furnace, causing a terrible explosion. A large amount of the contents of the furnace was instantly forced out of the top of the stack, causing a shower of fire to fall for some distance around the works, and setting the hoisting house on fire. Carsensten's clothes were burned off and his body scorched in a frightful manner. In his attempt to descend he fell a distance of 24 feet, and the remaining distance he passed through the flames of the burning stairs. The flames were extinguished by the men at work before much damage was done. Carsensters body was bruised from head to foot. Dr. Stewart, the attending physician, expresses but little hope of his recovery. The loss at this writing cannot be estimated.

Clancey Sentenced.

CLARION, PA., May 9.—John Clancey, who was tried last week for killing W. W. Gaither and convicted of voluntary manslaughter, was sentenced yesterday to eight years' imprisonment in the Western penitentiary.

ANOTHER OIL FIRE.

THE TOWN OF RIXFORD DESTROYED—SIX HUNDRED PEOPLE HOUSELESS!

Four Twenty Thousand Barrel Tanks Fall a Prey to the Flames—The Fire is Still Spreading.

BRADFORD PA., MAY 9.—This afternoon a pipe of the United Lines at Rixford burst under heavy pressure and the heat of burning brush. The oil immediately caught fire and ran towards the United Lines' pump station, which is situated on the outskirts of the town. All efforts to save the station were unavailing, so fierce was the fire. After cremating the pump station, the fire lapped up a number of oil wells and ignited a 25,000 barrel oil tank nearly full of oil. The oil blazed up and boiled over, great columns of flame and smoke shooting up in the air at a great height. The fire soon communicated with another big tank and fears were entertained for the safety of the town. After awhile the fire became so uncontrollable that it ignited two other 25,000 barrels iron tanks, and then the people of Rixford saw that their town was doomed. Efforts were made to save the town, but the smoke was so dense that the inhabitants could not see to remove their goods, and withdrew to a place of safety. During the afternoon the fire advanced upon the railroad station and crept into the town. The depot, hotels, postoffice and business houses are in ashes. But little of the town is left to tell the sad story of its destruction. After leaving Rixford the fire swept on up the valley, destroying oil wells and burning the Tide Water pump station. The four 25,000 barrel iron tanks of oil are still burning.

A special train went over to Rixford from Bradford this afternoon and has not returned. All the telegraph wires are down and reports concerning the fire are conflicting. No one but pipe line men were allowed on the train, and so quiet were they in going that no one knew they had gone until late this afternoon. The number of people rendered homeless by the fire is about six hundred. The fire is still raging fiercely. Several fires are burning in different parts of the field. A mile and a half of woods are on fire near Carrolton.

N. W. H.

BRADFORD, May 9.—This afternoon, by a gas explosion in a stove in the house of Justice Cline, in Rixford, a town eleven miles southwest of Bradford, the building was set on fire. All the adjoining buildings being light frame structures, the fire spread rapidly, and before its fury was spent eighty buildings were laid in ashes. The list embraces the principal stores and business places, including the Kendall and Eldred railroad depot. The fire also burned the pump station of the United Pipe Lines. A tank containing 7,000 barrels was burned, and an iron tank containing 25,000 barrels of oil is now in flames. A short distance further down the valley are located one other 25,000 barrel tank, owned by the United Lines, and two others of similar dimensions belonging to the Tide Water Pipe Line. These three tanks are all full, and it is thought cannot escape destruction. A large force of men are building dams to check the burning oil from running down the valley, should the tank now on fire boil over In and around Rixford, forty derricks were also consumed. It is impossible to estimate the loss at present. Several woods fires are reported, but no very serious damage has yet resulted.

A Negro Who Thought Himself Herod Kills Two of His Children.

LOUISVILLE, KY, May 8.—A Clarksville special to the *Courier Journal* says: Considerable excitement was caused here yesterday by the lodgment in our jail of Dan Lyle, colored, his wife, and a negro woman named Susan Talley. It seems that Dan and his wife have more recently become perfect mono-maniacs upon religious subjects. He has asserted that he was the Saviour, his wife the Virgin Mary, and Susan Talley, who lives with them, a prophetess. In his zeal he has on divers occasions appeared at places of worship, both for white and black people, and insisted on playing his part, as preacher. Yesterday Constables Romily and Saunders procured a warrant for his arrest upon charges of disturbing public worship, and went to his house to execute the same.

Lyle resisted furiously, and assaulted Constable Saunders with an axe. Constable Romily fired three shots at Lyle, one of which took effect in his right breast and the other two in the groin. Lyle then returned to his house and barricaded the windows and doors, but surrendered when Sheriff Mosely appeared with an additional posse.

Upon entering the house the officer noticed a smell of putrid flesh, and on making search, found two of Lyle's children, dead. The impression is that the murder was instigated by the "Virgin Mary," and the "Prophetess," who have both wielded a strong influence over Lyle, and that he did the killing to relieve the woman of the care of the children believing that for the occasion he was Herod.

Boiler Explosion.

SYRACUSE, May 10.—In Rome this morning on starting the engine in the Merchant Iron Mill, one of the boilers burst, killing Jason C. Enarr, William Frey, Reuben Davis, and Joseph Bessock, and fatally wounding Adam Briensdofer. The explosion also injured Lewis Bessock, Fred Bessock, Benjamin Wilson, and Charles Stanton Baker. Many others were slightly injured—all employes.

The mill was badly wrecked. The exploded boiler was released from its foundations, and in its flight crushed through a heavy iron chimney, and land about 400 feet from the mill. Owing to the early hour, only a part of the employes were on duty, otherwise the loss of life would have been fearful. About 250 men are thrown out of employment.

Court House Burned.

CADIZ, O., May 9.—A fire occurred this morning about five o'clock in the annex to the court house which is used as a witness room and a storage for wooden book cases of the court records and court library. The records for the past twelve years were badly charred, but the contents were probably not much injured. A great part of the final records of previous years were entirely destroyed. The fire is undoubtedly the work of an incendiary. Damage to the house, $250: no insurance.

Troops Called Out in Ohio.

RIOT FROM THE EMPLOYMENT OF COLORED MINERS IMPORTED FROM VIRGINIA.

COLUMBUS, O., May 8.—Governor Foster to-day received a telegram from Sheriff Coulter, of Wayne county, asking for troops to keep down a riot which had been threatened by nearly five hundred miners in case the negroes employed in the mines were not discharged. The Governor has authorized the use of troops Colonel Thomas, of Akron, has been ordered to hold his regiment of militia in readiness to march to Wayne county. A company of militia at Wooster started to-night for Silver Creek mine, where trouble exists, and the Massillon company is under orders. The immediate cause of the trouble is that the miners went out some time ago on refusal of the proprietors to give 85 cents per ton. On Tuesday night about midnight the proprietors of the Silver Creek Mining Company brought to their mine about 200 colored miners from Virginia, and sent them in the mines at 75 cents per ton. Anticipating trouble, they had a force of carpenters build a high fence around the mouth of the mine, and yesterday had a force of twenty-five special constables, under charge of Sheriff Coulter, to protect the colored miners. The white miners held a meeting, and, it is said, voted to drive the colored miners away. To-day they stoned the barricade around the mines and hurt one of the constables. An attack is expected to-morrow.

Grant the Strongest Candidate.

WASHINGTON, May 9.—Senator Edmunds, in conversation with a fiend, in referring to the prospects of the different candidates, remarked to-day that as for himself he regarded General Grant as the candidate who would carry the greatest strength before the people both north and south, and for that reason he was in favor of his nomination. He also expressed the opinion that the