The Somerset Herald.

EDWARD SCULL, Editor and Proprietor.

WEDNESDAY.............. January 12, 1881

The public debt was reduced in December $5,699,430. The decrease since the 30th of June is $42,999,559.

There were 244,709 cattle received at Kansas City in 1880 by the various railroads leading into that place.

Among the guesses as to the new Cabinet, one is that Senator Don Cameron will be Secretary of War. General Burnside is the guesser.

The census tables are not yet completed, but it is sufficiently ascertained that the National population will exceed 50,000,000.

It is asserted and generally accepted as true that Senator Blaine has been offered and accepted the position of Secretary of State in the Cabinet of General Garfield.

The caucus of the Republican members of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania to nominate a candidate for Senator will be held on the night of Thursday, 13th inst.

Gen. John F. Miller, the Republican nominee for U. S. Senator in California, was a gallant Union soldier and had one eye shot out in battle.

The President has appointed and the Senate confirmed Gen. Nathan Goff, of West Virginia, as Secretary of the Navy for the two remaining months of the present administration.

Mayor Patterson, of Harrisburg, who has just been elected Resident Clerk of the House, has resigned his position as chief magistrate of the city to take effect on the election of his successor.

On Wednesday last the Senate confirmed the appointment of Gen. John Hall for Marshal, and William A. Stone, Esq., for U. S. Attorney for the Western District of this State.

We are indebted to Governor Hoyt for an advanced copy of his annual message, and also to Prof. Wickersham, Superintendent of Public Instructions, for a copy of his annual report of the Soldiers' Orphans' Schools.

The gossips have it, that on the late visit of Senator Cameron to the President elect, it was settled that Hon. Glenni W. Scofield of this State at present Register of the Treasury, is to represent Pennsylvania in the Cabinet.

The indications are that the military review on the occasion of Gen. Garfield's inauguration will be the grandest since the review of Sherman's army in Washington. Military companies from every State in the Union will participate.

General Garfield last week gave formal notice to Governor Foster and also to the President of the U. S. Senate that he declined the position of Senator from Ohio to which he was chosen in January, 1880.

Wolfe, "the reformer," has defined his true status. He went into the Republican caucus and supported Hunn for Clerk of the House, and the next day voted for his Democratic opponent. Honorable men can have but one opinion of such conduct.

The report of Auditor General Schell shows that the increase of revenue the last fiscal year, ending November 30, 1880, as compared with the preceding year, has enabled the State Treasurer to pay all but about $400,000 of the $1,900,000 due the common schools when the present Treasurer was installed on the first Monday of May last.

The contest for the Senatorship in Maine between Messrs. Frye and Hale has been ended by the withdrawal of Frye. This means the election of Mr. Hale now, and the contemplated election of Mr. Frye when Senator Blaine resigns to go into the Cabinet.

The news comes from Washington that the long-existing quarrel between Senators Blaine and Conkling has been reconciled and the hatchet buried. These two stalwarts will stand shoulder to shoulder in support of the new administration, to the great gratification of all Republicans.

Congress has reassembled, and profuse declarations are made that it will apply itself with energy to the dispatch of business. As none of the appropriation bills have yet reached the President, and but forty-three working days of the session remain, it behooves the members to get down to solid work.

The Senatorial succession is the all absorbing topic among politicians at Harrisburg, and the letter writers from that point. While Mr. Grow's personal friends still insist that he has a good chance, the drift of sentiment appears to be that he is virtually out of the race. Henry W. Oliver, of Pittsburgh, is now the first favorite, but it is admitted that he has not secured votes enough to nominate him, and he is in the dangerous position of the leading candidate, with the field against him. Can the field be combined against him? Wait and see.

Senator Cameron is fighting Grow! No he isn't! He is doing all he can to elect Oliver! No he isn't! He is for a dark horse against them both! No he isn't! He is taking no part in the contest! Yes, he is! Who is he for? Don't know! Such is the substance of the reliable news to be gathered from our exchanges. Meanwhile all the adherents of the candidates call on the Senator and pay their respects, and no man comes away wiser than he went on the all-absorbing topic.

It is conceded on all hands that Grow's friends in the Legislature slaughtered him by their stupidity, or worse. Claiming that he largely led all other candidates for Senator, they called a caucus of "the field against Oliver," thereby admitting his weakness, and settled up on a candidate for chairman, who was beaten fourteen votes in a full Republican caucus. Thus ended the game of brag.

The editor of "Truth," the New York newspaper that first published the forged "Morey" or Chinese labor letter, that lost the Republicans the States of California and Nevada, is out in a letter addressed to General Garfield, admitting the forgery and claiming that he was imposed upon. The Democratic papers that published and gloated over the forgery are dumb as to this confession.

In calling a caucus of "the field" against Oliver, the friends of Mr. Grow thereby destroyed his prestige by the tacit admission that he was not the strongest leading candidate as they claimed him to be, and now comes the Philadelphia *Press*, which has been his especial champion, throwing up its cap for "Ben Hewitt" as the dark horse to win, thus virtually admitting that Mr. Grow is out of the race. Was ever a candidate more unlucky in his friends?

When the members of the Legislature were called up to take the oath of office, Senator Coxe, of Luzerne (Dem.), declined to be sworn, admitting that he had spent large sums of money to secure his election. His seat has been declared vacant. He claims to have been controlled by conscientious scruples, while others declare he was deterred from taking the seat by threats of a prosecution if he did so. It will strike the public as curious, that a man could spend $50,000 to secure an election, and not know at the time that it could not all be used for legitimate expenses.

Most of the Senatorial contests in the different States have already been virtually decided. Thus in Ohio, the withdrawal of Governor Foster leaves Secretary Sherman a clear field. In Maine the withdrawal of Mr. Frye has given Eugene Hale the caucus nomination, Congressman Conger has already been nominated in Michigan, and Gen. John F. Miller in California. It appears to be admitted that General Ben Harrison will carry off the prize in Indiana, and Senator Cockrell will be returned without opposition from Missouri. The contests in Pennsylvania and New York are still undecided. In our State the Republican nominating caucus is fixed for Thursday 13th inst.

The Legislature convened at noon on Tuesday of last week 4th. The Senate was called to order by Lieutenant Governor Stone, and Senator Newell, (Rep.) of Philadelphia, was elected President *pro tem*, took the chair, and delivered an address, after which the organization was completed by the election of the usual number of clerks and other officers. The House was organized by the election of Hon. B. L. Hewitt, Rep., of Blair County as Speaker and the selection of necessary clerks and other officials. The Governor's message was received and read in both Houses, after which they adjourned. No business, except to further complete the organization, and get things in running order has since been done, both houses adjourning the next day (Wednesday) over until Wednesday the 12th (to-day) to give the presiding officers time to select the necessary committees.

Whether it is that our country is growing so large or our public functionaries so verbose, it is now out of the ordinary state of affairs for a weekly newspaper to publish a President's or Governor's message without giving up an entire issue to it or getting out an extra.

We therefore ask our readers to be content with so much of the admirable message of Governor Hoyt as we can make room for. The entire paper is wise and thoughtful and shows the Governor in a most favorable light. The fact that an unusual interval has elapsed since the last Legislature adjourned—this being the first biennial session under the new Constitution—is the reason perhaps why the Governor felt constrained to give so minute a detail of public affairs. The most interesting portion of the message to the general public will be we presume, the exhibit of the State finances, which shows that a deficiency has to be provided for, and that arrangements must be made to meet upwards of ten millions of the State loan falling due next year. But with the high credit the State possesses there will be no trouble to refund this loan at four per cent., thus saving two per cent. on the interest now paid. Prosperity reigns supreme throughout the State, with every prospect of its continuance, and the wise and prudent suggestions made throughout his message, will assure the people that their Governor is a worthy successor of the many able executives who have preceded him.

When, a few weeks since, Mr. Justice Strong resigned his position on the bench of the Supreme Court of the United States, it was naturally expected that another Pennsylvanian would be selected to fill the vacancy, and much disappointment was felt when the President made his selection from the State of Georgia.

It is now announced that one or more of the Justices of this Court will soon seek retirement, and it is not to be anticipated that the President will further ignore the claims of this State to continued representation on the bench of that Supreme tribunal. Among those who have been mentioned in connection with this high but onerous position is Justice Mercur of our Supreme Court; than whom a more eminent jurist is not within the Commonwealth. Judge Mercur, apart from distinguished services in the National Legislature, has won legal fame on the bench of the Court of Common Pleas of the Bradford district, and as a member of the Supreme Court of the State. He has preserved the judicial ermine pure and unsullied, by his eminent abilities has well sustained the traditionary fame of the Court he now adorns, and his lengthened and varied experience eminently fits him for a place on the bench of the Nation's highest Tribunal. That his advancement to a broader and more extended sphere of usefulness would meet with the commendation of the entire bar of the State, we feel well assured.

Pennsylvania Legislature.

Harrisburg, January 4.—The first biennial session of the Pennsylvania Legislature convened here at noon to-day.

At the convening of the House all the members were present except W. J. Boyd, of Montgomery; J. C. C. Whaley, of Clinton, and Mr. Derickson, of Crawford, the two former having died since their election and the latter being absent by sickness. The House was organized by the election of B. L. Hewitt, (Rep.) of Blair, over J. E. Faunce, (Dem.) of Philadelphia, by a vote of 121 to 75.

Charles F. Wolfe nominated Benjamin L. Hewitt, and upon taking the chair, returned his thanks in a short speech.

The organization was then proceeded with by the election of Henry Huhn for Chief Clerk, over S. C. Kirk, of Schuylkill, by a vote of 118 to 77.

For Resident Clerk, John D. Patterson, of Harrisburg, was elected over Joseph E. Noble, by a vote of 119 to 72. George Pearson, of Mercer, was chosen Reading Clerk by 116 votes to 74 for Wm. H. McMullin, of Cambria.

The slate committee on minor officers was not ready to report when the House adjourned until to-morrow at 11 o'clock, after receiving and reading the Governor's message.

The Senate was called to order by Lieutenant Governor Stone, all the Senators being present.

The Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth presented the returns of Senators elected, which, on motion of Mr. Cooper, were opened and read. The roll was then called, and forty-nine Senators responded. President Judge William Pearson, of the Fourteenth Judicial district, then administered the oath of office.

Mr. Coxe, Senator-elect from Luzerne, declined to take the oath. He assigned his reasons, which were in the form of an address to his constituency. The statement of Mr. Coxe was ordered to be placed upon the minutes, and no further action was taken.

The election for President pro tem. resulted in the choice of Wm. J. Newell, of Philadelphia, over John R. Hall, Democrat, by a vote of 33 to 15, S. B. Coxe, of Luzerne, who refused to be sworn in, not voting.

Senator Newell, on taking the chair, addressed the Senate at some length. He referred to the great importance of the session, and alluded in feeling terms to the death of three Senators.

The following were then elected officers of the Senate: Thomas B. Cochran, of Lancaster county, Chief Clerk; W. A. Rupert, Reading Clerk; Samuel Nice, of Montgomery county, Journal Clerk; H. M. Jenkins, of Delaware county, Message Clerk; F. A. Weaver and R. B. McKee, Transcribing Clerks; J. C. Delaney, Senate Librarian; H. P. Connell, Philadelphia, Sergeant-at-arms, and J. M. Mathias, of Bucks county, Postmaster.

The Democratic Senators placed in nomination and voted for the following, who of course were defeated: Adam Woolever, Lehigh county, Chief Clerk; J. A. McClain, Centre county, Reading Clerk; Thomas Ramsey, York county, Journal Clerk; A. M. Sloan, Westmoreland county, Message Clerk; Frank P. Semel, Carbon county, Postmaster; O. J. Wolfe and G. R. Rotan, Transcribing Clerks; J. Klunk, Sergeant-at-arms; S. F. Hunt and Ed. Murphy, Assistant Sergeants-at-arms.

The appointment of the standing committees will be as usual in the hands of the President pro tem.

The message of the Governor was received and read, after which the Senate adjourned.

Lancaster Tobacco Crop.

Lancaster, January 3.—The value of the tobacco crop of Lancaster county, this State, according to the estimate of the most extensive local packers, is put at $2,000,000. In 1879 45,000 cases were put up, bringing $3,000,000. Although 50,000 cases were packed in 1880, the quality of the crop was not nearly so fine; much of it was worm-eaten or frost-bitten, or both, while a good deal more had what is known as "stem-rot." These defects have retarded the sale of it, and besides the season has been against the market.

Constable Shot.

Stanford, Ky., January 7.—Alex. Killian, a constable, was shot three times, yesterday, by a young desperado, named J. W. Goock, while attempting to stop an affray at King's mountain. Killian is supposed to be mortally wounded. Goock escaped.

Cigars and Men Consumed.

Havana, January 7.—A fire broke out last night totally destroying the large cigar manufactory (La Excepcion) of Joseph E. Gener. Of the persons who slept in the building, eleven are missing.

Four Persons Hanged.

Philadelphia, January 6.—Daniel F. Sullivan and Patrick Hayes were hanged in the county prison at 10:37 this morning. Both men passed a calm though almost sleepless night. The priests arrived at the prison early, and religious exercises were kept up until the time for the execution. At 10:25 a. m. Sullivan was brought down from his cell on the upper tier, to the door of Hayes' cell on the ground floor, and immediately after the procession formed and proceeded to the gallows, near the end of the corridor. Both men walked firmly, Hayes being accompanied by Rev. Fathers Daly and Masterson. Sullivan followed, accompanied by Rev. Father Neal. On the scaffold both men knelt and prayed, the priests kneeling between them. When they arose Hayes laid aside the beads upon which he had been telling his prayers, and attempted to address those present, speaking in a wild and incoherent manner. He seemed anxious to narrate the history of his married life, but at last yielded, as he himself said, to the request of his pastor, at the same time protesting that he was not afraid of the gallows. Meanwhile Sullivan stood calmly kissing his crucifix and listening to the exhortations of the third priest. Finally Hayes expressed his hope for forgiveness, forgiving all himself. The priests retired to the top step of the gallows, where they knelt. The nooses were adjusted, and at 10.38, while the priests were reciting the De Profundis, the drop fell. Both bodies received a fall of four feet.

Hayes appeared to die without a struggle, and in two and one-half minutes the beating of his pulse could not be felt, although his heart beat for sixteen minutes. Sullivan struggled violently, and it was seventeen minutes before the physicians pronounced him dead. After hanging twenty-seven minutes the bodies were cut down, when it was ascertained that both had died of strangulation.

[The crime for which Patrick Hayes yesterday suffered the highest penalty of the law, was a most brutal one. He had married a widow of some means, and it was on account of not being able to control this money that the murder was committed. He had been drinking heavily for a long time, and led a far from plesant life with his wife. On the morning of the tragedy he bought a revolver and deliberately shot her dead while at the washtub.]

[Daniel F. Sullivan, the other man hung in Philadelphia murdered his mistress, Josie Irwin, a married woman, about two years ago. They had both been drinking, and quarreled over whether a light should be burned at night. During the affray, Sullivan fired a revolver, not with the intention of shooting her, and one ball struck her in the head and another in the stomach, with fatal effect. The trial of the latter case is one of the most celebrated in the annals of the state.]

MRS. MEIERHOFFER AND FRANK LEMMENS EXECUTED.

Newark, January 6.—Mrs. Meierhoffer, convicted with Frank Lemmens, her paramour, for the murder of her husband, John Meierhoffer, at West Orange, on October 9, 1879, was hanged at the county court house at 10:30 o'clock this morning. She was very pale and deeply affected, but walked to the gallows without assistance and met her fate without confession or uttering a word. She died in about nine minutes, her neck being apparently unbroken. About thirty persons were present, including officers and a jury selected by the court under a recent law, and all spectators were excluded. Lemmens was hanged from the same gallows immediately afterwards, but no confession. Lemmens was brought from his cell at [illegible]. He asked to see the jury that convicted him, but they were not present. He declared his innocence, and was led trembling to the gallows. At 11:27 the drop fell, and in fourteen minutes his pulse stopped and he was pronounced dead.

A Texas Tragedy.

Galveston, January 6.—A special dispatch to the *News* from Henrietta, says: A man named Van Rice, having refused to drink with James Curtis, an altercation arose resulting in an exchange of shots. Curtis fell, and expired within ten minutes. Van Rice was carried, badly wounded, to a doctor's office for treatment. As he was placed in a chair, a ball was fired through the window inflicting a mortal wound.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

St. Louis, Mo., January 6.—A special dispatch to *The Republican* from Henrietta, Texas, says: "James A. Curtis, a prominent cattle man from northern Texas, was shot and killed in a saloon at Cambrige on Tuesday night by Van Rice, who had formerly worked for Curtis and had been discharged. Rice also received three shots from Curtis before he died, and while he was having his wounds dressed at a doctor's office, some unknown man, supposed to have been some friend of Curtis, fired a shot through the window, striking Van Rice in the breast and inflicting a mortal wound.

The Next Congress.

Washington, January 4.—If it is determined by Congress in making the new apportionment for members of the House of Representatives to preserve the membership at the present number—293—and there is a general sentiment among the members against an increase, Pennsylvania will lose two members. The estimate of the population—about 50,000,000—divided by the present number of members would give about 170,000 to a member. The population of Pa., being 4,282,738, divided by the number apportioned to a member, would give 25 as a quotient, which would be the number of Representatives to which the State would be entitled, though a considerable surplus would remain over. In any event the State will lose at least one member, for those who do advocate an increase in the membership limit the number to 300.

Gold Coinage at the Mint.

Washington, January 3.—Mr. Burchard, Director of the Mint, says that he shall continue to coin gold at the Philadelphia Mint as long as the balance of trade is in favor of the United States and there is a demand for the coin. Last month between eight and nine millions of foreign coin were smelted and recoined at Philadelphia, and it is expected that the coinage will continue at the same rate for several months to come.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

[From Our Special Correspondent.]

Washington, Jan. 4, 1881.

The Old has gone and the New has come.

As usual it was a gala day in this city. New Year was generally observed by all classes of society, but more particularly by what is known as the middle class. The weather was clear and bright, but a trifle too cold for comfort. "It was a nipping and an eager air" and the callers did not linger on the streets a minute longer than was absolutely necessary, but hastened from house to house on their list with celerity and dispatch. The custom of making New Year's calls was generally indulged in, and the streets in different sections were enlivened by parties of gentlemen paying their respects to their lady friends. Some used sleighs, more used carriages, but most employed the more healthful style of walking. Sleighs were the proper caper, however, among the young "bloods," but the cost of such vehicles—$5 an hour—placed them beyond the reach of the majority.

The citizens of the District are renowned for their hospitality, and of course most of them kept open house. A commendable feature of the day was the general absence at most of the houses of intoxicating drinks, lemonade, tea, coffee or chocolate being offered in their stead. As a natural consequence there was not so much intoxication on the streets as is customary on holidays. There was a great difference in this respect from the past Christmas, which was remarkable for the number of inebriate young men seen on the streets.

The President's reception was of course the leading event of the day, and it was as brilliant and as interesting as such events always are. The arrangements at the White House were excellent. The Marine Band, as is customary, played in the large entrance hall during the reception. The long central corridor was festooned with flags and further decorated with flowers and potted plants. The parlors were also adorned with cut flowers and hot house plants.

The published programme was faithfully carried out.

Punctually at 11 o'clock a. m. the President and Mrs. Hayes entered the blue parlor, in company with Vice President Wheeler and Miss Mills, of San Francisco; then several other ladies, guests of Mrs. Hayes followed and took places in the room to the rear of the Presidential party.

Colonel Casey as usual made the introductions to the President and Mr. Webb Hayes to his mother.

All the ladies present in the parlor were elegantly dressed. Mrs. Hayes just looked too lovely. Her dress was of creamy white ribbed silk, very soft and fine, simply made and trimmed very elegantly and becoming. White cream tinted satin and pearl passementerie were the garniture. She wore a silver comb and white flowers in her dark hair and no jewelry except a medallion at her throat. The gentlemen of the cabinet entered from the red parlor, Secretary Evarts and his family immediately preceded the diplomatic corps. The gentlemen of the foreign legations, all, as is customary, wore court dresses, except those who represent republics, who wore citizen suits.

Secretary Evarts made the presentations of the members of the diplomatic corps to the President. Sir Edward Thornton and the British legation took precedence of all other, as he had served longer here than any other minister now stationed in Washington.

The following countries were all represented by a minister or charge d'affaires, and most of them by several gentlemen, and one or more ladies:

Hawaii, Germany, Brazil, Hayti, Belgium, Turkey, Japan, Italy, Sweden and Norway, France, Mexico, China (the largest legation of all), Portugal, Spain, Austria, Hungary, Chili, Guatemala and Salvador, Russia, Colombia, Bolivia, Nicaragua, the Netherlands, Venezuela, Denmark and Peru.

The Russian Minister and his wife were conceded to be among the handsomest and most distinguished looking couples seen in the throng of noted men and fine looking women in the Blue Parlor. The Russian court dress is very elaborate and striking. The Danish Minister, who appeared for the first time in public since his arrival, was delighted with the occasion, and expressed himself particularly gratified at the opportunity offered him by his position as a diplomat to see our country thoroughly during his residence in the United States. He has most prepossessing manners and expression of face. He speaks English perfectly. His uniform, which includes a bright red coat, is very handsome. He has several orders and decorations. The Austrian Minister was unfortunately too ill to attend. Mme. Outrey, the French Minister's wife, was much missed, and all regretted to hear that she had a severe attack of whooping cough.

The scenes in the blue parlor after the reception had progressed were very brilliant, conversation grew quite animated in the exchange of New Year's greetings and the social possibilities of the season that this reception formally opens. Mrs. Hayes' fascinating manners and her incomparable social ways have divested even this ceremonious affair of much of its formality. Her rare tact of remembering names and faces and hearty responses to each greeting have made her receptions entertainments to be remembered among the successes that make the name of Mrs. Madison so famous in social lore, and as when later on, Miss Lane, presided over the household of her uncle, President Buchanan.

Mrs. Hayes has presided over the President's household with a like grace, peculiarly her own, and many were the expressions of regret that this would be her last New Year's Day there.

After the Foreigners got through the justices and officers of the Supreme Court were received. Next came Senators and Representatives. General Sherman headed the Army officers, all in full uniform. Then filed in the Naval officers lead by Admiral Porter, the Marine officers in the rear. Then came the officers District government and officials of the Treasury, Post Office Department, &c., &c.

Then were received the Associated Soldiers of the War of 1812, the Associated Veterans of the war of 1846, the members of the Oldest Inhabitant's Association of the District of Columbia and members of the Grand Army of the Republic.

At the conclusion, and at intervals during the official reception, the President and Mrs. Hayes promenaded the parlors and the East room. While the officers of the Army and Navy remained in the East room the room seemed ablaze with tinsel and colors of their uniforms.

The public reception began slightly in advance of the appointed hour, one o'clock, during which time the White House was crowed by throngs of people, rich and poor, high and low, all bent on wishing the President and his charming wife a Happy New Year.

The pleasure of Mrs. Isham Hornsby's reception at her fine residence on Connecticut Avenue, was enhanced by the presence of her parents, the Hon. Jere Black and Mrs. Black of Pennsylvania.

Friday morning the thermometer "took the cake." At the Signal Office the mercury read 14 degrees below zero, the lowest temperature since the war. Snow, snow, and bushels of it, has been in order here for the past ten days, and it now lies at least a foot thick on the level, and splendid sleighing. The weather is all the talk. In fact we have had too much weather since General Hazen took charge of the Weather Bureau.

The oldest inhabitant moves his hairless head and assures the rising generation that this is the heaviest snow ever know in Washington since the war.

The oldest inhabitant is very like the Charleston friend of Colonel Edie, who when showing him the pleasant moonlight scenery about the battery, respond to the latter's enthusiasm over the beautiful appearance of the night, mellowed by the keenest of bright moons:

"Fo' Gawd sah; that's nothing, sah! You should ha' see that moon before the wah, sah!" So with our snow.

It is a bad season for drinking people and worse still for those accused of intoxication or inebriate habits. The pavements are deadly slippy, and any one who falls, and in falling is injured, can expect the general verdict: "The old man is drunk again."

Most every person here believes than Don Cameron will be the next Secretary of War, and Jim Blaine Secretary of State, under President-elect Garfield.

Politicians with us now have their eyes set on the State Legislatures who are about to elect U. S. Senators. The preliminary struggle in Pennsylvania which showed Mr. Grow's weakness as a candidate after the great blowing that has been done by his friends for the past two months, was expected by the "stalwarts," and the news fell like a wet blanket over the "kickers" here.

To-day we had a sleighing carnival in Pennsylvania Avenue which was highly enjoyed by all. Most of the sleighs and sleds in the procession were decorated and the majority of the occupants of the cutters were in mask. Some very comic rigs were in the line, made especially for the occasion.

At present great suffering is reported among the poor in the city. Soup houses have been started by the charitable associations, and the police are distributing food, fuel and clothing to the needy. Some five thousand dollars was subscribed at a public meeting held at Willard's Hall on New Year's eve, besides collections are now being made all over the city for their relief. A systematic canvass of the suffering neighborhoods has been made by the people who have stepped forward in the good work. While the negroes are the principal unfortunates, some very respectable white people have been driven to apply for charity. A number of families whose head has been turned out of office, or whose protectors came here with the expectation of getting office are among these. In one case they had pawned even the bed clothing to get something to eat, and when the cold set in were driven to the police station to keep from freezing to death.

Perry.

The New Secretary of the Navy.

Washington, January 6.—Gen. Nathan Goff was nominated to-day as Secretary of the Navy, and his nomination was confirmed a short time afterward without a dissenting voice.

He belongs to a wealthy and influential family at Clarksburg, West Virginia, where he was born in 1836. He was educated for the bar, but at the outbreak of the Rebellion he entered the Union Army and was appointed Colonel of the 3d Virginia Infantry. He served in the brigade commanded by Colonel, now President, Hayes, and has an excellent war record, having risen to the rank of Brigadier-General before peace was declared. He has been actively identified with the Republican party of his State, and was a candidate for the XLIVth Congress, being defeated by less than 200 votes. In 1876 he was the Republican candidate for Governor; and, although unsuccessful, his name upon the ticket and his personal efforts during the canvass added greatly to the strength and standing of his party in the State. He was appointed District Attorney for West Virginia by President Grant in 1873, and was reappointed by President Hayes in 1877. Gen. Goff is a man of fine presence and an eloquent speaker.

It is said that Gen. Goff has assurance from Gen. Garfield that he will be retained in the cabinet after the 4th of March. This is not true. Gen Goff was personally well known to President Hayes, and was selected to serve during the remainder of his term because of personal friendliness and known fitness. The West Virginia Republican Association called upon the new Secretary of the Navy in a body this evening to pay their respects. Several felicitous speeches were made. General Goff intends to bring his family to Washington in a few days.

A State out of Debt.

Chicago, January 7.—A record of wonderful debt paying power is presented by the report of State Treasurer Smith. The state indebtedness on Monday, the 3d, was $281,000. All of this is called in and now being paid at the American Exchange Bank, New York. When all the bonds are paid about $160,000 will remain in the State Treasury of the fund paid by the Illinois Central Railroad to the state, besides a fund of over a million dollars, derived from other sources in the treasury. Many of the bonds now being paid were negotiated for seventeen cents on the dollar. The local indebtedness is about fifty millions, of which sixteen millions are registered and paid through the State Treasurer's office.

A Large Fire.

New York, January 4.—A terribly fatal fire occurred this morning in a tenement house, corner of Madison and James streets, this city. One woman, a boy and five babies were burned or suffocated and four more are reported dead and burned, making eleven victims in all.

The vicinity of the terrible fire in the tenement house at the rear of 35 Madison street, thronged by an excited crowd. As the bodies of victims were brought out from the building there was invariably a wail of anguish, which was joined in by hundreds of people. There was a huge flue. It is situated up a narrow alley way, where a man can scarcely turn, and where escape ladders were almost impracticable, and was a spot where the fire could rage unchecked, despite a thousand firemen. The discoverers of the fire were tardy in sending out an alarm, and the building was wrapped in flames before the engines arrived and while some were attending to the hose others were hunting for the women and children of which the building was known to be crowded. The people on the streets had become very dense, and the firemen could scarcely work. The excitement and confusion was something terrible, and the groans and shrieks of women in the crowd as the charred remains of the dead were brought out were horrible. Firemen, policemen and citizens all united in attempting to rescue the sufferers, but their work was of little avail, for out of fourteen persons taken out seven were dead. The others were badly injured, and several will probably die, as they had inhaled the fire. They were taken to a pharmacy and physicians were summoned, who did all they could to alleviate their sufferings. Two children were among the sufferers.

The firemen carried out five children who were burned to a crisp. As the men carried their lifeless burdens to the street women screamed and fell into hysterics, and the most hardened of the crowd shed tears as the bodies of the children were placed in the dead wagons. As nearly as can be ascertained at this time the list of casualties is as follows: One girl about six years partially suffocated; two boys, infants, partially suffocated, will probably die; one boy, Jas. Cassiday, aged 13, badly burned in the face, left hand and arm burned to a crisp, will probably die; boy, badly scalded about the legs and body; boy, burned about the face; Kitty Sheridan, aged 21, burned about the arms, legs and face; girl, burned in the face and hands; boy, burned in the face and about the body and doubled up, dead; woman also, 35 years old, body burned to a crisp, child in arms also burned beyond recognition; woman, body burned to a cinder and limbs burned off; old woman aged 90, named Mary Muldoon, jumped from a second story window and broke her leg. On the third floor of the building a woman was seen to scream frantically for help as she was about to spring from a window. She fell back, overcome with heat, into the flames. As the fire spread it was heartrending to hear the screams of children in the building and unable to escape. One fireman went in and in spite of the intense heat brought out two little children; another fireman brought out a third child, and these little ones only slightly burned, were taken to the hospital. After the corpses of the children were placed in an ambulance another body was found on the second floor, that of a boy apparently also 11 years old. The poor little fellow was terribly burned about the face and life was extinct. A few minutes later another body was carried from the building. It was a woman and was the mother of some of the unfortunate victims. The children in the Chambers street hospital are not badly burned but are suffering from fright.

Dismissed.

Jersey City, N. J., January 3.—Reuben Howe has for a long time been a letter-carrier in Jersey City and has performed all the duties pertaining to the office faithfully. Last October Postmaster Gopsill learned that Howe belonged to a religious sect called the United Evangelical Brethren. One of their regulations is that brethren shall have nothing to do with worldly affairs. The Postmaster questioned Howe and asked him if such was one of their beliefs, and Howe admitted that it was. The Postmaster told Howe that he thought working for the Government was a worldly affair and that he thought Howe ought to vote at the coming election. Howe refused to do so and the Postmaster learning of that fact discharged him to-day from the Government employ. Howe says he will apply to the Postmaster General for reinstatement under the civil service rules.

Railroad Construction During 1880.

Chicago, January 6.—The *Railway Age*, in its forthcoming number, presents a summary showing the mileage of track actually laid down in the United States during 1880. The footings are astonishing, showing that not less than 7,027 miles of new track were laid during the past twelve months on at least 234 different lines. These figures are greater than for any year since 1871, and the mileage is greater by 54 per cent. than that of 1879. The *Age* anticipates that final figures will increase the grand total to 7,500 miles, a mileage greater than has been constructed in the United States or any other country in any previous year. The total mileage of the country is 93,704.

No More Hard Times.

If you will stop spending so much on fine clothes, rich food and style, buy good, healthy food, cheaper and better clothing; get more real and substantial things of life every way, and especially stop the foolish habit of employing expensive, quack doctors or using so much of the vile humbug medicines that does you only harm, but put your trust in that simple, pure remedy, Hop Bitters; that cures always at a trifling cost, and you will see good times and have good health.—*Chronicle*.

Caught Pilfering the Mails.

Baltimore, January 8.—Special Agent Wm. T. Henderson, of the Postoffice Department, arrested at Ellicott City, Howard county, John Bewley, mail carrier between Ellicott City and Doughoregan Manor, on a charge of robbing the mails. Suspicion had been aroused by the disappearance of several letter containing money. He was brought to Baltimore by the special agent for a hearing before Commissioner Rogers.

Revenge.

Philadelphia, January 5.—In a street brawl about six years ago a man named Frank Desmoulin was stabbed and badly wounded by Wm. Revell, who, up to last night, was engaged as a bartender at a saloon near Eighth and Vine streets. At that time Desmoulin swore vengeance against Revell. About 2 o'clock this morning, Desmoulin, accompanied by Patrick Dooley, Frank Devitt, Frank Fox, and John Gray, entered the saloon where Revell was employed. Desmoulin at once threw a spittoon at Revell, knocking him down, when the other four men held him until Desmoulin cut him in the neck, head and several places in the body. The attacking party then fled. Revell is considered beyond recovery. Desmoulin and his four companions then went up Vine street, and soon met a party of young men engaged in snow-balling each other. A row ensued, during which Desmoulin once more got out his knife and inflicted a frightful wound in the stomach of William Chambers. This man will also die. A police officer captured Desmoulin almost in the act, but this was the signal for a third fight, in which the officer was thrown down and beaten, and the desperadoes escaped. Devitt, Fox and Gray have since been captured and committed without bail.

Murder by a Maniac.

Harrisburg, Pa., January 5.—Amaziah Livingstone, coachman at the State Lunatic Asylum, was found near the asylum gate this evening with a pistol-wound in the back of the head, from which he died shortly afterward. Livingstone's duties were confined to carrying mail and patients to and from the city. At the coroner's inquest it was in evidence that an inmate named John Lawser, who had been confined in the asylum for the past year, had accompanied Livingstone to the city this morning, in order to visit his brother, Wm. Lawser, who is a gunsmith. During the temporary absence of his brother to-day John was in charge of the store. This evening he left with Livingstone for the asylum, and when near the gate a man answering his description, and who was in the sleigh, was seen to fire, and then run away. Lawser was seen in this city this evening, by his brother, with a revolver on his person. He was arrested, and is now in jail. A further investigation will be made by the coroner to-morrow. Lawser is said to have been a very violent patient at different times.

Explosion.

New York, January 6.—This forenoon an explosion of varnish occurred in Peter Doelger's brewery, on First avenue, by which four men were so badly injured that they must, in all probability, lose their lives. Four men were varnishing barrels in the varnish room, when a lamp was incautiously brought too near the very inflammable fluid. The fumes of the varnish were ignited, and with a flash the vat containing it was on fire. An explosion like a clap of thunder followed, and the burning fluid was scattered through the room in every direction with the sundered staves of the varnish barrel. It lit upon the workmen like a shower of fire, and with blazing clothes and beards they ran from the room shouting for help. Their fellow-workmen, alarmed by the explosion, came to their rescue promptly; but before wraps could be found and their burning clothes torn from their bodies, the four had received injuries from which they cannot recover. The sufferers were taken to Bellevue Hospital, where the physicians declared their frightful injuries fatal.

An Accident.

Petersburg, Pa., January 5.—The fast mail train due here at 4 a. m. did not arrive until 1 o'clock p. m. to-day. The delay was caused by the accident which befell the train last night near Magnolia Station, on the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad. The sleeper and a passenger coach were thrown down an embankment, a distance of twenty-five feet, completely wrecking the former and badly damaging the latter. The passengers, numbering about thirty, were more or less injured. Mrs. Mary Brown, of Philadelphia, was very seriously injured, having an arm broken and receiving a severe cut across the head. The accident was caused by the breaking of a wheel of the mail car.

Starch Factory in Iowa.

Des Moines, Iowa, January 5.—The largest starch factory firm in the United States has completed contracts for forty-eight acres of ground for the erection of a branch establishment here, costing $300,000, with a capacity for using three thousand five hundred bushels of corn daily. Work will begin early in the spring.

A Drunken Frolic.

Marion, Ind., January 6.—The news of a horrible occurrence at the Indian reservation, twelve miles from here, is received. Wm. Marshall and wife, Miama Indians quarreled during a drunken spree, and by some means the wife's clothing caught fire and set fire to the house. She ran out and Marshall remained quietly within till neighbors came and put out the fire. Marshall was badly burned, and his wife burned to death.

Murderer Released.

Sunbury, January 7.—O. Weisenhart, station agent at Excelsior, who shot and killed Patrick O'Brien on the 1st inst., was brought before Judge Rockafeller to-day on a writ of *habeas corpus*. After hearing the evidence, which was conclusive that the prisoner was acting in self-defense, he was released on bail.

Horrible Death.

Waynesburg, Pa., January 7.—A seven year old son of Peter Jones, of Wayne township, was playing on a heavy log, 40 feet in length, yesterday, when it began to roll. The child was knocked down and the log passed over him, breaking a thigh and crushing his head in a horrible manner, killing him instantly.

Indiana Senate.

Indianapolis, January 6.—The house of representatives to-day elected the officers nominated at the Republican caucus. The senate is at deadlock. Candidates were presented by both the Republicans and Democrats. Majors and Davis, nationals voted, with the Democrats, and Poindexter with the Republicans. After a number of ballots the senate adjourned until to-morrow.

Six Men Killed.

Sioux City, Iowa, January [illegible] shocking accident occurred [illegible] on the line of the Sioux City [illegible] Omaha division of the Chicago, [illegible] Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railroad, by which six men were killed outright and a seventh [illegible] leg. The men were engaged in [illegible] north of Bancroft, shoveling snow. The working train, anticipating the coming of the south-bound passenger train had side-tracked, and the men (eleven in all) had stepped from the track to allow it to pass. Some trouble in getting through had been experienced the day before and the engineer, in approaching the cut, which is a long one and a curve, put on steam and rushed in. The train consisted of a locomotive and tender, two box cars and one passenger car. The train, with the exception of the latter, passed the men in safety, but the steps of the passenger coach caught them and mowed them down in the grass under the wheels, only one escaping without serious injury. The names of the killed are Thomas Meyers, Thomas Broughton, A. J. Swanson, G. A. Herman, Ole Anderson, and John Erickson. The name of the wounded man is John Adelan. The men all lived at [illegible] land Nebraska, to which point the bodies were conveyed.

Untimely Deaths.

Doylestown, January 6.—[illegible] Thomas Coyne, colored, was burned to death in her bed yesterday morning, at her home on York street. The widow of Joseph Smith, residing near Plumsteadville, five miles north of Doylestown, also met her death by fire a day or two ago. She attempted to light a fire in a stove, when her shawl caught fire and she was badly burned. She died a few hours afterward, it is supposed from inhaling the flames.

Bradford, January 6.—Yesterday afternoon Matthew Scheuler, in the employ of Bayne, Fuller & Co., eight miles southeast of Bradford, went to an oil tank to make some repairs with the auger. The [illegible] into the tank, which contained [illegible] feet of oil. Scheuler crawled in to get it and was asphyxiated by the gas arising from the petroleum. [illegible] an hour later his friends noticed his absence, and going to the tank found him lying dead at the bottom. Scheuler was a German, aged 50 years, and formerly resided somewhere in Massachusetts. He is not known to have any friends or relatives in America.

Blaine and Conkling.

Washington, January 5.—An intimate friend of Senator Blaine to-day said that it was true that the Maine Senator had been offered the Secretaryship of State by General Garfield, and that he would accept the position. "This will cause not only himself but others of us considerable embarrassment," said the gentleman, "because it will give no opportunity for both those young fellows (Hale and Frye) to go to the Senate. The arrangement now is for Mr. Hale to be elected for the long term, to succeed Senator Hamlin, and for Mr. Frye to serve out the remainder of Blaine's term and take his chances in the future for re-election. Further than this I do not believe General Garfield has decided upon any part of his cabinet."

To-day, at the conclusion of the Senate's executive session, Senators Conkling and Blaine, who have not exchanged words for some time, were observed seated closely together engaged in conversation. The New York Senator was evidently relating something amusing, and Mr. Blaine seemed to enjoy the story told him, for he laughed continually. The "hatchet" has evidently been buried so far as these two leaders are concerned. Another significant fact is that since Sunday last (after the return of the Maine Senator) many persons here have begun to sing Mr. Blaine's praises who a week ago had not a kind word for him.

Boiler Explosion.

Allentown, Pa., January 6.—A boiler in the big puddle mill of the Allentown Rolling Mill exploded at 9 o'clock to-night, damaging the mill to the extent of $20,000, and instantly killing John Shak, aged 48 years, married, and fatally wounding Hugh Gallagher aged 2[illegible]; [illegible] Harrington, aged 19; Patrick McGee, aged 16; James Roarity, aged 1[illegible] and Charles McClosky, aged 1[illegible]. The following persons were also injured: Samuel Berger, aged 26; James Sparkins, aged 22; John Harlan, aged 13; William Gibbons and J. Boyle. The boiler, which was thirty feet long and three feet in diameter was rent in the middle.

Swift Punishment.

New York, January 2.—The thief who robbed the daughter of Wm. B. Sheldon, in Brooklyn, of jewelry, silverware, etc., (her wedding gifts) was found unconscious and [illegible] yesterday in an unfinished building adjoining the premises he had plundered. While escaping he [illegible] through the skylight and then through the stairway to the [illegible] floor, crushing his skull and breaking [illegible] of his arms and [illegible] his ribs. When discovered the booty was scattered all around. The name "T. Garv[illegible]" is imprinted on his arm. The man is now at Long Island College Hospital.

Kukluxism.

H[illegible], Ky., January 5.—Last Saturday night two colored men named Gibbs and Gumbo, were taken from their home by a party of masked men and partly hung. The Ku-klux accused them of burning the store house of H. C. [illegible] on the night of December 20. The colored men yesterday asked for the arrest of of their persecutors who, it is claimed, are respectable and even prominent, citizens of Hickman.

Body Stolen.

Allentown, January 7.—Joseph Snyder's body was stolen from the grave last night at Nazareth, Pa. Snyder was the man who was lynched near Santee's Mills, December 2[illegible] for murdering Jacob and Anna Gogle. No clew is known to the grave robbers.

Conger for the Senate.

Detroit, Mich., December 6.—In the Republican Senatorial caucus, the seventh and final ballot was taken amid great excitement, and resulted as follows: O. D. Conger, 50, and John J. Bagley, 57. Mr. Conger was then declared the unanimous nominee.