



The bill granting a pension of \$5,000 a year to Mrs. Garfield passed the lower branch of Congress Thursday last.

Three hundred and twenty thousand bushels of wheat were sold in St. Louis on Wednesday and Thursday last for immediate export. It was shipped at once for New Orleans, from whence it goes to Liverpool.

The Prohibitionists will hold a State Convention at Altoona on the 22d inst.—to-day—for the purpose of putting a full State ticket in the field, and taking such other action as may be deemed necessary to advance their cause.

The fight among the Democrats in the New York Legislature has grown so bitter that the Tammany members last week voted for the Republican nominee for Clerk of the House, and he was elected. The dead-lock is broken and the Bourbons badly "left."

Mr. BLAINE'S attack upon the South American policy of President Arthur is just as bitter and quite as indefensible as was that of Conkling upon Garfield. And yet those who are bitterly denouncing and pursuing Mr. Conkling have nothing but praise for Mr. Blaine.

The bill for the admission of Dakota as a State is now before the House of Representatives. There will be a strong fight against it on the Democratic side of the House, because its passage will give the country two more Republican Senators and at least one more Republican Congressman.

The President has made another judicious appointment in the nomination of Mr. John C. New, of Indiana, as Assistant Secretary of the Treasury. Mr. New was formerly United States Treasurer, and is thus fitted for the responsible duties of the position by experience in the business of the Treasury.

The colossal speculation which has been keeping up the prices of wheat and cotton has apparently collapsed in Chicago, New York and other points, with crushing disaster to those engaged in it. We may now look for a reduction of prices and a resumption of our export trade to foreign countries.

The "Tariff for revenue only" Democrats are not now nearly so noisy as they were during the last Presidential campaign. They evidently "heard something drop," and it is really quite surprising how many Democrats in Congress are now in favor of some kind of protection to American industry.

At a meeting of the Republican County Committee of Jefferson county last week, delegates to the State Convention were elected and instructed to use all honorable means to secure the nomination of General James A. Beaver for Governor, and Major A. M. Brown, of Pittsburgh, for Supreme Judge.

When you find a fellow going around howling that he is a Garfield Republican, he will be watching. The bolding, disorganizing "Garfield Republicans" are no more like the original than James G. Blaine is like King David. If the late President were alive to see the methods of the fellows who take his name in vain, he would speedily want to be dead again.

Asomina evidence of the big way they have of doing things out West is to be found in the announcement that a syndicate has been formed at St. Paul and Minneapolis to erect thirty grain elevators along the lines of the Chicago, St. Paul, Northern Pacific and other railroads, all to be tributary to a 600,000 bushel elevator to be erected on ground purchased between St. Paul and Minneapolis.

The State of Texas is "hand poor," and for the purpose of raising on some of it, she has just granted a tract one hundred and ninety-seven miles in length and twenty-seven miles in width to three capitalists in Illinois, as an equivalent for building a new State House, to replace the one lately burned. The domain thus granted is larger than the State of Connecticut and five times larger than Rhode Island.

It cost Schuykill county \$546 last year for tobacco for the prisoners in the county prison, being an allowance of half a pound per week to each of them. The authorities say that the work performed by the prisoners was in exact accordance to the amount of tobacco allowed. If this discovery in economies be true, why not enrich the county from the proceeds of their labor, by allowing them five potatoes each?

A friendly gentleman of Maryland has presented to Congress a petition requesting that notice be made an appropriation of \$1,500 to buy from him a "sweat knot" made of blue silk ribbon and silver tinsel (sufficed by age), which was formerly worn on the sword hilt of General Washington. It is doubtless a curious relic, but it will strike most people that the price asked is rather steep for a piece of blue ribbon, if it did belong to the father of his country.

Further evidence was needed of the fellow feeling—which is begotten coalition—between the Half-breeds and the Democrats of this county, it was furnished by the Democrat of last week; that paper having evidently undertaken the contract to do the dirty work for the new combination.

Having asserted in a previous issue that "Gaitner murdered Garfield to make Arthur President, that Grant, Conkling, Cameron & Co. might have the dispensing of the public office," it last week renewed its brutal assault by raking from the gutter all the political garbage it could collect, and heaping it in one foul mass upon the President and his distinguished friends. The annuals of journalism (not excluding Brick Pomeroy's Democrat of infamous memory) may be searched in vain for anything so disgustingly low and base. The Democrat has divided down deeper and come up more filthy than any known journal of the day. In its eagerness to serve its new allies—the Half-breeds—it gives circulation to vile slanders, which those of the baser sort may chuckle over, but have too much sense and discretion to publicly repeat. An older hand than that of the young editor is plainly discernible in the field, and taking such other action as may be deemed necessary to advance their cause.

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ATLANTA can boast of a genuine curiosity—a live female shoemaker young, pretty and industrious. Having occasion to send my little nephew with a pair of boots to be mended, he surprised me on his return by remarking that "she" did so and so about the boots. I then learned for the first time that we had in our neighborhood a young girl under 20 years of age, the daughter of a shoemaker, who daily works at the trade herself, not only mending, but making in good style both boots and shoes. For several years past she has been thus engaged and won the respect and patronage of a large circle of appreciative families.

The Pennsylvania Military Academy burned. CHESTER, Pa., Feb. 16.—The Pennsylvania Military Academy, in this city, was burned this evening. The fire originated in the laboratory, in the upper story, and burned furiously. The academy was a fine building, and the loss of it is a great calamity. The academy was founded in 1855, and has since that time been a place of instruction for young men. It was a fine building, and the loss of it is a great calamity.

Rock Rapids, Ia., Feb. 16.—Yesterday, before the coroner's jury, evidence was given in the case of the murder of John Lannan, who was killed on Saturday night. The evidence was given by the coroner's jury, and the case is still open. The evidence was given by the coroner's jury, and the case is still open.

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A DREADFUL AFFAIR. THE EXPLOSION AT CHESTER. Men and Women Blown into the Air and Torn Limbs from Limbs.

CHESTER, Feb. 17.—The number of persons missing and supposed to have perished in the explosion at Jackson's fireworks works on Tuesday night, and there were about seventy persons injured. The fire broke out in the old mansion which was occupied by a large number of colored families. While the firemen, surrounded by a large crowd, were playing on the flames, the explosion occurred. The scene which followed is indescribable. The air was filled with flying bricks and fragments of limbs were blown around in all directions. The dead are being laid out in City Hall and the wounded are attended at the various drug stores, which, however, are not sufficiently numerous to meet the exigencies of the case. The people and business is entirely suspended. Visitors are flocking into the place from all directions.

New York, Feb. 17.—A special from Chester says of the explosion there: This is the blackest day in the history of our fair city. Death in its most frightful shape has laid low nearly a score of our people, and many more have been wounded. The entire city is in mourning. Following close upon the destruction of the Military Academy, a severe loss in itself to the community, was the explosion of an alarm of fire from Jackson's fireworks factory and magazine. This was in the old Porter mansion, on Second street, and the river front. Prof. Jackson had occupied it for the past five or six years. He employed a few laborers, and was running the place to the fullest capacity, in order to supply his large trade. At thirty minutes past seven o'clock the alarm was sounded. In five minutes after the alarm was sounded the fire department was drawing water on the burning building. A terrific explosion followed, which shook the city, the noise reverberated throughout the country as far as the Jersey shore. A mass of flame shot high up into the air and the fragments of the building were hurled about. The quantity of powder exploded was so great that the danger was over and the firemen approached the flames until within touching distance without apprehension, and a large crowd of citizens gathered. At the time when the spectators were aured that the danger was over, a second explosion, and that all danger was passed, another explosion, much more fearful than the last, gave a terrific shock to the earth. The scene was awful, and so horrible that it is impossible to describe it. The crowd of frenzied spectators, many of whom were women, were with their bodies mangled beyond recognition. Some were so badly torn that it was impossible to tell what part of the body the shreds of flesh were torn from. On the spectators the effect was scarcely less disastrous. Many of them were so badly wounded, that they were unable to move. Those who were not injured rushed through the city spreading the horrible news. Almost instantly thousands of people, stricken with terror, poured from adjoining streets to the scene of the disaster. The news quickly spread to the neighboring streets, and a large number of people gathered. The cries of women and children who had lost husbands and fathers in the calamity, and wild injuries of others added to the terrible effect of the masses of bloody corpses and wounded. All the priests and pastors were on the spot in a short time to dispose of the dead and assist the wounded. The nearest house was about a hundred yards away. Many of the sufferers were taken there, and every one who could be of any service to the numbers of the Army and the Republic employed as a detective and Potter was arrested and brought into ambulances and everything that could be done to mitigate the horror. In a little time the rumor got abroad that the now rapidly spreading fire had reached the factory, and a rush was made for the vicinity. Among the dead are Dalton, chief engineer of the fire department; Barber, assistant foreman of one of the trucks; James Wunderlich, a well known citizen; McNeil, an employe near the factory; William Elizard, a police officer; Henry, a colored man, who was killed on the spot. A child whose name is unknown, was killed while sitting on the doorstep of his home.

Mollie Maguire Outrage. READING, Feb. 15.—An outrage of the Mollie Maguire order has been perpetrated near Millin, Schuylkill county. George H. Wagner, a well known citizen, was shot, and some time ago received a letter warning him either to leave that part of the country or to prepare his place in hell, and that if he did not get out first, his barn and live stock would be burned; second, his house would be destroyed, and third, he would be shot. No attention was paid to this, and the supposed Mollies, after waiting ten days, proceeded to carry out their threat. At one o'clock in the morning Mr. Wagner was aroused from sleep to find his barn on fire. By very hard work he and his daughter succeeded in saving thirty live horses and cattle, and with the assistance of Rev. Mr. Hay, who was staying there for the night, the dwelling was also saved, but the barn and its valuable contents was destroyed. During the fire a number of hot iron balls were thrown from the mountain, supposed to have been fired by the incendiaries. About fifty neighbors went in pursuit of them.

A Memorial 5000 Feet Long. WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—John P. Gould, of New York, is here with a memorial more than 5000 feet long, prepared by merchants, manufacturers, mechanics, farmers, taxpayers and others, residing in nearly every State in the Union, which will be presented to the Ways and Means Committee to-morrow or next day. It asks that the tax on bank deposits and the 2-cent stamp on checks and drafts may be abolished.

Inundation of a Texas Town. GALVESTON, Feb. 15.—It is reported here that the town of Columbia, Brazos county, is badly inundated by the Brazos river. Many inhabitants have been driven from their homes, and a church, having taken refuge in a church, are supplied with food by boats.

Senator Bill's Condition Hospital. PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 16.—The condition of Senator Ben Hill, of Georgia, who returned to the Jefferson Medical College Hospital for treatment nearly a fortnight ago, is reported as greatly improved to-day. An operation upon a gland of the neck was performed by Professor Gross several days ago, and since that time the patient has gained in strength and is able to take sufficient nourishment. His case is looked upon as hopeful, the attending physicians declaring their belief that all traces of the cancerous affection has been removed.

Star Route Swindlers. OMAHA, Neb., Feb. 16.—Judge Dundy, presiding over the United States Court at Lincoln, Neb., where the case of the Star Route swindlers is being tried, has been in progress for several days, yesterday morning directed the jury to return a verdict of acquittal, which they accordingly did. The government had completed the examination of its witnesses, the defense had not yet begun, and the case was fixed upon several members changing their position in favor of the government.

Death of Hon. S. A. Parviance. PITTSBURGH, Feb. 14.—Hon. S. A. Parviance died at his residence, in Allegheny City, this morning, after a protracted illness. Mr. Parviance was a member of Congress for two terms, and enjoyed the distinction of being a member of the Constitutional Convention, and also of having been Attorney General of this State. He was 73 years of age and leaves a wife and three children.

Sudden Death of a Legislator. MCCONELSBURG, Pa., Feb. 13.—Hon. James Kelley, member of the Legislature from Fulton county, fell dead from his chair this morning while sitting in his residence at Burg in Allegheny county. A week ago he fell down stairs and broke his leg, from which he was suffering.

A Cautious Deed. NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—Mary Kennedy, of Brooklyn, sued John Wiedel, of that city, for \$51,000 damages, under the civil damage act, for selling her husband liquor after she had notified him not to do so, and a jury to-day, in the Brooklyn city court, gave her a verdict for \$100.

Outrages on the Russian Jews.

LONDON, February 16.—It is understood that the reports of the British consuls in regard to the outrages against Jews in Russia are about to be issued by the Foreign Office. They are not, however, any evidence of violation of women have been clearly proved. The evidence is clear regarding other serious outrages. Had the authorities used the necessary force, the outrages might have been confined to a very narrow circle. The Jews still receive full information in regard to them. Mr. F. D. Mocatta has contributed £1,000 to the Jewish relief fund, and offers to contribute one per cent. of any sum not exceeding £1,000,000 collected within two years. At the meeting of the Jewish House Committee of the Jewish relief fund letters from Mr. Gladstone and Earl Granville were read acknowledging the receipt of the resolutions adopted at the meeting held at the Mansion House on the 1st instant to protest against the outrages perpetrated against the Jews in Russia.

LONDON, February 17.—A Vienna correspondent voices for the truth of the statement that Elizabeth, Kieff, Odessa, Niesin, Peczara, Kona and Proshar over many women were outraged by Jews during the disturbances. At Kieff General Dreteln, when appealed to for protection, said it was not worth while to risk the soldiers' lives. At Odessa petroleum was poured on a man's head and set on fire, and he died in agony. Subsequently a young child was mercilessly killed.

St. Petersburg, February 16.—The Jews in a village near Krahiner were attacked by Russian peasants on the 5th inst., and ten were nearly beaten to death.

Almost an Inundation at Helena. CINCINNATI, February 16.—A special from Helena, Ark., says: A heavy gale prevailed here this morning. During the prevalence of the wind the waves on the river were three to four feet high. At 12 o'clock the city in front of Commercial Row, at a fearful rate. The greatest damage occurred at the corner of Main and York streets, and it was with difficulty that the flow of water over the levee at that point could be prevented. Between 12 and 1 o'clock the city bells were vigorously rung, and merchants and others closed their places of business and hastened to the scene of danger. By 2 o'clock this afternoon the surface of the river was calm. In the vicinity of the Iron Mountain and Helena Railroad a heavy gale prevailed here this morning. During the prevalence of the wind the waves on the river were three to four feet high. At 12 o'clock the city in front of Commercial Row, at a fearful rate. 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