The Somerset Herald.

EDWARD SCULL, Editor and Proprietor

WEDNESDAY..... August 17, 1887.

REPUBLICAN NOMINATIONS.

COUNTY.

FOR SHERIFF,
RUSH S. McMILLEN, of Middlecreek Twp.

FOR PROTHONOTARY,
DANIEL J. HORNER, of Somerset Bor.

FOR REGISTER AND RECORDER,
JACOB D. SWANK, of Conemaugh Twp.

FOR TREASURER,
GEO. J. BLACK, of Meyersdale Bor.

FOR COMMISSIONERS,
DAVID E. WAGNER, of Shade Twp.
GEORGE M. NEFF, of Somerset Bor.

FOR POOR HOUSE DIRECTOR,
JACOB M. PIKE, of Somerset Twp.

FOR AUDITORS,
GABRIEL GOOD, of Somerset Twp.
SAMUEL U. SHOBER, of Somerset Twp.

FOR CORONER,
FRANK WOLF, of Meyersdale Bor.

HON. SAMUEL J. RANDALL declares specifically that the Presidential bee is not buzzing in his bonnet.

MR. HENRY S. IVES, the broker who wanted to, but didn't buy the B. & O. railroad, has busted. His liabilities amount to only $20,000,000.

STEPHEN A. DORSEY says that Blaine and Fairchild will be the nominees of the next Republican National Convention. Of course Stephen knows all about it.

KENTUCKY's endorsement of the President is, to say the least of it, not a very enthusiastic one. The country is anxiously awaiting the Carlisle-Watterson xplanation.

THE Prohibition question must be pretty hot in Tennessee, when a school teacher is driven away from the house in which he taught and an anti-Prohibitionist installed in his place, by a mob.

THE railroad disaster at Vermillion river is the most horrible one in the annals of this country, and the terrible suspicion is gaining ground that it was occasioned by the act of criminals intent on plunder.

WHAT do the manufacturers and workingmen think of the Cleveland-Carlisle-Ohio method of reducing the surplus by keeping the tax on whiskey and tobacco, and thus compel a reduction of duties on imported foreign fabrics?

SOME of our sanguine Democratic contemporaries had a brief season of rejoicing over their victory in Kentucky. They are, now busily employed trying to extract comfort from the adage that "enough is as good as a feast."

ONE of the significant features of the late Kentucky contest is that Bradley, the Republican candidate for Governor, polled about 125,000 votes, or 7,000 more than were cast for Blaine, while Buckner, Democrat, received about 135,000, or 7,000 less than were given to Cleveland.

"THERE is little reason for Democratic whimpering," says the Democratic Washington *Post*, and proves it by adding that out of a possible 54,134 fourth-class postmasterships, 47,992 have thus far been given to Democrats. The remainder are so undesirable, as to emoluments, that Democrats don't apply for them.

WASHINGTON news gatherers say that it is definitely determined that the President will leave the capital the last week in September, and go directly to St. Louis and from thence "swing around the circle," taking in Chicago, Milwaukee, Madison, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Omaha, Kansas City, Memphis, Nashville and Atlanta.

SINCE Germany has adopted the protective policy, wages, which were at the lowest possible point in that country, have steadily advanced. Yet, the Democratic leaders, in the face of this fact, are trying to persuade the laboring men of this country that they will be benefitted by abolishing the protective features of our tariff.

THAT the declaration of the Ohio Democracy against protection, was inspired by the National Administration can scarce be doubted, since Mr. Cleveland's organs are warning their journalistic brethren that they "had better be careful how they endorse the National Administration in one column and condemn the Ohio platform in another."

SENATOR VOORHEES expresses his satisfaction with the progress which the Administration has made in removing Republicans from office in Indiana. He knows of but one Presidential post office in the State that is not now filled by a Democrat, and if a Republican be left in any third-class post office in Indiana it is because no Democrat was willing to take it.

WHILE every other nation upon the globe is fidgeting about how to raise money to pay its interest and keep up appearances, the United States is mainly bothered with the question what to do with the millions of surplus in the treasury. This is one of the inheritances of Republican financiering. But it is better than the collapsed treasury Republicans found when they took charge of the Nation's affairs.

OFFICIAL returns from all but four counties in Kentucky with estimated returns from these, show that the vote polled at the late election exceeds by nearly 10,000 the vote cast at the last Presidential election, and that General Buckner has only a beggarly majority of 3,450 over all, on the largest vote ever cast in the State. This proves that a wonderful revolution has taken place in the political sentiment of Kentucky, and that she is preparing to take position in the Republican ranks.

MUCH ado was made the other day at the White House on the presentation to President Cleveland of a series of resolutions passed by the National Veteran Association of Des Moines, Iowa, assuming to voice the sentiments of 10,000 ex-Union soldiers of that State. When it is understood that the resolutions were gotten up by a local Democratic organization of ex-soldiers, numbering exactly forty-one members, it will be seen to what extent they represent the views of the great bulk of Iowa veterans.

UNITED STATES SENATOR RIDDLEBERGER, of Virginia, is in an ugly scrape. On Thursday last a client of his, who was on trial for larceny was adjudged insane by the jury. This incensed the Senator very much and he is accused of writing a placard and hiring a boy to haul his client through the town, the latter displaying the placard on which was written: "Verdict, Bill Jones not guily, but insane: Jury insane, lawyers insane, Court insane in the main." The court was interrupted by the noise accompanying this display; an order was issued to Riddleberger to appear before the court, where, after a hearing, he was adjudged guilty of contempt and fined $25. He then defied the court and was committed to jail for five days. At midnight a mob of 100 persons broke into the jail and released the Senator. The court will of course vindicate its dignity and its authority, and the end is not yet. This is a sorry spectacle presented to the county. A lawyer and a law-maker, defying and holding up to ridicule and contempt a judge for administering the law, and then availing himself of mob law to escape the consequences of his bad conduct.

MR. WATTERSON assures the friends of the President that the late election in Kentucky was "devoid of earnestness" on the part of the Democrats, and yet, so large a vote was never before cast in the State, the increase being nearly 10,000 over the vote of 1884. In 1883 the Democrats polled 133,615 votes and elected Proctor Knott Governor by a majority of 44,434, this year they polled about 145,000 and their majority will hardly reach 6,000. These figures effectually dispose of the pretext that the result is due to Democratic apathy.

THE Philadelphia *Record* is honest if it is not politic. It insists that the Allentown convention shall not play the hypocrite, by endorsing Cleveland and professing to favor protection. It further insists that, the President and the great mass of the party are in favor of adopting the Ohio tariff resolution which suits the Democrats and displeases the Republicans, and that "an honest party is always ready to declare its real principles." In this latter declaration we fully agree with the *Record*, and we would welcome a straightforward and honest enunciation of principles, and a square stand up fight on the question of Protection, just for the fun of showing how deep we could bury Free Trade in Pennsylvania.

THE Democratic anti-Protectionist journals are getting nervous as the next session of Congress draws nigh, with its meagre Democratic majority of sixteen in the House. Nothing but the severest party discipline can hold the party up to the line of "Tariff for Revenue only," and accordingly, we find the Harrisburg *Patriot* shaking the party lash in the face of Mr. Randall and his fellow Protectionists in the following style:

"When congress assembles in December next the democratic majority in the house must unite upon a scheme of tax reduction. The only possible plan to secure unity of action is by means of a caucus of the democratic representatives. The democratic representative who will refuse to enter such a caucus and abide by its decision will be recreant to his duty to his party and to the people and will be summarily dealt with at the polls. Mark that!

"Excessive taxation must be stopped. If the republican party continues its course of obstruction to measures of tax reduction it will be wiped out of political existence in 1888. If democratic congressmen prove faithless by resisting the will of the majority of the party in congress they may as well make up their minds to pack up bag and baggage for a final exit from the party. The time for parleying and pattering with traitors to the people's cause is past. The time for decision and resolute action has come."

Colonel Henry Watterson of Kentucky adopted this same summary method of reading a number of people out of the Democratic party, and judging from the returns of the late election in that State he appears to have overdone the matter. The *Patriot* ought to know that the danger ahead cannot be obviated with a club.

How to coerce Hon. Samuel J. Randall into assenting to the revision of the Tariff in a Free Trade sense, is the problem that is worrying the leaders of the Administration forces. Some time since, it was suggested that a bill, so revising the Tariff, should be introduced into the next House as the Administration's bill, and that any Democrat who voted against it should be read out of the party. But then came the hitch that, the fellow who was read out of the party still had a vote in the House and would retain his seat for two years, despite the Administration. Now comes another proposition, that a Democratic caucus be called, upon the assembling of the next congress, that a line of policy on the question of tariff reduction be adopted by the majority, and that any member who will refuse to enter the caucus and abide by its decision will forthwith, be ejected from the party. The same difficulty lies in the way of enforcing this proposition, as blocked the way to the adoption of the former one. The Administration can neither remove nor elect a member of Congress. All this worry in attempting to devise a plan whereby the Free Trade majority can capture the Protection minority in the next House, is equivalent to an admission that the handful of Protectionist Democrats hold the balance of power on that question, and therefore the attempt to scare them into measures by futile threats of thrusting them out of the party. Mr. Randall and his fellow Democratic members, who support the policy of Protection, do so in accordance with the wishes and interests of their constituents, and it would be political suicide for them to submit to the dictation of the Administration, or the party majority in this matter. The suggestion to coerce them into surrendering their convictions, and the interests of the people they represent has its value, as showing how completely Mr. Cleveland has identified himself with the Free Trade wing of his party and how little regard he and it have for the wishes and interests of the people, as voiced by their representatives.

Will the Allentown Convention Declare for Randall or for Cleveland?

There can be no doubt that the great body of the Democratic party in the country is in harmony with President Cleveland's administration and with a large majority of the Democrats in the fiftieth Congress in regard to a substantial reform of the tariff as a programme of party policy and an essential condition of political success. Nor can there be any doubt that the masses of the National Democratic party are heartily in sympathy with the President upon the issue which his Republican opponents have made with him concerning the veto of the Indigent Pension bill. The Democratic platform of Ohio faithfully outlines the true policy of the party. If the real sentiments of the Democrats of Pennsylvania could be expressed they would declare for this program of policy in the State Convention which will meet at Allentown in the latter part of August. But an attempt will undoubtedly be made to stifle the voice of the Democrats of Pennsylvania by processes which have been adopted since the organization of the party fell under its present fatal control; and the machine-made mob from this city and a similar delegation from Alleghany county, under the control of Federal office-holders owing allegiance to Randall, will undertake to segregate the Democrats of Pennsylvania from the National Democratic party, as they have done in former Conventions.

It may be said that in the hopeless and helpless condition into which the Democratic organization in Pennsylvania has been brought by Randalism it matters little what the Allentown Convention may or may not resolve in regard to the policy of the party. Such a plea deserves no serious consideration. The half million Democrats of the second state of the Union should not be misrepresented by a selfish chief of faction in the councils of the party. They should no longer suffer themselves to be put in a false position of antagonism toward the National Democratic organization and the policy of the Democratic administration of Cleveland. It is for the Democrats who will assemble at Allentown to say whether such a humiliating condition of things shall be maintained. Under the lead of Randall their party will become nothing better than a tender to the Republican machine.—*Philadelphia Record.*

DOWN TO DEATH.

Sixteen Crowded Cars Plunge Through a Bridge.

SCENES OF FRIGHTFUL MISERY.

One Hundred and Eighteen Killed and More than Three Hundred Injured—Some Suspicion of Foul Play.

An excursion train, carrying 900 passengers, bound to Niagara Falls, about midnight of Wednesday plunged through a burned bridge near the town of Chatsworth, Ill., on the Toledo, Peoria and Western Railway. The list of dead numbers 118, and of the 200 wounded it is probable that many will die. The corpses of the dead and the persons of the injured were plundered of money and jewelery, and this fact gives rise to the suspicion that the bridge was purposely fired in order to cause the disaster and furnish opportunity for the robbery.

INTO THE AWFUL CHASM.

CHICAGO, Aug. 11.—The *Times* special despatches from Forest, Ill., give the following description of the calmity:

All the railway horrors in the history of this country were surpassed three miles east of Chatsworth last night, when an excursion train on the Toledo, Peoria and Western Road dropped through a burning bridge and over 100 people were killed and four times that number were more or less badly injured. The train was composed of six sleeping cars, six day coaches and chair cars and three baggage cars. It was carrying 900 passengers, all excursionists, and was bound for Niagara Falls. The train had been made up all along the line of the Toledo, Peoria and Western road, and the excursionists hailed from various points in Central Illinois, the bulk of them however, coming from Peoria. Some of the passengers came from Canton, El Paso, Washington and, in fact, all stations along the line; some from as far West as Burlington and Keokuk, Ia. A special and cheap rate had been made for the excursion and all sorts of people took advantage of it. When the train drew out of Peoria at 8 o'clock last evening it was loaded to its utmost capacity. Every berth in six sleepers was taken, and the day cars carried sixty people each. The train was so heavy that two engines were hitched to it, and when it passed this place it was an hour and a half behind time. Chatsworth, the next station East of here, is six miles off, and the run there was made in seven minutes; so the terrible momentum of those fifteen coaches and two engines shooting through space at the rate of a mile a minute can be understood. No stop was made at Chatsworth, and on and on the heavy train, with its living freight, sped through the darkness of the the night.

Three miles East of Chatsworth is a little slough, where the railroad crosses a dry run about ten feet deep and fifteen feet wide. Over this was stretched an ordinary wooden trestle bridge, and as the excursion train came thundering down on it what was the horror of the engineer on the front engine when he saw that the bridge was a-fire. Right up before his eyes leaped the bright flames, and the next instant he was among them. There was no chance to stop. Had there been warning it would have taken a half mile to stop that on rushing mass of wood, iron and human lives, and the train was within 100 yards of the red-tongued messengers of death before they flashed their fatal signals into the engineer's face. But he passed over in safety, the bridge fell beneath it, and it could only have been the terrific speed of the train which saved the lives of the engineer and his fireman.

FORTY PEOPLE INSTANTLY KILLED.

But the next engine went down, and instantly the deed was done. Carcrashed into car, coaches piled on top of one another, and in the twinkling of an eye nearly forty people found instant death and fifty more were so hurt they could not live. As for the wounded, they were everywhere. Only the sleeping coaches escaped, and as the startled and half-dressed passengers came tumbling out of them they found such a scene of death as is rarely witnessed and such work to do that it seemed as if human hands were utterly incapable. It lacked but five minutes of midnight. Down in the ditch lay the second engineer, McClintock, dead, and Fireman Applegate badly injured. On top were piled the three baggage cars, one on top of another like a child's card house after he had swept it with his hand. Then came the six day coaches. They were telescoped as cars never were before, and three of them were pressed into just enough space for one. The second car had mounted off its trucks, crashed through the car ahead of it, crushing the woodwork aside like tinder, and lay there resting on the tops of the seats, while every passenger in the front car was lying dead and dying underneath. Out of that car but four came alive. On top of the second car lay the third, and its bottom was smeared with the blood of its victims.

The three other cars were not so badly crushed, but they were broken and twisted in every conceivable way and every crushed timber and beam represented a crushed human frame and a broken bone. Instanly the air was filled with cries of the wounded and the shrieks of those about to die. The groans of men and the screams of women united to make an appalling sound and above all could be heard the agonizing cries of little children, as in some instances they lay pinned alongside their dead parents. And there was another terrible danger yet to be met. The bridge was still burning and the wrecked cars were lying on and around the fiercely burning embers. Everywhere in the wreck were wounded and unhurt men women and children, whose lives could be saved if they could be gotten out, but whose death, and death in a most horrid form, was certain if the twisted wood of the broken cars caught fire. And to fight the fire there was not a drop of water and only some fifty able-bodied men who still had presence of mind and nerve enough to do their duty. The only light was the light of the burning bridge. And with so much of its aid the fifty men went to work to fight the flames. For four hours they fought like fiends, and for four hours the victory hung in the balance.

FIGHTING THE FIRE WITH EARTH.

Earth was the only weapon with which the foe could be fought, and so the attempt was made to smother it out. There was no pick or shovel to dig it up; no baskets or barrows to carry it, and so desperate were they that they dug their fingers down into the earth, which a long drouth had baked almost as hard as stone, and heaped the precious handfuls thus hardly won upon the encroaching flames, and with this earthwork, built handful by handful, kept back the foe. While this was going on other brave men crept underneath the wrecked cars, beneath the fire and the wooden beams which held as prisoners so many precious lives, and with pieces of board and sometimes their hands beat back the flames when they flashed up alongside some unfortunate wretch who, pinned down by a heavy beam, looked on helplessly while it seemed as if his death by fire was certain; and while the fight was thus going on the ears of the workers were filled with the groans of dying men, the anguished entreaties of those whose death seemed certain unless the terrible blaze could be extinguished, and the cries of those too badly hurt to care in what manner the end were brought about, so only it would be quick.

So they dug up the earth with their hands, reckless of blood streaming out from broken finger nails and heaping it up in little piles, while all the while came the heart-rending cry "For God's sake don't let us burn to death!" But finally the victory was won, the fire was put out after four hours of endeavoring, and as its last sparks died away a light came up in the East to take their place and dawn came upon a scene of horror.

While the fight had been going on, men had been dying and there were not so many wounded to take out of the wreck as there had been four hours before. But in the mean time, the country had been aroused; help had come from Chatsworth, Forest and Piper City, and as the dead were reverently laid alongside of each other out in the cornfield, there were ready hands to take them into Chatsworth, while some of the wounded were carried to Piper City. One hundred and eighteen was the awful poll of the dead, while the wounded numbered four times that many. The full tale of the dead cannot, however, be told yet for days.

A TOWN MADE A MORGUE.

Chatsworth was turned into a morgue to-day. The Town Hall, the engine house and the depot were full of dead bodies, while every house in the village has its quota of the wounded. There were over 100 corpses lying in the extemporized deadhouses, and every man and woman was turned into an amateur but zealous nurse. Over in a lumber yard the noise of hammers and saws rang out in the air, and busy carpenters were making rough coffins to carry to their homes the dead bodies of the excursionists, who 12 hours before had left their homes full of pleasurable expectations of the enjoyment they were going to have during the vacation which had begun.

When the news of the disaster was first flashed over the wires, prompt aid was at once sent. Dr. Steele, chief surgeon of the Toledo, Peoria and Western Road, had come on a special train, and with him there were two other surgeons and their assistants. From Peoria also came Drs. Martin, Baker, Fluegler and Johnson, and from every city whence the unfortunate excursionists had come their physicians and friends hurried on to help them. From Peoria had also come delegations of the Red men and the Ancient Order of United Workmen, members of both societies being on the ill-fated train, and so after 8 o'clock this morning there were plenty of people to do the work that needed such prompt attention. In the Town Hall was the main hospital, and in it anxios relatives and sorrowing friends sat and, fanning gently the sufferers' faces queried the attending surgeons as they bound up their wounds and insisted that there must be hope. Down in the deadhouses fathers, husbands, brothers, sisters, wives and children tearfully inspected each face as it was uncovered, and sighed as the features were unknown, or cried out in anguish when the well-known face, sometimes fearfully mangled, but yet recognizable was uncovered. The entire capacity of the little village was taxed, and kind-hearted women drove in for miles to give their gentle ministrations to the sufferers.

No sooner had the wreck occurred than a scene of robbery commenced. Some land of unspeakable miscreants, heartless and with only animal instincts, was on hand, and like the guerrillas who throng the battle-field the night after the conflict and filch from the dead the money which they received for their meager pay, stealing even the bronze medals and robbing from the children of heroes the emblems of their fathers' bravery, so last night did these human hyenas plunder the dead from this terrible accident, and take even the shoes which covered their feet. Who these bad wretches are is unknown. Whether they were a band of pickpockets who accompanied the train or some robber gang who were lurking in the vicinity cannot be said. The horrible suspicion, however, exists, and their are many who give it credit that the accident was a deliberatly planned case of train wrecking; that the bridge was set on fire by miscreants who hoped to seize the opportunity offered, and the fact that the bridge was so far consumed at the time the train came along, and the added fact that the train was an hour and a half late, are pointed out as evidences of a careful conspiracy. It seems hardly possible that men could be so lost to all the ordinary feelings which animate the basest of the human race; still men who will rob dead men; who will steal from the dying and will plunder the wounded held down by broken beams of a wrecked car, whose death by fire seemed imminent, can do anything which is base, and that is what these fiends in human form did.

They went into the cars when the fire was burning fiercely underneath and when the poor wretches who were pinned there begged them "for God's sake to help them out," stripped them of their watches and jewelry and searched their pockets for money. When the dead bodies were laid out in the cornfield these hyenas turned them over in search of their valuables, and that the plundering was done by an organized gang was proven by the fact that this morning out in the cornfield sixteen purses, all empty, were found in one heap. It was a ghastly plundering, and had the plunderers been caught this afternoon they would surely have been lynched.

A HUSBAND'S SUICIDE.

There was one incident which stood out more horrible than all of those horrible scenes. In the second coach was a man, his wife and little child. His name could not be learned to-day, but it is said he got on at Peoria. When the accident occurred the entire family was caught and held down by broken woodwork. Finally, when relief came the man turned to them friendly and feebly said: "Take out my wife first. I am afraid the child is dead." So they first carried out the mother, and as a broken seat was taken off her crushed breast, the blood which flowed from her lips showed how badly she was hurt. They carried the child a fair-headed, blue-eyed girl of 3, and laid her in the cornfield dead, alongside of her dying mother. Then they went back for the father and brought him out. Both his legs were broken, but he crawled through the cornfield to the side of his wife, and feeling her loved features in the darkness pressed some brandy to her lips and asked her how she felt. A feeble groan was the only reply and the next instant she died.

The man felt the forms of his dead wife and child, and cried out: "My God there is nothing more for me to live for now," and, taking a pistol out of his pocket pulled the trigger. The bullet went surely through his brain, and the three dead bodies of that little family are now lying side by side in Chatsworth waiting to be identified.

A Wealthy Beggar.

BOSTON, August 14.—Mrs. Mary Smith, a disreputable old woman aged 76, who for years has been an eye-sore upon the streets of this city and has been arrested any number of times for pilfering and eating out of garbage barrels, besides having been five times in the alms house, was accidentally knocked down and run over on Hudson st., last night by a butcher cart, and died in her garret at No. 71 Albany street this morning. She was covered with rags which were alive with vermin, but when the health officer began to clear out her room a gold mine was struck. In the mattress was $500 in money. Upon her dress $7,500 in bills, $3,000 in paper currency in the closet, a bank-book with a credit of $8,000 in the trunk and $10,000 in Government bonds in an old dress in the same trunk. She has no relatives as far as known and the find creates great excitement. She had been a professional beggar from early womanhood.

Rice Lands Overflowed.

CHARLESTON, S. C., August 10.—Reports received this morning from the freshets in the rice districts indicate a total loss of the crop on the Savanah river. This it is estimated reduces the Carolina rice yield to about half a crop. Twenty thousand acres of rice are now under water in the rice sections of Georgia and Carolina. In the rice district around Charleston the crop is uninjured. There will be no serious damage done here unless high easterly winds should set in and back up salt water on the plantations. The river at Augusta was thirty-four feet until seven o'clock this morning. It has since fallen slightly.

Fred Douglass' Return.

NEW YORK, Aug. 13.—Fred Douglass returned from Europe to-day. Everywhere he was accorded many courtesies, and returns with a favorable impression of the countries through which he has traveled. While in France he visited the French Senate, and as a representative colored man of this country was cordially received and entertained by the French dignitaries.

"Nowhere," Mr. Douglass said, "by a single word, look or gesture was disapproval expressed of my color, or the kinks in my hair, and I have had a most pleasant and agreeable time during my stay abroad."

A BIG PITTSBURG FIRE.

The Heart of the Great City Is Devastated by Flames.

PITTSBURG, Aug. 12.—Thirty thousand people stood helplessly by for three hours last night and witnessed the destruction of three of the most valuable buildings in Pittsburg. Masonic Hall, Samuel Hamilton's Music Hall and Schmidt & Friday's liquor store. The alarm was sounded from the box at Fifth avenue and Smithfield street at 9:30 o'clock, and all the engines in the district were on the scene in less than 10 minutes. The fire was found to be burning in the basement of that part of Masonic Hall occupied by Henry Holtzman, upholsterer and furniture dealer, and originated from some excelsior stove therein.

A dense volume of smoke was the first evidence of the magnitude of the work that greeted the firemen. There were no early indications of stubbornness and the firemen sent several streams of water into the basement, expecting usual results. Still the volumes of smoke issued from every crevice. In 15 minutes a blaze of dark lurid fire shot out into the darkness in the store room of Campbell & Dick. In a few moments a stream of water broke the plate glass windows on its way to quench the advancing fire. The stream was powerless to check it, however, and another and another followed it, but the flames had found the shelves burdened with light calicoes, muslins and cotton goods and was devouring them regardless of the many efforts of the firemen to drown them out.

A VAST SHEET OF FLAME.

The interior of the great store room, filled as it was with articles of a cumbustible nature, was soon a sheet of seething flames and for a half hour the combined efforts of the firemen, front and rear, were powerless to extinguished it.

Meantime the fire had extended to the buildings in the rear of Masonic Hall. Another alarm was sent in followed by another till every engine in the city was on the ground and an appeal was sent to Allegheny for assistance.

Once the flames had broken through the floor of the first story they had little difficulty in extending to the second floor, and in a few minutes both floors were burning at the same time. Shortly before 11 o'clock they found an approach to the roof through the medium of the elevator flame. In 10 minutes more the top of the building was aflame and the hook and ladder truck was unlimbered and brought into requisition. A dozen men mounted to the roof and took position on the ladder, and in 15 minutes the fire on the roof was under apparent control.

Soon the Holtzman store room, adjoining the store of Campbell & Dick, was one sheet of flame. In 10 minutes $30,000 worth of goods were burned.

TAKING A FATAL HOLD.

Again the fire obtained possession of the roof, and this time it refused to be swept off by the streams of water thrown upon it. They leaped up, and still higher, till they took hold upon the woodwork of the supposed fire-proof Hamilton building. The glass broke and they entered the building and took hold upon the flooring, the wainscoating and the timbers under the roof. The west wind cooled the brows of the panting firemen, but it was an inspiration to the flames and with renewed vigor and volume they took hold of the tower of the building and in a moment were flying in the winds with the flag. From the rear of the building a pillar of flame burst forth like a huge volume of water and appalled and disheartened the firemen for a moment. It rushed forward and it took hold of the tower at its base. Finally the foundation supports were burned off and the conical tower fell with a crash to the street 200 feet below.

THE PATH OF RUIN.

Meantime the flames had been working downward through the flooring of the building and at 12 o'clock the four upper floors were completely enveloped, the flames issuing from the front and rear windows at the same time. The building was furnished with hose on every floor and efforts were made to man them, but they proved to be ineffectual, as the flames moved so rapidly that they drove the volunteers and firemen from the halls and out into the street.

At 12:30 o'clock this morning it became evident that the Schmidt & Friday building could not be saved from the power of the fire, as little volumes of flame were seen to issue from the windows at short intervals. At 1 o'clock great volumes of flame burst out of the center of the roof. This blaze came from the ventilating and lightning flume, which on this occasion served the purpose of a blowpipe. From the flume the fire burned steadily toward the front of the building, but was confined largely to the seventh and eighth floors.

The Hamilton building is badly damaged from the fourth to the eighth floors by fire, while the entire building is seriously damaged by water.

The sparks that were so generally distributed at midnight were carried to the Opera House, which caught fire as did also Harris theater and other buildings circumjacent, but the prompt action of the people on the roofs speedily extinguished the incipient flames.

At midnight the prospect of a general conflagration was so great that the occupants of the business houses on both sides of the street made preparations to move out. Postmaster Larkin called in all the delivery wagons and summoned his employes in order to be ready to remove the mails and valuables to a place of safety.

THE BURNED BUILDINGS.

Masonic Hall fronts on Fifth avenue for 90 feet and is three stories in height. On the ground floor Campbell and Dick, dry goods merchants occupied the remaining apartment. The second floor, once a public hall, was occupied by Campbell and Dick, while the third floor was taken up with the lodge rooms of the Masonic Order. The hall property line ran half way to Virgin alley. Back of it, extending to the alley, Campbell & Dick owned a three story brick building, which was connected with their main stores. it stood flush with the eastern line of the hall property and below it was two frame buildings occupied chiefly by Italians.

The Hamilton building, site and all, cost about $360,000. Of this sum over $70,000 was paid for the site. The block contained 101 rooms, and all of them were occupied by tenants of the most desirable character. The building was insured for $110,000. It was eight stories in height, and the most impesing business structure in the city, facing 50 feet on Fifth avenue and extending back to Virgin Alley.

The Schmidt & Friday building on Fifth avenue is 30 feet front, facing on the avenue and cost 130,000. It has 80 rooms, of which 40 were occupied when the fire took place. Its extreme heighth, eight stories, made the frontage look very narrow, but an examination of its facilities for office business proves it one of the most desirable and best paying properties on the avenue; its depth running clear back to Virgin alley compensated for its apparent narrowness.

A Ranchman Murdered.

CHICAGO, Aug. 10.—The Chicago police received information to-day of the murder of William Cambell, a big ranchman of Texas, who was robbed in this city, it is thought, of $2,500 a year ago in Connelly's saloon, at Harrison street and Fourth avenue. Connelly and one Farrell were tried for the crime. Farrell secured a new trial and Connelly jumped bail. July 26 Campbell arrived in McPherson, Kan., with a herd of ponies, heading for Chicago to assist in the prosecution of Farrell, whose case is still pending. He had as an employe a tender named Van Doren, and on the evening of the 26th the two went to a barber shop in the little town. They left together and that was the last seen of Campbell alive. His body, with one foot and hand burned off, was found partially consumed on the top of a hay stack the next day seven miles west of where he camped the night previous. The head had been completely severed from the body. No trace of Van Doren was found for two days, when he was arrested with the herd of ponies twenty miles farther on. A number of Campbell's letters and about $3,000 were found on him.

WORK OF A STORM.

Many Barns Blown to Atoms by the Gale—A Farmer Instantly Killed—A Ball of Fire that Scattered Pedestrians.

CARLISLE, August 11.—The oldest inhabitants say they never saw such a furious storm as swept through the Cumberland Valley this evening. The wind blew like a hurricane, rain fell in great sheets, and big hailstones came pelting down, cutting fruit trees and what corn was left standing after the wind had leveled great patches of it. Blindingeflashes of lightning followed each other in quick succession, while the thunder came in short, deafening explosions like a crash of bursting cannon. A large amount of valuable property has been destroyed, but the loss can not yet be estimated.

Between this city and Mechanicsburg, a distance of nine miles, no less than ten barns were blown to atoms and their contents taken up in the wind till the heavens seemed clouded with flying debris.

A farmer named Berkheimer, who lives near Middlesex, was caught under the falling timbers of his barn and instantly killed. Several buildings at the Indian training school were damaged, and all over the valley houses were unroofed and big trees pulled up like weeds. The lightning killed live stock in several instances. The total loss will reach many thousands of dollars.

SWEEPING THROUGH READING.

READING, August 11.—This section of the country was visited about 4:30 this afternoon by a wind and rain storm of unexampled fury. For fifteen minutes the heavens were black as night and people had to use lights to transact business. The wind blew with the violence of a whirlwind, and to-night the streets are strewn with uprooted trees and thousands of broken branches. Window panes were smashed, grape arbors demolished and fences overthrown. Charles Peacock's coal office was wrecked by a big tree crashing down upon it, and a number of sheds and barns were unroofed.

At Seventh and Penn streets a ball of fire flew from the telephone wires against a cornice, then split into a score of smaller electric balls and scattered the terrified pedestrians in the street below in every direction.

At High's Woods 500 people who had gathered for the Reading Boat Club's regatta were thoroughly drenched and the races had to be abandoned.

Reports from the country districts are to the effect that corn, which had promised a fine crop, is level. Many hay stacks are thrown to the winds and trees and fences are down in every direction.

In East Reading the hurricane did over $10,000 damage. Houses owned by Alberta Beadencup, Magnus Ott and D. F. Lotz, and the frame malt house of William Deppen were unroofed and partly demolished. In the Catholic, Lutheran and Hebrew Cemeteries a number of huge trees were torn up and hurled among the monuments and tombstones, breaking and damaging many of them.

At McHose & Co.'s fire brick works the tall brick stack was blown down, involving a loss of several thousand dollars.

SERIOUS DAMAGE ABOUT LANCASTER.

LANCASTER, August 11.—The storm was of short duration but of considerable violence in this city and the Northern part of the county. In the city Bitner's large warehouse, near the Reading Depot, was completely unroofed and one wall badly shattered. Several other houses were unroofed and a number of trees blown down. A barn belonging to a farmer named Snavely, at Petersburg, was struck by lightning and consumed with contents. In the vicinity of Penryn Park hail fell and the rain fell in torrents. Much inconvenience was caused by the disarrangement of the telegraph wires.

All 'Frisco Shaken.

SAN FRANCISCO, August 11.—The Giant Powder Works, located at West Berkeley, six miles from this city, across San Francisco Bay, exploded at 2 o'clock this afternoon. The force of the explosion was such that windows along the battery front in this city were smashed, and buildings throughout the entire business portion of the city quivered to an extent that it was believed the city had sustained a heavy earthquake shock. There were four shocks, the second and third almost simultaneous and occurring shortly after the first. The fourth shock was felt about three minutes after the third.

The first occurred in the nitro glycerine or mixing house, the others in the magazines resulting from the concussion caused by the first.

The first report from the scene of the disaster was to the effect that 30 Chinamen had been killed, but later reports showed that only one Chinaman was fatally injured and four white men and six Chinamen were severely injured.

The works were owned by Bandman, Neilson & Co., and a number of serious explosions had occurred prior to this one, no Chinamen losing their lives on a former occasion. The shock of the explosion to-day was felt in Oakland and Alameda most severely. Windows were shattered in the former places and general commotion prevailed in this city. The explosions almost threw workmen who were employed on the wharf off their feet.

The bright flashes of the light of the explosion were seen through the haze by but few, but when the shock was felt all instinctively looked over toward the Berkeley shore. When the second explosion occurred the flash was seen by hundreds.

Fastened to the Track.

LOUISVILLE, August 11.—Adolph Vieneman, who lives near West Point, Kentucky, was found bound on the railway track near that village at 11 o'clock last night. He was released a few moments before a lightning express train thundered by. Vieneman is 20 years old and lives with his mother about a mile from the Salt River Bridge, near which is the town of West Point. Last night he had been to the drug store and about 9 o'clock was on his way home. He had just walked across the long trestle, when he was accosted by three men who, he thinks, were tramps. They asked him what time it was and he drew out his watch, striking a match to see the dial. As he did so, one of the men struck him on the back of the head with a club, felling him on the ground. He was quickly beaten to insensibility by the ruffians, who then ransacked his pockets, taking a small sum of money, a knife, watch and finger ring.

When they finished they laid him across the tracks and with a long bridle rein tied his hands and feet and then fastened his head to the rail. His senses were returning and he heard the men say he was dying and that a train would be along directly. They scampered off as soon as they had finished. When Vieneman recovered he began screaming for help and finally two men who were passing came to his assistance. They released him only ten minutes before the train passed and carried him home, where he is now in a serious condition.

The Drought Over.

CHICAGO, Aug. 11.—A light rain fell here for several hours last night which had a very beneficial effect in cooling the atmosphere and subduing the incipient prairie fires about the city. The slower appeared to be general throughout the Northern part of the state, and the indications are that it will by repeated to-day.

A despatch from Dubuque, Ia., says about two inches of rain fell last evening throughout the whole of Northeastern Iowa. Corn, grain and pasturage are greatly helped by it.

A despatch from Grand Rapids, Mich., is less reassuring, however, it says that a heavy rainstorm visited that section last night. It came too late to benefit the crops very much though it will lessen the danger from fires.

Senator Cameron in Chicago.

CHICAGO, August 14.—Senator Don Cameron, accompanied by ex-Governor Samuel T. Houser, of Helena, Montana, arrived here to-day, on their return from a trip to Alaska. Senator Cameron went East on the afternoon train, having been hastily summoned to Beverly Farms, Mass., where his daughter lies very ill.

SHOT TO DEATH IN UTAH.

A Legal Execution Near Salt Lake City.

SALT LAKE, UTAH, August 11.—Frederick Hopt, alias "Welcome," was shot to death in the yard of they penitentiary four miles from this city to-day. The firing party consisted of five men with rifles. Dr. Hamilton pinned a rosette over Hopt's heart, told him to be firm and look straight at the guns and death would quickly come. He would not be mutilated, but would be if he flinched. The condemned man showed the utmost firmness, and said he forgave everybody, but if he had got a fair show in the first trial he would not be here to-day. He came out of his cell smoking a cigar and kept it in his mouth to the last. He posed for a photograph. He was seated on a chair upon a blanket; sat up straight and firm. Marshall Dyer gave the word: "Ready, fire." The crack of five rifles rang out as one, and the rigid body of the dead man retained its pose, the body falling forward and the chair falling over backwards and his stiff limbs resting on the rung as when he sat upright. Two bullets pierced the small rosette pinned over his heart, one a little above the other, a little below the centre. Death was instantaneous.

The case is one of great celebrity in Utah and Wyoming for its atrocious circumstances. The murder was committed at Park City, Utah, on the night of July 3, 1880, the victim being John F. Turner, son of John W. Turner, sheriff of Utah county. He had started out with two teams and met Hopt, who had been in jail in Provo, the county seat of Utah county, for drunkeness and horse stealing. He engaged Hopt to help to drive a team. They camped together and were joined later by Jack Emerson.

The deed was committed about 10 in the evening with an axe. The next day Hopt and Emerson started with the teams, trading off the grain in the wagons for whiskey and provisions, with the dead body in the bottom under the sacks of grain. That night Hopt covered the body with rocks and brush and tried to burn it. The teams were turned eastward, and one was sold by Hopt at Piedmont and the other at Green River. Hopt took the money, and had a gay time with whiskey and women at Cheyenne, until Sheriff Turner, the father of the murdered man, caught up with him and identified him. In the meantime the body had been found and identified.

On the way from Cheyenne, at Green River and at Echo, attempts were made to lynch Hopt, but he was protected by Sheriff Turner, father of the victim, who had Hopt in custody.

The first trial, February 16, 1881, he was convicted, but the United States supreme court ordered a new trail, because the judge's instructions were not reduced to writing, as required by the law. The second conviction March 3, 1883, was reversed on account of Judge Hunter's errors. The third trial, April 29, resulted in conviction, another appeal and the United States supreme court again reversed and ordered a new trial because the record