Awful Catastrophe

Horrible Carnage on the New York and New Haven Railroad—Fifty Lives lost, and a great number wounded.

The morning train of cars from New York, on the New Haven Railroad, run off the draw-bridge at Norwalk, Conn., on Friday last, causing one of the most appalling railroad carnages that has ever happened in this country. The draw-bridge had been opened for a steamer, which had just passed through when the train came along, and without seeing or regarding the signal, dashed over the road, and the locomotive, baggage-car and three passenger cars, were precipitated into the river presenting a most frightful spectacle—there being upwards of one hundred passengers, men, women, and children, involved in the ruins, or sunk beneath the water in the cars. The reporter for the New York Tribune says:

The draw-bridge where this awful occurrence took place, is about 250 yards from the Depot, and the signal can be seen therefrom.

The draw-bridge had been opened to admit the passage of the steamboat Pacific, and the signal was accordingly lowered. The Engineer neglected to take notice of the signal, and the train of two baggage and five passenger CARS came on at a tremendous pace—without slackening speed in the least—to the bridge, which is 55 feet in span, and so great was the momentum that the engine leaped across the gulf and struck its fore part against the abutment on the other side.

The engine, two baggage cars, and two passenger cars, were hurled into the water, which was at high tide. The distance from the level of the Road to the water is about 18 feet; the depth of water about the same.

The scene beggars description. Men, women and children, who a few moments before were anticipating the fortunate termination of their journey and meeting with residents, appeared literally in the twinkling of an eye launched into eternity; and yet which were hurried into their number without a moment's warning.

All the citizens of Norwalk were early on the spot, and rendered every assistance in their power to rescue the unfortunate sufferers. The sides of the cars were broken in with axes, and great exertions were used, that had not assistance been so promptly rendered, must have shared the same terrible fate.

The unfortunate sufferers who were not drowned or killed, were taken to the houses of the citizens, but died soon after their arrival. We noticed the ladies of Norwalk were most indefatigable in rendering assistance in the occasion.

The engine and baggage cars completely filled up the gap of the channel at the place. The passenger cars were drawn to the bank of the river, and complete wrecks. Most of the dead were taken out before 2 o'clock. The total number of passengers on board the cars was 216, besides the servants of the company.

The scenes are too sickening for relation.

The scene at the railroad station house in Norwalk, yesterday afternoon, was appalling. In one small apartment were *twenty-eight* ghastly corpses, rigid in death; and in another *seventeen*—thickly covering the floor. Among them, numerous surviving friends were eagerly scrutinizing each countenance, with mingled hope and fear, lest their dear relative, or one other another was identified, the scene was often painfully affecting. Infancy, youth and old age were all represented among the dead. The body of a beautiful female child, seeming to be almost animated with life, elicited exclamations from many. Almost all the bodies were greatly disfigured with bruises and cuts, and probably in a majority of instances, injuries of this kind were sufficient cause of death. A few entirely died of strangulation of water. Before dark all the bodies were dressed in their clothing ready for coffins of black walnut, and forwarded to their friends.

The dead lay in rank, their faces gleaming horribly, as lamps were carried along to enable the newly arrived strangers to discover their friends. Wives and children, or parents or brothers, or sisters, were among them. I have, very frequently said dead men and women, but never before so frightful an exhibition. The dead were not one sex or one class of men, and the females in another; and both were dark, except as lighted fitfully and imperfectly by candles and lamps, of which the rays could scarcely penetrate more than an arm's length from the holder. Every house in Norwalk is a hospital. Every family is devoted to the care of the suffering and the dying.

I learn that there was no crying—no apparent excitement—at the time of the catastrophe. Every one seemed frightfully calm; and the stunned condition of mind and energy were exhibited by the existence of the village and others in rescuing the unfortunate living and dead.

SCENE IN THE BAGGAGE ROOM.

The scene in the car-house and baggage room was most solemn and impressive. Never shall we forget it. Forty-six bodies of men and women, and one little children were laying around! The agonized features, some covered with horrible contusions, or deep gashes—the foam issuing from the mouth and nostrils, the clinched teeth and hands, and wet garments, formed a sickening and horrible. The friends or relatives of the deceased, wandering from corpse to corpse, and eagerly searching for the features of some loved one, rendered the scene not unlike that of a field of battle.

HARTFORD, May 7.—The Legislature, at its session this morning, appointed a special committee to investigate the cause of the late disaster, and instructed them to repair at once to the scene of the disaster, and collect facts and report officially. A bill was introduced making it a fine of $18,000 for every person killed upon a railroad, and imposing heavy penalties for injuries on account of accidents caused by carelessness. A thorough investigation of this affair is to be had. The legislature also resolved to appoint a board of railway commissioners, with extensive powers.

PAPER OIL.—Dr. J. V. C. Smith, of Boston, says that immense crops of poppies are raised in Switzerland, not for the opium, but for the oil extracted from their seeds. The oil is beautifully transparent, extensively used in oil painting, colorless as water, and, when mixed with white lead, leaves a beautiful surface that never becomes yellow. Now that linseed oil is relaxing in price, and as much of our soil is well for the cultivation of flax, he advises the attempt at cultivating the poppy here, which does very well even on poor and dry soil. He says, too, that the oil is also palatable for salad.

Terrible Steamboat Explosion at San Francisco.

NEW ORLEANS, May 6th, 10 P. M.—The steamer Daniel Webster has arrived bringing San Francisco dates of April 16th, being one week later.

The steamer S. S. Lewis, from San Juan for San Francisco, got ashore near the former port, and proved a total loss.—Her passengers 400 in number, with their baggage, were saved, but the cargo was lost with the vessel. The total loss is estimated at $200,000.

Another terrible accident had occurred at the head of San Francisco Bay, by which 18 persons were instantly killed, and many others seriously wounded.—The steamer Jenny Lind, formerly plying between San Francisco and Sacramento, exploded her boilers. The plate of one of the boilers blowed out, scattering death and destruction all on board.

Eighteen dead bodies were recovered, and thirty others dreadfully wounded by scalding, &c. Among the scalded are some eight or ten so dreadfully that they cannot recover. The dead and wounded were nearly all residents of San Francisco. The steamer at the time was returning from a trip to Alviano.

DREADFUL STEAMBOAT DISASTER.—The steamer *Ocean Hero* was destroyed by fire at 2 o'clock on Saturday morning, fifty miles above Kingston on Lake Ontario, while on her passage to Ogdensburg.—Out of fifty passengers and the crew only twenty-two were saved. When the fire was discovered the boat was one and a half mile from the shore. Her upper deck was consumed in fifteen minutes, and her hull drifted off to the shore and went in two hours. Those saved were picked up by vessels passing at the time. The boat was owned by the Northern Railroad Company at Ogdensburg.

REMARKABLE COINCIDENCE.—Dr. Josiah Bartlett, of New Hampshire, one of the victims of the recent accident on the New Haven railroad, was visited a few weeks ago, at his residence, by a friend from this city, who invited him to spend a few days in New York, at the then approaching Metropolitan Festival. Dr. B. replied that it would afford him much pleasure to spend some time in our city with him, and great pleasure to escape danger in travelling to and fro, augmented by the fact that when he last visited New York he had engaged a passage in the steamer Lexington, for the fatal trip on which she was burned, when almost every passenger perished, but he did not reach the wharf in season to get on board. He subsequently overcame his reluctance to travel, attended the festival in this city, and met the fate he dreaded, in the New Haven cars.—*N. Y. Courier.*

Riot, Arson and Murder.

Blair County has been disgraced by the perpetration of another most diabolical outrage within her borders; by another scene of riot, arson and fiendish murder, which hardly has a parallel in the annals of crime.

The outrage occurred on Wednesday last, and had its origin in the bad feeling existing between the class of Irish laborers employed on the line of Public Works. It seems just a "christmas" was to be given by the public road by three "Pardowns" or Conemaughs, and Mr. Shearer, a prominent and seven-by beaten by them. In retaliation, the latter men on several occasions railed on the former, as above mentioned, and proceeded to the job on which the offenders against their claim were employed armed with guns and other weapons, and commenced a murderous assault, firing into the shanties and putting the inmates to flight for their lives. The men in question they particularly wreaked their vengeance, firing many well aimed shots into a shanty and putting the inmates to flight for their lives. Upon one occasion they particularly wreaked their vengeance, firing many well aimed shots into it, and finally set it on fire and burning it to the ground, together with its contents, including one unfortunate inmate, who for some reason, perhaps being disabled by a late attack, was unable to escape. In the morning his crisped and charred and dismembered body was found among the ashes, a most revolting and horrible sight, with the legs burned off to above the knees, the arms to above the elbows, the eyes from their sockets, and the entrails burst from the abdomen.

Measures were immediately taken to arrest the offenders, by the authorities in the neighborhood, and by Monday evening some 40 were lodged in prison, to answer indictments for *murder, arson, and riot.—Hollidaysburg Register.*

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE LADIES.—The Centreville (Md) Times publishes a letter written by Dr. Thomas Bellingfield Hands, in 1764, to a relative in England, from which we make the following extract, as showing the fashions of those days. The letter is dated "Chester, in Maryland, November 12, 1764," and, after a reference to the family affairs says:

"Maryland is not the Maryland that it was when I first arrived here. Letters and science, politeness and luxury are abundantly seen in our manners, buildings, equipage, furniture, plate, dress, &c. In our dress we run the *route* which you ladies set us. My daughters now take seventeen yards of three-quarter mantuas silk, and twenty-three yards of satin on a gown to make them a robe. [It only takes forty now, after a progress of ninety years.]—Whereas a little more than half this quantity did use to serve their late excellent mother. Wives and mothers have lately find my silk cut into rags, by flourishing, scolloping, pinking, and I know not what. And when I begin to complain—*Oh! my dear sir! upon my word, papa, this is the fashion.*" And *Mistress Stitch-away* never fails to second them. And I must *bear sir!—upon my word, papa, this is the fashion.*" And *Mistress Stitch-away* never fails to second them. And I must *bear* the reproach of my easy chair again and say no more."

MILDEW.—We find the following recipe for mildew on Peach and other fruit trees, recommended by the serious *London Times*. As the disease called mildew, is often prevalent in this section of our country, we extract it *verbatim et literatim*, hoping that it may be of use:

"Take sulphur and rain or river water, and add sulphur in the proportion of two ounces to four gallons of water. Put the quantity which may be required into a copper boiler, and let it (after it commences boiling) boil for half an hour; after which it may be taken out, or suffered to remain until it becomes of a tepid state, when it ought to be applied by means of a garden engine, or syringe, as in a common washing with water. The time for applying it is annually, as soon as the fruit is set, and considered out of danger."

A cocoomb, talking of the transmigration of souls, says, "in the time of Moses I have no doubt I was the golden calf."

"Very likely," replied a lady, "since has robbed you of nothing but the gilding."

THE STAR AND BANNER.

GETTYSBURG.

Friday Evening, May 13, 1853.

WHIG STATE TICKET.

FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER,
MOSES POWNALL, of Lancaster.

FOR AUDITOR GENERAL
A. K. MCCLURE, of Franklin.

FOR SURVEYOR GENERAL,
CHRISTIAN MEYERS, of Clarion.

REMOVAL.

☞ The Office of the "STAR & BANNER" has been removed to the three story building, recently occupied by D. M. SAUER, Esq., in Baltimore street, a few doors above Fahnestock's Store.

Bursary.

On Friday night last the Shoe-Store of our neighbor, Mr. D. KENDLEHART, was entered by thieves, and a lot of boots, shoes, tools, and other articles stolen therefrom. All the circumstances point to a German, calling himself FREDERICK MILLER, as the burglar. He is a Shoe-maker by trade, was in the employ of Mr. Kendlehart at the time, and decamped during the night of the 6th without notice to any one. He also took with him a fine Setter Dog, about five years old, white color, with numerous Spanish spots, answering to the name of "Duff." MILLER is about 40 years old, 5 feet 7 or 8 inches high, speaks English with difficulty, has a heavy expression of countenance, and a peculiar walk, throwing his left shoulder forward, probably more than the right, in consequence of an enlargement of the right shoulder. He had on when he left a dark blue frock-coat and pants, and cloth cap, but had with him a dark green sack coat, a bright colored vest, and other clothing.

We are thus particular in describing the personal appearance of Miller, in the hope that it may lead to his apprehension, as there is reason to believe that he has gone in the same game in other places. Mr. KENDLEHART offers a reward of $20 for the apprehension of the burglar and his detention until secured by an officer from this place.

☞ The bank of Gettysburg has declared a dividend of 3 per cent, and the Gettysburg and Peter-burg Turnpike Company, a dividend of 1 per cent.

☞ LEWIS WELSH, Esq., formerly of this place, has been reappointed to a clerkship in the Sixth Auditor's office. Mr. SHEARER'S term has reduced from a 8 to 4 clerkship to one worth $1200. H. J. SCHREINER, Esq., has been removed.

☞ On Monday last, Andrew Polley, J. A. Thompson, D. Kendlehart, D. M'Conaughy, and H. J. Stahle, were re-elected Managers of the Gettysburg Water Company.

☞ A spirited election for President and six Managers of the Hanover Branch Railroad Company, was held on Monday last—the issue being a local one. We annex the results:

PRESIDENT.

A.W. Eichelberger	252
Jacob Young,	123
Geo. Eichelberger,	317
Henry Wirt, sen.	189
Charles Will,	255
D. J. Culbertson,	243
Jacob Sweney,	206
J. F. Stamper,	182

MANAGERS.

Jacob Young,	123
Geo. Eichelberger,	317
Michael Bucher,	119
Henry Wirt, sen.	189
Lewis Wolf,	121
Charles Will,	255
Enoch Lefever,	122
D. J. Culbertson,	243
Joseph Dellinger,	117
Jacob Sweney,	206
J. F. Stamper,	182

THE REQUISITION FOR M'CREARY.—It has been stated that Gov. Bigler had withdrawn the requisition upon the Governor of Maryland for M'Creary, the notorious kidnapper of the Parker girls.—This, it appears is a mistake. Gov. Lowe has *refused* to surrender M'Creary. A river demagogue, or a blinder devotee of the Slave Institution, never filled an executive chair than this blustering, egotistical Gov. Lowe. The traducer and libeller of Pennsylvania Courts and Juries, the protector of murderers, and patron of kidnappers, a favorable response to the requisition, clear as the sun is, could hardly have been expected from him. These repeated breaches of official courtesy on the part of Maryland, cannot fail to engender an unfriendly feeling between the two States. If Slave-hunting Marylanders from Maryland continue to commit flagrant outrages upon our soil, and Maryland continues to refuse to have them brought to justice, it is not difficult to foresee the nature of the retaliatory measures that must be forced upon our law-abiding people.

☞ HON. N. P. Tallmadge, formerly U. S. Senator from New York, writes to the National Intelligencer a letter expressing his firm belief in the spiritual rappings and other similar demonstrations.—He says he has had frequent communications from John C. Calhoun, Daniel Webster and Henry Clay, and that these communications are all characteristic of the individuals, some of them even from Mr. Calhoun being, both in style and sentiment, worthy of him in his palmiest days in the U. States Senate.

☞ Gov. Bigler has appointed James Burnside, Esq., of Bellefonte, President Judge of the new Judicial District, which is composed of the counties of Centre, Clinton, and Clearfield: He has also appointed Geo. R. Barrett, Esq., of Clearfield, President Judge of the Wayne, Pike and Monroe district in place of Judge Dillard, appointed Naval officer at Philadelphia.

☞ Daniel Krabor was elected Chief Burgess, and Henry Lanies second Burgess of York, Pa., on Saturday.

THE STATE GOVERNMENT.

☞ Have the people of Pennsylvania considered the enormous expenditure of their State Government every year, and are they pleased and gratified to know that they are on a scale large enough for a model *nation?* The annual appropriation Bill, passed at the last session of the Legislature, contains no less than *one hundred and three sections*—was passed almost in the last hours of the session, when few, if any, of the members knew what they were voting for, and it provides for appropriations of *five millions one hundred thousand dollars!* We give below an abstract of the items of appropriation that our readers may see to what purposes their money is applied:

The several departments,	$37,965 00
For Legislative expenses,	100,000 00
Public Printing,	25,000 00
Distributing the laws, &c,	700 00
Miscellaneous,	3,000 00
Water and Gas,	2,000 00
Common Schools,	200,000 00
Contingencies and gaudies,	20,000 00
Judiciary,	91,000 00
Interest on public debt,	2,000,000 00
Public works,	1,501,765 00
Pensioners,	14,000 00
Publishing abstract of accounts of	
County and Borough	5,000 00
Charitable Institutions,	53,000 00
Printing registry books,	6,255 00
Legislative Record,	1,200 00
Geological Report,	2,000 00
Damages,	2,135 00
Extra compensation to officers,	1,500 00
Wages,	9,000 00
Library,	500 00
Certain rents,	3,000 00
Portage Railroad,	413,000 00
North Branch Canal,	350,000 00
Relevied State stock of the Commonwealth,	157,000 00
Will the reader just notice the item of Public Works—more than a million, when a half of dollars to pay repairs and old debts alone, besides $20,000 for damages and $50,000 for new work on the North Branch, $413,000 for Portage Railroad and North Track of the Columbia Railroad. It was stated in the Senate, that on reporting the bill to the Senate, (it having previously passed the House) as Chairman of the Committee on Finance, Mr. Darsie could attribute to the very large amount of appropriation for the public works, which he remarked would strike Senators with surprise. The amount appropriated for repairs and ordinary expenses alone amounted to more than one-half the revenue derived from the whole works in any one year. He thought the Commonwealth would be well rid of these works. For his part he was sick of them, and would be willing to give them away, if the State cannot get rid of them in any other way.—*York Republican.*

☞ Religious troubles appear to be rife in Cincinnati. Lately they had a most exciting contest for School Directors, in which the Catholic candidates were all defeated. A few days ago, David T. Disbaker, the Mayor of the city, forbid a Protestant street-preacher from holding forth on the Sabbath, on the plea that his sermon against Catholicism had the tendency of disturbing the peace. The preacher, however, disregarded the warning, and the very Sunday on which he was forbidden to speak he mounted upon the head of a barrel in the midst of the market space, and was speaking to a crowd of about a hundred persons, when the Mayor, attended by the regular police, and a large body of special officers, appeared on the ground and obliged him to desist. This was in the morning. In the afternoon of the same day a great Catholic procession, numbering from five to ten thousand men, with badges, flags, banners, and a large number of bands of music, marched through the streets to lay the corner-stone of a Catholic church. The Catholic church bells were ringing during the whole time, the brass bands, comprehending nearly all in the city, were playing, and the procession marched through half the town, blocking up the streets, making an ostentatious parade, which created a great deal of excitement, sufficient to render some of the streets impassable to church-going people, and to disturb the stillness of the Sabbath. The Mayor had a large police force out to protect the procession. These circumstances led to the holding of a large public meeting which denounced the conduct of the Mayor. The meeting appointed a committee of hundred citizens to waits upon him, and request his immediate resignation.—The object of the Mayor seems to have been to prevent a riot on the occasion of the Catholic procession, but, in so doing, he has thoroughly aroused the Protestant population, and added fuel to a religious excitement which was already quite deep and bitter.

☞ Few people out of the business have any idea of the cost of publishing a newspaper. The Editor of the New York Tribune gives the following as its expenses for the past week, which is about the average cost per week of printing that journal:—paper $2,427 07, type-setting $822 65, other expenses $1,078. Total $4,327 90. More than $225,000 a year.

VIOLENT STORM.—A tornado of very great violence passed over Moses' Point, in the lower part of Princess Anne county, Va., yesterday. A number of houses were blown down, and a great many damaged to a considerable extent, every thing for many miles being prostrated.—Four persons were instantly killed, and a number seriously injured.

☞ A new fashionable umbrella has made its appearance in Paris. It is an umbrella fixed to the shoulder by a spring, and following the movements of the body. This covers the body as the ancient one, and leaves the person who uses it at entire liberty to manage his hands as he is pleased.

☞ It is said that Cornelius Vandbilt, late Printer to Congress, has obtained the great brick contract for the Capital wings. He is to furnish 40,000,000 at $5.88 per thousand.

Notices.

THE POPULAR EDUCATOR.—This is the title of a new monthly publication just issued by Alexander Montgomery, N. Y. It promises to be the most comprehensive, educational periodical ever issued from the press. It will include a regular course of instruction in the following branches of knowledge, embraces Language, Natural History, Mathematics, Physical Science, Industrial Science, Fine Arts, Anthropology, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Civilization and Miscellany. Publishers are the 1st of every month at 12½ cents per No. or $1.50 a year, the postage on each No. is one cent.

☞ Graham's Magazine for June, closes the first volume of the new and improved series. It is a very beautiful work, filled to the brim with the usual illustrations, and a strong array of contributions. The new volume, commencing with the next number, promises still further improvements—ample arrangements having been made for the procurement of the best talent to insure proper variety of the very best of all kinds of engravings. Geo. R. Graham, Editor, 114 Chestnut street, Philadelphia; $3 per annum, two copies for $5.

☞ HARPER'S MAGAZINE.—The original articles in the May No. comprise more than half its contents, and are embellished with such a profusion of illustrations, that it is almost entirely an illustrated magazine. The selections are, as usual, of a popular cast, and will prove attractive to a large portion of the readers of the Magazine. The publishers have improved the magazine, which, now issues a monthly edition of 118,000 copies. Harper & Brothers, 82 and 331 Pearl street, New York; $2 per annum or two copies for $5.

☞ The Student, for April, is an excellent number, abundant with valuable and interesting articles well adapted for the family circle, being devoted to literature, philosophy, science, and both head and heart. Terms, $1 per annum in advance. Edited by Fahnestock, Fisher, Address, post-paid, Fowlers & Wells, 131 Nassau st., N. York.

☞ "UNCLE TOM."—The New York Herald, which has been decidedly down upon Uncle Tom, has the following in regard to the popularity of the book and Mrs. Stowe's reception in England:

Hence such as crowned heads have selected, received await on all sides it is authoress of Uncle Tom's Cabin. Congratulations *after fete* that a sovereign of Chicago, and the greater part of its vast land was arrived in that thrilling village. Since the first of April just such scenes have been enacted daily from the depot of the Central Railroad for the same place. On Thursday evening a gorgeous train left the depot for the West, composed of twenty-nine of the splendid new passenger and luggage cars of the Central Railroad, all thronged with people." Uncle Tom's Cabin, or one hundred thousand copies, sold in England, twenty editions, comprising 300,000 copies, have been sold in France. Thirty editions, or 300,000 copies, in Germany, twenty editions, or more than 200,000 copies, in the rest of Europe. We shall not exaggerate if we say that twenty-five millions of the work in Europe amounts to two millions of copies!! It has, moreover, been dramatized in all the principal theatres and the passages have become more familiar to the people than the heroes of history. In Paris, for instance, the twenty editions, comprising 300,000 copies, have been sold in France. Thirty editions, or 300,000 copies, in Germany, twenty editions, or more than 200,000 copies, in the rest of Europe. We shall not exaggerate if we say that twenty-five millions of the work in Europe amounts to two millions of copies!! It has, moreover, been dramatized in all the principal theatres and the passages have become more familiar to the people than the heroes of history. In Paris, for instance, the twenty-seven theatres have produced it,