

# A GLANCE AT SAMOA.

## SOME INTERESTING FACTS CONCERNING THE PEOPLE.

### The Interest Shown by American People at This Time.

It is probably safe to say, asserts the *San Francisco Chronicle*, that nine-tenths of the people of this land are in a state of intense geographical darkness as to the location of the Samoan Islands. A good many people imagine that the islands are a few hundred miles west of San Francisco but lots of other ordinarily well-informed folks dispute that statement without, however, being able to afford any specific information as to the location of these little coral-founded mud-heaps over which so much diplomatic fuss is being made.

If you draw a circle on a good map of the Pacific Ocean and include within the boundaries of your ring the junctions of the thirtieth and fourteenth parallels of south latitude and the one hundred and sixty nine and one hundred and seventy long and longitude west of Greenwich, you will find that you have fenced around that portion of the globe in which Samoa is to be found. The little irregular shaped dots on the surface of the ocean are the islands over which not a few people are worrying. Nine of the islands are inhabited. These are the prizes. There are a number of smaller and comparatively valueless islets, but they are rarely heard of. The islands which make up the Kingdom of Samoa are called



The Samoans have a peculiar variety of what they call dances. There is but little real dancing, however, for the performers are seated the greater part of the time. Elizabeth Scott Barker thus describes one of the dances she saw on the deck of an American man-of-war at Apia: "The dance is performed mostly in a sitting posture, and consists in all conceivable motions of the head, body and arms, the rear rows furnishing music by clapping hands in various measures and in perfect time. The movements of the eight dancers were performed with the utmost precision and grace, and through the whole party sang. Many of their wild melodies are really beautiful. Every figure of the dance has its significance. Some, as loading and firing a gun, sewing, rowing, were palpable, but the greater part was unmeaning to the onlooker, and indeed, as understood for an hour or more, after which



SAMOAN HOUSE AT TONGA.

some plays were given, always accompanied by the weird singing and clapping of hands. One play represented dogs quarreling over a bone, and the deep growls and snarls of the men representing the big dogs, as well as the shrill bark of the chief's daughter, the little dog, were very natural, as well as their antics. Another play represented a mother mourning over her dead baby. She was crying with one eye shut, a Samoan custom, when the father coming in discovered the misfortune, which has fallen his house. He then threw the body even more violently than that of his spouse, and he indicated that nothing could solace him but rum. What he had gained sufficient control over his feelings he asked the mother what was the cause of the child's death, and he replied created great merriment among the natives. She said it had died waiting for the American man-of-war to come. The entertainment finished in a frenzy of motion, a throwing of of ladies a wail of the body, and a hearty peal of laughter."

The question is frequently asked: "What interest has the United States in Samoa?" The interest is not a small one. Samoa is almost directly in the course of vessels running between the Pacific coast and Australia and New Zealand. This line of commerce is growing very rapidly, and its proposed extension to include Samoa, would be of great benefit to the United States. Samoa is a port of call and a coaling station in Samoa, and if the kingdom is in the possession of one of the great European powers it would shut American vessels in a measure of hostilities, and thus do irreparable damage to this country. If the Niagarua canal is completed Samoa will then be in the direct line of communication between Australia and Europe, and this will be of enormous value to the United States and the other islands. England does not want them; she has Fiji, Australia, and New Zealand. The United States does not want them; it only wants to see them independent, it only wants the Samoan autonomy to be not disturbed or imperiled.

## FIFTIETH CONGRESS.

### SENATE.

In the Senate Thursday Mr. Morgan proposed an amendment to Mr. Everts' resolution relating to Texas outrages, as follows: Resolved, That the committee on the following: "Said committee shall so frame the legislation they may recommend under this resolution that it shall not apply to any State whose constitution and laws relating to elections of members of the House of Representatives provide ample security for the honest exercise of the right of qualified electors to vote and for the just and impartial counting and returns of the votes cast at such elections, and for the just, impartial and true ascertainment and certification of the result of such elections, and in which State these requirements have been honestly complied with."

### HOUSE.

In the House, Thursday, Senate amendments to the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Appropriation bill were non-coincided in a conference appointed.

The Fortifications Appropriation bill, with Senate amendments, was referred to the House.

The Senate bill for the admission of the State of Dakota was then called up and amendments offered.

In the House Republicans are so sure of an extra session that they have a number of resolutions by which they wish to bring up this question in the course of business to prevent filibustering. They will propose a rule providing that when the previous question is ordered by two motions shall thereafter be in order, one motion to adjourn and one motion to reconsider. If both these shall be voted down it shall be construed as the will of the House that the vote on the previous question shall proceed, pending which no further dilatory motions can be entertained by the chair, nor will they propose to have no fixed hour of adjournment, as the fixing of an hour puts the House at the mercy of filibusters.

## THE CANADIAN TOURISTS.

### To Start on their Trip Through this Country About May 1.

The proposed excursion through the Middle, Southern and Eastern States for the purpose of enlightening Canadian members of Parliament as to the actual condition and resources of this country is being arranged. It is expected about 400 of her Majesty's subjects will accept the invitation, and about half as many Senators and Congressmen will be asked to do the honors as guides for the visitors. About May 1 the proposed excursion will start. Three solid Pullman trains will leave Suspension Bridge for Buffalo, where the tour of inspection of American cities will begin. The route of the proposed excursion will be via Buffalo, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Kansas City, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Louisville, Nashville, Atlanta, Birmingham, D. C., Baltimore, Philadelphia, Scranton, Harrisburg, New York, Boston, Montreal and Ottawa. At the larger cities two days will be allowed, but the stay in other places will be limited to a day.

### Six Men Killed by a Boiler Explosion.

The boiler of John F. Jenks' saw mill at Murphy, Pleasant county, Va., burst and killed Best Carr, fireman; James Black, Sawyer; Thomas Ash, Griffin Boyles and Charles Zinn laborers. Mrs. Jenks, who was passing at the time, was also killed.

# BUSINESS OUTLOOK.

## DUN REPORTS TRADE INCREASING, BUT PRICES LOWER.

### Stocks Are Higher but Pig Iron Production Decreases and Prices Are Still Low—Unfavorable Rumors About Copper.

R. G. Dun & Co's weekly review of trade will say: Actual improvement in business continues, although there is still much complaint that the trade thus far this year has been disappointing. The payments through the banks are large, the movement of freight is larger, and the earnings of the railroads satisfactory, but the output of iron has declined, and the uncertainty in grain, cotton, iron and minor metal markets affect many departments of business unfavorably. The upward movement in prices, which was noted last week, has not been sustained, the general average for commodities being about half of 1 per cent lower than a week ago, though still about that much above the level of February 1. In the money and stock markets, the changes during the past week have been not very important, but on the whole in the direction of improvement.

The output of pig iron has diminished. The furnaces in blast February 1 were producing 147,111 tons weekly, against 151,279 January 1, a decline of 3 1/2 per cent. While this is but a natural reaction after the enormous and excessive expansion of the past few months, and still leaves the weekly output about 31 per cent larger than at this time last year, it is an evidence of a shrinkage in demand, which may result in a much greater decrease in output, for the rail business is stagnating, only three million of fourteen now running, according to a recent statement, and a record of sales this year have been far below the capacity of works. The plate and tank iron trade is dull, and in structural iron the business is slow, though hopeful for the future. There is a cutting in sales of pig iron by some Northern as well as Southern furnaces, and purchases are generally confined to immediate needs. The coal trade is also depressed by over-production and cutting of rates.

The copper market has been weaker abroad, and conflicting rumors about refusal of American mines to contract with the syndicate are current. Sales of lead have reached 1,400 tons, prices declining to \$3.61. The tin market is also demoralized, with quoted sales at \$21.25.

In wheat the rapid rise reached 93.4 cents on the 12th, but prices have since been weaker, and show an advance of only a cent for the week. Sales here have been 37,000,000 bushels, but Atlantic exports were in the five weeks ending February 21 only 242,453 bushels, against 1,764,533 last year, and of flour, 506,760 barrels, against 1,032,532 last year. This, compared with exports of 10,115,353 bushels of corn during the same weeks, against 1,729,567 last year, shows how foreign trade has been affected by the speculation which has prices of wheat at Chicago far above prices at the seaboard. Corn has advanced but half a cent, with sales of 9,000,000 bushels, and oats are unchanged. Oil speculation has lifted the price 1/2 cent, with sales of only 7,000,000 barrels. Cotton, with sales of 375,000 bales, and coffee, with sales of 297,000 bags, have each declined 1/8, and pork is 50 cents lower, with lard 2 1/4 cents lower per 100 pounds.

The dry goods trade has been only moderate in amount, but is more hopeful, because the recent cutting of prices has diminished. Staple cottons are irregular and generally sluggish, though prices are fairly held, but print cloths are a shade lower at 4 cents. There is fair activity in cotton and in worsted dress goods, but the movement in woolens is irregular; liberal as to worsted goods and overcoatings, but only moderate as to cassimeres, flannels, blankets and hosiery. The operations in this, as in other branches of business, are to some extent retarded by the close scrutiny of credits which the slowness of collections in many quarters naturally prompts, but the reports from the interior in that respect are this week rather more favorable than before. At all interior points reporting the money market is easy, with a comparatively light demand, and the accounts as to the volume of business would indicate but modern transactions. Nevertheless, the clearings through the banks last week were 18.4 per cent larger than a year ago outside of New York, only seven cities reporting any decrease, of which San Francisco, Minneapolis and St. Paul were the most important.

The business failures during the last seven days number, for the United States, 243, and for Canada, 46; total, 289; as compared with 383 last week and 273 for the corresponding week last year.

## OUT A THOUSAND DOLLARS.

### A Remarkable Piece of Forgery Comes to Light After Many Years.

A remarkable piece of forgery was discovered at St. Louis, Mo., in a State security paper twenty-five years old. A lot of bonds were presented to City Comptroller Campbell, in the course of a financial transaction, by Mr. J. S. Arthur. All the collaterals passed inspection except one Missouri defense bond of the issue of 1864 for the sum of \$700. This was handed back to the owner, the Comptroller telling him that it recalled a bit of historic forgery. The words "Jesse James, Governor of Missouri," had been written in the blank space left for the signature of the Governor. Officers every signature and every feature of the document was genuine.

Mr. Arthur was astonished at the discovery of the forgery. He explained that he had bought the bonds years ago, but had not examined them very critically on receiving them, as he did not doubt but what all were correct. He loses nearly \$1,000 including the face of the bond and interest that should have accrued.

### Six Persons Badly Hurt.

At Chester, Pa., a northbound passenger train on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad ran into a street car at the Twelfth and Edgemont streets crossing and threw the car from the track. There were five passengers, all ladies, in the car at the time, and four of them were severely hurt, one, Mrs. J. Shaw, of Upland, seriously. She will probably not recover. The driver of the car was also badly hurt. The street car is a complete wreck.

# LATE NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Council of Irish-American Societies in Chicago decided, after a hot debate, to have St. Patrick's Day parades this year.

Employees in Potts Bros.' Rolling Mill, at Pottstown, Pa., have been notified of a reduction in wages of 10 per cent., to take effect March 1.

Several clergymen and other American tourists are confined in Turkish prison because their passports were not vised by the Turkish Consul General.

George Folwell, a Lake Shore telegraph operator, has been arrested at Erie for accepting excessive pension fees, bribing a fellow operator to bribe. He will be taken to Tennessee for trial.

Suit has been entered by the State of Kentucky against Manager Charles Smith, of the Western Union Telegraph Company for \$500 penalty for failure properly to report the company's property for taxation.

Horace A. Palmer, Manager of the Erie City Foundry, was arrested on Saturday charged with attempting to bribe a public officer by offering a commission to Samuel L. Snelley, Chief of Bureau of Surveys, on goods purchased for the city of Philadelphia.

President Cleveland will hold no receptions and receive no callers this week in order that he may dispose of the arrears of business before the close of his term of office.

At the meeting of the New York Central Labor Union a split occurred over charges of bribery in connection with the brewers' troubles and 32 organizations, representing 33,000 men seceded.

Herman F. Koike, manager of the New York warerooms of the Knabe Piano Company, of Baltimore, and a member of the Lotus Club, shot himself dead. He suffered lately from melancholia.

Edward Quinn killed his brother John at Avondale, near Cincinnati, by striking him on the head with a club during a drunken quarrel. The murder was committed in presence of their mother.

A mass meeting of Irish-Americans was held at Washington Sunday to protest against Balfour's tyranny in Ireland and express sympathy with Parnell. About \$800 was subscribed to the Parnell Defense Fund.

Albert and George Avery, of Youngstown, O., were trampled to death by cattle in Wyoming Territory.

The Civil Service Reform Association of Maryland has extended a call to reformers in various parts of the United States to attend a conference on February 23.

The committee appointed by the General Assembly of Ohio to investigate trusts has reported. They make a scathing arraignment of the entire system. Several of the leading combinations are mentioned as especially dangerous. The principle on which they are based is said to be entirely false, legislation is recommended that will abolish every form of trust in the State.

The saloons in Badger, Duncombe, Lehigh and Barum, Pa., were raided and the liquor spilled by indignant citizens, who are determined to enforce prohibition. There are 13 open saloons in Fort Dodge, and active measures will be taken at once to make the city 'dry.'

A colored fien made love to a mulatto girl on a street in Havana, Cuba. She rejected his advances, when he poured a can of petroleum over her clothes, completely saturating them, and then set her dress on fire. She was burned so badly that she died. The monster escaped and no one knows who he is.

The cattle growers of Northern Montana propose to establish dressed beef warehouses along the line of the Manitoba Railroad and thus to control the price of Montana cattle, instead of having the "Big Four" of Chicago set the price.

The Berlin *Volk-Zeitung* has been confiscated for libeling Prince Bismarck.

Scott Harrison, brother of the President-elect, has arrived in New York with his wife and three children from their home in Kansas City.

The English Court of Appeal has rendered a decision upholding the Edison-Swan electric light patent against Holland and the Anglo-American Brush Electric light corporation.

# SCORES PERISH.

## BIG HOTEL STRUCTURE FALLS.

### Fifty Persons Buried in the Debris.—Prominent Men Missing.

At Hartford, Conn., the main portion of the Park Central Hotel, facing on High and Allen streets, fell down, burying in the debris at least fifty people.

It is the most horrible catastrophe that has ever been known in Hartford, and when the list of dead and wounded is completed it will be found to be a horror equal to any that has taken place within the last half century.

The loss of life is believed to be not less than 50, but it cannot be stated definitely at present, as the night clerk is among the missing and the books are destroyed.

The cause of the accident is not at present known, but it is supposed to have resulted from the explosion of the boilers in the basement, and from the havoc created in the adjoining buildings the explosion theory seems the most probable. Every window in the Earl House, right across Allen street, was broken, and the walls were smashed in many places. The noise of the fall aroused the whole city, and in a very few minutes a large crowd surrounded the scene. It was a sight of horror, and one that will never be forgotten by the spectators.

Flames completely enveloped the ruins, and the shrieks of the wounded and dying rose high above the hoarse notes of the firemen and police who had been summoned by an alarm from the fire department.

Nearly all the help employed in the hotel were saved. They occupied the sleeping apartment in the annex which was only partially wrecked by the explosion. Some forced their way out themselves and others were helped out.

The entire main section of the hotel is gone, only a pile of brick and timbers remaining. The scenes about the ruins were horrible. In the center of the spot where the building stood were a man, his wife and a little girl. No help could get to them, and they finally fell back in the flames and perished in plain sight of the spectators. This child cried for help, but the man and woman uttered no word. Embraced in each other's arms, they met death bravely.

The shrieks of another woman caused the blood of the spectators to turn cold as they saw a young lady lying with her body half over a beam, a look of agony on her face. Finally the support fell and she dropped out of sight.

Wm. Seymour and Wm. Skinner were employed in the boiler room. Neither could be found this morning, and they probably perished. Eddie Boyle was last seen in the hotel. He was probably killed.

The shock of the explosion blew out every window in the south side of the Earl House, just north of the Park Central Hotel. Women, their faces blanched with terror, and strong men, pale with fright, rushed tearing into the street in their night clothes.

Charles M. Weber, insurance agent, of Hartford, is missing.

Mr. Pond, of Indiana, the Democratic Speaker, was a guest at the hotel, and is supposed to be among the killed.

Ansley Risley and Alexander Thayer were in charge of the boiler. It was reported first that they were both killed, but there are parties who say they have seen both men since the disaster.

The Park Central Hotel was a five-story brick building, situated about one block from the Union depot, and was principally patronized by commercial men and theatrical troupes.

## WHILE IN A TRANCE.

### A Young Girl Assumes the Features of Her Grandmother.

Miss Annie Stillman, of Baltimore, Md., scarcely sixteen, has developed into a wonderful spiritualistic medium.

She lives with her parents at No. 1323 North Carey street. Three years ago she began to go into trances, which have continued at intervals ever since. The most remarkable thing about the trances is that in each one she assumes the features of her grandmother, who died ten years ago.

Just as soon as she enters a trance, her rosy cheeks are replaced by a pinched and haggard appearance, and her voice changes to that of an old woman. While in this condition she converses freely with those about her. Her strength is something wonderful. In the presence of a reporter she successfully resisted the efforts of three strong men to pull her out of a chair. Physicians and psychologists are deeply interested in the case.

## MISS STEPHENSON'S CRIME.

### She Pleads Guilty to a Charge of Robbing the Mails.

Hattie B. Stephenson, a handsomely dressed young woman, was brought to Cleveland from Wellsville, Ohio, by Deputy United States Marshal George E. McKay on a charge of robbing the mails. Miss Stephenson was chief clerk in the Wellsville Postoffice, where it is said she robbed letters of checks and money aggregating \$500. Miss Stephenson pleaded guilty to two indictments. She was allowed to return home on \$1,000 bail pending sentence. Mr. Stephenson is a merchant at Wellsville, and he is among the most respected citizens of the place. Miss Stephenson has hitherto borne a spotless record.

## A Naughty Old Man.

At Sioux City, Ia., Judge Thomas L. Griffey, one of the earliest settlers and most prominent citizens in the county, is made defendant in a suit for \$20,000 for breach of promise brought by Miss Sallie McConghney, of Dakota City, Neb., a small town near the river. Miss McConghney is 53 years of age and Judge Griffey is 75, and quite wealthy. Last November he married a handsome young school teacher.

## Stoutley Reported Dead.

The correspondent of the *Petit Journal* at Saint P.ador, Congo, says that a courier has arrived at that place from the west coast who states that Stoutley is current there at Henry M. Stoutley was killed in an engagement with native war Mangabans.

A courier reports that several instruments, which have been identified as having belonged to Mr. Stoutley, have been sold by a native.

# DR. QUARTERS--

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Boys from	2.25 to 10.00
Boys from	1.50 to 3.75
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Boys from	20c up
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## New Goods

In London, though the snowfall was heavy  
it caused less inconvenience to traffic  
there has been a painful increase in suffering  
in the slums, and augmented pressure  
has been put upon the new County Council  
to hasten forward the work of improving  
houses of the poor.

## Boy Crushed to Death by a Horse

John Bingham, a 14-year-old boy, of  
ton, O., started for home on a horse  
him as a present by Jacob Unkeler, of  
of Paris township, and some hours later  
found lying dead on the road, beneath  
horse, the animal having fallen, and  
his 110-pound weight crushed the  
death.

## The Express War Over

The new rates have been arranged  
different express companies by which  
all agree to work together harmoniously.  
The new schedule was issued last  
and went into effect at once. The  
a restoration of those which were in  
1888.

## A Little Girl Drowned in a Trench

Maggie Owens, 8 years old, fell off  
bridge into Rush creek, at Irwin, Pa.  
was drowned, while on her way to  
school. The water was very high and  
rapid current swept her away.  
has not been recovered.