

# EARTHQUAKE AT KUCHAN.

## ENTOMBED AT PRAYER.

Six Hundred People Perish in Various Baths.

A dispatch to the London Times from Teheran gives further details of the destructive earthquake at Kuchan. The first shock occurred at noon, Thursday, January 17. This was followed by another, and in three minutes the town was in ruins. It is stated that the loss of life was enormous.

Most of the victims were crushed to death by falling buildings, but many were burned to death, the ruins in which they were entombed having caught fire. Six hundred were entombed in a mosque while engaged in prayer. Six hundred other persons perished in the various baths. The survivors could obtain neither food nor water for three days; the telegraph lines having been destroyed. Many who escaped death from the earthquake perished from hunger and exposure. The weather was very cold. Not a single building remains standing in the town.

Since the 17th the shocks have been repeated daily. One shock, which occurred at 6 o'clock on the evening of January 22, was equal in severity to the first one, which caused the destruction of the city. This shock at intervals of from one to four hours.

The "Times" correspondent says it is pitiful to witness the terror-stricken people huddled in groups and exposed to the inclemency of the weather, which continues intensely cold. No shelter of any kind is available. No medical assistance is at present procurable, but Russian surgeons are proceeding with all speed to the desolated town of Ashkabad.

# SOME JAPANESE KILLED.

## Tien Tsin Advances Bay They Have Again Met Repulse.

A dispatch from Tien Tsin says that the Chinese met the advance guard of the Japanese army near Chang bay on Thursday and repulsed them. Some of the Japanese were killed. It is believed that the Japanese will bring a larger force before making an attack on Wei-Hai-Wei.

A dispatch from Higo to the "Times" says that Field Marshal Count Oyama has proceeded to the Shan Tung promontory from Tientsin to conduct the operations of the Japanese forces.

A Peking dispatch states that Wang Wen Straits-vice-governor of Yunnan, has been appointed to assist Li Hung Chang in the superintendence of trade, thus curtailing the latter's functions.

# BENEATH THE LAKE.

## One of the Finest Lake Vessels Lost in a Recent Storm.

There is no longer any doubt that the steamer Chicora, one of the largest and finest on the great lakes, has been wrecked on Lake Michigan with all on board. The crew numbered 25, and the vessel carried one passenger.

Small pieces of the Chicora's wreckage have been sighted by several vessels and now it is reported that the steamer dismantled was seen off Glen Harbor Thursday. J. S. Morton, of the Great Lakes Transportation Company, has returned to Detroit with a party of explorers. They found great pieces of mahogany from the Chicora's cabin, life preservers and part of a barrel of flour, and other evidences of a complete wreck.

The Chicora left Milwaukee several days ago with a cargo of flour. She was equipped with the strongest engines of any boat on the lakes, being 20, 33 and 34 triple expansion, of 2,500 horse-power, rated at 20 miles an hour, increased to carry 1,200 excursionists in summer. She was built three years ago, expressly for winter service, with 6-inch outer plank covering, and with triple compartments, each independent of one another. She was 100 tons burden, 225 feet long, 38 feet beam, 40 feet over all, costing the company \$165,000. Her cargo was valued at \$20,000.

# FAMOUS SWINDLER CAUGHT.

## One of the Men Who Hit the World's Fair With Bad Coin.

One of the neatest and most important captures made by United States officers in a long time was made by Marshal McLaughlin on a Baltimore and Ohio train at Wheeling. The man captured is John Freeland, counterfeiter, shaver of the queer, sawdust artist, green goods and gold brick operator and all round man. He was arrested at Washington a year ago, but jumped his bond.

Marshal McLaughlin recognized him through a most effective disguise and locked him up in Wheeling. Freeland had worked various schemes in Chicago, Pittsburgh, Cleveland and all over Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and several other States. He is very smooth and has been eminently successful.

During the World's fair he and his brother James and the latter's wife, carried a roll of raised bills and a big lot of counterfeit coin in Chicago, working mostly among foreigners attending the fair. James and his wife were captured and sent to the penitentiary from Chicago. This money was made in the latter's districts of Preston county, W. Va., the makers working several months and preparing a big lot of it before starting for Chicago.

# THE CHURCH AND CHARITIES

## Held to be Liable for Their Share of Benefits and Improvements.

What is considered by lawyers as a remarkable decision has been handed down by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. It is a revolution in what has been considered a law in this State for 20 years, and a number of former decisions of the Supreme Court are reversed. It will have an important effect on many municipal improvements now pending and that may be proposed in the future.

Churches, charitable concerns, public cemeteries and similar institutions are affected by it. The ruling is that churches, etc., are liable to assessment for street improvements, sewers and other municipal improvements. Heretofore, under the act of 1874, which exempts churches, charitable institutions, cemeteries, etc., from taxation, they have not been assessed for benefits on improvements, this having been held to be a species of taxation, and that they were consequently exempt. The Supreme Court a number of times has so decided, but they now reverse themselves.

# The Iron Trade.

The Iron Trade Review says: The iron trade came down to the last week in January with little change in actual conditions since the opening of the year, but with increasing signs of the enlarged volume that will result from present planning. The work has brought further evidence that the year will be fairly active in lake ship-building and demand for that source already has brought several good contracts into the mills. Structural work on foot in the East, beside the big contracts noted last week, will make mills in that section comfortable, once specifications begin to come in. That the inaugurations of Western mills, so notable a year ago, have been checked in the East of late, may be attributed in part to the maintenance of more uniform rates by the railroads—a policy that promises to prevail more and more.

# TELEGRAPHIC TICKS.

Ribot will try to form a French cabinet.

The Woman's Club of Chicago has abolished the color line in membership.

Lord Randolph Churchill died Thursday morning.

M. de Giers, Russian minister of foreign affairs is dead.

The iron mills at Niles, O., which have been closed for months, have started up.

The Japanese repulsed an attack of Chinese at Hai Cheng, taking many prisoners.

John Weeks, a 13-year-old boy of Wayne Village, Me., committed suicide by hanging.

Citizens of Guatemala do not want war with Mexico and threaten to compel President Barrios to resign.

A Pan-American congress of religion and education, embracing all religious beliefs, will be held in Chicago next summer.

Thirty-six dairy cows were roasted to death in a stable fire which occurred just outside of Washington city limits.

There is a movement afoot to establish a printers' national home at Escalator Springs, Mo.

William Robertson, a white man aged 21 was hanged at Rocky Mount, Va., for the murder of Jerry Barbour two years ago.

The Brazilian Minister to Uruguay has been recalled owing to his attitude on the frontier incident.

W. H. McGrath, of Philadelphia, shot and killed his 2-year-old daughter and then put a bullet in his own head.

Maurice Garvey, a prominent sugar man of New Orleans, while showing a party of strangers around the city fell over the railing of the Chess Club stairway and was killed.

J. D. Luttrell, of Spokane, Wash., has received word that he is one of four heirs to an estate in Ireland valued at \$3,000,000.

John H. Harvey, a waiter of San Francisco, has eloped with his 17-year-old stepdaughter a married woman. Harvey's wife is left destitute.

The reserve stocks of petroleum are decreasing so rapidly that they will be exhausted within a year. The price is bound to increase.

George G. Hayle, register-assessor of the Sixth district, Sixth Ward, Allegheny, was convicted of malfeasance in office and fined 60 cents and costs.

A band of masked men robbed the railway and express office of Sugarland, Tex., getting \$1,500 cash. A battle with citizens took place, but the robbers escaped.

Two more bodies of negro men, supposed to have been drowned by the sinking of the state of Missouri, have been found in the river near Wolf Creek, Ky.

It is thought a proposition will be made to the silver men in Congress by the administration for legislation for the issue of \$500,000,000 in 3 per cent bonds, coupled with silver coinage.

The arrival of three non-union men at the Buckeye Glass Works, Martins Ferry, O., led to an attack by the strikers, during which 75 to 100 shots were fired by the assailants and the police, but no one injured.

Bookmaking in the district of Columbia is forbidden by a decision rendered by Judge Cole of the criminal court, in the case of Fred T. Miller, indicted for running a book at Benning's race track.

The sittings of the Greek Chamber of Deputies have been suspended for a fortnight in order to give the new ministry time to get accustomed to the affairs of their offices.

The Norton Iron Works at Ashland, Ky., has announced a 20 per cent cut in wages of all tonnage men. It will be accepted without opposition and work will be resumed at once.

There is great unrest among the agricultural classes in Germany owing to the depression of grain prices, according to a report to the State Department by United States Consul General De Kay, at Berlin.

Turkish papers published a letter addressed to be written by Armenian clergy of Adrianople, thanking the Sultan for the benefits enjoyed by Armenian subjects and denouncing reports of recent atrocities.

Secretary John E. Shaw, of the provisional committee for the building of the Lake Erie and Ohio river ship canal, is confident that actual work on the preliminary survey, to determine the route, will be commenced within 30 days.

Glass was made at the Buckeye glass works Martins Ferry, O., Tuesday morning, the first for nearly two years. The works are guarded with Winchester and revolvers and the new workmen say that they have come to stay. Others are applying for work.

Senator David B. Hill, in an address on the financial question before the Democratic club of New York, insisted Congress must pass at once some measure to relieve the treasury, and uphold the administration.

The Volksblatt, an anti-Semite journal circulating in Mannheim, Heidelberg and Frankfurt, has been confiscated by the authorities owing to its having published an article entitled, "Ode to Adam," which was regarded as a parody on Emperor William's "Song to Aegir."

Saturday's storm along the Atlantic coast was very severe. Five loaded coal barges were lost off New London, Conn., and eight men, three women and two children were drowned. A coal barge was sunk off Sandy Hook and five men lost. The schooner Leader was wrecked on Norman's Woe reef and four men drowned. The wrecking steamer Merritt was driven ashore off Kill Devil hills, and will be a total wreck.

# MEXICANS DON'T WANT THEM

## But Negro Colonists Will Swarm to the Southern Republic.

One hundred thousand negroes will be removed from the states of Alabama, Georgia and Louisiana to Southern Mexico within the next six months, according to W. H. Ellis, the manager of the Mexican colonization company, who has just returned from Atlanta, Ga. Mr. Ellis says the missionary work among the negroes is meeting with the greatest success, and the first 100 families will pass through San Antonio this week, en route for the promised land. The Mexican citizens living in the section to be colonized by the negroes have protested to the Mexican government against the scheme.

# NOTES FROM THE CAPITAL.

## SPEECHES NEVER DELIVERED.

Congressmen Who Hire Others to Prepare Their Arguments.

The number of members of Congress who have their speeches written by others than themselves is more than is generally supposed. On many occasions members who have never aspired to speech-making, and who have been elected to Congress, have their speeches written by some one experienced, and under "leave to print" insert it in the Record. One member could not muster up the courage requisite to stand up and make a speech in the House, so he wrote it (a good one), and had it printed in the Record under a name granting leave to print remarks. At various points he inserted the words, "Laughter and applause," "Great applause in the galleries," and such other expressions, which appeared to be taken by the reporter. This speech he sent in large numbers to his admiring constituents, who at once concluded that he was a great man and resolved to re-elect him. However, some friend of his, who was somewhat of a wag, caught onto the manner of his speech-making and gave him away to some one, and his constituents straightway nominated and elected another man.

One or two members from the same State who could not make or write speeches, had each delegated the writing of a speech to one of the men at the Capitol who do such work, and he not knowing they were from the same State, wrote the same speech for each. The two were duly printed in the Record, of different dates, and copies were mailed by each member to his State for the voters to read, and under the name of many letters on the part of each would-be orator to convince the "constituents" that the mistake lay with the Public Printer, and not himself.

# SKETCHES OF SENATORS.

## Some of the Men Who Compose the Upper House.

Senator Faulkner is one of the working members of the Senate. He is active in all the consultations, and is often called to the chair of the presiding officer, for which he has developed a considerable talent. Genial and good natured, he is never inclined to put aside callers, and is one of the most readily accessible men in the Senate. He talks well on occasion, and is a very logical lawyer. He has secured a point on his side wherever he rises to take part in a debate. He does a good deal of work as a member of the District Committee, and is placed by Chairman Harris on all the sub-committees having important bills in charge.

Mr. Call is noted for his large vocabulary. It is said that he can talk for 12 hours without intermission, extemporizing all the time and not make a rhetorical or grammatical blunder during the entire period. Yet he is not a popular man, and is not liked by the majority of the members of the House. A vote against his own projects he always takes as a personal hit, and he remembers to return it. "Vote for my bill, and I'll help you," he often says, and he is good at keeping promises. He is a staunch champion of the settlers in Florida, whose interests he thinks are being threatened by the swamp and overflowed lands acts in that State. Another favorite subject of his is the Louisiana Lottery fight. He asserts that it is trying to defeat his reelection, masqueraded under the name of the Honduras Lottery Company. Mr. Call gained some notoriety for removing his shoes during a tedious discussion of tariff legislation.

A big lot of bills were introduced in the House, Mr. Cotton, of Allegheny, offered one repealing the amendment to the marriage license act of 1893, which requires persons to be married in the county in which they take out a license. A bill presented by Mr. Rice, of Illinois, provides for the carrying out of the provisions of the act of 1893, relating to the treatment of the indigent insane in the State and appropriating \$500,000 for the purpose. Another amendment to Baker's pupil law was proposed by Mr. Wilson, of Iowa, and presented a bill which changes the time and manner of making the registry of voters, and changing the registration from May to June. These appropriation bills were offered in the House by Mr. Warren, of Illinois, \$1,000,000 to the trustees of the University of Pennsylvania; \$5,000,000 for the erection of a pedestal for a monument to William Penn, to be placed on the site of the treaty tree on the banks of the Delaware.

Wednesday.—The Lemon Mill amending section 24 of the act of June 19, 1887, relative to the government of cities of the second class was the final action of the House this morning. The amendment substitutes the word "thereon" for "thereat" so that a majority of the persons voting on the question of a bond issue shall authorize such issue. As the law stands at present a majority of all those voting at such general election is necessary.

Bills were introduced by Representative Stewart, of Philadelphia, to prevent the interference of unauthorized persons with the electrical conductors, appliances and machinery of electric light, heat and power companies; providing for the organization, support and maintenance of associations for the protection and saving of property in case of fire in cities of the first class.

Thursday.—The House today was in session to-day. The bill of Mr. Armstrong, introduced on the floor at the session of 1898, imposing a state tax on each barrel of malt liquor brewed, in Philadelphia the collection of the tax is given to the real estate assessors and in other counties to the county commissioners. The bill was introduced by resolution by Mr. Focht, of Union, for the appointment of a legislative committee of five, with two citizens to be named by the governor, to ascertain the number of aliens who are charges on the state and who are ineligible to the office of 1898, and also direct that the committee shall recommend some plan to have these aliens deported or the cost of their maintenance collected from the European countries that have sent them here. The resolution provoked no discussion, but the House fought over the bill for several days. Oil company's bill to repeal the act prohibiting competing pipe lines from consolidating. This is known as a boodie bill, and is nursed very tenderly. It came up on second reading. Mr. Coverly had introduced the veto of the bill of 1893 read. The friends of the bill wanted it recommitted before a second reading in order to thus delay it further. The republican leaders favored this plan, but the house broke away from them and passed the bill. It was then recommitted in order that parties interested might be heard.

Friday.—Mr. Woodring, of Northampton, in the house presented a bill which reads as follows: That any person who shall willfully state or deliver or transmit by any means whatever to the manager, editor or reporter of any newspaper, magazine, periodical, serial for publication therein, any libelous statement concerning any person or corporation, or thereby secure the actual publication of the same, is hereby declared guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding \$500 and undergo an imprisonment for a period not exceeding two years, or either, at the discretion of the court.

# Faure Calls Ribot.

President Faure has summoned M. Ribot to form a cabinet, and the latter has accepted the task. He is now consulting with his friends. The wife of M. Ribot was formerly Miss Minnie Burch, of Chicago. Since the fall of M. Ribot's ministry under the late President Carnot, he has occupied a rather obscure place in politics.

# Disasters at Sea.

Severe storms prevail over all the coasts of Great Britain, France and Holland. In Scotland the heavy seas are particularly heavy. A fishing boat belonging to Ballyshannon, with a crew of seven men on board, has been lost, and of Port Beath, Cornwall, a vessel with a crew of 14 men has gone down.

# PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE

## Important Measures Considered by Our Lawmakers.

Monday.—Gen. Gobin, of Lebanon, Pa., introduced bills in the senate to-night asking for the continuation of the land grant to the commission, and \$50,000 to erect necessary tablets.

To fix theatrical licenses at \$500 in cities of the first class, \$250 in cities of the second class, \$75 in cities of the third class, and \$50 in boroughs and townships.

To require corporations to pay entire bonus on their capital stock on the incorporation of any company liable for bonus.

To allow appraisers of collateral inheritance \$2 a day when in actual service.

To appropriate \$50,000 for erection of approaches to the surroundings of the equestrian statue of Maj. Gen. Meade on the Gettysburg battlefield.

Andrews (Crawford)—Providing for site and erection of a state asylum for chronic insane, to be located at Titusville, the cost of grounds and building not to exceed \$300,000.

Brooks (Franklin)—Judicial apportionment bill and bill to establish circuit court of appeals.

McQueen (Clearfield)—Providing for a state board of examiners to examine all students, licensees, compelling school directors to prevent male and female teachers from wearing any religious garb or uniform of any civil, military or political organization while on duty.

Nichol, Philadelphia, empowering cities and boroughs to appoint inspectors of food, cattle and market houses.

Smith, Jefferson, authorizing justices to select a jury of twenty-four persons, who shall have same qualifications as other jurors to try cases in cases of capital crimes.

Talbot, Chester, to appropriate \$7,200 to ex-Sergeant-at-Arms Hoopes for services on election committee of 1898; providing that marriage law, passed two years ago, go into effect June 1, 1894; to make adulteration of milk and cream a misdemeanor.

Thursday.—In the senate to-day, Mr. Finn presented a bill repealing so much of the act governing voters of the township of West Deer, East Deer, Harrison, Killbuck and others in Allegheny county to vote for or against the issuing of liquor licenses as refers to Harrison township. Among the appropriate bills were the following: The bill of Adrian hospital, Jefferson, \$10,000 to the hospital for the injured, at Mercer; \$41,200 to the Oil City hospital. A bill was introduced increasing the salary of the superintendent of public printing from \$2,000 to \$3,000.

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# KEYSTONE STATE CULLINGS

## OVER 1,200 CONVERSIONS.

Results of Evangelist Schiverson's Work in Braddock.

The most wide-spread spiritual awakening that has ever been known about Canonsburg is now in progress, and it without any evidence of abatement of interest. Major Hilt and his assistant, Rev. Grant C. Talar, have been conducting special services under the auspices of all the churches since the 6th of January.

The largest audience room in the town will not hold the people attending. They come from a distance of 12 miles, in some instances.

One of the features of the work is that it attracts a class of indifferent, non-church-goers, and many who have never been interested are publicly professing religion.

# TRIED OUT OF SIGHT.

A freight train on the Lehigh Valley was precipitated into a deep mine hole at Audenried Friday morning, caused by the caving in of the roadbed and tracks. Six cars of freight were buried out of sight and a dozen others were piled in a mass on top of them.

An express train, carrying a large number of passengers, had just passed over the spot when the cavern occurred. Conductor Slips, Engineer Houck and Fireman Cressley were on the engine when the tracks began to sink beneath them. To jump from the engine meant almost certain death and their only hope of saving themselves was to cut the engine loose from the train, but just as they were in the act of doing this, the tender broke away from the engine and the locomotive plunged forward and gained solid ground.

The first thing to sink out of sight was the engine tender. This was followed by a car of sugar, and then five other cars containing lumber and merchandise quickly dropped out of sight. The balance of the train piled on top of the wreckage.

# A CHILD BURNED TO DEATH.

In Penn township, near Butler, the house of Chris Wagner, was destroyed by fire and a small child was burned to death. Mrs. Wagner was alone with her child when the fire started. She rushed from the house, but before the child could be rescued it was so fatally burned that death resulted shortly. The house and contents were totally destroyed. Partly insured.

# CLARION LAW BREAKERS SENTENCED.

At Clarion Charles Gordon, who pleaded guilty to three burglaries, was sentenced to an aggregate of eight years and three months in the penitentiary. Balah Wolf, his partner, was sentenced for five years and three months. The sentence of J. J. Throck, editor of the "Jacksonian," convicted of libeling Hon. G. F. Kribbs, was again suspended.

# REV. E. V. DUCHANAN DEAD.

Rev. E. V. Duchanan, D. D., brother of the late President James Duchanan, died in Philadelphia, aged 83. He was a brother-in-law of S. C. Foster, the song writer, who wrote "Old Kentucky Home."

Over 1,200 persons have professed conversion since the revival meetings started in Braddock two weeks ago last Sunday. Mr. Schiverson leaves here to start meetings in last three weeks at Bradford. He will then begin a long campaign in Pittsburg.

Max Schamberger, consular in Pittsburg of the Austro-Hungarian empire has been removed and Thomas Dessevay, who has been consul of the empire at Pireas, Greece, has been appointed to succeed him.

By pretending to be hungry and cold, a man got into the house of a Hun at the Oliver coke works, near Uniontown, and secured a suit of clothes, a gold watch, a quantity of silverware and \$20 in cash. He escaped.

The Allegheny county Bar association almost unanimously adopted a memorial against the Arnold bills now pending in the legislature to change forms of legal practice.

The hearing for a new trial in the case of Fred McDowell, convicted of the murder of John McAndrews at Titusville, July 4, last was held at Meadville. Decision was reserved.

Harry Beagle, of Beaver Falls, who shot himself to avoid arrest for embezzlement, will recover, the bullet having been extracted from his head.

Pit Boss Robert Donaldson, of the Wynn works, near Fairchance, Fayette county, was caught between two trains at the mines and instantly killed.

Samuel Sanders, a Hungarian employed by the Cambria iron company at Johnstown, was struck in the head with a wrench while unloading cars and died in three hours.

Several hundred men will be thrown out of employment at the Cambria iron works at Johnstown, by changing the turns to 12 hours each instead of eight.

Edward Dean, aged 55, of Henry Clay town ship, Fayette county dropped dead Thursday night while returning from church at Segar Look.

Len Lingenfield, of Leetsdale gave John Shea public notice to leave town. Lingenfield charges that Shea was too intimate with his wife.

The explosion of a generator in the works of the Huntington gas company wrecked the structure. Flames from the boiler destroyed the entire plant. Loss \$12,000, no insurance.

Jacob George's store at Black Lick was burglarized to the extent of several hundred dollars worth of clothing, cigars and tobacco.

The Women's Christian temperance alliance of Butler county, met at Butler, Tuesday in fifth annual convention, elected officers and adjourned till next year.

Martha Curtis, colored, of Jeannette, was arrested for throwing a lighted lamp at another negro named Cora Richardson, who was fatally burned by the explosion.

H. G. Desviva, a newsdealer at Altoona, has assigned. H. B. Haef is the preferred creditor in the sum of \$4,000.

It is reported that J. F. Taylor, Esq., will be appointed judge of the courts of Washington county.

James Vezan, a farmer living at Kelgers, near Sandy Lake, died of heart disease while sitting in his chair, Sunday night.

Four little girls broke through the ice at Mt. Pleasant and Anna Baker was drowned. The others were with difficulty rescued.

Oscar Flick is going to start a skunk farm near Waynesburg.

# Battle at Hai-Chen.

An official dispatch says that Gen. Nodzu attacked Hai-Chen January 17, and added to the Hun army 5,000 Chinese troops under Gen. Chang on our right wing, and 9,000 under Gen. Tai on our left wing. We found 21 Chinese dead after the battle, including two officers. The natives say the Chinese lost over 100 men.

# SNOW KING SUPREME.

## The Sierra Mountains Presents a Scene of Surpassing Magnificence.

The scene in the Sierras is one of surpassing magnificence. It seems as if the route of the Central Pacific were laid through the line of the greatest snow fall. With drifts 40 feet high, and the wind blowing at the level of the summit, the energies of the railroad people are put to the test. The rotaries are tossing snow in continuous streams from the roadbed, but from Gold Run to Truckee, snow is falling at the rate of one inch or more an hour. Luckily the wind is not blowing and the situation is not complicated by the formidable land and snow slides that so often make railroading and even existence in the high Sierras perilous.

In places where mountains in the smaller towns communicate by means of tunnels through the snow. Habitations are obliterated and the reign of the