THE WASHINGTON CRITIC.

17TH YEAR---NO. 5,231. WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY EVENING, MAY 15, 1885. PRICE TWO CENTS

GOVERNMENT GOSSIP.

OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL IN AND ABOUT THE DEPARTMENTS.

Dismissals From the Supervising Architect's Office—Mr. McCammon's Probable Successor as Assistant Attorney-General—The President's Callers—Colonel Gibson to Succeed General Ayres at Washington.

THE TREASURY COUNT.

The Treasury counting commission is about through with its labors at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and is engaged upon the preparation of its report, which will be submitted to-morrow.

NO MARINE BAND CONCERTS.

The President has not yet requested the Secretary of the Navy to order the Marine Band to resume its open-air concerts for the season and there is therefore no prospect of a concert to-morrow at the White House grounds.

A LAND OFFICE PROMOTION.

Dr. T. M. Baldwin, who has been acting chief of the division of accounts in the General Land Office, was to-day promoted permanently to that position by Commissioner Sparks. He succeeds Major J. W. Donnelly, formerly of Little Rock.

DISMISSALS NOT DECIDED UPON.

Secretary Manning has denied the published reports that he has decided upon the dismissal of a majority of the chiefs of division and other officers of the Treasury Department. He says that a number of changes will doubtless be made, but that very few have been finally determined upon, and that no chiefs of division are among them.

NOT TO BE RELIEVED.

The order assigning Colonel Wilson to duty as Commissioner of Public Buildings and Grounds stated that he was relieved from his present duties as assistant to the chief of engineers in charge of fortifications. This order was erroneous, and will be corrected. Colonel Wilson will continue for some time at least to perform his present duties as well as the new ones.

UNGROUNDED FEARS.

Consternation has been created in the Internal Revenue Bureau by a rumor that the sub-committee appointed by the examining commission has recommended an abolition of the system of book-keeping pursued in the stamp division. Such action would involve the dismissal of twenty or thirty book-keepers and accountants, but it is not at all likely that the system will be abolished, as it affords important safeguards in the care and issue of internal revenue stamps and is almost essential.

DELEGATES FROM THE HUB.

An imposing delegation from Boston, Mass., filed into the Arlington this morning. The party consisted of James H. Nugent, E. T. Leighton, Thomas J. Denney, William Nugent, Edward J. Jenkins, Isaac Rosmasky, Herbert L. Harding, M. J. Welch, W. J. Reagan, A. H. Peters and C. A. Prince. They are here for the purpose of settling several questions with reference to the collector of revenue and surveyor of the port of Boston. The delegation has spent the day among the Departments.

A DECISION GIVEN.

The Wales Court-Martial held two short secret sessions to-day, at 10 a. m. and 2 p. m., and adjourned until 10:30 o'clock to-morrow morning. A reporter of THE CRITIC was told by the Attorney-General this afternoon that he had rendered a decision as to the plea of jurisdiction, but he declined to give it. It was sent to the Navy Department yesterday afternoon, and will be announced to the court to-morrow. The rumor is current that the decision sustains the jurisdiction of the court.

THE PRESIDENT'S CALLERS.

The President's callers to-day included the Attorney-General, Speaker Carlisle, Senators Call and Cockrell, Blackburn, Jones and McPherson, Congressmen Randall, Henderson, Bragg, Curtin, Laird, Henley, Springer, Tucker, the Third Auditor of the Treasury, General Hartranft and a number of prominent New Yorkers, including Roswell P. Flower, Attorney-General O'Brien, State Superintendent of Insurance McCall, State Superintendent of Public Works Shannhan, Congressman Beach and ex-Congressman Stevens, Consul E. J. Hale and T. W. Bartley.

ARCHITECT'S OFFICE DISMISSALS.

The dismissal of six clerks in the Supervising Architect's Office and the reduction of the salaries of others is due to the fact that the appropriation for the current fiscal year would have been more than exhausted if the present pay-roll is continued during June. A saving of about $1,200 for the month is accomplished by the reductions. As the appropriation for next year is $10,000 less than for the present year, it is more likely that there will be further reductions of force than that any of those removed will be reinstated.

M'CAMMON'S SUCCESS.

Attorney-General Garland, a short time ago, after consulting with Secretary Lamar, offered the position of Assistant Attorney-General for the Interior Department to Judge Zachary Montgomery of San Diego, Cal. Judge Montgomery arrived in the city last night and gave notification of his acceptance of the place. His appointment will be made in a day or two, to take effect on the 24th inst., the day upon which the resignation of Judge McCammon goes into effect. Judge Montgomery was to-day introduced to the other law officers of the Department by Secretary Lamar. He is an excellent lawyer. He was a school-mate of the Attorney-General.

GENERAL AYRES' SUCCESSOR.

It has been reported that General Romeyn B. Ayres has requested to be relieved from duty in the the South on account of the ill-health of his family. It is learned that this statement is unfounded. General Ayres is well pleased with his new orders and is making arrangements for the removal of his family from Washington barracks to the new headquarters. General Ayres will be succeeded here in command of Washington barracks on June 1, by Colonel Horatio Gibson, one of the most distinguished artillery officers in the service. Colonel Gibson is a native of Maryland, a graduate of West Point in 1843, served through the war with distinction, being brevetted for gallantry on four occasions, and has always been attached to either the Second or Third artillery. He is a popular and courteous gentleman.

MR. FAIRCHILD'S RETURN.

Assistant Secretary Fairchild has returned from New York. He says that his visit caused an unnecessary stir. He went principally to look into the various offices and judge for himself as to how the public business was being carried on. He did not demand any resignations or reach any conclusions calling for immediate action. It was an error to suppose that he was bent on wholesale discharges and changes of system. Whatever reforms suggested themselves to him would require further consideration. Mr. Fairchild said that the report that he would be appointed collector of the port of New York is entirely unfounded. He has never heard anything to indicate that his name was being considered in that connection, and expects and prefers to continue in his present position. His visit to New York had no reference to the selection of a new chief of the customs division, and he does not think that subject has received consideration. There is no pressing necessity for an appointment, and no embarrassment would result from the position remaining vacant for some time.

THE SMITH COURT.

Pay Inspector A. J. Smith of the Brooklyn Navy-Yard, and Mr. George B. Goff of New York, were before the Smith Court of Inquiry to-day and examined as to the butter contracts for the navy with W. I. Brown & Co., butter merchants in New York.

EXPOSITION APPOINTMENTS.

The President has appointed Captain Henry McElderry, assistant surgeon, U. S. Army, and Lieutenant B. H. Buckingham, U. S. Navy, members of the executive board at the World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exhibition, Lieutenant Buckingham to be president of the board and Captain McElderry to represent the War Department, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Colonel Lyford.

Minor and Personal.

Ex-Secretary Gresham is in the city.

The President has as yet given no consideration to District of Columbia appointments.

The President has appointed Benjamin F. Morsell to be a notary public for the District of Columbia.

The President is said to have personally tendered the Registership of the Treasury to General Rosecrans.

Hon. H. W. Cannon, Comptroller of the Currency, has gone to New York for a few days on official business.

The President will not receive to-morrow. He will make no exceptions to the rule and will receive no one.

The President yesterday appointed George C. Tanner of South Carolina to be Consul of the United States at Chemnitz.

The Mormon protest, the Augusta post-office fight and New York appointments are said to have been discussed at the Cabinet meeting yesterday.

The President and four friends from New York went out driving yesterday. They went over to Arlington, and remained for about an hour.

One of the twenty-seven appointments as fourth-class postmasters made to-day by Postmaster-General Vilas was that of C. J. Apperson at Providence Forge, Va.

A small delegation from Albany, N. Y., registered at the Arlington to-day, and later called on President Cleveland. They were A. Bleecker Banks, S. W. Rosendale and C. C. Woolworth.

Colonel John Ream of Pueblo, Col., a candidate for the office of surveyor-general of his State, is in the city, and to-day called on Secretary Lamar and Commissioner Sparks.

The Gautemalan Minister has returned to this city from New York, where he went to welcome Madame Barrios, widow of the revolutionary leader, and see her comfortably installed in her home.

The President has been invited to visit Boston on the anniversary of the battle of Bunker Hill, and also on Harvard commencement day, but will probably be unable to attend at either date.

The Iowa Congressmen have filed a formal protest and Chairman Kinne of the Iowa Democratic State Committee has telegraphed his remonstrance against the appointment of Mr. Williams as marshal of South Iowa.

Hon. S. P. Rounds to-day promoted Mr. P. J. Byrne to be first assistant foreman of the bindery, to fill vacancy caused by the promotion of Mr. James W. White, promoted to the foremanship.

It now transpires that when H. C. Armstrong of Alabama forwarded to Washington the withdrawal of his application for appointment as Consul at Rio de Janeiro, it was received and withheld by Senators Pugh and Morgan.

A large number of changes in the $720 class of Treasury employes—watchmen, messengers, laborers, etc.—have been determined upon. The employes of this grade are very much excited over the rumors and threats of dismissal.

It is now thoroughly understood that Minister Foster will resign within a few weeks, having about completed his mission to Spain, and that immediately thereafter ex-Governor Thomas C. Reynolds of Missouri will be appointed.

Advices have been received of the presentation to President Grevy of Minister Morton's letters of recall and Minister McLane's credentials yesterday. M. Grevy assured Mr. McLane that he would always find in France the most sympathetic cooperation in everything calculated to promote the welfare of the American Republic.

Information from the Consul-General at Havana has been received by the State Department that the collection of duties on cattle imported into Cuba, which was suspended by decrees of the Spanish Government in November, 1877 and October, 1882, will be again enforced on and after the 1st of July next.

Representative Frederick of Iowa is satisfied that the appointment of Mr. Williams as Marshal for the Southern District of Iowa will be reconsidered and the man selected who is acceptable to the Democratic State delegation. The President is disposed to give the matter further attention and to see that no injustice is done in the premises.

The internal revenue collectors appointed yesterday are said to be well qualified and efficient. Thomas H. Simms, appointed for the Arkansas district, is a merchant of that State indorsed by the Attorney-General and both Senators. C. R. Staples, appointed for the twelfth Pennsylvania district, is a lawyer of ability and standing, and indorsed by leading Pennsylvanians.

Six clerks and one messenger in the office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury have been dismissed, and the salaries of Rufus H. Mayer, Herbert Vail and H. C. McLean, three principal clerks, were reduced from $9.60 to $8 per diem, in order to bring the expenditures of the office within the limit of the appropriations for the current fiscal year ending June 30.

Lieutenant-Commander George W. Pigman has been detached from the Hydrographic office from the 31st instant and ordered to torpedo instruction at Newport. Captain Wilson, Commanders Casey and Haywaid, Lieutenant-Commander Rockwell, Lieutenants Foster and Nicholson, Ensigns Gill and Minnett have also been ordered to Newport. Lieutenant Moore has been ordered to the Hartford.

Major Hassler, chief clerk of the Interior Department, who went to New York in connection with the bids for Indian supplies for the next fiscal year, is expected to return next Saturday. Commissioner Atkins will probably return next Monday. The force from the Indian office which went over to New York on the same business will probably be there two weeks longer, the work in connection with Indian supplies being much greater than was expected.

Mr. I. Parker Veazey, the new postmaster at Baltimore, has designated Major Richard T. Allison to be his assistant postmaster, in place of General W. R. W. Ross, after the 31st inst. Major Allison is about fifty-eight years old. He is a son of the late John S. Allison of the United States Army, who served in the war of 1812, and is a nephew of the late President Zachary Taylor. He was born in Jefferson County, Ky., and came to Baltimore in 1845, and was admitted to the bar. President Taylor appointed him paymaster in the Navy in 1848, and he served in the Japan expedition and the Pacific squadron. During the war he was paymaster of the marine corps for the Confederacy.

LANGSTER HANGED.

THE MURDERER OF OFFICER FOWLER MEETS DEATH CALMLY.

The Trap Sprung at Four Minutes to Nine O'clock This Morning--His Neck Broken by the Fall—Life Pronounced Extinct in 29 Minutes—Funeral To-morrow—Scenes at the Jail.

John Langster, the brutal-looking and brutal-acting yellow man of about 21 years of age, who murdered Officer Fowler while the latter was attempting to arrest him on the 9th of September last, to-day met his fate on the scaffold.

Langster had been a very violent prisoner at the jail and had given the guards there a great deal of trouble. He was blasphemous and indecent and showed more of the characteristics of a lower order of being than the generality of the human race. In appearance he was as repulsive as he was in acts. The picture printed of him to-day is a most excellent likeness of him. He had fallen off while in jail and did not present fully to-day, when the reporter saw him at half-past six o'clock, that brute strength and animal courage which characterized him when he jumped from his seat at the coroner's inquest over the body of Officer Fowler and exclaimed, "I'll slug yer!" to a witness who was testifying against him.

A TALK WITH THE PRISONER.

Langster attempted to laugh when the reporter spoke to him, but the laugh did not come. It was but a sickly smile.

"How are you feeling this morning?" asked the reporter.

"Oh, I am all right." This was said with another attempt at a laugh.

"Did you rest well last night?"

"I slept as well as most people," and he looked at a disordered pallet which was on the floor of cell No. 1, the cell from which Guiteau came forth a craven to be hung for the assassination of President Garfield. Langster's feet were manacled. His hands were free and he held tight to the bars as he talked with the reporter. He continued:

"I slept right along all night."

HOW HE PASSED HIS LAST NIGHT.

But he had not. He was awake up to 2 o'clock this morning and then went to sleep, getting a few hours' rest. He said at 11 o'clock last night, when asked if he was sleepy: "No, this is my last night on earth. I might just as well keep awake."

Langster was very quiet last night, and gave the death watch, consisting of a watch-and-watch between guards Hudson and Linkbaugh, very little trouble. One of the prisoners in a cell near him—his name is Finnegan—began last night to howl and pray in religious or fanatic fervor. Langston cried out for him to "Stop that; we may as well die one time as another," he said.

Near midnight, Moses Gaskins, one of the prisoners confined in the upper corridor, was suddenly taken with an attack of asthma. He was a young colored man and was in for committing an affray. He was taken from his cell into the rotunda upon one of the small benches there; he was soon set free. He expired in a few moments.

When Langster was informed of his death he said: "I suppose we all have to die some time, and this is as good a time as any other."

NO FEAR OF DEATH.

The reporter, continuing his conversation with Langster, asked him if he wanted to say anything.

"No. All I have got to say is to Father O'Sullivan. I expect him this morning."

"Do you think that you are prepared to die?"

"Yes. I am as well prepared as anybody else. I have no fear of death."

HIS CONDUCT AS A PRISONER.

As the old colored man who cooks for the jail gave the reporter some hot coffee, fresh fish and warmed-over roast beef—all prison fare and very good, indeed—he said: "Langster has been pretty quiet for several days. But he has been an awful tough person and has given the guards lots of trouble. Eat! Why I should say he did, boss. That nigger's appetite never went back on him. He put double rations in his hide all the time. Though he was so obstreperous, he made me laugh many times.

"I recollect one time especially that I had to laugh. It was Sunday. The corridor was filled with Young Men's Christian Association people. They were singing, praying and preaching to the prisoners. After awhile Langster started up an awful noise with the chains around his feet. He disturbed the proceedings. Deputy Warden Russ went to his cell to quiet him. Langster broke out fearful. He said: 'I won't be still. They are a lot of d—n fools out there. They are cranks. They don't know a d—n thing. I know better than they do. When we die we don't go to heaven or hell. The worms and bugs and every d—n thing eat us. There is no heaven and there is no hell. Shut up out there, you are a lot of d—n fools!'

"One of the preachers said that they would forgive the man as he knew not whereof he spoke. 'Yes I do,' yelled Langster, 'I know a d—d sight more than you do.'"

THIS MORNING'S BREAKFAST.

Langster ate well all yesterday. He smoked a cigar last night and this morning ordered a breakfast that must at least be called substantial. He ordered a dozen fried eggs, a quart of coffee, with beefsteak, potatoes, bread and butter in proportion. He did ample justice to the meal, remarking that he would not go out of the world hungry.

THE SCENE IN THE ROTUNDA.

The scene in the rotunda was rather curious this morning before the hanging. Men confined in the jail were cleaning up and taking breakfast to the other prisoners. A number of people, who had come to see the trap fall, talked in knots and smoked as if a life was not to be taken in a short time by the law. A half-dozen sparrows twittered along the ceiling of the arched rotunda. Prisoners who were allowed to promenade in the corridors looked curiously upon the people in the rotunda, but their eyes, when they had that vantage, invariably rested upon the corridor in which was located the prisoner's cell. Kirkwood, Carrigan and Cummings of the navy frauds were interested spectators. Father O'Sullivan came in about half past seven o'clock in priestly robe and with breviary in hand. He spent some time in the prisoner's cell.

THE FATHER'S FAREWELL.

He gave way to the father of the prisoner, a colored man about forty-five years of age, poorly, but neatly dressed, with a felt hat on his head. The father spent five minutes with the son. The two embraced. Their conversation related only to the future life of the son.

"Are you prepared to die?" the father asked.

"I am," was the reply in a calm voice. "I have nothing to fear, I have no doubts as to the future."

"I would not like to see you die unprepared," said the father. "I pray to God that you may not perish both body and soul."

"There is no fear of that," said Langster. "I am thoroughly prepared." After leaving his son, the father stood with back to the wall of the rotunda looking steadfastly upwards. Tears welled up in his eyes.

LANGSTER RESIGNED.

Father O'Sullivan at 8 o'clock was walking up and down in front of Langster's cell, looking now and then at his watch, as the minutes of his penitent's life wore swiftly away.

"Poor fellow," he said to the reporter. He is very quiet and very penitent. He will not make any trouble as some have anticipated. No; he will make no statement. There is nothing to be said by him. Everybody knows very well the facts connected with his case. He seems to be resigned. Poor fellow!"

PREPARING THE SCAFFOLD.

The scaffold at the further end of a long, narrow corridor, the pavement of which was of bright red brick, was not arranged until about 7:30. The rope and other mechanisms of it were then properly put in order.

FINAL ARRANGEMENTS.

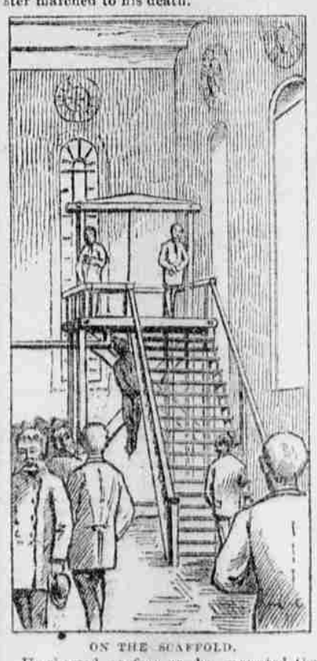
By twenty minutes past eight the crowd in the rotunda numbered about two hundred. A special detail of officers of police were ranged on either side of the entrance to the gallows corridor. No prisoners were then promenading. They had all been taken to their cells. The knots of laughing men grew less noisy, but showed little awe. Father O'Sullivan still paced up and down in front of Langster's cell. General Crocker, the warden of the jail, walked rapidly about looking careworn. The crowd became very thick in the neighborhood of the Langster corridor, and an irreverent newspaper man asked another of the same profession if he had brought his "dull, sickening thud" with him.

Father Sullivan, assistant to Father O'Sullivan, arrived and went to Langster's cell. The minutes overtook each other slowly to the people waiting for the death scene. The prisoner could, however, hardly have thought that they were going too slowly. A lane of men was formed leading diagonally across the rotunda from the exit to Langster's corridor to the gallows corridor. Officer Slack kept the lane in order. General Crocker and Deputy Warden Russ went to Langster's cell. Soon there was heard the clanking of irons. Russ was removing Langster's shackles. Between the sounds could be heard the twitter of the sparrows. Langster's father was in one of the lines of men that formed the lane. It was but a few minutes before nine that the clanking in the cell ceased.

THE DEATH MARCH.

Then there came forth Langster, with Father O'Sullivan on one side and Father Sullivan on the other. Father O'Sullivan held the crucifix in one hand and the breviary in the other. He read from the latter as he walked down the lane of men. Langster looked straight before him. He walked erect and showed no fear, except that his yellow skin reflected not the least light of blood beneath it. His arms were secured behind his back by a strong but small manilla rope. He wore a common blue flannel shirt, open at the neck. The magnificent muscular development of that portion of his body was apparent to all who looked upon him. His pantaloons were of a dark check cloth, torn up for about seven inches on either leg. His shoes were brogans that had been recently half-soled. Warden Crocker, Guards Jones and Torrence were right behind the group surrounding Langster. As the party marched across the rotunda the hats on the lane men were removed.

As Langster went down the steep steps to the gallows corridor the jury to view the body and to certify to his death closed in. The spectators made a rush for the corridor's entrance, but were kept back by the police. Down the corridor's length Langster marched to his death.



ON THE SCAFFOLD.

He showed no fear as he mounted the catfold. The two priests stood by him. Warden Crocker, Guards Torrence and Jones and Dr. McWilliams, the jail physician, were also on the scaffold.

The bright, glaring sun shone through the tall windows of the corridor, making an uncomfortable heat by the reflection from the newly whitewashed walls. The crowd stood uncovered. Father O'Sullivan read the dying service of the Church of Rome. Langster gave in a low voice, and without a tremor of the voice, the responses "Amen" and "Lord have mercy upon my soul" in their proper places.

The crucifix was raised to his mouth and Langster kissed it fervently. The noose and the black cap were adjusted. His legs had been tied during the reading of the service. There was not a flinch on the part of the murderer. Without any outward sign of fear he stood at four minutes to nine o'clock above his coffin which reposed beneath the scaffold.

THE TRAP SPRUNG.

At that moment the trap was sprung. There was a low moan from the cells in that part of the building. Langster's body fell the length of the drop like a plummet. His neck was broken. In a heavy circle with a radius of about four feet, the body swung around for about a minute. It then remained stationary, but for the tremor of the rope. Then there was an agonizing shudder of the whole frame. Then it hung perpendicularly again. Then followed another convulsive shudder; again the body described a few circles, but of diameter much less than those of a few minutes before. In eight or nine minutes the body was lowered so that the pulse could be felt. Life was not extinct. In a minute or two it was lowered further.

LIFE PRONOUNCED EXTINCT.

In about twenty-nine minutes from the drop life was pronounced extinct. The corpse was placed in the coffin, a plain pine one, stained like walnut and with a muslin lining. The crowd did not disperse until some time after it had passed by the coffin and looked at its contents. The eyes were closed. The tongue did not, as usual in hangings, protrude. The mark of the rope around the neck was perfectly distinct, being strongly accentuated where the knot had been stuck under the ear.

WITNESSES OF THE EXECUTION.

When the drop fell and the moan from the cells was heard, Langster's father stood next to THE CRITIC reporter. He did not show any emotion whatever. Near by stood the father-in-law of the late Officer Fowler, and a little to the right was Officer Boland, who arrested Langster after he had shot Fowler. Major Dye and most of the lieutenants of police were witnesses of the execution. There was but one opinion of those who saw Langster die. He died as if he did not care to live. In this he disappointed the predictions of many who said that he would "squeal." The many who expected violence from him in an attempt to prevent execution were also disappointed.

WHERE THE EXECUTIONER STOOD.

The window of cell No. 32, where a deputy warden was placed to spring the trap, was curtained by a painted screen. The deputy could see all that took place on the scaffold without being seen himself. There was no possibility of any one on the outside getting a glimpse through the windows. There were but very few there, most of them hack and cab-drivers. The others were half-grown colored boys and girls.

LANGSTER'S REMAINS.

Father O'Sullivan was seen after the execution by the reporter. He said that the remains of Langster would be interred to-morrow morning at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, the funeral taking place from the jail. This would be, he said, at the request of the executed man's father. The body is in charge of Mr. Wright, the undertaker, who has served in the same capacity at every execution that has taken place in the new jail, and who was present at the autopsy held on the body of the assassin Guiteau.

THE DECEASED'S CELL.

After the execution the cell from which Langster went to the scaffold was visited. On the floor lay the straw pallet and pillow upon which Langster had slept. The cover of the pillow had been taken off and evidently used as a towel. Close to the head of the mattress was a paper parcel containing four biscuits and the remains of another which had been partly eaten. Near by was a quart cup nearly full of coffee and another half full of milk. On the window-ledge was an empty pan which had held bread-pudding, and a well-worn hair brush. A broken pocket-comb was on the mattress. Langster's low-crowned black felt hat, the one he wore when he killed Officer Fowler, hung on one of the walls. On the other wall, deeply carved in the brick wall, is his name in letters three inches long, "LANGSTER." In each of the other cells in which he was confined, Nos. 24 and 3, the same decoration appears.

NOTES.

The murderer went out of the world attended with all of the rites of the church. Early this morning he received the holy sacrament, and two fathers of Rome were with him when he fell through the trap-door and his neck was broken.

Dr. Godding of St. Elizabeth's Asylum where Langster was confined for some time, witnessed the execution to-day. He is said to be in favor of holding an autopsy on the body, but will not likely be permitted to do so.

The Murderer and His Crime.

The wretch who suffered the extreme penalty of the law this morning for his crime was guilty of one of the most unprovoked and cold-blooded murders that have ever been committed in the District. So deliberate and premeditated was it that it is strange there should be found apologists or defenders of the deed.

On the morning of the 9th of last September Officer John H. Fowler, in charge of the chain-gang at work near First and G streets northwest, noticed John Langster, commonly called "Guinea," one of the gang, slyly making his way off. He tracked him to an outhouse in alley running from First street, between D and E streets. Langster observed him and doggedly turned and stood at bay.

"Will you return to your work?" demanded the officer.

"No," replied Langster, with an oath.

Grasping his pistol, the officer advanced, when Langster made a spring at him. Immediately Fowler fired, but into the air, hoping to intimidate the other. This did not have the desired effect, and Fowler took out his handcuffs to put on the wrists of the prisoner. He indiscreetly kept his pistol in his hand while he attempted to adjust the handcuffs, thus giving Langster easy access to the pistol. The action was most imprudent, for before the astonished officer could resist, Langster had leaped upon him and seized the revolver, and hurling the officer back fired twice at him. The shots went wide. Quickly he placed the revolver close to Fowler's heart and this time sent the bullet on its fatal errand. The officer staggered back a few steps and fell. His murderer fled up the alley and found refuge in the rear basement of No. 311 D street. Here he was soon discovered by Lieutenant Kelly, Sergeant Boyle and Officer Boland. He had hid under a bed and crouched there with the murdered officer's pistol still in his grasp.

He had wrapped himself in a quilt and had stripped off all his clothes but an undershirt. His striped pants and shirt were found on the door near the foot of the bed. At Lieutenant Kelly's command he came out. He expressed great surprise and consternation when he learned that another load remained in the pistol. With a savage grin he turned to Officer Boland and remarked: "If I had known that I would have put you in hell, too."

He was taken to the Seventh Precinct Station-House, but hearing rumors of contemplated attempt to seize and lynch him, Lieutenant Kelly had him removed to the Fifth Precinct Station-House prior to being committed to jail.

Officer Fowler lived but a short time after he was shot.

When Langster was questioned about his reason for committing such an awful crime, he said:

"Well, the officer was going to shoot me, and I caught hold of the pistol and turned it toward him and fired. I then wrenched the pistol away and fired again. Then I ran away."

His own statement was enough to render absurd the plea of self-defense and to convict him. After he had gained possession of the pistol he was master of the situation. The officer could not then have harmed him had he started to run away.

Later in the day he began to show insanity. When questioned he looked at his questioners in a dazed way and returned incoherent remarks to their queries. Afterward he forgot his insanity and made a bid for compassion by expressing sorrow for his deed.

He was committed to jail, promptly indicted and was arraigned for trial during the past winter. He had no case at all, and a verdict of guilty was given unhesitatingly. When sentence had been pronounced the prisoner broke forth in such an outburst of abuse as had never been heard in that court-room since the trial of Guiteau.

Langster addressed most piteous letters to the President, claiming that he had not had a fair trial and that he was insane at the time of the murder. Knowing his reputation for viciousness little heed was given him. About three years before he had been committed to the Reform School, and while there attacked the foreman of the chair shop. He also became enraged at the attending physician and seizing a heavy wooden roller, upon which a towel hung, he savagely beat the doctor so that the latter was kept in bed for six months subsequently and at one time his life was dispaired of. The physician bears marks of the attack to this day.

Some time after he was released from the Reform School he became involved in a row in which he attacked a man and cut him with a razor. For this he was severely punished.

Last July he was arrested, charged with having attempted to kill his father, by shooting him. Although this charge was not sustained, he was sentenced to three months' imprisonment for carrying concealed weapons. He soon escaped, but was recaptured and recommitted on August 11 for ninety days. He was serving out this term when he shot Officer Fowler.

He was to have been hanged two weeks ago to-day, but a last effort was made for his life, and the President was induced to grant a reprieve of two weeks, that the question of his sanity might be investigated. It was decided that he was sane enough to know the enormity of his crime, and the President declined to interfere in the matter.

Rugg, the Maybee Murderer, Hung.

LONG ISLAND CITY, L. I., May 15.—Charles H. Rugg, the negro who murdered Mrs. Maybee and her daughter Annie at Brookfield, L. I., and who within a few weeks afterwards nearly killed aged Mr. and Mrs. Townsend at Oyster Bay, and the sexagenarian Seely Sprague, was executed in the Queen's County jail at 7:45 this morning. The execution passed off quietly.

THE TRIAL OF THE DYNAMITERS.

Burton's Rambling and Sensational Address to the Jury.

LONDON, May 15.—The evidence for the Crown in the case of Cunningham and Burton, the alleged dynamiters, was completed to-day. The last witnesses introduced by the Crown were Doctors Ford and Dupre, the Government chemists, who testified with regard to the force of the explosives and chemicals contained in the detonater found in Burton's trunk.

The case for the defense was then opened, and two female witnesses called who testified that at the time of the explosion, Cunningham was at the house of a Miss Cannon, Burton's counsel submitted that no evidence had been adduced to show that there was a conspiracy. The Judge said that question was for the jury to decide.

At the conclusion of the evidence for the defense, Burton was granted permission to address the jury in his own behalf. He explained his presence in England at the time of the explosions by asserting that he had left America because of failing health. He then went on to explain his movements during his stay in London in a rambling, disconnected manner, and concluded by calling on God to witness that he was innocent.

Burton spoke for over an hour, and at times worked himself to a high pitch of excitement. During the delivery of his harangue he frequently struck dramatic postures, and his violent gestures caused considerable excitement in the trial room. His remarks had anything but a favorable effect.

Burton was followed by his counsel, Mr. Frederick Little, who argued that the evidence for the Crown failed to prove that his client was implicated in any way with the explosion.

Mr. Little called no witnesses in defense of Burton, rested his case, and the court adjourned until to-morrow.

ANOTHER ANGLO-RUSSIAN HITCH.

General Komaroff Suggests a Serious Difficulty.

ST. PETERSBURG, May 15.—A dispatch has been received at the War Office from General Komaroff, commander of the Russian forces on the Afghan frontier, in which he states that the Sariks are bitterly opposed to the new frontier line now under discussion by the Russian and English governments. The general states that the reason given by the Sariks for their opposition is that it gives the best of the disputed lands to the Afghans. Immediately on the receipt of this dispatch a council was held and it was decided to support the claims of the Sariks.

No Reply from Russia.

LONDON, May 15.—In the House of Commons this afternoon Lord Edwin Fitzmaurice, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, stated that no reply had yet been received to the agreement reached by Lord Granville, Earl Kimberlay and Baron de Staal, and which had been forwarded to St. Petersburg for the Czar's approval. Although pressed for more information Lord Fitzmaurice refused to make any further statement.

A Startling Announcement.

LONDON, May 15.—The *Globe* this afternoon publishes the startling announcement that England has demanded from Russia a definite pledge that she will respect the new Afghan frontier.

The *Globe* also asserts that Russia has refused to accede to England's request, and that she goes to the length of demanding further concessions.

FANNIE MADISON'S MURDER.

The Jury Visit the Old Reservoir and Inspect the Place of the Tragedy.

RICHMOND, VA., May 15.—The jurymen were all in their places this morning, and testimony in the Cluverius case was resumed. At 11 o'clock the jury went out to the Old Reservoir and viewed the ground. At 2 p. m. the jury returned and again resumed the taking of testimony.

General Grant Has a Good Night.

NEW YORK, May 15.—Shortly after 11 o'clock last night General Grant was asleep. Dr. Douglas remained all night, and when he left the house at 8:30 this morning he said the General had had a good average night's rest, he had suffered little or no pain during the night, and the swelling at the angle of the jaw had subsided. The Doctor and the General will drive out at noon.

The Roller-Skating Match.

NEW YORK, May 15.—Skating at Madison Square, (10 o'clock a. m.) Snowden, 944 miles; Omelia, 485 miles; Maddocks, 900 miles; Wilson, 476 miles; Schock, 876 miles; Boyst, 926 miles; Francis, 725 miles; Harriman, 628 miles.

NEW YORK, May 15—1 p. m. score.—Snowden, 971; Maddocks, 922; Schock, 888; Boyst, 951; Francis, 741; Harriman, 648 miles.

Lord Beaconsfield's "Poems of a Life Time," are condemned by the London critics as a mass of senseless rubbish.

THE IVY CITY RACES.

WESTMORELAND WINNER IN THE SIX FURLONG HEAT TO-DAY.

The Fourth and Last Day of a Very Successful Meeting—A Large Attendance, as Usual, and the Finest of Weather—Notes of the Day.

(Special.)

IVY CITY, May 15—2:45 p. m.—The track is in fine condition, and the indications are that the attendance will be enormous. Baltimore people are here in force. In the first race Valley Forge will probably win, though Miss Goodrich and the Duke of Westmoreland will have a fighting chance. The second race will go to Colonel Sprague, with Telie Doe or Tecumseh second. One of the two last should win the race, at the weights they are in at, if it was not for the fact that they had a hard race yesterday, and will not have as good jocks. Frankie B will win the third race, with Emmett or Nellie Glennon second. The fourth race should go to Bess, with the best of Scott's entry second. Lena or Montmore should win the last race, with old Joe Mitchell close up.

The First Race.

IVY CITY, May 15—3:20 p. m.—The first race was won by Westmoreland. Time, 1:16. Distance, six furlongs. Mutuals paid $5.50.

A YOUTHFUL JOCKEY.

By odds the largest crowd ever at a meeting of the Washington Jockey Club was in attendance yesterday. Ladies and their escorts completely filled the large grand stand, while the quarter-stretch was uncomfortably crowded, and as for the betting pavilion, it was almost impossible to get near the book-makers. It's a funny thing to see, after a race, how many there are who knew just how it was coming out. They had a "straight tip," but, for this, that or the other reason, had failed to buy the right ticket. A great number of the ladies in the grand stand invested their wagers through their escorts. "How did you come out, my dear?" said one to her "lovin' husband," after the fourth race yesterday. "Why, Greenfield just pulled me out even," he answered. "Then go and put every cent on King Fan. A gentleman just came up here and told a woman behind me that he could not lose." "Just my idea," said hubby, and as he started down she called after him, "Don't be afraid." Going to the cars after the race, a number of people were amused at the dejected looks of a man and the excited gesticulations of a woman. As she got into the cars she fired a broadside at short range, in which the words, "You ought to have had more sense," were easily distinguishable. Several men in the grand stand puffed their strong cigars yesterday, blowing the smoke in the faces of ladies, to their evident disgust and discomfort. If these "things" haven't manliness enough to restrain themselves or respect for other ladies, if not for their wives or daughters, some able-bodied man will surely teach them. Two favorites, one second choice and two outsiders won yesterday, though none of the pools were as large as two of those of the day before. THE CRITIC named three winners and two second horses yesterday. King Lion is back in his old form and had no trouble in landing the first race. Queen Esther was beaten out for the place by Eva K. Farewell took the second race handily, Pink Cottage second. Bessie is evidently not in good trim. The fine riding of McLaughlin won the third race. He rode with rare judgment, just gauged the pace, and had enough in at the finish to win nicely. Tecumseh is a better horse, however, than most people have given him credit for being. Telie Doe made a fine race, but Wickham is not quite as good as he has been credited with being. Greenfield fairly ran away from his field, and was pulled nearly the whole way around. The favorite, Meptmore, carried more money than any other horse yesterday, but could not get better than third. J. Donahue rode old Lida Stanhope in great style and won a clever race, with something to spare, Hilarity second. The favorite, King Fan, only demonstrated again what those who know him best knew before, and that is that he is an in-and-out runner, a flyer one day and no good the next.

BASEBALL.

Two base hits in a nine-inning game against the Richmonds is something funny. Yet it's all the Nationals made yesterday. The nine needs a competent man with them to keep them steady.

An article in one of the morning papers reflected severely upon Mr. Edward Oyster in connection with the guying the umpire Taylor received here. The article in question states that Mr. Oyster attempted to assault the umpire. Mr. Searns, who was with Mr. Oyster, stated to the sporting editor of THE CRITIC yesterday that Mr. Oyster made no demonstration whatever, save to join in the guying which the crowd indulged in at Taylor's expense. It's a great injustice to pick out a man who is entirely innocent of any wrong-doing and hold him up in a newspaper as a culprit.

The Nationals need the services of a first class pitcher like Barr.

To-Day's Temperatures.

The Signal Office furnishes the following synopsis of the weather:

Local meteorological report for May 15, 1885: Thermometer readings at 7 a. m., 58°.3; 11 a. m., 74°.0.

Report for May 14, 1885: Mean temperature, 56°.4; maximum, 70°.5; minimum, 48°.0; mean relative humidity, [illegible]; total precipitation, 0.03 inch.

WEATHER INDICATIONS.

For Saturday slightly warmer, fair weather is indicated for the districts on the Atlantic coast.

At J. Brock's, 802 Seventh Street.

Gent's Hand-Sewed French Calf Congress or button boots only $4.25, worth $6. Also cash only. Ask for them.