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BY GEO. W. BOWMAN.

NEW SERIES.

Select Poetry.



"Never Court but One."

I have finished it, the letter,
That will tell him he is free;
From this hour and forever,
He is nothing more to me!
And my heart feels lighter, gay,
Since the deed at last is done—
I will teach him that when counting
He should never court but one.

Everybody in the village
Knows he's been a wooing me,
And this morning he was riding
With that fancy Anna Lee.
They say he smiled upon her,
As he cantered by her side,
And I'll warrant you he promised
To make her soon his bride.

But I've finished it, the letter,
From this moment he is free—
He may have her if he wants her,
If he loves her more than me.
He may go—it will not kill me—
I would say the same, so true
If I knew it would, for flirting,
Is more than I can bear.

It is twilight and the evening,
That he said he'd visit me—
But no doubt he's now with Anna,
He may stay there, too, for me!
And as true as I'm a living,
If he ever comes here more,
I'll act as if we never
Never, never met before.

It is time he should be coming,
And I wonder if he will;
If he does I'll look as coldly—
What's that shadow on the hill?
I declare, out in the twilight,
There is some one coming near—
Can it be? yes, 'tis a figure,
Just as true as I am here.

Now I almost wish I'd written
Not to him that he was free,
For perhaps 'twas but a story,
That he rode with Anna Lee.
There he's coming thro' the gate-way,
I'll meet him at the door,
And I'll tell him still I love him,
If he'll court Miss Lee no more!

THE BURDELL MURDER CASE.

On Saturday evening last the trial of Mrs. Cunningham for the murder of Dr. Burdell, was brought to a close by a verdict from the jury of "Not Guilty." The N. Y. Herald gives the following particulars:

At twenty five minutes to 8 o'clock the jury entered and took their seats in the box. The Clerk (Mr. Henry Vandervoort) took his position in the witness chair, to call over the names of the jurors and to put the usual formal questions to them.

As a precaution against a probable manifestation of feeling on the rendition of the verdict, the folding doors between the principal Court and the Marine Court were drawn together, and the immense audience in the latter Court thus shut out from witnessing the last deeply exciting scene.

The usual forms being gone through, the jury returned a verdict of not guilty.

(Some manifestations of applause.)

Mrs. Cunningham was so agitated that she heard not the words that the foreman uttered, and did not know what the verdict was till her counsel whispered it to her: then she sank back overcome by her feelings.

Mrs. Cunningham and her daughters were then conducted out of Court into one of the Judge's chambers, and there for some time received the congratulation of her friends on the happy termination of the prosecution. We understand that they returned to the fatal house in good street.

The verdict seemed to afford very general satisfaction. Judge Davies privately expressed himself pleased with it.

Judge Davies (to the Jurors)—Gentlemen you are discharged from further attendance. I regretted to have to impose so heavy a task upon you, but I think you are all satisfied that the Court did its duty in this respect.

The jurors then retired, each shaking hands with and complimenting the Judge, and the Judge reciprocating the compliment.

Mr. Eckel's counsel then addressed the Court in favor of a motion to discharge him on bail for the following reasons:

The whole of the prosecutor's theory against Mr. Eckel, under which he has been indicted and restrained of his liberty for three months, has been that he is the paramour of the prisoner just discharged, aided and participated in the commission of the murder. In other words, that he was a kind of principal in the second degree, or, at all events, had some knowledge which might render him amenable as accessory before the fact. Now, whatever his relation to the crime was, if he had any relations to it at all, it is evident that he did not occupy, under the theory of the prosecution disposed of by the present verdict, the relation of a principal in the first degree, because the prisoner who has just been discharged has been indicted as the sole actor in the commission of the murder.

Judge Davies, (to counsel)—What is the amount of Mr. Eckel's property?

Counsel (after a whisper from his client)—From ten thousand to fifteen thousand dollars, I understand.

Judge Davies—Would five thousand dollars bail be adequate?

The District Attorney—Ample.

Judge Davies (to the Clerk)—Take Mr. Eckel's recognizance in five thousand dollars.

The recognizance was taken, and Mr. Eckel was discharged from custody.

The Closing Scene—Speech of the Murderer—His Sentence.

The Court—"David Stringer McKim, stand up.—Have you anything to say why sentence of death should not be pronounced upon you.

Prisoner—Ys sir! Honored Judge, and all of you gentlemen, I am charged with a crime, which, before my God, and before you all, I am innocent! I am charged with the murder of Samuel T. Norcross, by killing him with a club and cutting his throat with a razor. Before my God, and before you all, I am innocent. I got off the cars fifteen or twenty miles west of Altoona, at a stopping place, I do not remember the name, and a man named Robinson, I don't know his first name, I was introduced to him on the cars, went on with Norcross. I am charged with killing Samuel T. Norcross with a club, and cutting his throat with a razor, which, before my God, and before you all, I am innocent! (turning around to the audience,) and before my God, I am innocent! There has been men here who swore false against me. There has been a man here who sat there (pointing to the witness stand) who said I was there when Mr. Norcross got his money. Honored sir, this is not so; before my God he was not there, it was another man.—There has been a man here who said I took breakfast at Altoona, and before my God I did not. I was in Altoona, and saw Norcross there. He was my friend, and I treated him as a brother. I have been charged with a crime for which I am to suffer, which before my God, and you, Honored sir, of which I am not guilty. There has been a man here, who sit there, and said that he saw me shave Norcross with a razor. I never shaved Norcross, nor ever shaved myself since I left home; before my God I did not. I had a black-handled razor, but that one found beside Norcross, which they abused me about, was not mine. He never saw me shave Norcross nor myself, and he swore to what was not true. Honored Judge, they say that I killed Norcross by beating his brains out with a club, and cutting his throat with a razor, when I did not. Honored Judge, and all you here now, I am to be hung for a crime I did not do. There has been men here, sitting there, who said I had no money when I left that man thirty-five dollars in gold and he never paid me back to this day. They say I had no money when I had, and witnesses have come to this Court House to have me hung for something I did not do. The crime I am charged with, murdering Samuel T. Norcross, I did not do, before my God I did not do it, I am an innocent man, yet I know I am about to suffer death for it in a few days. That's all I have to say sir."

During the delivery of this address the prisoner exhibited wonderful calmness and the most intense energy of manner marked every idea he uttered. His person was erect, his head thrown back, his eyes restless but full of fire.—He gestulated with propriety and effect.—His voice full, clear, firm and sonorous, rang through the Court room which was still as death. His tone and manner were terribly concentrated and impressive. His very soul seemed struggling to impress its vivid emotions on the audience. No man who witnessed this awful scene can ever forget it.

THE SENTENCE.

Judge Taylor then proceeded to sentence the prisoner, prefacing it with the following remarks:

A jury chosen by yourself, after a full and patient hearing of your case, and all that the zeal and indignity of your counsel urged in your behalf, have found you guilty of the willful deliberate and premeditated murder of Samuel Townsend Norcross. And although you still deny it, the finding of the jury fixes your guilt, and we are constrained to say, notwithstanding your denial, that this Court entirely approve of that verdict.

Your crime, though perpetrated, and no doubt supposed by you at the time to be hidden and covered up, in darkness, has been brought by the evidence against you into clear and unclouded light. Let your unhappy case serve as a warning, that crime, and especially the crime of murder, though committed with the utmost secrecy, and when no human eye sees, no human ear hears, is still not hidden and past finding out.

Your guilt has not only been made plainly manifest, but it has appeared in the hideous fact of the most deliberate, treacherous, cruel and unmanly murder. Your victim was a sickly, delicate youth, who, in unsuspecting confidence, had placed himself in your charge, and in your power, on his journey home to his friends.—We shudder at the heart sickness—as the scene of that morning rises before us, and we imagine the look and the feelings of that confiding, but betrayed youth, when he sees the strong arm on which he had leaned, and to which he looked for assistance and protection, raised against his life! But we forbear. We do not speak to wound your feelings, but to impress on you our solemn conviction that in view of the clearness with which your guilt has been established, and the aggravated heinousness of your crime, the judgment now about to be pronounced, will certainly be carried into execution. And we earnestly exhort you to look, as your only hope, into the only refuge before you, to Infinite Mercy.—It only remains to pronounce the sentence of the law which is

That you David Stringer McKim, be taken hence to the place from whence you came, within the walls of the jail, county of Blair, and from thence to the place of execution within the walls or yard of the jail of the county of Blair aforesaid, and that you be there HANGED BY THE NECK UNTIL YOU ARE DEAD! And may God have mercy on your soul!

No perceptible degree of emotion, nor the least tremor, was to be noticed in the prisoner as he stood before the Judge and received the death sentence. When his honor had concluded, he remained in the same position, gazing intently, with a pitiful look, upon the Judge,

and did not move until requested by the Sheriff to sit down. He was removed to his cell shortly afterwards, where we visited and conversed with him. In prison his manner was changed; he was excited, restless, and the irresistible fierceness of his small grey eyes, while stalking back and forth in his gloomy dungeon, with manacled limbs, betokened feelings terrible and pregnant with meaning.

David Stringer McKim has had a fair trial.—The evidence against him was clear, conclusive, and uncontradicted, presenting a chain of circumstances, each link sustained by the other, pointing with undoubted certainty to him as the perpetrator of the fiendish and most unnatural murder.

Siamese Female Soldiers.

The following description of the King of Siam's female military body-guard, though not entirely new, is interesting from its minutness. It appears in the *Monteur de P. Asnee*:

A battalion of the King's Guard consists of 400 women, chosen among the handsomest and most robust girls in the country. They receive excellent pay, and their discipline is perfect.—They are admitted to serve at the age of thirteen, and placed in the army of reserve at twenty-five. From that period they no longer serve at the King's person, but are employed to guard the Royal palaces and crown lands. On entering the army they make a vow of chastity, from which there is no exemption, unless any of them should attract the King's attention and be admitted among his legitimate wives. The King's choice seldom falls on the most beautiful, but on the most skilled in military exercises.

The hope of such a reward animates them with extraordinary zeal for military instruction, and Europeans are astonished at the martial appearance of the battalion, as well as its skill in manoeuvring and its excellent discipline.—The costume these women wear is very rich.—Their full dress is composed of a white woollen robe, embroidered with gold. The cloth is extremely fine and descends as far as the knee; it is covered with a light coat of mail and a gilt cuirass. The arms are free, and the head is covered with a gilt casque. When wearing this dress on State occasions their only weapon is a lance, which they handle with wonderful dexterity. With their dresses they are armed with a musket. The battalion is composed of four companies, and each company of one hundred women, commanded by a captain of their sex. Should the captain die the company is drilled for three days by the King, who appoints the most competent to succeed to the command.

The battalion has been commanded for the last five years by a woman who saved the King's life at a tiger hunt, by her courage and skill. She possesses great influence at Court, and is much respected by those under her command. She has the same establishment as a member of the Royal family, and ten elephants are placed at her service. The King never undertakes an expedition without being accompanied by his female guard, nor does he ever hunt, or even ride out, without an escort of the same guard, who are devotedly attached to his person. Each individual of the battalion has five negroes attached to her service, and having thus no domestic occupation, she can devote herself exclusively to the duties of her profession. There is a parade ground near the city, where one company is stationed for two days every week to exercise themselves in the use of the lance, the pistol, the musket and the rifle.

The King attends once a month at these exercises, accompanied by his brother, who shares in some degree the sovereign power, and distributes prizes to the most deserving. These rewards consist of bracelets or other valuable jewelry, to which the girls and their families attach great importance. Those who honor fill the offices of sergeant and corporal. Punishment is very rare in this corps, and when it is inflicted it consists of a suspension from service for a period not exceeding three months. But duels are much more frequent. This must be sanctioned, however, by the female captain, and he fought with swords in presence of the entire company. When the death of one of the parties ensues, the deceased receives a magnificent funeral, and the high priest pronounces a panegyric declaring that the deceased by her valor has merited eternal rest in the abode of the blessed. The survivor receives the congratulation of her companions; but as a measure of discipline, she is sentenced to pass two months away from her company in fasting and prayer. The military organization of this battalion is so perfect that the entire army endeavors to imitate it.

Horrible Accident—A Man Saved in Two.

The London (C. W.) Free Press of yesterday, says that on Wednesday of last week, a most shocking accident occurred in a circular saw-mill at Walsingham. Charles Harris, a young man lately married, had just been employed that morning to work in the mill, and was set carrying away boards as they dropped from the saw. He was cautioned against the danger of letting a board touch the saw while in motion, but the unfortunate man had taken away but a few boards when the end of one he had just taken up swayed against the saw, and being repelled with violence, caused the other end to force him against the saw, then in full motion, and, as quick as thought, he was cut in twain. The saw struck first the point of the left shoulder passing directly through the heart, and out under the ribs on the right side of the body.

THE TURKISH SOLDIER marches to meet the foe with the same nonchalance as he smokes his pipe. He is taught from his birth that the moment of his death is fixed, and that a whole charge of artillery aimed at his head would miss him, if destiny had decreed his time not yet come. He is taught also that he will go straight way to Paradise the moment of his death. With both these ideas he is so fully impressed, that no danger moves him, and he lies on his death-bed as calmly as on a bed of sleep.

Read!

SALE OF THE MAIN LINE.

The deed is done; the outrage is consummated; the climax of corruption is reached; and the Legislature of Pennsylvania is covered with lasting infamy. Her-after he shall shrink with shame at whom the finger of scorn shall point, as he passes along the public thoroughfare, intimating, there! there goes a member of the Legislature of 1857.

The aberrations of public men, though natural, are always humiliating; but when a deed of glaring injustice is deliberately done, the head of every patriot is bowed in sickening sorrow.

Still more is this the case when the State is the victim and the dagger has been planted in the bosom of mother Commonwealth. Works of intercommunication, that was constructed with the money of the whole Commonwealth, and whose revenues were applied to the interest of the public debt, are to be abandoned in favor of a gigantic corporation, which, by voluntary act was erected into a rival—but upon a distinct understanding.

As a railroad on the banks of a canal would necessarily injure its trade, and diminish the revenue of the State, the original condition in the law between the State and Pennsylvania Railway was, that a tax should be levied upon every ton of freight passing over its road. In succeeding years they besought, in piteous tones, and received the exemption of coal and lumber; but finally from the legislature of 1857 they obtain a release of the whole, nearly \$400,000, yearly, which should go into the coffers of the State, towards defrayment of the interest of the debt.

After injuring that highway constructed by the citizens of the Commonwealth—after obtaining a release from the compensation which they voluntarily offered in lieu of said injury, the Directors of the Pennsylvania Road send their hirings to demand, of a pliable Legislature, the Main Line in effect as a gift and with right of abandoning a portion. The enormity of enormities is contained in the abandonment of the western divisions of the canal, and these men are the *Adelphi* dogs that prey upon the power which made them what they are.

But so unpleasant is the theme that we shall conclude by adverting to the fact that amendment after amendment was voted down in the Senate by the friends of the bill. Even that of Mr. Browne, which made the purchasers liable for damages, brought by the owners of farms, who were compelled to divide their fields and give land for a public highway, and, also, for damages done to lessees of water power and all other parties injured, was defeated by the following vote:

The seventh section being under consideration.

Mr. Brown moved to attach a proviso, that the purchasers shall guarantee the Commonwealth against, and pay all claims or damages for water power or other water rights that may be injured by management or abandonment of any part thereof, or in any way arising from said sale.

Negative—yeas 13 nays 18, as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Brewer, Browne, Cresswell, Ely, Fetter, Gazzam, Knox, Laubach, Steele, Walton, Welsh, Wilkins, and Wright—13.

Nays—Messrs. Coffey, Evans, Finney, Flouniken, Frazer, Gregg, Harris, Ingram, JORDAN, Killinger, Lewis, Myer, Scofield, Sellers, Shuman, Souther, Straub, and Taggart, *Speakers*—18.

Yeas—12 Democrats, 1 Opposition; nays—15 Opposition, 3 Democrats. Upon final passage of the bill, the vote was as follows: yeas 16 Opposition, 2 Democrats; nays—13 Democrats, 1 Opposition.

Yeas—Messrs. Coffey, Crabb, Finney, Flouniken, Frazer, Gregg, Harris, Ingram, JORDAN, Killinger, Lewis, Myer, Scofield, Sellers, Shuman, Souther, Straub, and Taggart, *Speakers*—18.

Nays—Messrs. Brewer, Browne, Cresswell, Ely, Evans, Fetter, Gazzam, Knox, Laubach, Steele, Walton, Welsh, Wilkins and Wright—14.

The yeas and nays were not called in the House on the Senate amendments. Every amendment offered by the opponents of the bill was voted down, and the Senate amendments were finally concurred in. We should like to place the names of members on record, for future references, but as this is impossible, we shall do the best we can and give the yeas and nays on the following amendment offered by Mr. Calhoun:

"That if said purchaser or purchasers shall bid a sum of not less than \$12,000,000 for the said Main Line of public works, then, and in that event, said purchaser shall be declared the purchaser of said Main Line, subject to the terms and conditions as heretofore prescribed in this act in the case of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, and the said tonnage tax shall be collected by the Commonwealth as heretofore and credited to the said purchasers annually for the period of twenty years as part of said purchase money.

The amendment was discussed by Messrs. Calhoun, Longaker and Johns, and was not agreed to by the following vote:

Yeas—Messrs. Adams, Anderson, Arthur, Backhouse, Beck, Brown, Calhoun, Carth, Ent, Fansholl, Foster, Gildea, Hamel, Harper, Heins, Hill, Hillegas, Hoffman, (Berks), Innes, Johns, Knight, Leisinger, Longaker, M'Ilvain, Nicholson, Nonnenmacher, Pearson, Ramsey, (Philadelphia), Ramsey, (York), Reamer, Roberts, Rupp, Smith, (Cambria) Smith (Centre), Smith, (Luzerne) Voghtly, Walter, Westbrook, Whar-

ton, Yearsley, Zimmerman and Getz, *Speakers*—12.

Nays—Messrs. Augustine, Babcock, Backus, Ball, Benson, Bishop, Browne, Campbell, Chase, Claver, Crawford, Dickey, Dock, Eyster, Gibbons, Hamilton, Hancock, Heistand, Hine, Hoffman, of Lebanon, Hons-keeper, Imbrie, Jacobs, Jenkins, Johnson, Kaufman, Kerr, Lebo, Manear, Mangie, McCalmont, Moorhead, Muna, Musselman, Nichols, Penrose, Peters, Pernal, Purcell, Reed, Shaw, Sloan, Struthers, Tolan, Tolan, Vail, Vanvorhis, Vickers, Wagonseller, Warner, Williston, Wintrod, Witherow and Wright—51.

This shows nearly as we can get at it, the position of parties, and for this vote we shall hold them responsible.—*Harrisburg Union*.

From the Carlisle Volunteer, Governor Pollock against the Banks.

The action of the Legislature on the subject of granting new Bank charters has startled the people from one end of the State to the other.—Hopes were entertained by many that Governor Pollock would exercise the veto power, and arrest the speculators who have been engaged in these schemes of plunder.—We confess we were not of this number, for, notwithstanding the Governor's message of 1855, in which he took strong grounds against increasing the banking capital of the State, we placed no confidence in his declarations. From the very hour he assumed the duties of his office to the present time, he has shown himself a weak, vacillating man, without nerve and destitute of principle. Like most of Know Nothings, he is false, deceptive and sneaking. His administration like that of the redoubtable Joseph Ritner, will be remembered only for its weakness and want of honesty.

On the 9th inst., Gov. Pollock—to his everlasting disgrace be it remembered—informed the Legislature that he had signed the following bank bills. The amount of capital of each is set opposite to it, in order that it may be seen how much the banking capital of the State is increased by this act:

Union Bank of Reading,	\$120,000
Bank of Cataque,	400,000
Bank of Kittanning,	300,000
Bank of Beaver county,	150,000
Pittston Bank,	200,000
Commonwealth Bank of Philada,	500,000
Corn Exchange Bank of Philada,	500,000
Union Bank of Philadelphia,	400,000
Chest-er Valley Bank,	100,000
Allegheny Bank,	500,000
Lewisburg Bank, (increase)	100,000
Daylstown Bank,	150,000
Total,	\$3,420,000

Three million four hundred and twenty thousand dollars of an increase to the banking capital of the State in one week by the act of a Governor who, two years ago, in a veto message to the Legislature, opposed the indiscriminate increase of banking capital!

To contrast this act of Governor Pollock with the sentiments expressed by him at the session of 1855, in his veto of the Pittstown bank, and show how widely his opinions and his actions are apart, we make an extract from that document. It is peculiarly applicable to the present time.

"But the number of applications is no just criterion by which to determine either the wishes or the wants of the community in this regard. Their number, and the pertinacity with which they are passed, have startled and alarmed the public mind; nor has the favorable action of the Legislature, in granting these demands, served to allay the apprehensions and fears thus excited. The policy of the past few years may have been too severely and unnecessarily restrictive; yet this policy should be preserved, rather than abandon the State and the interests of her people, to the destructive influences of a wild and reckless system of banks and banking. That some increase of banking capital is necessary in certain localities, will not be denied; that a large increase is not demanded, either by public sentiment, or the public weal, is a truth equally undeniable. In the creation of banks, a sound and honest discrimination as to number, locality, and the demands of trade, should be exercised. The sudden and unnecessary expansion of the currency should be avoided; and what ever tends to produce such a result, ought to be discountenanced, and, if possible, prevented."

This was the deliberate opinion expressed by Governor Pollock two years ago, yet at the same session of the Legislature he set at naught his own doctrines, and signed nearly every bank bill that was presented to him, where the legal requirement as to notice has been complied with. It is fair to presume that he intends to sign all the bills passed at this session, having already forgotten to exercise that *sound and honest discrimination* he once promised to the public. No such discrimination having been applied thus far, there is no reason to believe that it will be. The fact is, he has not the nerve to resist the importunity of bank applicants, and the pressure brought to bear upon him.

Only Me.—A lady had two children—both girls. The elder one a fair child, the younger a beauty, and the mother's pet. Her whole love was contracted in it. The elder was neglected, while Sweet—the pet name of the younger—received every attention—that love could bestow. One day, after a severe illness, the mother was sitting in the parlor, when she heard a childish step on the stairs, and her thoughts were instantly upon her favorite.

"Is that you, Sweet?" she inquired.

"No nam," was the sad and touching reply.—"It isn't Sweet; it's only me."

The mother's heart smote her, and from that hour "only me" was restored to an equal place in her affections.

DECAY OF BLACK REPUBLICANISM.

Every day brings us additional evidence of the decay of Black Republicanism. Like every cause having its origin in fraud and deception, or moral and political error, that of these political agitators must ultimately sink to rise no more. The people are learning the truth, and their case is waning under the ban of the people. City after city has given its verdict against them. Connecticut, so strongly with them a few months since, has written her condemnation of their principles and practices.—In Michigan thousands have deserted their standard, and the democracy will soon fully triumph in that State. Iowa, upon the borders of bleeding Kansas, the electors in which, most personally know what has occurred, in that Territory, has abandoned Black Republicanism, and all other isms, and manfully wheeled into the Democratic lines again. The administration has there achieved a most noble triumph. The Black Republicans nowhere increase their vote or win new majorities. That party rose upon a false and rotten basis, and must from necessity fall when the people understand the foundation upon which it stands. Decay is legibly written upon it. Such is ever the fate of error, falsehood, and deception. The Black Republican leaders feel this, and hence are writing in agony at their future prospects. If Kansas cannot be induced to commit some suicidal act for their benefit, they have no hopes for the future. We suspect Kansas has suffered too much already on their account to become a willing victim to further their political operations. Her prosperity has been sadly retarded, and the happiness of her people too greatly diminished by following the counsels of political fanatics and demagogues to readily yield again to their selfish and bad advice. If Kansas, by self-immolation, does not supply fresh materials for agitation, Black Republicanism will soon die a natural death.—*Washington Union*.

The Wagon Road from Defiance to the Mojari River.

The Washington Union contains the following interesting particulars concerning the government arrangements for the prosecution of the work on the Pacific wagon roads:

"The corps for the construction of this road has been organized under the direction of the Secretary of War, as follows:

Edward F. Beale, Superintendent; G. H. Heap, Assistant; Dr. James P. Hambleton, Physician. The working party will consist of fifty picked men, with the necessary wagons and tools to break the road through.

Lieut. Charles E. Thorburn has been detached from the Navy Department to accompany the expedition for geological surveys.

Twenty-five camels will accompany the expedition, which will afford ample opportunities to test their powers of endurance and their adaptability to an American climate. The camels will be confined to the care of Mr. Heap, who, it will be recollected by many of our readers, accompanied the expedition that was sent from the United States for their purchase.—The whole party will rendezvous at New Orleans some time next month, and thence proceed without delay to the extensive scene of their arduous and dangerous labors.

All the corps of the several Pacific wagon roads are now organized, and are making the most active preparations for the prosecution of the great work that has been intrusted to them at the earliest possible moment. They are composed of men whose antecedents justify their selection for the important trusts that have been confided to them, and which will be discharged in the present instance, there is every reason to believe, to the entire satisfaction of the public.

It is confidently believed that these great wagon roads to the Pacific will be completed before the expiration of the present year. The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of War have manifested even a stronger interest than official solicitude for their early completion, and have evinced a zeal and a promptitude in carrying out the wishes of Congress in reference to this great enterprise which can only be equalled by the sound discrimination which they have shown in the selection of their agents."

Melancholy and Distressing Accident of Prince Edward Island.—A most melancholy accident, attended with loss of life, occurred in the neighborhood of Cascombe, on Saturday night 4th inst. The dwelling of Samuel Cannon, Shoemaker, a poor man, living on the Killdare road, was destroyed by fire, together with all his furniture, tools, and clothes of the family. It appears that the parents left home a short time before the fire broke out, to visit some relatives living about a mile or so away, leaving the house in charge of the two oldest children, a girl of twelve years and a boy of ten—the remainder, four in number, being in bed.—The two left in charge, became weary, retired to rest, and had scarcely fallen asleep when they were awakened by the flames, which were curling around their beds. The girl succeeded in effecting her escape by the door, and opening the window, endeavored to assist her brother out; but becoming confused with the smoke and flames he sank on the floor, and, with the four young children, was consumed with the building. The girl, though badly burned and in a naked state, succeeded in reaching a neighbor's house on foot, where she now lies, and little hopes are entertained of her recovery from the effects of the fire and exposure. A spectator describes the scene as heart-rending when the parents reached the burning ruins and learned the calamity that had befallen them. The mother could scarcely be restrained from rushing into the flames in search of her offspring, and it required the strong arms of two men to prevent her. The remains of the children were discovered the following day, literally burned to cinders. The parents, by this calamity, are reduced to great poverty.—*New York Tribune*.