THE DAILY RECORD-UNION.

SATURDAY.....DECEMBER 23, 1882

Meteorological Observations—Taken at Signal Station at the Same Moment.

SACRAMENTO, December 22d, 1882—8:02 P. M.

Places of observation.	Hight of barom..	Ther....	Direction of wind, velocity	Character of wind force..	Rain in 24 hours..	State of the weather
Olympia....	30.10	39	S.	Light..	.90	Clear
Portland....	30.11	48	Calm	Calm..	1.49	Clear
Roseburg...	30.15	45	S.	Light..	1.50	Cloudy
Mendocino..	.....	..	.....	.....	.....	.....
Red Bluff...	30.22	49	S. 10	Fresh..	.16	Cloudy
Sacramento.	30.25	51	S. E. 9	Fresh..	.03	Cloudy
S. Francisco.	30.22	56	S. W. 12	Fresh..	.08	Foggy
Visalia.	30.28	46	E.	Light..	.....	Cloudy
Los Angeles.	30.19	53	W. 6	Fresh..	.....	Clear
San Diego..	30.16	52	N. W.	Light..	.....	Cloudy

Maximum temperature, 52; minimum, 45.

River above low-water mark, at 11 A. M., 9 feet 1 inch; a rise of 3 inches in twenty-four hours.

JAMES A. BARWICK,
Sergeant, Signal Corps, U. S. A.

Weather Probabilities.

WASHINGTON, December 22d.—For Pacific coast region: Partly cloudy weather and rain in Northern California and on the Northern Pacific coast.

THE PRICE.

The Holiday issue of the RECORD-UNION, to be published Monday morning, January 1, 1883, will be sold at the Office at 10 cents per copy.

THIS MORNING'S NEWS.

In New York Government bonds are quoted at 120⅝ for 4s of 1907; 113½ for 4½s; 103⅝ for 3½s; sterling, $4 81½@4 85½; silver bars, 108½.

Silver in London, 56¼d; consols, 100 13-16d; 5 per cent. United States bonds, extended, 106⅞; 4s, 128; 4½s, 116.

In San Francisco Mexican dollars are quoted at $7@88 cents.

Mining stocks were quite weak in San Francisco yesterday. Sierra Nevada fell below the $3 mark for the first time in months. California sold for the value of the assessment, which became delinquent yesterday. Consolidated Virginia dropped to 50c, the lowest in several months. Gould & Curry was let go at $2, the lowest in six months. Best & Belcher sold at the same price it did before the recent addition of an assessment of 50c. There was a sale of 50 shares Caledonia at 5c, the first noted in over two months. No sales of Alpha, Imperial, Confidence, Kentuck, Overman, Justice, Silver Hill or Benton. Alta sold down to 20c, the lowest in months. The outside stocks are better sustained.

Leon and Armand Peltzer have been convicted of the murder of Berney at Brussels.

James Williams, fireman of train No. 8, was fatally injured near Wadsworth yesterday morning.

David Juarez was found guilty in Martinez yesterday of murder in the first degree.

The schooner N. L. Drew, lumber-laden, is ashore at Little River, Mendocino county, and will probably prove a total loss.

The reason why the Riddleberger-McCarty duel in Virginia did not take place is that the latter is dead.

A train was ditched near Carrolton, Pa., yesterday, and although two passenger coaches were badly wrecked, no lives were lost.

During the past seven days the business failures in the United States numbered 197.

Fire in Birmingham, Conn.; also in Brownsville, Tenn., and East Hampton, Mass.

Yesterday was Forefathers' Day, and was generally celebrated in the East.

The report of a riot in Lincolnton, N. C., is denied.

Seven men attempted to rob a train Thursday near El Paso, Texas, but were repulsed.

A certificate of election has been issued to G. G. Dilrell, of the Third Congressional District, Tenn.

Two locomotives were smashed in a collision yesterday at Bridgeport, Conn.

Two Cossacks and Russian clerks have been tortured and murdered by Chinese in the province of Ili.

Emperor William has recovered from his sickness.

The distress among the small farmers and laborers in Ireland is increasing.

At Exeter, England, yesterday, a coal oil fire caused great destruction of property.

A negro was taken from the officers having him in charge near Nelson, Ga., and lynched.

The United States Coast Survey steamer Hassler has returned to San Francisco from a seven months' cruise on the southern coast of Alaska.

The British Columbia Penitentiary is full to overflowing.

An ice house was destroyed by fire yesterday on the divide between Gold Hill and Virginia, Nev., causing a loss of $5,000.

The brewery of Otto & Mayer, near Camden, N. J., was burned yesterday.

During the last session of the University at Leipsic one student was killed in a duel and six committed suicide.

It is proposed to hold an exhibition in Ireland in 1883.

Mounted infantry have gone to Zululand to assist in reinstating Cetewayo.

An Industrial Exhibition will be given in Calcutta in 1883.

Ulysses Jackson, the wealthiest man in Washington county, Oregon, is dead.

Near Cascades, W. T., Thursday, Charles C. Freeze shot and killed George Tenfal.

Another flood is threatened in Oregon.

A Chinaman was decapitated in British Columbia by a rock thrown out by a blast.

James Henrity, a farmer, was drowned in Payette river, Idaho, while attempting to cross on horseback.

On the 14th instant, at Vienna, Idaho, Arthur Tippett and John Hankewis were killed by a snowslide.

A train was ditched near Connersville, Ind., yesterday, and one at Mt. Vernon, O., but no lives were lost by either accident.

F. L. Jones was hanged for murder yesterday in Louisville, Miss.

The deaths in San Francisco the past week numbered ninety-six.

In a mutiny of Mexican troops at Tampico, a Captain was killed and a Lieutenant and several soldiers wounded.

LITTLE BY LITTLE.

The signs of approaching trouble between Germany and Russia are increasing, little by little. Now it is intimated that the German Government may find it necessary to dispatch larger garrisons to the fortified places on the Russian frontier. Of course care is taken to state in the plainest manner that this is not a measure of mistrust or aggression, but that it is simply a precaution. But the taking of a precaution at such a time shows that apprehension is felt, and there is nothing concerning which it can be felt but Russian intentions. The Russians on their part are busy constructing new railways, all of which converge upon the frontier, and as there has been no recent rapid growth of Russian commerce, and as all the Russian railways have notoriously been built with a main view to strategic considerations, the Berlin Government may be excused if it declines to accept the St. Petersburg explanation of this new movement. In fact it is evident that a very little more of these mutual "precautions" will cause the relations between the two countries to become "strained," and when that happens everybody knows that war may be declared at any moment.

SHORT TERMS NO USE.

Several members of Congress have expressed approval of Kasson's proposition to fix the tenure of office in all grades of the Civil Service at four years. It should be evident that this scheme would simply make bad worse. Its only effect would be to create a great rush every four years, and thus to intensify enormously all the worst evils of partisan rule. The result of throwing open 100,000 offices for a general scramble every four years may be imagined. This would be the reduction of the spoils system to its ultimate elements. In fact it would destroy all possibility of reform, and create so much corruption that even the Government would be in danger. If we are to have reform we must have fixity of tenure. There must be no term of service fixed by law. Those who have won their places by merit must hold them during good behavior; that is to say, permanently, conditional only upon conduct. Any other principle than this is entirely inadmissible, and if the present Congress intends to establish Civil Service reform it must realize this truth.

FRENCH COLONIZATION.

It is difficult to understand the curious passion for colonization and the conquest or annexation of distant territory which France has developed of late. There was a period in her history when it seemed possible that she might have founded prosperous colonies. Had not religious bigotry prevented Louis the Fourteenth from permitting the Huguenots to emigrate to Canada, or New France, as it was then named, it is quite possible that the whole region would have been peopled by a thrifty and energetic race, who would have held the country for France, and have perhaps even prevented the founding of the United States. But it was not to be, and subsequently French sovereigns not only lost Canada but got rid of Louisiana and all her Indian possessions likewise. Since the conclusion of her more pressing European troubles, however, France has shown a disposition to acquire colonial possessions again, though she has never shown any aptness at utilizing them. The Algerian experiment may be cited as a failure, after nearly half a century of trial. There is no French colony there apart from the military one, nor is there likely to be. Yet within the past ten years France has shown her ambition by acquiring the protectorate of Tunis (by the most flagitious and high-handed methods), has now entered upon a similar course with regard to Madagascar, and appears bent upon availing herself also of De Brazza's recent absurd annexation of the Congo river. The peculiarity of all this foreign conquest is that Frenchmen are the worst colonists in the world, and that France has no surplus population to dispose of. Her population is stationary, and her people never want to leave France. It follows therefore that her colonies can only be made use of as places of arms, or as depots from which to recruit her commerce. Now the possession of Tunis gives her command of the Lake Bizerta, which can be employed as a masked harbor from which to threaten and finally control the Mediterranean and the Italian coast. It was an almost fatal mistake on the part of Italy to permit so uncertain a neighbor to become mistress of the Tunisian coast, and it was almost equally shortsighted on the part of England. Already the French Government has undertaken formidable engineering works to defend the entrance to Lake Bizerta, and there can be no doubt that a time will come when that harbor will prove as important as the harbor of Vladivostock is destined to be in the North, in the event of a war between Russia and England. France, however, proceeds on her way, picking up colonies here and there, and converting them into military depots, but never planting her own people upon them. Her colonial administration has always been bad, the French mind apparently being incapable of accommodating itself to the idiosyncracies of weaker races, and tending always to despotic and arbitrary methods. And there are reasons why it is improbable that France will be able to retain her colonies, however many she may get. For where colonies are only held by military power, it needs but to defeat the military power in order to restore them to their original condition. This is what happened to the French provinces in India, though there a really vigorous commercial regime had been established. Such provinces as Algiers, Tunis, Tonquin, Madagascar and Central African posts, cannot be amalgamated with the republic by the French methods. Nor will the French people ever care much about colonies which do not tempt emigration. In fact, the French nature would have to be changed fundamentally before that country can imitate England in its successful establishment of colonial possessions, and since no such transformation is at all probable, it must be concluded that the present colonizing mania will lead to no permanent results, unless those results are purely military and strategic.

EPIDEMICS AND COSMIC PHENOMENA.

All the contemporary evidence justifies the conclusion that there has been of late a marked tendency towards epidemic form in certain diseases, and notably typhoid fever. Naturally when a sudden access of disease appears in any city or region, the first impulse is to ascribe it to local causes. Without doubt local causes are to be counted among the explanatory circumstances, for whatever tends to facilitate the spread of disease is a disposing influence. But when, as at present, we find the same form of disease appearing at widely separated points, and almost over a whole continent, we are justified in concluding that this simultaneity indicates a common origin, and that we must look beyond local causes for the final solution of the problem. During the past three months it is certain that typhoid fever has been abnormally prevalent in many parts of the United States. In Sacramento it has been literally epidemic, and also in San Francisco and many other parts of California. It has confined itself to no particular geological formation. It has appeared as well in mountainous districts as in low-lying regions. And beyond the Sierras it has been equally prevalent. In many of the Eastern States it has been even more mischievous than on the Pacific coast. In New Jersey, in Rhode Island, in Connecticut, in Iowa and Wisconsin, the same general phenomena have been observed. Thus the Connecticut State Board of Health in its recent report observed that there seems to be a pandemic course of fever passing over that State, nor does it appear to be at all confined to the regions affected by malaria.

In fact there is abundant evidence to show that typhoid fever is epidemic in the United States at the present time, and it therefore becomes important to ascertain if possible the cause or causes of this phenomenon. The origin of epidemics has not been at all satisfactorily explained hitherto. Of old it was customary to refer them to divine wrath, and so the matter was easily explained. In these days, however, the efforts of science are devoted to the discovery of purely physical causes, and, yet it must be confessed that the quest has not been successful. Hecker, in his remarkable treatise on the epidemics of the Middle Ages, has indicated a belief that these disease-waves are at least partly caused by atmospheric and telluric phenomena. For this he has been accused of superstition, and modern investigators have scouted his declarations as unscientific. But what are the grounds of Hecker's theory? Simply this: that in investigating the history of great epidemics he has invariably found great convulsions of nature, or peculiar conditions of the celestial bodies, coinciding with and accompanying these destructive outbreaks. Now of course there is always danger of falling into the *Post hoc ergo propter hoc* fallacy: of supposing that because two things occur in sequence, that therefore one must have caused the other. This is an error to be guarded against carefully, since it will vitiate any speculation, but at the same time in investigating a problem to which we possess so little clue, it is advisable that nothing be overlooked which may by any possibility help us to a rational and correct explanation.

We no longer believe in astral influences of the medieval kind, but modern science does not convince us that the conditions of our own planet are incapable of being disturbed by the contiguity of other planets or spatial bodies of any kind. Superstition has always ascribed such disturbing influences to comets, and for that reason perhaps scientific men are apt to go to the opposite extreme, and deny any influence to these bodies. But it is both possible and to be expected that comets should exercise a disturbing influence upon this earth. We are not yet acquainted with their constitution, but we are warranted in suspecting (and particularly from the peculiar repellant movement of their tails from the sun), that electricity is largely concerned in their motions and composition. Now it is certain that enormous masses of matter, however tenuous, highly charged with electricity, passing comparatively near to the earth, must have some effect upon the electrical conditions of the latter. We know also that susceptibility and insusceptibility to disease depend largely upon telluric magnetism and electricity. When the atmosphere is surcharged with electricity sickness is rife; and also when the supply is deficient. To suppose, therefore, that the advent of a large comet may produce such disturbance in the electrical condition of the earth as to give rise to epidemics, is entirely consistent with the most advanced science. And yet this is precisely what our ignorant and superstitious ancestors believed in their time.

Dr. Hecker has brought together a great deal of evidence showing the coincidence of telluric and atmospheric disturbances with the greatest epidemics of the middle ages. Thus before the Black Death which decimated the inhabitants of Europe in the fourteenth century, a remarkable succession of violent and destructive earthquakes occurred, accompanied by cometary and meteoric appearances. The Sweating Sickness of the succeeding century was ushered in likewise by cometary phenomena, and what is very significant, great disturbances in the progress of the seasons appear always to have followed these phenomena. Now this is just what we should expect to happen consequent upon a serious derangement of the normal electrical conditions of the earth; and that derangement once established nothing is easier than to deduce from it rational explanations of all the succeeding disasters.

But even though it should be made apparent that epidemics are or may be caused or propagated in the manner indicated, the fact could not warrant any relaxation of vigilance on the part of local authorities. For though changes in the electrical conditions may increase or diminish the susceptibility to disease, it must be remembered that the local material for the manufacture of disease germs must be present before it can be possible to propagate such diseases as typhoid fever. Wherever such a disease becomes epidemic we know that the local conditions were such as to favor its dissemination. It would be impossible to make typhoid fevers epidemic where there were no accumulations of excreta and other decomposing matter to form the nidus of the germs. Local cleanliness and good drainage are therefore equally indispensable whether epidemics are induced by changes in the electrical conditions, or are born on the spot, so to speak. The only way to secure even approximate safety from them is to maintain the utmost purity in the local atmosphere. For while it may and does often happen that a community lives for years with comparative impunity in the midst of the most unhealthful conditions, such communities are always in the position of people living over a powder magazine, which any accidental spark may ignite, to their sudden destruction.

DORSEY AND GARFIELD.

Stephen Dorsey is publishing letters which Garfield wrote to him during the last Presidential campaign, with the purpose of demonstrating that the late President was really his friend. It is also announced, as on his part, that he possesses thousands of other letters from prominent men all over the country, and that he may find it necessary to put these also in print. We are quite unable to perceive the logical conclusion at which Mr. Dorsey must be supposed to be aiming. He is at present accused of obtaining funds under false pretenses, or in other words, of robbing the national treasury by fraud. How it can help him to meet this charge to show that President Garfield was his friend, and that many other prominent persons thought well of him, before anyone knew that he was what he is accused of being, is entirely beyond our comprehension. But even could Mr. Dorsey prove that President Garfield and the other prominent persons had continued to put confidence in him after the development of the star route frauds, the irrelevance of this correspondence to his case would be quite as great. In such a case it would be perhaps necessary to conclude that President Garfield and the other prominent persons were very much less upright and fastidious than the world had thought them; but that could not help Mr. Dorsey in any way. There is only one way by which he can rehabilitate himself, and that is by proving to the satisfaction of a jury of his countrymen that he is not guilty of the crimes imputed to him. And that would seem to be his present business. That, and not the inconsequent, irrelevant and preposterous task of trying to show from the letters of Garfield and other prominent persons that they were not aware of his *laches*.

HOMICIDE AT THE SOUTH.

Southerners are apt to charge Northern critics with prejudice because they censure the abnormal frequency of homicide in the Southern States. But every day events are occurring which go to demonstrate that the Southern ideas upon this question are peculiar. Take for example the very recent pardon, by Governor Stephens of Georgia, of Captain E. Cox, who was sentenced in 1879 to life imprisonment for the murder of Colonel Robert A. Alston, at Atlanta. Now here is a peculiarly atrocious murder. Cox and Alston had a dispute about a certain contract for convict labor. Cox thereupon began threatening to kill Alston, who had been his partner. Alston was a peaceable man (for that region), and did not want to have any trouble. Cox, however, was determined to kill him, and so finally forced upon him a fight, in which he was shot through the head. Cox of course ought to have been hanged, though perhaps the wonder is that he was not acquitted. It happened, however, that Alston was a very prominent man, and had many friends, and so the jury for once brought in a verdict which, had it been carried out, would have produced good results. But after this ferocious bully and assassin had been in prison for less than three years, he is pardoned out by Governor Stephens; and so entirely consonant is this defeat of justice with the popular sentiment, that the news of his pardon was the signal for a "demonstration" and a serenade to his wife. It is perfectly evident that Captain Cox has not lost caste by committing a brutal murder, and cases of this kind occur so frequently that the Southern people have no right to complain because of the criticism they receive. The plain truth is that they do not entertain a due respect for the sacredness of human life there, and what is even worse, they continue to rear their children in the pernicious and barbarous belief that it is manly and spirited to cut and shoot at the smallest provocation. Moreover there is a distinct process of deterioration visible in Southern homicides. Formerly they were usually the result of duels, in which both parties risked their lives. But latterly they have nearly always taken the form of street encounters, in which one of the parties commonly tries to shoot down his adversary without danger to himself. There is of course no "chivalry" in this. It is simply savage and cowardly. But so long as the custom prevails, and so long as Southern society sanctions the pardoning of murderers like Cox, it cannot be expected that the South will be regarded by really civilized people as either a safe or a pleasant region to reside or do business in.

THE SEWERAGE QUESTION.

In considering the vital question of improved drainage it will not do to begin by setting aside this or that plan on the ground that it is too costly. Eventually this community will be forced to adopt and to pay for whatever system is best adapted to its wants, and if the best system is taken first, no matter what its cost, a great deal of time, money and valuable life will be saved. There is, we are afraid, too general a disposition to rest content with half measures in this connection, or with make-shifts. There is one system which is in all respects perfectly adapted to the wants of Sacramento, and that is the pneumatic plan invented by Captain Liernur. It has been said that this would cost too much, but no system that gives us immunity from disease and death can cost too much. The pneumatic system, moreover, is by no means an expensive one, and it possesses signal advantages over every other which has been thus far proposed or mentioned. Any plan which looks to pumping of the sewage into the river is objectionable on its face. We have no right to make a sewer of the river, in the first place, and in the second place it is very questionable whether any pumping plan would not produce as much disease as it removed. The pneumatic system, on the other hand, deodorizes and disinfects the sewerage from the outset, and ends by converting the whole of it into a fertilizer which has been given the name of poudrette, and which could in all probability be disposed of at a price which would go some way towards meeting the expense of the works. It must be realized that Sacramento never can have an ordinary system of drainage. Our peculiarities of situation put that altogether out of the question. We must pump or we must have the pneumatic system, and since it is always worth while to do well whatever it is necessary to do at all, the best system ought to be adopted first. As to any question of expense, we ask the public to consider the cost to the community of the prevalent sickness of the past three months. It is of course impossible to estimate this outlay with any precision, but any man can look around among his own friends and acquaintances and form some idea of the very great increase of outlay which has been necessitated. As to the most irreparable losses of all—the loss of invaluable lives—who is there unprepared to say that any expenditure short of community bankruptcy would be a cheap mode of guarding against such an infliction? It rests with the people to take care of themselves, however. They know what they have suffered already, and they do not know what they may be destined to suffer, from bad and imperfect drainage. If they are wise and farsighted enough to comprehend their own interests; if they do not think more of dollars and cents than of their own lives and the lives of those dear to them; they will assuredly take such action in the matter that when next an epidemic wave passes over the country it will find nothing to feed upon in Sacramento. And it may further be pointed out that an enlightened liberality in this case is sure to be the best paying policy for the city in the end, inasmuch as the mere announcement that Sacramento had introduced a thorough and scientific drainage system would at once enhance the value of every foot of real estate in the city, and operate as a potent attraction to intending immigrants.

THE ARREST OF PRINCE KRAPOTKINE.

The arrest of Prince Krapotkine is calculated to surprise no one who has followed the career of that eccentric Russian nobleman with any care. For years he has been engaged in what might be called playing at revolution, but that at intervals the fanaticism of the men with whom he has had dealings has produced some startling crime or attempted crime. Krapotkine is that anomalous being, an aristocrat who wishes to destroy aristocracy. In William Black's novel "Sunrise," an English nobleman is represented who has in somewhat the same way been induced to join a secret revolutionary society, but Lord Evelyn is a weak creature compared to the real prince. Prince Krapotkine doubtless had the conspirator's itch born in him, for history furnishes many examples of men similarly placed who have been unable to resist the attractions of conspiracy and intrigue. Indeed it may be said that in Russia the tendency that way is always greater than in any other country, because of the inevitable reaction from the despotism of the Government. But when noblemen engage in this business they cannot hope to maintain anonymity. Even the most embittered "Reds" feel a certain pride in aristocratic associations, and the name of the noble patron of dynamite is sure to become pretty generally known before long. Nor can it be said that Krapotkine has taken much pains to conceal his connection with the French Socialists and Communists. No doubt he has relied upon the indifference of the Government to matters of this kind, and of late especially he has even come forward quite conspicuously as the champion of turbulence. The recent attempt of the Communists to secure the co-operation of the French miners was openly assisted by him, and he even allowed his name to be used in connection with the movements of the Anarchists. As these latter have no programme which any civilized community can understand or tolerate, it became impossible to countenance or ignore their audacity longer, and the very long suffering Government, moved to action by the introduction of dynamite cartridges in places of public resort, reluctantly concluded to arrest the more notorious offenders. What will be done with Krapotkine, now that he has been taken into custody, is a somewhat difficult question. It is at present stated that he will be tried with forty Anarchists who have also been arrested. Possibly a term of solitary confinement, unalleviated by conspiracy, may bring the eccentric Prince to his right mind, if he has one, but in any case it was unavoidable to put an end to his propaganda, since the Anarchists have no possible excuse for their existence.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS.

During the debate on the Civil Service reform bill in the House on Wednesday, Morgan of Alabama offered an amendment "providing that no recommendation "from a Senator or a Representative "should be considered by any person making an appointment unless it had been "previously asked, in writing, by one or "more of the examiners." Whereupon Hoar of Massachusetts "suggested that as "the examination was to be competitive "the amendment had better prohibit all "such recommendations." And Mr. Hoar was right. It would be most absurd and most inconsistent to leave any loopholes for the insertion of Congressional influence, if we are to have Civil Service reform. No examiner could by any possibility have any business to ask a Senator or Congressman for a recommendation. In competitive examinations the candidates are judged by their individual work, and by that alone. If an examiner should under any circumstances ask a Congressman to send him a recommendation, it would be *prima facie* evidence that that examiner was corrupt. The very essence of competitive examinations is the doing away with all secondary and outside influence. The examiners neither know nor care who the candidates are. All they have to do is to pass upon their work. Every candidate is thus made self-dependent, and when the examinations are over all the candidates must be listed as impartially as possible and take their turn in obtaining appointments. It is obvious that when once the public service has been filled in this way it will be some time before there are any considerable vacancies again. Supposing the appointees to be ordinarily competent, the majority of them would hold office permanently. But it is clear that there cannot be any provision of the kind proposed by Morgan. His argument in favor of extending the competitive system beyond the lowest grade of clerkships appears to be more reasonable. There should be some provision of that kind, though with a system of promotion from the lower grades it is perhaps difficult to make such an arrangement. As regards the recommendations, however, there is only one thing to be done, and that is to prohibit them altogether; and we have no doubt that if this were once done Congress would experience immense relief.

A VERY NECESSARY AMENDMENT.

The framers of the new Constitution undertook, among other things, to put a stop to the abuses which had grown up in connection with street improvements in San Francisco. In their zeal to protect the public, however, they adopted so ironbound and impractical a scheme that its only effect has been to render street improvement impossible. The Convention provided that no public work or improvement, of any description, should be done or made in any city, the cost of which is chargeable upon private property, unless an estimate of the cost has been made, and the whole of the necessary money assessed, collected and paid into the city treasury before the work is commenced. This brilliant piece of legislation has certainly put an end to the disease; but by the simple method of killing the patient. There are no more abuses connected with street improvements; but it is because there is no more street improvement. The San Francisco Supervisors have consequently passed a resolution requesting the incoming Legislature "to pass, and "submit to a vote of the people of the "State as soon as may be, a bill providing "for the amendment of the Constitution "of the State" by striking out from Section 19 of Article XI. all of the first sentence which relates to street work. It will evidently be necessary to do this, for there appears to be no way of getting round the constitutional provision as it stands, and until that provision can be overcome in some way it will be impossible to make any street improvements. The blundering way in which the constitution-makers managed this business is a fair illustration of the degree of statesmanship and intelligence they brought to all the work before them.

SERVED THEM RIGHT.

The Ford brothers undertook to lecture in Hartford, Connecticut, and advertised, as an additional inducement, that they would illustrate practically the death of Jesse James. When the time came for the lecture just two dollars had been received at the door, and the performance was necessarily postponed. We congratulate the people of Hartford upon this manifestation of good sense and genuine civilization. The lecturing tour of the Ford assassins is one of the most brazen pieces of impudence ever heard of, and their effrontery is not less disgusting than it is wonderful. But there is only one way by which self-respecting people can testify to their feeling in regard to such an affair, and that is the way taken at Hartford. Let everyone religiously abstain from going to hear these ruffians, and they will presently have it borne in upon them that they have miscalculated the bent of public opinion. It may be that at the South it is possible to get paying audiences to hear how two professional thieves and assassins took advantage of and murdered a comrade; but we trust that the Fords will find no Northern audiences, and that they will go back to their Missouri barbarism as poor as when they set out on this shameless expedition.

HERR MOST.

This individual, whose advent at New York has been duly telegraphed all over the country, is a type of the very worst and most imbecile revolutionary element in Europe. He is the writer who rejoiced over the horrible assassination of the Czar of Russia, and who showed a disposition to congratulate Guiteau upon his murderous work. He belongs to the ferocious class of Anarchists who hold the simple and sufficing creed that society needs to be destroyed altogether. These persons do not trouble themselves about reconstruction. In fact any stable system is of necessity foreign to their aims. They only wish to break down and ruin institutions of all kinds; to solve the problem of progress and poverty by reducing everybody to an equal destitution; to bring Chaos and Old Night back, and to keep them there. For it is the peculiarity of the modern Anarchists that they love Anarchy for its own sake. They are not Socialists or Communists. They do not hope to regenerate the world. They do not believe it possible to alleviate the condition of the masses. They have but one article of faith, and that is Destruction. Herr Most is the guest, as it appears, of Justus Schwab, a New York beer-cellar proprietor and sham Anarchist. Most is to make a tour through the United States. He will find out in the course of it that the American people have no use for his ideas, and that they are incapable of being "provoked" by any such insane nonsense.

THE CONGRESSIONAL LIBRARY.

After all the discussion of the question, Congress has refused to pass the bill to provide a suitable building for the Congressional Library. For several years the disposition of that library has been becoming more pressing. It is a very valuable and large collection of books. It is constantly growing. It is at present housed in quarters which only admit of the piling up of the books in useless heaps. And thus it is made practically inaccessible. There is no other nation calling itself civilized which at this stage of the world's history would exhibit the barbarism implied in the defeat of the Library Building bill. The fact shows that Congress does not possess the capacity to deal properly with questions of this kind, and that consequently the national library should not have been intrusted to its care. The need of a suitable building wherein to place the books is, it is true, universally acknowledged; but when it comes to supplying this need Congress cannot be brought to do what it admits to be necessary. Yet it would seem that a body which thought it no extravagance to appropriate $18,000,000 for a River and Harbor bill, and which has spent over $100,000,000 upon Arrears of Pensions, might be brought to realize the propriety of a small appropriation for the Congressional Library. And if a Republican Congress cannot bring itself to attend to these matters, how can it be hoped that a Democratic Congress will show itself more careful of the claims of Literature?

PASSENGER LISTS.

CARLIN, December 22d.—Passed here today, to arrive in Sacramento to-morrow: P. E. Studebaker and wife, South Bend, Ind.; Herman Heinman, Mrs. Frank D. Hetrick, Master Fred. Hetrick, Mrs. Peter Decker, C. F. Sullivan, P. Locklas, wife and child, Mrs. R. N. Van Brunt, Miss Van Brunt, F. Morris, Bernhard Haas, San Francisco; William Trickett, England; Miss R. A. Graham, Chicago; F. Lacoste and wife, Juan Barrett, San Jose, Cal.; M. Trowell, Paris, France; Mrs. E. B. Coe, New York; Mrs. M. B. Whitlock, Portland, Or.; Mrs. K. Piper, Sacramento; Mrs. L. A. Starr, Vallejo, Cal.; A. F. Snyder and family and nurse, Salt Lake; A. Goldstene, Canada; Mr. Hood, Minneapolis, Minn.; George Able, J. B. Kirkaldie and wife, Illinois; D. C. Blashfield, Wrights, Cal.; L. F. Hardesty, Elko; James McWilliams, West Virginia; Mrs. F. B. Hill, Troy, N. Y.; Miss S. A. Wright, Kate E. Lloyd, Newburg, N. Y.; A. G. Michum, wife and child, White Rock, Nev.; Mrs. J. A. Root, Boston, Mass.; 44 emigrant passengers, including 38 males, to arrive in Sacramento December 24th.

NEWHALL, December 22d.—Passed here to-day, to arrive in San Francisco to-morrow: Lloyd Levis, M. Haggin, Miss Haggin, San Francisco; N. E. Davidson, El Paso; E. Kuhne, Germany; Ben. Sullivan, Portland, Or.; John K. Stevens, G. H. Arey, S. Arey, C. S. Bathman and wife, Oakland; Mrs. A. M. Ladd, San Francisco; C. K. Altahan, Chelsea, Mass.; Louis Franconi, San Francisco; Colonel A. W. Preston, U. S. A.; Colonel Smith, U. S. A.; Thomas Bennett, Oakland; F. E. Haskell, Mrs. Haskell, Shanghai; J. S. Coggin, George E. Whitney, Oakland; L. G. Meade and wife, San Francisco; G. S. Wilcox and wife, Connecticut; Mrs. Captain Brown, Miss Ida Brown, Alameda; Miss Putnam, San Francisco; J. H. Nash and lady, Arizona; H. J. McKusick, Oakland; Jay Gould, J. B. Vanburt, New York; Jarvis, Arizona; W. Jackson, Tucson; H. B. Hunt, St. Louis; O. F. Swain, John McDonald, Wm. Shean, G. F. Morris, A. L. Leper, H. C. Killett, F. B. Hessel, San Francisco; F. B. Shirley, C. P. R. R.; Miss Crown, Los Angeles; Mrs. Longstreet, Tucson; Mrs. L. A. Davis, Tombstone.

OMAHA, December 22d.—Left here to-day, to arrive in Sacramento December 26th: Mrs. E. E. Rogers, Washington Territory; L. Hess, W. H. Sabin, New York; John H. Morris, Baltimore; Mrs. H. F. Elmore, St. Louis; James W. Vincent, Milwaukee; Jesse M. Samuels, Philadelphia; E. Andrews, Vermont.

KANSAS CITY (Mo.), December 22d.—Passed Topeka to-day, to arrive in San Francisco December 28th: M. J. Clark and wife, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Mr. Herriman, Belfast, Me.; M. Weinberg, T. H. O'Connor, New York.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES TO-MORROW.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church,

Eighth street, between I and J—Rev. Carroll M. Davis. Divine service at 11 A. M. Sunday-school at 12:30 P. M.

Christmas Day, divine service at 11 A. M. Special Christmas music by double quartet, chorus and orchestra.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, being St. Stephen's, St. John's, and Holy Innocents' days, there will be morning prayer at 10 A. M.

Westminster Presbyterian Church,

Sixth street, corner of L—The pastor, Rev. H. H. Rice, will preach on Sabbath morning at 10:45. Subject: "A Christmas Gift to Our Heavenly Father." At 7 P. M. there will be a Christmas eve praise service by the Sabbath-school. All are invited.

Congregational Church,

Sixth street, between I and J—The pastor, Rev. I. E. Dwinell, will preach to-morrow morning on this subject: "Between the Incarnation and the Millennium." In the evening there will be a Christmas praise service by the choir, with new and choice selections of music appropriate to the occasion. The public are invited.

Christian Chapel,

Eighth street, between N and O.—Preaching at 11 A. M. by the pastor, E. B. Ware. In the evening John Currie, the Scotch Evangelist, will preach. Subject: "The Gift of God." Praise service at 6:30 P. M. All are invited. Seats free.

United Brethren in Christ,

Corner Fourteenth and K streets—Rev. W. L. Demunburn, pastor. Sabbath-school at 9:15 A. M. Preaching morning and evening. Subject at 11 A. M.: "No room for Jesus;" at 7 P. M.: "The Beauty of Age."

Kingsley Chapel, M. E. Church,

Eleventh street, between H and I—Rev. C. McKelvey, pastor. Services at 10:45 A. M. and 7 P. M. Praise service at 6:30 P. M. Christian service in the morning. In the evening Rev. H. C. Benson, D. D., will preach. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be administered at the close of the evening service. Seats free. All are invited. Bring your Gospel Hymns to the service.

Y. M. C. A.

Rooms, 1009 Fourth street—Revival services conducted by the Scotch evangelist and his wife during this week as follows: Preaching by Mr. Currie Sunday at 2:45 P. M. No services on Monday or Saturday afternoon or evening, but every other day, at 3 and 7 o'clock P. M. A union Christmas service at 10:30 A. M. Monday. Come, and bring others.

Sixth-Street Methodist Episcopal Church,

Between K and L—Rev. T. S. Dunn, pastor. Preaching at 10:45 A. M. by the Presiding Elder, Rev. Dr. Benson, with the Lord's Supper after sermon; in the evening by the pastor. Subject: "The Name Wonderful" (a Christmas sermon). Revival service after the evening sermon.

Calvary Baptist Church,

I street, between Twelfth and Thirteenth—Rev. J. Q. A. Henry, pastor. Preaching at 10:45 A. M. and 7 P. M. Morning service: "The Star of Bethlehem." In the evening, the pastor will preach the twenty-first and last sermon on "Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress." Subject: "The Celestial City." Services begin promptly. Sittings free, and strangers welcome. Sunday-school at 12:15 P. M. Pastor's residence, 1501 L street.

First Baptist Church,

Ninth street, between L and M—A. J. Frost, pastor, will preach to-morrow at 10:45 A. M. and 7 P. M. Morning subject: "Stumbling-Blocks Taken Out of the Way;" evening subject: "How shall We Escape if We Neglect So Great Salvation?" Revival services every Sunday evening. Public cordially invited.

Russia and the Vatican.

BERLIN, December 22d.—The *Germania* states that the understanding between Russia and the Vatican is as follows: The re-establishment of the Russian Embassy at the Vatican; amnesty to Polish Bishops; reinstatement of the Archbishop of Wars; new Bishop to be appointed after an understanding between Russia and the Vatican; appointments to important livings in Russia to be submitted to the Russian Government; the States of Russia to exercise a certain right of supervision over seminaries; the Uniates to have liberty to return to the Catholic Church.

The cultivation of sorghum has been commenced in Sonoma county, and it is expected that a large area of otherwise useless land will be utilized in growing that saccharine product.

FROM WASHINGTON.

POLITICAL PROGNOSTICATIONS—THE LIBRARY BILL.

Spasms of Economy—Social Matters—Banquets and Game Dinners—Personals—French Flats.

[Washington Correspondence RECORD-UNION.]

WASHINGTON, December 13, 1882.

The amount of work done by Congress in these nine days makes a creditable showing. It is seldom that anything worth speaking of is accomplished before the holiday recess. We have always too many lawyers in Congress, for one thing, and the policy of the legal mind is delay. But the outgoing majority are thoroughly alarmed about the popular verdict for 1884, and as they have only twelve weeks more to make a record in, there is danger that they will now overdo the thing. In their anxiety to have early sessions they have come near crowding the committee work, which usually occupies the hours from 10 to 12, into chaos, and the work done in committee is the basis of all important legislation in either House. Hasty, incomplete or ill-considered work there, shows in tedious and wrangling debates in open session, or in the heedless passage of clumsy laws, which have to be repealed by a new Congress. In their zeal to cut down expenses they have, it is feared,

CRUSHED THE LIBRARY BILL,

And Congress sorely needs a handsome, commodious library to accommodate its 480,000 volumes, a number rapidly increasing, because all copyrights of American books are obtained through this channel, and two copies of each work are retained. The books are piled more than knee-deep on the floor of the cosy, ornate little library-room that leads out on the lovely western terrace of the Capitol grounds. An intelligent Congressman says of the matter to-day: "The Library Committee has had the subject under consideration for ten years. It has been the subject of careful investigation, experts having gone to Europe in behalf of the committee to study the plans and advantages of libraries abroad. The committee thus informed comes into the House with a plan of building and a site, selected after much care, and yet members who have not given the subject ten minutes' study antagonize it with all sorts of wild propositions. The character of the men composing the Library Committee is enough to satisfy me that the plan offered was the best to be had.