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THE RECORD-UNION.

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VOLUME LXXXVIII.—NO. 112. SACRAMENTO, MONDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 31, 1894.—SIX PAGES. WHOLE NO. 16,601.

SHOOTING AT STOCKTON.

Charles A. Eldridge Mortally Wounds George Bools.

FIRES THREE SHOTS, TWO OF WHICH TAKE EFFECT.

A Young Lady Drowned While Fording Russian River a Few Miles North of Ukiah—A Bride and Groom of a Week Asphyxiated at San Francisco—The Silver Lake Holocaust.

Special to the RECORD-UNION.

STOCKTON, Dec. 30.—Charles A. Eldridge, son of a San Joaquin county capitalist, fired three pistol shots at George Bools, a harnessmaker, this afternoon, in a room in the Alta lodging-house. Two of the shots took effect, one entering the breast below the heart and the other in the right leg. The physicians think the wounds will prove fatal.

The shooting was over Bools' wife, whom he charged with infidelity, claiming that Eldridge had alienated her affections. This afternoon Bools came to the lodging-house, and inquired for Eldridge. He was shown to the latter's room, where he found Eldridge writing a letter, and Mrs. Bools sitting in his room with him. He struck Eldridge in the face, and the men clinched. The two struggled for some minutes. Finally Eldridge got his opponent over a trunk, and, drawing a pistol, shot him in the breast. He fired then a second and third shot. After the shooting Eldridge surrendered. He claims that he did not mean to shoot Bools in the breast, but aimed to hit him in the arm. Mrs. Bools declares her husband was at fault.

MILITARY BANQUET.

Tendered to Governor Markham and Governor-elect Budd.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 30.—The National Guard Officers' Association tendered a banquet last night to Governor Markham and Governor-elect Budd at the California Hotel. It was 9:30 o'clock when Governor-elect Budd, on the arm of Governor Markham, and escorted by Brigadier-General Dickinson, descended the stairway of the California and entered the banquet hall. The officers of the association and their guests filed in after the Governor-elect. Brigadier-General Dickinson acted as toast-master.

Governor Markham made a brief address, expressing his pleasure at meeting so many officers of the National Guard. His relations had been so pleasant with the militia that he almost wished he had run for Governor again and defeated his successor. He believed in the National Guard, and although the records showed that he had vetoed more appropriations than any previous Governor, he had never drawn the veto pen through an appropriation for the National Guard.

Governor-elect Budd responded to the toast, "The State of California," having been introduced by Brigadier-General Dickinson as "Our Commander-in-Chief without any recount." The Governor-elect was greeted with hearty cheers. He declared that when he accepted the nomination for Governor he did so with little expectation of being elected, but he did it with the belief that the greatest of all States needed a government on strictly business principles.

The other toasts and responses on the programme were as follows: "The Regular Army," Brigadier-General J. W. Forsyth; "The Navy," Rear-Admiral L. A. Beardslee; "The National Guard," Major-General W. H. Dimond; "The Veterans," Colonel W. R. Smedberg; "The Press," Brigadier-General T. W. Sheehan; "The Ladies," Colonel Thomas F. Barry.

One of the features of the evening was the presentation to Adjutant-General Allen of a handsome testimonial engraved on silver. The resolution and the explanation accompanying it was as follows:

"At a meeting of the National Guard Officers' Associations held at San Francisco, December 1, 1894, the undersigned were appointed a committee to assure Adjutant-General Allen of the high appreciation in which his services on behalf of the National Guard are held by said association. The committee was also instructed to forward to him an engrossed copy of the following resolutions adopted at said meeting:

"*Resolved*, That the National Guard Officers' Association recognizes in Adjutant-General Allen a competent, efficient and zealous officer, and he is hereby tendered our earnest and heartfelt thanks for his unfailing courtesy and close and continued attention to the best interests of the National Guard of California during his term of office.

"We do hereby tender the best wishes of the National Guard Officers' Association to General Allen in whatever new field of duty he may enter, feeling as we do, that he will continue to manifest the same interest in the welfare of the National Guard as he has always done in the past.

"T. W. Sheehan, Brigadier-General Fourth Brigade, N. G. C.; J. W. Guthrie, Colonel Second Infantry, N. G. C.; H. Weinstock, Lieutenant-Colonel and Assistant Adjutant-General Fourth Brigade, N. G. C."

YOUNG LADY DROWNED.

Lost Her Life While Fording Russian River.

UKIAH, Dec. 30.—Miss Loe Shoemake, a young lady aged about 18 years, was drowned this morning in Russian River, about three miles north of here. Deceased was employed as a governess in the family of Thomas Howard, and, in company with her mistress and little child, was on the way to church in this city. In crossing the river the horses got beyond their depth and the wagon was overturned. Miss Shoemake sank almost immediately. In her frantic efforts to save her child Mrs. Howard reached shallow water. Miss Shoemake's body was recovered half a mile below the scene of the accident.

THE BARK COLUMBIA.

Reported to Be Safe on the Top of the Pacific Waters.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 30.—The bark Columbia is safe on top of the water. She was cited on December 28th about ten miles west of Point Arena, heading for San Francisco, and coming along at good speed. The schooner Jennie Ward brought the news of her safety into port this afternoon.

The Columbia left Port Blakeley on December 5th for this port with a cargo of lumber. She was thought by seafaring men to have caught the full force of the recent storm, and they felt a good deal of apprehension for her safety.

The ship J. B. Brown, another of the overdue fleet, passed Point Reyes this morning on her way to the harbor. Several times a ship has been sighted far out at sea that was reported as the J. B. Brown, but the skippers sighting her were never quite sure of her identity. Now it is definitely settled, and all the vessels that were out in the storm have been accounted for except the bark Dominion, which left San Francisco on December 5th for Tacoma in ballast. She was light, and would be hard to manage in a gale. The schooner Spokane arrived to-day from Port Gamble, after a passage of eleven days. The crew of the schooner report having passed a ship's boat floating about south by southwest off Cape Flattery, nearly thirty-five miles from the land.

HIS SKULL FRACTURED.

A Man Found Unconscious on a Street in San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 30.—David Seilioux was found unconscious on the sidewalk at Mason and Market streets this morning, his face covered with blood and his skull fractured. In his pockets were recommendations of Seilioux as a pharmacist from A. Hillier & Co. and from Bennett & Allen of Portland, Or., and a letter from Bessie Bryan of Los Angeles, in which the writer urged Seilioux to share with her the gold he would be sure to find in some mines to which he was going. A letter was also in his pockets from his father in Hamilton, Ohio, urging Seilioux to send money for the maintenance of his two young children. It is not known whether the injuries were caused by footpads or by a fall resulting from the use of morphine, several powders of which were found in his pocket. Seilioux has not regained consciousness, and is unable to tell his story.

Odd Fellows' Home.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 30.—The Independent Order of Odd Fellows of the California jurisdiction have secured a home for the care of their aged and indigent members, as well as for the widows and orphans of Odd Fellows for whom proper provision has not been made. The site of the home is just across the Feather River from Oroville, the county seat of Butte County. The building is a fine, roomy structure, which was erected about three years ago in the center of Thermalito Colony. With this building the Grand Lodge, through its special committee, has purchased fifty acres of ground in the immediate vicinity of the new home.

Murdered by Yaqui Indians.

TUCSON, Dec. 30.—Frank Dobbs, formerly a resident of Tucson, was murdered by Yaqui Indians in the State of Sonora, Mexico, Friday night last. Dobbs established an Indian village at the San Francisco Midwinter Fair last summer. Dobbs left San Francisco before the Midwinter Fair closed, failing to pay the Indians he had brought from Arizona and Mexico, and leaving them to return as best they might. Two of these Indians were with Dobbs at the time he was killed, and the opinion prevails here that they killed him out of spite for his failure to pay what was due for their services at the fair.

Commissioned a Lieutenant.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 30.—General Booth has commissioned Helen G. Schofield a Lieutenant in the Salvation Army and has assigned her to work in the hardest post in San Francisco, among the lowest of the fallen women. She is a daughter of Rev. L. M. Schofield, who was pastor of important Presbyterian Churches in California and now in Chicago. Miss Schofield graduated with distinction from Mills Seminary two years ago, and joined the Salvation Army last April.

All the Passengers Safe.

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 30.—The Southern Pacific Company's train known as the Sunset Limited, which met with an accident on a burning bridge in Southeastern Arizona, arrived here this morning at 10 o'clock. All the passengers appeared to have fully recovered from their scare, and were none the worse for their untoward accident.

Failed to Turn Off the Gas Properly.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 30.—John Smith and his bride of a week were found dead in bed this morning, asphyxiated by gas. Smith was section foreman for the Southern Pacific Company at Shell Mound, and was married four days before Christmas. It is presumed that the couple did not turn off the gas properly before retiring.

A Bank President Arrested.

SEATTLE, Dec. 30.—Dr. W. P. Book, President of the suspended Aberdeen (Wash.) Bank, was arrested here to-night on a charge of perjuring himself. It is claimed that Book's personal property was listed to the County Assessor as the bank's property, and that the bank thus paid taxes on Book's property.

General Booth at Tacoma.

TACOMA, Dec. 30. — All-day services were held by local and visiting Salvationists at the Ninth-street Theater, in honor of General Booth's visit. The General addressed three large audiences. This evening ten new members joined the army, and others joined this afternoon.

The Silver Lake Holocaust.

KLAMATH FALLS (Or.), Dec. 30.—The latest of the disastrous fire which occurred at Silver Lake on Christmas evening comes by the Lakeview stage driver, who says that all reports concerning the holocaust are correct, and that one more body was found in the ruins.

NATIONAL LEGISLATURE.

Both Houses of Congress Will Reassemble on Thursday.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—Both houses of Congress will resume their sessions on Thursday next, and it is expected that there will be a more determined effort to press forward the work of the session for the next two months than has characterized the proceedings during the months which have already elapsed. The necessary work of the session is the passage of the appropriation bills, of which there are fourteen. None have passed the Senate and only five have received the sanction of the House.

It is in order for the Senate to take up any reported appropriation at any time. Whether the Nicaragua Canal, which stands on the calendar as unfinished business, shall continue to hold its place of prestige will be dependent upon whether the Appropriations Committee shall desire to supplant it with the pensions or fortifications bills, or with any other appropriation bill after the other bills shall be reported from the committee.

The probabilities are that the Nicaragua Canal bill will not be displaced for the present. Senator Morgan has been devoting the holidays to the preparation of a reply to Senator Turpie's attack upon the canal bill, and his friends expect him to make a vigorous and exhaustive defense of the measure. He will probably speak an entire day, and possibly two or three days.

Denies the Statement.

MADRID, Dec. 30.—Senor Biessa, Minister of the Interior, has entered a formal denial of the statement which recently emanated from Washington to the effect that a plan had been under consideration allowing local officers of Cuba to make up the budget of tariff duties, afterwards submitting it to the Government for approval.

The Difficulties Settled.

BOMBAY, Dec. 30.—Reports just received here indicate that the Wazeiri tribesmen, who lately attacked the escort of the British Commission engaged in delineating the Punjaub frontier, have been completely beaten, and no longer menace the British forces.

MANY LIVES LOST.

Severe Weather Prevails on the Coast of Great Britain.

SHIP WRECKED AND TWENTY-FOUR PEOPLE DROWNED.

The Vessel Caught in a Gale in the Irish Sea—A Number of Other Craft Meet With Accidents—The Storm Inland Does Much Damage, Trains Being Blockaded by Heavy Snowdrifts.

Special to the RECORD-UNION.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—Severe weather has prevailed throughout Great Britain since Saturday, the heavy gale being accompanied by hail and snow, rendering navigation along the coasts both difficult and dangerous. All vessels that could do so made for havens of shelter. Some of them, however, did not succeed in reaching port, but were wrecked within almost in sight of safety. This was the case of the British bark Osseo, Captain Boggs, which sailed from Taltal August 15th for Androssan. She made the long voyage safely until this morning, when she was wrecked on the Holyhead breakwater, and every soul on board of her, twenty-four in all, were drowned.

The ship was caught in the gale in the Irish Sea. The Captain evidently thought to run to Holyhead and wait for the storm to abate. Shortly before 11:30 this morning the keeper of the lighthouse at the seaward of the long breakwater saw a bark come out of the gloom with her lights burning brightly and under close storm canvas. The wind was blowing a lively gale, and a terrific sea was running before it. The bark, however, was making as good weather of it as possible, and was apparently being handled in a most careful manner.

How the accident occurred is not exactly known, but it is surmised an extraordinarily high sea lifted her when she was quite close to the breakwater and dashed her upon it. She struck amidships, and immediately began to break up, the sea pounding at her furiously the moment she became stationary.

The lighthouse-keeper, as soon as he realized what had occurred, fired a rocket to call guardsmen and lifeboatsmen. In the meantime the bark had broken into halves, the mainmast going by the board. In its fall it struck several men on deck, killing them instantly. Others of the crew had clambered into the fore and mizzen-rigging to escape being washed overboard by the huge combers that were making a clean breach over the wreck. The coast guardsmen were the first to reach the scene, and were followed soon after by the life-boatmen.

Above the howling of the gale was heard the cry of the men for assistance. The coast guards got a line aboard the wreck, and it was caught by one of the crew. Before he could make it fast the fore and mizzenmasts were whipped off close to the deck, and everybody in these riggings fell with them into the sea and were drowned. A sailor who had caught the line was crushed to death under one of the falling masts. After the masts had gone by the board all was silence on the wreck, and those on the breakwater knew that all hands on the bark had perished. In a short time nothing was visible seaward but broken spars and some rigging attached to them. During the day nine bodies were recovered.

The identity of the bark was learned from some of the papers that were washed ashore. The Osseo was commanded by Captain R. Boggs. She was a steel vessel of 1,339 tons, and was built in 1889 at Londonderry, from which point she hailed. Her dimensions were: Length, 245 feet 3 inches; beam, 36 feet 9 inches, depth of hold 21 feet 5 inches. B. H. McCorkle was her owner.

The Norwegian ship Frex, Captain Hansen, from Darien, while riding at anchor off Troon, was dismasted. Her crew was taken off in a lifeboat. The boat capsized, and one man was drowned.

The British bark Bonita, Captain Thomas, from Galveston, was run into off Falmouth this morning by the schooner Carrie Harvey, and was damaged.

A dispatch from Londonderry says that nothing has been heard from the Dominion line steamer Sarnia, which lost her rudder at sea, and which, after being taken in tow, was dropped about 130 miles of Toray Island in heavy weather. Owing to the gale in the English Channel, the Ostend mail steamer was unable to leave Dover to-day.

A coasting schooner was dismasted off Cromer. Four lifeboats started out to rescue her crew. It was extremely dangerous for the lifeboats to approach her, and twelve hours elapsed before the crew was taken off and landed.

The storms inland had done some damage. Trains have been blockaded by snowdrifts, and in many places the wires are down.

STORMS IN GERMANY.

BERLIN, Dec. 30.—Gales, accompanied by snow, prevail in Northern Germany. An unusually high tide in the River Elbe has flooded the low lying parts of Cuxhaven and Hamburg. Two bodies have been washed ashore in the lower Elbe. Enormous damage has been done along the North seacoasts. Many vessels badly damaged have been towed into Bremerhaven.

STEAMSHIPS REPORT SEVERE WEATHER.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—All incoming steamers report very severe weather along the coast. Steamers from Europe report having experienced the effects of the gale of the 7th, when approaching the banks and Nantucket. The wind, which set in from the southwest, blowing a strong gale, shifted to the southwest and northwest, accompanied by heavy seas and intensely cold weather. The vessels' decks and hulls were quickly covered with ice to the thickness of several inches. The crew suffered much from cold, and the task of getting about the decks proved a difficult one.

Steamers from the southward ran into bad weather upon reaching Hatteras, which the wind suddenly shifted to the south, blowing a strong gale, with a heavy sea. Several steamers, after passing Hatteras, experienced a severe electrical storm, which was accompanied by heavy rain and hard squalls, and upon moderating came out in a sudden shift from the northwest, blowing with hurricane force, causing a tremendous sea, which washed the vessels' decks and covered them with ice. The officers and crew suffered a great deal from cold. No damage of a serious nature was reported.

EFFECTS OF THE STORM IN FLORIDA.

JACKSONVILLE (Fla.), Dec. 30.—Reports by wire from fifty-one correspondents in the orange districts of the State indicate that at least 1,810,000 boxes of unpicked oranges are spoiled, and more than 300,000 boxes of oranges in warehouses or lying in bulk preparatory to picking are frozen. Tomatoes, cabbage, beans, peas and all vegetables in the northern part of the State are ruined, except the pineapple plantations, which are not much injured.

Day before yesterday, half the season's great orange crop of 5,000,000 boxes was still on the trees. The tail of the northern blizzard switched around through the Florida peninsula, and within the space of a few hours Florida had sustained a loss that estimated in cash would reach into the millions. The destruction will be felt for many years, indirectly or directly, by all the people of the State. Previous to this time the coldest weather known was in 1885, but there is no record to show just how cold it was then.

Reports from the interior of the State show that cold weather has been general, and has extended from one side of the peninsula to the other. The lowest temperature at Tampa was 18°, and the same was reported at Titusville. At Cedar Keys it was said to be as low as 16°.

The cold weather played havoc with the plumbing and water supply at Jacksonville. Many people found their water pipes frozen. The occurrence was so unusual that it was some time before residents could realize that the water had actually frozen in the pipes. There was ice in shallow places, however, and there were icicles everywhere. The weather has moderated, but the cold spell is not broken. At 8 P. M. the temperature was 40°.

SNOW IN ALABAMA.

BIRMINGHAM (Ala.), Dec. 30. — The worst snowstorm ever known in this city is prevailing. Four inches of snow fell to-day, and to-night the fall was renewed furiously. The weather is very severe, and much suffering exists among the poor. Many cattle are starving. In this city the street car companies run their cars all night to keep the tracks clear. The snowstorm extends all over the northern section of the State.

HEAVY STORM IN THE SISKIYOUS.

SISSON, Dec. 30.—A heavy storm visited this section again Saturday, and has continued throughout the whole of Sunday. Rain and blinding snow have alternated, and the eight feet of snow now on the the ground is packed as hard as ice. The Southern Pacific rotary plow has been repaired and is kept moving up and down the line between Dunsmuir and the summit, followed by the flanger, which cleans the ice out between the rails. If the storm continues many private dwellings will succumb to the heavy snow and rain.

PANAMA AND COLON.

Statement Relative to the Rumor That They Will Cease to Be Free Ports.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—In reference to the Colon dispatch received Friday night exclusively by the Associated Press, stating that after the 1st of January Panama and Colon would cease to be free ports, and that a duty would be collected of 10 per cent. ad valorem on all imports, officials of the Panama Panama Railway Company say that while they as yet have received no official notification of the proposed action by the Colombian Government, they have been advised unofficially that such a tax was proposed. Of course they said they would protest against such a tax which, owing to local conditions, would be a very heavy one, on the principle that it would tend to restrict trade.

The opinion was expressed that if work were actively resumed on the Panama Canal, as proposed, it would be absolutely necessary to import supplies at any cost. But, unless this work were resumed, it was very likely that the trade of the country would be killed. The impression in the office of the Panama Railroad Company was that Colombia was using every means in its power to increase its revenue, in anticipation of the resumption of work on the canal, the development of internal resources, such as mines, etc., and to have increased resources as precautionary measures in the event of possible changes in the Government.

The published statements that $800,000 had been appropriated for the transmission of troops was regarded as very significant of the Government's efforts toward preventing any possible trouble. One proposition made not long ago was to impose an export tax on bananas, but this plan was wisely given up, as it would have killed the industry, which is the principal one of the country. It goes to show that efforts have been made to increase the country's revenue.

At the office of the Panama Canal Company, Mr. Boyard, who is the representative of the Panama Canal Company here, knew nothing of the proposed tax or the protest of this country. He said, however, that it was possible, in the event of such a tax being imposed, that a protest would be issued from the office of the new Panama Company in Paris.

THE CINCINNATI'S ACCIDENT.

Findings in the Case of the Court of Inquiry.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—Secretary Herbert has made public the findings of the Court of Inquiry in the case of the grounding of the Cincinnati off Long Island Sound, and his own action in the matter. The Court found that when the vessel neared the point where she struck, Captain Glass was obliged to leave the deck orders to the navigator, Lieutenant S. C. Gillingham; the pilot, B. F. Aculariist, and the officer of the deck, Ensign Roger Wells, Jr., governing them during his absence, and leaving Gillingham, assisted by the pilot, in charge of navigation of the vessel. The ship was then headed on a safe course.

The grounding is represented as due to an error in the judgment of the pilot, one of the oldest and most experienced in New York, and of the navigator in estimating the distance of the ship from the United States shoals, on which she struck. This pilot's error caused the grounding, and contributing in a less degree to the results were the established facts. The speed of the ship was not deduced by the navigator on approaching the shoals, remaining too great for accurate soundings; that the officer of the deck neglected to station a leadsman on the port side, and that the Captain, on leaving the deck, did not place in charge the officer next in line of rank.

The court was of the opinion that further proceedings should be had in the case of Pilot Aculariist, Captain Glass, Lieutenant Gillingham and Ensign Wells, but as it did not say when the proceedings should be held, Judge-Advocate Lamley, in reviewing its report, reported that the interests of the service do not require the trial of any of the officers.

In indorsing the record Secretary Herbert emphasizes the fact that the presence of a pilot does not relieve officers of responsibility, and says it is clear that the same degree of caution was not exercised by the officers in navigating the ship as if there had been no pilot on board. He finds that the Captain was particularly censurable for continuing to run his ship at such high speed in confined waters.

NEW YORK POLICE AFFAIRS.

A Change Will Follow the Retirement of Superintendent Byrnes.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—It was apparent at police headquarters in this city to-day that a change in affairs there is speedily approaching and gloom pervaded the entire building. None doubt Superintendent Byrnes intends to retire as soon as his successor is appointed. He was in his office as early as 8 o'clock this morning, but denied himself to visitors. There was no concealment among those posted that the Superintendent was engaged in making preparations to move. He was closeted during the day with Sergeant Mangin, and was clearing out all his private papers and effects, which have gathered during years of his sojourn in the building. They were packed up, and sent to his home on West Fifty-eighth street. Nobody cared to talk much about the matter, but those who did speak spoke in terms of astonishment and regret at their chief's coming retirement.

Fast Steamship Record.

HALIFAX, Dec. 30.—The steamship Labrador, which arrived from Liverpool last evening, made the passage in six days and five hours, which is the fastest ever made to this port from Liverpool.

THE ARMENIAN TROUBLES.

Statement as to the Condition of Affairs in Eight Districts

ISSUED BY THE AMERICAN BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The Turkish Government Attempting to Assume all Authority Over the Mail of Foreigners—Christian Periodicals Compelled to Print What They Know to be False.

Special to the RECORD-UNION.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—The following statement with reference to the condition of affairs in eight districts of Armenia, in which Christian missionaries are stationed, was to-day issued by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions:

"Official letters sent recently from the rooms of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions containing accounts relating to European-Turkey Missions were opened by the Turkish officials. The letters were subsequently delivered, but with the Turkish word 'Examine' written on the envelope. This indicated that the Turkish Government is attempting to assume all authority over the mail of foreigners. When the reports of the massacre of Christians in the Sassoun district of Eastern Turkey became public, after more than two months of suppression on the part of the Turkish officials, the Ottoman Government was alarmed at the widespread publications in the American and English press. Under pressure from foreign powers, the Sultan agreed to send a Commissioner to investigate and report upon the outrages. In view of this promise of the Government, the representatives of the European powers at Constantinople decided to wait for the report before taking any positive action. But after this decision by the Powers, and while they were waiting for the departure of the Sultan's commission, which had been appointed and which was to make full and impartial investigation of all the affairs reported by the English Consul, as well as by many individuals from the Sassoun district, the Turkish Government gave out the following official statement of the case, which statement was printed in the papers of Constantinople. All papers printed in Turkey are under close censorship, and no paper could refuse to print the statement, under penalty of immediate suspension. Hence the Christian periodicals were compelled to print what they knew to be false. The statement is as follows:

"Some of the European papers have stated, contrary to the truth, that a few Armenian villages have been destroyed, and in the meantime persons have been massacred by the Turkish soldiers. Others, in order to magnify these reports, have asserted that the news of the outrage was prevented from leaking out by the obstacles the Government put in the way of travelers from that district.

"The subjects of the Empire of Sassoun district are quietly engaged with their business and the people travel wherever they wish in perfect safety. Some Armenian bandits, being induced by agitators, began lately in and about Sassoun to disturb the peace and comfort of the people by murdering, plundering and blocking the highways. In order to put an end to such disasters, the Government employed the necessary means, and consequently ordered out a sufficient body of the imperial soldiers of the Fourth Army Corps. Thus the extension of the revolt being checked, the troops were withdrawn to their headquarters.

"There was no interference by the Kurds, but, as stated above, some Armenian bandits having ventured to disobey, the Fourth Imperial Army Corps, and also the Governor of Bitlist undertook to investigate as to facts, and consequently a Commission of Inquiry was appointed, composed of Abdallah Pasha, Lomer Bey, Medjid Effendi and Hafez Tevfik Pasha, who will start this week by steamer to the scene of the trouble. In general the Sublime Porte will never allow such outrages to be perpetrated as published in foreign papers upon her subjects."

LONDON, Dec. 30.—In a leader this morning the *Times* says: Mr. Gladstone's retirement from public life is final, but it would be well for Turkey to reflect in her own interest that in the Armenian matter Mr. Gladstone, with little personal effort and no personal ambition whatever, might play the part of "Blind Old Dandelo." He has the British public opinion behind him, and if the world defied Europe, his appeal would be capable of producing perhaps more than all the effect he contemplates as merely contingent.

NO MORE STAMP ALBUMS.

An Opinion of the Solicitor of the Treasury to be Carried Out.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—The opinion of the Solicitor of the Treasury to the effect that it is unlawful to have in possession or to use plates for the printing of postage stamps in the similitude of those issued by foreign Governments will be acted upon at once. No more so-called stamp albums containing stamps of these kinds will be allowed to be printed. The cuts from which these are printed will be seized. It is an astonishing fact that the penalty imposed by law for the counterfeiting of foreign stamps is much more severe than for counterfeiting United States stamps. In the case of foreign stamps the penalty is not less than two or more than ten years' imprisonment, while for counterfeiting of United States stamps the penalty is a fine of not more than $500 or more than five years' imprisonment or both. The United States Court might impose a fine of $1 or one day's imprisonment for violations of our law, while the minimum penalty as to foreign stamps is two years' imprisonment.

EX-CONGRESSMAN BUTLER

Gives a Rather Vague Explanation of His Absence From Home.

INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 30.—Ex-Congressman Walt Butler of West Union, Ia., whose wife had offered a reward for his body on the supposition that he was dead, is here, and very much alive. Butler accidentally noticed the reward in a Chicago newspaper, and immediately made himself known at a local newspaper office. In explanation of his sudden disappearance from home two months ago, he says that on the morning of November 22d he awoke, hearing a trainman call out Indianapolis. He says that from the time he dismissed the school he was teaching in Iowa on November 20th until he arrived here his mind was a perfect blank. Butler has been working here as a book agent. He seems to be perfectly sane.

"There was no reason whatever," he said, "why I should have left. I have a nice home at West Union, a kind, loving wife, and one child, and no man's domestic relations were ever happier than mine have always been. The only way that I can account for the uneasiness was that my letters failed to reach my wife. It seems strange, though, that no one of the many people that I met did not say something to me about the inquiries that were made for me. I made no concealment of my name, or place of residence. I called upon Mr. Matthews, Mr. Taggart and Mr. Bynum, having served with the latter in Congress, and none of them mentioned the fact that my absence from home had caused any comment in any of the papers."

CATHOLIC CHURCH DEDICATED.

Apostolic Delegate Satolli and Cardinal Gibbons Take Part.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30. — Archbishop Satolli and Cardinal Gibbons took part to-day in the imposing ceremony attending the dedication of St. Paul's Catholic Church. Besides the Cardinal and papal delegate, there were present Bishop Keane of the Catholic University, Bishop Curtis of Delaware, Father Richards, priest of the Georgetown College; Father Sharretti, Secretary to the papal delegate, and about thirty other ecclesiastics of Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia and elsewhere. Letters had been received from Archbishops Corrigan, Ireland, Ryan and many of the Bishops.

The new church is one of the handsomest in Washington, and this, together with the fact that it represents the life work of its pastor, Father Mackin, brought about the unusual gathering of church dignitaries.

At 10 o'clock Cardinal Gibbons performed the dedication services, concluding with a brief address congratulating the congregation on having such a structure. Pontificial high mass was then celebrated, with Archbishop Satolli as the celebrant. A throne of rich scarlet drapery was at the right of the sanctuary, while the opposite of it was the heavily draped scarlet throne of the Cardinal. These, with the two richly robed heads of the church, and back of them the Bishops in the purple gowns, and the priests and deacons and servers, formed a most impressive scene. Archbishop Satolli was assisted in saying mass by Father Gillespie, with Father Schmidt as deacon, and Father Dyer of Baltimore as sub-deacon. Besides these assistants, the papal delegate was attended by two deacons, Rev. Fathers Richards and Stone.

A Politician a Man of Expediency.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—The Rev. Charles Parkhurst preached a sermon this morning in which he made indirect reference to the work of the past year. The people had learned, he said, that a politician was a man of expediency, and that he might arrange things in such a manner as only a mighty uprising of the people can undo. In looking over the field of the future, he said the people should look for an improvement in the character of newspapers. The papers, he said, that daily serve up a mass of undigested matter, without discrimination, to their readers, were rapidly becoming a public nuisance.

Five Persons Badly Injured.

CHICAGO, Dec. 30.—A Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific passenger coach while being switched into the Rock Island depot this evening, crashed into a carriage at a crossing. Five persons were badly injured as follows: Mrs. C. Christina of Chicago, injured internally; Mrs. R. Christina of Canada, injured internally and bruised; Miss Bertha Christina, cut and bruised; Miss Jennie Christina, injured internally; Dennis O'Connor, driver, severely injured internally. The accident was caused by the gateman's slowness in putting down the gate.

Thousands of Homes Without Fuel.

FREMONT (Ohio), Dec. 30.—While repairing the regulator at the Northwestern Ohio Natural Gas Works to-day an explosion occurred, wrecking the regulator and seriously injuring C. L. Stevens, Charles Crable and J. B. Loveland. The fuel gas supply to the city had to be shut off and thousands of homes were left without fuel, making it a very serious thing for the people, in view of the cold weather. The gas cannot be turned on for several days.

Female Justice of the Peace.

FORT DODGE (Iowa), Dec. 30.—As the result of a clerical error in an election ballot, Iowa will, for the first time in its history, have a female Justice of the Peace, Mrs. L. E. Castle of Callender being sworn in to-day. The intention was to nominate her husband, but by mistake his wife's initials were used and she was elected. As there was no legal obstacle to her filling the place she was sworn in.

John Fitzgerald Dead.

LINCOLN (Neb.), Dec. 30.—Hon. John Fitzgerald, ex-President of the Irish National League, and one of the most extensive railroad contractors in the country, died here to-day. He had been in poor health for a couple of years, and had practically retired from business. He was a native of Limerick, Ireland.

Prison Break in North Carolina.

RALEIGH (N. C.), Dec. 30.—All the prisoners confined in the County Jail of Peron County have made their escape. They were able to secure their liberty by cutting through the iron floor of the cage, and then tunneling through the brick wall. The Sheriff is in close pursuit.

A Bark Sunk.

GIBRALTAR, Dec. 30. — The British steamer Yoxford, from Palermo for New York, has arrived, with some of her plates damaged. She reports having been in collision with the French bark Marie Louise. The bark was so badly damaged that she sank. Five of her crew were drowned.

Spent the Money in Stock Speculations.

HUDSON (N. Y.), Dec. 30.—W. F. Rosman, Jr., book-keeper for the National Hudson Bank of this city, was arrested last night on a charge of embezzling $10,000. He confessed to the taking of the amount, and said he had spent the money in stock speculation in Wall street.

Groundless Reports.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 30.—Investigation by a representative of the Associated Press of reports of ill-treatment and food among the steerage passengers of the Southwark, at quarantine on account of smallpox, show the allegations to be absolutely groundless.

Man and His Child Cremated.

NEWAUGA (Mich.), Dec. 30.—Charles White and his six-year old son were cremated by the burning of their dwelling this morning. His wife and children escaped, and White could have done so, but persisted in saving the other children, who were on an upper floor.

Warship San Francisco.

QUARANTINE (S. I.), Dec. 30.—The United States steamship San Francisco passed out at the Narrows at 9:33 this morning for Newport, R. I., where she will receive her torpedoes before proceeding to the European station.

Government Receipts.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—The Government receipts so far this month amount to $21,122,962, and the disbursements $27,082,783, leaving a deficit for the month of $5,959,821, and for the fiscal year to date $28,254,963.

Burglary at Cleveland.

CLEVELAND, Dec. 30.—Burglars visited the house of Luther Battles at Collinwood, a suburb, last night, and shot Battles and seriously wounding and compelled his wife to give up her money and jewelry.

LONDON, Dec. 30.—Lord Randolph Churchill is still conscious. The hemorrhage which caused the pressure on the brain having temporarily ceased, the improvement in his condition is maintained.

COSTLY BLAZE IN NEW YORK.

The Delavan House at Albany Destroyed by Fire.

FOR MANY YEARS THE CENTER OF POLITICAL EVENTS.

Rumors Current That Bodies Are Still in the Ruins—Many of the Hundreds of People in the Burning Building Have Narrow Escapes, Only Saving the Clothes They Wore.

Special to the RECORD-UNION.

ALBANY (N. Y.), Dec. 30.—The Delavan House, the Mecca of politicians and the center of all big State political events for forty years past, was destroyed by fire to-night. It was 8:30 when the political headquarters of both Mr. Fish and Mr. Maltby were filled with politicians and newspaper men that cries of fire from different parts of the house caused consternation among the guests.

The outburst of flames before an alarm could be given was appalling. Up the elevator shaft shot a solid column of flames, which spread quickly to each of the five floors. Fortunately the burnt list was not large, and the majority of those registered were politicians, and were down on the ground floor. There was a rush for the staircase in the front and the servants' stairs in the back, where the flames had not yet reached, and in a few minutes there was a tumbling mass of humanity coming down these two means of egress. Those on the upper floors could not avail themselves of these exits, for the flames were rushing along the corridors, and people in the street who had not yet seen the flames heard a crash of glass and saw figures come tumbling out of the windows.

Within ten minutes after the first note of alarm at least twelve persons were dangling on the rope fire escapes hanging on the window sills. The department arrived quickly, but it took some time to get the ladders up and down, and in the meantime several people had dropped to the street. On the right side of the building there appeared at the window, surrounded by smoke, a man and woman. The man had hold of the woman, trying to persuade her to wait for help, but she broke away and sprang out. She struck a balcony and rebounded into the street. The man waited for a ladder, and was taken down in safety. His name is H. A. Foakes of Dayton, Ohio. The woman was his wife, and she will probably die.

In ex-Speaker Maltby's room, which was to the rear of the elevator shaft, where the fire first appeared, there was great excitement. There were about twenty politicians there. A rush was made for the stairs, and when the party landed in the street the only injured one was found to be Assemblyman Robbins, whose hair and face were badly burned. Although five stories high, there were no outside fire escapes, and the only means left for the people to escape from their rooms was to use rope ladders.

B. F. Dillman of Brooklyn was in the third story. He opened his door as soon as he heard the cry of fire. A burst of flames made him look to the window as a means of escape. He had but two alternatives—go through fire or a jump. He did the latter. When he was picked up from the sidewalk he was dying. His wife, who was in the room with him, tried the rope fire escape, but it either broke or else she failed to hold it, for she fell to the pavement, breaking her right leg, dislocating her left ankle, and was badly burned about the face and head.

Richard Walsh, a reporter, was caught in the hall and badly burned.

In less than fifteen minutes after the fire alarm was turned in the entire building was wrapt in flames, resembling a huge crater, and all hope of saving the famous structure was given up.

The hotel takes in the entire block, about 110x450 feet, and this was in another fifteen minutes a seething cauldron, only bound by the four walls. At 10:30 the east wall fell in, and some of the firemen barely escaped being buried. At 11:30 the Broadway wall fell out, and one fireman was buried in the debris. He was taken out and is not thought to be dangerously hurt.

It is rumored at this late hour that there are bodies in the ruins, and that quite a number of people did not escape. The clerk says to-night that he is positive all the guests escaped, but does not feel so sure about the help, of whom there were a great many. There is no way to-night of finding out positively whether these rumors are true or not, and it will take a day or so to determine.

Mr. Maltby said after the fire: "It is inconceivable how the flames obtained such a headway. The halls were a mass of fire before we received a word of warning."

Of the hundreds of guests none saved more than the clothes they wore. One of the incidents of the fire was the escape of Miss Martin of New York. She was in the fourth story window on the Steuben street side when a ladder was raised. A messenger boy rushed up and broke the window, thus freeing her. Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Martin, Bradley Martin, Jr., and Mrs. F. T. Martin were guests at the hotel, having come here to bury the former's son. They were on the second floor, a good way from where the fire started, and escaped. Mr. Martin, when he reached the sidewalk