

Loss of the Steamer Miami.

Major J. E. Rankin furnishes the following particulars of the Miami disaster, under date of Cairo, Illinois, February 11th, which we clip from the New York "News":

"The boat was commanded by Captain Levy, and left Memphis on Saturday night, loaded to her gunwales with freight, and carrying about fifty passengers in her cabin, one hundred on deck, one hundred men of Company F, Third United States Infantry, and a mixed crew of fifty men."

"She reached Napoleon about midnight, without any symptoms of mishap, rounded from the Mississippi into the Arkansas, and was well controlled by the engineer and pilot until about seven miles from the confluence of the rivers, when the starboard boiler exploded. The cause of the explosion is unknown. The steamer caught fire and burned to the water's edge, carrying to an untimely and awful death two hundred and twenty-five human beings."

"The accident occurred after tea, just as a majority of the cabin passengers were congregated around the stove in the forward part of the cabin, to smoke, and the soldiers on the hurricane deck, in obedience to a call from one of their comrades to come forward for their rations of whisky. Into the air went heads, arms and legs, and headless and limbless bodies, and down into the broken boilers or burning deck, through great chasms made by the explosion, went nearly two hundred persons; while others, shrieking under nameless tortures, with the hot steam eating into their lungs, with too swift haste, ran back to where the remainder of the passengers, much affrighted, were preparing to jump overboard and escape on floating doors or logs. Some soldiers were all ablaze with fire; others, scalded, tearing at their throats in their agony, jumped overboard and were lost; while a few, more fortunate and but slightly burned, pushed some bales of hay overboard, and, riding on them, reached the shore. All the women on board, except a German, whose name could not be learned, jumped overboard in their fright, and were lost—not, however, before some of them had endured heart-rending agony from internal scalding."

"The most sickening sight was the burning to death of two soldiers of the Third Regulars, who, for disorderly and unruly conduct, were tied up by the thumbs to the jacket, a little before the explosion. The dreadful accident carried off the lieutenant commanding and all the non-commissioned officers, and those men who escaped death by fire or steam had jumped overboard; so that there was no one near to obey the calls of the poor fellows, which could be heard above the noise of the crashing timbers, nor to assist their frantic efforts to unloose the cords that bound them. Tied securely, they waited in terror and dismay until the flames had burned the deck from under them, and they fell a prey to the devouring element. The offenders are together in eternity."

"The scenes were heart-rending and beyond description. But few of those present displayed any presence of mind. Indeed, the accident was so unexpected and frightful in its immediate effects, that such manifestation was all but impossible. One or two cabin passengers—among them our informant, and the chief clerk, Mr. Franklin and Captain Levy, who did all under the circumstances that men could—escaped on tables and ladders. Major Rankin supplied Mrs. Lusk and her child with a door, in the hope of saving them, as they were but a short distance from the shore; but, alas! they, too, were taken away to meet the husband and father, who was among the first killed by the explosion, as was Mr. Chas. J. Johnson, another clerk, who was standing beside him in the office at the time."

"Only two or three cabin passengers are known to have escaped, and, perhaps, fifty or sixty of those on deck, most of whom found their way to the north side of the river. Some twenty reached the south bank, to which the boat swung, and was tied up by Captain Levy and one or two of the hands."

"Among those who were saved and who assert that they were precipitated into the boiler, was the barber, who was badly scalded and burned. He says the floor seemed to part beneath and drop him into the seething boiler, from which, by an extraordinary rebound, he jumped, and running through the flames, escaped to the shore."

"About one hour after the affair, the steamer Henry Ames, commanded by Captain Crawford, who had heard the explosion at Napoleon, hoys in sight, and, landing, took on all the survivors, some of whom were landed at Napoleon, others at the mouth of White river, and the remainder brought on to Memphis."

The engineers on the Central Pacific Railroad have adopted a new process of grading. At a place near Gold Run, where there is a long, deep cut through earth and gravel, they have rigged up a hydraulic, and are taking away the earth ten times as fast as it would be possible to cut it away by the ordinary process. They are supplied with water from the South Yuba Ditch, and last week were running about four hundred inches. Parties accustomed to railway grading were astonished at the rapidity with which the work was done with the hydraulic. This, we presume, is the first time the hydraulic has ever been used for grading a railroad, and it does the work so rapidly that the engineers will hereafter use it at all practicable places.—[Virginia "Enterprise."]

The Leavenworth "Conservative," the most radical paper in the State of Kansas, says of the proposed amendment to the Constitution, granting negro suffrage: "Every intelligent man, at all acquainted with the present feeling of our people upon the subject, knows it will be defeated by a vote of, at least, two to one. What can be gained, then, by such action, before the voters are ready for it? Nothing but setting back the accomplishment of the result we desire for years. The elections in Connecticut, in Minnesota, in Wisconsin, should be a warning to the advocates of negro suffrage. In those States, the measure was overwhelmingly defeated, and, as conceded on all hands, the suffrage question was disastrously damaged by such defeat."

PIUS THE NINTH AN EXPELLED MASON.—The "Masonic Trowel," of the 15th of February, says: A masonic lodge in Palermo, has excommunicated the Pope! This action was taken in retaliation for the fulminations against Free Masonry launched from the Vatican. The brothers of the Palermo lodge declared that a man named Mattai Ferretti once received the masonic baptism, and swore love and fraternity to the masons, and that afterwards this man was created Pope and King under the title of Pius IX.

A MURDERER AND HIS VICTIM BURNED TO DEATH.

A correspondent of the Toledo "Commercial," of February 8th, says: We have just received the sad intelligence of the murder of one of the citizens of our county—Chester Richardson, of Royalton Township. He was in the habit of rising early, before daylight, feeding his stock, and going the round of his morning chores. On last Thursday morning, (February 1st), as usual, he took his lamp and started for the barn. After he had been gone a short time a noise was heard at the barn; but the family supposed it was Mr. Richardson speaking in a sharp tone to the cattle, and no attention was given to the circumstances. In a short time a light was seen in the direction of the barn, and, upon the family and some of the neighbors rushing there, it was found to be on fire, and the flames had made considerable progress, and the barn was soon consumed to ashes, with the loss of about five thousand dollars, as our informant reports; eighteen horses and cattle were burned to death. Upon examination, the remains of Mr. Richardson were found and identified by his knife, tobacco-box and false teeth, and some twenty feet from his wife's foot the remains of another person, and military buttons showing the clothing that was worn by one of the murderers, and also near Mr. Richardson was found a pitchfork. The supposition is, from the circumstances attending the case, that there were three assassins concealed in the barn, who made an attack upon Mr. Richardson for the purpose of robbing him of a large sum of money it was supposed he carried about his person, and that he made a desperate effort to defend himself with the pitchfork, and, in the affray, succeeded in killing one of his assailants. And that the other assassins, in order to conceal their bloody work, fired the barn. It is thought improbable that the barn could have been set on fire by the lamp, as it was a candle in a globe lamp, and in the cow-stable, where the means of firing the premises by accident were not considered likely. No clue has, as yet, been found to the perpetrators of this crime.

NEW TELEGRAPH LINE.—The United States Telegraph Company opened their line, for general business, from Chicago to Omaha on the 1st inst. The Omaha "Republican," of the 9th ult., says: We are favored by Mr. M. A. McCoy, the operator of the U. S. Telegraph Co., in this city, for the following messages, the first transmitted over the United States Telegraph Co.'s wires:

OMAHA, February 2d, 1866.
Mr. F. H. Tubbs, Sup't U. S. Telegraph Co., Chicago, Ill.: I congratulate you on the completion and opening of your line to this place. Compliments of the reason. M. A. McCoy, Operator.

CHICAGO, Ill., February 2d, 1866.
Mr. M. A. McCoy, Omaha: Thank you. It is time Omaha had a double-barreled gun to shoot East.

ARTILLERY BOARD.—Gen. Grant orders the establishment of a permanent Artillery Board, to which questions pertaining to the artillery arm of the service may be referred by the Secretary of War or the Commander-in-Chief for discussion and recommendation. The Board also has the power to make recommendations to the General-in-Chief in reference to the interests and efficiency of the artillery arm. The letters for the Board are as follows: Brevet Brigadier General H. J. Hunt, Lieutenant Colonel Third Artillery; Brevet Colonel Albin P. Howe, Major Fourth Artillery; and Brevet Lieutenant Colonel S. N. Benjamin, Captain Second Artillery, Secretary.

WHOLESALE POISONING.—We have seen a private letter to a gentleman, in this city, which under date of the 20th of January, states that, at a party at the town of Avoca, five miles from Russellville, Ala., thirteen persons, out of a company of thirty, were fatally poisoned from drinking whiskey which, it is supposed had been drugged. Three of the musicians who had drunk very freely, died before day. The other victims lingered longer. We have no additional particulars.—[Missouri "Republican."]

ROAD LOCOMOTIVES.—A gigantic steam road locomotive is now at work in county Down, Ireland, carrying freight from the Newcastle quarries. The machine is very large and heavy, calculated to carry eighty tons with ease. The practicability of road locomotives appears to have been fully proved, within the past three or four years; and there can scarcely be any doubt apprehended that the great experiment about to be tried on the plains, westward from the Missouri, will prove a success.—[Reese River "Reveille."]

The Washington "Chronicle" records the following novel case decided by the Secretary of the Treasury: "It appears that a gentleman in Liverpool, England, shipped a lot of swine to New York. During the voyage, a sow had a litter of pigs, which could not be landed, as they were not included in the original manifest. The collector of customs immediately telegraphed to the Secretary, asking whether the stock was liable to seizure, whereupon the following laconic decision was the result: 'Land the pigs.'"

The recent report of the Police Commissioners of New York, states that the number of establishments in that city, classed under the head of concert saloons, is two hundred and twenty-three, while the number of "young and pretty" low females who attend them is one thousand one hundred and ninety-one. The Commissioners' report calls them "nearly twelve hundred daughters of perdition."

KENTUCKY FREEDMEN.—The Kentucky Senate has passed an act to incorporate a negro bank at Louisville, one of the incorporators being worth \$100,000. They couldn't do it, however, without tacking on a provision, "that the said bank shall have no connection with the Freedmen's Bureau, and that no person shall be permitted to act as officer who has ever lived in Boston, Mass."

RESEE RIVER.—The San Francisco Minstrels have opened at the Academy of Music, and are playing a good house. I stopped in there a little while last night. One of them sangd Reese River villainously. He said he was an Astorian, a native of Austin—a place where a mad diggins well in his back yard to plant a pump in, and then makes a map of it and takes it to New York, and sells it for three hundred thousand dollars!—MARK TWAIN.

The Cincinnati "Commercial" thinks that the piece of Bologna sausage, which the Hartford "Times" relates contained a piece of a man and wife, must have been manufactured in Chicago.

FRED PATTERSON KILLED.—The Idaho City (I. T.)

"World," of Feb. 24, says: Letters were received, here on Thursday evening detailing the manner of the killing of Mr. Ferdinand Patterson, at Walla Walla last week. Mr. Patterson was seated in a barber shop having his hair arranged, when a man by the name of Tom Donovan, formerly a watchman of Portland, and now on the night watch at Walla Walla, entered the room by a back door and seated himself by the stove a short time. Suddenly he rose and walked up behind Patterson and said, 'You'll kill me, or I'll kill you,' and deliberately shot at him, the ball shattering Patterson's jaw and the lower portion of his face. Patterson jumped from the chair and retreated towards the door, Donovan firing again, the ball passing through Patterson's shoulder and ranging downward. As he leaped from the chair he exclaimed, 'My God!' which was all he spoke. He then fell, the assassin continuing to fire two more shots into the body. Donovan was arrested. Patterson's funeral was the largest ever seen in Walla Walla. It was one of the most deliberate and cold blooded murders on record. Donovan was an entire stranger to Patterson, they having never exchanged a word with each other. It is the general opinion that he was hired to commit the murder of Patterson, by some of the Vigilantes in that portion of the country.—[Curious Vigilantes.—Ed.]

AN ECONOMICAL WONDER.—One of the economical marvels of the age is now on exhibition under the Southern Hotel, on Walnut street, between eleven o'clock a. m., and three p. m., of each day. The wonder is called a Petroleum Stove, and he about as unlike the common stove as can be imagined. Oil is converted into gas, and then, passing through a pin-hole aperture, is there ignited and will do an immense amount of cooking in an incredibly short time. The thing is a miracle of science, and the exhibition hall is daily crowded with visitors and delighted gentlemen by the novel show. A stupendous revolution in the stove, coal, wood (for fuel) and lamp markets, is believed to be impending in the interest of economy in fuel, in time, in labor, in cleanliness and convenience. The new apparatus bears the same relation to the ordinary stove as the lucifer match bears to the obsolete tinder box. A company is already organized to manufacture the petroleum burning fixtures for Missouri.—St. Louis "Democrat," Feb. 1st.

A MINING BUREAU.—We have the prospectus of a Mining Bureau, organized at Virginia, Montana, with the object of enlightening the world as to the resources of the Territory, and, by their reports, assist and protect capitalists in their investments, for which reports we suppose they, of course, demand remuneration. There are but few members of the Bureau, which is composed of assayers, inspectors, engineers, and other experienced and reliable men. Such an organization here would, if properly composed and strictly guarded, be profitable to the members, a great benefit to the country, and a protection against the capitalist who desires to invest in our mines. We suggest that one be formed, which shall receive our support so long as it shows an honorable devotedness to the interests of the country.—[Reese River "Reveille."]

The Cleveland "Herald" has the news from Chicago. It says that pieces of human beings are pumped up there, until the matter has become so common that the Chicagoan manifests no surprise when he finds a strange pair of fingers, without a hand, stirring his coffee, or is kicked in the shin by a legless foot when descending his front door step. A strange head, without a body and limbs to match, grinning from his desk, would occasion nothing in Weston, one night last week, discovered, to their consternation, that the train was approaching. To jump off of certain death, and to remain, the same fate awaited them. So they let themselves down and hung by their hands until the entire train passed over them. Their escape was miraculous.—[Atchison "Free Press."]

The internal revenue tax in New York yielded, during the year 1865, \$37,156,411. This is nearly four dollars per head for every man, woman and child in the city. This does not include the sums received for the sale of stamps, which will probably amount to ten millions more, nor the returns from the tax on banks and insurance stocks, etc.

COOL.—On a recent trip of one of the Illinois river packets—a light draught one, as there was only two feet of water in the channel—the passengers were startled by the cry of "man overboard!" The steamer was stopped, and preparations made to save him, when he was heard exclaiming, "go ahead with your damned old steamboat! I'll walk behind you!"

The Paris Universal Exhibition edifice is being constructed on the Champs de Mars, to open April 1st, 1866. An enterprising American has leased a lot to erect a saloon for the sale of cobbles, cocktails and smashes during the show.

RATHER CAUSTIC.—A wife in San Francisco lately put in a petition for a divorce in the court, on the ground that her husband was a "confounded fool." The judge was an old bachelor, he said, is liable to the same imputation, who gets married.

THE SPRING FEVER.—The New Grenada mines will probably attract two thousand five hundred and Montana and the Blackfoot country (the "new California") about twenty-five thousand—adventurers from California, and the adjacent States, this year.—[S. F. "Golden Era."]

The London underground railway is three and three-eighths miles long, and cost £42,045—more than two and a quarter million dollars per mile. Even at that enormous cost it pays seven per cent.

"Did you see my black-faced antelope?" inquired Mr. Lewcope, who has a collection of animals, of a friend. "No, I haven't. Who did your black-faced antelope with?"

The highest inhabited place on the globe is the post house at Andonareo, in Peru, which is nearly sixteen thousand feet above the sea.

THE COOLIE TRADE.—The London and China

"Telegraph," of the 5th ult., says: Of the thirty ships, now lying at anchor in the harbor of Macao, sixteen are chartered for Havana with slaves. All these vessels will, as is the custom, ship a certain number of coolies in excess of their contract, in order to have the means of supplying the places of those who may die on the voyage. It is curious that no one has, as yet, found out why so many of the coolies lose their sight on the voyage. Out of a cargo of five hundred, forty will be completely blind before they arrive at their destination; and, according to the terms of the charter party, the baracoona owner will only pay for and receive those that arrive in possession of their eyesight, the unfortunate blind are probably cast into the sea or landed upon some desert island, for the Government will not permit any Chinaman to live in Havana unless he belongs to a master.

LOVE'S DREAM.—Two youthful runaways from Baltimore—a boy of fourteen and a girl of fifteen—were found last week in Washington, where the boy was engaged in selling papers at the Capitol, and the girl had secured a situation as a house servant at five dollars per month. The girl stoutly protested against being separated from her companion; she said she loved him, and if she had at she would have spent her five dollars in coming there with him. She said they were young, but not too young to love, and if they sent him to the House of refuge, they would have to send her too. The boy took his arrest rather coolly, said he liked her, and would run away with her again. They were returned by the officers to their respective homes, and, in deference to their parents, their names are withheld.

THE N. Y. correspondent to the Chicago "Tribune" says there are more coats of arms, at the present time, in the United States than in England. After describing the process by which Petrolia and Shoddy become possessed of a coat of arms and genealogical tree, the writer suggests a device for the son of a shoemaker and the grandson of a claim-peddler, who has panned out a petroleum fortune, as follows: "Petroleum derrick couchant; cobbler's last levant; clam rampant; and possibly a bar of soap-dormant, a beer-mug pleurant, and a brick volante." Good, go up to the lead.

COMMERCE OF THE MISSISSIPPI.—The commerce of the Mississippi is now employing nine hundred and ten steamers, with a capacity of 271,144 tons, valued at \$24,556,600. St. Louis has 210 steamers with a capacity 110,769 tons, valued at \$8,830,000. The next principal port is Cincinnati, 150 steamers; New Orleans, 81; Pittsburg, 78 steamers and 81 tug; Louisville, 66; Memphis, 60; Wheeling, 44; St. Paul, 30.

THE guards on the trains on the Swedish railways are required to have a knowledge of the elements of surgery, that in case of accidents they may be able to render medical assistance. An ambulance, fitted up with every requisite, forms a part of each train.

The area of the States that amounted to twelve and seven-eighths square miles, or about 5,600 square miles greater than the area of England, France, Spain, Portugal and the German Confederation combined.—[Gold Hill "News."]

PROGRESS.—The Parliament of Great Britain is besieged with memorials for an extension of the suffrage. The party of Bright, and Stuart Mill, are resolute and unwavering in the work of reformation, and England feels through her very political veins the impetus of liberty with which America has furnished Europe.

A person who was told that bone-dust was used by some unscrupulous bakers, remarked, "What's bred in the bone can't be helped; but bone in the bread's quite another matter."

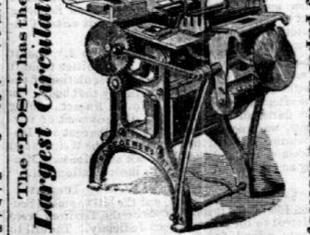
COMMERCIAL CORRESPONDENCE.—The correspondence of Chicago amounts to seventeen millions of letters annually, which is more than St. Louis, Cincinnati, Cleveland or Boston can boast.

The Alabama papers give sad accounts of the destitution of people in that State. It is estimated that there at 52,912 white persons suffering for want of means of living.

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