

Trial of Stephens.

CHARLESTON, Va., Thursday, Feb. 1, 1860. The town is thronged to-day to witness the proceedings of the trial of Stephens, one of the Harper's Ferry conspirators.

At 11 o'clock the Court opened, Judge John Kenny of Rockingham presiding, Judge Parker being engaged in holding the regular Town Court in Hampshire County.

The Grand Jury, of which R. V. Shirley is Foreman, was sworn.

The Judge delivered his charge, and in referring to the Harper's Ferry invasion said: It is known to you, and it is now a part of the history of the country, that on the night of the 16th of October last past, a band of traitors, murderers, and incendiaries, stealthily made a descent on the soil of Virginia, in the county of Jefferson, and wantonly murdered several of our citizens and people, with the design to incite our slaves to revolt, and to subvert our Government.

But there are some engaged or supposed to have been engaged in this felony who have not as yet been apprehended, and others who believe to have been actively engaged in the tragedy but who are not yet known to the public. It will be your duty and I believe your pleasure also to inquire who were guilty of polluting our soil and attempting to dishonor the sovereignty of Virginia.

The witnesses in the case of the Commonwealth against Stephens were then sent up, and an indictment against him was returned, charging him with murder and treason, and conspiring with slaves to create a rebellion.

The work of impelling the Jury in the case of Stephens was postponed until to-morrow, in order to allow counsel time to examine the indictment against him.

Stephens and Hazlett will be defended by Mr. Semmott. The Commonwealth is represented by Andrew Hunter.

It is deemed unnecessary at present to increase, to any extent, the military force now here. The only addition that has been made is a company of 20 cavalry from Shepherdstown.

No fear is entertained of an attempt at rescue. CHARLESTOWN, Thursday, Feb. 3-p. m. The Court opened at 10 o'clock this morning, Judge John Kenny presiding.

Mr. Stevens was brought in by the jailer and his guard, in seeming perfect health.

Mr. Semmott suggested that the Commonwealth the propriety of announcing whether it would elect to try one or all of the counts, or whether it relied upon one or all for conviction.

Non-Arrival of the North-American

PORTLAND, Me., Feb. 2-11 p. m. There are as yet no signs of the steamship North American, now due here, with Liverpool dates of the 18th inst.

State Politics. WASHINGTON, Thursday, Feb. 2, 1860. The Democratic Congressional Convention for the XXVIIIth District met at Wayland to-day and appointed the Hon. W. T. Hobbell of Bath and F. C. Dineley of Addison, Delegates to Charleston, and Dr. Josiah Clark of Livonia and R. E. Reynolds of Hallowville, Alternates.

Collision at Sea. NEW-ORLEANS, Wednesday, Feb. 1, 1860. The bark Ashore, from New-York, bound to Vera Cruz, has put in here leaking badly, having been in collision with a schooner; also lost topmast and sails.

The Mississippi Central Railroad. WASHINGTON, Thursday, Feb. 2, 1860. An authorized dispatch says that trains commenced running over the Mississippi Central road for the first time on the 29th ult., and that they have been running regularly since then.

FROM WASHINGTON. THE ELECTION OF SPEAKER. From Our Special Correspondent.

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On Monday, the House and its galleries, crowded to the brim, and overflowing and flooding all the adjacent halls and passages with intelligence and beauty, with elevated patriotism and heated partisanship, from every State in the Union, witnessed an exhibition of devotion to principles regardless of men, and of party discipline in its highest and best sense, which has no parallel in the annals of Congress.

The hour of triumph is not the time, perhaps, for placing on record the indignation felt by some true men in our ranks, and the mortification of all, in finding that the withdrawal of their tried candidate had resulted in bringing to the aid of his worthy substitute only one additional vote—Mr. Adrain.

The aggregate for him was swelled by the vote of Mr. Reynolds of Albany, who instantly repaired to this city on learning of the Smith raid of Friday. But he was always subject to call when needed, and therefore the only vote obtained by the change was that of Mr. Adrain.

On Monday the Capitol was the scene of intense excitement. The crowd which thronged the halls and passages had no parallel even in the scene of the Leecompton conflict.

the exigence, and vote for Pennington, thus throwing the responsibility on Riggs.

Smith withdrew his name in a neat speech. Then followed a general settlement of accounts between the late copartnership of South Americans and Democracy, between the Fire-Eaters and the Squatter Sovereigns, Rogan and Millson appearing in behalf of the Democracy, while Etheridge and Hill pleaded the cause of the Americans.

The roll call commenced. Briggs, to the surprise of thousands, voted for McClernand. Knowing that this was decisive of the ballot, even if Riggs voted for Pennington, all interest was lost in the monotonous responses, until the stentorian Clerk challenged "H. Winter Davis!"

At length the Clerk approached the name of Jettur R. Riggs. On withdrawing his vote from Pennington yesterday, he had declared that he would give it to him whenever it could elevate him to the Chair.

WINTER GARDEN. Mr. Joseph Johnson, though a most excellent comedian, is not likely to shine with resplendent brilliancy as a dramatic artist.

Last night, a snow-storm which would have done credit to the Adirondack Mountains, where sleeps the mouldering dust of John Brown, howled over this city from sudron to sunrise, giving token that there was a NORTH.

A call of the House, and one or two dilatory motions were indulged in, to give assurance that each side could muster all its forces—a little skirmishing on the edges of the field preparatory to the final contest.

And now the sublime speedily subsided into the ridiculous. Barksdale tried to persuade or drive the South Americans to concentrate their votes on McClernand (they had cast them chiefly for Gilmer), on the assurance that if they would do so he would try and get the dozen or fifteen Fire-Eaters, who had refused to support McClernand, to come to his aid.

The regular monthly meeting of the American Institute was held at the Cooper Institute last evening, Gen. HALL in the chair.

It was resolved to borrow \$4,000, by negotiating a mortgage on the building of the Institute in Broadway.

Mr. H. L. STUART presented a communication, which was read, setting forth that he had been nominated for election on a Committee for the ensuing year, without his knowledge or consent, that inasmuch as the name ticket contained the names of not less than ten persons who had, through their friends, nominated themselves by the aid of a packed meeting, he declined to be a candidate.

The tellers reported to the Clerk, and the Clerk announced to the House: "The tellers report that the whole number of votes cast is 233. Necessary to a choice, 117. William Pennington of New-Jersey has received that number, and is therefore duly elected Speaker of the XXXVIIIth Congress."

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TERRIBLE CALAMITY! BURNING OF A TENEMENT HOUSE. GREAT LOSS OF LIFE. NARROW ESCAPES. NAMES OF THE SUFFERERS. DARING OF THE FIREMEN.

Last night, a terrible calamity occurred in Elm street, involving the loss of many valuable lives, and the maiming of a number of the survivors.

About 7 o'clock in the evening a little girl in the bakery, while filling a fluid lamp, set the fluid on fire, and dropping the burning vessel upon the floor, its blazing contents spread over the floor, and communicated with a pile of shavings under the stairs.

When the dread cry of "Fire!" resounded through the halls, and up the stairways, the human swarm within the building snatched up their offspring, and rushed panic-stricken, from their apartments, choking up the passages by sheer numbers.

Those who lived on the lower floors were enabled to escape in comparative safety, the firemen and citizens rushing up from the street, and dragging them through the smoke.

But higher up, beyond the reach of the ladders, where the smoke was more dense, the sufferings of the poor inmates were truly heartrending.

Miss Matilda Heron added no new lead to her laurels by her impersonation of "Nancy Sikes," which circumstance is attributable more to lack of opportunity for the display of dramatic power, than to any shortcomings of the actress.

Mr. T. B. Johnston was capital as the "Artful Dodger." Miss Burke played "Oliver" very nicely, though the part is not nearly so good as several parts she has lately enacted.

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must have all been lost, as I have seen the room or away from them since the fire. Her husband was heard. Mrs. Schellberg had seven in her family, and I think they were all saved by jumping out of the window.

The following persons were conveyed by Officers (Kronke, Flynn, Sandford, and others, of the Fourteenth Precinct, to the New-York Hospital, where they received the immediate attention of Dr. Hall and Henry A. Fisher:

ESLER WHITE, injured internally; condition bad. FREDRIKA BORDNER, injured internally. She was taken to the Hospital in an insensible condition, and the doctors were of opinion that she had received a severe blow upon the head. Her recovery is doubtful.

FRANCIS BOESSEL, burned externally and badly contused from fall. This young woman jumped from one of the upper windows, and was taken up insensible. Recovery doubtful.

PAULINE WHITE, a little child, badly burned, and recovery doubtful. Mrs. White, the mother of Pauline, and Essler, whose statement appears in the account, was in attendance upon her children at the Hospital, and did all in her power to alleviate their sufferings.

FRANCIS SERRAVALLO, concussion of the brain; dangerous. This man leaped from the third-story window, and in falling struck his head against a post. He was taken up in an insensible condition, and conveyed to the Fourteenth Ward Station-House, and thence to the Hospital, where, after a short time, he revived a little.

FRANCIS TISDAR; injured about the chest, and it is supposed one or two ribs broken. He was quite comfortable, and did not seem to experience much pain.

It was impossible last night to form any correct estimate of the number of persons who perished in the flames. Police Headquarters and the Station-House were visited by dozens of persons, who made inquiry or this and that one.

It is known that five or six, certainly, fell spray to the burning element, as they were seen at the windows during the time there was no possibility of their escape.

All sorts of rumors prevailed—some estimated the loss as high as forty; others thought there could not have been less than twenty. We saw last night, as Police Headquarters, a little white-haired girl, who could not talk, and an infant, who had been rescued by the firemen. Up to midnight, no one had been seen to claim them.

The occupants of the adjoining buildings were advised, at an early stage of the fire, of their danger in remaining long in their residences, and all made immediate preparations to vacate.

They succeeded in saving a small portion of their furniture, and the remainder was destroyed by water.

The Rev. Dr. Semmott will give his last and best lecture this evening, at the South Ninth-street Church, Williamsburgh.