THURLOW WEED'S BIRTHDAY

THE PRESS CLUB CELEBRATES IT.

MEETING OF NEWSPAPER MEN TO HONOR THE VETERAN JOURNALIST—MR. WEED'S APPEARANCE—CORDIAL GREETINGS BY OLD FRIENDS—THE ADDRESSES OF WELCOME AND THE RESPONSES.

The Press Club gave a reception last evening to Thurlow Weed, at the rooms of the Club, Nos. 119 and 121 Nassau-st. It was in honor of Mr. Weed's eighty-third birthday, and the occasion was noteworthy as calling out many of the older men in the ranks of journalism. There was a large attendance of the younger members of the Club also. The rooms were handsomely decorated. Speeches were made by J. W. Simonton, Mr. Weed, Erastus Brooks, James Watson Webb and others.

THE GATHERING AND THE SPEECHES.

Gathered around Mr. Weed, in the pleasant reading-room of the Club, were James Watson Webb, for many years the Editor of *The Courier and Enquirer*, and more recently Minister to Brazil; Erastus Brooks, for forty-one years with his brother James, an editor and part owner of *The Express*, which for most of that time was published in the morning as well as in the evening; David M. Stone, for the past fifteen years Editor of *The Journal of Commerce*; Whitelaw Reid, Editor of THE TRIBUNE; James W. Simonton, general agent of the Associated Press; William E. Robinson ("Richelieu"), formerly Washington correspondent of THE TRIBUNE; the Rev. Dr. S. Irenaeus Prime, of *The New-York Observer*, and other of the older journalists of this city. Younger members of the Club were in attendance in great numbers. Besides these there were Postmaster James, President Morris, of the Board of Aldermen; ex-Alderman Vance, the Rev. Henry Highland Garnett, General Christensen, of the Danish Embassy, Robert J. Burdette, of *The Burlington Hawkeye*, and George W. Davids, of *The Poughkeepsie Eagle*.

On the president's table was a large bank of flowers with the word "age" in violets.

The object of the meeting was briefly announced by the president, William N. Penney, who informally introduced Mr. Weed to the members, and then seated the veteran. Mr. Weed looked stronger than usual, and bore the fatigue of the evening much better than his friends anticipated. Mr. Simonton then formally presented Mr. Weed to the president and members of the Club as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT: It gives me great pleasure to present to you the veteran journalist, Thurlow Weed, who on the eighty-third anniversary of his birth pays us the honor of his presence here. Congratulating him and ourselves that his patriarchal years have neither diminished his interest in public affairs nor impaired the vigor of his convictions in their discussion, may we not draw from his revelling in the past hope and example.

It may be doubted whether any man now living, other than the unchallenged Nestor of the American press, has ever spread so wide and deep an influence upon the destinies of our country. What has been the secret of his wonderful power? The answer, it seems to me, is that Mr. Weed's powers have been able and wise and patriotic. Mr. Weed more than any other in the journal is the journalist who has impressed himself upon the times, recognized that as the creator is greater than the creature, so the king-maker is greater than the king, and sought to use his power for usefulness. And so Mr. Weed has always preferred to be a king-maker rather than to sit upon the throne with the sceptre. During his long career the efforts have been steadily addressed to moulding and shaping the job in opinion which, to a free government, is king of kings. Recognized that this could be best done quiet and concealed by earnest work in the editorial chair, while always striving faithfully and well to get whatever cause he may espoused into the saddle and bridle administrators, he ever and resolutely pushed aside the honors of high office which were within his personal grasp. Time no suspicion of self-seeking could impair his power for good, and thus, also, his thoughtful, wise, patriotic and unselfish use of the influence commanded by his exceptional talents won for him that general respect, admiration and love of which we here and now, tender to him our most cordial expression.

A volunteer in the War of 1812, I believe he never again crossed in official service until 1861. Then, when our country was in the throes of revolution, I needs—recognizing his social charm, his less than his logical power, his clear-sight of purpose and marked capacity for terse and vigorous statement—invited him to visit Europe as a religious representative of the Union cause, to mingle in the society of the capitals of England and France, and there to create and stimulate a sentiment against foreign intervention in American affairs. The success of such intervention was the one half-hidden thing lying in the path of our ship of State, which, perhaps more than any other, imperilled its safety during the storm and tempest of that critical hour. Mr. Weed promptly responded this call to duty, though unwearied by official proclamation, and with no hope of other reward than consciousness of duty done. Himself a printer, he followed in the footsteps of the printer Franklin, and served the Nation as Franklin did at the Court of St. Cloud as Franklin did at an earlier crisis in our Nation's life. The golden links which thus connected the names of Benjamin Franklin and Thurlow Weed will carry them down together to history, to be cherished among the choicest memories of a grateful posterity.

Why should I have spoken of your friend's life story? It is familiar to you as a household story. Its brilliant record of American statesmanship and journalism, covering more than half of our whole life as an independent people—or from 1818 to nearly 1881. We are justly proud of it; and our hearts overflow with affection for its many men,—at once our father and our brother in the world,—whose presence within these rooms gives us so much pleasure. With gratitude to God, who has spared him so long to his country and to mankind, I know that every heart here pulsates with mine in the hope that he may still enjoy ended years of happy and grateful usefulness, before he is called to go up higher and receive the reward awarding all who truly strive to glorify the motherhood of man.

SPEECH OF JAMES WATSON WEBB.

James Watson Webb was then introduced as the oldest living journalist in America. He said:

I didn't know that I should be called upon to say anything this evening. I did not say positively that I could attend until 1 p. m. to-day, when I penned a letter of acceptance from my sick bed. But I could not let such an opportunity pass to meet one with whom I have been on terms of friendship so many years. I first met Mr. Weed in 1814, when we were both in the army, he as a volunteer, and with the exception of two or three weeks [laughter], when we quarrelled over the question of abolitionism, we have been fast friends ever since. I join heartily in this tribute to Mr. Weed. In his long career of usefulness no one has accomplished more or made firmer friends than he.

GREETING OF MR. BROOKS.

Erastus Brooks was introduced as one of the oldest contemporaries of Mr. Weed. His remarks were as follows:

I am always glad to meet old friends, especially one whom I have known so many years as Mr. Weed. I recall with great interest the striking incidents in his long career of usefulness. He has been an observer of most of the striking incidents in the life of this Nation. It is something to remember that he has lived under all the eighteen Presidents of this Nation. He was a child during the administration of Washington. With the majority he has been on terms of intimacy. Of the twenty-five Governors of New-York he has voted for nearly all.

He has witnessed more of the chances and changes of life than fall to the lot of most men.

He has seen this nation rise from a small beginning and become one of the mightiest of the earth. He has seen its population increase from 5,000,000 to 50,000,000; he has lived through two wars besides our own civil war. He remembers the abolition of the slave trade in 1808, and he saw the abolition of slavery in this country at a later period. He remembers the embargo in 1809 and its removal. He remembers, also, the great fire of 1835, which occurred soon after I came to New-York, when 500 or 600 private residences were burned, beside public buildings.

Mr. Weed is many newspapers in his own proper person. I have witnessed the rise of 120 newspapers in this city. Of those only six now remain. I was connected for forty-one years with a journal established by my brother and myself.

The speaker closed with a tribute to Mr. Weed. Signor Liberati followed with a cornet solo. Robert J. Burdette, the humorist, delivered a half humorous, half serious speech, which was well received.

MR. REID'S SPEECH.

Dr. J. B. Wood, Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, then called the attention of the meeting to the group of portraits hung on the side of the hall, festooned with the National colors. Thurlow Weed was in the centre, with William H. Seward on one side and Horace Greeley on the other. He spoke of the presence of the only survivor, referred to a dispatch from Mr. Seward's son, and called on Whitelaw Reid, on behalf of the remaining member, to speak of the famous political firm of Seward, Weed and Greeley. Mr. Reid said:

This call reminds me of the first time I ever had the pleasure of seeing your efficient chairman. I had just come, an unsophisticated youth, from the wilds of Buckeye Ohio, and had been naturally drawn to the most busy point on Manhattan Island—the office of a newspaper which, perhaps, need not be further designated. I was not familiar with its ways, did not even know how to put the office marks of type, etc., on my copy, and was referred to the chairman of your committee for instructions. I shall never forget the first order he gave me, and it seems particularly appropriate now—"Cut it down one-half." [Prolonged laughter.]

Not long after this he migrated to the shop over the way. I used to fancy that whenever my name came up afterward, he gave the old order in a slightly changed form—"Cut him up." [Laughter.] He asks me now to speak, and in this presence, of the famous partnership of Seward, Weed and Greeley. The time for speaking frankly and fully of that firm has not yet come. This, however, we may fairly say: It was the greatest political triumvirate this State, or indeed the country, ever knew. [Applause.] This also we may fairly say: When this partnership was dissolved, each member retained the highest respect for the commanding power and ability of each of his late associates, and each cherished it to the end. [Applause. Mr. Weed interrupting, "That is true—to the end."] It shaped the politics of this State and of the country during a most critical formative period. It carried us safely through the death throes of the old Whig party, and shaped the development and growth of the lusty successor that abolished slavery, put down the greatest civil war of modern times, and has ruled the country for well-nigh a generation. If it be true that one result of the dissolution of this firm was the nomination of Abraham Lincoln, then I am sure no man rejoices, or ever did rejoice, more heartily over the dissolution than does the venerable survivor to-night. [Applause. Mr. Weed adding, "Yes, indeed."] It is a pleasure that the acerbities of the separation have long faded out. There are some here who will remember that an arrangement had been made to bring about a meeting between the two great political editors, which was only prevented by the events of 1872, and the tragic close. They did come together, but it was only over the coffin of one, with the other among the first of the rallied mourners at a funeral where men represented alike the official dignity and the heart of the city and the Nation.

Both of Mr. Weed's old associates are long gone, each full of years and of honor. Each fills a great space in our history. The memory of each is tenderly cherished. Who that remembers Seward and Greeley can fail in gratitude to this surviving Nestor of our politics, who guided the one and discovered the other? [Applause.] His way of life is, indeed, fallen into the sere and yellow leaf, but as he looks about him, here or wherever he goes, he may be sure that he has to the full—

"That which should accompany old age,
As honor, love, obedience, troops of friends."

[Applause.]

MR. WEED'S RESPONSE.

Mr. Weed, rising slowly and with difficulty, next spoke. He said that he should not have attempted it, but for a word let fall by his friend, who had just taken his seat, calling him the discoverer of Greeley. He said:

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN: I will not detain you long. I cannot express to you my deep and profound sense of gratification at the honor you have shown me.

But I wish to say a few words as to the manner in which I became acquainted with one of the trio with whom my name has been mentioned. It was anticipated that the Presidential campaign of 1840 would be a very warm one. The Whig Committee of this State were very anxious to establish a campaign paper, something new in those days. The chairman asked me to find an editor for the proposed paper. I had been struck with some articles in a weekly paper published in this city called *The New Yorker*, favoring protection to American industry. Mr. Greeley was the publisher of the paper. I came to New-York and went to the office of the paper. One of the first persons whom I met was a compositor standing at his case, and when I asked for Mr. Greeley he said he was the man. I asked for the author of the articles in question and was told by Mr. Greeley that he wrote them. The chairman of the State Committee was with me, and the question of a campaign paper was at once broached. Mr. Greeley agreed to come up to Albany once a week and devote two days in each week to editing the paper. The remainder of the time he needed for his own newspaper. I will say here that Mr. Greeley could do more intellectual labor than any man I ever saw. He became acquainted with Mr. Seward during the campaign. The work under Mr. Greeley did at that time was appreciated by all of us. And so gradually sprang up the political firm of Seward, Weed and Greeley. There was much in Mr. Greeley's disposition to endear him to all with whom he came in close contact. I never knew a man capable of doing more good than he. [Applause.]

George Dawson, Mr. Weed's oldest apprentice, and for very many years his associate on *The Albany Evening Journal*, spoke at length, giving reminiscences of Mr. Weed's early days, his unfailing benevolence to needy printers and others, and the sagacity which he evinced in all public affairs at an early age.

General James Watson Webb recounted an amusing anecdote about a number of Democratic editors from Albany who chartered a steamboat to come to this city and obtain from him (he was then the Editor of *The Courier and Enquirer*) advance copies of President Jackson's manuscript message. The object was to beat *The Journal*. It ended with Mr. Weed's obtaining an earlier copy than either of his rivals, and by a stratagem obtaining also the steamboat which had brought them down and departing for Albany.

Speeches were also made by Wm. E. Robinson and Algernon S. Sullivan, both alluding to Mr. Weed's goodness of heart.

In response to this Mr. Weed said:

No matter how sharp political discussions have been (and they were rather warm in those old days), it is a consolation to me to know that friendship has unbroken between me and many of my bitterest political opponents. The members of the Albany Regency, all of them strong men politically, and with whom I was at war for nearly, or quite a quarter of a century, were nevertheless my warm friends.

Speeches were also made by David M. Stone, Postmaster James and others.

Letters of regret were read from George William Curtis, P. P. Stallbaer (Mrs. Partington), George W. Childs, W. H. Herbert, O. W. Holmes, Hugh J. Hastings, James Parton, Mark Twain, Donald G. Mitchell, E. C. Stedman, J. E. Frobisher and many others. All the letters expressed the highest regard for the veteran editor whose birthday was so appropriately celebrated.

AFFAIRS OF MASSACHUSETTS.

POPULATION AND WEALTH OF THE STATE—WOODWARD'S DEFALCATION.

BOSTON, Nov. 15.—The Committee of the Aldermen appointed to investigate the accounts of John A. Woodward, ex-Cashier of this city, who recently fled after having stolen over $89,000, presented a report to-night, in which it appears that as long ago as 1875, when Woodward was promoted from a clerkship to the office of Cashier, he had embezzled nearly $5,000. This illustrates the loose system in practice at the City Hall. The report severely censures Treasurer Dennie for signing checks in blank, and for allowing Woodward unlimited opportunity to steal and cover up his defalcation. An order was offered and laid over making Treasurer Dennie responsible for the deficiency.

From the last census it appears that Massachusetts has a population of 1,783,086, which consists of 858,521 males and 924,565 females, or 66,044 females in excess of the male population. The total valuation of the cities is stated at $1,038,960,255. Cambridge, which ranks fourth in population, ranks second in valuation, and Springfield, which is eighth in population, is sixth in wealth. Newton, which is seventeenth in population, is eighth in valuation. The total valuation of the state is $1,584,756,802, and the cities represent about two-thirds of the taxable property as returned by the assessors. The cities contain less than one-half of the population of the State.

THE CAMPAIGN IN WESTERN NEW-YORK.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: Here in Western New-York the Republicans of Livingston County have had to do an extra amount of labor, for they have had to meet an intense opposition. The chairman of the Democratic State Committee, Lester B. Faulkner, has his home in this village, and, naturally enough, Dansville being a Democratic town, he has felt a desire to have his place of residence and the county in which he lives show Democratic gains. In this he has been disappointed. Dansville gives a Democratic vote less by thirty than usual, and the Republican vote in the county is beyond its average in Presidential years. It is said that a large amount of money has been spent in the county by the Democrats, and just as much as was needed or could be made serviceable has been spent in Dansville. Of this the Republicans make no complaint. They have met every movement that has been made against them with solid front, and with a calm faith in the truth of their principles; and the result of the contest in this town and county is that they can join hands with their brethren the whole country over in the celebration of a truly "glorious" victory for freedom and free institutions that has been won by methods strictly lawful, loyal and peaceful. Never was success greater to the friends of freedom; never defeat more mortifying to our enemies. The rout is ruinous. One cannot move a foot on the field of conflict without stumbling over some dead or discomfited enemy.

Last night the Republicans of Dansville had a triumphal march with a band of music, torchlight procession and speeches. Every man who loved liberty for himself and desired that others should have it for themselves as well, with wife and children was out in the streets or on the sidewalk to join in the grand jubilation. Every person who wanted freedom for himself and cared not whether anybody else had it or not, stayed in his house, his store or his saloon. For a village the manifestation was highly gratifying. It told in a small way what has been the uprising in a magnificently large way of the people of the whole North.

In no canvass, National or State, since the birth of the Republican party, have I seen discussion carried on by Republican speakers, Republican editors, and Republicans in wayside talk, from so high a level as the late canvass has shown. Every man who had anything to say about the issues involved talked about them worthily. There has been no cowardice of spirit, no show of craven fear. We have met our opponents face to face, and in fair, manly, respectful discussion of fundamental principles and party policies have beaten them. Their treatment of us, on the other hand, has not been respectful. They have sent boys out in the night to deface our fence-palings, deface our door-panels and disfigure our windows. They have thrown upon our lawns their printed leaves of falsehood; and have shown in more ways than one their dislike of manly, free discussion. The spirit that used to characterize the propaganda of thirty-five or forty years ago has manifested itself as far as it dared; and if one has been conversant with it as I have been for the last half century, he can fully realize what a great difference there is in the freedom we will enjoy and the safety and security which will be his to exercise his personal liberty, as compared with what they would be had the Democratic party elected its candidates.

For myself—and I am sure I may speak for hundreds of others within our town and county—I wish to make acknowledgment to THE TRIBUNE for the able and excellent influence it has exerted and the great service it has rendered in the canvass. Its advice has been clear, easily understood, and always in the line of high-toned manliness. No man nor woman has read its counsels, as they have come daily or weekly before us for consideration, without being helped both in knowledge and wisdom to do the right thing, at the right time, in the right place, and for the sake of the right.

JAMES C. JACKSON.

Dansville, N. Y., Nov. 4, 1880.

SUPPOSED WIFE-MURDER.

TRAGEDY AT BOARDVILLE, N. J.

THE WIFE OF A SON OF A NEW-YORK LAWYER BRUTALLY MURDERED—A BELIEF THAT SHE WAS KILLED BY HER HUSBAND—FEELING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD—THE SUSPECTED MAN UNDER SURVEILLANCE.

Samuel J. David, of Boardville, N. J., a son of Henry J. David, a lawyer of this city, is believed to have murdered his wife at their home Sunday morning. The woman was found dead and covered with blood, having been mangled in a horrible manner. Both David and his wife were intemperate, and they quarrelled frequently. David denies that he was instrumental in causing his wife's death. He has not been arrested, but is under surveillance. A coroner of Paterson will hold the inquest.

DETAILS OF THE CRIME.

A farmhouse near Boardville, N. J., was the scene of a horrible tragedy early Sunday morning. The wife of Samuel J. David was murdered in a shocking manner, but the murderer is not yet known. At an early hour Sunday morning several of the neighbors were aroused by Samuel J. David, who told them that he thought his wife was dying. He himself presented a frightful spectacle with his hands and clothing besmeared with blood. The terror-stricken neighbors followed the man to his home, and there found the wife dead. The head of the dead woman was cut and bruised in several places as by some rude instrument, and blood covered her head and face. There were wounds on other parts of her body, and her clothing was almost torn to shreds. The walls of the room where the dead woman lay were spattered with blood, and in one place there was the trace of a bloody hand. There was every indication that the victim had made a desperate struggle for life and that the scene of the murder was within the house.

The husband volunteered to tell what he knew of his wife's death. Mrs. David, he said, went Saturday afternoon into the mountains to indulge in a debauch with some friends. He himself visited several liquor stores in the neighborhood of Boardville and Wynockie that evening, and went home about 9 o'clock under the influence of liquor. He found his two children—one nine and the other five years old—in the house alone, put them to bed and went to bed himself. About 3 o'clock he got up to get a drink of water, when his attention was attracted by a noise, apparently in front of the door. On opening the door he discovered his wife lying there, covered with blood, and unconscious. He picked her up and carried her into the house. Then he washed her head and face, and endeavored to restore her by applying mustard plasters to her feet. She was breathing faintly when he carried her in, but he soon became convinced that she was in a dying condition, and went in quest of the neighbors.

The farm on which the Davids live is in the mountains, about two miles from the Midvale station on the Greenwood Lake Railroad. Samuel J. David is the son of Henry J. David, a lawyer of this city and is about thirty-five years of age. He is described as a man of fine personal appearance. Mrs. David was an Irishwoman who formerly lived in this city and was twenty-three years old. Both husband and wife are said to have been much addicted to drinking and to have quarrelled frequently. Mrs. David, according to her husband's statement, frequently went away from home on debauches and stayed several days. The theory generally accepted by the neighbors is that husband and wife were both intoxicated Saturday night and quarrelled, and that words led to blows.

It has since been ascertained that Mrs. David went with Peter De Graw and his wife, charcoal burners of the neighborhood, Saturday afternoon. The De Graws are said to be notorious persons, and to have sought Mrs. David's society because she spent her money freely for whiskey. Some have considered that the murder may have been committed by the De Graws, but this opinion is not prevalent among those who are acquainted with all of the facts that have been brought to light. When the De Graws returned to Boardville they expressed great surprise upon hearing of Mrs. David's death. They said they would answer no questions until they were put upon the witness stand.

Coroner Hatan, of Paterson, was summoned Sunday by Justice Brown, of Boardville. He impanelled a jury, and yesterday Dr. C. M. W. Myer, the City Physician of Paterson, made a post mortem examination in the presence of the jury. Twelve or thirteen witnesses have been subpoenaed, among them the De Graws and she murdered woman's oldest child. It was the intention of the Coroner to examine David yesterday afternoon, but he was considered too much under the influence of liquor. Since the affair happened he has exhibited remarkable coolness, and has told his story in a straightforward way. He told Coroner Hatan that in telling his story he told the truth, and the Coroner said that his appearance and manner were such as to lead one to believe that he was making an honest statement. "If I killed my wife," he asked, "should I have remained here as I have done?"

Some of the neighbors were in favor of formally taking David into custody at once, but it was finally thought best merely to keep him under surveillance and arrest him if he attempted to escape. So far he has not made any attempt to leave the premises. A well-known resident of Boardville, who was at Paterson yesterday, said that the people there had no doubt that Mrs. David came to her death at the hands of her husband. David was a very shrewd man and could easily invent a story to suit the exigencies of the case. The oldest little boy of David, it was thought, would prove an important witness, as he is reported to have said to a question: "Oh, you ought to have seen how father pulled mother out of the bed."

Dr. Meyer completed his examination last evening, and will give his testimony this morning. Henry J. David was telegraphed to in this city yesterday, and arrived at the house about noon. Arrangements have been made to bury Mrs. David to-day.

THE FIRE RECORD.

A fire broke out early yesterday morning in the frame building No. 721 Myrtle-ave., Brooklyn, in which ex-Alderman George Brown kept a liquor and dining saloon. His loss was $3,000, and his insurance $500 in the Phoenix Company. The loss to the owner, Peter Cleary, was $500.

NEW-ORLEANS, Nov. 15.—The passenger depot of the New-Orleans, St. Louis and Chicago Railroad was burned to-day with two coaches. The loss is $30,000.

TROY, N. Y., Nov. 15.—Aiken & McLaren's Wynantskill Knitting Mill, at West Sand Lake, was consumed by an incendiary fire last night. Loss $35,000; insurance, $16,000.

OBITUARY.

THE REV. CHARLES S. BROWN.

The Rev. Charles S. Brown, superintendent of the Ladies' Five Points Home Mission, died at Nyack, Sunday, after an illness of a few weeks. On the recommendation of his physician, who urged a change of air, Mr. Brown left this city about a month ago and went to Nyack. The change did not have the beneficial effect that was expected, and he grew rapidly worse. His disease was typhoid malarial fever.

Mr. Brown was born in Ulster County, and was nearly fifty-six years old. He was graduated from Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn., and soon afterward entered the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church. At one time he occupied the pulpit of the Perry-st. church in this city. From Cold Stream, where he was afterward assigned, he was transferred in the spring of 1875 to the Five Points Mission in this city, where he has since remained. His services as superintendent have contributed largely to the success of that institution.

Funeral services will be held at Nyack Wednesday morning, and at 3 p. m. on the same day at St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church, at Fourth-ave. and Twenty-second-st., this city. The remains will be buried at Mattituck, L. I., where his wife's family lives and where a son of the dead minister is buried. A wife and four children survive him.

WILLIAM G. THISTLETON.

William G. Thistleton, of Mount Vernon, a veteran of the Mexican War and of the war of the Rebellion, was buried at Woodlawn Cemetery Sunday afternoon with military honors by Farnsworth Post, Grand Army of the Republic. Mr. Thistleton served through the Mexican War in the 1st Regiment of Volunteers under Colonel Ward Burnett, and came back wounded. On the outbreak of the Rebellion he enlisted for a short term, at the expiration of which he reenlisted in the Sixth New-York Heavy Artillery. From the time of his return he was connected with the State Militia until the 27th Regiment, commanded by Colonel John F. Underhill, of which he was Sergeant-Major, was mustered out of service. Through his efforts Farnsworth Post, of the Grand Army of the Republic, was organized at Mount Vernon in July. He was a painter by occupation. He has left a widow and five children.

J. M. SEABURY.

James M. Seabury, a well-known citizen of Brooklyn, died Sunday at his house, No. 170 Cumberland-st., at the age of seventy. He kept a bakery at Sands and Gold-sts., Brooklyn, for many years. After entering into politics he was chosen County Treasurer several years ago, and held the office for three terms. He was afterward president of the Long Island Savings Bank, and held the position until the institution suspended three years ago. The funeral will take place to-morrow.

R. A. OSMER.

JAMESTOWN, N. Y., Nov. 15.—R. A. Osmer, of Jamestown, Supreme Treasurer of the Knights of Honor for the last four years, and a prominent and influential citizen of this town, died at Atlanta, Ga., this evening of consumption. He served in the late war. He was Chairman of the Republican County Committee, and has held other positions of responsibility and trust. The news of his death causes general mourning here. Before leaving for the South, he resigned his position on the Republican Electoral ticke of this State.

MRS. MARY T. MACOMBER.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Nov. 15.—Mrs. Mary Selden Macomber, the daughter of Judge Henry R. Selden and wife of Judge Francis A. Macomber, died today.

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER.

WHY HE SHOULD BE A SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATOR—VIEWS OF THE COMMITTEE OF SCIENTIFIC MEN WHO CALLED ON THE PRESIDENT.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Nov. 15.—The following is the memorial in regard to a Chief Signal Officer presented to the President on last Saturday by the committee appointed by the American Association for the Advancement of Science:

WASHINGTON, Nov. —, 1880.

To HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT:

The undersigned members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, having been appointed by that body a committee to confer with the President on the appointment of a Chief Signal Officer, under a resolution of which a copy is enclosed, have the honor to submit the following memorandum of their views:

Understanding that the severance of the Meteorological Service from the Signal Service can be effected only by legislation, we confine ourselves to the subject of the appointment of a Chief Signal Officer. We be ceve it a rule of sound policy that the officer in charge of an important public work should, so far as possible, be fully acquainted, both with the scientific principles involved in that work and with the collateral subjects which have a bearing upon its success. From the communications which we have naturally sought with leading men in scientific and military circles, we believe it to be the settled sentiment of all classes that the officer in charge of the Meteorological Service should be one adding to the necessary administrative abilities that intellectual cultivation, that acquaintance with the results of meteorological science, and that standing in the intellectual community which will inspire public confidence in the wisdom of his management. To satisfy the just requirements of the country he must devote a large share of his attention to improvements in the method of predicting the weather. To appreciate the importance of such improvements we need only consider the magnitude of the gain, if, instead of issuing predictions in the morning of the day for which they are made, they could be issued on the afternoon of the day previous. To attain this desirable end, those conditions must be complied with which experience shows to be necessary to the advance of scientific knowledge in any of its department.

A wide distinction must be made between the scientific investigator and the assistant who is carrying out a prescribed routine. The former must work free from the trammels of discipline and with the feeling that he will receive the full credit of whatever he discovers. The officer must encourage and cooperate with individual meteorologists who are engaged in researches which may contribute to its success. In regard to the different systems the same policy which every university, observatory or other scientific institution pursues when it desires to advance knowledge.

It may hardly be necessary to impress upon your Excellency the fact that such a plan can be successfully carried out only by one familiar with the conditions of scientific investigation and able to select with judgment the men who shall assist in prosecuting such researches as he may deem it advisable to undertake.

CHAS. J. PEIRCE,
SIMON NEWCOMB,
J. S. OLIVER,
ASAPH HALL,
WM. HARKNESS.

THE COTTON, WHEAT AND OATS CROPS.

AN AVERAGE YIELD OF COTTON. AN INCREASE IN THE WHEAT CROP, AND A DECLINE IN OATS.

[GENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.]

WASHINGTON, Nov. 15.—The following statement of the condition of the cotton, wheat and oats crops was issued to-day by the Department of Agriculture:

The reports from the cotton belt are more favorable this month than last. In the States of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida the weather has been good, and the prospects are for an increase of product of from 7 to 15 per cent. In Alabama and in the States bordering on the Mississippi River there is reported a decrease in the product. In Texas the crop promises an increase of 18 to 20 per cent.

The condition of November 1 shows an increase in the wheat crop of the United States of 31,000,000 bushels since 1879. The yield per acre is somewhat less, but the increase in area sown more than counterbalanced the loss of yield. In the States of Minnesota and California the yield per acre as well as the acreage show an increase.

The oats crop of 1880 shows a slight decline as compared with the crop of 1879.

TWO MINISTERS PRESENT THEIR LETTERS.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 15.—The President today received in official audience M. Michel de Bartholomy, Privy Councillor in actual service and Chamberlain of the Emperor of Russia, as his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary near this Government. The President also received in like manner General Ramon Santo Domingo Vila, as the newly appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of Colombia. On presenting their letters of credence the usual ceremonial addresses were made.

THE CONNECTICUT CENSUS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 15.—The result of the first count of the population of the counties of Hartford, Middlesex, Tolland and Windham, in the State of Connecticut, according to the schedules returned to the Census Office by the enumerators, are as follows:

Counties.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Natives	Foreign.
Hartford	126,377	61,419	65,958	96,787	28,090
Middlesex	35,567	17,493	18,072	29,611	5,956
Tolland	24,412	11,817	12,595	19,699	4,713
Windham	43,357	21,214	22,643	33,125	10,732

MIDNIGHT WEATHER REPORT.

GOVERNMENT INDICATIONS.

Synopsis of the weather for 24 hours.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16, 1 a. m.—The barometer is highest in Texas. A depression has moved rapidly Southward from Manitoba, and is now central north of Lake Michigan. Occasional rain has fallen in the Atlantic States, and occasional snow in the Northwest, the Ohio Valley, the Lake region, and New-England. Cloudy or stormy weather now prevails from the Missouri Valley Eastward to New-England. The temperature has fallen on the Atlantic slope and in the Northwest. It has risen in the Mississippi Valley, Texas, and Missouri. Northwest to Southwest winds generally prevail, being brisk in the Lake region. Killing frosts were reported from the interior of the Gulf States on Monday morning.

Indications.

For the Middle States clear or partly cloudy weather, followed in the northern portion by occasional snow or rain, warmer Southwesterly winds, stationary or lower barometer.

For New-England, cloudy and threatening weather, with occasional snow, variable winds, mostly Southerly, generally higher temperature, stationary or lower barometer.

For the Lower Lake region cloudy weather, with occasional snow, warmer Southerly, veering to colder Westerly winds, rising, preceded by stationary or lower barometer.

For the Upper Lake region occasional light snow, followed by clearing weather, colder Northwest to Southwest winds, with rising barometer.

TRIBUNE LOCAL OBSERVATIONS.

The diagram shows the barometrical variations in the city of Chicago in inches. The perpendicular lines give divisions of 2 o'clock for each of twenty preceding midnight. The irregular curve line represents the oscillations of the mercury during those hours. The figures at left line represent the variations in temperature, as indicated by the thermometer at Hazard's Pharmacy, 218 Broadway.

TRIBUNE OFFICE, Nov. 16, 1 a. m.—The downward movement of the barometer continued until 6 p. m., when the tendency was upward. Clear or partly cloudy weather prevailed. The temperature ranged between 34° and 40°, the average (35⅞°) being 29⅛ lower than on the corresponding day last year, and 1⅛° lower than on Sunday.

Clear or partly cloudy weather, with chances of light rain or snow in the latter part of the day, and slight change in the temperature may be expected to-day in this city and vicinity.

RAILWAY INTERESTS.

BALTIMORE AND OHIO.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GREAT CORPORATION—DISBURSEMENTS AND EARNINGS—INCREASED PROFITS.

BALTIMORE, Nov. 15.—The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company was held to-day. In the absence of Mr. Garrett, John King, jr., submitted the fifty-fourth annual report for the fiscal year ended September 30. The old Board of Directors was unanimously reelected; 63,219 shares being represented. The report says:

The aggregate earnings, working expenses and net earnings of the main stem and all branches are as follows: Earnings, $18,317,740 10; expenses, $10,536,770 08; net earnings, $7,780,970 02; showing an increase of earnings compared with 1879 of $4,123,739 67, and compared with 1878 of $4,557,460 11. The working expenses were 56.39 per cent. The earnings of the main stem and the branches stated, in comparison with the fiscal year of 1879, have increased $2,365,053 77, and the working expenses $1,533,318 10, making a comparative increase in the net profits of $831,735 67. The expenses of working and keeping in repair and machinery in repair amounted to $6,056,999 85, being 53.03 per cent upon the earnings, showing an increase of 2.01 per cent compared with the previous year, and of 1.10 per cent compared with 1878. Semi-annual dividends of 4 per cent upon the capital stock were paid on November 1, 1879, and on May 15, 1880. The profit and loss account shows an increase for the past year of $2,356,984 44. It will be seen by this account that the surplus fund, which represents invested capital derived from net earnings, and which is not represented by either stocks or bonds, now amounts to $10,561,642 37.

The increase of net earnings in 1880 on branches over the previous year was: Parkersburg Branch, $176,256 49; Wheeling, Pittsburg and Baltimore Railroad, $995 86; Pittsburg Division, $279,545 04; Central Ohio Division, $38,754 21; Chicago Division, $72,142 93; Lake Erie Division, $19,739 76; Straitsville Division, $42,598 54.

The net earnings of the Chicago Division, and of the Wheeling, Pittsburg and Baltimore Railroad Company, have been credited to the account for interest of those companies. The excess of net earnings of the Sandusky, Mansfield and Newark Road (Lake Erie Division) over the rental, $19,563 94, has been credited on account of interest on advances made for the improvement of that road. Under the lease of the Central Ohio Railroad 35 per cent of the gross earnings are paid annually to that company. The loss on this division for the year, under the agreement, was $89,796 58, which has been charged to profit and loss account. The aggregate working expenses of the main stem, with all branches and divisions, were 56.39 per cent of the whole gross revenue, being 2.25 per cent more than the preceding year. Seven hundred and fifty miles of track of the main stem and branches east of the Ohio River are now laid with steel rails. The payments during the fiscal year for the several sinking funds of the company for the payment of the city loans, the several sterling loans and other obligations of the company are stated to be $6,9,208 04. The aggregate investments or payments made on account of property, for sinking fund purposes and on account of the respective debts, are stated to be $7,164,127 2. The reduction of the indebtedness during the fiscal year is stated as follows:

It cost on October 1, 1879—Sterling debentures due in 1880-81, $2,420,000; 10 per cent payable, $609,000; sterling obligations in loans, $626,507 94. Total, $3,656,507 94.

Report on October, 1880—Sterling debentures due in 1881, $968,000; Bals payable, $140,000. Total, $1,108,000, showing a reduction during the year of $2,171,507 94. Add payments on account of the current year, $659,308 04. Aggregate reduction, $2,830,815 98.

THE PASSENGER WAR NOT ENDED.

THE CONTEST BETWEEN THE WABASH AND CHICAGO AND ALTON COMPANIES—REJECTION OF ALL COMPROMISES.

No measures have yet been taken to quell the war in Southwestern passenger rates, which is being prosecuted with great vigor. No meeting of the presidents of the Southwestern companies has been called and apparently no one has either the authority or inclination to bring about a conference. It has been charged that the Illinois Central company, which was not represented in the October meeting of presidents, was responsible for the renewal of the struggle. It did not restore rates between St. Louis and Chicago after the New-York agreement had been made, but the conflict broke out afresh when the Chicago and Alton Company reduced its rates to meet those of the former company. But the struggle is really between the Alton and the Wabash companies. The Illinois Central has little interest in it, for it has never done a large business between Chicago and St. Louis. Its business, in fact, has fallen short of the allotment allowed it in the pooling arrangement between it and the Alton Company. It has been understood generally that the interest in the St. Louis traffic was so small that it would consent to and arrangement made by Messrs. Blackstone, jr., the Chicago and Alton Company, to present a "joint line" pool between the company and the Illinois Central.

W. K. Ackerman, president of the latter company, is now in this city, and said yesterday to a TRIBUNE reporter that he had had less to do with the conflict in the Southwest than any other man. He expressed willingness to discuss about a settlement of the difficulties, if he could, but he said, at the same time, that he took notice of more than a general interest in the matter. He declared that the purpose of his visit was solely the business of his own company. It is understood, however, that President Ackerman brought with him a written proposition for modifying the New-York agreement. Under this