New-York Tribune.

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GENERAL POLITICAL NEWS.

IMPORTANT SUBJECTS DISCUSSED.

SENATOR BLAINE ON THE LIFE-SENATORSHIP SCHEME—THE AMERICAN ELECTIONS IN GERMANY—THE NEW-YORK CONTROLLERSHIP—THE FORGED LETTER.

Senator Blaine has given his opinions at length on the proposed plan of making ex-Presidents of the United States Senators-at-large for life. An American citizen living in Germany tells how the recent elections were received in that country. Republican leaders in this city are anxious for a proper representation of the party in the Board of Estimate and Expenditure which determines the outlay of the city departments, and the suggestion has been made that Mayor Cooper should nominate William Dowd for Controller. If his confirmation by the Aldermen could be obtained it is believed that Tammany's control of the City Government would be broken. Interesting disclosures are made of H. H. Hadley's connection with the Morey forgery. It is now alleged that William H. Barnum employed him to go to Maryland and to Lynn to procure the perjured testimony in support of the plot, and that he brought the witness Lindsay or O'Brien to this city.

EX-PRESIDENTS AS SENATORS-AT-LARGE.

SENATOR BLAINE SUGGESTS SOME OBJECTIONS—TECHNICAL RATHER THAN COGENT.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

BOSTON, Nov. 21.—A representative of *The Boston Journal* had a long conversation with Senator Blaine yesterday upon public topics, and gives the following as the substance of that portion of it relating to the proposition to make ex-Presidents members of the Senate for life:

"I think," said Senator Blaine, "that those who are urging this innovation have not carefully examined the Constitution of the United States in its letter and spirit. If you will look at the clause defining the mode of amending that instrument, you will find a very remarkable exception made to the power of amendment. It is specially provided that 'no State without its consent shall ever be deprived of its equal suffrage in the Senate.' This, you remember, was the guarantee of equality required by the smaller States as a condition precedent to entering the Union. On every other subject three-fourths of the States can amend the Constitution, but equality in the Senate cannot be changed except by unanimous consent.

"I know," continued Senator Blaine, "it may be contended that ex-Presidents as Senators-at-Large would be held to represent one State as much as another, and therefore there would be no interference with 'equal suffrage in the Senate'; but that would be a mere theory. In practice and in fact the ex-President would be a third Senator from his own State. A man is not freed from the ordinary influences that govern human nature by being made President. John Quincy Adams was as much a Massachusetts Representative during all the years he served in the House from 1831 to 1848 as any other man from the State. And John Tyler, when he came to the National Peace Congress in 1861, was as intensely Virginian in his sentiments as any delegate present. Andrew Johnson reentered the Senate in 1875, after he was President, just as thorough a partisan as he was before he was President."

At this point the correspondent suggested that at any one time there would be few ex-Presidents, and from advanced years each one would remain in the Senate probably only a brief period.

"But you forget," said the Senator, "the plain facts of history. Virginia had three ex-Presidents living at one time. She would not have had under the provision suggested less than three Senators at any time between Jefferson's retirement in March, 1809, and Madison's death in June, 1836. During fifteen years of that period she would have had four Senators, and for nearly a year and a half five Senators."

"But," suggested the correspondent, "the old Virginia rule of Presidents presented an exception not likely to be repeated."

"Look at New-York," said Mr. Blaine, "at a much later period. Mr. Van Buren left the Presidency in March, 1841. He died in July, 1862. Meanwhile Mr. Fillmore's term closed in 1853, and he lived till March, 1874. Thus under the proposed change New-York would have had three Senators continuously for thirty-three years, and for more than nine years of that period she would have had four Senators."

"Virginia of course presents the strongest case, for the life of John Tyler as ex-President is to be given in addition to those I have cited. Mr. Tyler died in the winter of 1862, nearly seventeen years after he left the White House. It would be curious to sum up the extra years of senatorship which Virginia would have enjoyed had this provision been originally inserted in the Constitution. Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe and Tyler, altogether would have given more than sixty-two years—equivalent to a third senator from Virginia for two-thirds of the lifetime of the Federal Government."

"But no other State," suggested the correspondent, "presents such an extreme case as Virginia."

"Not so extreme, indeed," replied Mr. Blaine, "but still the case of Massachusetts is remarkable, for she would have had a third Senator from March, 1801, when the term of the elder Adams closed, till the death of John Quincy Adams, in February, 1848, with the exception of two years and eight months."

"Then you think, Senator, that the proposed amendment would violate the proviso in the Constitution guaranteeing equal suffrage to all the States in the Senate?"

"Most assuredly I do," replied Mr. Blaine. "That guarantee is perpetual in its terms, and it is not to be tampered with or meddled with in any way whatever. You might just as well change any other part of the Constitution by a vote of less than three-fourths of the States, as to change this part without the consent of every State. Equal suffrage in the Senate may be destroyed without reducing the existing number of Senators to each State, and just as effectually. Take two States, Virginia and Pennsylvania, for instance, each with two Senators. Their equality is as completely destroyed by adding a third Senator to Virginia as by taking one from Pennsylvania. In the one case it would be three against two. In the other two against one. Equality is destroyed in either case. The difference is only in degree."

"Well, could this amendment be made by every State consenting?" was asked.

"Oh, of course. As we used to say in the House of Representatives, unanimous consent can do anything. And the Constitution itself implies that it may be done with every State consenting."

"Do you think it possible to get the assent of every State?"

"By no means," replied the Senator; "I should be surprised if the assent of even one State could be secured, because, although immediate advantage might accrue to a particular State, no one could tell where it might hit in twenty or twenty-five years. If the amendment were adopted this winter Illinois and Ohio would each have three Senators at the opening of President Garfield's administration. General Grant and President Hayes are both under sixty, and have many years of life before them, as we all hope. At the end of Garfield's term of service, whether it be four years or eight years, Ohio would have four Senators on the floor, and perhaps the two at large would be as young as the two elected directly by the State, and vigorous enough for fifteen or twenty years of active service. Three or four more ex-Presidents might be added to the Senate before any one of the three named should pass away."

"Is it likely that there will ever be so many ex-Presidents at one time?" was asked.

"We can only infer the future from the past," replied the Senator. "When the war broke out in 1861 there were five ex-Presidents living. Not one of them had voted for Mr. Lincoln, and not one of them was in harmony with the determination to preserve the Union by force of arms. Pennsylvania would not at that time have relished the sight of Mr. Buchanan in the Senate, and New-Hampshire would have felt outraged if Franklin Pierce had been there, and certainly the loyalty of New-York would not have found just expression in the persons of Mr. Fillmore and Mr. Van Buren. I think the whole scheme admirably fitted to produce extraordinary and abnormal results."

THE AMERICAN ELECTIONS IN GERMANY.

COMMENTS OF MINISTERIAL AND OPPOSITION JOURNALS.

A prominent American citizen now in Berlin writes from that city in the following terms:

I hasten to bear testimony to the gratification felt here at the result of the Presidential election. The success of the Republican candidates, it is deemed, alike subserves the welfare and prosperity and the best interests generally of the country, and triumphantly vindicates the wise statesmanship, the patriotism and integrity of the present Administration.

Prince Bismarck's newspaper organ in Berlin comments on the election of General Garfield as follows: "The voters this time seem to have been influenced in their action not so much by old accustomed party dogmas as by a conviction of the necessity of substituting sound principles for mere hackneyed political phrases. The occurrences at the last Presidential election had served as an impressive lesson to the Republicans, and led them to pursue a course of action by which the Democrats were prevented from making further progress. When President Hayes, at Fremont, in Ohio, declared the object of the Republicans to be national unity, supremacy of the General Government, prosperity of the country, protection of American industry and a sound financial policy, and thereby placed himself on a platform of wise statesmanship, he knew himself in accord with public sentiment as manifested by that part of the Nation ripest in political intelligence, and which includes especially the conservative elements of the population—in the European sense of the term conservative—a factor to be by no means made light of. The cause of the defeat of the Democrats must be sought for in their anti-National policy of public economy. While the Republicans, in striking contrast with our German Liberals and Progressists, in all financial and tariff questions of the country have American and not International interests in view, the Democrats by their proposed tariff for revenue only, would impose upon the Union direct taxes of hundreds of millions of marks and open a wide field for English competition to the United States. Placed before such an alternative the majority of voters found no difficulty in making their choice."

Again, one of the journals in opposition to the Government remarks as follows: "The sound sense of the American people has fully recognized and endorsed the merits of the Republican administration under President Hayes, and has refused to take sides with those who sought to make the industrial, prosperous North subservient to the needy rebels of the South."

MR. KELLY'S POWER IN DANGER.

A PLAN FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A REPUBLICAN AS CONTROLLER—HOW THE NEW MAYOR'S HANDS MIGHT BE TIED.

The development of city politics from this time until the opening of the new year, when William R. Grace will succeed Mayor Cooper, will be watched by politicians of all factions with intense interest, and by none more eagerly than the leaders in Tammany Hall. It is felt by those who understand the situation of affairs that Controller Kelly is in a critical position. His term of office and that of Corporation Counsel Whitney will expire on December 7. In about three weeks from that time Mr. Grace will assume the duties of his office. It is taken for granted that if Mr. Kelly during that interval can prevent the confirmation of Mayor Cooper's nominee for Controller he will be reappointed by the new Mayor. The decision of the question whether or not Mr. Kelly shall be allowed to hold over for the remainder of Mayor Cooper's term rests with the Republican Aldermen. By combining with a certain number of Democratic Aldermen they can confirm or reject Mayor Cooper's nominations. Of course it is well known that Mayor Cooper under no circumstances will renominate Mr. Kelly. There is a strong feeling between them, which has broken out on two or three occasions recently at the meetings of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment. Moreover, Mayor Cooper and his friends cannot forget that Mr. Kelly defeated Governor Robinson one year ago, and that he was chiefly responsible for the failure to renominate Mr. Tilden at Cincinnati. If the Mayor had the sole power of appointment, it is believed that he would appoint Andrew H. Green Controller. But, under present circumstances, it would be useless to nominate Mr. Green, for he would not be confirmed by the Aldermen.

Various suggestions have been made by politicians on both sides. There are so many prizes that the leaders are eager to seize them for themselves or their lieutenants. Not long ago a silly story was started that $185,000 had been raised to secure the confirmation of certain men by the Aldermen. Mayor Cooper remarked that this story was absurd, because no men would raise a large sum to secure their confirmations without first knowing that their names were to be sent in to the Aldermen. Under no circumstances would he nominate a man who would use money or any other consideration to secure his confirmation.

The following offices, in addition to those of Controller and Corporation Counsel, are to be filled by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen: A Tax Commissioner in place of John Wheeler, a Park Commissioner in place of James F. Wenman, a Dock Commissioner, a Commissioner of Public Works in place of Allan Campbell, two Police Justices in place of Nelson K. Wheeler, deceased, and P. G. Duffy, whose term of office has expired.

The Republican leaders and members of the Board of Aldermen hold that a party which only fell 3,000 votes behind the Democrats in the recent election of a Mayor, and left them so small a majority in the Presidential contest, is entitled to greater representation in the Board of Estimate and Apportionment. This body is really responsible for the amount of expenditures of the various branches of the City Government. Each department and bureau submits to this Board its estimates for carrying on its business for the coming year. These are examined by the Board, and are generally cut down somewhat. They are then sent to the Board of Aldermen, sitting as Supervisors, and the members gravely go through the farce of considering the estimates and recommending to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment that certain additions or reductions be made. The estimates are then sent back to the latter body, which fixes the amount allowed each department and bureau, generally without any reference to the recommendations of the Aldermen. The Board of Estimate and Apportionment consists of the Mayor, Controller, president of the Board of Aldermen and president of the Department of Taxes and Assessments. The Republicans have now one representative in the Board—President Morris, of the Board of Aldermen. Next year the Democrats are likely to choose the president of the Aldermen, and this would leave the Republicans without any representation. It is felt that this is not right; that the Republican voters of this city, including the greater part of the wealth and intelligence of the metropolis, should have equal power with the Democrats in determining city expenditures. Mayor Cooper and his friends in the Irving Hall wing of the Democratic party are very anxious to see either Allan Campbell or Hubert O. Thompson confirmed as Commissioner of Public Works. A suggestion has been made that if the Republicans are given the offices of Controller and president of the Department of Taxes and Assessments, thus obtaining an equal representation in the Board of Apportionment, there will not be much trouble in securing the confirmation of the Mayor's nominees for Commissioner of Public Works and Corporation Counsel. The other vacant positions would also be filled without difficulty, each party being given a fair share.

In the present Board of Aldermen there are nine Tammany, seven Irving Hall and six Republican memoers. Twelve votes are needed to confirm. The six Republican votes can be counted on to pass a party measure. Hence only six of the seven Anti-Tammany votes are needed to carry through the scheme proposed. The Republican members are Messrs. Morris, McClave, Finck, Jacobus, Perley and Wade. Of the Irving Hall members, Messrs. Marshall, Kenney, Strack, Coggey and Hall, it is believed, can be depended on to vote for any good man whose name the Mayor may send in. Alderman Haughton, another Irving Hall Alderman, was not renominated. Whether he would be willing to vote with the proposed combination is uncertain. The remaining Irving Hall Aldermen, Jeremiah Murphy, ran on the same ticket with Benjamin Wood at the recent election, and was opposed by Charles Reilley, who ran on the same ticket with Nicholas Muller. Murphy is therefore more likely to act with the Tammany Hall members of the Board than with his old associates in Irving Hall. But there are four members of Tammany Hall—Aldermen Foster, Goodwin, Haffen and Heibig—who were not renominated, and who are understood to be not favorably disposed toward the Tammany leaders. It would probably be necessary to secure the vote of one of these in order to complete the requisite number of votes to confirm the various candidates.

An Irving Hall leader said yesterday: "Irving Hall and the Republicans can cripple Mayor Grace and Tammany Hall for two years to come, and longer if they act sensibly. They can control the Board of Estimate and Apportionment if they will. By giving the Controller and President of the Department of Taxes and Assessments to the Republicans, and allowing the majority of the new Board of Aldermen-elect an Irving Hall Democrat as president, Tammany Hall would have only the Mayor as its representative in the Board of Estimate and Apportionment."

Mayor Cooper attaches great importance to the office of Controller, and no mere politician will be nominated by him. The name of the late Republican candidate for Mayor, William Dowd, is the only one prominently mentioned on the part of Republicans. If the Mayor should be induced to send in the name of a Republican for the office, it is very likely to be that of Mr. Dowd. For the position of Commissioner of Public Works no names are mentioned besides those of Allan Campbell and Hubert O. Thompson. Mr. Campbell's name has been before the Aldermen for confirmation for the past year and a half, and can be taken from the table and acted upon at any time. For the other offices there is a legion of candidates.

LOCAL POLITICS IN BROOKLYN.

MUCH INTEREST IN THE REPUBLICAN PRIMARY ELECTIONS TO BE HELD TO-NIGHT.

Much interest is taken in the Republican primary elections to be held this evening in the wards of Brooklyn and the towns of Kings County, to elect 110 members of the Republican General Committee (composed of 138 members) for the ensuing two years. In some wards the contests between rival candidates will be warm. Ex-Sheriff Daggett, who as chairman of the Campaign Committee, is credited with much influence in the present committee. It is reported that a strong effort is making in the interests of General Jourdan, Commissioner of Police, to secure a majority of the General Committee which will not sympathize with Mr. Daggett and which can control the local patronage.

VOTE OF ILLINOIS AND WISCONSIN.

CHICAGO, Nov. 21.—The official returns of the vote for State officers in Illinois give Cullom (Rep.) for Governor, 314,565; Trumbull (Dem.), 277,532; Streeter (Greenback), 28,893; Cullom's plurality, 37,033; majority, 8,135. The official vote of Cook County for President stands—Garfield, 54,808; Hancock, 44,293; Weaver, 1,168; for Governor—Cullom, 53,899; Trumbull, 44,657; Streeter, 1,235.

A dispatch from Madison, Wis., says that official returns have been received from all the counties, which give the total vote of Wisconsin as follows: Garfield, 144,396; Hancock, 114,653; Weaver, 7,982; Dow, 37; Pietts (Anti-Masonic), 91; Garfield's plurality over Hancock, 29,743; majority over all, 21,603.

REPUBLICAN GAINS IN NORTH CAROLINA.

RALEIGH, N. C., Nov. 21.—The official vote of North Carolina for President is as follows: Hancock, 124,204; Garfield, 115,616; Hancock's majority, 8,588. In 1876 the vote was: Tilden, 125,427; Hayes, 108,419; Tilden's majority, 17,008. The Republican gain is 8,420. The vote for Governor will be canvassed this week. Jarvis (Dem.) will lead Buxton (Rep.) by about 5,000 votes.

THE OFFICIAL VOTE OF MINNESOTA.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Nov. 21.—The official canvass of the complete vote of this State gives Garfield 93,963, and Hancock 53,316; Garfield's majority, 40,588. Dunnell's plurality, 8,627; Strait's majority, 5,630; Washburne's majority, 12,624.

HELD FOR VIOLATING ELECTION LAWS.

DANVILLE, Va., Nov. 21.—The examination before a United States Commissioner of A. L. Davis, one of the judges here at the November election, for alleged violation of the election laws, was concluded Saturday, and he was held for the action of the Grand Jury. Bail in the sum of $500 was required.

THE FORGED CHINESE LETTER.

DELAY IN PRESENTING INDICTMENTS—THE FORGERY NOT AN IMITATION OF GENERAL GARFIELD'S SIGNATURE—HADLEY'S CONNECTION WITH THE CASE—PAID BY MR. BARNUM FOR HIS WORK.

There are several curious matters connected with the forged Chinese letter which are even yet worthy of notice, and which have not been printed before. There will probably be a further delay in bringing the indictments, owing to the promised "confession" of Kenward Philp, which is announced to be made to-day. They were being drawn on Saturday with great care, and a consultation over them was appointed for that afternoon. It was postponed on the announcement that Philp would confess his guilt on Monday. The counsel believe he has nothing new to confess, and that he can throw no additional light on the manufacture of the letter, and certainly little on the construction of the language which it contained. They say that the adroit wording of the letter was something of which neither Philp nor any one of his immediate associates was capable. They were not sufficiently acquainted with American politics to have devised it. The time chosen for the publication of the forgery, and the methods employed to distribute it, also indicated the hand of an old and skilful politician. When it was made public the indications of the campaign pointed to the inevitable defeat of Hancock, largely on account of the question of protection to American manufactures and workingmen. The greatest defection from the Democratic ranks was among business men and skilled laborers. The letter was designed to show that the protective principle of the Republican platform was a pretence, and that General Garfield was committed to it only so far as it promised protection to the manufacturer at the expense of the workingman. It has been found that many thousands of the handbills on which the forged letter was printed were distributed directly by servants in the houses of Republicans, and that they were even posted in the kitchens, where the servant girls and their visitors discussed the letter as meaning that Chinese were to be put in their places as house servants as well as in the places of factory hands. Every effort was made to reach these classes of people, and hence the original publication was made in a penny paper. It is estimated by those active in the campaign in distributing "tariff cards" that the publication cost the Republican candidates in this State alone at least 20,000 votes, chiefly in the interior.

Investigation has shown that the forgery was not of General Garfield's handwriting or signature, but that of Mr. Brown, his stenographer and amanuensis. When this idea was first suggested, inquiry was made in this city for original letters of General Garfield, and although scores of communications were found signed with his name, they were almost without exception written and signed by Mr. Brown. For this reason Colonel Rockwell, of Washington, was called as a witness, and a letter of a confidential character was used in the examination of Philp. The forger or forgers had to get a letter from General Garfield before they could do any work. It can be shown, so the counsel state, that such a letter was procured by H. H. Hadley, who wrote to General Garfield a letter intended to draw out a personal re-

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TIDINGS FROM ABROAD.

THE STEAMER ALICE DAMAGED.

RETURN OF MICHAEL DAVITT—EDWIN BOOTH WINNING POPULAR FAVOR IN LONDON—THE FESTIVITIES IN CUBA.

The steamer Alice was cut down to the water's edge in a collision with the Batavia, bound from this port to Liverpool. Michael Davitt, the Irish agitator, has arrived at Cork. The Havana festivities have ended. The steamer Great Eastern is to be used for conveying meat to England from this country. Edwin Booth's acting as *Richelieu* is praised in London.

THE BATAVIA IN COLLISION.

THE ALICE COMPELLED TO RETURN TO PORT.

LIVERPOOL, Nov. 21, 1880.

The steamer Batavia, which arrived at Queenstown on Saturday from New-York, while on her way to this port came in collision with the steamer Alice, from Liverpool. The Alice was cut down to the water's edge and returned to port. The Batavia was not much injured.

THE IRISH AGITATION.

LONDON, Nov. 21, 1880.

Michael Davitt has returned from his tour in the United States. He brings a tender of the freedom of the city made by the municipality of Chicago to Mr. Parnell. Mr. Davitt says he was everywhere well received. The landlords, he says, send copies of their journals to the American papers, and he will endeavor to counteract those efforts. There is a great deal of work yet to be done in America. He thought such progress had been made there that the interests of the movement would not suffer by his absence. It is, he says, of the greatest possible importance to the movement that the American people should be convinced that the Land League did not give the slightest encouragement to outrages.

The Observer (moderate Liberal) in its leading editorial says:

As Parliament has not been summoned to meet on December 2 for the dispatch of business, we may assume that the Cabinet are undecided regarding the question of an early session. The policy of postponing coercion, if possible, until the modification of the present system of Irish land tenure can be tried as a remedy for the prevailing agitation and discontent has outweighed, in the judgment of the Ministry, the arguments which presented themselves in behalf of immediate action. The country will not be disposed to complain of this decision.

The desires and aspirations of the Irish National party extend far beyond any alteration of the land tenure. They involve demands inconsistent with the integrity of the British Empire. The fact that these demands are such as Great Britain never would consent to except under compulsion constitutes no reason why we should not remove any real grievance of which Ireland has to complain. But when we have done all that legislation can effect we must assert the authority of the law and the supremacy of the Union. That such an assertion can be made without more or less prolonged curtailment of the liberties of the Irish people is more than past experience allows us to expect.

THE MONTREAL LAND LEAGUE.

MONTREAL, Nov. 21.—A meeting of the local branch of the Irish Land League was held here to-day. Addresses were delivered in favor of raising money to forward the cause of the Irish farmers, and subscriptions amounting to $50 were paid in. Applications were received from various places for leave to establish branches, which was granted. The sum of $250, so far, has been remitted to the parent society in Dublin.

NEW USE FOR THE GREAT EASTERN.

LONDON, Nov. 21, 1880.

The Great Eastern Fresh Meat Company (Limited), with a capital of £300,000, has been formed. It proposes to bring carcasses from both North and South America, and for this purpose the steamship Great Eastern has been fitted up with refrigerating appliances. Stock to the amount of £150,000 is offered to the public.

BOOTH AS RICHELIEU.

HIS ACTING IN THAT PART COMMENDED.

LONDON, Nov. 21, 1880.

The Observer says:

Mr. Booth's *Hamlet* was not a fair sample of his capabilities. He would have done wisely to have chosen *Richelieu* for his debut. In this part he must take high rank among those who have essayed the role on the English stage. The play was received throughout with enthusiasm. Mr. Booth was called out at the end of every act. In the fourth act the audience was carried away with sympathy and enthusiasm. The applause was loud and long. Mr. Booth was twice summoned before the curtain at the end. We have to lament the very indifferent support Mr. Booth received.

CHALLENGES BY LAYCOCK.

LONDON, Nov. 21, 1880.

The Sportsman states that Laycock, in his challenge to Hanlan, says he must soon return to Sydney, and therefore hopes Hanlan will afford him an opportunity to determine who is the best sculler in the world. Laycock desires to row on the Thames course for the championship of the world. *The Sportsman's* Challenge Cup and £200 a side, and he has posted £50 for the match. Laycock also says he will row a match with Ross on the Thames any day of the present week, for £100 or £200 a side.

THE PORTE STILL DALLYING.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Nov. 21, 1880.

The Porte has replied to inquiries of the Russian Dragoman that the Bairam festivities had delayed the consideration of the demand for the execution of Commeraoff's assassin. It is expected the Porte will propose the appointment of a fresh commission to investigate again the sanity of the assassin.

Dervisch Pacha has addressed a proclamation to the people of Dulcigno stating that the Sultan does not wish to coerce them, but appeals to their patriotism to consent to the cession.

FESTIVITIES IN HAVANA.

HAVANA, Nov. 21.—The festivities in honor of the birth of the Royal Princess were brought to an end last night. The crowds in the streets exceeded those at the peace celebration. The illuminations were general and tasteful. The Palace was gorgeously decorated and appeared as if entirely transformed for the closing ball. The costly dresses of the ladies and the luxurious surroundings had a very fine effect. The Palace decorations will be left untouched for several days for the inspection of the public. The General-Commander of the Marine likewise gave a ball, the splendor of which was notable. The war vessels were illuminated and made a fine appearance. The festivities cost not less than $80,000 in gold, of which sum $10,000 was distributed among the crippled soldiers and soldiers sick in the hospital.

The municipality of Santiago de Cuba have sent a petition to the King and a letter to Count de Lesseps asking that that city be made the port of call and depositing station for the vessels of the Panama Canal Company.

THE CANADA LUMBER TRADE.

OTTAWA, Nov. 21.—The value of the lumber reported from this port during the nine months ended Sept. 30 was $1,578,623, against $1,199,844 for the twelve months last year. The total cut of lumber by mills of this locality for the current year will be 235,000,000 feet, valued at $2,820,000. The price of stocks during last season ranged from $12 to $15 per 1,000; this year from $13 to $18. The cut of saw logs this winter will not be much in advance of last winter, which was nearly equal to that of 1872, the best on record. The quantity of lumber held over this winter will be about the same as that of last year. There will be shipments by railroad as usual.

FOREIGN NOTES.

The activity of Mount Vesuvius increases. Lava flows abundantly on the side toward Naples.

It is stated that the Vatican has addressed a note to the French Government protesting against the application of the religious decrees.

The Hamburg-American Line steamer Herder sailed from Havre Saturday carrying out 600,000 francs in gold from that port for New-York.

The Berlin Post says twenty-four merchants have petitioned Prince Bismarck for the incorporation of Hamburg into the Zollverein, and Bismarck has sent an encouraging reply.

WEARY OF LIVING.

A homeless woman who gave her name as Kate Corcoran was arrested Saturday night for being drunk and disorderly. She attempted to commit suicide by hanging in a cell of the Eighteenth Precinct Station-House during the night, but was cut down. At the Yorkville Police Court, yesterday, she was sent to the Workhouse for three months.

A convict at Sing Sing, named William Heinz, who is serving a sentence of one year's imprisonment for murder, attempted to commit suicide in his cell Friday night by inflicting a severe gash in his wrist. His condition was discovered in time, and he was taken to the prison hospital. His injury is not fatal. He probably made the attempt on his life through fear of punishment for various infringements of the prison rules and discipline.

FAIRFIELD, N. J., Nov. 21.—Walter Briggs, a respectable citizen of Robertsville, N. J., doing business in New-York, shot himself through the heart Saturday night. He had made several attempts before to kill himself.

RAILROAD INTERESTS.

CHANGES ON THE ELEVATED ROADS.

During the attempts to reduce the expenses of the elevated railroads in this city, by which between two and three hundred employes, including two division superintendents, have been dismissed, several plans have been discussed, and those finally agreed upon will take effect to-day. On the Sixth Avenue Line trains will leave Harlem every eight minutes, instead of six as formerly, and at Fifty-eighth-st. there will be intervals of six minutes between the departure of trains. On the Ninth and Second Avenue Lines there will be no trains after 8 p. m., and trains of the Third Avenue Line after that hour will run to South Ferry. Extra trains will be run between City Hall and Chatham-square until midnight. Efforts have been made recently to run the Third Avenue locomotives on the Sixth Avenue Line, but with bad results, as the engines did not turn around the curves satisfactorily.

The heaters used on all trains this season consist simply of pipes extending the entire length of the cars. They are coupled from one car to the other by means of rubber hose. The average amount of steam, supplied of course by the locomotive, is at a pressure of 25 pounds. This is regulated by a small "pop valve" arranged in the hose under the rear platform of the last car. When the steam reaches any pressure over the desired amount the valve is raised and allows it to escape, thus protecting the hose from bursting when the pressure becomes too great.

MR. VANDERBILT'S SWEEPING DENIAL.

The report, coming from Boston, that an alliance has been arranged of the interests of the New-York Central, Lake Shore, Atlantic and Pacific, Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe and Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroads, and that this gigantic combination has been gotten up in opposition to the Gould roads, is denied with emphasis. William H. Vanderbilt said yesterday, in answer to an inquiry by a TRIBUNE reporter as to what foundation there was for such a statement: "There is not a single word of truth in it; not a word."

WABASH, ST. LOUIS AND PACIFIC MEETING.

ST. LOUIS, Nov. 21.—A meeting of the stockholders of the Wabash, St. Louis and Pacific Railroad was held at the office of the company Saturday, at which various measures and propositions already agreed upon by the directors, relative to the leasing and building of lines and the issuing of bonds, were ratified. There were 350,000 shares represented out of the 400,000 shares of stock.

THE FIRE RECORD.

A BRAINTREE FACTORY AND HOTEL BURNED.

BOSTON, Nov. 21.—A fire broke out last night in the large three-story building of the new Braintree Cheese Factory, at Braintree, Mass. The flames spread rapidly to the hotel and barn adjoining, both of which were destroyed, together with the Bigelow House on the opposite side of the street. The total loss is $15,000; the insurance amounts to $13,000. About 300 cheeses were destroyed.

AT POUGHKEEPSIE—LOSS $11,000.

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., Nov. 21.—The stock and building of Trowbridge & Adriance, stove dealers, were damaged by fire this morning to the extent of $5,000, and Crosby & Spaulding, furniture dealers, sustained a loss of $6,000. Both firms were fully insured.

BURNED TO DEATH.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 21.—The house of John Campbell, an expressman on the Potrero route, was destroyed by fire early this morning. Mr. Campbell perished in the flames.

LAST HONORS TO GOVERNOR WILLIAMS.

INDIANAPOLIS, Nov. 21.—The remains of the late Governor Williams are to lie in state in the Court House to-morrow. They will be taken to Vincennes on Tuesday morning, and will lie in state at that place during the afternoon, and will be taken to the Governor's late residence, near Wheatland, on Tuesday night. The funeral services will take place on Wednesday. The following gentlemen were chosen pall-bearers: Ex-Governor T. A. Hendricks, ex-Governor Conrad Baker, William H. English, Franklin Landers, John Cover, J. P. Gray, Judge W. D. Niblack, General M. D. Manson, J. D. G. Nelson, General T. A. Morris, William K. McKeon and Judge John Scott.

A telegram was received to-day from President Hayes expressing sympathy and regret that his official duties will prevent him from attending the funeral of Governor Williams. Governor Foster, of Ohio, has also telegraphed that it will be impossible for him to be present, but Secretary of State Barnes will attend. Governor Cullom, of Illinois, will be here on Tuesday morning.

The Mayor has asked the public to drape their houses, and suspend business between 11 and 12 o'clock tomorrow.

CASUALTIES ON LAKE ERIE.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Nov. 21.—The schooner Falmouth, of Oswego, while trying to make this port for repairs about 4 o'clock this morning, struck the eastern end of the new breakwater, and shortly after foundered in twenty-four feet of water. All of the crew escaped to the breakwater and were rescued by a tug, but the cook, a woman, refused to leave the boat without her effects, and went down with the vessel. The Falmouth was insured for $7,000, and was loaded with 16,500 bushels of wheat, bound from Toledo to Oswego. The cargo was also fully insured.

Thirty vessels of all classes took shelter at Long Point, about thirty miles above here, but ten of them put back to-day more or less crippled, and most of the others will, it is stated, do likewise when the storm has abated somewhat.

FOUR CHILDREN POISONED.

KANKAKEE, Ill., Nov. 21.—Two children, ages four and seven years respectively, both girls, belonging to Edward Dangan, a stranger in town, died yesterday morning from poisoning, and his remaining two children are in a critical condition. Dangan arrived here two weeks ago on his way to Canada, and has been living in the utmost poverty. He said the children's mother died several weeks ago. A bottle containing laudanum was found in the house, and Dangan will be put under arrest pending the Coroner's investigation.

PURSUING MURDERERS.

SHOHOLA, Penn., Nov. 21.—Two tramps, believed to be the murderers of Ella Bittenbender, who was killed in Hamilton Township, Monroe County, Penn., October 30, have been seen in the woods. People are on their trail.

COMMISSIONER MEACHAM ARRESTED.

DENVER, Col., Nov. 21.—A. B. Meacham, the Ute Commissioner, arrived at 7 o'clock last night, and was shortly after arrested as an accessory to the murder of N. D. Jackson, who was killed by the Utes last September.

SHOT WHILE HUNTING.

WOODBRIDGE, N. J., Nov. 21.—Edward McNeirns, of Centreville, accidentally shot himself with his own gun, while out hunting at Benton Beach, on Wednesday. He died to-day from the injuries received.

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES.

PROBABLE MURDER.

PITTSBURG, Penn., Nov. 21.—Philip Boli, steamboat engineer, was found yesterday morning in an insensible condition. This morning he died.

A PHYSICIAN ACCIDENTALLY DROWNED.

SCRANTON, Penn., Nov. 2.—Dr. John Townley, age sixty-five years, a well-known physician of Carbondale, was accidentally drowned by slipping from a plank crossing the reservoir.

PROBABLY FATALLY SHOT.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Nov. 21.—In Cumberland on Saturday Donohue Freeman shot and probably fatally wounded Peter McCauley, who had just broken open Freeman's door after being warned to go away.

A SEAMAN PROBABLY MURDERED.

PORTSMOUTH, N. H., Nov. 21.—The body of William C. Coney, of Blue Hills, Me., a seaman attached to the schooner J. J. Clark, was found in the mud at Fredick's Wharf this morning. There were indications of foul play.

A BRIG ASHORE FOR A TIME.

CHATHAM, Mass., Nov. 21.—The brig Charles Dennis, of Richmond, Me., from Baltimore for Boston, with a cargo of coal, came ashore on Chatham Beach this morning at 5 o'clock. She lost one anchor, and was floated during the day by wreckers from North Chatham.

THE POULTRY TRAFFIC BRISK.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt., Nov. 21.—The poultry business over the railroads this year is very large, fifty car-loads having passed over the Cheshire Road for Boston alone since Friday night. Most of the poultry comes from Canada, and sells here at from 14 to 16 cents per pound.

ATTEMPTED MURDER AND SUICIDE.

ST. LOUIS, Nov. 21.—Last night, Michael H. Donnelly, recently trumpeter of Company H., First United States Cavalry, and honorably discharged at Fort Calvin, Washington Territory, last month, shot and seriously wounded a woman known as "Birdie" Donley and then shot himself dead at a house in South Sixth-st. The woman will probably recover. She had refused to marry Donnelly.

CULTIVATING FOOD FISH.

WORK OF THE FISH COMMISSION.

RESULTS OF THE SUMMER WORK—CAUSES OF THE FAILURE OF THE MENHADEN FISHERIES OFF THE MAINE COAST—HOW NEW-ENGLAND FISHERMEN COOPERATE WITH THE COMMISSION—NEW VARIETIES OF MARINE ANIMALS DISCOVERED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21.—With the close of the current year ends the first decade of the operations of the United States Fish Commission, which, during that period, have been conducted under the direction of Professor Spencer F. Baird. Professor Baird has been aided by a corps of competent assistants, and has also received much help from individuals engaged in independent investigations, as well as from fishermen, who have volunteered to take and record observations and to make collections of marine fauna.

The first division of the work of the Commission, which possesses the greatest amount of interest to the general public, is that of the discovery and description of new species of fish. This work is supplemented by the scientific classification and description of all new marine fauna discovered. This division of the work is not confined to the products of the waters of the Atlantic, the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific coast, but it also includes the ichthyology of the lakes and rivers. It is estimated that within ten years the specimens of the marine fauna of New-England alone have been increased by new discoveries from 800 to about 2,000, mainly through the work of the Commission. During the same time 100 new species of fish, half of which are new to science, have been discovered on the eastern Atlantic coast. The "life histories" of many varieties of fish have been printed, and a great quantity of material relating to almost every species has been accumulated for future use. More or less complete monographs on the bluefish, the scup, the menhaden, the salmon and the whitefish have been printed, and others are nearly ready for publication.

Thus far no deep-sea work has been done by the Commission in the waters south of Long Island, but shore investigations have been prosecuted along the entire Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the United States, and extensive researches of the same kind have been made along the Pacific coast. Many discoveries, valuable not only in a scientific but in an economic sense as well, have thus been made. As the New-England waters are still the great centre of American fishing industries, the explorations in those waters have been elaborate and unremitting. Dredging operations have been conducted off the New-England coast during every season for the last ten years, and great additions have been made to the knowledge of the ichthyology of that region. The area of exploration has been extended to Davis's Straits and the Grand Banks. The work of investigation has included many details besides the securing and preservation of new specimens. From the very first attention has been paid to the temperature of the water in its relation to the movements of fish, and for several years extensive observations have been made along the entire coast by the Commission; and its volunteer assistants, officers of the Signal Service, and of the Lighthouse and Life-Saving Services, have also lent valuable aid to this work. One of the practical results of these observations has been a demonstration of the causes of the failure of the menhaden fisheries on the Maine coast last season—a misfortune which threw about 2,000 persons out of employment. It was ascertained that this failure was occasioned by the unusually low temperature of the water in the Gulf of Maine at the regular season for the passage northward of the menhaden, which prevented them from reaching their usual haunts