New-York Tribune.

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ENEMIES OF HOME RULE.

PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE OF LIBERAL UNIONISTS.

NO SURRENDER TO GLADSTONE—JOHN BRIGHT'S DEFIANCE—MR GOSCHEN TO APPEAL TO AMERICA.

[BY CABLE TO THE TRIBUNE.]

LONDON, Dec. 6.—An important meeting of the executive committee of the Liberal Unionists was held to-day to arrange for a public meeting to-morrow and to take measures for maintaining the organization. A strong letter from John Bright was read insisting that the defeat of all and any measures looking toward Mr. Gladstone's Irish policy must be the prime object of all the Liberal Unionist body and that on no basis could the Liberal party be reconstituted save on the basis of loyalty to imperial union. A communication from Mr. Chamberlain, still on the Continent, suggested that the Separatist Liberals should be challenged to defend their position in a conference, and some such measure may be proposed by Mr. Dixon, of Birmingham.

The whole temper of the meeting was defiant and determined. Some prominent members of the Liberal Union party, indeed, declined to attend the meeting on the ground that until the definite surrender of Mr. Gladstone's wing they preferred to stand outside of the Liberal line as independents ready to support the Conservative Government in taking the most extreme measures which may be necessary to secure the complete triumph of law and order in Ireland. Mr. Goschen has prepared a strong speech in which he will declare the Home Rule movement to be neither political nor national, but an agrarian movement, and on this ground he will make a strong appeal to the people of the United States against it.

CONFERENCE OF THE COLONIES.

TO ORGANIZE FOR THE MILITARY DEFENCE OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

[BY CABLE TO THE TRIBUNE.]

LONDON, Dec. 6.—The Colonial Secretary of State has sent a dispatch to the colonies the full text of which will be published in "The Daily Telegraph" to-morrow, summoning to a conference the representatives of the principal colonial Governments, to be held in London next year, to consider the question of organization for military defence of the British Empire and the development of postal and telegraphic communications. The dispatch states that the patriotic action of the colonies in offering contingents of troops to take part in the Egyptian campaign made a deep and lasting impression on the public mind and was the first practical result of much careful work during recent years. The time has now arrived when an attempt may fairly be made to attain to a better understanding as to the system of defence which may be established throughout the Empire.

M. FLOQUET OFFERS TO FORM A CABINET.

FORECAST OF THE MINISTRY—COMPLAINT OF PRESIDENT GREVY'S DELAY.

PARIS, Dec. 6.—M. Floquet has made an offer to President Grevy to form a Cabinet. In order to avoid Russian enmity M. Floquet is willing to take the Ministry of the Interior instead of the Foreign Portfolio, together with the Presidency of the Council. The rest of the Cabinet is forecasted as follows: M. Laboulaye, Foreign Affairs; M. Rouvier, Finance; M. Goblet, Instruction; General Boulanger, War; M. Lockroy, Commerce.

A committee appointed from the three groups forming the party of the Left in the Chamber of Deputies to formulate a programme for the whole party has decided in favor of the party giving common support in the future to the Cabinet, and to abandon making further representations to President Grevy or Prime Minister de Freycinet.

In the Chamber of Deputies this evening, M. Maillard, an irreconcilable, in making a motion to adjourn the Chamber until Thursday, complained at President Grevy's delay in forming a new Cabinet, and said that if there was further delay the people of Paris might themselves address the President. This threat was received with general murmurs and protestations.

M. Floquet declared that the President and the Chamber must both be left free.

The Chamber then adjourned until to-morrow.

President Grevy held conferences to-day with the Presidents of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies.

TURKEY SATISFIED WITH NICHOLAS.

THE SULTAN ASKS THE POWERS TO HELP HIM SETTLE THE BULGARIAN QUESTION.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 6.—The Porte has issued a circular to the Powers to the effect that the Sultan assents to the candidacy of Prince Nicholas, of Mingrelia, for the Bulgarian throne, and invites the Powers to co-operate for a speedy settlement of the Bulgarian question.

SOPHIA, Dec. 6.—M. Somoff, secretary of the Russian consulate here, claims from the National Bank $140,000 as occupation indemnity. The claim is admitted, but the bank refuses to recognize Somoff's authority since the rupture of diplomatic relations between Bulgaria and Russia.

BELGRADE, Dec. 6.—King Milan yesterday received the deputation of Bulgarian notables who are on a tour of explanation to the Powers.

LOSS OF A VESSEL WITH ALL HANDS.

THIRTEEN SAILORS GO DOWN WITH THE SCHOONER EDITH.

ST. JOHN'S, N. F., Dec. 6.—The schooner Edith, from St. Pierre for Langlaid, was lost Sunday on a reef near Miquelon Island. All the crew, numbering thirteen, perished. The vessel was loaded with provisions for the winter supply of Miquelon.

THE FISHERIES QUESTION.

COMMENTS OF LONDON NEWSPAPERS ON THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

LONDON, Dec. 6.—*The Daily News*, commenting on that part of President Cleveland's Message referring to the fisheries question, says:

The two Governments ought not to allow themselves rest until they have arranged the question. The difficulty seems to be that America wants fishing, while New-England does not want free trade. The same insatiable greed for protection underlies the difficulty about the disposal of the surplus revenue. Protection will die hard in America. It is, however, beginning to be regarded with increasing popular mistrust. The proposed revision of the tariff may be the beginning of the end.

The Daily Telegraph says:

Never were words included in a message which more deserved the earnest and prompt attention of the British Ministry. To leave the dispute open, if it can in any way be adjusted, would be the height of criminal shortsightedness.

The Standard says:

President Cleveland's Message is a sensible and statesmanlike production, and eminently pacific. A note of menace is not heard. Although in describing the fisheries question he throws undue blame upon the Canadian fishermen, yet not a word is spoken to excite hostility or rekindle strife.

A JUDGE KILLED IN A DUEL.

BERLIN, Dec. 6.—A duel with pistols has been fought between Captain Baron von Ardenna, adjutant to the Prussian War Ministry, and Judge Hertwich, of Dusseldorf. Hertwich received a bullet in the abdomen and died two hours later. The cause of the duel was Hertwich's accusation that Baron von Ardenne had conducted an amatory correspondence with the former's wife.

NEWS NOTES FROM LONDON.

LONDON, Dec. 6, 1886.

DILLON'S DECLARATIONS.—*The Daily News* says: "Mr. Dillon's language at Castlerea is calculated to provoke a reaction in favor of the landlords. We are willing to make allowance for Dillon's patriotism, but his words will give comfort to his enemies and distress to his friends."

MRS. CRAWFORD.—Mrs. Virginia Crawford, who was one of the defendants in the Crawford-Dilke case, proposes to make her debut in comedy shortly at a West-End theatre.

DENOUNCING TITHES.—The Advent pastoral letter of Bishop Bagshawe, of the Catholic diocese of Nottingham, denounces tithes for the support of the Established Church as an unjust Protestant tax, and recommends Catholics to resist payment.

MASSACRE IN THE SAHARA.

TRIPOLI, Dec. 6.—Tuareks have captured the fortress at Ghat, in the Sahara, and massacred 100 members of the garrison.

HEAVY FALL OF SNOW IN VIENNA.

VIENNA, Dec. 6.—Snow has been falling here for forty-eight hours, stopping railway traffic. The telegraph lines have not been affected by the storm.

DILLON'S CASE MUST BE SETTLED.

LONDON, Dec. 6.—Mr. McDonald, Irish member of Parliament, in a speech at Plymouth this evening, said that the eighty-six Parnellite members of Parliament were determined to consider no other business until Mr. Dillon's case was settled.

Viscount Allcourse writes that if Dillon's speech was the deliberate opinion of the Parnellites he will not vote again for Home Rule, and that many of his friends will likewise refuse to support Home Rule again.

RIOTING RENEWED IN CORK.

CORK, Dec. 6.—Rioting was renewed here this evening. The police were hooted by large mobs in the streets. So far as known nobody was injured.

DESPERATE TORY EXPEDIENTS.

FINDING LAWS TO UPHOLD COERCION.

GENERAL BULLER A STANCH UNIONIST AND NOT FOR HOME RULE.

LONDON, Dec. 6.—The Government have obtained from the law officers of the Crown at Dublin opinions to the effect that tenants, trustees and others conspiring to defraud landlords of due rent are liable to indictment under the common law.

General Buller, annoyed at the assertions of Parnellite papers to the effect that he sympathizes with the Home Rulers, has authorized a statement that he is not in favor of Home Rule and that he is a stanch Unionist.

MANY PRISONERS TRY TO ESCAPE.

SANTIAGO, Dec. 6, via Galveston.—At 6:20 p. m. yesterday 290 prisoners confined in the jail here attempted to pass the guard and escape. The guard fired upon them, wounding two, who have since died. Fifteen managed to escape.

THE FIRE RECORD.

THE ROOF OF A BIG ICE-HOUSE AFLAME.

ONE OF JACOB RUPPERT'S WORKMEN TRIES TO THAW A PIPE AND STARTS A FIRE.

A stupid workman went up to the top of the big ice-house connected with Jacob Ruppert's brewery at Third-ave. and Ninety-first-st. soon after 1 p. m. yesterday and tried to thaw out a frozen water pipe with a candle. He worked close to the wooden ceiling, which was separated from the tin roof by four feet of granulated cork and shavings. Although he failed to set the water running, he set fire to the ceiling. Mr. Ruppert tried to prevent the flames from spreading beneath the roof, but he soon found his private fire extinguishing apparatus useless. The firemen had great difficulty in getting any water on the flames, which continued to spread along the roof. When Second Assistant Chief Reilly arrived he sent out a second alarm. He learned that the structure was fireproof below the roof and securely separated from the main brewery. Holes were cut in the roof of the ice-house, but it was impossible to check the progress of the fire in the cork and shavings.

The force of the pent up flames caused an explosion at 2 p. m., and the sheet-iron cornice was blown away from the front. About a ton of sheet iron fell with a crash to the sidewalk, where a crowd had been standing a few minutes before. For an hour afterward the chief point of interest was the top of the tall flagstaff, which swayed ominously on the roof of the building.

Five hours after the fire was discovered the firemen were still working away patiently on the roof; but the flames were under control and could do no more than destroy the roof. Mr. Ruppert said his loss would be about $20,000. The damage to the ice-house probably would not exceed $5,000. Since Mr. Ruppert introduced ice machines into the brewery several years ago, the ice-house has been used chiefly as a storage place for beer. The building contained beer worth $25,000 yesterday, and much of it was exposed to damage by water. Mr. Ruppert's agent said that the losses were covered by insurance.

A HALL AND FOUR HOUSES DESTROYED.

Fire, probably of incendiary origin, early yesterday morning destroyed Schimmerman's Hall in New-Brunswick, a notorious place of amusement, and four dwelling-houses, causing a total loss of $15,000, almost fully covered by insurance. The hall was undergoing repairs, and it will probably have to be decided at law whether the carpenters or the insurance company are losers.

SHOOTING AN ITALIAN BANDIT.

TUOZZO, THE TERROR OF TRAVELLERS, FATALLY WOUNDED IN A STALE BEER DIVE.

Nicola Tuozzo, age fifty-six, who lived at No. 41 Mulberry-st., has long been looked upon by the inhabitants of the "bend" as a sort of king or ruler. He spent his time in the stale beer dives. No one dared to molest him.

Tuozzo's reputation and power came from his record in Italy. His exploits were so bold that he became widely known as Nicola the bandit. He lived in a little cave in the mountains, where he defied the authorities and robbed travellers at will. He was courageous and so bold that he threatened to rob the King of Italy before he died. A stagecoach came his way with a number of travellers heavy-laden with money and jewels. The coach was guarded by an escort of mounted men. As the coach made a sharp turn into a clump of trees the well-known yell of Tuozzo came ringing out upon the air and he jumped from behind a tree dressed in the conventional bandit style. He smiled derisively at the soldiers and waved his hand to a number of his band who stood in the shadow of the trees, and called upon them to shoot. The soldiers dropped their weapons in the dust and stood up in a line. The passengers were then called upon to turn over their property. Tuozzo waved the coach away. The bold bandits who were half hidden among the trees were only men of straw—fitted up for the occasion. Tuozza was caught and for thirty years was confined in a dungeon. Upon his discharge from prison he came to this country, and lived in the "bend."

Yesterday Tuozzo was in his favorite beer-dive at No. 41 Mulberry-st. a place which has often been "raided" by the police. He was half asleep in a chair, but he was wide enough awake to see Dominick Cassella steal a beer glass and handkerchief. Tuozzo followed him to No. 59 Mulberry-st., another bee-dive, and demanded the stolen goods. They were returned. As Tuozzo startedout, Louisa Rosa, of No. 39 Mulberry-st., said "Shoot him," and Cassella did so with a revolver of large calibre. The ball entered Tuozzo's abdomen. He was taken to the Chambers Street Hospital. Cassella was arrested and taken to the Elizabeth-st. station, and all who were in the place were held as witnesses. Coroner Eidman took Tuozza's ante-mortem statement. The wound is fatal.

GRIEVANCES OF WORKINGMEN.

ORDERED TO STRIKE AGAINST THEIR WILL—BARRY LEAVES COHOES—NOTES.

PITTSBURG, Dec. 6 (*Special*).—By order of the Executive Board of the Knights of Labor, the men at F. W. Breed's two large shoe factories came out on strike to-day at noon. The strike deprives 500 people of employment. The Lynn price for cutting is $17 a week. Mr. Breed has cutting done at Salem for $14 a week. A strike is expected in Mr. Breed's Salem shop to-morrow, and more than likely his shops at Rochester, N. H., will be brought up in like manner. The strike is not because of Mr. Breed's paying an under-price to his Lynn help, as he pays the Lynn price to Lynn cutters. A peculiar feature of the strike is that it is not sanctioned by the several hundred workmen interested. They have twice voted by a large majority not to strike, and the Executive Board calls them out against their will.

COHOES, N. Y., Dec. 6 (*special*).—Barry, of the National Executive Board, Knights of Labor, has gone and negotiations between the manufacturers and Knights are off. The manufacturers will meet in the morning and it is said that they will decide to throw open their mills on Wednesday morning to employ any one who may want to work, asking no questions as to whether a person is a Knight of Labor or not.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 6.—The grand jury to-day found five bills of indictment against David R. Williams, one Moore, James Hayes and Eugene J. Murphy, charging them with conspiracy and libel. The defendants are members of the Cutters' Union, and the charges are based on cards addressed to customers of John B. Stetson.

SHAMOKIN, Penn., Dec. 6.—The lockout at the Excelsior Colliery was ended to-day through arbitration, the miners being conceded an advance of 5 per cent.

OBJECTING TO "THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD."

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 6.—The second convention of the United Labor party in this city was held this evening, when a declaration of principles and the report of the executive committee on the organization and government of the party was adopted. When the credentials of the newly elected delegates were being received William J. Gorsuch, as the delegate from the Friendship Liberal League, was objected to because he was an Anarchist, but the objection was overruled. Mr. Herrwig was delegated to read the declaration of principles, and when he came to the sentence, "We believe in the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man," Mr. Gorsuch objected. "There is a delegation," he said, "which recognizes no specific religion." "The delegate who dies not believe in the 'Fatherhood of God,'" exclaimed an excited delegate, "is not fit to be an American citizen." But in spite of this objurgation the "Fatherhood of God" was stricken out by a vote of 56 to 40. Mr. Herrwig continued reading uninterruptedly until he said: "That the ballot was the only method by which the redress of social and political grievances was to be sought." Mr. Gorsuch objected to the word "only" and suggested that "one of the methods" be substituted; "for there are other methods besides the ballot for the redressing of political and social grievances," he significantly added. It was decided however not to change the clause.

LEAVING HER WEALTH WELL DISTRIBUTED.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 6 (*Special*).—The will of Ann Wain Ryerson admitted to probate to-day gives $70,000 to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, $10,000 to the Home for Aged Colored Persons in this city, $10,000 to the suffering Indians, $5,000 to the freedmen of the South and West, $5,000 to the Indian Seminary at Carlisle, $5,000 to the Colored Orphan Asylum of this city, $3,000 to the Children's Hospital, $2,000 to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, $2,000 to the Widows' Asylum, $2,000 to the Old Men's Home, and $1,000 to the Female Association of this city. A codicil to the will says that should the decedent's stepson, who is president of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, consider that he could not keep up his present mode of living, the bequests are to be inoperative and the amount to be given to him.

ARRESTED ON A CHARGE OF LIBEL.

ASBURY PARK, N. J., Dec. 6.—John L. Coffin, one of the Water Commissioners of the town and Editor of *The Asbury Park Journal*, and John K. Wallace, the publisher of *The Journal*, have been placed under $500 bonds to await an examination next Monday before Justice of the Peace Border upon a charge of criminal libel made by ex-Assemblyman George W. Patterson. In the last campaign Mr. Patterson was a candidate for the Assembly and *The Journal* contained a number of articles reflecting upon his record.

RAILROAD INTERESTS.

FEDERAL AND STATE JURISDICTION.

JUDGE ACHESON'S REASONS FOR DECIDING IN FAVOR OF THE UNION TRUST COMPANY.

PITTSBURG, Dec. 6 (*Special.*).—The Union Trust Company of New-York was granted a judgment for $1,099,747 75 by the United States Circuit Court to-day on so much of the Rochester and Pittsburg Railway as lies within the limits of this State. Some important law points were decided by Judge Acheson. His opinion sets forth: "It has been authoritatively adjudged that where a corporation created by the laws of several States is sued in a Federal court in any one of those States it must be regarded for the purpose of jurisdiction as a citizen of the United States, whatever its citizenship may be elsewhere. Hence it is not a valid objection to the jurisdiction of this court that the plaintiff is a corporation of the State of New-York and the defendant a corporation formed under the statutes of Pennsylvania and New-York by the consolidation of several companies, some of which were organized under the laws of the former State and others under the laws of the latter. By virtue of such consolidation the constituent companies merged into each other and became one corporation. Hence the judgment here sued on, which was duly obtained against the consolidated corporation in the State court, in the State of New-York, is binding on the corporation everywhere. Whether or not the provisions of the constitution of Pennsylvania relied on as invalidating the defendant's issue of bonds, the subject matter of the judgment, have any application to obligations of this consolidated company issued in the State of New-York under the authority of and in accordance with the laws of that State, it is not necessary to consider, as the judgment rendered is conclusive upon the defendant and the case not open to inquiry upon the merits.

"The New-York statutory provisions forbidding suit to be brought upon a judgment rendered in a court of record of that State without a previous order of the court in which the original action was brought, granting leave to bring the new suit, must be held to be intended only to regulate the course of procedure in the New-York State Court. It is an established principle that State legislation cannot in any wise impair or limit the jurisdiction of the United States. An action of debt will be on a judgment of another State, notwithstanding the pending of an appeal or writ of error. The jurisdiction of this court over the subject matter of this litigation is not affected by the pending proceedings in the Court of Common Pleas of Elk County, Pennsylvania, in which the custody of certain railroad property has been committed to a receiver; nor will the prosecution of this action to judgment in any degree interfere with the receiver in the discharge of his duties. Upon the whole, it seems to the Court that the affidavits of the defence disclose no valid ground for denying judgment in favor of the plaintiff. Therefore, the rule to show cause why judgment should not be returned against the defendant must be made absolutely, and it is so ordered."

PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE TRUNK LINE POOL.

PITTSBURG, Dec. 6 (*Special*).—D. T. Watson filed two petitions in the United States Circuit Court to-day in behalf of Attorney-General Cassidy. One asks that he be allowed to institute equity proceedings in behalf of Edward W. Kinsey against the Buffalo, New-York and Philadelphia Railroad Company and G. Clinton Gardner, receiver, to test the legality of certain agreements forming what is known as the "Trunk Line Pool," and to enjoin defendants. The other petition asks that the Attorney-General be allowed to begin proceedings on the part of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, the Northern Central Railroad Company and Philadelphia and Lake Erie Railroad Company, against the Allegheny Valley Railroad Company, Townsend Whelon, James B. Murray et al. John Scott and William Bauer, also to test the legality of the Trunk Line Pool. Judge Acheson granted leave to begin proceedings.

UNKNOWN CONTROL OF THE NEW-ENGLAND.

The mystery in regard to the control of the New-York and New-England Railroad has not been relieved and Wall Street is filled with rumors in regard to probable changes in the management. The admitted facts appear to be that a majority of the stock is held in New-York and that it is the hands of brokers whose principals are still unknown. The latest rumors are that Elijah Smith, who succeeded Henry Villard in the management of the Oregon companies, would be the next president of the company. Mr. Smith said yesterday that he had been asked, before Charles P. Clark was made president, to accept the office, but he declined it. In regard to the current rumors, Mr. Smith refused to say more than that he had no time to spare from his other duties. Private dispatches from Boston, received in this city, stated that Jonas H. French, of Boston, a former director of the road, and now a large stockholder, had been mentioned as a probable candidate for the presidency. All the indications point to a lively meeting of the stockholders in Boston next Tuesday, and to an exciting election.

MISCELLANEOUS RAILWAY INTELLIGENCE.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 6 (*Special*).—Masters Dallas and Pollock gave another hearing to-day in the suit of William M. Robinson, of New-York, for foreclosure of the Philadelphia and Reading. Mr. Ashhurst made an argument in behalf of the income mortgage bonds, contending that this interest constituted a first lien on the company's property after the execution of the general mortgage.

The representatives of the soft coal companies shipping to the seaboard will have their percentages arranged by Monday next and the pool will take effect in January. The Beech Creek, which is the latest developed of the soft coal fields, has made such rapid progress that it wants eleven per cent, and the Norfolk and Western and the Cumberland regions will all get larger quotas than last year.

January has been absolutely fixed for the separation of of the Reading and Jersey Central properties, the former having given full assent thereto. It is stated to-day that the accounts between the roads are in process of adjustment and that there will be no exchange of money.

It is said that negotiations which have been pending between the Norfolk and western and the East Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia Railroads with a view to the lease of the latter by the former have been completed. It is stated that the East Tennessee is earning its fixed charges, which amount to $1,072,000, and that the company has $1,500,000 in its treasury. The lease will make the Norfolk and Western a trunk line and secure to it beyond all peradventure an immense through business which might otherwise be diverted to the Richmond and Danville and the Western North Carolina roads. It will also give the Norfolk and Western connection with the Texas and Pacific and with Chicago.

CHICAGO, Dec. 6.—The decision of the arbitrators in the matter of Southern Kansas basing rates for freight was formally promulgated this evening. It provides that local tariffs being established from time to time between Kansas City and the Kansas Junction points under consideration, the tariffs between St. Louis and such junction points shall be based as follows: To and from Emporia, Newton, Halstead, Hunnewell, Olathe, Arkansas City, McPherson, Hutchinson and Caldwell shall be the sum of the locals, via Kansas City. To and from Clearwater, Argonia, Humboldt, Colony, Independence, Kingman, Burlington, Ottawa, Wichita, Eldorado, Augusta, Belle Plaine, Osage City and Winfield, shall be 95 per cent of the sum of the locals. To and from Pleasanton, Garrett, Iola, Chanute, Cherryvale, Coffeyville, Paola, Neosha, Eureka, Elk City and Severy shall be 90 per cent of the locals. To and from Columbus, Hallowell, Fredonia and Parsons shall be 85 per cent of the sum of the locals. To and from Pittsburg, Walnut, Galena, Fort Scott, Cherokee and Girard shall be 80 per cent of the locals.

PITTSBURG, Dec. 6 (*Special*).—The stockholders of the Pittsburg and Connellsville Railroad, the Pittsburg division of the Baltimore and Ohio, held their annual meeting in this city to-day. The reports were flattering. The earnings for the year ending on September 30 were $2,430,885 19. The working expenses for the same period were $1,587,664 21. The net earnings were $842,420 98. The earnings were $430,124 97 more than those of the previous year and the expenses increased $361,123 53, showing a net increase compared with the preceding year of $69,001 24. John W. Chalfant and William Metcalf were elected directors to fill vacancies in the Board. These were the only changes in the directory.

THROUGH NEW-YORK STATE.

ENDING HIS LIFE WITH VIRULENT POISON.

BUFFALO, Dec. 6 (*special*).—Hamilton Best Dickson ended his life at his mother's home in Delaware-ave. at noon to-day. He had been on a spree for nearly a month. This morning he returned home, and after a stormy interview with his mother entered the dining-room, and pouring the contents of a two-drachm phial of cyanide of potassium into a glass of sherry, drained the glass. He died in five minutes. Mrs. Dickson had driven downtown to do some shopping. When she returned she was completely prostrated and is in a dangerous condition now. Dickson was only twenty years old. Just a year ago to-day he was privately married to Miss Ida Stiles, much to the chagrin of his mother and his relatives. After a few weeks he left his wife. She brought suit against her mother-in-law for $20,000 damages, alleging that she had alienated the husband's affections. Best was told to behave himself and try to get a divorce, and for some time he kept quiet and was an attentive student at the Buffalo Medical College. His old inclinations for drinking soon returned and he purchased the poison, which he carried in his pocket for a week. Meanwhile his mother had arranged a settlement with her daughter-in-law and the separation papers were to be signed to-morrow, and the bride was to receive a handsome sum. He was the grandson of Hamilton Best, a veteran detective in the employ of the American Express Company, who is reputed to be worth $1,000,000.

PLUNGED INTO THE ICY SUSQUEHANNA.

BINGHAMTON, Dec. 6 (*special*).—At 3 p. m. to-day a portion of the old covered bridge fell twenty feet into the Susquehanna River. Workmen were engaged in taking it down at the time and two men, Theodore Earle, a contractor, and James Leary, a workman, went down with the great mass of timbers. The water was about ten feet deep, and Earle, by diving and struggling along the gravelly bottom, escaped with few bruises. Leary, age thirty, was probably fatally injured, his head being cut, one leg being broken, the other knee crushed, besides internal injuries.

INCREASED STRENGTH FOR THE TELEPHONE.

GALVESTON, Dec. 6.—What is regarded here as an important test of a newly invented telephone was made yesterday, and it proved a great success. The instrument is known as the Barriett-Nelms telephone, the invention of G. L. Barriett and W. W. Nelms, both young men residents of Houston. The test consisted in talking over a wire 830 miles long, that being the distance to New-Orleans and return.

OPENING OF CONGRESS.

DIGNIFIED GREETINGS IN THE SENATE.

MR. BLAIR'S BASKET OF FLOWERS—THE NEW SENATOR FROM CALIFORNIA—LISTENING TO THE MESSAGE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—The second session of the XLIXth Congress opened to-day amid scenes similar to those which marked its opening session a year ago. Once more the Capitol became the centre toward which the crowds on Pennsylvania-ave. wended their way at an early hour in the morning. Again every conveyance was put in requisition to carry sight-seers to the Senate and House. Again the bobtail cars and tumble-down Herdics were taxed to their utmost capacity, and cabmen smiled in anticipation of the coming harvest. Again it was the scramble and hurry to obtain a seat in the galleries which is characteristic of such occasions. Again crowds of people were turned away from the doors unable to obtain admission. Again it was the greeting of friends and foes. Again the smile of recognition between acquaintances who had not seen each other since August last. In a word it was a repetition of all the familiar scenes which are witnessed at every first day of the meeting of Congress. The day opened with lowering skies and a damp chill in the atmosphere. Before noon every chance of the sun extending its greeting to Congress had disappeared. When promptly at 12 o'clock the flags over Senate and House were unfurled, their folds beat lazily in a drenching moisture of sleet and snow. A more unpropitious opening day could not have been imagined. Inside the Capitol, on the other hand, it looked cheerful by contrast. Bright fires kindled in the committee rooms, a genial warmth pervaded the Senate Chamber and Hall of Representatives, and the morning groups of strangers and sight seers in the corridors imparted animation to the scene the effect of which, even the surely weather outside could not destroy. The floor of the Senate an hour before noon looked deserted save from the presence, here and there, of a page or door keeper putting a document on the desk of a Senator or depositing a basket of flowers upon that of some favorite. But as the hour wore on Senator after Senator came strolling in, and when President pro tempore Sherman at the stroke of 12 rapped for order, not less than forty-nine Senators—an unusually large number—were present. Many were the cordial greetings and shakes of the hand during this preliminary hour; many the inquiries after absent friends and old acquaintances. Senator Sherman looked in excellent health and spirits. He has not aged perceptibly since the day when he last declared the Senate adjourned. Mr. Edmunds, who had come in with ambling gait, sat down at once in front of his desk, and five minutes afterward was immersed, with note-book in hand, in the study of the Revised Statutes. Evarts, active as ever, was gliding from group to group, here dropping a joke, there telling his latest or setting his colleagues a-roaring. Morrill bore his seventy six years as he always does, looking younger than ever, and but for a stoop of the shoulders might have been taken for a youngster of sixty, and not for the oldest man in the Senate—that he really is. Logan, swarthy and erect, defies, as of old, all calculations as to his age. A few gray hairs in his mustache are the only indications of advancing years. His hair is as black as ever. The rollicking, good-humored and shrewd Sawyer has lost some of his avoirdupois; but with his colleague, Spooner, hard work seems to agree for he is heavier by ten pounds than when he was last in Washington. Blair, with multifarious schemes for the benefit of human kind, looks thoughtful and sleepy; upon his desk admirers have placed a basket of flowers with the following inscription:

Greetings from the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union. Two hundred thousand loyal Christian women delight to honor the Nation's advocate of education and prohibition. Happy were our firesides if all our law-makers were as true to God and home and native land.

For a moment he looks happy and then he relapses in a brown study again. Mitchell, of Pennsylvania, whose sickness prevented him from being here last winter, sits once more in his accustomed seat, an invalid yet, but determined to do some hard work this winter. Morgan is back again after months of absence caused by domestic affliction. Van Wyck, lively and combative, is ready for the fray, but not half so lively or combative as he would be were the question of his election decided. Warner, the special committee to investigate the Canadian fisheries question has bronzed Frye and no doubt added to his already large stock of information on that subject. Ransom looks a trifle disturbed, but his cuffs are the same immaculate ones he has charged the galleries with for the last twelve years. Vance, his colleague, waddles into the chamber as if he had added ten per cent to his weight in the last six months, but looks as determined as ever when the subject of Civil Service Reform is mentioned in his presence. Payne has aged considerably and his hearing appears more imperfect than of yore. Beck and Blackburn still look and talk like sons of Anak, the one against the pestiferous "gold bugs" of the East, the other against the Civil Service reforming man-mininers of New-England. Allison is the picture of health. Ingalls has the air of a man who is sparing for a political campaign. Hoar looks as if there was plenty of grit in him yet. Stanford, the millionair sits modestly in the background reading the newspapers. Voorhees affects the air of mystery, and Call acts as if he had been sitting late nights of late. The only conspicuous absentee is Jones of Detroit, late of Florida.

The formal proceedings opening the second session of the XLIXth Congress—prayer, adoption of a resolution for the daily hour of meeting, the appointment of committees to inform the President, and resolution notifying the House that the Senate is ready to proceed to business—are soon over. The credentials of the new Senator from California, Mr Williams, are presented, leaning on the arm of Governor Stanford, his colleague, he steps to the Vice-President's desk to take the oath. He is stout, but compactly built. His age is in the neighborhood of fifty-five. His features are small and lack character. His complexion gives him a sickly look, which is heightened by a straggling beard of sandy hue, streaked here and there with gray. His head is bald, and reveals a square but well-developed cranium. Altogether he makes the impression upon one of a mild and inoffensive, but thoroughly worthy business man. He signs the oath with a firm hand and then slopes down.

Immediately a flood of petitions, bills and measures are introduced, Senators tumbling over each other, figuratively speaking, in their efforts to get them in. This goes on for about fifteen minutes without protest, when Edmunds rises and draws attention to the undignified proceeding; undignified in that it is quite against precedent. Such business is never done until after the President's Message has been read. At Mr. Edmunds's suggestion a recess is taken until 2 o'clock to allow the proper committees to wait upon the President. At that hour this formality is completed, with the Message has been received, and Secretary McCook at once proceeds without further ceremony to the reading of the document. An unusually large number of Senators remain in their seats to listen to the reading. The tickish passage regarding the tariff once passed interest relaxes. One by one senators leave the chamber; some fall asleep, others fall to writing letters; here a group is conversing in an undertone, there another discusses in excited whispers—and you may depend that Beck is among them—the President's unchanged views regarding the silver question. But all things come to an end, and even one of Mr. Cleveland's annual Messages is no exception. There is shuffling of feet, clearing of throats and signs of relief, as in church when the pastor has finished his sermon, as soon as General McCook's voice is heard no more.

In a few suitable words Mr. Blair announces the death of his former friend and colleague, Mr. Pike, and out of respect to his memory the Senate immediately adjourns. Five minutes later the chamber is deserted, the galleries are cleared and the first day of the second session of the XLIXth Congress is a thing of the past.

SCENES AND INCIDENTS IN THE HOUSE.

RUEFUL FACES AND ACHING HEARTS AMONG THE DEMOCRATS—HAPPY REPUBLICANS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—Congressmen were up betimes this morning, and at 10 o'clock there was a fair sprinkling of members in the Representatives' Hall. Allen, of Mississippi, a witty Democrat who is popular with everybody, saunters up to a group of Republicans and begins to tell how he felt when the report came that Carlisle, Morrison, Holman and Hurd had all been defeated. "I felt as though the weight of responsibility thus thrust upon me was greater than I could bear"—he says. The ex-Minister to Turkey enters among the earliest comers. There is nothing Oriental in his appearance unless it be the broad, generous, happy smile that illuminates his countenance. As he casts a wishful glance toward his old seat, now occupied by genial Sayres, of Texas, the latter walks up, introduces himself, and gracefully tenders the seat, which Cox promptly accepts and is at once as happy as a cat when he finds himself in his own old familiar garret. Cox is glad to see anybody; and everybody, except a few envious Democrats, is glad to see him. The Mayor-elect of New-York enters brisk, busy and cheery; everybody says he never saw him looking so well and Mr. Hewitt replies:

"I am well. I took Henry George and I can vouch that he is a sovereign remedy for insomnia. 'Progress and Poverty' is the thing. The newspapers—ah! henceforth I mean to be on good terms with them. If I am not in a state of 'innocuous desuetude' I shall take care not to give the newspaper men an opportunity to indulge in 'ghoulish glee' at my expense."

Here comes the handsome Hiscock from the room of the Ways and Means Committee where he has been to tender his sympathy to Morrison. Reed is here, too, with his innocent face and expression, looking milder and happier than ever. There are many inquiries for Burleigh, but nobody knows what has become of him. When the roll of New-York is called, he, Perry Belmont, Merriman and Mollard are the only men who fail to respond. Merriman is on hand however. Here sits Haynes, of New-Hampshire, who thinks that Secretary Whitney's declaration that politics have been banished from the Navy yards is the humorous saying of the decade. "Six hundred" is the number of Democratic voters employed in the Portsmouth Navy Yard just before election and their votes were all "turned in for the Democratic candidates," is Haynes's explanation of his defeat. "Too much attention to a United States Senatorship" is one of the causes assigned for his defeat by John R. Buck, of the Hartford District. This tall man with gold-rimmed spectacles and white hair, who sits beside General Osborne, Pennsylvania's brainy Congressman-at-Large, is General John Patton, who carried ex-Governor Curtin's district, which is Democratic. "I ran for the rubber," says General Patton. "I was elected in 1860, defeated in 1884, and elected this year."

The hour of 11 o'clock has arrived and "floral tributes" begin to bloom on the desks of fortunate members. This horseshoe belongs to the good-looking Wilson, of West Virginia, a member of the Appropriations Committee, who has charge of the District Appropriation bill. The use of the word "gratitude" as a motto in this case seems to be appropriate. Fifteen or twenty Representatives are the recipients of these floral emblems, among which the horseshoe is conspicuous only on the desks of members who were re-elected. An absurd report is started that the beautiful horseshoe which adorns the desk of Delegate Caine, of Utah, bears the card of Kate Field. Campbell, of Ohio, who squeezed in by a majority of 2, has a truly appropriate emblem made of two flowers. Here comes the jolly John Anderson, of Kansas, whose greetings and explosions of mirth are heard above all the hubbub. He is happy, and he has cause to be, for he ran as an independent, and received four or five times as many votes as the "regular" candidate. Here comes Knute Nelson, the stout and sturdy Norwegian member from Northern Minnesota, who went a-fishing a few weeks ago and was caught and pulled overboard and nearly drowned by a big Minnesota pickerel. He is kept busy explaining how it happened. "Dick" Townshend has captured the seat immediately in front of the Speaker, from which Lewis Beach uttered so many times the fatal "I object." Townshend desires to wear the mantle of Morrison in the next House, but there probably is no truth in the rumor that he means surreptitiously to try it on before the end of this session. There seems to be imminent danger of a deadly rivalry between "Dick" and his eminent colleague "Ludwig Der Springer," who is coming down the aisle wearing his blandest smile and a fresh boutonniere. Yes, the small man with gray hair and beard and erect carriage, who has just entered is Bragg, of Wisconsin, who used to "love Cleveland for the enemies he has made," and who now hates Vilas for the friends he has tried to make. Bragg looks across the hall and his eye falls on Gunther, his Republican successor. The blond Prussian-American, who is the only man who ever represented two districts in Congress at the same time, so to speak, wears his honors with becoming modesty. Yes, this is "Jack" Adams, of New-York, one of the most popular of men. Do you believe it is true that "Jack" said that he would walk all the way to the next Democratic Convention, if necessary, in order to help defeat Cleveland?

The clock is on the stroke of 12; the galleries are packed with visitors; the Sergeant-at-Arms comes in bearing the mace with its eagle which is sadly in need of a