The Sun.

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TORNADOES IN SIX STATES.

THOUSANDS OF HOUSES DESTROYED AND HUNDREDS OF LIVES LOST.

One Village Entirely Swept Away and 23 Persons Killed—Other Villages Wholly or Partly Destroyed—The Storm Spreading Out Like a Fan and Causing Death and Destruction in Every Direction it Took.

ATLANTA, Feb. 20.—One million dollars' worth of property, 5,000 houses, and 300 to 400 lives are the forfeit paid to the terrible storm of yesterday. Forming in the valley of the Chattahoochee, it spread into a fan shape in Columbus, one arm running into Alabama, until interrupted by the Red Mountains, thence across to Cave Springs, Rome, and Canton, and, deflecting a little southerly, to Athens, it demolished property in Banks, Jackson, and Madison counties. Another arm shot through Carrol and Chattahoochee counties, killing many people, and another arm crossing the State from Columbus to Columbia, passing through the town of Ninety-six, S. C., and thence to the ocean. From all three arms many smaller tornadoes formed, which ran up the vallers, carrying with them death and desolation. Oxmore lost ten to fifteen lives. Six persons were killed at Leeds. In Rome and its vicinity the calamity was distressing. The storm began at about 1¾ o'clock, and continued at intervals until Broad street, for several squares, was completely flooded. Signs and awnings flew in all directions. The rainfall was tremendous, and there was a heavy fall of hail. In East Rome the frame residence of W. S. Crane was completely demolished, and about 1,000 residences were destroyed in the county. The barn of J. H. Dowdle was entirely destroyed. A number of small frame houses in the upper portion of the city were demolished. Advices received from Cave Spring report a great loss of life. Mr. Gilliard and his son were killed by falling beams. Two negroes were also killed. Mrs. Hoke was seriously injured. The family of Mr. Ford were all seriously hurt, and several will die. On the line of the East Tennessee Railroad below Cave Spring great loss of life is also reported. Everywhere fences, barns, and outhouses were demolished.

In Cherokee and Jasper counties, far removed from communication, the disaster was frightful. Within a space of two miles twenty-two persons were killed and twenty-five wounded, many of whom will die.

Seven miles above Canton, a school has been dismissed on account of the threatening aspect of the weather. Some of the children on their way home stopped in a house to escape the rain.

While there the storm struck the house, blowing it down and killing ten children and wounding a number of others.

MACON, Ga., Feb. 20.—This city was visited yesterday afternoon and last night by a tremendous storm. The city this morning is full of rumors of death and destruction in the surrounding counties. A despatch from Atlanta reported fifty killed north of this city. The Central Railroad round house in Columbus was destroyed and several persons were killed and wounded. Hailstones fell in Indian Springs three inches long and one and a half thick. The house of W. A. Miller at Blountville, Jones county, was blown to atoms, and his wife and three children were killed. The baby was blown away, and has not yet been found. Six negroes were killed on the same plantation.

The wife of Doctor Bullard heard the tornado coming, and remembering that the corner of the house next the storm was the safest, crouched there with her babies and two little negroes. The house was swept away, except a few timbers of the corner behind which these persons were crouched, and they were saved.

The store of Jerry Smith, five miles from Clinton, Jones county, was blown away, and one Finney, who was in it, was fatally injured. The storm came west by east, following generally the old tornadoes' tracks, differing from the others in breaking up into several independent storm centres.

AUGUSTA, Ga., Feb. 20.—A heavy rain and hail storm, the severest known since the tornado of 1875, struck this city at 9 o'clock last night and extended all over the adjacent country. In Carnak, Warren county, the houses of Stephen Kinsey, Miss Gunn, and Mr. Avery were blown down, and Mr. Avery's child was killed.

In Hancock county the storm struck at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, overturning outhouses and unroofing houses.

The plantation of George Granade in McDuffie county was ruined, the houses being demolished and the timber carried off. On the plantation of Jes. Reese a negro was killed, and Mrs. M. Wade, wife of the overseer, was seriously injured. Great damage was done to property.

At Ninety-six, S. C., a house was blown down and a child killed. The residence of W. H. Slattworth, near Phœnix, Edgefield county, S. C., was blown down. The ruins caught fire, and Mr. Slattworth's daughter was burned to death.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., Feb. 20.—A destructive tornado visited this part of the county on Monday night, destroying property and causing death in all directions. The most terrible destruction was at a settlement called Philadelphia, two miles from Rockingham, on the Carolina Central Railroad. The settlement contained about twenty-five houses. Every one of them was razed to the ground. Yesterday morning a party of men began a search of the ruins for bodies, and within a short time eleven had been secured, three white and eight colored men. One white man, John Dalkin, was found with a piece of splintered timber as large as a man's leg through his abdomen. All the bodies were badly mutilated. The bodies were placed in a wagon and carried to Rockingham, and the wagon returned to the scene for more bodies, as it was known that others were in the ruins. The wagon had not returned with its second load when the train left this evening, and, the telegraph wires being down, further particulars cannot be obtained.

At Pioneer Mills, in Cabarrus county, six houses were blown down, and a colored woman whose name is unknown was killed. In Woodward, on the Charlotte, Columbia and Augusta Railroad, a negro man and his wife were killed. In Winnsboro three negroes and an aged white lady named Mrs. Sterling were killed. Mrs. Stegl's son and daughter were blown from a house and lodged in a tree. In Polkton, N. C., the wife of Mr. T. M. Gray, a prominent citizen, was killed by a falling house. In Concord two brick residences were partly demolished, but the inmates miraculously escaped.

A storm accompanied by hail struck Chester, S. C., fifty miles south of here, last night. The roofs of the bank and many stores were torn off. The Catawba Oil Mill, the Baptist and Presbyterian churches, and many private dwellings were wholly or partially destroyed. Freight cars were blown from the tracks to the depot platform. The damage is $50,000.

WILMINGTON, N. C., Feb. 20.—Last night a tornado passed through portions of Union, Harnett, Moore, Richmond, and Anson counties, causing loss of life and great destruction to property. It struck Polkton, on the Carolina Central Railroad, at about 8½ P. M., destroying houses and levelling trees and fences. A small village on the outskirts of the town of Rockingham, Richmond county, was totally demolished, fifteen houses being wrecked, twenty-three persons killed, and many others wounded. Several colored people were killed on the Peedee River, near Rockingham. Six persons are reported killed near Lillington, in Harnett county. The tornado passed in an easterly course. It was accompanied by hail, the stones measuring two inches in diameter. At Rose's Station, in Edgecomb county, on the line of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad, on the same night, another tornado destroyed buildings, including a church, and two children were killed. In Smithville, and all along the coast a heavy gale prevailed, but no disasters are reported.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Feb. 20.—A terribly destructive tornado swept through the Cahawba valley, in the eastern part of this county, yesterday at noon. At Leads, twelve miles from here, on the Georgia Pacific Railroad, the tornado swept along the section house of the road, killing Jeff Ford, Dan Cloud, and Bert Keith, negroes, and seriously injuring an aged white couple named Bass, living near. Three miles south of Leeds the house of John Poole was blown away, and a son of 17, a daughter of 5, and a child of a negro tenant of the place were instantly killed. Poole, his wife, and four other children were all badly injured. The residence and outbuildings of Dr. W. F. Wright, a railroad contractor, were completely demolished. The body of Mrs. J. S. Wright, Dr. Wright's mother, was found a hundred yards from the house, fearfully mangled, and with skull crushed. Annie, aged 20; Jennie, 16; Thomas, 18; James, 14; and Edward, 12, all children of Dr. Wright, were badly injured, having their arms or legs broken. Harriet McCrew, cook for the Wright family, was killed, half of her head being taken off. Of twenty-four carts, two wagons, and three horses on the place, nothing remains but the carcass of one horse. The house occupied by M. McLaughlin was blown away, and he was badly hurt. J. P. Landrum, wife, and daughter all had legs broken. The house of a man named Kerr took fire, and was burned. Mrs. Kerr was fatally injured. The railroad for several hundred yards is thickly strewn with the débris of the tornado, delaying trains.

John Poole, one of the Leeds victims, is dead. He was injured last night. William Wesson, 14 years old, living near Kerr's Gap, was struck by a flying limb of a tree and instantly killed. George Davis, a boy on the Poole place, was killed at the latter's house. Miles of forest in the Cahawba valley was levelled and desolated by the storm. The bodies of strange cows were found around Leeds, which no one living there could identify. In many places the ground was cleared of stone as though it had been carefully swept and the stones removed. Stumps of trees bear marks of flying rocks and stones. Nothing indicates where Dr. Wright's residence and outhouses stood save the places where the foundation and chimneys stood.

COLUMBUS, Miss., Feb. 20.—A severe tornado passed through the lower portion of this county yesterday, doing great damage to gin houses and dwellings. On some plantations not a single house was left standing. It is reported that one life was lost.

FRANKLIN, Ky., Feb. 20.—This town was visited by a tornado yesterday afternoon. A large tobacco factory, owned by New York men, was blown down. The Boiceau Hotel, the Opera House, and other buildings were unroofed.

LOUISVILLE, Feb. 20.—The storm last night was fearful in its effect upon flooded property. The towboat John A. Woods lost three boats of coal, and Cook & Hoffman one barge of coal. All the barges and boats are leaking some. The weather to-day is clear and cool.

NASHVILLE, Feb. 20.—Clarksville, Tenn., was visited yesterday by two destructive tornadoes, about two hours apart. They swept through the central part of the city, levelling many houses and doing serious damage to hundreds of buildings. Two churches were nearly blown down, two towers were taken off the Court House, one end was blown out of the Franklin Hotel, and much other destruction was done. Many persons were seriously injured in falling houses, but no one was killed outright. The roof of the *Chronicle* office, rafters and all, was lifted up, carried over Elder's Opera House, and driven through another house two blocks beyond. Every telephone and telegraph wire was prostrated, and trains delayed.

CAIRO, Feb. 20.—The storm last evening did no damage here, although the velocity of the wind at one time was sixty miles an hour. At Metropolis it blew down about forty houses, including one church. Several persons were injured. Capt. J. C. Willis had a leg broken. At Paducah the tobacco warehouses of Buckner & Co. and Chess, Carley & Co.'s oil warehouse were destroyed.

EVANSVILLE, Ind., Feb. 20.—A gale sprang up yesterday afternoon, and blew almost a hurricane from the northwest. The weather is growing very cold, and a snow storm prevails, with no signs of the wind abating.

The river is strewn with wrecks of houses swept away by last night's gale. One of the relief boats sent below to render such assistance as is possible in rescuing people and relieving distress returned this afternoon. She reports terrible scenes of desolation, but no loss of life, as far as could be ascertained. It is estimated that within fifteen miles of Evansville fifty or more houses have been washed away. The town of Fairplay, consisting of fifteen houses, was entirely swept away. Many persons were taken from trees and hills, some badly frozen and all greatly exhausted, and brought here for treatment.

DUBUQUE, Minn., Feb. 20.—The severest storm of the season occurred here yesterday morning. The wind blew at the rate of from thirty to forty miles an hour.

FROM THE LENA DELTA.

The Bodies of De Long and his Men Reach New York 27 Months After their Death.

The steamship Frisia, bearing the bodies of Lieutenant-Commander George W. De Long and his comrades of the Jeannette, was sighted off Fire Island about 10 o'clock yesterday morning. The tug Nina at once left the NavyYard with Commodore Upshur, Lieut. Danenhower, Lieut. Ward, Chief Engineer Melville, and other naval officers, and met the Frisia below Quarantine. The party boarded her and gave a warm welcome to Lieuts. Harber and Scheutze, who had brought the dead 8,051 miles from the mouth of the Lena.

The Frisia reached her pier in Hoboken at 4 P. M. Her flags were at half mast, and so were the flags on the shipping and ferries. The cases containing the bodies were on the promenade deck aft, and were not covered by anything. Six cases were in the centre of the deck, and two were on each side. On the starboard side were De Long and Dr. Ambler, and on the port side were Jerome J. Collins and Walter Lee. Those in the centre were G. W. Boyd, H. H. Kunack, C. A. Gortz, A. Dressler, N. Worsen, and Ah Sam.

The cases were of stout slats, and contained boxes covered with felt and tied up in burlaps. Inside the boxes were the metal caskets, imbedded in cork shavings. It was at first intended to open some of the caskets, but Lieut. Scheutze said the bodies were not in condition to be seen, and this idea was abandoned. Mr. Collins's two brothers, a brother of Dr. Ambler, and Mrs. De Long saw the cases on the steamer.

After the bodies were taken to Yakutsk they were buried deep in the frozen earth and kept there until last October. They were then disinterred and wrapped in linen, sewed up in felt, and put in temporary caskets made of tin. At Orenberg they were transferred to the bronze caskets.

To-morrow morning the bodies will be placed on a revenue cutter and taken to Pier 1, North River, where they will be officially received by Commodore Upshur and the naval and military escort. Each body will have a separate hearse. The procession will start soon after 11 o'clock, and its route from the Battery will be up Broadway to City Hall Park, across to Brooklyn Bridge, over the bridge to Sands, Washington, and Nassau streets and Flushing avenue to the east gate of the Navy Yard, where the bodies will be left. They will lie in state on the catafalque in the equipment building until the funeral on Saturday.

The New Adirondack Bill.

ALBANY, Feb. 20.—A final hearing was had on the various bills for the preservation of the Adirondack forest lands this afternoon, and a new bill was constructed from what are known as the Chamber of Commerce bill, the Lansing bill, and the O'Neil bill, the last being the one presented in the House yesterday as a report from the Game Law Committee, and which was sent back to the Public Lands Committee by the House this morning.

The new bill combines the important features of both the Lansing and Chamber of Commerce bills, and provides for the appointment of one Commissioner by the Governor, to be confirmed by the Senate, who shall have entire charge of the State lands in the Adirondack region, which shall be known as the Adirondack State Reservation. The $500,000 appropriation asked for by the Chamber of Commerce bill has been stricken out. The bill provides for foresters to protect the land, and numerous other safeguards are thrown around the forest.

Disastrous Floods in Southern California.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 20.—Despatches received last night from Los Angeles say that a dam on the Los Angeles River broke on Sunday night, producing the most disastrous flood ever experienced. The lower part of the city was completely inundated, and forty buildings were swept away. Hundreds of families were obliged to abandon their homes and seek shelter on the hills. The loss amounts to $150,000. From Los Angeles to Mojave, a distance of 100 miles, hardly a mile of the Southern Pacific track remains in place, and east to San Gorgonio, 80 miles, the devastation is equally great. The California Southern road from Colton to San Diego is also washed out. Travel in all directions is suspended. It will probably be two months before communication can be properly established. Reports received from towns in the southern portion of the San Joaquin Valley announce the heaviest floods ever known.

A Deadlock Broken.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 20.—The deadlock in the City Council, growing out of the efforts made by the Democratic Ring managers to pass an ordinance abolishing the office of Fire Marshal and appointing a paid Commissioner, was broken to-night. The eight reform members remained away, and of the twelve regulars eleven were present, President Burton being sick. After discussion a resolution was adopted declaring a majority of the members instead of two-thirds a quorum, and the ordinance was rushed through.

It has yet to pass the second branch, which will be done to-morrow. The legality of the action of to-night will be questioned in the courts by Fire Marshal Helskell. The latter was the recent reform candidate for Mayor at the late election, and was defeated. His opposition to the Ring in that fight resulted in the action to oust Helskell, the fight having been long and bitter.

A Question of a State's Powers.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—The House Committee on Elections in the Kansas contested election case of Wood against Peters, decided, by a vote of 11 to 1, to report in favor of the right of Mr. Peters, the sitting member, to his seat. It was claimed by the contestant that Peters was ineligible, by reason of his holding a judicial office under the State of Kansas at the time of the election, a provision of the state Constitution prohibiting such officer from holding other public office at the same time. The committee hold that the State has no right to impose an disqualification in addition to those imposed by the Constitution of the United States.

Fall of a Wire Bridge.

LEECHBURG, Pa., Feb. 20.—The wire bridge spanning the Kickiminitas River at Apollo parted the wire cables yesterday, immediately over the pier in the middle of the river, and went down with a crash. Wm. Henderson and two horses were crossing with a load of sheet iron at the time and were thrown into the river. Henderson escaped with a cold bath, but Yorkins and the two horses were drowned.

Large Sugar Syndicate.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 20.—It was stated yesterday that a syndicate of prominent Eastern and California capitalists, backed by a wealthy German house, have secured 100,000 acres of Sandwich Islands lands for their crop. They intend building an immense sugar refinery in the city, in competition with Claus Spreckels.

TERRIBLE MINE EXPLOSION.

NINETEEN MEN KILLED IN A COLLIERY IN PENNSYLVANIA.

A Terrific Explosion of Fire Damp which Shook the Ground Many Hundred Feet Above—One Man Miraculously Escapes from the Very Heart of the Mine.

UNIONTOWN, Feb. 20.—The little village of West Leisenring, four miles north of here, was this morning the scene of the most terrific explosion ever known in this region. The Connellsville Coal and Iron Company, of which Judge Leisenring of Mauch Chunk is President, has 200 coke ovens here, which have been in operation since about a year. The works give employment to about 100 men, and quite a little town has sprung up, named after the President of the company. The coal is obtained by means of a shaft, which reaches the mine at a distance of 400 feet from the surface. This morning a part of the force, who had worked during the night, left the mine at a little after 3 o'clock, and seventy others took their places, making the usual morning shift. At about 6¼ o'clock, while the men were digging, suddenly, and without warning, an explosion occurred that shook the mine in every apartment and threw the men into the utmost consternation.

The scene of the explosion was in an apartment fully 800 feet from the bottom of the shaft, and therefore about 1,200 feet from the opening at the surface, yet the report was heard outside for a considerable distance, and the concussion was so great that the top of the derrick, 100 feet high, was knocked off. Two mules were standing at the bottom of the shaft, 800 feet from where the explosion occurred, and the rush of air was so great that one of them was blown through a wooden cage, shattering it. The other mule died from suffocation.

The scene that ensued among the terror-stricken miners cannot be described. All their lamps were blown out, and they were left in darkness and confusion. They had not time to recover from the shock before they found themselves unable to breathe. The explosion, which was caused by fire damp, left the mine filled with after damp, which contains no oxygen, and renders it impossible for life to be sustained for any time. This afterdamp is densest in the upper part of mines, and the men, therefore, congregated near the bottom. But even here they did not long find relief. Of all the men who were in the heading where the explosion occurred, Dick Baisley alone escaped. When the explosion came and all the lights were blown out, Baisley was just changing his clothes. He at once wound some of his clothes tightly around his face and mouth to keep the foul air from choking him, and gave the rest of his garments to his companion, with instructions to take the same precautions. He then started for the main entrance, bidding his companion to follow. They ran over the bodies of men and over shattered wagons. They could see nothing, but could hear the groans of dying men. Presently Baisley's companion protested that they were not going in the right direction, and turned back and perished. Baisley pushed on until he finally saw light, and was taken out. His escape is regarded by experienced miners as one of the most marvellous on record. He says that some of the men kept their heads under water as long as they could, and would change from water to afterdamp, until finally they succumbed.

When the news of the explosion spread, the families of the miners gathered about the shaft and awaited developments in breathless suspense. Baisley's story gave them little ground for hope that any of them could be got out alive. So dangerous was the afterdamp that it was fully two hours before any volunteers could enter the mines. Many were on hand ready to make a search, but were unable to do so until all hope of recovering the men had fled.

It was about 8 o'clock when the first body was brought out. It was that of Michael Ripko, a Hungarian, whose wife and two little children were wailing and weeping at the shaft. His face bore no marks of violence, and he had evidently died of suffocation. The work of rescuing the bodies then went on rapidly, it being done by willing volunteers, and all men who had relatives in the mines been carried out of the shaft. The company's books were then examined and the roll called. It was found that all the men were accounted for. The work proceeded with quietness and order, amid the sobs and wringing of hands of the grief-stricken families. The bodies were taken to their homes near by. Coroner Batton of this place, with many citizens, went from here, and the inquest was begun at 8½ o'clock. No testimony was taken except that which was necessary to identify the dead. The list of the dead is as follows:

Michael Heffern, Irishman, aged 32, burned face, leaves wife and six children.

John Buckley, Irishman, aged 32, unmarried, no visible injury.

Patrick Kennedy, Irishman, aged 20, burned face, unmarried, only child of a widow.

James Tracy, an Irishman, aged 45, single, badly burned about face; no relatives.

James Baker, an Irishman, aged 34, terribly burned about face; leaves a widow and two children.

William Davis, a Welshman, aged 25, single; no marks on body.

David Lloyd, a Welshman, aged 22, single, burned about head and face.

Thomas McGinnis, an Irishman, aged 35, badly burned, leaves wife and three children in Cumberland county, England.

John Hart, an American, aged 25, single, no marks on body.

Michael Ripko, a Hungarian, aged 35, leaves a widow and two children.

George Collis, a Hungarian, aged 25, leaves a widow in Hungary.

Daniel Buckner, colored, leaves a widow and two children.

John Murray, an Irishman, aged 34, came to America in May last; wife came in August with one child.

Peter Waters, an Irishman, aged 40, single.

William Searing, an American, aged 35; leaves wife and four children.

Joe Bakos, a Hungarian, aged 28, leaves a wife.

Andy Warnuk, a German, aged 30, single; sent his wages to his mother in Germany every month.

Alban N. Hackner of this county, aged 35; leaves a wife and child.

Gorey E. May; nothing known about him, except that he was from Maryland.

Most of them died of suffocation. Their faces were generally very black, the smoke and dust having been blown into their skins. The last man taken out alive was Henry Wilson. He managed to subsist on air at the very bottom of the mine until rescued. He was almost dead. Many of those who were in other parts of the mine suffered severely.

Dick Baisley reports that the men acted like horses in a burning stable. They were bewildered, and, not knowing which way to run, refused to go in any direction. Some of them were terribly burned.

The scenes at the homes of the dead men tonight are heartrendering. In the house of the Hungarian, Ripko, is perhaps the saddest sight. This family seem to have advanced far beyond their average countrymen, and their home was cheerful and attractive. The dead husband and father lies upon the bed. His weeping wife sits at his head kissing and caressing him, while his two little children stand by and call his name. The party who went out from here were greatly affected at this scene as they watched the inquest, and they took up a collection for the widow and children.

Coroner Button adjourned the inquest until Saturday morning.

The company will bear all the expenses of the funerals, which will take place to-morrow and next day.

The accumulation of so much gas in this mine as to cause such an explosion is a matter of great surprise. No accident had ever before occurred there, and it was regarded as a very safe mine. The fire boss, with a lamp, made the usual examination last night, and pronounced the mine all right.

Men had left other mines that were regarded as unsafe, and had gone to work there because there was no fear of accident felt. The disaster has cast a gloom over the community.

Jailer Merrick Indicted for Murder.

CARMEL, N. Y., Feb. 20.—Ex-Jailer Chester W. Merrick was arraigned in court to-day on an indictment charging him with murder in the second degree for the killing of James Byrnes, a prisoner, on the evening of Nov. 2. He pleaded "not guilty," and was remanded for trial. Merrick was then the officer of jailer at the time of the murder. He was intoxicated and was fighting with some of his prisoners. Some of the citizens interfered, got him out of the jail, locked the doors, and kept the keys. Merrick, after repeated attempts to break the lock, got his revolver and fired through the bars of the outer door. One ball struck Byrnes in the left breast, passing between his ribs and through the left lung. He died on Nov. 18. The Coroner's jury found "that the immediate cause of death was exhaustion arising from pleurisy in the right lung."

$8,000 for the Loss of a Leg.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 20.—In the suit of James Gallagher, aged 12 years, against a passenger railway company of this city, to recover damages for the loss of a leg, the jury to-day rendered a verdict in favor of the plaintiff for $8,000. Gallagher, in 1881, by a sudden jolt of the car, was thrown from the platform into the street, and the wheels passed over his leg, necessitating an amputation at the knee.

Mathew Arnold Offending his Friends.

MONTREAL, Feb. 20.—Matthew Arnold was entertained at lunch to-day at the Windsor Hotel. Replying to a toast to his health he gave offence to French Canadians and others by dissecting as narrow and liberal, the doctrines of certain churches, especially mentioning the Roman Catholic church.

WORMWOOD FOR TWO MILES.

Alderman Duffy Caught Between Two Reformers and the Side of a Car.

At Alderman Michael Duffy's headquarters in Duffyville last evening the talk ran on the news of the day till the Alderman, dropping into a story-telling tone of voice, began thus:

"This morning when I and Paddy here (inclining his head toward his friend, Mr. Patrick Burns,) took the elevated to go down to the City Hall I sat in one of the cross seats next to the window, and Paddy took another cross seat facing me."

Here Mr. Burns interrupted to explain that he was "hard of hearing on the left side," and, if he had taken a seat next to the Alderman conversation would have been impossible.

"At the Fourteenth street station," the Alderman went on, "two gentlemen came in. One was tall, slender, and smooth shaven; the other was shorter, rather thick set, and had a beard. The short man was doing all the talking. He was making gestures with both hands and with his head. They came along, and the tall man sat down with me, while the shorter man dropped down by the side of Paddy."

Mr. Burns drew attention to the fact that this arrangement of persons brought his deaf ear toward the gentleman with whom he shared his seat.

"They were—that is, the shorter man was—" the Alderman continued, "talking about the Roosevelt bill to take away some of the powers of the Aldermen. I was reading my paper, but I couldn't help hearing him. He thought that the bill ought to be passed, but that there should be some sort of an amendment, 'Suppose we don't elect a man of our own,' he said; 'there ought to be some way then to get around him.' 'But there is John Kelly—what shall we do about John Kelly?' I heard him say. He seemed to be in great trouble about John Kelly. The tall man nodded his head occasionally, but seemed to be content to let the other man do the talking."

While he could distinguish with his impaired ear the name of John Kelly, Mr. Burns explained, he did not catch the drift of the conversation.

"Then," the Alderman resumed, "the short man began giving it to the present Board of Aldermen, and didn't he give it to us! Nothing was bad enough for him to say about the Board. He sent heading it on thicker and thicker, and says I to myself, 'I can't stand this much longer.' I got behind my paper, but I had to hear it, and along about Chatham square, when the short man had his head leaned way over toward the other, and was gesturing toward the floor with both hands, I laid down my newspaper and said: 'Excuse me, gentlemen; I'm in a tight place—between two reformers and the side of the car. I'd like to get out. I am an Alderman—Alderman Duffy—and what this gentleman says is not true, so far as it concerns me.' 'Perhaps,' said the short man, 'you are an exception to the rule.' 'No I ain't,' I said; 'I am no better than my colleagues, and if what you say is true of them as a rule, it is also true of me.' The tall man smiled and seemed to enjoy it, but the short man—you should have seen him turn red and—

"He turned purple," put in Mr. Burns with emphasis.

"By that time," the Alderman went on, "we were near the City Hall station, and I said to Paddy: 'Paddy, that tall man is Mr. Evarts, the ex-Secretary of State. Find out who the other man is.'"

Here Mr. Burns took up the story, and said: "I came up to him in the City Hall Park, and says I, 'Boss, don't I know you?' 'My name,' says he, 'is Beers.' 'Av course,' says I, 'and you are President of the Reformers—the Municipal Reformers. I know you, boss.'"

A SUN reporter who was among the listeners to the story as related by the Alderman and his friend called at the residence of Mr. H. N. Beers, President of the Municipal Reform Society, in East Fourteenth street, last evening, to ask him whether his recollection of the incident in the car agreed with that of the gentlemen of Duffyville. Mr. Beers was not at home.

The Hon. William M. Evarts said that he was not aware until Mr. Duffy disclosed his identity that he and Mr. Beers had taken seats where a member of the Board of Aldermen would be compelled to overhear Mr. Beers's strictures upon the Board and any acquiescence which he himself might venture. He certainly could not blame Mr. Duffy for announcing himself. He had, upon the facts as Mr. Duffy said, as amusing, and not as a serious matter.

THE KEIFER-BOYNTON CASE.

The Ex-Speaker is Cross-questioned by the Man whom he Accuses.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—Ex-Speaker Keifer, in his testimony to-day before the House Committee which is investigating the charges against Mr. H. V. Boynton, described the alleged interview about the list of March last, in which he says Boynton made a corrupt proposition to him in regard to the passage of the McGarrahan bill, substantially as he had described it on the floor of the House. He could not fix the exact day by hour of the conversation. Mr. Boynton cross-examined the witness, and asked him if he were sure that there would have been no possibility of the McGarrahan bill being passed by the Senate, even if it had been passed? In the minutes Boynton then suggested that it would have been an extraordinary thing if, with his long experience, he had risked his reputation and committed a felony on the infinitely small chance of getting that bill through.

Guilford White, who was clerk at the Speaker's table when Mr. Keifer was Speaker, testified that he saw Boynton approach Mr. Keifer on the floor at the time and in the manner described by the latter. He quitted the room, leaving them talking. On cross-examination the witness said he was at present acting as clerk to Mr. Keifer without any pay. He was also cross-examined concerning his conversations with Keifer since the alleged interview.

Democrats Preparing for the Campaign.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—At a caucus of Democratic members of the House this afternoon, Messrs. Carlisle, Randall, Morrison, Eaton, Reagan, Barbour, A. S. Hewitt, Thompson, and Cobb were appointed a committee to confer with a committee of the Senate in relation to the organization of a Democratic Campaign Committee, and to report at a caucus next Wednesday. The Chairman of the caucus, Mr. S. S. Cox, was instructed to appoint a committee of six to cooperate with the Sergeant-at-Arms in securing the prompt attendance of members when a call of the House is ordered.

The following resolution was adopted, its object being to prevent a repetition of proceedings similar to those of Monday night: "That it is the sense of this caucus that no Democrat should absent himself from the House without leave."

Atrocities by Montoneros in Peru.

LIMA, Peru, Feb. 20, via Galveston.—Eighty Montoneros occupy the capital of the province of Yanyos. They are committing many atrocities. Several citizens have been assassinated. The Montoneros also occupy Cañete.

The *Nacional* states that Puga has withdrawn his troops from Huancayo and Pasco, and is concentrating them at Trujillo. He has issued an address to the inhabitants of Trujillo and the Province of Libertad proclaiming himself political chief of the northern departments. He denies the report of his defeat at Llollon, saying that the proof of his success is his occupation of Trujillo.

Any Place Good Enough.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—Despatches received here to-night from ex-Senator McDonald of Indiana emphatically contradict the report that he or his friends are taking any part in the contest of cities for the location of the Democratic National Convention. Mr. Watterson said the following despatch received from McDonald to-night: "Neither Mr. McDonald nor his friends attach the slightest importance to the location of the Convention. They are perfectly satisfied to let events take their individual preferences. In the matter of Mr. McDonald's Presidential prospects any place will suit them."

The Fiske-Cornell Suit.

ITHACA, Feb. 20.—The Fiske-University suit was continued to-day before Surrogate Lyon. Geo. W. Harris, Librarian, estimated the value of the university library at $84,987, reckoning the books at $1.50 per volume. The plaintiffs thus far have been investigating the value of properties in Rochester and Tonawanda, and the probable worth of the university library, with a view to establishing the fact that the university holds over $1,000,000 of property. This is the pivotal point in the case on their side, and should they not be able to establish it they will make no further claims on the estate.

Contesting Millionaire Sellew's Will.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 20.—Osman Sellew and Angeline Sellew of Cincinnati, filed a suit in the Circuit Court here to-day against their nephew, Timothy G. Sellew of New York, and the other legatees of Ralph Sellew, the millionaire, who died here last week, to set aside his will, on the ground that he was not of sound mind when the will was made, and that he was unduly influenced by the said Timothy, who is made the chief legatee. The estate is claimed to be worth $1,500,000, and under the terms of the will his nephew gets $1,200,000, while the brother and sister are practically disinherited.

High Tide in the Delaware.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 20.—The water in the Delaware River rose to an unusual height to-day, owing to the strong southwest wind. Delaware avenue was completely submerged, and at one time the water was more than a foot high in the street. The cellars of the houses on the line of the avenue were flooded considerably, though much loss was prevented by any one firm. In Front street the residents were compelled to remove to the second story. In Camden and Gloucester, N. J., the situation was worse.

A Wabash Train Wrecked.

KEOKUK, Iowa, Feb. 20.—The Cannon Ball train on the Wabash Railroad was wrecked near Glenwood, Mo., yesterday morning. The rear coach was thrown from the track by a broken rail, overturned, hurled a distance of one hundred feet, and completely demolished. The passengers were all more or less bruised and shaken up, six were badly injured. One had a cellar bone broken; an old lady had her side and hips injured; two men were seriously hurt, and two others internally injured.

REJOICINGS IN KHARTOUM.

GEN. GORDON PUBLICLY BURNING THE INSTRUMENTS OF OPPRESSION.

Prisoners Liberated and a Prison Demolished—Advances to be Made from Suakim and Trinkitat for the Relief of Tokar.

LONDON, Feb. 20.—A despatch to the *Times* from Khartoum says: "Gen. Gordon yesterday held a levee, to which the poorest Arab was admitted. He has opened offices at the palace to hear grievances. The Government books, in which have been recorded from time immemorial the debts of the people, together with the Government whips and bastinadoes, have been publicly burned. A council of Arab notables has been formed. Gen. Gordon found the prison here a den of misery. In it were 200 wretches of all ages, loaded with chains. Many have never been tried, and are innocent of crime, or are prisoners of war. Among the prisoners was a woman who had spent fifteen years in prison for a crime committed when a girl. Gen. Gordon forthwith began to demolish this prison. The town on Monday night was a blaze of light. The negroes held great rejoicings. The Europeans agree that Gen Gordon's proclamation was the only means of saving themselves and the garrison. Afreesh Bey Shilook, a negro, who won the decoration of the Legion of Honor under Bazaine in Mexico, has been appointed commander of the troops at Khartoum. All the Soudanese troops will stay at Khartoum, and the white troops will go to Omdurman."

The Tokar expedition consists of 5,000 men, including all branches of the service.

CAIRO, Feb. 20.—Troops are arriving at Suakim so rapidly that the advance on Tokar will probably be made on Saturday. To-morrow 2,000 men will muster in the camp in Trinkitat. The military council at Cairo has decided to leave 1,500 English soldiers at Suakim, sending 3,500 to Trinkitat. Admiral Hewett will make a simultaneous movement from Suakim while Gen. Graham advances by the hill road from Trinkitat on Tokar. Scouts report that Osman Digma, with 7,000 rebels, is guarding the defiles on the hill road, leaving 3,000 of the Haddendowas to watch Suakim.

Sheiks of tribes in Kordofan, Sennaar, Dongola, Darfour, and all parts of the Soudan are flocking to Khartoum to meet Gen. Gordon, attracted by his personal prestige, or by hope of peace or bribes.

The Austrian Consul at Khartoum has forwarded to the Mahdi £2,000 to secure the release of the Catholic missionaries.

The garrison at Suakim is composed of 150 marines, 180 sailors, and 2,000 blacks.

Two British regiments and one Egyptian regiment, under English officers, will proceed to Assouan.

The clause regarding slavery in Gen. Gordon's proclamation is as follows: "I desire to restore the liberty of the people, but I have decided to permit slave traffic. Every one having domestic servants may consider them his property and dispose of them."

ONSLAUGHT ON PARNELL.

John O'Connor Power Attacking the Irish Leader in the House of Commons.

LONDON, Feb. 20.—In the House of Commons to-day Mr. John O'Connor Power, Home Ruler, member for county Mayo, resumed the debate upon Mr. Parnell's amendment to the address in reply to the Queen's speech, which severely condemned the policy of the Government in Ireland, and demanded the immediate abandonment of the policy of stimulating State-aided emigration. Mr. Power censured the so-called national party for wasting the time of the House in discussing the factional disputes instead of the social improvement of Ireland. He excused Mr. Parnell, because he was surrounded and urged on by certain lieutenants, who were hoping to arrive at a similar prominence. He was strongly opposed to the amendment, which he thought indicated a very disappointing. It failed to condemn with sufficient emphasis the present policy of stimulating emigration, and it made no mention whatever of the importance of the development of Irish resources. He said that the Parnellites were indulging in tactics adverse to the interests of Ireland since the Land act was introduced. It was in consequence of this that he had separated himself from the nationalist movement.

Mr. Power was frequently interrupted by applause, and when he resumed his seat the cheering was tremendous. But the Parnellites maintained throughout a sullen silence.

Mr. T. M. Healy, member for county Monaghan, replied to Mr. Power's speech. He compared it to dancing on a tightrope, and spoke of Mr. Power as balancing between the Orangemen and the Whigs. The Government, he said, was in league with the Orangemen.

Mr. Justin McCarthy, member for county Longford, accused the Orangemen of seeking to involve the country in civil war.

Speeches were made by other Irish members, some of whom supported and others opposed the amendment. The House was full, and Mr. Power's onslaught on the Parnellites caused a great sensation. After the debate upon the Parnell amendment, the House adjourned.

BISMARCK'S SNUB TO CONGRESS.

Publication of his Letter Directing the Return of the Lasker Resolution.

BERLIN, Feb. 20.—The *Official Gazette* to-day publishes the communication of Prince Bismarck to Herr Von Eisendecker directing the return to the American House of Representatives of its resolution of condolence at the death of Herr Lasker. It is dated Feb. 9.

Prince Bismarck's action continues to excite much comment. The friends of Herr Lasker in the Reichstag propose to demand of Bismarck an explanation of his course.

The following is the text of Prince Bismarck's communication:

Any recognition in a foreign country of the personal qualities of a German, especially when made by so important a body as the American House of Representatives, is gratifying to our national feelings. I should have gratefully accepted the communication made by Minister Sargent, and should have asked the Emperor to empower me to present it to the Reichstag, if the minutes had not contained an opinion regarding the object and effect of Herr Lasker's political activity, which was opposed to my convictions. According to my experience of the political economic development of the German people, I cannot recognize the opinion to the effect which you have witnessed would justify. I should not venture to oppose my judg