"IF YOU SEE IT IN The Sun IT'S SO."

The Sun.

THE WEATHER PREDICTION
For New York and Its Vicinity:
Partly cloudy; colder northerly winds.

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THEY CALL IT A BLIZZARD.

AN INCH OF SNOW IN LONDON MAKES THE WHOLE TOWN TALK.

Mr. Cecil Rhodes Comes Home for Trial, But He Will Never Be Punished—Genuine Reforms Will Be Forced Upon Turkey—Mr. Bayard is Now the Guest of the Prince of Wales—Inoculation as a Remedy Against the Plague—X Rays May Show if a Person is Really Dead—Two Lads Think They Have Killed the Devil—Have Fish Memories?—Liability of Doctors for Results of Bad Treatment.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Jan. 23.—All London is of the opinion that the weather is the most important matter of human interest to-day. Since noon yesterday there have been several brisk flurries of snow, with the result that there is a thin blanket averaging an inch in thickness in the parks and gardens of the metropolis. This is so extraordinary in London that the newspapers describe it as a blizzard and everybody is talking about the terrific snowstorm.

Sensational telegrams from all parts of Great Britain describe in vivid language the ravages of the storm. The most startling despatch of all comes from a point in the far north of Scotland, where a rash correspondent affirms that the snow lies six inches deep on a level. Incredulous Londoners accept such statements only with a grain of salt. It is more than five years since snow has been seen in London in its present quantities, and its appearance is regarded as in the nature of a phenomenon. It has, indeed, worked a wonderful transformation of the blackest, gloomiest city in all the world. London architecture, even in the brightest weather, wears a universal hue of ashes and charcoal. Its most famous buildings are dressed in perpetual mourning. Now, in spite of lowering skies, the city has put on gala attire. The solemn old town is almost gay. Even as I write the clouds have suddenly broken and a flood of rosy light is bathing the great dome of St. Paul's in wonderful splendor. It is no longer a black, imposing silhouette against the sky, but a great, pink, glowing dome, which seems to shine with an incandescence all its own.

Turning to a more sordid and presumably important event, the opening of Parliament, I can find nothing to say of even moderate interest to American readers. It is expected that the session will prove to be of considerable domestic importance, but the only topic in sight which will be likely to attract the attention of outside observers is the proposed solemn but inevitably farcical investigation of the Jameson raid and South African affairs generally. The Secretary of the Colonies on Wednesday made a virtuous show of anxiety to obtain the reappointment, without delay, of the parliamentary Committee of Inquiry. He waited in the House of Commons on Wednesday until the hour after which opposed business could not be taken up and then moved the reappointment. Several members objected, and the Minister, with a great show of surprise and irritation, then postponed the motion. When it comes on again, probably at the end of next week, there is likely to be a tremendous row, the Liberals being firmly convinced that the Government are anxiously awaiting a decent excuse to break their solemn pledges to make a thorough inquiry. Mr. Chamberlain may protest as much as he likes, but it is undeniable that the majority of her Majesty's Ministers do not want this inquiry proceeded with, and they have managed to let their supporters in the House of Commons know something of their feelings. Otherwise there would not be the strong movement against the inquiry which is now observable.

The Government party and the friends of Mr. Rhodes too, have not been inactive, and they are both numerous and influential. The result of all this is that everywhere one hears people asking what is the good of this inquiry. Mr. Rhodes made mistakes, but surely he condoned them by his bravery in the field during the Matabele rebellion in Rhodesia and the saracious diplomacy with the Matabele which, as much as anything, brought about peace. Furthermore, as the Rhodes party is never tired of urging, the Committee of the Cape Colony legislative has already investigated the matter and probed it as far as is desirable in the British interests to go.

It is difficult to see how it is possible in decency to avoid some form or pretence of investigation, but if anybody expects that the real facts regarding this great national crime against a friendly State are at last to be brought to light, they will assuredly be disappointed. Mr. Rhodes, in an interview printed to-day, virtually acknowledges what he denied a year ago on his word of honor, namely, complicity in the organization of the force of raiders. The only point he now denies is that he gave Dr. Jameson the final order to march. It is hardly necessary to repeat what I have already several times said, that Mr. Cecil Rhodes will never be punished by any British tribunal for his now confessed guilt in connection with this great conspiracy.

The Blue Book issued this week detailing the progress of the negotiations between the powers with reference to the Turkish question at last brings official confirmation of the news, first made public in a cable despatch to THE SUN early in December, that Europe had finally agreed to use force if necessary to secure the introduction of reforms in the Ottoman Empire. It is shown, to the credit of Lord Salisbury, that he persistently urged upon the Continental Governments the necessity of resorting to coercion until a sudden change of attitude by the Czar, late in November, at length brought success to his efforts. I have reason to believe that the situation has now advanced considerably beyond the point indicated in the despatches which Lord Salisbury has made public. There have also been side issues involved in the understanding which has been arrived at between certain of the powers, to which, of course, no reference has been made. For instance, it is believed that the Czar, who held the key to the whole situation, did not grant his consent to coercion until the part which Russia would be allowed to play in such operations had been clearly conceded by Great Britain. The belief expressed in some quarters that Russia will still manage to prevent any actual interference with the Sultan is not shared in the best-informed circles. It is fully believed, on the other hand, that genuine reforms will be actually forced upon Turkey, and that, too, as speedily as the slow-moving diplomatic machinery will allow.

Public interest in the plague and famine in India continues unabated. The relief subscriptions for the famine sufferers, now amounting in London to nearly $750,000, seem most generous, but the need is far greater. The criticisms of Lord Hamilton and the Government authorities generally have been so sharp that they at last have been spurred to the greatest activity. Cause and effect are so widely separated in point of time, however, that many thousands undoubtedly will perish before the relief measures prove adequate.

The spread of the plague, also, continues without serious check. There have been some hopeful reports this week in regard to the discovery of means of fighting the dreadful infliction. It is announced that Dr. Yersin, the discoverer of the plague bacillus and of the serum to use against the plague, has ready for immediate use only the quantity taken from a single horse. With this he has already inoculated twenty-seven persons, of whom twenty-three have been saved. He will have in a month a supply of serum from a hundred small Tonkinese horses. This will be sufficient to inoculate 18,000 persons, and he can reckon upon obtaining as much every month. He left for Nyanthran, in Annam, on Dec. 21, and, while passing through India, was invited to stay in Bombay. He declined, as he had no serum, but will return after he has obtained some in Nyahthran.

Ambassador and Mrs. Bayard drove through the fast-falling snow this afternoon to St. Pancras, whence they took the train for a visit to the Prince and Princess of Wales at Sandringham. Mr. Bayard is naturally much pleased with this mark of distinction at the hands of the Prince, for it has never happened before, so it is said, that an American Minister has been entertained as a personal guest by the heir to the throne. It is, indeed, another compensation in addition to those he has recently mentioned, which more than offset the criticisms of those of his countrymen who do not fully approve his attitude as the representative of the American people in Great Britain.

The preparations, social and otherwise, are now in full swing for the celebration of the Queen's "sexagesimal." That is the designation which, a noble peer writes to the *Times*, would be the proper term in which to describe next June's jubilee. Hotel quarters are being already engaged, and speculators are buying up rights to the windows on the probable routes of the processions. Several big hotels have already received intimation that their best quarters will be required for the use of such of the Queen's guests as cannot be accommodated in Buckingham Palace and other royal establishments.

Inquiries were never before so numerous at the United States Embassy in behalf of American women who desire to be presented at what, it is generally believed, will be the last drawing room the Queen will ever hold.

Quite a budget of discoveries in connection with the Röntgen ray investigations has been reported fom the Continent within a few days. That reported by Prof. Friedrich to the Vienna Academy of Sciences is the most important. The Professor discovered certain black rays that issue from the vacuum tube and pass through the human body. The photographs produced by means of these rays, which the professor calls "critical rays," are not the same when taken of a living body as from a dead one. Photographs of living hands show the skeleton as in the Röntgen photographs. A dead hand appears in full, showing all the fleshy integument, while the bones remain invisible. It is thought that, by means of these rays, it may be ascertained whether a person is really dead.

The use of the Röntgen rays as a hair exterminator is also revived. Dr. Freund, also of Vienna, tried them upon a boy whose spine was hidden by an abundant crop of hair. The malady is known to the faculty as hypertrichosis. Dr. Freund turned the rays upon the boy's back, and the superfluous hair vanished, roots and all. The boy, no longer an infant phenomenon, has been shown to the medical society in Vienna, and photographs of his condition before and after are circulating in that city. The Prussian Government has appropriated $12,000 for Röntgen ray experiments during the current year.

There are two little boys in Germany who honestly believe they have rid the world of the devil. They live near Hunteburg, and are eight and twelve years of age. The other day they were left by their mother at home to take care of the house. A man with blackened face and black attire suddenly entered and announced: "I am the devil. Where do you keep your money?"

Faith and fear alike induced them to believe the intruder. They instantly pointed to a trunk where the modest wealth of their parents was treasured. While the murky impostor was ransacking the chest the younger boy whispered to his brother to go and fetch the gun and shoot the devil dead. The brother jumped at the idea, fetched the weapon, crept up to the unsuspecting thief and lodged the whole charge in his back. He fell back dead.

It is important, in the opinion of Prof. Edinger, the well-known savant of Frankfort-on-Main, to obtain an answer to the question: Do fish possess the faculty of memory? The result would settle an important point in comparative psychology. The Professor writes: "It is widely accepted that fish possess a certain degree of memory; that they recognize persons, and know what places to frequent and what places to avoid, according to the experience they have gained; that, having once been caught by a hook, they know one again when they see it, and so on. For scientific, comparative psychology it is highly desirable that all evidence tending to prove this should be collected. The reason is as follows: We have hitherto held the view that the function of memory is essentially connected with the existence of a coating to the brain. We know nothing about the capacity of the deeper portions of the brain in this connection. Now it has been successfully shown that fish have no trace whatever of a coating to the brain. If one can prove beyond question that these creatures really collect their experience and can utilize it afterward, namely, that they possess the faculty of memory, we shall have to drop the doctrine hitherto accepted that it is only the coating of the brain that gives this faculty, and then the door is open to an entirely new series of experiments." Prof. Edinger begs all who observe the habits of fish, and especially anglers and breeders, to forward him the observations they have made.

Vienna has been excited this week by an extraordinary murder trial. The charge against a mechanic named Fock was that he sent to a friend, a locksmith named Basch, a box containing a bomb. Basch was absent when the box arrived, and it was opened by an apprentice. This unfortunate youth produced the intended explosion, and was killed on the spot. Weeks elapsed before the crime could be brought home to Fock, against whom the proofs were finally crushing. His alleged accomplice was the wife of Basch. The Public Prosecutor has accused her not only of being Fock's mistress, but also of having encouraged the attempted murder of her husband, in the hope of a marriage with Fock, which the wretched pair had planned in case they were successful. Fock was convicted and sentenced to death, and the woman was acquitted.

The question of the liability of doctors for the results of their unskilful or negligent treatment of patients is again before the law courts in this country. The children of Samuel Dew, a lawyer in Bangor, fell mysteriously ill of a disease which Dr. Edwards, the family physician, diagnosed as "malignant sore throat." The six-year-old boy died within a few days, and the six-months-old baby died later, according to Dr. Edwards, of laryngitis coupled with bronchitis. Meantime, as the disease, whatever it might be, was not considered infectious or contagious, no precautions in the way of isolation, &c., were ordered or carried out, with the natural result that other members of the household fell ill. The optimistic doctor, in fact, repeatedly declared that no danger existed for anybody, and he also notified the local sanitary authorities. When the anxious father had lost his two children he thought it about time to have additional advice, and the new doctors instantly and unhesitatingly diagnosed diphtheria as the cause of all the trouble, and there was much consequent burning of bedding and lavish use of disinfectants. But Dr. Edwards stood to his guns and declared, in effect, that all the other local doctors were fools and he alone was a worthy representative of modern medical science.

The father brought an action for damages, which was tried this week at the Carnarvon Assizes. There was a tremendous array of experts on both sides. Dr. Lennox Brown, perhaps the greatest living authority on throat diseases, was brought from London, and pronounced for diphtheria. The famous bacteriologist who had analyzed a portion of one little victim's membrane found diphtheritic microbes flourishing therein and was prepared to produce them in court. But other experts were produced on the other side, the lay mind became hopelessly fogged and the trial ended, unexpectedly, in a judgment for the defendant.

A SPEEDWAY LANDSLIDE.

FACE OF THE CLIFF BREAKS OFF AND SLIPS DOWN ON THE ROAD.

A Lump of Gneiss as Big as a Steamship That Has Got to Be Blasted Out of the Roadway, Where It Fell After the Freeze of Wednesday—Cliff Looks Dangerous.

An oblong lump of rock containing between 8,000 and 10,000 cubic yards of solid stuff and weighing some 25,000 tons slipped off the wall of rock just south of the Washington bridge on the west side of the Harlem River on Thursday morning, and slid down into the new speedway. It smashed ninety-three feet of solid masonry six or seven feet deep, crushed a steam hoisting engine, and sank into the speedway itself as if there were no foundation to that road. In falling it split itself into three pieces of about equal size. It didn't take more than a couple of minutes for the whole thing to happen and there wasn't much noise and fuss about it, but it will very likely cost the city forty or fifty thousand dollars to remove the débris and repair the damage.

There is an aqueduct gate-house and blow-off on top of the hill just south of the Washington bridge. The speedway runs along the foot of the hill next to the Harlem River. To make room for the speedway it has been necessary to blast out the rocky side of the hill to a depth in some places of twenty or thirty feet. The rock is gneiss, which is the foundation rock of New York city. It weathers badly and there are big fissures in the masses of it exposed within sight of the Washington bridge. Before the building of the speedway began the mass of rock between High bridge and Washington bridge extended almost out to the water in the Harlem and more blasting has had to be done between these two points than almost anywhere along the new road. The work, as far as the rock excavation is concerned, was finished weeks ago, and in place of the slight slope that there had been the face of the remaining rock in the hill was almost perpendicular. At the foot was a heavy masonry wall that marked the western boundary of the speedway. The wall was not all complete and there was a hoisting engine and derrick down on the level of the road for the purpose of lifting the great stones that were to become a part of the wall. There was also a railroad track running along close to the inner side of the wall.

The men began work on the speedway about 7:30 o'clock in the morning. That is, they report at that time, but it usually takes fifteen or twenty minutes for them to reach their places and get at the actual work they are employed to do. The gang of men that was to go on with the wall building was on hand on Thursday morning, and at 20 minutes to 7 o'clock was about ready to get into the cut. Most of the men were around Engineer Cahill's cabin, which is only a few feet south of the big span of the bridge. It was warm there.

There came a grinding sound which seemed to be half way up the rock wall. It stopped, and a moment later there came a couple of lumps of rock tumbling out of the wall, about half way up the side. They were not very big, but they fell with a clatter and smash that awoke the echoes. The men ran around the side of the shanty and looked. Engineer Cahill said yesterday that he had just stuck his nose around the corner when the grinding noise began again, and the whole top of the hill began to slide down. It moved slowly at first, and then faster. It struck the derrick and made kindling wood of the heavy wooden beams. Then the grinding noise ceased and it moved in solid mass silently as it went, rumbling down a well-oiled bed. It was as big as a good-sized steamship. Then there was a loud crack, followed a moment later by another, and the big lump separated into three pieces. They simply spread apart a few feet and moved on in unison as before. They came faster every instant, but still slowly until almost at the bottom, when they reached the wall. There was a crunching and grinding, but no slacking of speed. On the mass went, utterly obliterating the wall and into the speedway itself. The workmen fled pell-mell to the open ground, and glad they were not there. They were far enough away to be out of danger. As the rock came to a stop the dirt and a mass of smaller rocks that had been on its top came tumbling off, flying this way and that, with more noise than their heavy cousins had made. Then the big crack opened in the rock wall that was left. There was one three feet wide directly beneath the gate house, and there were others near it. There was more of the grinding that had preceded the moving of the mass that had fallen, but it ceased in a moment and there was no further fall.

Word of the accident was hurried up to the office of the engineer at 176th street, and the work of inspection and testing the safety of the rocks that hadn't slipped was begun. It took half the day to do that, but though the whole thing looked dangerous it was found to be safe, at least temporarily, and the work on the road was resumed. Friday and yesterday investigations were carried on, and the estimates of the size of the mass that had fallen were made. The top of the hill where the rock had been and down which it slid looked like a bank of loose earth. It was, in fact, a layer of clay on top of the rock. The layer was a good deal less than an inch in thickness.

It was concluded from the appearance of things that there had been a crack in the rock beginning at the top, twenty or thirty feet from the outer edge and extending down asiant but not clear through to the face of the wall. Mud and clay had worked into this crack its entire depth, and then came the terrific rain storm of Wednesday night. The water had poured down into this crack. The storm, it will be remembered, was followed by crisp, cold weather, and the mud and water in the crack froze and expanded, forcing the rock up and continuing the split clear through to the face of the wall. Then came the fall.

When the reporter of THE SUN visited the speedway yesterday the masses of fallen rock were undisturbed and they towered up high in the air above the level of the road. The work of blasting them to pieces so that they could be removed had not been begun. The broken end of one of the big logs that had been a part of the hoisting derrick stuck out from behind the pile. Above, in the cliff, were immense fissures that made the whole thing look as if it might come down at any minute. The house on top seemed in imminent danger of sliding down, but the workmen said that the rock was sound in spite of the cracks and that there was no danger and would be none until the blasting was begun; whether there would be any danger then the engineer would have to decide.

The break is in plain sight from the middle span of Washington bridge, but from there it doesn't look to be serious. To get an idea of the magnitude of the fall it is necessary to go down on the speedway and look up.

BARS IN THE COMMONS.

It Is Discovered That Drinks Are Dispensed In Violation of Law.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Jan. 23.—One really serious matter has agitated the House of Commons since it reassembled. There are a few total abstinence specialists among the members, and they suddenly discovered that various bars within the House, where all manner of drinkables are constantly sold, really exist in violation of the law. They asked the question of the law officer of the Government in the House, and he candidly admitted that such was the fact, and said the only remedy was the passage of a special act. This has not been attempted yet, and the sale of intoxicating liquors still goes on. There is, of course, a rising clamor from certain busybodies, who demand that the local authorities should enforce the law. The best answer to this demand is that made by a policeman who is on duty in the lobby where the principal bar for members is located. He has been interviewed, of course, and his reply, given with some heat, was:

"Look here, and I suppose as I've seen drinking going on here. Don't deny that I have. Who am I going to pull up for selling drink on unlicensed premises? I naturally ask myself, who is the owner of these unlicensed premises? and I naturally answer, her Majesty the Queen; and if you thinks I'm going to be hard on a lady of her age, who has enjoyed this privilege all her life, you are mistaken."

Afternoon Arrival St. Augustine.

Florida Limited via Pennsylvania, Southern, and F. C. and P. Leave New York daily, except Sunday, 12:10 noon, reaching St. Augustine following day 4:40 P. M. Exclusively Pullman vestibuled train. Only limited train from New York giving daylight arrival at St. Augustine. New York offices, 271 and 353 Broadway.—Adv.

IRRESPONSIBLE UNION TYRRANY.

Damages Awarded to a Blacklisted Carpenter—But Lo! He Can't Collect.

Justice McAdam of the Supreme Court has awarded $1,045.58 damages and costs to Michael J. O'Farrell of 532 West 158th street in a suit brought by the latter against Union No. 340 of the Brotherhood of Carpenters for expelling him from the union without a trial in December, 1892. Farrell sued for $5,000.

O'Farrell came here from Ireland in 1869 and worked as a carpenter, joining the union in 1888. He is married and has children. In November, 1892, he went to work for Contractor P. K. Lantry on the Criminal Court building, the erection of which will always be memorable among labor unions on account of the strikes that attended the work from start to finish. One of these strikes was on when he went to work. He did not know of it, he says, but promptly quit work when he learned the fact.

The district council of the brotherhood, however, fined him $50, and ordered him besides to go to Union No. 340 and be "reprimanded." He could not pay the fine, and was suspended from the union. Then, he says, a system of union persecution followed. Every time he found work a strike was ordered or threatened against him. He says he always asked for and received the union wages of $3.50 a day.

Finally, he says, he was hounded out of the trade by the delegates, and had to go to work as a laborer at $1.75. He paid his dues regularly until he was expelled from the union. His life was made miserable when he tried to work as a carpenter after his expulsion. One time he worked only half a day, he says, then five and a half days, and then was idle for weeks and months at a time.

His first trouble was when he was employed on a job at West Tenth and Washington streets by John F. Moore in December in 1892, where he was getting $3.50 a day. He quit work to prevent a strike.

Deputy Sheriff Lipsky is trying to levy an execution against Union 340, but so far has found nothing to seize. It is possible that O'Farrell's lawyer may try to attach the union's bank account, if it has one, but it is considered possible that the general officers of the union in Philadelphia may come forward with the money out of its national treasury.

O'Farrell was represented in the case by Lawyer George G. Carrington of 99 Nassau street. Lawyer L. J. Noah appeared for the union.

MR. CROCKER WILL BUILD.

Plans Filed for a Twenty-one-Story Office Structure on His Broadway Property.

George C. Crocker, the young California millionaire, and a cousin by marriage of the Hon. J. Sloat Fassett, is going to lose no time in improving the lower Broadway real estate he purchased on Jan. 5. Charles C. Haight, architect for Mr. Crocker, filed with the Department of Buildings yesterday plans for a twenty-one story, fire-proof office building, to be erected on the property at 70-74 Broadway and running through to 9-15 New street. The plans specify that the building shall be constructed of brick, stone, terra cotta, and iron, and is to cost $900,000.

Mr. Crocker purchased the property on which the new building is to be erected from Peter Marié and William Alexander Smith. The price paid was $1,600,000, or $228.57 per square foot. The price, which has been exceeded only twice in the history of New York real estate transactions, was considered by some to be exorbitant. The former owners of the property, however, held it at $2,000,000 for many years. There were no offers at $2,000,000, and it is said that Messrs. Marié and Smith, fearfed that a law limiting the height of office buildings might be enacted, concluded to accept Mr. Crocker's offer. Mr. Crocker knows that the only way his purchase can be made to pay at the price he paid is by putting up a very high building, and he therefore wanted to lose no time in filing his plans and beginning work, fearful of the possibility of the same law that Messrs. Marié and Smith dreaded.

The highest price per square foot ever paid for New York real estate was in 1882, when A. J. Wilkes bought the southeast corner of Wall and Broad streets, paying $330.70 per square foot for 508 square feet. The American Surety Company paid the next highest price, when it bought the property at Broadway and Pine street, paying $267.87 per square foot for 11,447 square feet. A comparison of prices paid for real estate in the same block with Mr. Crocker's property shows that there has been nearly 50 per cent. advance in four years. In 1892, the Manhattan Life Insurance Company paid $136.82 per square foot for the property on which its building is located. The Union Trust Company paid $143.29 a square foot for its property.

GUNBOAT MACHIAS AT BANGKOK.

Her Arrival Has Changed Siam's Attitude Toward the United States.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—The gunboat Machias has arrived at Bangkok under orders to protect American interests, having been hurried there from Hong Kong, 2,000 miles away, on receipt of official news at the State Department last week of an attack of Siamese soldiers on United States Deputy Consul-General Kellett. Commander McKenzie will confer with Minister Barrett, and, if the circumstances warrant, salute to the American flag will be demanded.

The announcement that the Machias had been ordered to Bangkok has already had the effect of materially altering the attitude of the Siamese Government toward the United States. She is the first American war vessel to visit Bangkok for seven years, and the effect of her mission, as soon as its character became known, is reported to have been exactly as Secretary Olney desired. This information is corroborated by the immediate effort of Siam to secure a reference to arbitration of the Cheek claim, which that Government has hitherto resisted all efforts to collect. An American of the name of Cheek entered into a partnership with the Siamese Government to get out teak wood, the Government advancing money. On the pretence that he did not meet his obligations they seized the wood as it came down the rivers and sold it. Subsequently, on Cheek's death, they prevented his executors selling some of the numerous elephants he had used in the forest, and when the State Department took the matter up, in 1892, Siam resisted the claim of $200,000 which was presented.

The recent trouble, of which the attack on Consul-General Kellett was the climax, grew out of the claim, which Secretary Olney has now determined to press to a settlement. Isaac Townsend Smith, the Siamese Consul-General in this country, is now in Washington, asking for arbitration.

CRUISER DETROIT ORDERED HOME.

Coming by Way of the Suez Canal Past the Plague-Infested Ports.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—The Navy Department finally admitted this morning that the cruiser Detroit, now on the China station, would leave for home about Feb. 9, proceeding to New York via the Suez Canal. It had been known for some time that the ship was coming home, and it had been understood that she would cross the Pacific direct to San Francisco, the nearest home port, as usual with vessels from the Asiatic squadron, but that her officers and men were to be exposed to the ravages of bubonic plague by the absolutely essential stops for coal at infected East Indian ports, including those on the Red Sea, where healthy conditions never exist, created astonishment in official circles.

The orders to the Detroit were issued before the extent of the plague was realized, having gone forward by mail, and in explanation of the fact that the ship is ordered over 13,000 miles, instead of 4,500 miles to San Francisco, it is said that the Detroit is needed for the North Atlantic fleet, and the Suez route is shorter to New York.

Lieut. C. E. Colahan will be detached from the Detroit when that vessel reaches the Mediterranean, and he transferred to the Cincinnati; at the same time Lieut. Thomas H. Stevens of the Cincinnati and Assistant Surgeon C. E. Riggs of the San Francisco will join the Detroit and come home.

The flagship Olympia of the Asiatic station left Nagasaki to-day for Hong Kong, and the Yorktown left the same port for Shanghai.

The Marion has arrived at Acapulco, Mexico, the Maine at Fort Monroe, and the Monadnock at San Pedro, Cal.

Lady from Columbia Heights Writes:

"I have tried Riker's Expectorant for coughs, colds, and croup. It acts like a charm."—Adv.

GREAT CUBAN TRIUMPH.

PATRIOTS SINK A GUNBOAT AND CAPTURE A GARRISON TOWN.

They Blow Up the Cometa with a Torpedo and Only Six of the Fifty Men in the Crew Live to Reach Shore—Cayamos Captured and Burned—Havana Excited.

HAVANA, Jan. 23.—In Cáyamos, province of Matanzas, near Cardenas, the insurgents have obtained a remarkable triumph, which is now the topic of all Havana. The Spanish gunboat Cometa has been blown up by the Cubans at that place, and the town of Cáyamos has been destroyed, after a fierce engagement.

The Cometa was one of the fastest gunboats used in the island service by the Spanish navy. She carried two cannon and a crew of fifty men.

The attack made by the insurgents on the gunboat was a surprise. The boat was anchored near the shore and there was nothing to indicate the possibility of an attack. A heavy fire from the shore suddenly announced to the Cometa's crew the proximity of the enemy.

The fire was returned immediately and the Cometa drew nearer the land so as to use her cannon with greater effect. A few moments later, however, she struck a torpedo and was blown to pieces.

Few men of the crew escaped. It is said here that only six of them are still alive. They surrendered to the insurgents when they reached the shore.

The sinking of the gunboat was immediately followed by the attack upon Cayamos. The insurgents used a dynamite gun and explosive bombs with the greatest effect and the Spanish garrison soon surrendered. Then the patriots reduced the town to ashes.

Large Spanish forces which were near Cayamos did not dare to go to the relief of the garrison, they were so frightened by the explosives.

In Havana this news will be mentioned tomorrow by the newspapers, because it is impossible to conceal it. They will say that it is a matter of no consequence. A small gunboat was surprised and was practically defenceless, as she had no adequate armament. The news has created a great sensation here.

The continual use of explosives here by the Cubans and their last successes at Santiago de Cuba, together with this affair of the Cometa, have thrown the Spanish soldiers into a state of terror. The columns do not dare now to make long incursions into the interior of the island.

By the United Press.

The Cometa was one of the most powerful of the smaller Spanish vessels in Cuban waters, and has been cruising near Cardenas to prevent the landing of filibustering expeditions. For some time she has been accustomed to anchor at night off Sierra Morra. The place where the gunboat anchored was favorable for an attack from the shore, and so the insurgents determined to capture her.

PATRIOTS ATTACK WEYLER.

They Repeatedly Assail the Force Under His Command.

HAVANA, Jan. 23.—On his journey to Matanzas Gen. Weyler was attacked near San José by a heavy force of insurgents. A severe engagement ensued, in which both sides met with large losses.

The Spaniards had to change their route, owing to the constant attacks of the insurgents, and were able to proceed only after orders to change the route had been given by Weyler.

The official report claims another victory for Weyler, but unofficial news of the affair affords an illustration of the superiority of the Cubans in this kind of warfare, and proves that neither Weyler nor any other Spanish General can crush this rebellion in so short a time as the Government of Spain desires.

Whenever any attempt was made by the Spaniards to advance the Cubans attacked them fiercely, and then the whole Spanish column formed a square to repel the aggressions of the insurgent cavalry.

Then the Cubans would retire and the Spaniards would prepare again to advance. When all was ready and the march had begun the same tactics were repeated. So Weyler used up a whole day trying to march, but advanced very few miles.

His cavalry, which he tried hard to use, was very ineffective, and the same can be said of the negroes in his forces, who live in the capital, are degraded by all the vices of their race, and prove to be weaker than the colored insurgents of the country.

News is now published here of the attack on Bejucal made by the Cuban leader, Castillo, on the morning of Jan. 11.

The affair was so serious that until this time the press censorship has kept it secret. The news was reported to THE SUN, but the additional fact is now known that nearly half the town was destroyed.

La Lucha publishes a despatch from Madrid to the effect that in the Council of the Ministers presided over by the Lucen, Senor Canovas declared that the reforms for Cuba were now being seriously considered, and that the questions involved require much study.

The Spanish Government has bought in Italy a new warship of 8,000 tons.

By the United Press.

This being the nameday of King Alfonso, it was celebrated here in the usual manner by services in the Cathedral in honor of the King's patron saint, and by social functions.

In accordance with the custom which obtains on this day a number of prisoners received their liberty. It was thought that a number of the Americans now confined in Cuban prisons would be released in honor of the day, but this expectation was disappointed.

There were only thirteen men set free in this city, and they only received their liberty provisionally. Three of them had been confined in the State Prison, eight in Morro Castle, and two in the Cabanas Fortress. They were charged with various offences, and all of them are comparatively unknown.

Several wounded insurgents belonging to the band led by Urras, who were hidden in a house in the outskirts of Havana, were arrested last night. All of them were brought here and placed in a military hospital.

Captain-General Weyler is now at Union de Reyes, province of Matanzas. The Marquis de Ahumada, Gen. Weyler's second in command, Marquis de Palmerola, Secretary of the Government, and the Civil Governor left for that place on an express train this morning. They will meet and hold a conference with the Captain-General.

A SWAYING CHURCH STEEPLE.

One of Brooklyn's Church Edifices Declared to Be Unsafe.

The tall steeple of the Trinity Methodist Protestant Church at South Fourth and Roebling streets, Williamsburgh, is in danger of falling, and under orders from the Building Department of Brooklyn the building will be closed until the steeple is made safe. The edifice was formerly occupied by the First Presbyterian Church of Williamsburgh. It was built in 1837 and fifteen years afterward the steeple was blown down. The church is of brick, and in front there are six brick piers each about fifty feet high. The steeple is of wood and iron and about 140 feet high. It was put up in 1853. The high wind last Monday loosened a transverse beam at the base of the steeple.

The Building Department found that the building was unsafe, and the Board of Trustees were notified to make the necessary improvements. The base of the steeple was propped up with beams yesterday, and further repairs will be made.

The congregation will worship to-day and until further notice in the New England Congregational Church in South Ninth street.

Thirty new modern houses at Elmhurst, L. I. 19 minutes from 34th st. Ferry; easy terms.—Adv.

TRAIN PLUNGES FIFTY FEET.

Three Persons Killed Outright and Twenty-nine Passengers Hurt.

BUTLER, Pa., Jan. 23.—At about 2:30 o'clock this afternoon one of the most serious accidents in the history of the Pittsburgh and Western Railway occurred at Paint Creek Bridge, one mile from Shippensville Station.

At this point there is a big bend over the turbulent little stream, which is spanned by an "S" shaped bridge about fifty feet high. From this bridge passenger train No. 7, southbound from Kane, was dashed into the stream below, the entire train with all on board going over the trestle.

Three were killed instantly, and only one person on the train, it is said, escaped injury.

The train consisted of engine, baggage car, and two passenger coaches. About thirty passengers were on board when the frightful plunge was made. Just as the train left the rails Baggagemaster Thomas Rainey of Foxburg jumped and saved his life, but suffered very serious injury.

Conductor Thomas Tanks of Foxburg went down with the train, but escaped with bad bruises. He managed, although suffering greatly, to walk to Shippenville station and report the accident.

The engineer, fireman, and mail agent were killed outright. Relief trains were hurried from St. Petersburg and Foxburg with corps of physicians.

A special train bearing the bodies of the dead trainmen arrived here at 9:30 to-night. Several bad accidents have occurred at this point, which is considered the most dangerous on the road. In all ten people have met death at this place.

J. T. Kelly of Cleveland came on to Butler and at his brother's home was attended by a local physician. He says the train was running twenty-five miles an hour when the accident happened.

BISMARCK ENRAGED.

He Regards the Emperor's Treatment of Count Herbert as a Personal Insult.

BERLIN, Jan. 23.—The *Zukunft* asserts that Prince Bismarck is greatly enraged at the indignity put upon his son, Count Herbert Bismarck, by the Emperor upon the occasion of the recent marriage of the daughter of Minister von Wedel to Lieut. Bismarck-Bohlen, which the Emperor would only consent to attend upon condition that Count Herbert, a cousin of the bridegroom, should not be present at the wedding, despite the fact that he had been invited. According to the *Zukunft*, the ex-Chancellor regards the incident as an insult to himself for which he is unable to assign any cause.

UNION UPHOLDS EMPLOYERS.

A Decision of an Unusual Kind in This Dispute.

It is not often that employers are sustained by a labor organization in a dispute with employees. Such a case was reported yesterday, however, by the Cigarmakers' Label Committee. The union cigarmakers in the employ of B. Feifert & Co., 184 Bowery, had made a complaint to the committee that the firm was violating the union rules. The committee started an investigation, found that the complaint was without foundation, and dismissed it.

CONDUCTOR COLLECTS WATCHES.

Arrest of a Cable Car Man with a Large Stock of Jewelry on Hand.

John Daly, a Broadway cable car conductor, of 326 West Forty-eighth street, was locked up in the West Forty-seventh street station house last night as a suspicious character.

In his room were found gold and silver watches, diamond studs and rings, and other jewelry. Among the watches are an Elgin gold watch, No. 621,808; a lady's gold Waltham watch, movement No. 9,698; a gold watch with chain attached, No. 10,489; one Hampton watch, No. 107,882; a Waltham, No. 615,400.

The police learned of these treasures from the woman from whom Daly rented his room. She called on Capt. Sheehan and told him that a great many men and women called on Daly day and night. Daly says the property found in his room was brought there by other conductors, and put in his care for safe keeping.

Capt. Sheehan is inclined to be very reticent regarding the case, which may be accounted for by the fact that several Central Office detectives co-operated with his men last night and went out to work on the case.

DIED IN THE CHURCH.

Mrs. Buettner Was on Her Way to the Confessional When the Stroke Came.

Mrs. Mary Buettner of 983 Fleetwood avenue went with her husband to confess last evening at the Church of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, in 150th street, near Melrose avenue.

When they arrived at the church, where the Rev. Father Thumel was hearing confessions, they found nearly 200 people in the building, and had to wait some time before they could reach the confessional. When the time came for Mrs. Buettner to go forward she walked up the middle aisle.

Just as she reached the centre of the church she sank to the floor, and in three minutes she died. Dr. James P. Daly of 503 East 150th street was called in, but she was dead before he arrived. Heart disease was given as the cause of death. Her body was taken home.

MRS. M'KINLEY HER PUPIL.

Now the Teacher Needs a Post Office Appointment Which Politicians Want.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Jan. 23.—Miss Hattie Gault, a former instructor of Mrs. McKinley, wife of the President-elect, is named by her friends as a candidate for the Media, Pa., Post Office. She was a teacher in Brook Hall Female Seminary, at Media, when Mrs. McKinley was a pupil at the institution, some twenty-five years ago.

Miss Gault, who put her savings of years at the school in a manufacturing company, has lost nearly all she possessed by the failure of the concern. There are four politicians after the Post Office, and it will be a question whether politics or sympathy will win the appointment. The salary is $2,400 a year.

FRANCIS S. KEY'S DAUGHTER DEAD.

Ninety-one Years Old—Her Father Wrote "The Star-Spangled Banner."

ANNAPOLIS, Md., Jan. 23.—Mrs. Maria Lloyd Steele, daughter of Francis Scott Key, author of "The Star-Spangled Banner," died in Annapolis to-day. She was in her ninety-second year. She was born in Bladensburg, near Washington, D. C., at the old homestead of the Keys, now occupied by Benjamin Lowndes. Mrs. Steele was a niece of Chief Justice Taney of the Supreme Court and granddaughter of Gov. Lloyd, an early Governor of Maryland.

300 PERSONS PERISH.

Terrible Panic in a Temple Caused by Breaking a Lamp.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 23.—Advices from the Orient by the steamer Gaelic to-day tell of a terrible panic in a temple at Kwong Tow, China, in which 300 men, women, and children perished. During a spectacle a lamp was broken which set the temple on fire. The main entrance was closed and two smaller exits were also choked. Of the forty actors in the performance only four escaped.

Death Caused by a Smoking Oil Stove.

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Jan. 23.—Maurice P. Clark, a painter, after drinking heavily, went to his room last night, lighted an