TELEGRAPHIC NEWS FROM ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD

Premier Ollivier on Constitutional Government—"France Always Advancing, Never Receding."

Electoral and Industrial Agitation in France.

Preparing for the Plebiscitum with Thousands of Men on Strike in Paris.

Austrian Centralization and Popular Opposition.

Premier Ollivier's Challenge to the French Revolutionists.

TERRIBLE STORM AT BUENOS AYRES.

The City Flooded and Houses Undermined—Disaster to Shipping—Great Loss of Life.

FRANCE.

Premier Ollivier on Constitutional Government—Imperialism Challenges the Revolution.

PARIS, April 20—Evening.

In the Senate to-day debate was continued on the *Senatus Consultum*.

M. Ollivier wound up the discussion with a long and brilliant speech. Referring to the *plebiscitum*, he said the government did not wish to extend the question. They only desired to submit certain liberal modifications to the people. They had no intention of submitting the principles on which the State was founded and of converting the hereditary empire into an elective empire. But the revolutionary party, obeying evil passions, had given another complexion to the debate. If the revolutionary party wished to combat the government the government would accept the challenge. If the desire was to take revolutionary grounds the government would follow and outstrip its enemies. M. Ollivier assured the Senate that whatever might be the result of the struggle, the government would not place itself on the track of reaction. He continued—"The government and the Emperor will remain what they now are—always generous, liberal and magnanimous. It is peculiar to the Emperor to be always advancing, never receding. The government, in pursuing its work of conciliation, will always hold out its hands to honest men. Let them remember that democracy and liberty are not incompatible with the empire. The triumph of liberty through government will be for the sovereign glory complete, and for the nation security without a cloud.

This passage called from the Senators a salvo of applause, which was twice repeated.

M. Ollivier, concluding, said the Emperor still had the exclusive right to prepare the formula of the *Plebiscitum*.

The debate then closed and the *Senatus Consultum* was adopted by the Senate.

The Electoral Excitement.

PARIS, April 20, 1870.

The political excitement on account of the *Plebiscitum* is increasing throughout the country, and the journals complain that it has a bad effect on commerce.

The Day of Pronunciamento.

PARIS, April 20, 1870.

The *Moniteur* announces that the *Journal Officiel* will publish on Friday next a decree appointing the 8th of May as the day for taking the vote of the nation on the *Plebiscitum*, and limiting the voting to one day.

The Trade Strike Becoming General—Thousands of Men Idle in the Cities.

PARIS, April 20, 1870.

The long threatened strikes have begun in earnest.

The foundrymen and moulders, about fifteen thousand strong, struck to-day, as did also the tailors.

The house painters are expected to strike to-morrow.

PARIS, April 20, 1870—P. M.

The sugar refiners and hatmakers have joined the strike.

"Strong Minded" Women and the Consequence.

PARIS, April 20, 1870.

The trial of M. Barbenet, the director of Henri Rochefort's journal, the *Marseillaise*, has been concluded. His offence was the publication in that journal of a congratulatory address from the women of Lyons to the women of Le Creuzot. He was convicted and sentenced to six months' imprisonment and to pay a fine of 4,000f.

The Bourse.

PARIS, April 20—11 P. M.

Late in the day the Bourse was buoyant. Rentes were last quoted to-night at 75f. 5c.

AUSTRIA.

Cabinet Centralization.

VIENNA, April 20, 1870.

The Ministry have decided to dissolve the Provisional Diets of Western Austria.

The measure is utterly opposed by the radicals.

SPAIN.

Party Recrimination.

MADRID, April 20, 1870.

In the Cortes a fierce attack was made by the republican deputies on Prim and Rivero, who were accused of causing the recent outbreak at Barcelona.

RUSSIA.

President Grant Expected.

LONDON, April 20, 1870.

A rumor has been circulating on the Continent that President Grant proposes to visit Europe; and it is reported that preparations were commenced in St. Petersburg for his reception before the rumor was pronounced false.

CUBA.

A Small Instalment of Truth from the Captain General—The Patriots on the Offensive—Invasion of the Bayamo District—Capture of Capitania del Horno and Other Successes.

HAVANA, April 20, 1870.

General Valmaseda has issued two proclamations announcing the entrance of the insurgent forces, commanded by Modesto Diaz, into the Bayamo district after a fight.

The Cauto Abajo insurgents attacked, captured and burnt Capitania del Horno, after a severe engagement, during which thirty-five volunteers and forty insurgents are reported to have been killed. The Spanish wounded escaped miraculously.

Six Spanish battalions are pursuing the insurgents to prevent them entering the Sierra.

Another body of insurgents are operating this side of Cauto.

The steamship Missouri arrived this morning from New York.

Amount Subscribed in Havana for the Family of Greenwald.

HAVANA, April 20, 1870.

The amount subscribed by citizens of Havana and other cities for the family of the late Isaac Greenwald, the American who was murdered by a Spaniard in this city, has reached the sum of $6,500.

Arrived, bark Roscevel, from New York.

ENGLAND.

The Prince of Wales a Plaintiff.

LONDON, April 20, 1870.

Legal proceedings have been instituted against the Sheffield *Daily Telegraph* for asserting that the Prince of Wales would soon reappear in the Divorce Court as a co-respondent in the case of the Earl vs. the Countess of Sefton.

Bad for New York Fenians.

LONDON, April 20, 1870.

The ship Castle Rock, of Quebec, is loading at Woolwich with gunpowder for Canada.

Conscience.

LONDON, April 20, 1870.

The nunnery case of Saurin vs. Starr has been struck from the calendar of the court, having been finally settled.

"Mrs. Harris" Jealous of President Grant.

LONDON, April 20, 1870.

The London *Times* this morning has a leading article on American affairs. It affirms that the American political system is faulty, but free trade is gaining rapidly. The courage of the protectionists begins to fail, as is shown in the cool reception that has met the President's advocacy of protection to American shipping. Other proofs are also cited in support of the statement.

Safety of the Steamship Sirius.

LIVERPOOL, April 20, 1870.

The steamship Sirius, from Liverpool for Calcutta, was spoken off Ceylon on the 15th inst., proceeding to her destination.

The Turf—New Market Craven Meeting.

LONDON, April 20, 1870.

At the Newmarket races, Craven meeting, the Column Stakes of fifty sovereigns each, for three year olds, colts to carry 122 lbs., fillies 119 lbs., one mile and seventeen yards (nine subscribers), was won by Lord Stamford's ch. c. Roderick Dhu, by Donnadee Regs, beating the Duke of Beaufort's br. c. Pibroach, by Trumpeter out of Palm, and Sir R. Bulkeley's b. f. Carlay, by Oxford, out of Curacoa.

The subscription plate of fifty sovereigns, 1,240 yards, was won by Baron Rothschild's b. c. Suffolk, by North Lincoln, out of Protection, beating the Amaranth Colt and Mr. Skirven's b. c. Elferon, by Weatherbit, out of Fayaway.

A sweepstakes, over the two-year old course, 1,240 yards, was won by Mr. T. V. Morgan's b. c. Fion, by Trumpeter, out of Sharp Practice, three years old, beating Mr. T. Hughes' b. h. Seringapatam, by Arthur Wellesley, out of beauty, six years old, and Mr. Thomas' b. c. Prince Arthur, by King John, out of Elspeta.

A handicap sweepstakes of ten sovereigns each, for three year olds and upwards, 1,750 yards, was won by Mr. Price's br. c. Woodford, by Dundee, out of Lady Elcho, three years old; Mr. E. C. Clayton's ch. c. The Little Drum, by Rataplan, out of Blue Girl, three years old, second; Mr. Joseph Radclift's b. c. Etruscan by Trumpeter, out of Nutburk, three years old, third.

The Newmarket handicap of twenty-five sovereigns each, with 200 sovereigns added, for three year olds and upwards, second horse to save his stake, one mile and a half (sixty-nine subscribers), was won by Mr. E. Potter's br. f. Miss Sheppard, by Dollar, out of Miss Birch, three years old, carrying eighty-three pounds, and beating Count F. de Lagrange's b. h. Nelusko by Monarque, out of Margaret, five years, carrying 129 lbs.; Mr. Naylor's b. f. Cherio, by the Flying Dutchman, out of Meriette, four years old, carrying 106 lbs., third.

At the Ponchestown races Rufus won the Prince of Wales plate.

SOUTH AMERICA.

Particulars of the Storm at Buenos Ayres—A Great Portion of the City Flooded—Men and Horses Drowned—Property Destroyed and Vessels Wrecked.

LISBON, April 20, 1870.

Later advices from the Argentine republic contain more particulars of the frightful storm which occurred at the city of Buenos Ayres on the 9th of March.

The wind blew a hurricane and the water in the Rio de la Plata rose so high as to flood a great portion of the city. So sudden was the overflow that men and horses were drowned in the streets, and many people barely escaped with their lives. A great number of buildings were undermined, which were subsequently broken down and entirely destroyed by the weight of goods in them.

Ships were driven ashore and wrecked or sunk at their anchorage. Many sailors were drowned. The damage was immense.

DOMINION OF CANADA.

Favorable Report of the Red River Country—Final Payment to the Hudson Bay Company.

OTTAWA, Ontario, April 20, 1870.

In the Senate Committee on the Northwest Territory, Dr. Schultz, the Canadian, who lately escaped from Fort Garry, was examined at considerable length in regard to the climate, resources, &c., of the Red River territory. The Doctor said it was a wonder that any emigrants could be induced to remain here while such fine territory was available at Fort Garry. He described the Indians as friendly in the country between Red River and Lake Superior.

It is stated that the imperial government will send a vessel with troops for the Red River by way of Hudson Bay, the vessel to reach Fort York about the 1st of July.

It is stated that the Canadian government has paid over the £300,000 agreed upon as payment to the Hudson Bay Company on the surrender of their title. The payment is a necessary preliminary step to the actual commencement of the forcible proceedings in the Northwest.

INDIANA.

Exciting Chase After the Vermillion County Robbers—Sixteen Thousand Dollars of Stolen Money Recovered.

TERRE HAUTE, April 20, 1870.

Sixteen thousand dollars of the money stolen from the office of the Treasurer of Vermillion county has been recovered. A farmer living near Clinton saw two suspicious men last evening, and called to them to stop. Upon this they ran. The farmer gave chase, and a large gang of railroad laborers joined here in pursuit. The fugitives fled to the Wabash river, pulled off most of their clothing, jumped in and swam towards the other shore. One of them threw from his possession a package, to enable him to swim faster. Some of the pursuing party swam out and secured the package, and found it to contain $16,000 of the missing money. When the thieves reached the shore a man tried to stop them, and succeeded in knocking one of them down with a rail. The other thief drew a revolver and threw their antagonist off. The robbers then took to the bush with no clothing except their shirts and drawers. The whole country is stirred up, and hundreds of men are after the robbers, and in their present condition they can hardly escape capture.

THE UNION LEAGUE.

Meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Union League in Baltimore.

BALTIMORE, April 20, 1870.

The meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Union League was held in this city to-day. The following gentlemen were present:—Ex-Governor William A. Newell, of New Jersey; Governor Geary, of Pennsylvania; Major J. G. McQuade, of Pennsylvania; V. Dell, of Arkansas; Sidney Perham, of Maine; Hon. William B. Stokes, of Tennessee; Andrew Washburn, of Virginia; Thomas R. Rich, of Maryland; General W. T. Clark, of Texas; Dr. William V. Alexander and Thomas G. Baker, of New York, and others. Ex-Governor Newell presided and Thomas G. Baker acted as secretary of the committee. The special committee appointed to consider certain charges against the State Council of Maryland presented a voluminous report embracing the evidence submitted to the committee. A resolution was adopted declaring the State Council, of which Mr. Thomas R. Rich is president, a legally constituted body, and directing the appointment of a State executive committee of two from each Congressional district.

A committee of three was appointed, consisting of Messrs. V. Dell, of Arkansas; W. B. Stokes, of Tennessee, and W. T. Clark, of Texas, to wait on the President and Congress on the subject of the ill-treatment by Indians of colored people who were formerly their slaves.

Speeches were made by delegates from various States. Congressman Stokes made a speech depicting the condition of Union men in his State. General Clark, of Texas, predicted that the great Union party would win a brilliant victory in his State next fall. Governor Geary spoke for Pennsylvania.

A resolution was adopted pledging the National Committee to aid in securing all the rights to American citizens at all times and under all circumstances. A large amount of private business was transacted, and the secretary read a full report, which was received and ordered on file. The new ritual was presented and met with general approval. The committee adjourned to meet at the call of the chair.

THE SPRING FRESHETS.

Great Rise in the Hudson, Mohawk, Connecticut and Merrimac Rivers.

Cities and Villages Inundated—Several Lives Lost—Bridges Washed Away and Railroad Travel Impeded.

The Flood in the Hudson—Albany Inundated.

ALBANY, April 20, 1870.

The freshet here is rapidly subsiding. The water this morning covered Broadway, from Hudson to South Ferry streets, and hundreds of basements and cellars were flooded. The entire lumber district was inundated. The water on the docks was from seven to ten feet deep. Great difficulty was experienced by the people's line of steamers in effecting a landing. A bridge erected for the purpose was carried away by the rising water.

The flats above the city are all flooded, as also those below the city. No heavy losses are yet reported.

The morning train on the Hudson River Railroad was detained some hours.

The Freshet in the Mohawk Valley—The Valley Flooded from Bank to Bank—Villages and Cities Inundated.

SCHENECTADY, April 20, 1870.

The freshet in the Mohawk valley was never so great before. The valley was flooded from bank to bank yesterday, inundating the lower portions of villages and cities and doing more or less damage.

At this city the water rose to twenty feet above low water mark, submerging several streets and flooding a large number of residences. The rise was mostly Tuesday, during the day, so that the people had time to prepare for it. The water here was fifteen inches higher than during the great freshet last fall. Many families were taken out of the second story windows of their residences. The water was two feet deep on the flooring of the old Mohawk bridge. Little or no damage was done to the railroad, and the trains have been nearly on time.

The flood rushed into the canal at a few points and did considerable damage. The feeder at the aqueduct, four miles east from this city, has been washed away.

The water has fallen ten feet to-day.

The Flood in Tioga County, N. Y.

WAVERLEY, April 20, 1870.

The Chemung river has fallen eight feet. Twenty rods of track were washed out just west of the bridge at Chemung village. The road is now ready for trains to pass. The break in the Pennsylvania and New York Railroad is at Milen, eight miles below this place. A portion of the waters of the Chemung broke into the canal at Athens, and running down four miles broke out again, washing out about fifteen rods of the track, which is on the old towing path. Passengers are now transferred. The road will be repaired and trains running again regularly to-morrow.

Rise in the Susquehanna River—Destruction of Property.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., April 20, 1870.

The rise in the river on Monday night carried away 4,000,000 feet of logs from the dam at Tobyhanna station, on the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad. The bridge was also damaged and trains are delayed. Travel on the Lehigh and Susquehanna Railroad is interrupted by a land slide. On Monday night a passenger train from New York was delayed seven hours. The Susquehanna is now falling slowly.

The Flood in the Connecticut River—Loss of Life.

HARTFORD, April 20, 1870.

The water in the Connecticut at this point is twenty-five feet above low water mark and the streets near the river are submerged. Yesterday a little girl named Lizzie Sceery fell from a piazza into the flood and was drowned. To-day four men attempted to cross the river near the Colt pistol factory, when their boat capsized and Alexander Maher was drowned. The others were rescued with some difficulty.

The Freshets in Massachusetts—Great Rise in the Merrimac River—Railroad Trains Delayed.

BOSTON, April 20, 1870.

The Merrimac has risen at this place nine and one-quarter feet from seven to twelve o'clock. The Bristol train is the only one that has arrived from the north. The train over the Montreal road came as far north as Concord, where the passengers were carried over the river to the Northern road. The up train on the Northern road left Concord, and hopes to be able to reach Andover, which they were unable to do on Tuesday on account of the highway bridges being carried away. There have been no trains over the Hillsboro, Bradford, Pittsfield or North Weare roads. The Concord road is uninterrupted on its trunk, although about a foot of water covers the track at Thornton's, and no through freights have left. On the Boston, Lowell and Nashua road the water covers the track for about a quarter of a mile, and at Tyngsboro the water is up to the axles of the cars. The trains on the Vermont and Massachusetts and Cheshire and Fitchburg are reported all right. The water is rising one and a half inch an hour.

At Lowell the river is higher than at any time since 1852. Otis Allen's drive of logs has broken away the booms and much lumber will be lost.

The Freshets in New Hampshire.

CONCORD, April 20, 1870.

Superintendent Kendrick reports a heavy wash of the Concord road below this city, and says that no train can pass over the road before Thursday afternoon, and if the river continues to rise travel will be delayed longer. The water now rises about an inch an hour and it is now raining. It is reported that Allen's three million drive of logs are on their way, between Franklin and this city. Serious damages to bridges are anticipated.

CONCORD, April 20—9 P. M.

The afternoon mail train over the Northern and Vermont Central road arrived at half-past seven—about four hours late—having four car loads of Canadians on board, who will be obliged to stop here until communication is opened below.

Panic in Maine—The Greatest Freshet Since 1843—Houses Vacated and Roads Impassable.

SACO, April 20, 1870.

The greatest freshet since 1843 now prevails here, and the river is probably higher now than it was then. Four bridges and several of the principal streets are impassable. A large number of houses have been vacated, the occupants leaving in boats. The water power machine shop is shut down, and only part of Laconia Corporation can run. Hobson has forty acres of logs held by one boom, which thus far holds. If it breaks nothing can save the bridges, saw mills and many houses along the river. The storm still continues and the river is rising.

The Rise in the Androscoggin.

LEWISTON, April 20, 1870.

The rain which commenced on Sunday increased in violence during yesterday and still continues. All the streams are very high. The water in the Androscoggin is within eight inches of the point reached in the great freshet last fall, and is still rising, and is now two feet higher than last night.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS ITEMS.

A rich silver ledge in Yanehill county, Oregon, has been discovered.

A negro 100 years old was registered in San Francisco yesterday.

James Atkinson, democrat, was re-elected Mayor of Newport, R. I., yesterday.

The miners' strike at Plymouth, Pa., continues. The miners at Audenreid have also struck.

The blasting of Blossom Rock, at the entrance of San Francisco harbor, has been postponed until Monday next.

The Massachusetts Assembly yesterday, by a vote of 133 to 68, rejected the proposed woman suffrage amendment to the State constitution.

Simon Groots, of Swanltown, N. Y., for many years an overseer on the Erie Canal, put an end to his existence yesterday by hanging himself.

George Mulliner, a respectable citizen of Fairport, N. Y., committed suicide yesterday in Rochester by taking laudanum while in a fit of temporary insanity.

Connecticut has about 100,000 voters. At the recent election the total number of votes was 87,415, of which Governor English received a majority of 844. The average majority on the State ticket is 826.

The case of Kimberly Brothers vs. General Butler in the United States Circuit Court at Baltimore, assigned for trial yesterday, was continued to the November term at the instance of the complainants.

John Spear, ex-Collector of Internal Revenue for the District of Kansas, is defaulter to the amount of $100,000. Spear's mode of operation was to collect assessments, and then enter on his books that the parties assessed had absconded, died, &c.

Yesterday, as a train on the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad was passing through a cut in Montgomery county, Va., a rock weighing five or six tons fell immediately on the tender to the locomotive, crushing it to atoms. A negro brakeman was caught between the cars and had both his legs crushed off, causing his death in a few hours.

THE INTEREST ON GOVERNMENT BONDS.

WASHINGTON, April 20, 1870.

The amount of gold required to pay the interest on the bonds falling due May 1 is about $25,500,000. It is unofficially reported to-night that payments without rebate will commence next Monday.

THE INDIANS.

Affairs in Montana—The Savages Fighting With Each Other—The Gros Ventres Hunting Buffaloes—Nothing Reliable About the Blackfeet.

WASHINGTON, April 20, 1870.

The Indian office has received a report from General Sully, Superintendent of the Montana Superintendency, dated Helena, April 6, giving details of Indian affairs in that superintendency.

Mr. A. S. Reed, in charge of the Gros Ventres, writes that he has been on a visit to the River Crows at Mussel Shell. He found them congregated awaiting his arrival. They were almost starved, owing to the scarcity of buffalo. They were at war with the Flatheads and Pend d'Oreilles, and the latter had stolen some of their horses. They were pursued by the Crows, who killed some of them and recovered their horses. The Crows have been removed to the Black Butte neighborhood.

The Montana Crow Indians are fighting the Arapahoes. They attacked fourteen lodges of Gros Ventres and Arapahoes recently, killing the latter and letting the Gros Ventres go. The Arapahoes are afraid of the Crows, and want to be moved in their down the river. Warm times between the two tribes are expected.

The Gros Ventres have somewhat recovered from the stupor occasioned by the late sickness among them, and are again hunting buffalo and making robes.

The Assinaboins are very poor, having no horses and being unable to get buffalo. The agent had to feed them much more than the other Indians. They are reported to be extremely anxious about their annuity goods, with regard to which they make many inquiries. The Blackfeet and Piegans made a raid on the Assinaboins and took all their horses. The Assinaboins are reported to be very quiet and peaceable. Large numbers of them have not been able to go to the agency for provisions because of the scarcity of horses in the tribe, and the Sioux are nearly in the same condition. The opinion is expressed that both these tribes would cultivate the soil if proper measures were taken for them to do so.

No reliable information has been received in regard to the movements of the Blackfeet Indians. Many of them are now on the hunt, while others have gone beyond the line. The smallpox has abated in their camp, but a great many have died, principally the younger portion of the tribe.

About thirty years ago they suffered terribly from this disease, when numbers of them died which accounts for the fact that the older portion did not contract the disease this time. General Sully says it is impossible to say whether we will have trouble with these Indians this season. Different opinions have been held concerning the subject. The tribe has become very much scattered on account of sickness among them, and it is impossible to arrive at any conclusion concerning their intentions. He does not believe the Indians know themselves what they will do.

MAKING THE FUR FLY.

Clever Capture of a Swindler—Knox Wide Awake.

Yesterday afternoon a boy went into the store of Knox, the hatter, and produced an order purporting to be from Mr. Ockershausen, the shipping agent, asking Mr. Knox to send a set of sable or mink furs, and let them be a nice set for he wanted them for a wedding present. The bill was to be sent with the furs by the bearer and he would send his check for the amount. While a young man named Bowen was looking out the furs Mr. Knox questioned the boy, and the answers not being quite satisfactory he requested Mr. Bowen and another young man from the store to go with the boy, who said the man was waiting for him at the corner of New Chambers and Chatham streets. The three walked about there for half an hour, but the messenger to receive the furs was not there. The young men then decided to take the boy to the station, but before they did that went to Mr. Ockershausen's office, and the boy was unable to point out any one there who had given him the order. On their way to the station house Bowen thought he saw a man who resembled the description the boy had given. He asked the boy if the man he pointed out was not the man and the boy said it was. The boy was then instructed to give him the furs, and he went and did so. Directly the man obtained possession he was seized by the young men. He made a desperate resistance, so desperate that he got out of his coat and was only detained in custody by the help of two officers from Captain Allaire's precinct. At the station house the man said his name was Baldwin and upon him was found a large number of similar orders for different descriptions of property from stores. The furs were valued at $175.

SUPERINTENDENT JOURDAN'S INNOVATIONS.

Superintendent John Jourdan has not been sufficiently long in command of the Police Department to fully develop his policy, but already he has shown his hand in little things—mere straws that show which way the wind blows. On Monday he closed the folding doors, shut separate his office from the Inspector's rooms, and opened the door leading from the Superintendent's offices to the hall of the Central Office. His private secretary, Mr. Hopcraft, was ordered to admit but one person at a time to the presence of his chief, whether he be policeman or citizen, nobleman or plebeian. Tuesday Mr. Jourdan ordered his captains to strictly enforce the ordinance against the disfiguring of the carostones of the city with quack and other advertisements, and to some he gave significant hints as to the suppression of panel robbers, envelope swindlers and general offenders. Yesterday he detained a special officer to receive all visitors at the Central Office, show them to such departments as their business calls them and keep the halls free of loafers and loungers. Certain innovations were made upon "old times" that promise to be productive of great good and Jourdan's reign as Superintendent of Police, that was first foershadowed by the HERALD, promises to be one of reform. It may be mentioned in this connection that one of Mr. Jourdan's first acts on assuming command was to accomplish the transfer from the Sixth precinct of his detective officer, Mr. Woolrich, to the Central department, commanded by Captain Kelso. This officer (Woolrich) is one of the best in the city, and he is quite an acquisition to Kelso's command. Detective John Dunn was subsequently transferred from the Sixth to the Central Detective Department.

CITY TRANSIT—PRESENT AND FUTURE.

Proposed New Modes of Transit.

A meeting of the Society of Practical Engineers was held last night in the rooms of the Geographical Society, Cooper Institute. A paper was read by Mr. C. Williams, civil engineer, on "The Past and Future of City Transit." The paper set forth at considerable length the advantages of an elevated street railroad. One peculiar feature was the suggestion that this proposed elevated roadway should be made available for the ordinary vehicle traffic of the streets. The next aspect of the question was the consideration of the mode of pressure. The atmosphere system of propulsion was considered at length. It was proposed to carry a charged tank of air on board the car and to change the tank at different stations; but it was admitted that this would be a great waste of time in rolling off and taking on spent and charged tanks of air. Caloric engines or hot air locomotives were considered to be incompetent as a means of pressure. The pneumatic tube system for the conveyance of parcels was practicable, but for the conveyance of passengers would involve so great a waste of power as to render it impracticable for the transit of passengers. The proposed system of propelling cars by carbonic acid gas has a very attractive appearance, but was also impracticable. The most feasible among the many plans for air propulsion was that by means of compressed air. The car would be on board in the car and distributing tanks would be laid along the whole length of the road, and the replenishment of air to the car would require the stopping of the car no longer than would be necessary for a passenger to get off or on. The whole propelling apparatus, including engine, would not weigh a thousand pounds. This plan was applicable to ground lines as well as elevated ways and would be a great improvement over the present modes of propulsion.

The elevated railroad in Greenwich street would, in the opinion of the writer, be a mode of conveyance that would soon be numbered with the things of the past.

Mr. Cheesebrow showed a model of an incline and elevated mode of road, which, he said, would be practicable by the fixing of two sets of columns in the centre of the road.

SPUYTEN DUYVIL AND PORT MORRIS RAILROAD.

In the Supreme Court, before Justice Joseph F. Barnard, at Brooklyn, yesterday, the report of the Commissioners of Estimate and Assessment, in the matter of opening the Spuyten Duyvil and Port Morris Railroad, in Westchester county, was presented, and on motion of counsel confirmed. This road, in addition to establishing rail communication between the places from which its title is derived, is also intended to connect the Hudson River and Harlem railroads. Since all legal obstacles have now been removed it is probable that the work of construction will be commenced at an early day.

SCALDED IN A BEER VAT.

A young man, named Albert Schwartz, was engaged in pumping liquor into a vat of boiling beer last evening, at the brewery No. 81 Washington street, Hoboken, when he carelessly seated himself on a loose board-serving as part of a cover for the vessel. Suddenly the plank toppled over and precipitated the man into the boiling liquid, which was only six inches in depth, yet he was so badly scalded that the flesh was exposed on his back and sides. He was immediately rescued, but his recovery is uncertain.

THE VOORHEES TRAGEDY.

Trial of William Chambers for the Murder of Dominicus S. Voorhees, of Brooklyn.

Details of the Tragic Affair—Was Chambers Insane?—Who He Is and What He Is—Evidences of Insanity in Past Years—The Trial to be Continued To-Day.

William Chambers was placed on trial yesterday morning in the Kings County Court of Oyer and Terminer for the murder of Mr. Dominicus S. Voorhees, the well known broker and contractor of Brooklyn. Mr. Voorhees, it will be remembered, was shot by the prisoner in Peter Fogarty's barroom, corner of Columbia and Carroll streets, South Brooklyn, on the evening of the 13th of February last.

The defence in this case is insanity. Chambers, the murderer, is about forty years of age, and certainly his appearance yesterday was more like that of an insane than a sane man. He was wretchedly attired and wore a white cloth about his head, which contributed, in a great degree, to give him the appearance of a lunatic. He was defended by Mr. William F. Howe. District Attorney Morris and his assistant, Mr. Thomas E. Pearsall, conducted the case for the people. There is a great public interest excited in this case, inasmuch as Mr. Voorhees was one of the prominent business men of Brooklyn, and consequently the court room was densely crowded with spectators. Hundreds of others were unable to gain admission and thronged the corridors of the Court House.

A jury was obtained with comparatively little difficulty and Mr. Pearsall then proceeded to open

THE CASE FOR THE PEOPLE.

He said that it would be shown that on the evening of February 13 the prisoner, with a Mr. Duffy, of Carroll street, entered Fogarty's liquor store and met there Mr. Voorhees, Edward Tuhill, Nicholas McCall, Robert McClellan and the proprietor. Chambers was introduced and they drank together. After remaining there half an hour or so the prisoner and Duffy left. Chambers subsequently returned to the liquor store and met the same men. Voorhees was standing at the end of the bar. Some words of a conversational character were passed, when Chambers took a revolver from his pocket and fired it at Voorhees. The ball entered Voorhees' head, and he died from the effects of the wound on the following day. The distance from where Chambers fired this shot to where the deceased was standing was 13½ feet.

THE EVIDENCE FOR THE PEOPLE.

Dr. A. W. Shepard, who made the post-mortem examination of Mr. Voorhees' body was the first witness called. He stated that the ball entered the forehead just a little above the ridge of the eye and passed through the membranes of the brain, taking a course slightly downward, backward and inward into the right hemisphere of the brain, and was found between the larger and smaller brain. Death was caused by lesion of the brain.

THE DETAILS OF THE TRAGEDY.

Edward Tuhill testified that he was in Fogarty's barroom on the evening when the prisoner shot Mr. Voorhees; when Chambers and Duffy entered the first time Voorhees, the witness and several others were present; Duffy appeared to be intoxicated, and introduced Chambers to Voorhees; Mr. Voorhees asked Chambers how he got some scars which were upon his forehead, and the prisoner replied that he had received them at the hands of some thieves and robbers in New York; when Duffy and Voorhees walked along the bar Chambers said he did not know what they were talking about. Voorhees then tapped Chambers on the shoulder and said "he knew more about that than Duffy did;" there was some talk about Masonry; I didn't hear the words used.

Witness then went on to state that the parties had some wine. Mr. Voorhees opening a bottle; Chambers said he could pay for a bottle as well as any one; McClellan came in, stood at the upper end of the bar and asked Voorhees and Fogarty to have some wine; Fogarty introduced Voorhees to McClellan, when the deceased said George B. McClellan was a fine man; Chambers said G—d d—n McClellan; I stepped out and looked at Chambers, who stood up and said he was as good as any man in the room, and could prove it; he then took the pistol from his pocket and fired it; he stood still after firing the shot and looked up at a picture, as if he thought the ball had hit it; Mr. Voorhees had fallen to the floor; after the shooting Chambers called for a glass of ale, and I went up to him and threw my arms around his neck and, with the barkeeper's assistance, secured him and deprived him of the pistol.

Cross-examination—When Chambers entered the second time Voorhees said, "Here's our friend back again" and asked him to take a glass of wine; Chambers said nothing; he was excited while he was in the barroom; the first time he came in Voorhees asked him to take a glass of wine; he took the wine and threw it on the floor, saying he would rather have a glass of ale.

Q. Will you swear that this unfortunate man pointed that pistol with deliberate aim at Mr. Voorhees? A. He did not seem to take any particular aim at Voorhees, but the pistol was pointed more towards Voorhees than to me.

This closed the direct evidence.

A CLERICAL ERROR.

Mr. Howe said that it was his imperative duty at this stage of the proceedings to ask his Honor to direct a verdict of acquittal. The indictment charged that Mr. Chambers killed some one, but it failed to state that it averred that he killed one Dominicus S. Voorhees.

Judge Barnard overruled the objection. Exception taken and noted.

THE DEFENCE.

Mr. Howe then opened the case for the defence, claiming that Chambers was insane at the time he fired the shot and therefore entirely irresponsible for the act. The prosecution had proven the killing and had proven insanity also and to return a verdict against this lunatic man would be a great wrong, a judicial murder, which would inure to the everlasting shame and agony of each one of the jury. Mr. Howe stated that it would be shown that the prisoner's mother had died in a lunatic asylum; that Chambers himself for the past five years has been subjected to the malignation that people were in the habit of spitting at him, and that he left the city of Washington under the belief that the whole community was spitting at him.

THE TESTIMONY.

Thomas Rafferty, of 145 Centre street, New York, has known the prisoner for about seven months; at one time when witness went to Chambers' place the latter showed him a sabre and revolver, and said that if he would wait a little longer he would see the boys come around to rob him; some beer was obtained, and both drank; witness told him he had better settle down and marry, whereupon he appeared to scout the idea, and said there were lots of ladies in Brooklyn who were going mad for him; he also complained that persons were in the habit of spitting at him in the cars or wherever he went.

WAS IT INSANITY?

Thomas Ford, of No. 135 Mulberry street, has known Chambers for sixteen years, and has known him to be insane for the past four or five years; he had often told witness that people would spit at him in the street; that they carried on the same game as they did in Washington and that he could stand it no longer, and would have to put shot into them.

Barry Welch, of Harlem, has known Chambers since last September; he once said that he thought all the rowdies about had designs upon him and that he would "put a hole in him;" witness saw Chambers have a pistol and heard him say that he would put a hole in some of the parties who were "poking" at him; Chambers was out one night when he was attacked by rowdies who had robbed him; this was about three months ago.

MORE STRANGE CONDUCT.

Patrick Coughlin, of 56 Mulberry street, has known the prisoner as long as he can remember; Chambers would often say to witness that persons were all the time spitting at him and that he (witness) was one of them; he put his fist under witness' nose, but did not strike him; he first did this about two years ago; one night he entered the house of witness, complained of the persons who were spitting at him, and said that his (Coughlin's) mother put him up to do so too. Coughlin went down to the jail to see Chambers one day, when the prisoner struck him in the face while talking with him. The prisoner also complained of robbers who, he said, were trying often to get into his place. Never saw him drunk and never saw any person spit at him.

CHAMBERS IN WASHINGTON.

James H. McMillan has known Chambers since 1855; the prisoner boarded with him in Washington and was employed in an eating house; he was quarrelsome and could not stay there so the witness took him down into the army; at Richmond, after the fall, Chambers applied to witness for employment, but the latter would not have anything to do with him; a week before the murder of Mr. Voorhees the prisoner went to witness at the Grand street ferry and paid him two dollars which he borrowed of him four years ago in Richmond; he had a pistol with him at that time, and McMillan told him that he had better get rid of it; he said he got it to kill roobers, and he would put a bullet in some of them. On the cross-examination it appeared from McMillan's statement that Chambers was very excitable and sometimes quarrelsome.

John G. and Mrs. Duffy, Patrick Moran, Margaret Paine, Mrs. Coughlin and Professor Echeverria were next examined, the drift of their testimony going to show various acts of Chambers tending to prove mental aberration, and the fact that his mother was an inmate of a lunatic asylum in Ireland.

The case will be resumed this morning.

THE BLACKBURN CASE.

It was not till yesterday afternoon that the authorities in charge of Blackwell's Island and adjoining institutions thought it worth while to communicate with the authorities of Newark, N. J., on the subject of the insane woman Ann Blackburn. At length a despatch was received from Mr. George Kellock stating forth that "she does not belong to us." In the meantime, tired of waiting and deeming it unjust to detain the unfortunate woman any longer, Chief of Police Reckwell ordered her liberation. She was sent on at her own desire to New Brunswick, where she formerly resided.

NEW YORK CITY.

Local and Police Paragraphs and Minor Items of Metropolitan News.

The following record will show the changes in the temperature of the weather for the past twenty-four hours in comparison with the corresponding day of last year, as indicated by the thermometer at Hudnut's pharmacy, HERALD Building, Broadway, corner of Ann street:—

	1869.	1870.		1869.	1870.
3 A. M.	65	59	3 P. M.	72	56
6 A. M.	60	59	6 P. M.	69	55
9 A. M.	70	54	9 P. M.	62	53
12 M.	73	56	12 P. M.	61	53

Average temperature yesterday 53½
Average temperature for corresponding date last year 66½

The new Park Commissioners enter upon the discharge of their official duties to-day.

About 1,000 emigrants landed yesterday at Castle Garden. They were almost entirely Germans.

Patrick McGovern, whose death was reported at the Almshouse, Blackwell's Island, it now appears, committed suicide. He was a pauper, without home or friends.

The ship carpenters' strike still continues. The "bosses" and journeymen are equally determined not to surrender. The "American shipping interest" is very extensive just now, anyhow; and if the trade can stand it the public can likewise.

Why cannot the police learn to be reasonably humane in dealing with women? A day or two since a lady, the wife of a New street broker was shamefully handled by an officer, at the instigation of her husband, who requested the policeman to remove her from his (the broker's) office.

Charles Vanderhayden and his brother Francis were arraigned yesterday afternoon at the Yorkville Police Court, the former for committing an unprovoked assault on officer Harvell, of the Nineteenth precinct and the latter for being drunk and disorderly. Charles was committed in default of $500 bail to answer, while Francis was discharged.

Some of the city papers yesterday published reports of a "very interesting" display of archery by young ladies, for prizes, under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association, at Greenpoint. It may be interesting to the public to know, on the authority of the President of the Association, that no such contest took place.

Mary Alexander aged seventy-two years, was committed by Justice Shandley at Jefferson Market, yesterday afternoon, charged with stealing a piece of satin containing thirty-one yards valued at $103, from the store of Lake & McCreary, 255 Broadway. On the person of the prisoner was found a large bag, concealed under her dress, similar to those used by shoplifters.

Yesterday afternoon about twenty gentlemen met at the Astor House for the purpose of effecting a permanent organization of the alumni of