SACKCLOTH AND ASHES.

Boston in a Penitential Mood.

Solemn Services and Timely Sermons in the Churches.

"GOD ADVERTISES HONESTY."

A Remarkable Scene in the "Old South."

PROMPT ACTION OF THE CHURCH MILITANT.

An Organist and Choir from the First Regiment of Militia.

CONDITION OF THE BURNED DISTRICT.

The Temporary Post Office Swamped with Letters—A Quantity of Valuable Silverware Recovered—The Losses of Harvard College—Identification of Human Remains.

BOSTON, Nov. 17, 1872.

An even week has passed since the great calamity, and although the excitement has subsided in part, yet there is little else thought or talked of. Thousands and thousands of strangers have been in the city to-day, and the burnt district was for the first time thrown open, only the points where dangerous walls are left standing being guarded. All the churches in the city were crowded to overflowing, and probably there was not a single sermon but had reference to the great fire. The most sad, solemn and impressive were the closing services in the "Old South," the edifice where the fire was stopped, and the safety of which is regarded as the salvation of the western and northern part of the city. More than two hundred years ago a congregation assembled at the corner of Washington and Milk streets for the purpose of engaging in divine worship, and for more than one hundred and fifty years the weekly assemblages at this corner have been enclosed within the same walls as those which to-day interwitnessed the gathering of martial men to listen to the last religious service in the Old South. For day's past, as I have telegraphed you, this church has been made

THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE TROOPS

who have been engaged in the work of guarding the burned district. They have slept upon the floors and in the pews, and desecrated its sacred precincts with tobacco juice, and games of poker and high-low-jack. Martial law has superseded the law of the Gospel, and the authority of the Major General in command has ruled supreme. To-day, however, inasmuch as this will probably be the last week of the service of the church militant, and because of the fact that next Tuesday the United States authorities will take possession of the building for the purpose of converting it into a temporary Post Office, it was deemed expedient once more, and for the last time, to hold religious services in the sacred edifice. Rev. Dr. J. M. Manning, pastor of the church, consented to direct the exercises, and Rev. Dr. W. H. H. Murray, pastor of the Park street church, volunteered his assistance. Next came the question of providing an organist and choir for the occasion. The hour at which the idea was conceived (three o'clock), rendered this a difficult task. Nearly every organist in the city was employed elsewhere, and vain search was made for musical talent.

A MUSICAL COMPANY.

Finally Captain William B. Sears, of Company C, First Regiment M. V. M., Claflin Guards of West Newton, was appealed to for advice. He called his men in line, and after stating the nature of the emergency, requested that all, if there was an organist in the Company, or any singers, they should march three paces to the front. All but fourteen of the fifty-six privates stepped forward at the word of command, and it was found that five of them were capable to fill the position of organist. A selection was made resulting in the choice of John Tucker, and a choir of twenty picked voices. This done seven companies of the regiment marched to their seats in files, and assumed a reverential aspect. The old church never presented a more singular spectacle. Aside from the solemnity of the occasion, the antiquated sounding board, the chandelier, with its shades like weiss beer glasses; the officers, in gray and gold flitting to and fro; the soldiers, gossipping with one another under their breath; the grim-visaged police officers, with occasionally a petticoat here and there, combined to render the picture an odd one to witness.

THE SERVICES

commenced at half-past four o'clock. Rev. Dr. Manning, after an affecting allusion to his long pastorate in the parish, and the fact that never hereafter would these walls re-echo to the sounds of divine worship, spoke of the necessity of each giving his soul to Christ. The calamity of the past week had taught us all that nothing could be depended upon but the will of the Almighty God. Men were finite and God was infinite, and His mercy was our dependence, while His justice was the end of all things. The choir sang the hymn,

NEARER MY GOD TO THEE,

after which an address was delivered by the Rev. W. H. H. Murray.

We do not need a sermon to-day, he said; the ruins before us are a sermon by themselves. It is not necessary that I should cite to you a text of Scripture and preach a discourse therefrom. Every brick in these eighty acres is a text, and the lessons can be drawn therefrom by you all. But there has been

GREAT GOOD FROM THIS CALAMITY.

It has taught us the love of neighborhood of each other. Selfishness draws lines between men. It exiles each from the other's heart. It is comforting to know, then, and to realize that by the public opinion of Boston, universally expressed, self-love is a thing entirely to be forgotten in this calamity. A man who seeks to build up a fortune on the top of another's misfortune is an extortioner and a thief. Call such men what you please, give them what rank in the mercantile community you can, they are hypocrites. What we need now is sympathy; sympathy is better than money, prosperity is much more valuable than the pecuniary means with which to acquire it, and we think that in ourselves lies a sentiment which will achieve the healthy state of the public welfare which is needed without any help from abroad.

GOD ADVERTISES HONESTY

by individual examples. The eyes of the mercantile classes of the world are upon us. They realize the fact that while we appreciate the importance of all that we have lost we are happy in the consciousness that we still preserve our honesty. No legal quibble prevents us from paying our notes, and no desire to aggrandize ourselves urges us to accept help which we do not need. In some sense, too, our example will frighten other cities from wrong doing. If the merchants of Cincinnati, St. Louis and Chicago should some day be visited by an infliction like this, they will remember our course of action and our strict adhesion to the right, and go themselves and do likewise.

WE ARE DEVOUTLY GRATEFUL

for what is left to us. Our hearthstones are intact, our homes are perfect, our wives and children are left to us to protect and care for. Before the air surrenders forever the tones of thanksgiving which have often been heard in this sanctuary we want to remember these facts and these causes for praising God. We want to thank Him for the past and for the glorious hope of immortality in the future. In ashes we come, and in sackcloth and with bowed heads and bended knees we wish to say, "O Lord Thy will be done!"

The services were concluded by the singing of the Doxology.

SERMON BY REV. R. L. COLLYER.

Rev. Robert Laird Collyer, of Chicago, preached to a large congregation at the Rev. Edward E. Hale's church, taking as his text the twenty-second and twenty-third verses of the thirty-third chapter of Exodus:—

And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cleft of the rock and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by. And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts; but my face shall not be seen.

He dwelt at considerable length upon the immediate words and meaning of the text. The cleft of the rock was close, narrow, dark, when covered by the Lord's hand, and in that confine the blackness was oppressive and the waiting seemed interminable; but the hand was at length removed and the brightness streamed in and Moses beheld the glory of the Lord. So nations and individuals are placed in a cleft of a rock, and all seems desolation, gloom, ruin and utter hopelessness; but there comes at last the light brighter than was ever known before, and the blessing and goodness and the glory of the Lord is seen. When our country was in the depths of war, we wondered in our hearts if there would ever be an end to it; but the end came, and then we knew that when it was the darkest the Lord was nearest, and, in this day, said the preacher, we are in the cleft of the rock in the dark straight place, and all the light there is lies behind. It was

A FIRE ANGEL

that came; but we say that it was a fire fiend. It is so hard to see God's face, and there is no person who will not see God's blessing in it if he will only look with confidence. Boston can arise through it all to a glorious resurrection, for nothing has been lost that may not be replaced if hope and courage are not lost.

SERMON BY REV. DR. NEALS.

Rev. Dr. Rollin H. Neals, of the First Baptist church, Somerset street, took his text from Jeremiah, viii. 6. He said:—"These words of the prophet were uttered in view of the many calamities that came upon the people of Israel, resulting in their final subjugation and captivity. It is not in my heart to apply the language of the text to our citizens. No time to censure when in trouble, faint and trembling, stunned by the shock they have received, and scarcely knowing what they have suffered. The excellent spirit which has thus far been manifested, the cheerfulness, the courage and hope everywhere expressed, we must all approve and rejoice in. The firemen who labored so nobly to stay the flames are entitled to unqualified thanks. The city government in all its departments did their duty the best they could under the circumstances. If some mistakes were made they will be readily excused, owing to the excitement of the moment and the fearfulness of the hour. We shall never forget or fail to remember with gratitude the kindly voices of sympathy and good cheer which come to us from other places.

THE WORDS OF HENRY WARD BEECHER

were prompt and characteristic last Sunday night. It was an inspiring theme to him, and had the full sympathy of his hearers. Then, too, the voice from Chicago; how strange, and yet how good! One hundred thousand dollars which had been raised for themselves and which they still needed, but thinking their benefactors were now suffering more than they, "They must send it to us." Our own citizens, men in whose wisdom we have confidence, we have reason to believe, are taking judicious and effective measures to meet the present exigencies and provide for the future prospects and safety of the city. The State and national governments have generously volunteered to favor our merchants and prominent business men in their enterprise they contemplate for the good of the city; and, notwithstanding all this, there is some occasion for the words of the text, "I harkened and heard, but they spoke not aright. No one repented him of the evil, saying, 'What have I done?' Every one turned to his course, as the horse rusheth into battle." I hope good sentiments will be uttered from the different pulpits today; but it seems to me that thus far there has scarcely a right view been taken of

THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD

in this great calamity. The immediate causes of the fire have been very properly inquired into; the narrow streets, the high buildings and the Mansard roofs criticised and condemned as they should be; but there is a disposition to feel satisfied after finding out the immediate cause of a calamity. There is a sensitiveness against moral lessons, as if they implied that this calamity was a judgment of God, like that which destroyed the old world and overthrew the cities of the plain. This does not necessarily follow. Physical calamities are not always proportioned to the moral deserts of those who suffer them. The great

WHEELS OF THE UNIVERSE

move with beneficial exactness, and do not turn aside a hair's breadth to spare a good man or to crush a bad man. Nevertheless the ways of God are inscrutable and past finding out. The wheels of Providence are full of eyes, indicating intelligence and design, and any circumstance which occurs in our history is designed to do us good. It is to be regarded as the voice of God to us and charged with some lessons of wisdom, of encouragement, counsel or admonition, which we do well to heed. The lessons of prosperity are obvious, though more likely to be unheeded than those of affliction. God's mercies are designed to incite gratitude to the bounteous Giver. Another design, and, as a general thing, the real effect of these great calamities is to make men sensible of their ordinary mercies. Many of our citizens, I am happy to say, have not suffered loss and they feel grateful, and even they who have suffered think of what is left. They are thankful their health and youth and manly vigor may be still left. They did not know till now how many blessings they enjoyed. These great calamities show people as they are—without the special interposition of grace as they are likely to remain till the judgment day. The skeletons exhumed from

THE BURNED CITIES OF POMPEII

and Herculaneum are specimens of the diversities of character made manifest under a common catastrophe. "The miser was found clutching his gold," "the mother with her infant to her breast." In a word, God's providence, whether of affliction or blessing, do us good or otherwise, according as we have a heart to improve or abuse them. The prayer of each one should be, "Lord, give me a heart that shall be submissive and grateful under all thy doings."

When gladness brings my favored hour
Thy love my thoughts shall fill;
Resigned when storms of sorrow lower,
My Lord, I meet thy will.

SERMON BY THE REV. DR. S. K. LATHROP.

Scarcely had the services of the Old South Society, in the Freeman place chapel, been concluded, than at twelve o'clock those of the ancient Brattle square began, the pastor, Dr. Lathrop, preaching from the text, Mathew xxiv., 39—"And knew not until the flood came." Such calamities, he said, as the one that had just visited us was continually occurring, and the questions arise, What are we to think? What are we to do? To the first query, he said, he would prefer to regard it as a punishment inflicted by an angry God than take it as an indication that there is no God. It is not enough for us to say that these laws and accidents of nature, on the whole, do more good than harm; but we must think that through and above and in the midst of it God's providence is with us for our good, and the good it has already accomplished shall show out on

THE MORROW AND THE FUTURE

of our city. If we think of this as an order of a wise, gracious and blessed Providence it will bring us submission, patience and trust. If we think of it thus we will immediately go forth with energy and make the arid desolation smile again with commerce and industry. He pitied the cant and bigotry that could point to it as a judgment upon our good and honest city. We must be energetic; not listless and indolent. We must not regard the ones to whose negligence the disaster was owing, so as to have no regard for those who suffer, but investigate fully and impartially. Finally, we must remember that while man may lose his property by accident, he can never lose his soul by accident, and we must look forward to laying up treasure hereafter.

THE REV. DR. WEBB, SHAWMUT CONGREGATIONAL.

At the Shawmut church, on the corner of Brookline and Tremont streets, the congregation was large and the Rev. Dr. Webb preached a sermon from the text, Amos vi., 3—"Shall there be evil in a city and the Lord has not done it?"

The introduction was a sort of balancing of the two sides. On the dark side, the losses to the city, Church and persons. Besides, these things were cited as examples of the losses, while on the bright side it was stated that we have no homeless families to provide for. Our homes have not lost anything very dear, and then we have men in this city who will grapple with the problem and shape the history of the future. The following points were then made:—First, that calamity, chastenings, &c., are from God; second, that calamities are from God through His laws—which he illustrated in various ways by showing that when we see anything done we always long to detect the cause, and that the fire occurred by natural laws, which had been violated. So let us look to the cause of the calamity and correct it. The third and last point was that, more strictly, religious calamities, &c., are from God, through His righteous laws, for our good. Our tendency here is to make ourselves secure. Hence our vaults, securities, insurance and other things; but God does not like it, and hence our disaster, which is for our good

SEARCHING FOR BODIES IN THE RUINS.

Among the many labors of love which are being carried on in the burned district is that which embraces the turning over of the ruins for the purpose of ascertaining the whereabouts of persons who when last seen were witnessing the fire probably. Just how many have perished will never be known, for many were strangers here. To-day, for instance, three bundles of bones, which, when sorted out, proved to have once composed the bodies of two individuals, were disinterred from the ruins of Walker's carriage bazaar, on Federal street. Nothing about them goes to indicate who or what they are, and their identity will never be discovered. From the store of Edward Hixon & Co. today there were taken portions of three distinct bodies. Two of them have been shown to be the foreman, William Farry, and assistant foreman, Daniel Cochran, of Washington Hook and Ladder Company No. 4, of this city, while the third is in such a condition as to render it unrecognizable. The remains of such bodies as have been identified have been delivered to their friends, and the others are in charge of the City Undertaker. Every possible endeavor is being made to explore the ruins sufficiently to take therefrom all bodies which are beneath; but it can scarcely be hoped that many of them will be in a condition to be identified.

The Temporary Post Office Swamped—Harvard's Loss by the Fire—A Valuable Lot of Silver Recovered—Recovery of the Remains of Captain William Farril.

BOSTON, Nov. 17, 1872.

Washington street is now open for travel and other streets in the burned district will probably be cleared of débris during to-morrow. A small military guard is still on duty. Thousands of people visited the ruins to-day.

The Post Office in Faneuil Hall is so swamped with mails that they are obliged to send a large amount of matter to other offices for distribution.

Harvard College has lost so heavily by the fire that it asks for $50,000 for immediate use and $200,000 for rebuilding.

A VALUABLE DEPOSIT.

The most interesting locality among the ruins to-day, and one to which hundreds were attracted by the operations there in progress, was the rear of the store of Messrs. Shrieve, Crump and Low. Beneath the sidewalk was a brick vault fifteen feet long, ten feet wide and ten feet deep, which contained between $75,000 and $100,000 worth of silver, including the altar service belonging to Trinity church, a portion of the sacramental silver of the Brattle square church, a service of silver presented to Colonel William Aspinwall by the merchants of London, whose names, inscribed thereon, included those of George Peabody, Baring Brothers and others; a pitcher presented by Daniel Webster to Peter Harvey and other mementoes, besides silverware belonging to the firm. The goods were placed there after the fire was got under on Summer street, the vault being considered the most secure place in the neighborhood. When the building was blown down by the explosion of gas at least two hundred tons of granite were piled upon the top of the vault. But upon opening the vault the sacramental silver presented to the Trinity church by King George the Third, the Brattle square church pitcher, bearing date of 1704, the Webster pitcher and other silverware were brought forth in good order. In some parts of the vault exposed to the hottest of the fire articles were melted. Later in the afternoon search was continued under the sidewalk, with the hope of finding a service of silver which had been sent down to the workmen on Saturday to be cleaned, but with what success has not transpired.

Shortly after finding the remains of Cochran today the body of Captain William Farril, of the same company, was exhumed, and identified by a gold chain belonging to his wife.

Michael Cuddy has been missing since Saturday night, and was last seen at the falling of the walls on Summer street.

This forenoon William Kelly had his right leg broken by the falling of a wall which he was engaged in removing.

THE HIPPO-DROPSY.

How the Car and Stage Lines Suffer—The Cause, Overwork While Sick—Private and Livery Stables—The Draymen and Milkmen Losing Many Horses—A Successful Remedy.

The last phase of the horse disease is begining to alarm owners, even more than did the epizooty a few weeks since. The symptoms are more deadly, and, it is feared, that fully fifty per cent of the horses attacked will finally succumb under its ravages. Horse doctors agree that it is one of the worst possible forms in which disease may attack an animal, and that cure is a matter of great doubt and uncertainty in any case.

It is generally agreed that the main cause of the present deadly disease is the manner in which horses were used while they were suffering from the previous catarrhal affection, as only those seem to be attacked which were roughly used at that time by their owners. The dropsy seems to have left alone the horses which before were submitted to a thorough course of treatment and entirely cured, while it attacks those in which the germs of the disease had not been thoroughly eradicated. This neglect has allowed what was before a comparatively innocent malady to develop and strike down the horses which were supposed to be out of all danger.

This is especially exemplified in

THE STAGE STABLES,

where the horses were driven without mercy throughout the whole of the epizootic period and made to perform almost their regular and very hard work. In these stables about fifteen per cent of the whole number of horses have been attacked with the dropsy in a more or less virulent form, and it is not too much to say that at least seven per cent of the whole will ultimately succumb under its influence. Of all the street lines the Twenty-third street line seems to be the freest from the new malady, and this is owing to the fact that the horses were not driven for the first few days after the hipporhinorrhea made its appearance in this city.

The same may be said of the car lines. The Third avenue, which ran (and indeed was obliged to run) a certain complement of cars, used all its horses more or less when they were in a diseased condition. The result is that in many cases the epizooty has turned to dropsy and the company it is very probable may lose not far from 100 horses before the disease shows symptoms of abatement. At present fully eighty of their animals are more or less attacked with the dropsy and more will follow. The Second avenue line begins also to feel the effect of the new malady. The Bleecker street line will also lose a number of horses from the dropsy, and has lost some already, about eight, it is believed, from the dropsy purely. The Broadway line has now seven horses affected by the dropsy, and the Sixth avenue line nine. The Fourth avenue line has been comparatively free from the disease, and as this line only ran ten cars during the epizootic period it is another proof that the dropsy only attacks the horses which were overworked before.

IN LIVERY STABLES.

As far as the HERALD reporter could ascertain the dropsy has affected about two per cent of the animals previously afflicted, and very few deaths have occurred thus far. Those who will suffer most, no doubt, from the disease will be the draymen and such who were obliged to use their horses before and overworked them while the disease was in their systems. Of these probably ten per cent will die. The milkmen are also just now feeling the effect of their previous hard use of their animals.

IN PRIVATE STABLES

the only cause to be given for the appearance of the dropsy is the fact that owners used their horses before they were completely recovered from the coughing and throat disease. Thus Mountain Boy and others were carried off. The only case of a valuable horse being attacked is that belonging to Peter B. Sweeny, a magnificent carriage horse, which is now so low that it cannot recover.

The remedy which seems to have been most successful for the dropsy thus far is complete rest and the use of the following recipe:—Two eggs, one ounce of spirits of turpentine and two ounces of sweet oil three times a day.

Epizootic-Dropsy in Troy and Columbus.

TROY, N. Y., Nov. 17, 1872.

The dropsy has attacked the sick horses here and the disease is worse.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Nov. 17, 1872.

Fifty cases of the horse disease have occurred in this city.

THE BANGOR INSURANCE COMPANIES.

Assets and Losses by the Boston Fire—The National in the Hands of a Receiver.

BANGOR, Me., Nov. 17, 1872.

The following are the assets and losses of the various Bangor insurance companies:—Bangor, assets, $255,000; losses, $50,000; Eastern, assets, $546,000; losses, $150,000; Union, assets, $550,000; losses, $150,000; National, capital, $200,000; losses, $166,000. Except the National all these companies' losses have been made good by the stockholders. The National is in the hands of a receiver.

DISASTROUS FIRE IN GEORGIA.

SAVANNAH, Ga., Nov. 17, 1872.

The business portion of the town of Abbeyville, S. C., was destroyed by fire to-day. Loss $50,000; partly insured.

THE ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND.

DAYTON, Ohio, Nov. 17, 1872.

The Army of the Cumberland meets here on Wednesday next. The indications are that the attendance will be large. Generals Sheridan, Hooker and Meigs, Governor Noyes, Senator Morton and other distinguished persons have announced their intention to be present.

THE ROAD TO INDIA.—Speaking of the Euphrates Valley line, the *Levant Herald* announces that the Grand Vizier has commissioned M. Pressel, the well known engineer, to undertake the survey of the ground for a line of railway from Tripoli, on the coast of Syria, to Bagdad, and a preliminary step has already been taken in the despatch to Tripoli of two experienced engineers, Messrs. Tchernik and Schutt, the former of whom took an active part in the pioneering work of the Roumelian line. The object is to obtain an accurate professional tracing of the route devised by the Grand Vizier, in substitution of the lines previously proposed for connecting the Mediterranean with the Persian Gulf. The line now suggested by Midhat Pacha will cover a distance of about 550 miles, commencing at Tripoli, on the Syrian coast, passing by way of Palmyra and crossing the Euphrates, thence traversing Mesopotamia and the Tigris and terminating at Bagdad, where it would meet the Persian Gulf line, as originally planned.

WASHINGTON.

A Kiowa-Comanche Business Arrangement.

THE VACANT MAJOR GENERALSHIP.

Glimpses of Points in the New Policy of the President.

"LET US HAVE PEACE" ONCE MORE.

The Cost and Present Condition of Our Harbor Defences.

LAWS GOVERNING THE ARMY.

American Inventors and the Vienna Exhibition—A Treaty To Be Made with Austria—The Government Collecting Criminal Statistics.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17, 1872.

A New Departure by the President—Sectional Differences To Be Done Away With and the South Conciliated—The "Let Us Have Peace" Policy To Be Enforced.

The important subject of the relations of the government to the Southern people and the treatment of the reconstructed States has, since the election, been canvassed carefully by those who are speculating on the future policy of the administration. Gentlemen who enjoy excellent opportunities for learning the news and temper of the President are confident that the rigorous *régime* of the past is to be henceforth discarded for one more generous and conciliatory. It is certain that the President's attention is much given to the best modes of effecting such a result, and it is believed that he fully coincides with the idea thrown out by zealous supporters of his administration at this city—namely, the time and the circumstances of the recent election are propitious for reviving the same era of good feeling as was inaugurated by Mr. Monroe's administration after an election by a similar overwhelming majority as that just given. It is reported that in a recent interview with General Sherman the President stated that he should devote his best efforts to reunite the North and the South, and similar sentiments are said to have been uttered by him in a conversation with Judge Alexander Rives, of Virginia, an original Union man and friend of his administration. The President's attention has been drawn to the sharp features of the Ku Klux legislation, and it was stated the other day by a member of the Cabinet that the President would like to see those laws modified and all features repealed which were not uniform in their operation over the country as soon as he could be satisfied that there was full protection for life and property in the Southern States. The same gentleman was confident of the President's friendly feelings towards the Southern people and of his desire to re-establish good will and cordial relations between the estranged sections. The precise mode of giving effect to these views has not been determined upon, but that something will be done seems highly probable. The policy of a general amnesty will probably be endorsed in the President's message and passed by the two-thirds vote. It was remarked by a prominent friend of the President on yesterday that there was no reason whatever in perpetuating these disabilities, as they only served to irritate, and the South could elect, if disposed, worse men than those now under disabilities.

It is the opinion of well informed Southern men that the South, so far from making any factious war upon the administration, would meet any advance more than half way, and that an entire reconstruction of parties at the South would be the consequence of such a conciliatory and liberal line of policy by the President. That this policy will be opposed by the ultras of the North is certain, and also that it will be resisted by the carpet-baggers who desire to perpetuate the present sectional difficulties. The idea meets with favor that the surest way to flank such evil-disposed persons would be to make the Executive appointments in the South from the most conservative and moderate men of both parties who are sincerely in favor of the new programme of peace, and who desire good order, along with a reform of the extravagance and corruption which have plunged so many States into bankruptcy.

Estimates for the Forts and Batteries in New York Harbor—The Present Condition of the Defensive Works.

From the report on the sea coast defences of New York city it appears that the modifications of Fort Schuyler, to conform that work to the requirements of the modern defensive system, have so far progressed that the north front will be completed during the present fiscal year and the northeast front be taken in hand immediately thereafter. The estimates for the next fiscal year are $100,000, or $15,000 more than the yearly appropriation granted last session. The fort at Willett's Point, which unites with Fort Schuyler in defending the entrance to the port by the East River, requires to be put in a better state of defense now that the Hell Gate obstructions are in a fair way of removal, and $100,000 are asked for in consequence. This is regarded as a favorable site for the erection of the scattered earthen barbette batteries that are a prominent feature of the new defensive system, and two of those batteries, of two and six guns respectively, have been completed, and a part of a large battery of ten guns has also been finished up for service. Another six-gun battery will shortly be completed, and, when funds are provided, the construction of others will begin. An appropriation of $76,000 was granted at the last session, which, with the balance from former grants, has paid for the work already done, which also includes a large magazine to hold 250,000 pounds of cannon powder. Extensive repairs and modifications have been completed at Fort Columbus on Governor's Island, including a new six-gun barbette battery. An appropriation of $70,000 for the coming year is wanted by the engineer in charge. At Fort Wood, on Bedloe's Island, defending New York, Jersey City and part of Brooklyn, but little has been done the past year, and the estimate for the coming year is but $40,000. On Fort Hamilton, down the bay, and its outlying batteries, $40,000 was appropriated for the present year, and $50,000 is asked for go on with the work. The mortar battery, intended to play upon the decks of hostile ships while entangled in obstructions or dragging for torpedoes, is about completed. At the new Fort Tompkins, on Staten Island, commanding the Narrows, much work is nearing completion. Thirty thousand dollars is the estimated sum which, with the balance of the $83,000 last appropriated, will carry on the construction during the next year. The glacis gun battery to the north of the main work and the glacis mortar battery to the south are finished. Battery Hudson and the North Cliff battery are almost finished, and the modification of the South Cliff battery is shortly to be commenced. At the fort at Sandy Hook it has been necessary to build two jettees of sheet piling for the protection of the site from the washing of the waves, and a beach is rapidly forming. These comprise all the important operations of the past year.

Great Father's Talk No Heapee Good—Indian Like Hunt, Steal and Take Much Scalp.

Information has been received here from the commanding officer of the military department of Texas to the effect that the Kiowa and Comanche bands who have been depredating so extensively in Northern Texas, and whom the Indian Bureau has been hoping to get upon their reservations in the Indian territory this Winter, according to the arrangement made with the chiefs lately here, have entered into a treaty with the Lipans and Kickapoos across the Rio Grande, by which they secure the privileges of the market the latter-named bands enjoy in Mexico for the plunder they themselves gain in their frequent incursions across the boundary into the stock-raising districts of Texas. It is feared that the facilities thus gained by the Kiowas and Comanches for the purchase of arms and other contraband supplies, and the sale of their stolen goods, will render them indifferent to the persuasions and threats lately resorted to to get them permanently upon their reservation, unless the Mexican government should develop unexpected power as well as the will of control over their own bands.

The Vacant Major Generalship—The Appointment to be Made This Week.

It is believed by the friends of the several candidates that the appointment of a Major General to succeed the late General Meade will be made early in the present week, according to the President's general habit of disposing of his appointments as soon as he determines upon the proper persons to receive them, so as to avoid the undue multiplication of candidates by delay, and to relieve himself from what he has confessed to be the most vexatious of the cares of the Presidential office. The Secretary of War is not a candidate, and the mention of his name is unauthorized in connection with the Major Generalship. General Burnside, who is immersed in civil affairs of his own, is not understood here to be a candidate for any office, and it is certain that his name receives no serious consideration by the President or General Sherman. Generals Howard and Canby, who are brigadiers now, are regarded as candidates, and have been recommended as such, but the former has no expectation of the appointment, and the latter has made no application himself direct or through others. As already stated in these despatches the real candidates are General Terry, of the line, and General Meigs, of the staff, both having General Sherman for their friend.

American Inventors and the Vienna Exhibition—Proposed Treaty With Austria.

Many inventors of the United States have expressed their reluctance to contribute to the Vienna Exposition for the reason that, owing to the stringent character of the patent laws of Austria, American patentees would have no remedy against the appropriation of their improvements by persons of other nationalities without compensation. In order to overcome this difficulty our government yesterday prepared the project of a treaty or convention between the United States and Austria in order to secure in that country the right of American inventors to the same extent that Austrian inventors are protected in our country. It is the design to lay this proposition before the Austrian government at the earliest practicable period, and the telegraph may be used to facilitate the negotiation. Should this measure be consummated, our government will propose to the various nations of Europe that some international arrangement be made to secure the rights of inventors of the respective countries under similar circumstances.

The Laws Governing the Army.

General Sherman has under examination a compilation of all the laws and provisions of the constitution relating to the military establishment of the Union, explained and interpreted by a great number of judicial and executive decisions and opinions founded upon the constitution and laws, and with several chapters devoted to the relations of military officers, in the performance of duty, to the civil laws and authority of the country, as well as a chapter on the Indian question so far as it affects the army. The work has been prepared by Colonel Robert N. Scott, of the staff of the late General Halleck, for the authorized use of the army, as soon as the General-in-Chief shall sanction its introduction.

The Department Reports.

The only report of any head of a department completed is that of the Secretary of War. The others are in a state of forwardness. Nearly all the reports of the chiefs of bureaus have been sent to the public printer.

The Government Collecting Criminal Statistics.

The Attorney General has addressed letters to the Governors of States and United States District Attorneys requesting them to furnish the statistics of crime under the laws of the United States and as far as practicable under the laws of the several States during the year 1872, which facts will be incorporated in his annual report to be sent to Congress in the latter part of January.

Cadets at Annapolis.

There are now at the Naval Academy 221 cadet midshipmen in the several classes and thirty-one cadet engineers.

The Horses Mastering the Epizootic.

The horses generally seem to be improving. About two-thirds of the usual number of street cars were on the several lines to-day, and, except the discharge from the nose, all the horses appeared to be well.

Internal Revenue Receipts.

Internal revenue receipts yesterday, $310,207. Total for the month, $4,888,364. Total for the year, to date, $49,372,923.

Weekly Currency Statement.

Amount of fractional currency received from the Printing Bureau during the week	$1,199,80
Shipments	692,000
Shipments of United States notes	1,688,500
Securities held by the United States Treasury in trust for national banks as security for circulating notes	385,377,400
And for deposits of public moneys	15,703,000
National bank currency outstanding to date	341,289,186
Fractional currency redeemed and destroyed during the week	774,800

Balances in the Treasury.

The following are the Treasury balances at the close of busines yesterday:—

Currency	$8,521,196
Coin	72,997,543
Including in coin certificates	21,554,000
Special deposits of legal tenders for redemption of certificates of deposit	25,730,000

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

A Financial Review of the System for the Last Twenty Years.

[From the Pall Mall Gazette.]

There are no exponents of the development of the country's wealth in recent times more striking than our railway statistics. For twenty years we have been sinking from £14,000,000 to £15,000,000 of hard cash annually in the railways of the United Kingdom. The figures for these years, 1852-1871, are before us. In 1852 the whole capital raised upon shares, debentures and loans by the various companies amounted in actual money to £264,166,000. By 1871 this sum had increased to £552,680,000. From the savings of nineteen years upwards of £288,500,000 had therefore been invested in these undertakings. In the earlier year we had 7,336 miles of permanent way. By 1871 the total length was 15,376 miles. The cost per mile of railroad in 1851 was £33,283; but land, wages and commodities generally rose in value between that time and the present, and railway construction became more costly. In 1871 the average cost of the lines then open was £35,944 a mile, or £2,661 more than in 1851. Some account, too, should be taken in this comparison of the circumstance that latterly the lines have been more driven into towns than formerly, and thus a greater proportionate cost has accrued. In 1851 the total receipts which the companies gathered from all sources were £15,710,000; nineteen years of enterprise more than trebled the sum, the receipts in 1871 amounting to £48,892,000. The receipts per mile in the earlier year were £2,141; in the latter £3,063, exclusive of miscellaneous receipts in 1871—an increase of £922, or forty-three per cent on the average mile. The number of passengers conveyed in 1851 is put down at 89,102,000. But here the figures are of the most irregular and indeterminate value. They simply represent journeys. The man, for example, who travels from Westminster to Victoria counts for one, just as he who travels from London to Edinburg counts for one. Bearing this in mind we may collate the passengers in 1851 with those in 1871—namely, with 375,220,000. Hence more than fourfold the number are conveyed now who were carried twenty years ago. Season ticket holders are not reckoned in these figures. The receipts per train mile in 1851 were 5s. 2d.; in 1871 they were 5s. 3d. Last year the gross receipts from passenger traffic were £20,622,000; from goods traffic, £26,485,000; from miscellaneous sources, £1,785,000; making a total of £48,892,000. From this, forty-seven per cent, or £23,153,000 had to be taken for working expenses, leaving the net receipts at £25,740,000. This may be called half a million sterling a week—the net earnings of the railways of the United Kingdom. The net receipts in the same year were equal to £4 13s. per cent on the paid-up capital.

ORNICEPHALZYMOSIS.

Hens, Chickens and Turkeys Perishing with a Mysterious Disease.

Desolation and Despair Among the Barnyard Pets.

Mansard Roofs Appearing on the Egg Providers.

Swelled Heads on the Thanksgiving Gobblers and Henfluenza Devastating the Chicken Coops.

No sooner has the fatal epizootic began to decline than we have another disease, which is even more dangerous and speedy in its

DESTRUCTIVE ATTACKS.

All over the United States the chickens and hens and roosters are dying in thousands from a sickness which strikes them in the head, and in from ten to eighteen hours the fowl is dead. It is a sort of chicken chills and fever, and the unfortunate fowl first catches a cold or influenza, which gradually grows into a diptheria; a slime begins to be emitted from the beak, and this is followed by

STAGGERING FITS

on the part of the chicken, hen or rooster, until at last the fowl gives its last kick and lies down to die.

In Washington Market, on last Saturday, there were hundreds of fowl exposed for sale which were unfit for food.

A HERALD reporter visited several

CHICKEN BUTCHERS

and poultry men who do business in the down town markets, and questioned them in regard to the chicken disease. The first poultry man he saw was not very communicative.

"What do you think of the chicken disease? Are there many of the fowls dying?"

POULTRY MAN—Oh, there is always chickens dying, just like men and women. You don't

BELIEVE A CHICKEN

can live always, no more than any other animal or bird, do you?

HERALD REPORTER—Well, have you any sick chickens yourself? Have you any fowl for sale that have died of the disease—that is what I desire to know?

POULTRY MAN—Some of the chickens and turkeys that I have sold for the last three or four days had been sick, but

THEY WERE KILLED BEFORE

the disease developed itself, and I am sure that they were as sweet meat as any to be found in Washington Market or anywhere else. You see fowl have risen since this sickness has begun to spread, as it makes chickens and turkeys very sick. The ducks have not been touched yet, and it is not likely that they will

CATCH ANY DISEASE.

I refer particularly to the wild fowl; they are a much hardier bird than any domestic or farmyard fowl. Canvas back ducks are used to the most stormy weather and are always in the thick of it, particularly the

CHESAPEAKE BAY FOWL,

who are always safe to eat in season. Some of the woodcock and park partridge have been bad this season, and quail have suffered. A desert chicken is worth twenty-five and a good turkey is worth twenty-six cents a pound just now, but if this disease grows any faster and spreads like the horse disease domestic fowl will go as high as a dollar a pound, and even then they will be entirely

UNFIT TO EAT,

no matter how they are cooked.

HERALD REPORTER—Is there any particular method of cooking a chicken that is only slightly stricken with the disease that will render the fowl safe for food?

POULTRY MAN—Well, if I

HAD A SICK CHICKEN

I would wring its neck as soon as I saw the first symptoms and pluck it, and, after guting it, would make a fricasee of it. Hot boiling water will purify almost anything in the way of a dead carcass, excepting a pig which is taken with the worm disease, and there is no cure for that.

HERALD REPORTER—How do you suppose this disease has taken root or originated?

POULTRY MAN—Well, I think that it comes from

THE BARNYARD FOWL

eating the oats and seeds in the offal of horses who have had the horse disease more than anything else.

HERALD REPORTER—And is it the custom with poultry dealers in Washington and Fulton Markets to sell fowl that are known to be diseased to purchasers?

POULTRY MAN—As far as that's concerned we can't do better. Suppose I have

A CRATE OF FOWL

sent to me by the farmer who lives along the Hudson River and who raises poultry by the thousand. I get his fowl dead, and generally pay cash down on the nail for the poultry, as they are perishable stock. What can I do? If the fowl are bad it is certainly not my fault. I don't give them the chicken disease, and I am not a chicken or

A TURKEY DOCTOR.

If the fowl are sick I am not supposed to know it, and I think it is the business of the Board of Health, and not my business, to inspect the fowl and see whether they are fit to be eaten or not.

A gentleman named Pierson, who has a "hen factory" in Union county, New Jersey, and has on hand some two to three hundred chickens who are kept

BUSY LAYING EGGS,

had a conversation with the reporter. He informed the latter that he had heard of the disease among the hens and chickens, but that none of his fowl had been attacked this season, although many were sick last year, when they were taken with what is known as the "roup," a disease well known to chicken raisers. This complaint, he said, was very

SIMILAR TO THE "ROUP,"

and arose from colds contracted. The head began to swell shortly after the fowl was taken with the disease, and a very offensive slime was discharged from the mouth—a thick, rony matter. Death by the old-fashioned "roup" is slow, the disease running for eight to ten days before death ensues. Any person who eats of a chicken afflic