THE NAVAJO REGIONS.

Present Condition of the Indians of New Mexico.

GENERAL HOWARD'S ADMINISTRATION.

A Redskin and Red Tape Powwow at Fort Wingate.

Manuelito's First Condition of Eastern Travel, "Muche Veeskey, eh?"

Miguel's Glass Eye the Biggest Thing Yet.

The General Recommended to Try a Transparent Limb.

THE DIAMOND FRAUDS FULLY VENTILATED.

FORT DEFIANCE, NEW MEXICO, Dec. 20, 1872.

The notoriety attained by this section recently, consequent on the diamonds and other precious stones supposed to exist in great quantities in the surrounding region, is sufficient to account for the presence here of your commissioner at this time. Fort Defiance is situated on the Canyon Bonito, forty-five miles northwest of Fort Wingate, and nearly directly west of Santa Fé. The buildings are of adobe, or sun dried brick, and are the remains of an abandoned military post, but now used as an agency for the Navajo Indians. The foundations of some of the buildings are giving way, and they are generally in a wretched state of repair. Fort Defiance is actually in Arizona, and, I believe, is thus laid down on government surveys; but as it lies so close to the line of New Mexico it is found much more convenient to supply it from the New Mexican Department, and therefore it is temporarily presumed to be in New Mexico. If in Arizona, red tape would make it necessary to transport its supplies from the California side, across a great extent of barren country, a portion of which is infested by hostile tribes. The reservation includes about one hundred and twenty square miles. There is very little arable land on it, the greatest portion being mountainous and broken, made up of lofty mesas, or table lands, and deep arroyos, or dry ravines. There are, however, some

FINE FORESTS OF PINE

timber and much land that is suitable for pastoral purposes. The last count for the purposes of the annuity issue makes the Navajos on the reserve number about ten thousand persons, which shows the tribe to be on the increase since the close of the great Navajo war. Previously to the war they had large peach orchards and immense corn fields, and were the terror of the entire Mexican population in the Rio Grande and adjacent settlements. Whole towns were often besieged by them, while the entire surrounding country was pillaged and all the sheep, horses and oxen run off to the mountain fastnesses, where for a long time they defied the United States troops sent to subjugate them. Defiance obtained its name from the firm stand made here by General Canby against the entire Navajo tribe. Previously it had been called Fort Canby, and is so laid down on many of the Territorial maps. To subdue the Navajos extreme measures had to be resorted to. Their corn fields were destroyed by the cavalry, their orchards cut down, their herds slaughtered and left to rot on the ground. In fact everything was taken from them and they were reduced to starvation. In some cases poisoned sugar and bacon were left in camps, as if forgotten, or dropped on the road for the starving Indians, so that to this day some of the Navajos have such a horror of bacon that they cannot be induced to touch it. Many of them gave themselves up almost starved to death, and on being furnished with plenty of provisions killed themselves with eating. They have now been at peace for several years, and conduct themselves as well and give as little trouble to the government as any tribe of their size in the country, being a shrewd, intelligent, industrious people. Their cost of subsistence to the government is less than $13 to each Indian, which is cheaper than keeping a large force constantly in the field to fight them. They are fast recovering from the effects of the war, and own now about ten thousand horses, mules and burros and over one hundred and thirty thousand sheep and goats. Should their reservation be extended to the north, so as to include some of the rich lands lying on and around the San Juan, they will probably be self-sustaining in five years more. They are very industrious, and purchase sheep with the money they obtain from the sale of blankets, stones and hunting. The men make good day laborers, and some of the adobe walls in buildings at

NEW FORT WINGATE

have been laid by them. Navajo blankets have obtained a world-wide fame, as being the wonderful production of an uneducated tribe. These blankets vary in price here from four dollars to seventy-five dollars each, and have a ready sale to travellers, who desire to take away with them evidence of the skillful handiwork of the Navajo maidens. A few of the Navajos speak Spanish, the prevailing language of the country, but very few of them speak any English. Were it not for their superstition in regard to the dead they would progress more rapidly than the Pueblos, whom they excel in native shrewdness and ability. When a Navajo dies the family immediately leave the "hogan" (or log wigwam), and cannot be induced to re-enter it. The consequence is that prospectors and others passing through the country find plenty of untenanted cabins to shelter themselves in from rains and storms. When the Navajos recover from this superstition we shall see them founding villages like the Pueblos and Zuñis.

And here I may refer to the general ignorance of the English language in New Mexico. To transact any business through the country or to travel with any satisfaction a knowledge of the Spanish language is absolutely necessary. The Territory of New Mexico has now belonged to the United States about a quarter of a century, and yet, were it not for the forts through the Territory and the English spoken thereabouts, one would think himself in old Mexico. Congress would, no doubt, have made an appropriation for English schools in the principal towns, but the Territory has been represented by Mexicans who are actually opposed to the introduction of the English language, and who, therefore, have made no effort for an appropriation for this purpose. The present Delegate speaks English with difficulty, and the former delegate preferred to speak in Spanish. The few wealthy men who control the politics of New Mexico are all opposed to the introduction of improvements, either in language, railways or anything else. The result is that New Mexico, instead of being years ago a State, will, in all likelihood, remain a Territory for several years to come. Its mineral resources are immense, so that, with the completion of the Southern Pacific Railway on the thirty-second parallel, a great immigration must follow.

A MILITARY POLICE FORCE—THE NAVAJOS.

In August last General Howard, when here, instructed Mr. Keam, the Special Agent of the Navajos, to organize a company of native cavalry, to be placed under the command of the War Chief Manuelito. This body of soldiers was intended to be used as a police force, their special duty being to arrest thieves and to bring to the agency any stolen or stray stock they might find on the reservation. The organization of this company was quickly effected, and 130 Indians enrolled, including all the principal chiefs of the tribe. General Howard had the Indians informed that they would be furnished with clothing and pay by the government, which caused them to enter on their new duties with zeal. About one hundred animals have been already brought in by them, and there is no danger whatever of parties having their animals stolen while passing over or camping on the reservation. This police regulation is undoubtedly the best mode of preventing crime among the Indians, as, when arrested, they are sent to Fort Wingate or Santa Fé and punished by the civil authorities. The separation from their tribe is a great punishment for them, and deters them from the commission of crime. They have received as yet no pay or allowance from the government, and are beginning to express their fears of the promises made them not being realized.

Being thoroughly acquainted with the country, and far better versed in trailing, they are much more efficient than a body of United States soldiers. Should the promises of the government made them through General Howard not be complied with, they will be very likely to disorganize, and numerous depredations would undoubtedly immediately ensue, as the thieves would soon know that they were not being watched, and would conclude that the action of the agent and his police was not endorsed by the government. It is a question which are

THE MOST ACCOMPLISHED THIEVES

when on predatory excursions—the Navajos or Comanches. It is not long ago when a Navajo would steal quietly up to the camp fire of a party of travellers, secure the best horse, mount him and then ride up to the sleepers around the fire, awakening one of them by a touch of a ramrod, and, with the exclamation, "You sleep, Indian steal your hoss!" would disappear in the darkness before the aroused sleeper had recovered his astonishment and gathered his six-shooter. In those days picket ropes were of little avail as a protection from theft, and animals had to be fastened to the wagon wheels with chains. Last June James H. Miller, then Indian Agent, went with a few of the employés of the agency to the San Juan River, in Colorado, to select a site for a reservation farm. This locality is some distance to the northwest of the Defiance Reserve and in the Ute country. While encamped on the river they were fired on one morning at daybreak by two Ute Indians, and

MILLER INSTANTLY KILLED.

The horses of the party had been previously secured, and they had no means of following the depredators. For some time it was believed that the murder was perpetrated by bad Navajos who had followed the party out from Defiance, but it was finally clearly traced to two roving Ute Indians, who were well known among their tribe and who were identified as the same parties who had proceeded over the Mormon trail with the stolen horses. None endeavored more eagerly to prove their innocence of this crime than the Navajos themselves, who pursued the slight clue left until the affair was made so clear that the Utes acknowledged the commission of the crime by men of their tribe.

On his trip from the East General Howard brought with him to Fort Wingate six Apache chiefs to hold a council with the Navajos. These tribes had been accustomed to make raids on each other's property, and if a peaceable trading party went into their neighbor's territory they were often murdered or their stock stolen. The General succeeded in causing the chiefs to promise peace with each other in the future, and the chiefs embraced, in testimony of their good faith. Manuelito and the other chiefs of the Navajos, when compared with the Apache chiefs, presented a more manly appearance, the latter appearing almost insignificant alongside of them. None of the Navajos have ever been taken East, and General Howard said that if he succeeded in inducing the great Apache chief,

CACHISE, TO GO TO WASHINGTON

with him, he would like to have the Navajo war chief, Manuelito, go also. This being interpreted to Manuelito he replied that he would be glad to accompany the General, and that he had a great desire to see the Great Father and the laughing houses (theatres), of which he had heard from the whites. He jocularly added, turning to the General—

"Muche veeskey, eh?"

To which the General replied—

"Oh, no, no; tell him that none of us drink anything of the sort; that these Indians I have with me have been all through the States, and they have been behaving very well, and that they have not drank a drop all through the trip."

A few hours after Miguel, one of the Apache's chiefs, who had a glass eye inserted in the States, staggered up to the General in a frightful state of intoxication. The General ordered him to be removed from his sight, and lectured him when sober. The following conversation occurred between General Howard and Manuelito:—

A POW-WOW.

MANUELITO—The Great Father sent you here to see us. I am glad to see you. I want to talk to you. For years I fought you white people. I thought we could whip you. We always whipped the Mexicans. They were afraid of us. We took their sheep and horses. They stole our stock. They did not fight us. The Mexicans are cowards. The Americans fight hard. They have good arms. The heap-shoot guns were too many for us. We ran to the mountains. You cut down our corn. You gutted our orchards. You killed our sheep. We had only dirt to eat. We eat dirt for many moons. We are now at peace with you. We have been very poor. Our squaws make good blankets. We buy sheep with our money. We buy horses also. Mares are the best horses. Mares have horses. Our horses increase in number. We were very poor. We trade horses for mares. We have now many sheep and horses. We do not like mules. We eat mules. Mules do not have horses like mares. We will be rich soon. When you make presents to us give us sheep. We make good use of the wool.

WE DO NOT WANT WHISKEY;

whiskey make white men lose their head. We see white men drunk. One white man shoot other man. No whiskey; no do so. Your man Miller (the late agent) was killed on the San Juan. You said Navajos killed him. I did not like him. The San Juan is in the Ute country. Navajos do not go there. The Utes killed Miller. Miller did not know how to deal with us; he did not know our habits. Some white men know us; they have lived with us. Give us a good man for agent. Give us a man who will not steal from us. We want a man who knows how to treat us. We want a man who does not hate us. Our interpreter is a good man. Make him the agent. He knows our ways.

I BELIEVE IN THE GREAT SPIRIT.

The Great Spirit you call religion. They tell us that you send us agents now who believe in the Great Spirit. Most of those agents do not understand us. They have never seen an Indian before they came here. They do not seem to care for us much. They do not know how to take us. I do not know their Great Spirit. You must have different Great Spirits. Why do you not send us a man who knows us? These men do not speak much to us. The new agent comes to the agency; he sends away the whites who have been there. He gets strange men to deal with us. They go to the same Spirit house; that is why he brings them. The man who talks at the Spirit house came with the agency. We do not understand these things. We want to be at peace. We want a good man for our agent.

General HOWARD—Agents used to be bad men. They robbed the Indians. The Great Father hunted for good men. He was a long time finding them. All white men are not good men.

MANUELITO—That's so.

A GOOD WHITE AGENT.

General HOWARD—These good white men get a good white man for agent. They will send you a good man. As good a man as I am (slapping his breast) myself. We will put good men with you. I have seen your blankets. Your blankets are good. I will buy one of your blankets. They are worth all you ask for them. You must do what our agents tell you to do; if not, the Great Father at Washington will be angry. He will tell the Colonel at Wingate to send soldiers to fight you.

MANUELITO—I do not want to fight any more. We make more money at peace. We can keep our bellies full if we are not at war. War does not pay. I have talked with the Apaches here. They have been with you to the East. They have seen your laughing houses, your Spirit houses and your talking houses. They say that you have heap houses—five, six, seven—one on top of another. This is big! Miguel is the man with the glass eyes. He has been with you. He says if the whites fire off their guns once all the Indians dead. I was told that before; I thought it was a lie; I do not think so any more. The whites are a heap too many for us.

THAT GLASS EYE OF MIGUEL'S

is a big thing; heap please his squaw. White men make glass eyes. You have only got one arm. You lose your arm in fight. You are a great chief. I am a great chief, too. You ought to have a glass arm made for you. It will do to look at, like Miguel's eye. We go sometimes to the Apache country; we go to the Mormon country too. We go to trade. If the Apaches let us alone we will let them alone. They tell me you are going to the White Mountains. If Cachise comes with you I will go with you. I am as great a chief as Cachise. I would like to see the white squaws.

It may be seriously asked if the plan of appointing men to positions on Indian agencies merely on account of their religious belief is not detrimental to the service. We see, here in New Mexico, men appointed to place who are not only unfit for their positions, but who detest the sight of an Indian, but they are Presbyterians and want a living. Before me is a copy of a confidential circular sent to Indian agents only.

A CONFIDENTIAL CIRCULAR.

PRINTED FOR USE OF THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (not published).

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, WASHINGTON, D. C., May 13, 1872.

Sir,—I have received your letter of the 11th inst., in which you inquire whether, in the opinion of this Department, the responsibility of a Missionary Board ends with the nomination of Indian agents, or is to be considered as extending always to their conduct after their appointment to office. I will enter more fully into the subject than merely answering the question propounded by you, in the 6th of August, 1870, Mr. Secretary Cox communicated to the various missionary societies the Indian policy of the Government and invited their co-operation in the work. He also asked of them recommendations for the appointment of agents for the agencies respectively tendered each association, with the understanding that the several agencies would be allowed employes and subordinates, selected also by their own missionary associations, so as to make each agency a unit in purpose and spirit, and so add to its efficiency in the work of Indian civilization and advancement.

The ideas expressed by him are still entertained by this Department. Harmony and unity of purpose should exist between the society, the agents and their employes to the same extent as between the society and the government, and the agent should, as far as practicable, in all cases recommend only such employes as will enter fully and cheerfully into the religious and moral training of the Indians, and who are worthy and acceptable to the missionary society having the supervision of the agency. The agent should not consider himself, after appointment, as released from the oversight and care of the society, and should, by all means at his command, do his utmost to further the missionary work under his charge; nor will an agent be permitted to remain in office who renders himself obnoxious to the society upon whose recommendation he was appointed. In many instances the exigencies of the services require immediate action when delay would be a detriment to the service. In such cases time would not permit the agent consulting the society, but at all other times he should submit to it the names of all new appointees before sending the nominations here for confirmation. Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. R. COWAN, Acting Secretary.

Rev. JOHN C. LOWRIE, Secretary, &c., 23 Centre street, New York.

THE DIAMOND BUBBLE.

The existence of red stones of considerable size, whether we call them garnets or rubies, on the hills and mesas north of Fort Defiance, as far as the San Juan River, has been well known to officers of the army and others in this section for a number of years past. During the scouts made in the Navajo war many showy looking stones were picked up by the soldiers. They were styled Navajo rubies, and some of them were of a size ranging from eight to twenty carats. Arnold and Slack, who were interested with Harpending and Roberts, of San Francisco, in what are usually known as the Burro mines at Ralston, in Southern New Mexico, accidentally met with a man in 1871 at one of the stations between Tucson and Apache Pass, who had soldiered in the Navajo war and had carried with him ever since a few pretty red stones as curiosities. Arnold obtained these stones from him and shortly after proceeded with Slack to the northern part of the Defiance reservation, a little to the northwest of what is styled here the Sella Chee (or red stone) district. They located their claims and laid off ground, putting up monuments, as is the custom of miners in new districts. These monuments and notices are still standing on the trail from Fort Defiance to the San Juan. It is very likely that they intended making this spot the scene of their operations, but it soon became necessary for them to change their plans. McCallen, another striker of Harpending's at the Burro mines, stopped at the station on his way from Tucson to Ralston and learned of Arnold's excitement on getting on the track of what he supposed to be precious gems. And he, too, came to Defiance to follow up the scent. With a man named Foster for guide he prospected around the hills for 150 miles to the north of this fort and of course found red stones and other stones also. These he took with him to New York, and when it was announced by the San Francisco newspapers that diamonds had been discovered his uncle, Mr. Thompson, of Brooklyn, consulted Foster,

THE GREAT MEDICINE MAN,

and through him had an interview with Humboldt, which satisfied him of the existence of diamonds, and they came out last August as the leaders of an expedition or New York company. But Arnold had concluded that the country to the north of this place was too public for his "plant." The Navajos are a very observant tribe, and they watch very closely the movements of the whites when they find them searching for anything. They have prospected the country so far much better than any one else, and brought in a great many more gems or stones of doubtful value. But this time other parties had got wind of the story and supposed the miners to be in the vicinity of the Burros, some said in the Pinal mountains. They followed Arnold's and McCallen's tracks slowly from station to station until they found that one where the stones had been obtained. But the soldier Duncan had in the meantime been killed by the Apaches, and they could obtain no further information of the locality of the stones. Then came the trailing for trails. Slack's trail was supposed to be the real trail. McCallen was endeavoring to follow Slack's trail, and he was supposed to be posted. So there were half a dozen prospecting parties following McCallen's trail, thinking that would bring them in at the death. And all of these parties found stones of more or less value, which added to the intensity of the excitement. Arnold and Slack's object appears to have been to obtain a quantity of red stones, with which to "salt" Ruby Gulch, at their

"CLAIM" ON THE UNION PACIFIC,

they having selected that spot as a point not likely to be crossed or discovered by either whites or Indians. About the middle of September a party of forty men, known as Gray's party, and who were fitted out by Harpending, left San Francisco, as was announced, for the supposed diamond fields. This was supposed to be a clew to the proper place, and several parties set to work to track them up. But Gray's party appears to have been gotten up as a blind, for they travelled constantly running up and down steep mountains, digging their way in and out of deep arroyos, fording streams and crossing deep ravines, until they arrived at this post, when Gray drew them up in the plaza and disbanded them, giving them twenty days' rations each. It had been announced several days before the expedition started that it was for the diamond fields and the statement went uncontradicted. But now Gray said that they were looking

NOT FOR DIAMONDS, BUT FOR GOLD.

At the rate they travelled prospecting was out of the question, and the members of the party agree that no prospecting was done. The recent developments made by the government survey party prove clearly that the object of these branch parties was merely to keep alive the excitement while the projectors of the fraud bagged their game. I think it is now pretty clearly established that not a single diamond has been found in Arizona during the past two years. And yet why should not diamonds and other precious stones be found in the alluviums and diluviums of this region? The same general characteristic features are found here as are found in South Africa and Minas Geraes, in Brazil. Here exist the itacolumite, quartzose conglomerate and the tertiary cretaceous and carboniferous systems. In the ravines are quartz crystals, clay slate, rotten ironstone and iron sand. Garnets and peridot (a green transparent crystal) exist here in conjunction, and by many experienced geologists they are considered the best indications. On the Colorado Chiquito (which I followed as far as Sunset Crossing) I observed very favorable indications at several points. Many of the hills situated a mile back from the river and running parallel with it were covered with worn and rounded pebbles.

THE FINDING OF PRECIOUS STONES

is referred to in the government reports of Lieuts. Ives, Beale and others, in which frequent reference is made to the geological features of the country. Many of the Pueblo and Navajo Indians wear genuine turquoise for eardrops or necklaces. The place is variously mentioned as the spot from which it is obtained. It is valued very highly by the Indians, a few small pieces being worth with them a fine horse. Many of these fine pieces of turquoise have been transmitted to them from time immemorial and it is doubtful whether the true place of its existence is yet known. Chrysolite, peridot and olivine are found in quantities at Ewell's camp, twelve miles north of Fort Defiance.

AT THE SELLA CHEE DISTRICT,

115 miles north, garnets of almost every conceivable color are found. Many of them are persistently styled rubies by the miners, but I have not yet had very clear evidence that a ruby has been found. These garnets are of an extraordinary hard character, and many of them will, perhaps, pass for rubies when set. No digging whatever has yet been done for precious stones, and it would be expecting too much to be able to pick up on the surface diamonds as easily as one would quartz, crystals and common opals. Now that the question has been brought forward so prominently it is probable that patient prospecting will commence and the region be tested thoroughly.

NEW YORK CITY.

Coroner Keenan yesterday held an inquest at the Second precinct police station on the body of Edward Larkey, a laborer, who was drowned on the previous evening by accidentally falling into the dock foot of Pier 19 East River. Mr. Larkey, who was employed by a gentleman doing business near by, lived at 324 Furman street, Brooklyn, whither the body was removed. Deceased was fifty-five years of age, and born in Ireland.

The next lecture in the free course of scientific lectures for the people, at the Cooper Union, will take place in the great hall, this evening, at eight o'clock. Subject, "Spectrum Analysis." Lecturer, Professor George A. Barker, of Yale College.

Comptroller Green yesterday paid to the Department of Parks for its expenses the sum of $50,000. Also laborers on small pipes, $4,885 10; and on the thirty-six inch Croton mains $1,590 86. All to January 15, inst.

David Elder, a man thirty-five years of age, and born in Scotland, who was employed as engineer in the internal revenue stamp printing office, No. 24 Vesey street, on Thursday fell from a ladder through the hatchway, a distance of one story, and fractured his skull. Mr. Elder died yesterday in Centre Street Hospital from the effects of the injuries received. Coroner Young was notified.

Charles Sennett, an Irish laborer, forty-two years of age, died yesterday in Bellevue Hospital, where he was admitted on the 29th ult. suffering from a fracture of the base of the skull, caused by having fallen head foremost through the hatchway of the steamship Minnesota, lying at pier 46 North River. Coroner Keenan was notified. Deceased lived at No. 161 Leroy street.

GERMAN IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

The daily teaching of German in our public schools is a great want, being daily more and more made apparent to all who have an interest in the practical advantages to be secured to our children growing up. In some districts it is taught, but generally on one or two days of the week for a short time. Why cannot it be taught every day and generally? Efforts have been fruitlessly made both by Germans and our other adopted American citizens, as well as native born, to this end. What is the obstacle among our school authorities? Business experience every day in our great city demonstrates the utility, if not necessity, of a knowledge of the German language, and a large majority of the people are in favor of it. Have not the taxpayers a right, therefore, to be heard and to enjoy a privilege for which they pay? Should not our rising generation in this great business mart, wherein our boys will soon take their places as business men, have a knowledge of the German language to fortify them for the demands of social intercommunication and to provide them with increased facilities in the transaction of business. The German has become the great commercial language of the world, it might be said, and those speaking this tongue control a large part of our business domain. Would it not be a good thing for every poor boy now enjoying the advantages of our splendid public school system when he goes, as in all probability he must, among this influential class of people to earn his bread, if he could speak the German language? Would it not help him and in other regards be productive of great good? Let us have the voice of the people on this question, and the views, consequently, of your powerful and enlightened progressive journal.

IRISH-AMERICAN.

THE DARIEN ISTHMUS.

American Naval Explorations and Prospects of the Interoceanic Ship Canal.

Commodore Selfridge's Duty and Party—History of the Past and Prospect of the Present Enterprise—What May Be Accomplished and the Commercial Results—The United States Ship Tuscarora—Her Condition, Command and Crew.

PANAMA, Jan. 12, 1873.

The readers of the HERALD who have followed in its columns the progress of the various surveys which have been made on the Isthmus of Darien during the past few years are thus well aware of the obstacles that have been overcome and the important results that have been achieved by the officers of the American Navy; but, for the benefit of those who are not thus informed, it may be necessary to recapitulate in order that they may understand the objects of the expedition to which your special correspondent is now attached.

HISTORY OF CAPTAIN SELFRIDGE'S EXPLORATIONS.

In January, 1870, an expedition was organized, under the command of Commander Thomas O. Selfridge, United States Navy, for the purpose of exploring the territory of the Isthmus of Darien and determining the practicability or impracticability of the several routes that have been proposed for an interoceanic ship canal. This expedition, during the Winter of 1870, surveyed several proposed routes, commencing at Caledonia Bay and the Gulf of San Blas on the Atlantic side, and demonstrated them to be impracticable, notwithstanding the favorable reports that had previously been made of them by various explorers, who, incited by the love of notoriety or the hope of pecuniary reward, had published glowing accounts of their discoveries, with no other foundation than that which existed in their own imaginations.

In the Winter of 1871 another expedition was organized under the same commander, which proceeded to explore the much-talked of route by the way of the Atrato and Tuyra rivers. Of this route great expectations had been entertained, but they were destined to be unfulfilled, and this route was also numbered among the impracticable.

This expedition, however, met with better success in their survey of the route by the way of the Atrato and Napipi rivers, which proved to be entirely practicable and in all respects the best line as yet known. The advent of the rainy season, however, compelled the explorers to cease their operations on this route before they had obtained as much knowledge of the nature of the ground in the vicinity of the line actually surveyed as was desirable. Nevertheless, by means of great exertions, they succeeded in completing a line of survey from the Pacific to the Atrato (which is navigable at all seasons for vessels drawing twenty-five feet of water) which attracted so much attention and has impressed the best engineers of the country so favorably that it has been deemed advisable to send out a third expedition for the purpose of gaining more information of the country in the vicinity of the Napipi.

ORGANIZATION OF THE PARTY.

This expedition is also under the command of Commander Selfridge, who has as his assistants Lieutenants Fred Collins, J. G. Eaton and T. Sullivan, all of whom have seen service in the previous expeditions. Owing to a sudden and severe illness Captain Selfridge was unable to proceed at the time set for the departure of the expedition. He, however, turned the command over temporarily to Lieutenant Collins, and the expedition, accompanied by your correspondent, sailed on the 1st of January for Panama.

AT PANAMA.

Upon our arrival here we found the United States steamship Tuscarora, Commander Belknap, awaiting us, on board which the officers of the expedition at once repaired, and immediately commenced the work of organization and preparation for active operations as soon as Commander Selfridge, who is expected by the next steamer, shall arrive. As soon as he comes the Tuscarora will sail for Cupica Bay, and three parties, under the command of the lieutenants above mentioned, will be placed at once in the field.

PROSPECTS OF SUCCESS.

The route already surveyed requires a canal of about thirty-two miles in length, for which the estimated cost amounts to $75,000,000. This Winter it is hoped to shorten this some four or five miles, by which the estimates will be reduced to about sixty million dollars. The prospect of being able to do this is now good, and should it prove to be well founded the success of the canal project will be assured. The commercial world, therefore, may well look with interest for the report of the results that may be attained.

FACTS AND FIGURES FOR THE WORLD OF COMMERCE.

It is hardly necessary to speak of the commercial value of this great work; but the following table, which has been prepared by Lieutenant Collins for the forthcoming report of Commander Selfridge, will speak for itself, and place the matter in so strong a light that argument will be rendered unnecessary. The following is the exhibit

TABLE

showing the probable gain in time and distance to be effected for sailing vessels to and from the port of New York by a ship canal across the Isthmus of Darien over the route proposed by Commander Selfridge, United States Navy:—

From New York to Hong Kong.	By Present Route.		By Canal.		Gain.	
	Miles.	Days.	Miles.	Days.	Miles.	Days.
Hong Kong	14,930	110	12,480	83	2,450	27
Shanghae	15,560	115	12,200	81	3,030	34
Yokohama	15,758	112	11,560	79	4,200	40
Manila	13,700	108	12,260	80	1,440	28
Batavia	12,170	105	13,425	87	—	18
Sydney	12,220	105	10,480	75	2,740	30
Valparaiso	9,760	90	6,510	52	3,250	38
Callao	11,100	105	6,710	55	4,390	52
Honolulu	14,500	121	7,400	54	7,100	57
San Francisco	14,840	130	7,470	58	7,370	72

From Hong Kong to New York.	By Present Route.		By Canal.		Gain.	
	Miles.	Days.	Miles.	Days.	Miles.	Days.
Hong Kong	14,660	110	11,875	87	2,785	23
Shanghae	16,030	113	11,395	80	4,695	33
Yokohama	16,070	114	10,370	77	5,700	37
Manila	14,040	109	12,035	88	1,975	21
Sydney	13,410	110	10,390	70	3,020	40
Valparaiso	9,780	90	4,965	42	4,815	48
Callao	11,120	100	3,690	32	7,430	68
Honolulu	15,760	110	8,055	63	7,705	47
San Francisco	14,970	125	5,980	50	8,990	75

The distance by present route is in nautical miles measured on the routes now generally pursued. The days are actual averages obtained from various reliable sources. Remembering that "time is money," it would be interesting to calculate the number of dollars that will be saved each year by the maritime nations of the earth when this great work shall have become a *fait accompli*.

THE UNITED STATES SHIP TUSCARORA, HER CONDITION, COMMAND AND CREW.

The following is a correct list of the officers now attached to the United States steamer Tuscarora:—Commander, George E. Belknap; Lieutenant Commander and Executive Officer, Richard S. Chew; Lieutenant Commander, Theodore F. Jewell; Lieutenants—S. Hubbard, George A. Norris, F. M. Symonds; Master, Webster Doty; Ensign, E. U. Tanitt; Chief Engineer, David Smith; Passed Assistant Paymaster, J. Goodwin Hobbs; First Assistant Engineer, Alfred Adamson; Assistant Surgeon, John L. Neilson; Midshipmen—W. H. H. Southerland, R. H. Gait, C. R. Miles, V. L. Cottman, C. H. Lyeth; Acting Gunner, C. H. Venable; Acting Carpenter, Joseph L. Thatcher; Acting Boatswain, James T. Barker; Acting Sailmaker, John Roddy; Paymaster's Clerk, George W. Prescott.

The Tuscarora has been about eight months in commission, having fitted out at Portsmouth last May. She entered the Pacific by the Straits of Magellan, experiencing very tempestuous weather before entering and after leaving the Straits, but being favored by beautiful weather while actually within them. Her officers speak of the scenery about the Straits as picturesque beyond description, and in some instances of almost terrific grandeur. With an average width of perhaps a mile and a half, they are bounded upon either side by precipitous cliffs, rising to a height of one thousand five hundred or two thousand feet, down whose rugged sides innumerable silvery streams leap and dash in beautiful cascades. She has a fine complement of officers and men, and is in an excellent state of discipline and efficiency. All on board are well and in good spirits, and evince a determination to make the best of the many disagreeable things necessarily attendant upon an exploring expedition.

DEATH OF EX-ASSEMBLYMAN MOSELY.

Ex-member of Assembly W. W. Mosely died last evening at his residence, 289 Ninth street, South Brooklyn. The deceased contracted scarlet fever while attending his children, who were sick with that very prevalent and fatal disease. His condition was pronounced critical three days ago, and the report of his death will not be unexpected to those who were apprised of his case. Mr. Mosely served several terms as a member of the House, being four times elected by the democracy of the Fourth Assembly district of Kings county. As a legislator he was regarded as an active and energetic representative, and was by no means a silent voter. His delivery was fair and his arguments were generally cogent and to the point. He was a native of St. Lawrence county, New York, and was about thirty-eight years of age. He was familiarly known as Major Mosely, having won his title during the late war, while attached to one of the volunteer regiments of this State. He also served on General Slocum's staff for a time in Virginia.

THE HOBOKEN MURDER.

Crowds Viewing the Body of the Victim—Not Yet Identified—Search for the Murderers.

All day yesterday the remains of the unknown man, whose murder was announced in yesterday's HERALD, rested in a coffin at the office of Coroner Parslow, in Washington street. Hundreds of horror-stricken citizens and individuals from New York, Brooklyn, &c., visited the office, but up to a late hour no one could recognize in the mangled head the features of a friend or acquaintance. Chief Donovan, of the Hoboken police force, with Officers Wright and Bagley, accompanied the Coroner to the scene of the tragic deed and made all possible search for

TRACES OF THE ASSASSINS.

No success attended their efforts beyond the gleaning of a few circumstances, which, however, may prove important. Mr. Funcheon, who first perceived the body lying on its death bed of snow, avers that at six o'clock on Thursday evening he passed that same spot, but no corpse was then there. At half-past six, while in his house, near by, he heard two shots fired in rapid succession, and immediately afterwards a wild scream pierced the air. Such pistol-firing being common in that locality—the thieves who infest the place must needs empty their revolvers betimes to keep them in good condition—Mr. Funcheon paid no particular attention thereto. When he went out, an hour subsequently, the battered body was there. The murder must, therefore, have taken place between six and half-past seven. When

THE WOUNDS IN THE HEAD

were probed it was found that they had been inflicted with a pointed instrument—most probably with a carpenter's "dog." The blow from behind fractured the skull and caused death. In one of deceased's pockets was found a portion of the Philadelphia *Inquirer* of last Saturday, whence it would seem that he came from that city. A watch key and a red handkerchief were also in the pocket, but neither watch nor money. The Coroner's inquisition takes place this evening. The vigilance and energy of the Weehawken police may be inferred from the fact that it was Hoboken officers who had to take the case in hand.

HOW TO LIGHT THE CITY LAMPS.

Meeting of the Polytechnic Branch of the American Institute—Street Lamps Lighted by Electricity—An Interesting Exhibition.

The polytechnic branch of the American Institute met last night in hall 24 Cooper Building. Mr. Daniel J. Tapley read a paper describing a new method of using carbonic acid gas for the extinguishment of fire. In a recent number of *Harper's Monthly*, he said, a description was given of a new machine in London in which carbonic acid gas, evolved from burning charcoal, was forced into its stream, and the results were spoken of as very gratifying. About four years ago a company was formed at Newton, Mass., of which Governor Claflin was President, for the manufacture of a hand engine, which attempted to use the same principle. The small machines known as "extinguishers" have in scores of instances put out fires which were apparently out of all proportion to the means used. The weak point of the extinguisher is in its capacity. The inventor conceived the pleasant idea of forcing the operator to carry the engine, hose and extinguishing material upon his back. At Holyoke, Mass., the "self-acting engine" was adopted in May, 1870. Since its adoption nineteen fires have occurred, thirteen of which have been put out by the "self-acting engine" before a stream could be even started from any of the other sources. At many of those fires the engine has shown an efficiency little short of the miraculous. I know of no town which is supplied with these engines where they have not reduced the number of fires, or rather fire losses, to less than fifty per cent of the average loss in previous years.

After a lengthy discussion Mr. Alban Andren read a paper by E. E. Bean, of Boston, explaining his pneumatic and electric gas lighting apparatus. The cost of lighting and of extinguishing the street lamps of a large city is very great. Two reforms are needed—in the amount of labor and the quantity of gas. A patent was granted to Mr. Bean to light lamps by means of electricity. Much time and ingenuity have been expended on the simple task of opening the burner and lighting the gas simultaneously. By means of this apparatus all the lamps within a circuit of a mile can be lighted in fifteen seconds. Mr. Bean then read a report of the Superintendent of Street Lamps of Providence, R. I., showing that the experiment in that city has been accompanied by a great saving in money and in the quantity of gas consumed. The annual saving is about twenty thousand dollars. In New York the saving would be $96,500. Mr. Andren then lighted half a dozen lamps by one flash of his galvanic battery and extinguished them in less than a second, and the numerous audience burst out in applause. The burners are opened by means of atmospheric pressure, and the gas is lighted by electricity conveyed by wires going to every lamp post. Mr. Andren said the large music hall of Cambridge is lighted now by this apparatus. The experiment has proved a perfect success.

Dr. L. Bradley said he approved of the plan, and the meeting then adjourned till Friday next, when the subject of superheated steam will be discussed.

THE UNITED NATIONALITIES.

A special meeting of the Central Association of United Nationalities was held last night at Ittner's Hotel, Grand and Mercer streets, General Franz Sigel, President, in the chair. After the transaction of the usual routine business resolutions were introduced by Colonel Tinelli expressive of sympathy for the Cuban patriots, and asking the United States government to adopt a more decisive policy on the question of Cuban independence. Speeches were made by Messrs. Tinelli, Loew and General Sigel.

Resolutions were also adopted in favor of establishing a "land asylum" in the interior of the State, where immigrants of good character might find temporary employment and be kept aloof from the pernicious influences of a large city, and where they would be less likely to become beggars and criminals.

A motion was made and carried to have the association incorporated, and after deciding to meet again on the 15th of February, the meeting adjourned.

HUMAN REMAINS FOUND.

Shortly before twelve o'clock yesterday morning one of the laborers employed in removing the ruins at the scene of the late fire, 85 Centre street, found the arm of a grown person, which is supposed to have belonged to one of the bodies previously removed from the ruins. The limb was taken to the Sixth precinct station and Coroner Keenan notified.

MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.

Married.

BATTELLE—BUSH.—On Monday, January 27, by the Rev. E. H. Baker, at the residence of the bride, CHARLES E. BATTELLE, of Brooklyn, N. Y., to EMMA BUSH, of Mercer, Pa. No cards.

GRANT—WALLACE.—On Thursday, January 30, by the Rev. J. O. Rogers, ANDREW M. GRANT, of Concord, N. H., to LYDIA M. WALLACE, of Brooklyn, L. I.

GUION—CHILDS.—At Port Richmond, Staten Island, on Thursday, January 30, at the residence of the bride's mother, by the Rev. Harmon Loomis, BARNARD R. GUION, of New York city, to MARY M., daughter of the late Hon. Thomas Childs.

HOLCOMBE—GOODWIN.—At Brooklyn, N. Y., on Wednesday, January 29, at the residence of the bride's father, by the Rev.