FRANCE.

Political Fealty to the Bonapartist Royalty—A Republican Candidate Uneasy Under Defeat.

PARIS, May 26, 1874.

M. de Bourgoing, the member elect from the Department of the Nievre, has gone to Chiselhurst to pay homage to the ex-Empress Eugénie.

WON'T ACCEPT THE CITIZEN BALLOT DECLARATION.

The republican candidate for the Assembly in the Department of Nievre will contest the seat of M. de Bourgoing, the Bonapartist, who was declared elected.

SPAIN.

Diplomatic Relations with Mexico—Press Opinion of the United States Minister.

MADRID, May 26, 1874.

Diplomatic relations between Spain and Mexico were resumed yesterday by the presentation to Marshal Serrano of the credentials of General Corona as minister from the latter country.

PRESS ACCUSATION AGAINST THE AMERICAN MINISTER.

Several Madrid newspapers accuse Mr. Cushing, the American Minister, of being present at a banquet given by the opposition deputies, including Figueras and Castelar. The editors suggest that Mr. Cushing must be ignorant of European diplomatic usages as well as the significance of certain names.

ENGLAND.

The Dukedom of Connaught Duly Gazetted—Liberal Gain at an Election.

LONDON, May 27—5:30 A. M.

The official announcement of the new title of Duke of Connaught conferred upon Prince Arthur appears in the *Gazette* to-day.

PARLIAMENTARY GAIN FOR THE LIBERALS.

Mr. Ashley, a liberal, has been returned to Parliament from Poole, Dorsetshire.

WEATHER REPORT.

The weather throughout England yesterday was fair.

ITALY.

The Ministry Again Defeated in Parliament.

ROME, May 26, 1874.

The Italian government met with another defeat to-day in the Chamber of Deputies.

THE POPE.

ROME, May 26, 1874.

The Pope has nearly recovered from his recent illness.

CUBA.

Sudden Storm and Sad Consequences.

HAVANA, May 26, 1874.

The stone building on Duranona's plantation was destroyed by a whirlwind yesterday. Five laborers were killed and twenty wounded by the falling walls, all belonging to a chain gang employed in the building.

THE RESTLESS REDS.

A Large Portion of the Tribes Reported on the Warpath.

WICHITA, Kan., May 26, 1874.

Parties just arrived from the Cheyenne agency report that a large portion of the Kiowas, Cheyennes, Comanches and Arapahoes are on the warpath. They are consolidating their forces on the north fork of the Canadian River, and intend to make it red hot for the whites this summer. A few days ago they murdered a son of Dr. Holloway and stole five horses from the Southwestern Stage Company and three mules from General Morrison, an old settler of that vicinity, and committed numerous other depredations. They cut up the lodges and shot the ponies of those Indians who refused to join them on the warpath against the whites. The parties who bring the information are reliable, and say that a general Indian war is inevitable.

REPORT FROM THE LOUP COUNTRY.

OMAHA, May 26, 1874.

General Ord and staff returned to-day from the Loup country. Everything is peaceful and that section of the country is rapidly filling up with settlers.

THE BLACK HILLS EXPLORATION.

ST. PAUL, Minn., May 26, 1874.

The expedition to the Black Hills of Dakota Territory is organizing at Bismarck to start about the 20th of June.

The Black Hills are supposed to be rich in gold and silver, but nothing positive is known, as none but Indians have explored them.

Custar Preparing to Move Into the Black Hills.

SIOUX CITY, May 26, 1874.

The *Journal* this morning publishes information received from the Upper Missouri that General Custar is preparing a large force at Fort Abraham Lincoln to move into the Black Hills about the 1st of June.

THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATURE.

LITTLE ROCK, May 26, 1874.

The Senate to-day passed the House resolutions thanking President Grant for sustaining Governor Baxter.

The House to-day, after four hours of discussion, passed a bill giving amnesty to all parties connected with the late rebellion, except those holding positions in the legislative, executive and judicial departments, who used their positions to forward the rebellion.

MINERS' STRIKE IN OHIO.

Riotous Proceedings of the Strikers—The Governor Appealed To.

COLUMBUS, May 26, 1874.

A telegram received at the Executive Department to-day from a large coal operator at Massillon states that the coal miners employed near Massillon have been on a long strike, and last night, when it was proposed to put new men at work, the miners fired the trestle work and buildings, and threatened the lives of the proprietors' outside men and the guards, and shot two men. Anticipating an extensive riot, the government was asked to send help as soon as possible. The telegram was forwarded to Governor Allen, at his home in Chillicothe, but it is understood no troops will be sent until the Sheriff of Stark county officially asks for help.

WEATHER REPORT.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER,
WASHINGTON, May 27—1 A. M.

Probabilities.

For New England generally clear and cool weather will prevail, with north to west winds and stationary or rising barometer.

FOR THE MIDDLE STATES GENERALLY CLEAR WEATHER, LIGHT, VARIABLE WINDS, SLIGHT RISE OF TEMPERATURE AND STATIONARY OR FALLING BAROMETER.

The Weather in This City Yesterday.

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

	1873.	1874.		1873.	1874.
3 A. M.	64	58	3:30 P. M.	65	62
6 A. M.	64	61	6 P. M.	64	61
9 A. M.	70	66	9 P. M.	62	55
12 M.	79	70	12 P. M.	60	53

Average temperature yesterday 60¾
Average temperature for corresponding date last year 66¼

A NEW METHODIST CHURCH.

Laying the Corner Stone of the Sixty-first Street Methodist Episcopal Church—Addresses by Rev. Drs. Eddy, Ganse and Tyng, Jr.—What Dr. Tyng Thinks of Methodism.

The corner stone of the Sixty-first street Methodist Episcopal church was laid yesterday afternoon in Sixty-first street, near Third avenue. The congregation of this church has been worshipping for the last four years in a temporary wooden structure, but now they will soon have one of the handsomest edifices to be found in the Methodist Church of New York. The new building will be 100 by 130 feet and capable of seating 1,100 persons. It will be of a novel design, the lecture room being in front and the church in the rear. At the junction of the lecture room and the church a steeple will rise 150 feet high. It will be built in the middle-pointed Gothic style of the fourteenth century—of brick and stone. The roofs will be open-timbered throughout. The parsonage, adjoining the church, will be 25 by 60 feet. The entire cost will be $60,000, and the church will probably be opened before next Christmas.

The ceremony of laying the corner stone took place yesterday, in presence of a small audience. Bishop Janes presided, and was assisted by several well known Methodist ministers. Short addresses were delivered, and a most pleasing spectacle—one suggestive of the millennium—presented itself on the occasion. Clergymen of various denominations which have too frequently been at loggerheads took part in the exercises with the utmost harmony and without the smallest appearance of rivalry.

Rev. S. H. Tyng, Jr., delivered a humorous address:—"I came here representing the Church of the Holy Trinity, and simply as a Protestant Episcopalian," he said, among other things, "and if you are ready to receive the hand of fellowship from that church I am here to extend it. A good many years ago I received a little of the Methodist spirit, and it has been working in me ever since. This spirit works not towards the few, but towards the many, and it was well expressed by Wesley when he said, not 'We go to those who need us,' but, 'We go to those who need us most.' I remember a good story" (the reverend speaker told it with the greatest gusto) "about a horse which was lost in this State and which was found at last by an idiot. The idiot declared he would find the horse if the owner would tell him where he saw it last. When he brought the horse back he was asked how he had discovered it, and he replied, 'Well, you see, I went to the place where you told me you saw it last, and when I got there I said to myself, 'If you were a horse now where would you go?' (Loud laughter.) Then I went whither the spirit moved me and found the horse. (Laughter.) And this is the true spirit of evangelical work. It is a mistake to think that outward forms attract a congregation. The only thing that attracts men to the Gospel is the true spirit, the manly heart overflowing with the love of Jesus Christ. If a church is full of such manly men and of Christian men, then it always attracts the people. It may not become a congregation of big men, but will probably be only one of the people; and by the people I do not mean the thieves and rascals, but the men of trade, of shops, of honest toil, for of such men the Church of Christ was composed at first, and for such men was it first created. If any Church is true to the people it is the Methodist Church."

Rev. Dr. Tyng then told another funny story, which created much laughter:—"A man in Jersey had four oxen. One he called the Baptist ox, the other the Presbyterian, the third the Methodist, and the fourth the Episcopalian. He said he wanted them all; the Methodist ox was fiery, the Presbyterian steady, the Episcopalian magnificent, and the Baptist ox was very peculiar in this: if he saw water, he was sure to go to it. (Laughter.) I wish it to be distinctly understood that in the work of evangelization all the sects are needed. If there be too much spirit in the Methodist Church, let Bishop Janes send some of his oxen into the Episcopal Church to set it on fire. (Laughter.) I'd like to have some regular roarers, sweaters, fighters, tearers—none of your very eloquent men, who use long words, for I heard one such last summer, and he preached me deaf—(laughter)—and I should like to set these men to work." (Laughter.) Dr. Tyng concluded with the words:—"God bless the Methodist Church, Amen!" and the word "Amen" was re-echoed by scores of fervent voices.

Bishop Janes then laid the corner stone, spreading the mortar with a silver trowel. The benediction closed the ceremony.

THE CHURCH COUNCILS.

The Presbyterian General Assembly—Sharp Debate on the Consolidation Question.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., May 26, 1874.

The Presbyterian General Assembly this morning resumed the debate on consolidation. Rev. Dr. Eels, of San Francisco, said the people in his part of the country were decidedly in favor of consolidation. He thought the Sustentation and Home Missions boards could be united with good effect. The facilities of the colportage work should be increased. Dr. Aikinan, of Detroit, agreed with what had been said, though he represented no particular section. In regard to missionary salaries he thought there should be a uniform system, instead of the present mode, wherein the salary is fixed in one place and in another depends upon the caprice of the congregation.

THE CRY OF CENTRALIZATION

he did not fear, believing the day was past when it could have any permanence in the Church. Dr. William C. Roberts, of Elizabeth, N. J., spoke in favor of sustentation and the Board of Home Missions, which he thought were one work and should be together. There are two or three points in which they differ, but that could be easily remedied. The sustentation fund would have failed long ago had it not been for two gentlemen in the Board of Home Missions—Rev. Mr. Paxton and John Paxton, D. D. While they are separated there is friction, for the reason that both departments are the same. Unite them, and this disappears. So with the missions for the freedmen; they all should go together.

A recess was taken, followed by an afternoon session, at which the debate on consolidation was continued until the adjournment.

The American Sunday School Union—Report of the Society's Work.

PHILADELPHIA, May 26, 1874.

The fiftieth anniversary of the American Sunday School Union was held in the Academy of Music this evening in presence of an immense audience. Hon. George H. Stuart presided and addresses were made by Rev. S. H. Tyng, Sr., D. D., and Rev. John Hall, D. D., of New York, and Rev. John Peddie, of Philadelphia. The record of the society's work for children in out-of-the-way places is most gratifying. It has organized 61,299 Sunday schools and brought into them 2,650,717 scholars and 404,242 teachers, thus averaging 1,225 new schools a year, or 3 3-10 schools per day since the day of its organization.

A similar meeting will be held in the Broadway Tabernacle, New York, on Thursday evening, and will be addressed by the veteran missionaries, B. W. Chidlaw, Stephen Paxson, John McCullagh, M. B. Lewis and F. G. Ensign.

The Southern Presbyterian Assembly.

COLUMBUS, Miss., May 26, 1874.

In the Southern Presbyterian Assembly to-day the report of the Committee on the subject of a General Federative Presbyterian Council was presented, recommending that this Assembly co-operate in the formation of a General Advisory Council.

The report on evangelical labor showed that the contributions are less than $7,000, an average of six and one-half cents per member.

The American Unitarian Association—Status of Rev. W. J. Potter, of New Bedford.

BOSTON, Mass, May 26, 1874.

At the meeting of the American Unitarian Association to-day there was a long debate on the status of Rev. W. J. Potter, of New Bedford, whose name had been dropped from the rolls on account of his assertion that though a Unitarian so far as his relations to Trinitarianism were concerned, he no longer considered himself a Christian. The controversy was carried on in a pleasant way, and many resolutions were presented. The following, offered by Rev. Dr. Cordner, of Montreal, was finally adopted:—

Inasmuch as the term "Unitarian," as used in the title of this association and in its publications, has always been held to carry a distinctively Christian meaning, our Unitarian ministers being held and regarded by us as public teachers of the Christian religion; and as the action of the Assistant Secretary, sustained by the Executive Committee, in omitting from the catalogue the name of a minister who says he is no longer a Christian, has been in harmony with the common usage of the term among us—

Resolved, That the said action be now and hereby is approved and ratified.

The Methodist General Conference—Resolution of Thanks for Vanderbilt's Munificence—The Question of Fraternal Relations with the Northern Church.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., May 26, 1874.

The General Conference of the Methodist Church South adjourned to-day, after naming Atlanta, Ga., as the next place of meeting, four years hence. The following, among other resolutions, was adopted in relation to the donation of Commodore Vanderbilt to endow Vanderbilt University at Nashville, Tenn.:—

Whereas we have heard with pleasure of the munificent gift of Mr. Cornelius Vanderbilt, of New York, of over half a million dollars to build and endow a university under control of the Methodist Episcopal Church South; therefore be it

Resolved, That we are thankful to God, from whom is every good gift and every perfect gift, for this instance of enlarged beneficence; that we tender to Mr. Vanderbilt the expression of our appreciation of his noble generosity, and that we will ever pray that the richest blessings of Heaven may rest upon him.

THE RELATIONS WITH THE NORTHERN CHURCH.

The following was adopted in regard to establishing fraternal relations with the Northern Church:—

Whereas the discussions and votes of this Conference on the subject of fraternal relations with the Methodist Episcopal Church and its cognate subjects present an appearance of essential differences which do not exist; therefore,

Resolved, That upon the subject of fraternal relations with the Methodist Episcopal Church upon a proper basis this Conference is a unit.

Resolved, That we are also a unit upon the propriety of appointing a commission, empowered to meet a like commission from the Methodist Episcopal Church, to settle all questions of difficulty between us, and that such settlement is essential to complete fraternity.

Resolved, That the only points of difference between us on this whole subject are the best methods of accomplishing this desired end.

Episcopal Convention of New Jersey.

The ninety-first annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey was begun yesterday in Grace church, the handsomest of the Newark Episcopal churches. The forenoon was devoted, as usual, to "morning prayers," in the conduct of which Rev. Messrs. N. Pettit, E. K. Smith, H. S. Bishop, J. N. Stansbury, H. V. Degan, Dr. Hill and William Putnam participated. Rev. H. H. Weld, of Riverton, near Burlington, preached the sermon, and the Right Rev. Bishop W. H. Odenheimer officiated at the holy communion. The service was not conducted according to the ritualistic custom of Grace church. As the latter became for the time being the church of the Convention, and not the parish, it was deemed proper by those in charge to dispense with the lighted candles on the altar and the surpliced choir. Besides a large congregation and a full lay delegation there were present at this service between forty and fifty clergymen from all parts of the State.

Mr. Daniel Dodd, one of the trustees of the Episcopal fund, reported that the receipts were $82,913 62, or $100 more than last year's. A resolution was presented by the Finance Committee, and adopted, that each parish pay seven per cent on the rector's salary for the support of the Bishop, and one and a half per cent for the payment of the Convention expenses. Rev. Dr. Boggs presented a memorial in regard to the establishment of the new diocese, which was read and referred to the committee.

RITUALISM.

Rev. Dr. Schuyler presented the following preamble and resolutions, which were accepted. They are to be discussed to-day after the division of the diocese has been considered definitely. The reading of them caused quite a stir in the Convention:—

Resolved, That, comprehensive and tolerant as the Church is and ought to be towards the differences that prevail in respect to both the matter of doctrine and ritual, this Convention believes the time has come for the assertion of her authority, either legislative or judicial, as the case may seem to require, in order to the suppression of unseemliness and irregularity and in behalf of a greater uniformity in the conduct of public worship, and, more especially, in the administration of the holy communion.

Resolved, That the deputies of this diocese to the General Convention be and they are hereby requested to present the foregoing preambles and resolutions to that body, and they are earnestly desired not to lose sight of the end proposed therein till in some wise way it be accomplished.

THE JEWISH CONVENTION.

Annual Convention of Board of Delegates of American Israelites.

The annual Convention of Board of Delegates of American Israelites met last evening in Forty-fourth street synagogue, Judge Joachimsen President and Mr. M. S. Isaacs Secretary. Prayer was offered by the Rev. George Jacobs, of Philadelphia.

THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

was read by the Secretary. It represented that the condition of the Roumanian Jews has been greatly improved, and the thanks of the Convention was due to Consul Peixotto. The tide of emigration from that country to the United States has diminished. The Executive Committee have appropriated from time to time the sum of $1,112 70 to the Roumanian fund.

Gratifying results were reported also from Persia, Palestine and elsewhere, and the committee dwell with pleasure upon the failure of the efforts to unite Church and State in this country by introducing a recognition of Christianity into the constitution.

The following officers for the ensuing year were then elected:—President, Hon. P. J. Joachimsen; First Vice President, Hon. S. Wolf, of Washington, D. C.; Second Vice President, J. Binswanger, of Philadelphia; Treasurer, L. Bamberger; Secretary, M. S. Isaacs. An Executive Committee of fifteen and a board of five trustees were also elected. A committee was also appointed to bring the case of Mr. Leipsker, an American Israelite, murdered in Peru in 1870, before Congress, that justice may be done to the widow and children. Adjourned.

PROBABLE MURDER IN LONG ISLAND CITY.

Late on Monday evening, after it became known that the passengers by the steamship Idaho would arrive at Hunter's Point some time during the night on a special train over the Central Railroad, an agent of the Williams & Guion line was despatched to Long Island City to charter a ferryboat for the transportation of the emigrant passengers to Castle Garden. After a long hunt, failing to find the Superintendent of the Thirty-fourth street and James slip ferries, the agent at last succeeded in finding the Assistant Superintendent, Mr. McGowan, and arrangements were made with him. It being necessary to have an extra number of deck hands, Mr. McGowan, at the request of the agent, procured the services of several men, among them a young man named James Rogers. After awaiting the arrival of the train until midnight, and it then being understood that it would not arrive for some time, Rogers, with a number of others, went to a liquor saloon in Ferry street, kept by Patrick Hennessey, where they drank to excess, and continued drinking until a late hour yesterday morning, Rogers becoming considerably intoxicated. While in this condition an altercation was begun between him and Hennessey regarding some money matters, and finally Hennessey threw him over a chair, and, while he was prostrate, drew a heavy slung shot from his pocket and struck the almost helpless man twice on the head, cutting him dreadfully at each blow, and inflicting, it is believed, fatal injuries. The wounded man, who has since remained insensible, was conveyed to his residence and attended by Dr. Dennlee. Hennessey was arrested and lodged in the jail at Astoria.

THE MURDER OF WILLIAM BELFORT.

Capture of the Alleged Assassin—Coroner's Inquest and Verdict.

Officer Schelwald, of the Sixth sub-precinct, Brooklyn, accompanied by Sergeant Nicholson, from information obtained, proceeded to Jamaica at an early hour yesterday morning and succeeded in capturing Philip Klinemer, the assassin of William Belfort, in Moore street, Williamsburg, on Saturday night last, an account of which has already been published in the HERALD. Klinemer was found by the officers secreted in a piece of wood near the depot. He made no opposition to the capture, being very weak from want of food. Klinemer was conveyed to the Sixth sub-precinct, and from there to Headquarters.

At an interview with Captain Kaizer the prisoner stated that the stabbing was done in self-defence.

Yesterday afternoon Coroner Whitehill held an inquest, and, after hearing a large amount of conflicting testimony, submitted the case to the jury, who, after deliberating about half an hour, rendered the following verdict:—"That William Belfort came to his death by compression of the brain from a stab of a knife, inflicted by the hand of Philip Klinemer, in Moore street, near Graham avenue, May 23, 1874."

Coroner Whitehill thereupon committed the accused to the County Jail to await the action of the Grand Jury. The prisoner's son, who has been in custody since the night of the tragedy, was also held as a witness, the Coroner refusing to take bail for him.

THE SPEER MANSLAUGHTER TRIAL.

The trial of Alfred Speer, the owner of the building which fell in Passaic in December last and killed George McLean, was resumed yesterday in Paterson.

Dr. R. A. Terhune, of Passaic, testified as to the death of deceased; that he was crushed to death by the fall of the building, &c.

Edward McDonald testified that he saw the building fall and kill Mr. McLean and Mr. Barkley, who was with him. The rest of the day was spent in examining William Howe, architect, and John H. Post and John McGregor, carpenters, relative to the strength of the building that had fallen and how such buildings should be constructed. From the nature of the cross-examination it seems evident that Mr. Speer's principal defence will lay in the fact that he has since re-erected the building in Passaic the same as the one that fell, and that this now stands, although not yet to the point reached by the one that fell, at the time of its collapse. It may be added that the building now in course of erection is a source of terror to the people. The Passaic City Council, by authority vested in it by the last Legislature, directed Mr. Speer to put in additional braces and supports, which he has thus far, apparently, failed to do. The people generally place little faith in the opinion of the architects and carpenters who say the building is safe, for the same carpenters and architects still insist that the former building which fell and killed two men was perfectly strong.

MILL RIVER DAM.

Damaging Developments at the Coroner's Inquest.

CONFUSED WITNESSES.

Responsibility of Proprietors, Contractors and Superintendents.

NORTHAMPTON, MASS., May 26, 1874.

The Coroner's investigation into the cause and responsibility of the Williamsburg reservoir calamity continues to reveal a degree of carelessness and negligence on the part of proprietors and contractors and builders which it is almost impossible to believe. Thus far every witness examined has given testimony which goes to prove almost conclusively that the whole structure was nothing but a frail sham, and the great wonder is that it was not swept away before. It appears that the reputed superintendent of the work was only a myth or an ornamental official at the best, and that the contractors went ahead with the work in the cheapest manner possible and without much regard to the specifications of the contract.

SPELLMAN, OF THE RESERVOIR COMPANY.

When the HERALD'S report closed last evening the examination of Mr. Spellman, one of the chief proprietors and officers of the Reservoir Company, was in progress. His conduct on the stand, and the confused, incoherent and nervous manner in which he made his contradictory statements, made a most unfavorable impression upon the spectators present, and probably his evidence will be regarded with a good deal of discrimination by the jury. Mr. Spellman is an Old Hampshire county button manufacturer, and an admirable specimen of that class of New-England Yankees whose chief ambition is to make money and save it. All through his examination at the inquest he has betrayed

AN UNWILLINGNESS TO TELL

what he is generally believed to know about the flimsy manner in which the dam was constructed. Towards the close of his testimony yesterday afternoon he was called upon to produce the books of the company and read the records in order to show who were the building committee and who was in charge of the work; but out of mercy for Mr. Spellman's evident inability to do it Mr. Delano took the book and went through the records (including the act of incorporation, constitution and bylaws of the company) from May, 1865, to May, 1870, without finding any appointment of a building committee, though he found an entry stating that Joel Hayden was added to such a committee. Mr. Spellman said he knew of no record on the subject; did not know who were the building committee, but believed that Mr. Dimock, Mr. W. M. Clark and Mr. W. G. Clement acted in such capacity, and Mr. Hayden was subsequently added; the contractors did their work on specifications; he (Spellman) himself bought the reservoir land in his own name; there were no preparations made for building before that; he was up there perhaps not as often as three or four times a week, but was there very often; he had nothing to do with the contract with Mr. Bassett and Mr. Wells, but understood that they were bound by specifications; he almost always met the contractors there; the work was begun early in the summer of 1865, and completed either in January or February, 1866, he thinks; he was secretary and treasurer and the nearest mill-owner, and he had an interest in it because he needed the reservoir so much, for before it was built he had no power at all in the summer. This long roll of answers was in continual attempt to avoid the suspicion of having had any special authority or responsibility in the construction of the dam.

TUESDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

The first witness called at the session to-day was Mr. Isaac Stone, of Northampton, clerk of the old Mill River Reservoir Company, since consolidated with the Williamsburg Company. Mr. Stone said that in 1873 the late Lieutenant Governor Hayden said something about the Williamsburg dam needing rip-rapping, but he did not give him the idea that the reservoir was unsafe. The chief part of Mr. Stone's testimony had reference to the incorporation of the company, the amount of capital invested, &c., and was not of public interest.

STORY OF ONE RESERVOIR CONTRACTOR.

Joel Bassett, of Easthampton, one of the contractors for the building of the reservoir, was next called. Mr. Bassett read the specifications and contract under which the reservoir was built, adding that the only superintendent of the work in behalf of the company was a Mr. Fenn, and afterward a committee of the company consisting of Messrs. Clark, Dimmock and Clement. There was afterward another contract submitted which he refused to sign, and for reasons which he would explain when called upon. The contract which he did sign required the wall to be 45 feet high, 2 feet wide on top and 5 feet 9 inches wide at the bottom. The second contract, which he refused to sign, narrowed and reduced the strength of the wall, and he would not sign it for fear his reputation as a builder of a reservoir might be affected afterwards. There were other objections, which the contractor will explain at a future session.

THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE COMPANY.

W. T. Clement, the first President of the Reservoir Company, testified that the work as done by the contractors differed very materially from what was required by the specifications. The further testimony went to show that various plans and estimates were submitted besides those adopted. Those who looked after the contractors and their work, he said, were himself, George Hayden, Mr. Dimmock, Mr. Clark and Mr. Spellman, the latter gentleman offering to look specially after the matters of construction, on account of living near the dam. Mr. Hayden also offered to look particularly after the work, but Mr. Clement said that himself and all the gentlemen he had named were, above all others,

RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WORK.

He himself was not present during the construction of the dam, only occasionally, on account of other business. He said that there were several complaints made by him and the other gentlemen while the work was going on, but he could not give any definite statements of particular complaints, except in one instance, and then he thought that complaint was uncalled for. The complaint came from the late Mr. Clark, and was to the effect that the contractors at one point were building on the soil instead of on hardpan as the contract required. The contractors offered to conform to Mr. Clark's ideas, but Mr. Clement thought it was not necessary. The ground, he said, was very firm there, and that portion of the dam is still remaining. On the west side of the dam the soil was hard, but on the east it was soft and mucky, but the contractors went down to hard pan for the foundation. Mr. Hayden, he said, occasionally expressed doubts about the thoroughness with which the contractors were doing their work, but his fears were general rather than occasioned by any special supposed faults. The witness said he had a large amount of business on hand at the time, and he could not remember about events so far back. He wished it understood, however, that he had

NOTHING TO CONCEAL.

When the dam was completed there was some hesitation among the contractors about accepting the work, but it was on account of some little details about how the work should be paid for, whether by the day or by the piece, and not on account of any incompleteness of the work. Mr. Clement said that he never knew of the County Commissioners examining the dam except by what he had seen in the papers. Once, when at the dam, he saw water oozing out from two or three places in streams as large as a man's arm, and it seemed to come from the bottom of the dam or artificial embankment; at the time the dam was built springs were found, but he did not remember whether any pains were taken to divert the streams running from them, so that they would not operate upon the walls or embankment; he never heard any mill owner say that the dam was unsafe, and six months before his death he heard Governor Hayden express himself better satisfied with the dam than at any other time since it was built; the Superintendent of the building of the dam was there only a portion of the time, and the reason of this he explained was the general confidence of the proprietors in the faithfulness and honesty of the contractors; as the ruins of the dam look now, it seems to him as if the stone was never laid down to the hardpan as it should have been, and, furthermore, he thought that the cement that was used was not what it should have been. If he had seen anything understood how the foundation was laid he never would have approved it for a moment. Some of the cement used appeared to him to have been mixed with six parts of sand, and it never ought to have contained more than two parts. Even though the cement had been properly mixed he did not regard the dam as safe with such a foundation as was to be seen at the scene of the break now. When the matter of building the dam was talked about some of the manufacturers advocated the building of it without walls, using plank spiles, perhaps, although some were in favor of nothing but earth for the embankment, and it was his own opinion that the wall, as built at the Williamsburg Reservoir, was not an additional element of strength. The rejection of some proposals and the adoption of another, he said, was on account of the matter of expense. In the matter of stone and earth dams he thought one was as likely to break away as the other.

THE SUPERINTENDENT—"I CAN'T REMEMBER."

It was reserved for Eugene C. Goodwin, of Springfield, to disclose the terribly careless manner in which the dam was constructed. He did not show up the matter by any positive statements, but rather by a confession of his own ignorance and wilful neglect of the duties which were intrusted to him. Mr. Goodwin is an architect by profession, and when the dam was built he was employed to superintend the work and take the measurements. According to his testimony to-day it would seem that he was not only incompetent, but wilfully, if not criminally, negligent. He said that he was employed to look after matters as much as he could while there. He was present on an average, he said, twice a week from one to two hours on each visit. He did not seem to know much about the stone work or any other matters connected with the construction of the dam. "I don't have any special recollection," was his almost invariable reply to every question propounded. He said he received $158 for what he had done, and he gave services according to the amount of compensation. He admitted that he didn't know anything about building dams and that he never saw one built in his life before this one. He also acknowledged that he didn't know what his duties were or what the proprietors expected of him, and his opinion was that the importance of the work required more time and supervision than he gave it. To one of the juryman Mr. Goodwin said that he never thought he was qualified to take the supervision of the work, and, furthermore, that he knew nothing whatever about engineering. He denied ever having any financial transactions with the contractors, and this was about the only point which he had any positive recollection about. In other matters his memory was so terribly defective that the Coroner and his jurors were obliged to give up his further examination.

ANOTHER BAD MEMORY.

Lucius Dimmock, a Northampton manufacturer and a director of the Reservoir Corporation, had a memory equally as treacherous as that of Mr. Goodwin. To almost every question at the beginning of the examination he answered that "he didn't recollect." He even said that, notwithstanding he was one of the first projectors of the dam, he did not know how the dam came to be built, when it was built, how much it cost, or, in fact, anything about it. He made a feeble attempt to be funny when the questions were put to him by Mr. Delano, but finding that he was a failure in that direction he fell back upon his memory again.

OPINION OF A SPRINGFIELD ENGINEER.

John R. Smith, a Springfield engineer, whose plan was among those rejected by the company, thought that the foundations of the reservoir were not properly made. There should have been a bed of concrete, and this concrete should have extended down into the hard pan, and the walls also should have been thicker. There were many other apparent defects in the structure which he would have avoided if he had been the builder.

THE THOROUGHNESS OF THE INQUEST.

There is much public satisfaction at the thorough manner in which Coroner Wright and his jury are investigating the cause and responsibility of the terrible calamity, and an almost universal opinion prevails that the verdict rendered will be a severe one. It is probable that the investigation will be concluded this week.

Aid for the Mill River Victims.

NEW YORK, May 26, 1874.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

Our receipts for the relief fund of Mill River flood are:—

In this morning's papers	$12,650
William Allen Butler	25
H. A. Kohn & Bros.	50
Mrs. Maria Weston Chapman	100
Mayer & Lowenstein	50
Sunday school of Lee avenue church, Brooklyn, by Thomas A. Buckley	20
Total	$12,895

Yours truly, C. H. & F. D. BLAKE,
79 and 81 Worth street.

THE LOUISIANA SUFFERERS.

More Aid Solicited.

The following despatch from the Mayor of New Orleans was received by Mayor Havemeyer yesterday:—

NEW ORLEANS, May 25, 1874.

To the MAYOR OF NEW YORK:—

By request of the Relief Committee and leading citizens I again call on American cities in behalf of 45,000 victims of the great floods for such aid as your prosperity may permit or your philanthropy prompt you to grant. Contributions in cash and provisions in thirty-five days have been less than $180,000. In fifteen days our means will be exhausted. The demand for relief will continue great and urgent for many weeks. Daily rations have been distributed to about 45,000 persons. Eight thousand rations have been distributed by government.

Painful anxiety as to the results is general.

Nothing but a large increase of resources can prevent the horrors of famine and great loss of life. We need $1,000,000 or more. Details will be given by mail.

LOUIS A. WILTZ,
Mayor and Treasurer of Relief Fund.

Mayor Havemeyer has sent to New Orleans some $2,000, received in small contributions to date for the sufferers. He will await full details by mail before taking official action in the matter.

LITERATURE.

"The Four Civilizations"—Mr. Henry Wikoff's Exposition of History.*

Any book which has for its theme the exposition of the history of civilization, rather than the mere narration of the events of history, is a work to be welcomed and read. Perhaps the most remarkable study of this kind which has yet appeared are the volumes of Professor Heeren, on the civilizations of Asia and Africa. A like service was needed for our own civilization, which came with the birth of the Christian religion, and has extended its influence with the recognition and growth of Christianity in Europe. This want is in a measure supplied by an historical retrospect by Mr. Henry Wikoff, entitled "The Four Civilizations of the World," which has just appeared. The three earlier civilizations, according to Mr. Wikoff's classification, are those of Asia and Africa and of Europe during the Greek and Roman eras. The first two of these are almost identical, and the third only differs from them in its intellectual superiority. They are all so well understood and have been so elaborately and exhaustively treated by other writers that Mr. Wikoff did well in passing them over with such references only as were necessary for the discussion of the fourth era of civilization—the epoch of Christianity. It is to this era that the body of his work is devoted, and his book affords a rapid glance at the history of the Papacy and of France, England and the United States which cannot fail to gratify every one who cares to study the logic of events. Mr. Wikoff's style is clear and concise, and though the reader may sometimes differ with the author's conclusions he will recognize in these outlines of history a well drawn picture of our modern civilization.

After a rapid review of the origin of Christianity and of the dark ages, which followed the destruction of the Roman Empire of the West, Mr. Wikoff begins his more thorough exposition of history with a sketch of France from the Middle Ages till the final downfall of the monarchy. The establishment of the feudal system is the real beginning of modern civilization, for, under the lords of the castle, was the first permanent organization of society, and without a permanent society Christianity was practically inoperative. Early England as regards the feudal system was only a copy of early France, and in both countries the struggles of monarchy with feudality and of the people with monarchy were carried forward as they began, the French always leading the English, but not building so securely, though overturning the old order of things more completely. The influence of the Papacy was over both countries, and entered into the political struggles of Europe till the Treaty of Westphalia put an end to the religious wars. Lastly comes the history of the United States, which is the history of the sovereignty of the people. It will be perceived from this that Mr. Wikoff's groupings of events are excellent, and that the exposition of history which he makes is equally valuable whether or not his conclusions are accepted. In closing his work Mr. Wikoff indulges in some comments on the present and prognostications of the future, from which we quote:—

In denoting the perturbations of European society for so many centuries I have assigned as their principal cause the efforts of the lower class of inferior intelligence to obtain from the upper class of superior intelligence an exemption from unjust oppression, and the recognition of their equality before God and the law. I have shown that this ground swell, so to speak, dates from the Christian era; and it may now be said to have nearly exhausted itself in three of the leading countries of the world.

In the United States is seen a society constructed on the basis of absolute equality, religious, legal and political. Such social distinctions as exist flow from the inherent differences between men, and are accepted as inevitable. All that remains to be tested is the fitness of the mass for self government, which must be solved by the example of the United States. Everything has favored the experiment in that country, and if it be proved that the popular control exercised there over government cannot preserve it from corruption, folly and crime—then all hope must be abandoned of arriving at perfect government. But happen what may—be it the fate of the American Union to republicanize the world, or be it its fate to establish beyond all question that the laborious majority is unable to curb the more intelligent minority—yet it cannot be doubted that never again will it be possible to restore the ancient civilizations which gave all to the upper class and nothing to the multitude. No government hereafter will be durable or strong which does not promote the interests of the masses, who, if not able to guide it, know they have the strength to overturn it.

In England a state of society virtually similar exists, since no obstacles are interposed to the claims of genuine intelligence. The upper class enjoys no privilege beyond the reach of any. Merit ascends by regular gradation to its natural level. As in the United States, religion is practically free, law equal, and the government, though not the choice of the majority, is administered in its interest. To give the majority the control of government before it is competent by education and experience to exercise it would be, as has been said, to involve society in confusion.

In France, at the present day, the lower class is in plenary possession of the absolute equality prevailing in the United States. Nay more, not content with this, there are fanatics, called Communists, who would despoil superior intelligence of its acquisitions, to bestow them on those without claim. Though it is true that the lower class has achieved its complete emancipation in France; though it is true that power, wealth and knowledge, as in the United States, are denied to none; yet society is unsettled and frequently falls into disorder. The reason is to be ascribed to the fact that the lower class having, through the blind arrogance of the upper class, obtained sudden independence by revolution, is unfitted by education and experience—which the United States possess—to preserve it. In consequence the people abandon it at one time in despair and at another seize upon it with fury. Time, with its discipline, can alone provide a remedy and insure ultimate stability.

It is plain that all Europe is drifting in the direction of the fourth civilization. The abolition of serfdom in Russia, the resurrection of Italy, the consolidation of Germany, the anarchy of Spain—all attest it.

* THE FOUR CIVILIZATIONS OF THE WORLD: An Historical Retrospect. By Henry Wikoff, author of "A Visit to Louis Napoleon at Home," "Political Essays," &c. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co.

MAILS FOR EUROPE.

The steamship Russia will leave this port on Wednesday for Queenstown and Liverpool.

The mails for Europe will close at the Post Office at half-past eleven o'clock A. M.

THE NEW YORK HERALD—Edition for Europe—will be ready at half-past eight o'clock in the morning.

Single copies, in wrappers for mailing, six cents.

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