MACKENZIE'S EXPEDITION.

Successful Battles with Kiowas and Comanches.

Repulse of the Reds in Bœhm Canyon, Texas.

THE CITRO BLANCO FIGHT.

Charging an Indian Village Down a Ravine.

Eight or Ten Indians Killed and Several Wounded.

Capture of Fourteen Hundred Horses and Mules, Seven Camps, Robes, Rifles and Provisions.

CAMP OF MACKENZIE'S EXPEDITION, NEAR PALO DURO, Texas, Sept. 29, 1874.

The Llano Estacado, or Staked Plain, is an elevated plateau or table land lying partly in Texas, New Mexico and the Indian Territory. Not many years ago it was designated as the Great American Desert upon the maps, and supposed to be a vast sandy waste like the Sahara of Africa. Now, the geographers inform us, it is "an elevated table land without wood or water, across which a wagon route was formerly marked by stakes." The plain rises abruptly four or five hundred feet above the surrounding country, and stretches for hundreds of miles an almost level prairie, covered with a heavy growth of buffalo grass, which remains green during the entire year, and which, as may well be imagined, is the winter home of countless herds of bison, who come down from above the Canadian, and of well mounted bands of Comanches and Kiowas, who, after drawing their annuities and supplies upon their reservations, make this a base from which to go on their raids after Texan herds and scalps. The eastern and southern sides of this great table land is gashed and seamed by a succession of canyons and arrogors, the ruggedness and grandeur of which is beyond description. The edge of the Staked Plain is chaos itself. In these canyons rise all the important rivers of Texas—the Red, Washita, Pease, Brazos, Colorado and Concho are fed by the drainage of the plateau, while their valleys furnish wood, water, grass and shelter from wind—the only contributions that a red man asks from Nature; with their help he can feed, clothe, house and mount himself, and have at all times plenty of Texan horses, women and children to barter with friendly tribes and traders for red flannel and whiskey.

INVADING THE TABLE LAND.

From the close of the civil war until 1869 this region was an unknown land to the troops serving upon the Texas frontier, and it was fondly believed that twenty-five or thirty cavalrymen could ride over the country at pleasure, and whip all the hostile tribes, one after the other. In September, five years ago, Captains Carroll and Heyl, of the Ninth cavalry, with another officer, came around by the heads of the Colorado and Brazos, with a command of ninety odd, and on the fresh water fork of the Brazos were attacked by a strong force of Kiowas and Comanches, who were repulsed after a severe fight. The next month Colonel Bacon, of General Sherman's staff, went back to the same locality with seven officers and 200 men; he was attacked in broad daylight by a very heavy force of Indians, whom, after a fight of four hours, he completely stampeded. Next day he found the lodges, whipped the warriors and captured their stock, camp equipage and squaws.

MACKENZIE'S RAIDS.

In 1871 General Mackenzie, who commanded a division of Sheridan's troopers at Five Forks, having been assigned to command the Fourth regiment of cavalry upon the reorganization of the army, took out an expedition from Fort Richardson across the Red River through the Washita Mountains and up the North Fork to McClellan's Creek, swinging around to the northeast and south, fording the Sweetwater near Antelope Hills, and thence back to Fort Griffin, having met with no large body of hostile Indians. Refitting and filling up with supplies he came out to the scene of the Bacon and Carroll fight via Flat Top and Double Mountains. On the Fresh Fork he had a skirmish with the Comanches, in which he was himself wounded in the eye by an arrow, obliging him to relinquish the command and return to Fort Griffin.

In 1872 Mackenzie came out again and established a supply camp on the Fresh Fork, determined to stay on the Plains until he could overrun the whole of the Indian stronghold. First he sent General McLaughlin with a column ninety miles southwest to Mucho Que, the head of the Brazos, developing the previously unknown fact that it was a well watered region and a favorite camping place for Indians, where they would stop to rest and recruit their stolen stock, while *en route* from the San Saba, Blano and Nueces ranches, to their markets in the Indian Territory and New Mexico. On receiving McLaughlin's report that no Indians were below him General Mackenzie struck out again, crossing the Staked Plain at its widest part, through a region entirely unknown except to the red men and the New Mexican traders who supply them with whiskey and such other groceries as are not provided for them by the government, coming out at Fort Sumner, in New Mexico, thence north to Fort Bascom, then across the Plains again to Palo Duro, the head of Red River, down the Red River to *Cañoncito Blanco* (little white canyon), thence across the heads of Washita and Pease to his supply camp on the Fresh Fork.

As soon as the stock could be rested he started north again across the Red River to its North Fork, where we found a large village of hostile Comanches, which was at once charged. About fifty were killed, a large number wounded, 200 squaws and 1,200 horses were captured and the village burned.

THE PRESENT EXPEDITION.

Last year the Indians were comparatively quiet, but, as they seem to have had a general "digging up of little hatchets," another expedition became necessary in 1874. To make up a decent escort in the present economically depleted condition of the army, which reduction the HERALD deprecated from the start, it is necessary to draw off all available men from a thousand miles of frontier. This command comprises men drawn from every post on the line, from Richardson, the most northerly, to Duncan, on the Rio Grande; and yet the available fighting force, exclusive of teamsters, train guard and packers, is about 400 men. The gathering of the clans took place at the old supply camp on Fresh Water Fork, and was completed by the arrival of the Seminoles from the Rio Grande, twenty-one strong, and seven Tonkawa braves from Fort Griffin, on the 18th of this month. These friendly Indians are used as advance scouts and trailers, and are quite necessary to an expedition of this kind.

The command moved north, along the edge of the Staked Plain, on the morning of the 19th. On the 20th a party of four spies, who were one day's march in advance, were discovered and attacked by about twenty-five Comanches, and after a short, sharp fight were obliged to run for their lives. One of them had his horse shot under him, but he succeeded in getting safely upon another old animal and the whole four reached the Seminole-Tonkawa camp in safety. Their pursuers took the alarm and run off their herd of about 100 animals in a southerly direction with all haste. General McLaughlin was at once detached with part of the cavalry in pursuit, and he followed the trail more than thirty-five miles before dark, obliging the Indians to drop several horses and abandon considerable camp equipage in their hasty flight. When it became too dark to follow the trail, McLaughlin must have been close on their heels, but with another night's start the race would have been hopeless, so he returned to the camp of the main command. Still marching almost due north, Mackenzie camped in Boehm's Canyon (named after a captain of the Fourth cavalry, the hero of many a fight and skirmish in Northwestern Texas) on the 25th, sending part of the command five miles ahead to camp in Tule Canyon, and return next day for the purpose of deceiving the spies who were known to be watching the column.

THE BATTLE IN BOEHM'S CANYON.

On the 26th a few Indians appeared and skirmished with the outposts at Tule Canyon, after which that detachment pulled up stakes and joined the main camp at Boehm's Canyon. That night every one laid down to sleep with his clothes on, fully expecting an attack before morning—and it came. At fifteen minutes past ten P. M. several parties of from ten to thirty Indians dashed up on different sides of the camp, firing in among the men and horses, and yelling like bloodthirsty demons as they are—Peace Commissioners and Indian agents to the contrary notwithstanding—in a vain attempt to stampede the stock; for every horse and pack mule was "staked, cross-side-lined and hobbled," and could not run if they would. These terms may need some explanation. Each horse was "staked," or tied with a thirty-foot one-inch rope, to an iron stake or "picket pin," fifteen inches long, driven hard and fast in the ground. "Cross-side-lined" means that a fore foot was tied to the hind foot on the opposite side, leaving them the same distance apart as when the animal stands naturally. "Hobbled"—hoppled, more properly speaking, but the word is obsolete in the army—means that both fore feet are tied together. Imagine an animal running far under such discouraging conditions.

The Indians charged around the camp a few times until they found that the stock was not likely to change ownership, after which they selected a position below, in the canyon, from which they kept up a desultory fire until daylight, doing no damage, except shooting Lieutenant Thompson's horse through the neck and putting another ball through his saddle pockets, while the return fire killed and wounded several horses at least, for they were found in the ravine next morning.

Before it was fairly light the Indians, who evidently had no idea of the strength of the column, came boldly out on the hill for a fight to the number of about 150. Captain Boehm, with his company, and Lieutenant Thompson, commanding the scouts and Indians (who is known to his messmates as "Hurricane Bill," from the plan of his attacks) were ordered to charge and drive them from the vicinity while the rest of the companies were saddling and packing. Peter and his men went at them in the good old way,

CHARGING STRAIGHT THROUGH THEIR CENTRE

in the most gallant manner, losing no men, but killing one Indian, while Hurricane Bill and his scouts acted as flankers on each side, killing another Comanche without loss to themselves. This Indian, one of the finest looking fellows your correspondent ever saw, was going up the side of an *arroyo* when a Seminole jumped down from his saddle, and, taking deliberate aim, killed the Camanche's horse, who, being thus suddenly dismounted, started off at a great rate across the prairie on foot. One of the Tonkawas then ran his horse upon him and gave the *coup de grace* with his six-shooter, the pistol being so near his head that the powder burned his skin.

The Comanches scattered in every direction, making no more fight, but after a little while gathering together again in plain sight, two or three miles in front of the prairie, and marched off to the eastward in close column, like a detachment of civilized troopers. But the cavalry did not follow the trail, of course. That device is getting a little threadbare; every step taken on that trail, which was made with intent to deceive, would have carried the command away from their villages, and villages were what the column was after; for if their herds and homes are struck it tells very seriously, but if you strike a moving party of warriors, a possible dead Indian or two represents the sum total of the harm done them.

ON FOR CITRO BLANEE.

The column remained quietly in camp until about two o'clock P. M., when it marched out a few miles in the direction the Comanches had gone and went into camp, as if for the night, at a water hole on the prairie. As soon as it was dusk the command saddled up and started off almost due north, at a great pace, and, travelling all night, arrived on the brink of the big canyon near the head of Red River just as day was breaking. This canyon is from 500 to 800 feet deep, and at this point about half a mile wide. It was here that General Mackenzie expected to find their villages, and he was not disappointed. Looking far down into the valley beneath their feet the troopers could see the lodges stringing for miles down the river, and the Indian herds grazing in all directions, appearing to one looking from such a height like chickens and turkeys. Officers and men saw their enemies before—or rather below—them, but how to get to them was the question. At last a narrow, dizzy, winding trail was found, such as a goat could hardly travel, and the cavalry started down the sides of the precipice. The Comanches took the alarm at once and began their retreat.

CHARGING THE COMANCHE VILLAGE.

The descent took nearly an hour, but at last the soldiers were down, and Thompson, with his scouts, and the companies of Colonel Beaumont, with Captain Boehm, charged the village with such impetuosity that the Indians ran in every direction. After a short but sharp fight the companies charged on down the canyon through the village, which proved to be scattered along for about three miles to its end before halting. It was a running fight for the entire distance; but the command was very fortunate, but one man, Henry E. Hard, bugler of Captain Wint's company, being shot, the ball passing through the body, leaving an ugly wound, but at this writing he is doing well, with a fair prospect of recovery. Fourteen horses were also killed and wounded from all the companies engaged.

After driving them through the whole village, the General ordered the hedges burned and the captured stock to be driven up the sides of the canyon to the prairie above. While executing this order some little sharp skirmishing occurred with straggling Indians, who had secured places among the rocks high up the sides of the canyon, which they had reached by trails that could not be found by our men, and from which they delivered their fire with comparative impunity.

INDIAN LOSSES.

During the fight five Indians were certainly killed, and probably ten or twelve were wounded.

Fourteen hundred and six horses and mules were captured, from which 360 of the best were selected to be retained, and 1,046 were shot to prevent the possibility of their again falling into the hands of the hostile Indians, in case of any attempt at stampede.

ALL THE LODGES WERE BURNED,

and the loss to this particular band of Indians is almost irreparable. Taken all in all this is believed to be the most effective blow dealt the Comanches and Kiowas on this frontier during the last two years. Some of the servants and Tonkawa squaws found time to do considerable plundering in the camp while the troops were at the front fighting and before it was burned, and the plunder they got is worth mentioning. There are bows and arrows, shields, robes with hair and robes without hair, curiously decorated and painted; new blankets, just from the reservation (and which it is interesting to note are about four feet by three in size, obliging them to run two together to make one of ordinary size), stone china, kettles, tools and implements of every description, down to a pair of tinner's shears; the best breech loading arms, with plenty of metallic cartridges, one mule being found packed with 500 rounds and another loaded with lead and powder in kegs; bales of calico and turkey red, sacks of Minneapolis and Osage Mission flour, groceries of all kinds in profusion. Indeed they seemed to be richer in everything than white men who behave themselves.

TWO IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS.

Among the articles lost by the Indians in their flight were two documents on which comment is unnecessary, and with true copies of which I will close this letter, viz.:—

OFFICE KIOWA AND COMANCHE AGENCY, I. T., 4Mo. 9, 1874.

Long Hungry is recognized as a chief among the Cochetethca Comanche Indians and promises to use his influence for good among his people, while continuing to conduct himself in a friendly and peaceable manner. I ask for him kind treatment by all with whom he may come in contact.

J. M. HAWORTH, United States Indian Agent, Kiowa, Comanche and Apache Indians.

No. 13.—KIOWA AND COMANCHE AGENCY, I. T., August (month) 6, 1874.

Wah-Lung, of Sun Boys' band of Kiowa Indians, is registered and will not be molested by troops unless engaged in acts of hostility or away from his camp without special permission.

J. M. HAWORTH, United States Indian Agent.

Countersigned by G. K. SANDERSON, Captain Eleventh infantry.

More news may perhaps be received from this command if General Mackenzie is so fortunate as to find another village which he is looking for.

THE COUNTERFEITERS.

Examination of Tom Ballard and the Two Women—Decision of the Commissioner—Ballard's Invention to Prevent Counterfeiting—His Offer to Submit It to the Government.

BUFFALO, Oct. 13, 1874.

Since my former letter detailing the arrest of the notorious Tom Ballard, with the capture of his implements, stock of finished and unfinished counterfeit notes and the plates from which the same were printed, additional interesting developments have taken place, the examination of the prisoners been held, and, in default of $15,000 bail, all are now in jail in this city. The antecedents of Tom Ballard, as we gather them from the Secret Service officials, show him to be one of the most expert counterfeiters in the country; indeed, he is believed to have been the engraver of the United States Treasury $500 bill, of which several were received at the Treasury Department, having successfully passed the most rigid scrutiny of the business public. His skill is supplemented by an inventive genius spurred into constant activity by a nervous sanguine temperament, which demands constant and exciting employment. In the exercise of this genius Ballard has succeeded in solving all the secrets connected with the manufacture of the pulp of which the peculiar paper used for bank notes is made, also the coloring matter, and can do all his engraving and printing. As will be seen below, Ballard puts into written form the claim referred to in my last, that he has invented a process—or, rather, a series of three processes—which will put an end to the practice of counterfeiting. He understood from Mr. Simon B. Benson, First Assistant of the Secret Service Department, to whom the letter below is directed, that it is accompanied with no proposition, but that he simply expresses the belief that, should the experiments any experts selected by the government might make under his direction prove the correctness of his theory, it would induce a mitigation of his punishment.

JOSHUA D. MINER.

Ballard's first arrest, in October, 1871, was in connection with the charges against this notorious individual, now a wealthy resident of your city, and it was expected at the time that Ballard's testimony would have convicted him. Mr. Benson does not hesitate to express his belief in Ballard's statement that Whitley agreed not to prosecute him should he give the required evidence; but as Ballard escaped from Ludlow Street Jail in November, before Miner's trial was held—no doubt receiving outside assistance through Miner's influence, thereby himself breaking the tacit agreement and permitting the escape of Miner from punishment—he has no occasion to blame the department either for its failure to save him from punishment or the pertinacity with which it has endeavored to secure his capture. It is now believed here that if Ballard should be taken to New York his old associates in the business would manage either to assist him in escaping from confinement, by the liberal use of money defeat the ends of justice, or, if convicted and sentenced, help him out of the best guarded of our State prisons, and in a conversation with Commissioner Scroggs he informed your correspondent that if it was within the possibilities he should be retained in this district for trial. If he is not taken out of the district his trial will take place at the Auburn term, which opens on the third Thursday of next month. The maximum term of imprisonment is fifteen years, and, if indicted and found guilty on the three charges on which Commissioner Scroggs has held him to bail, a sentence of forty-five years may be pronounced.

It will be remembered that during the investigation into the District Attorney's safe burglary, at Washington, Nettleship, then first assistant of the Secret Service Department, stated to the committee that he was in Washington looking for the notorious forger Tom Ballard. This was questioned, but it appears from Ballard's statement that the latter was in Washington last winter, and that he left because Nettleship was following him too closely.

THE EXAMINATION.

Ten o'clock this morning was the time set for the examination before Commissioner Scroggs, and shortly after that hour the prisoners were brought down from the jail. Ballard was handcuffed to Marshal Tole's assistant, E. Brown, and the two females were under charge of a policeman. Ballard looked cheerful and conversed freely with the officers, detectives and reporters, and listened to the arraignment without a twinge, and pleaded not guilty in a firm tone, but when the evidences of his guilt were produced and the evidence of Detective Perkins and D. S. Reynolds as to the arrest and capture of those evidences was given, his look assumed an expression which plainly showed that he appreciated the full gravity of his situation. Commissioner Scroggs read the long charge, which was in substance that Thomas Ballard, Ann Adams and Elizabeth Ballard were charged with making and attempting to pass and passing counterfeit and spurious currency of the United States; with making and engraving plates after the similitude of the plates used in printing national bank notes; also with having in their possession dies, plates, press and paper with the intent of counterfeiting the obligations and securities of the United States; also with conspiring with others to defraud and commit an offence against the United States. Each of the prisoners (Ballard standing erect and rather defiant) pleaded not guilty, and in answer to the usual question the male prisoner acknowledged that his name was Thomas Ballard, and the old lady was Ann Adams. Mrs. Ben Ballard, the younger woman, however, when asked her name gave it as Julia Ann Elizabeth Britton. She is a native of Northern Central Iowa, where she became connected with Ben, brother of Tom Ballard, some six years ago, and has followed his fortunes ever since. She confessed to the officer that she had been arrested in Ohio for counterfeiting, that $5,000 was found on her person, and on trial she was convicted and sentenced to six months in the penitentiary, and that she served her time. She further said she was glad the arrest had been made, as it would break up the business, which she had in vain urged her husband to abandon. She would not admit that her husband's name was Ballard, calling him Charles Marshall, but this is known by the government officers to be one of Ballard's aliases. She also admitted that they gave the name of Reed in the locality where the arrest of Friday was made. Clear Lake, Iowa, is the locality she gives as their residence previous to coming to this city last fall, and she corroborated Tom Ballard's statement that he had been in the neighborhood only about three weeks. She, as well as the old lady, is an American, though of the lower class, but possessed of more than ordinary shrewdness and an entire devotion to the outlaw to whom she is bound by heart, if not by legal ties. Among the sixteen different plates captured was one on which Tom had been at work most of the time since his arrival in this city. This is of steel, and the design is that of the Bank of British North America. He had only completed the border and vignette, but the work is of a superior character, and, as the prisoner remarked to Mr. Benson, if he had succeeded in perfecting this job "he would have made our Canadian neighbors sick."

Gilbert D. Perkins, who gave his business as that of an operative of the Secret Service Department, and David S. Reynolds, formerly Chief of Police of this city, now engaged in the customs detective business, were the only witnesses examined at any length, the others engaged in the capture being simply questioned in corroboration of these, and the points of their evidence in addition to that already sent you is given above. At the conclusion the Commissioner gave his decision, holding all the prisoners for trial on three charges, as follows:—

THE CHARGES.

First—The making and issuing of counterfeit United States currency and national bank notes.

Second—The making, engraving and printing of counterfeit and spurious United States Treasury and national bank notes.

Third—For having in possession plates, dies, press, paper, ink, chemicals, acids, tools and implements for making counterfeit United States Treasury and national bank notes.

On these several charges the prisoners were required to furnish bail in the sums of $5,000 each, making a total of $15,000, in default of which they were remanded to jail. Their trial will take place at the Auburn term of the United States District Court, which convenes on the third Tuesday of November next.

BALLARD'S INVENTION.

I have spoken above of the invention which Ballard claims to have discovered, and of the fact that he has made a formal application for permission to show its workings to parties authorized by the government to investigate it, and through the kindness of Mr. Benson, to whom it is directed, are enabled to spread the document *verbatim* before the readers of the HERALD. The following is the text:—

BUFFALO, N. Y., Oct. 12, 1874.

Three years ago I was arrested, being concerned in counterfeiting. I was promised my liberty if I would give up the materials and never again take up the business. This I did, but by some misunderstanding I was placed in jail, from whence I fled, and have been working and earning as honest a living as I could. I could not stay long in one place. I was compelled to leave, or was driven from different places, among which was Washington, D. C. There I was employed at the Smithsonian by J. McKnight, Esq., corner Pennsylvania avenue and Fifteenth street; also at George Wall, coachmaker, No. 13½ E Street, Washington, under the name of Thomas Clark. I left Washington in April, 1874. Having an improvement both in engraving and paper making that I have long wished to bring before the proper authorities at Washington, in hope that some honorable means might be found whereby I might be returned to my family, to protect them from vice and poverty, has induced me to state the following facts:—

THE IMPROVEMENTS CONSIST—

First—Of a new method whereby the letters on the face of a note can be made in such a manner that they cannot be imitated, and it will not interfere with the present style of engraving.

Second—That the red and blue fibre used by the government can be, or the jute can be colored by any person of ordinary means. I can show the government a certain way that the jute can be colored, or rather made, and plated gold and silver, so that none but the chemist can be able to compete or produce it.

Third—I have under way and part done a method whereby in the numbers of a note the top half can be printed in red and the bottom in blue.

All these combined, I claim, will stop counterfeiting, thereby keeping our prison free from that class of people, and protecting others from fraud. Yours respectfully,

THOMAS BALLARD.

It can scarcely be doubted that if the anticipations of the enthusiastic forger as to the importance of his discovery prove correct, the authorities will naturally reduce the punishment imposed, if not set him free altogether.

RETURN OF JOHN MITCHEL.

Among the passengers by the steamship Minnesota, which arrived at this port yesterday, were Mr. John Mitchel and daughter, accompanied by Dr. Carroll, of Philadelphia. It will be remembered that Mr. Mitchel returned to Ireland last July after an absence of twenty-six years, and that many of his friends expected he would be arrested by the British authorities as soon as he landed. Mr. Disraeli, however, did not see fit to order his arrest, and thus saved his government no small amount of trouble. Mr. Mitchel visited most of the principal places in Ireland, including the Lakes of Killarney, in a strictly private manner, and was everywhere received with the greatest enthusiasm by the people. Before leaving he was presented with a testimonial, amounting to about $8,000, by the national party in Ireland. No demonstration of any kind took place on his arrival yesterday, and Mr. Mitchel proceeded at once to his residence in Clinton avenue, Brooklyn; but a movement is already on foot to have him appear in public and give his experiences in Ireland and his opinions as to the future of the national party there.

THE FOUNDLING ASYLUM.

The sale of boxes and reserved seats for the matinée at the Academy of Music in aid of the funds of the Foundling Asylum commenced yesterday morning and will be continued until the afternoon of October 20, when the performance takes place. A large number of seats and boxes were taken yesterday, and the liberal price paid in some instances indicates the favor in which the object of the entertainment is held. There is every indication that the sum realized will be a valuable aid to the deserving charity.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.

Yesterday afternoon a large number of scientific men were present at the rooms of the American Society of Civil Engineers, at 64 William street, to listen to schemes for rapid transit for passengers and for the distribution of freight in the city of New York. The following gentlemen on behalf of the society examined maps, plans, models and estimates of cost:—General Charles K. Graham, Engineer-in-Chief of the Department of Docks; Mr. O. Chanute, Chief Engineer of the Erie Railroad; Ashbel Welch and Francis Collingwood. In interrogating parties interested in the schemes in question, they were closely examined as to the route, the character of structure, and estimate of the cost. The committee will be in session on the four next Thursdays and will make their report, on the plans submitted, on the 1st of next December. Among the plans submitted were those of Mr. Davis, of Syracuse, which is not yet matured.

Mr. Fitzgerald, belt and transit road; Mr. S. B. B. Nowlan, a consulting railroad engineer, plan for elevated railroad, who claims to be the originator of the Arcade Railroad. Another plan, without defined route, was that of Mr. John Schuyler, formerly Chief Engineer of the New York and New Haven Railroad, for an open underground railroad, from the Battery to Harlem, via Eldridge street, and passing through the middle of the blocks stations every ten blocks; average cost of land per block, $12,500, and total cost of road $9,000,000. It is expected that at next Thursday's meeting many dozens of plans will be submitted.

SUICIDE BY TAKING POISON.

About four o'clock on Wednesday afternoon Henry Gerrick, a German shoemaker, forty-five years of age, then living at No. 85 East Houston street, swallowed a dose of Paris green with suicidal intent. The deceased, who had been quite intemperate in his habits, was very anxious to obtain money his wife had saved, but she refused to give it to him, and this resulted in trouble between them. According to accounts he had threatened to take her life, but she heeded not his threats, whereupon he became more desperate than ever and took his own life. Gerrick leaves a widow and five children. Coroner Croker was notified, and will make an investigation of the matter.

PIRACY IN THE CHINESE WATERS.

A Steamer Seized and the Officers Murdered—Many Other Persons Killed—Excitement at Macao.

[Macao (Aug. 23) correspondence of Japan, Yokohama, Mail.]

A terrible tragedy occurred last evening on board the steamer Spark, on its voyage from Canton to Macao. Chinese pirates who had embarked as passengers made an onslaught on the crew and passengers near Bocca Tigris, murdered the captain, mate and purser, and wounded, most dangerously, the only European passenger and the whole crew.

After the pirates had been in possession of the steamer for six hours a junk came over from the shore to take them and their booty. The Chinese engineers brought the steamer over to Macao, where it arrived at half-past twelve this morning. Viscount Sam Januario immediately sent the gunboat Camoens to search the Canton River, and is taking all the necessary measures. The town is in a state of excitement and everyone is horrified.

DETAILS OF THE BLOODY DEED.

The details of the bloody deed go to show that $7,000, in notes of the Hong Kong banks and in silver, were taken from the purser. The incentive to the outrage is supposed to have arisen in a rumor to the effect that a gambling house proprietor was going down to Macao from Canton in the Spark, with $18,000 in his possession. This appears to have been a false report; but that the pirates had belief in its accuracy is borne out by the fact that they ransacked and rifled the luggage of all the passengers, whom they forced below and kept there, battening down the hatches. The account that Captain Brady and the other murdered men went below to quell a factitious row among the passengers is correct. The pirates were more than twenty in number, and took passage at Canton, as at first stated. They got up a disturbance by fighting with sticks. The mate went down to part them, when the men assaulted him. He called the captain, who also went down.

A BRAVE DEFENCE IN THE MIDST OF A TERRIBLE SCENE.

The pirates fired at Captain Brady, one bullet striking him in the shoulder. He ran to the upper deck, got a revolver and returned below. He then attempted to fire on the pirates, but his weapon repeatedly missed fire. The unfortunate Captain was thus entirely at the mercy of his assailants, and a fierce onslaught was made upon him. One of the pirates stabbed him in the knee; another cut him on the wrist with a sword; others shot him, and some again speared him. There were thirty-two wounds upon his body when found. On the lower part of the back was a serious wound which probably proved fatal, and having severed the spinal column must have at once disabled him. Captain Carroll describes the scene on board the Spark as horrible. The decks were covered with blood. Brady was found in his cabin, dead, lying on the floor, with one arm raised in air, his whole body a mass of wounds and saturated with gore. Mr. Mundy was on the fore deck fearfully wounded and still insensible. Near him lay four dead sailors.

Mr. Mundy was the only European passenger on board, and he offered a brave and determined resistance. He knocked down two of the pirates and was engaged with others when he was stabbed twice in the breast. The weapons were evidently aimed at his heart, but fortunately did not reach there. The left lung is believed to be pierced; but last night Mr. Mundy was much better than might have been expected; and there are good hopes of his ultimate recovery. Had he been able to effect his purpose of joining the Captain a better account might have been given of the robbers.

Nine persons altogether were killed in the affray—namely, the captain, the mate, the purser, one fireman, one Chinaman and four passengers. The Chinaman was occupying the cabin of the Compradore, and the pirates no doubt mistook him for that officer. It is impossible as yet to say who are the dead passengers; but it is thought they formed part of the gang of pirates.

There were about 150 passengers on board in all.

Captain Brady, the brave commander of the Spark, was born in Willett street. His untimely death is mourned by a wide circle of friends.

THE EPISCOPAL CONVENTION.

Episcopal Messages—Personal Explanations—Dr. Seymour's Ordeal—A Probable Vote To-Day.

The controversy over the confirmation of Dr. Seymour as Bishop of Illinois in the secret session of the Protestant Episcopal Convention waxed fierce and bitter yesterday. And the end is not yet. After a session of more than five hours' duration the Convention did not come to a final vote on this case yesterday, and hence will sit with closed doors this morning probably until the hour of recess.

Morning prayers yesterday were conducted by Rev. W. I. D. Dalzell, D. D., of Louisiana; M. Schuyler, D. D., of Missouri; C. S. Leffingwell, of Maine, and Bishop Neeley, also of Maine.

Mr. Welsh, of Philadelphia, presented a list of deaconesses or sisters connected with the Protestant Episcopal Church in this city and Brooklyn. They include the Sisters of St. John Baptist in Second avenue, Sisters of the Holy Communion, in charge of the Shepherd's Fold in Eighty-sixth street; the Old Women's and Friendless Girls' Home in Twentieth street and Sixth avenue; the Sisters of St. Mary, in charge of the House of Mercy in West Eighty-sixth street; St. Mary's Hospital, in West Thirty-fourth street, and the Infirmary adjoining St. John's church; Sisterhood of the Good Shepherd, in charge of St. Barnabas' Home; the Sisterhood of St. Luke's Hospital and the Sisters having charge of the Free Charities of the Diocese of Long Island, in Brooklyn.

Mr. S. B. Ruggles, of New York, and Dr. Sullivan, of Chicago, made personal explanations of statements in some of the morning papers that they had given information touching the proceedings in secret session. They emphatically denied the impeachment.

MESSAGES FROM THE BISHOPS.

Three messages were received from the House of Bishops, concurring with the House of Deputies in the increase of the Joint Committee on the Prayer Book, and adding to it, on their part, the Bishop of Central New York; also changing the words "missionary jurisdiction," wherever they occur in canon xiii., title 1, to "missionary district;" also amending section 2 of canon xi., title 2, so as to give any Bishop the right to remit a sentence of suspension, or deposition of a presbyter, after advice taken and with the unanimous approval of the five senior bishops of the Church, instead of any five bishops, as the canon now reads, provided, however, that if the Bishop applying for such counsel shall be one of the seniors he shall not count, but the next in seniority to him shall. Later in the afternoon proceedings the bishops sent two additional messages, the first concurring with the deputies in authorizing a primary convention of a diocese that wants a division of its territory to discuss and decide on that matter, and also giving the Committee on Canons the right to sit as a joint committee with the Bishops' Committee whenever the committee of either House shall request it.

There was a good deal of caucussing and lobbying done around the convention building yesterday, and pumps of all sorts were applied to get news out of delegates, but they were as dry as dust. The Oregon deputation, who were turned out on Wednesday, it was reported yesterday had prepared a protest against that act; but up to the hour of adjournment no such document had been presented in the Convention. It will doubtless come up in open session to-day or to-morrow. Some of the delegates were indignant at what they consider an outrage on them, and declare that unless the status of missionary deputies is finally determined in this Convention they will not attend future conventions. It is believed that the vote on Dr. Seymour's confirmation will be taken before the recess to-day.

AMERICAN CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The anniversary of the American Church Missionary Society was celebrated by a meeting last evening in the Church of the Ascension. A very large congregation was in attendance. The Right Rev. Alfred Lee, D. D., Bishop of Delaware, presided. The meeting was formally opened by the singing of the time-honored hymn, "From Greenland's Icy Mountains," after the conclusion of which Bishop Lee recited a most appropriate prayer, and then proceeded to give the opening discourse, in which he showed the necessity of spreading a pure Gospel throughout the earth.

The secretary of the Executive Committee, Rev. William A. Newbold, read extracts from the fifteenth annual report of the society, including a review of missionary work in Mexico and throughout the Western States and Territories.

The report furthermore showed that the total receipts amounted to $62,519, while the balance in the treasury on October 1, 1874, was $1,767. The legacies left to the society were $6,800. The securities showed a total of $42,400. Clothing, food and other supplies of sundry kinds had also been received amounting to a total value of $7,208. Ten new missions have been established in the year. The reports of missionaries from the various posts were then read, all of which showed the progress of work. The report of the Mexican mission, by the Rev. Dr. Riley, showed that the society has in that country, including those of Central America, twenty-seven stations, the receipts of which amounted to about $1,000 per month.

After the reading of the report was concluded the Rev. O. W. Whitaker, Bishop of Nevada and Arizona, was introduced to the audience, and proceeded to give a review of the progress of missionary work in his diocese, with some statements of personal missionary life.

The Rev. Mr. H. C. Riley discoursed with eloquence and pathos upon the struggles between the Protestant and Roman Catholic churches in Mexico. With all the warmth of the Southern clime and the energy of a devoted opponent of Catholicism, he entranced his audience with the story of his religious movement, and was enthusiastically applauded at the close.

The Rev. Dr. Holly, a colored missionary of Hayti, W. I., spoke next. He reviewed in so able a manner the work of the society in his native republic as might have been envied by all the other divines present. Thirteen years have rolled by since the beginning of his work. There are now eight authorized parishes, fifteen different stations and about two hundred schools in the Republic.

The Rev. Dr. Tyng made the closing address, and the exercises were concluded by the singing of the Doxology.

LUTHERAN SYNOD OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY.

Last evening the St. James Lutheran church, in East Fifteenth street, between Second and Third avenues, was crowded by the members of that denomination for the opening services of the third session of the Synod, comprising the States of New York and New Jersey. Some fifty churches were represented by their pastors. Among whom were the Rev. W. D. Strobel, of Rhinebeck; the Rev. P. Rizer, of New Jersey; the Rev. Thomas T. Everett, of Red Hook; the Rev. Irving Magee, D. D., of Albany; the Rev. A. Hiller, of New Jersey, and the Rev. Dr. A. C. Wedekind, of New York.

The services were opened by the Rev. Dr. Wedekind, pastor of the Fifteenth street church, after which the Rev. W. D. Strobel, D. D., of Rhinebeck, preached a synodical sermon, taking his text from First Timothy, iii., 14, his subject being, "How We Ought to Behave in the House of God." His opening remarks went to show that there are two elements which enter into the success of the ministry, viz.:—The divine and the human. He dwelt upon the requirements of a minister's duty with relation to the outside world, and then on his duty among his own flock. He spoke of the personal preparations that lies behind all this work; that in this age a man of faith, prayer and purity must also be a man of scholarly attainments. In conclusion he pronounced a eulogy upon the late President of the Synod, the Rev. Dr. Henry N. Pohlman.

At the close of the services Dr. Wedekind gave notice that the Synod would assemble at nine o'clock this morning for business, and in the evening would be addressed by the Rev. P. Rizer, of New Jersey.

LONG ISLAND PRESBYTERIANS.

The Presbytery of Nassau, which represents the Presbyterian church in the central part of Long Island, and which, with the Presbyteries of Brooklyn and Long Island, forms the Synod of Long Island, assembled in Jamaica on Monday evening, and remained in session until yesterday. This Presbytery has within its jurisdiction twenty-two churches, twenty-six ministers and nearly 2,000 communicants. During the session arrangements were made for the installation of a colored pastor, the Rev. Mr. Brown, over the Second church at Newtown, and the pastor was received under the care of the Presbytery. Among the subjects publicly discussed were the following:—"The Importance of the Catechism as a Help to Guard the Young Against the Temptations of Mature Life," "The duties of the Elder," and "Loyalty and Bigotry the Difference Between Them." The Rev. Messrs. Burnham, of Freeport; Woodruff, of Northport, and Knox, of Huntington, took prominent part in the discussion. The reports of the churches showed a gratifying increase in the members of the denomination within the bounds of the Presbytery. Debts are being gradually but surely paid off, and a number of new churches are in course of erection. The Rev. Mr. Nightingale, of Babylon, was chosen Moderator for the ensuing year.

NEW JERSEY PRESBYTERIANS.

It is estimated that about 400 delegates will be present at the annual meeting of the Synod of the Presbyterian churches of the State, which will be held at Camden on next Tuesday. Two hundred clergymen will be among the number. The Synod embraces eleven Presbyteries, with nearly 300 churches and above 350 ministers. The meeting is expected to last three days.

AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE.

Second Day's Session of the Institute in Convention.

Debate on the Charges for Professional Practice—Resolutions for Future Guidance—Paper on Buildings in Northern Europe—Adjourned.

The American Institute of Architects held the second day's session of their annual Convention yesterday at the rooms of the Institute, No. 128 Broadway. Mr. George B. Post presided and Mr. Boole, as on the previous day, acted as Secretary.

The committee that had been appointed to consider and report on the "charges for professional practice" made an informal report yesterday morning. No definite plan had been agreed upon. The question has always been one of embarrassment to members of the Institute, and it is only little by little that they have been growing into anything like uniformity of opinion on the subject. The question came up yesterday several times and in various forms, but the schedule of prices still remains undefined in the strictest sense. There was some hesitation at first in discussing the matter before the reporters, but the almost unanimous opinion was that the greater publicity that was given to the architects' views the better it was for them and the more the public would be satisfied with

THE SCALE OF CHARGES

hitherto generally adopted by the profession. Many members asked questions as to how they should act in certain cases, and from the discussions which ensued it appeared that the practice in charging was not uniform in many particulars. There was, however, but little hope of defining accurately a schedule of prices, so that that important point was eventually referred to a committee in the hope that at a future time it might be settled. The unanimous sentiment of the members was that the main object at the present time ought to be to educate themselves up to a harmonious standard in regard to the public and not to try to compel the public to accept their views. It was stated by several members that the amount of

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was not generally understood outside of the profession, and cases were instanced in which employers when they became fully cognizant of the responsibility and professional capacity needed for an architect's duty fully conceded that the percentage of five per cent paid for the services rendered was not adequate. The employer was completely in the hands of the architect, a fact that was seldom rightly considered. An attempt was made by some members to establish the practice that members of the Institute should not compete with each other, except with the distinct understanding that the basis of full charges should be observed; but this was deemed an unnecessary consideration, and it was tacitly concurred in that members of the Institute should not enter the list of competition with any but those who were of good standing in the profession. It was stated to be a fact that, while the most accomplished members of the profession were barely enabled to live, those who undertook to do the work at far less percentage than the best architects could afford to do it were prosperous and wealthy. The result of the discussions is included in the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:—

RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved, That the architect, by established custom, bases his professional charge upon the entire cost to the owner of the building when completed, including all the fixtures necessary to render it fit for occupation, and to fair additional compensation for furniture or other articles designed or purchased by the architect.

Resolved, That if any material or work used in the construction of the building be already upon the ground or comes into possession of the owner without expense to him, the value of said material or work is to be added to the cost of the building before the architect's commission is completed.

The discussions were participated in by Messrs. Pfeifer, Ware, Searle, Post, Stone, Lebrun, Upjohn, Hathorne, Haight, Thayer, Lend and Dudley.

PAPERS NOT READ.

Papers on "Certain Principles of Iron Construction," by T. Clarke, of Philadelphia; on "Club Chambers and Apartment Houses," by E. T. Littell, of New York, and on "The Fire Question in Relation to Buildings," by P. B. Wright, of Chicago, were referred to the Committee on Publications without being read.

Afternoon Session.

In the afternoon session the subject of the charges for professional practice was revived, but nothing more definite was arrived at than has been stated, and a number of suggestions made were referred to the committee having this particular subject in charge.

ARCHITECTURE IN NORTHERN EUROPE.

Mr. Semms read the report on the foreign correspondence, which, after disposing of the routine portion of the Secretary's business, went on substantially as follows in regard to architecture in Northern Europe:—"The architectural progress in Northern Europe during the past year has continued in the same advancing way as former years had indicated. Few or no buildings were erected thirty years ago excepting of bricks, which were stuccoed and wonderfully worked out in details, imitating the finest Italian marble cut with the greatest artistic ability. The bad quality of the bricks and the rigorous climate prescribed these conditions. As a further precaution the houses were very often painted with oil colors. In St. Petersburg this latter has become a law, and every house owner is obliged to repaint his house every second year. This system of building gives the city and the numerous country seats a very gay and luxurious appearance, but, of course, at the expense of durability. Buildings are now constructed of freestone and also of chalkstone. They are also coated with oil paint. Although granite abounds in these northern countries buildings erected of that material are unknown. Basements are often built of granite, and foundations always are. The habit of suburban residences is very general among the wealthier classes of Northern Europe. They live in the cities only during a few winter months. As a consequence the country is sprinkled over with castles, palaces and country seats, many of them making great pretensions to architectural merit. Many of these establishments have fine parks and gardens, vineries and greenhouses. In late years there have been often added winter gardens in immediate connection with them. Formerly all the houses of the peasantry and poorer classes were constructed of solid timber, from seven to ten inches in thickness, plastered on the inside and covered externally with boards. The timber, however, is so rapidly disappearing that this system of construction has to a great extent been superseded by the ordinary frame construction in use in this country. In the southern part of Sweden the terra cotta construction of Germany and Denmark has been tried, but it is thought that the system will not prove permanent or lasting from the united effects of the salt and extreme cold. The city houses are generally upon the apartment principle, of large size, with very heavy brick walls externally and between buildings. The municipal regulations as to party walls, precautions against fire and the size of open yards are very strictly prescribed. These apartment houses are from four to six stories in height; the ground floor usually devoted to shops, the first floor being the choice flat for residence. In these northern latitudes the ground floor is seldom used for dwelling purposes, and the basements never. The extensive fortifications which surrounded these northern cities of former days have, since the introduction of modern artillery, been transformed into parks and promenades. The mode of heating the houses of Northern Europe is peculiar. The stoves or fireplaces are built of brick, covered with porcelain tiles, twelve by sixteen inches in size. These stoves reach from floor to ceiling, and are 3 feet to 5 feet broad by from 1½ to 2 feet projection, with a space of about 4 inches between it and the wall of the room. A wood fire is built in them in the morning, and the stove is closed immediately after the most rapid combustion. They keep the heat in the coldest winter day for twenty-four hours, and are so warm that one cannot touch them without inconvenience. This system of fireplaces is also arranged for ventilation, a thing very much needed in northern latitudes, where windows for many months are protected by double sashes and doors equally tight. In later years care is taken to heat vestibules, halls and staircases as well as the occupied apartments. Bricks much larger than are employed in this country and Great Britain are used in these northern countries, especially in Russia. These bricks are 12 inches by 6 by 3 inches. With them are carried up say 1½ feet outside and 1 foot inside, with 6 inches a hollow space, the two walls being tied together at intervals. Windows are usually made wide and higher than is common with us, say in ordinary dwelling houses from 4 to 4½ feet and from 8 to 10 feet in height. They are almost universally made as casements, with transoms and with a fixed or revolving head light, the casements opening in two leaves, and in the better class of houses each leaf being glazed with single sheets of glass. In such cases the sashes are strengthened with angle plates of gilt brass. The wood work being generally painted in warm colors, these angle plates stand out in bold relief and add much to the attractiveness of the window."

ADJOURNED.

A resolution was passed accepting the invitation of the Baltimore Chapter to hold the next annual Convention in Baltimore, in November of next year; also a resolution appropriate to the death of [illegible] Ballard, of Paris, a member of the Institute. [illegible] also a resolution thanking the New York [illegible] for the courtesies and attention paid to [illegible] from other cities. It was determined [illegible] the members meet this morning to make [illegible] the city, that the visiting members may [illegible] a tour of [illegible] principal objects of interest. The session [illegible] to meet at Delmonico's at half-past six [illegible] evening, for the annual dinner, at [illegible] of which the Convention heard "the [illegible]" by Professor F. A. P. Barnard, of Columbia College.