

WASHINGTON.

The Democratic Attitude on the Florida Decision.

ACQUIESCENCE UNDER PROTEST.

The Proceedings Before the Joint Convention To-Day.

President Grant on the Action of the Commission.

GRAVE DOUBTS ABOUT LOUISIANA.

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

THE DEMOCRATS ON THE FLORIDA DECISION—ACTION OF THE JOINT CONVENTION TO-DAY.

The Florida decision has been the topic of discussion to-day among republicans and democrats. The latter feel, beside the pang of disappointment, a sense of having failed to get what they believed the right, and yesterday some of the more irritable and less wise allowed their tongues to run at random. It was the irritation and resentment expressed by a few men which filled the town with rumors last night of various desperate intentions on the part of the democratic leaders, such as the folly of breaking up the commission by the withdrawal of some of its members. There is no ground for such reports.

There was a consultation last evening, and another, it is said, to-day, between democrats of all sentiments, in both houses, in which the Florida matter in all its bearings was freely talked over, and the course for to-morrow was shaped out.

The two hours of debate will be divided between the two parties, each speaker having ten minutes. It is possible, though not certain, that on the democratic side a resolution may be offered regarding the Florida case back to the commission on the ground that it has refused to consider the evidence, the laws and the facts but even this will be an individual motion and has not the consent of the party leaders. There is no disposition to speak or think harshly of the commission and several democratic members of the commission in conversation to-day expressed the highest confidence in the just and honorable intentions of the commission, and especially defended Judge Bradley, whom some hot-headed democrats were inclined to speak harshly of. They said that nothing had passed in the commission which led them in the least to doubt the justice of Judge Bradley's motives and conduct, and declared earnestly that all attacks upon him were wrong and uncalled for.

This and other evidence shows that, even though there may have been temporary irritation among the members during the heat of the debate, there is nothing but the most kindly feeling and entire confidence among the members.

It can be said positively that there is no intention on the democratic side to make needless delay in the point of the votes.

The list of speakers during the two hours' debate to-morrow is Tucker, Thompson, Hooker, Jenks, Hurd and Field, and on the republican side Messrs. Hall, Keason, McCreary and three others.

When Illinois is called the case of an ineligible elector will be brought up by the democratic side, not with any expectation that the two houses will agree to exclude his vote, but as a necessary protest in view of the fact that there are ineligible electors in Louisiana, and to pass one case without protest might prejudice those to come.

Congress has been troubled before on this question. In 1851 a constitutional amendment was proposed by Mr. Nicholas to choose electors by districts, on purpose to settle the question of ineligibility of electors, and in 1857 the joint committee to report a method of examining "the vote" said in its report that the provision against federal office-holders being electors "ought to be carried in its whole spirit into rigid execution," and the committee added:—

"The provision of the constitution, it is believed, excludes and disqualifies deputy postmasters, and the disqualification relates to the time of the appointment, and the resignation of the office after his appointment, an elector would not entitle him to vote as elector under the constitution."

No cases came up and the matter went over. Doubtless this old report will be cited to-morrow. Of course, it has no authority, but shows what was thought at that time.

The Illinois elector's case will be debated for two hours, voted on, and then the count will go on to Louisiana. The Louisiana case will therefore come before the commission to-morrow. It will be argued on the republican side by Messrs. Evaris, Stoughton and probably Matthews, and on the democratic side by Messrs. Trumbull and Carpenter and Judge Campbell.

The report of the commission on the Florida case does not, it is said, satisfy some of the able legal minds among the republicans in both houses. They have no hesitation in accepting the conclusion, but they do not entirely like the reasons given for coming to the conclusion.

Washington is extremely quiet to-night.

FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11, 1877.

THE INTER-OCEANIC SHIP CANAL—GENERAL GRANT TO BE TENDERED THE POSITION OF PRESIDENT OF THE CORPORATION.

It is reported to-night that upon the completion of the negotiations now pending between Nicaragua and the United States for a treaty concerning the subject of the proposed inter-oceanic ship canal, President Grant will be tendered the position of president of the corporation, which, under the provisions of the treaty, will be authorized to undertake the work of constructing the great canal. It is said this fact explains the sudden purpose recently formed by President Grant to go to Europe as soon as his term of office expires, the visit abroad being in the interest of the company, for whom he will be employed to negotiate a loan among the capitalists of Europe, the Rothschilds being already mentioned as the first to whom the project and an investment in its stocks or bonds will be recommended.

In the course of the past eight years the President, both in office and in Washington and in relaxation at Long Branch, established relations of close friendship with many of those foreign capitalists, either in person or with their partners in this country, and the intimacy thus formed is regarded as one of the many reasons that induced the selection of the President for head of the company as well as negotiator of capital in aid of the undertaking. There is a little in the way of the selection of the President for head of the company as well as negotiator of capital in aid of the undertaking. There is a little in the way of the selection of the President for head of the company as well as negotiator of capital in aid of the undertaking.

Senator Morton is cheerful to-night over the situation and is resting himself from the hard work which had been imposed upon him in connection with the investigations of the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections and his labors in the Electoral Commission. During an interview in regard to the situation of affairs allusion was made to the progress of the report of the commission instead of going forward with the debate on the electoral differences. Senator Morton promptly remarked:—

"If the democrats should attempt to do that, it would break them in two. Such a course could not carry a majority in the House, and would not be favorably received by the people."

"What do you think, Senator, of the effect of any delay in the action of the House?"

"Oh! there is no use in making any speculations. There are marching upon us so fast that the best thing we can do is to keep cool and wait, but I do begin to have serious apprehensions about the appropriations, because I do not see that there will be much time left to work upon them. The only period at which Congress can make progress in the appropriations is in session. We shall doubtless be obliged to try night sessions to accomplish what is wanted."

GENERAL WASHINGTON DESPATCHES.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11, 1877.

PRESIDENT GRANT ON THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION AND ITS ACTION.

The President to-night, in the course of conversation, said it had appeared to him that the democrats of the House, by abruptly taking a recess yesterday, intended to obstruct the counting of the electoral vote; that on his being informed that many prominent democrats discovered any intention to engage in disorderly proceedings, that to-morrow they would take action in the Florida case, and that they delay was merely for the purpose of carefully examining all the papers as they appeared this morning in print, he said he was glad to hear it, as nothing could be gained by resisting the regular order of business.

In speaking of the intention of democrats to make an objection to a counting of the electoral vote of Illinois on account of alleged illegitimacy of Mr. Chaffee, one of the electors, he said he did not see how the vote of the State on that account could be rejected, and if the objection were made to Mr. Chaffee, he thought it was but fair if a State had voted for either Hayes or Tilden the full vote of such a State should be counted according to its political complexion. Although he thought Hayes and Wheeler would be declared elected, he felt somewhat uncertain as to the result, because he could not foresee what would be done in the case of Louisiana. It would be recollected that four years ago, after his canvass for re-election, the two houses resolved not to count the electoral vote of that State; although the reasons in the two cases might not be similar, there seemed to be some uncertainty upon the subject. Should the vote possibly be excluded, Hayes and Wheeler would in that case be defeated, and Tilden and Hendricks not elected, the latter not having received a majority of the votes of all electors.

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BURNED AT SEA.

Complete Destruction of the Steamship Bavaria.

CREW AND PASSENGERS IN THE BOATS.

Fortunate Presence of an English Bark.

EVERY SOUL ON BOARD SAVED.

Details of the Fearful Catastrophe.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

PORT ROYAL, S. C., Feb. 11, 1877. The English bark Dorothea Thompson, Captain Frostick, from Oporto to St. Helena, S. C., arrived last night, bringing the passengers, officers and crew of the steamship Bavaria, Captain Williams, bound from New Orleans for Liverpool, and burned at sea on February 6, in latitude 31 min. 14 sec., longitude 78 min. 42 sec. The Bavaria sailed from New Orleans February 1, coasted at Southwest Pass and took her departure on the 3d.

Everything went well until half-past three P. M. of the 6th, when the ship was discovered to be on fire in the starboard coal bunker. This was extinguished in a short time. A second fire broke out about seven o'clock in the cotton on the stowage deck. It was soon found that the fire could not be controlled.

Boats were at once prepared with compasses, lights, provisions and instruments, and at about eleven o'clock, finding the fire entirely master of the ship and the decks almost at a red heat, all hands were put in the boats, six in number.

The flames broke out soon after, and fortunately attracted the attention of Captain Frostick, of the bark, then about twenty miles from the scene of the catastrophe. He immediately stood away for the light. At three A. M. she came near enough to discover that a large steamer was on fire. At six A. M. she passed around the steamer's stern, but could not make out her name. Already the steamer was one mass of flames fore and aft. The fore and mainmast lay burning alongside, and a part of the mizenmast was standing, but on fire.

As all the boats were gone and no one could be seen on board Captain Frostick considered that the ship's company must be near, and he stood off, keeping a bright lookout from the mainmast.

The wind was now increasing, accompanied with a drizzling rain. At ten o'clock the first boat, in charge of Thomas Bateman, first officer, was discovered and picked up. The situation of affairs was at once understood by Captain Frostick, and he but his bark on her course again. Three other boats were soon found, and at four P. M. the last two boats, including the captain's, which contained a lady and three children, were found thirty miles from the wreck while a severe northeast gale was blowing. Two out of the six boats were hoisted on board of the bark, in view of possible contingencies, while the others were allowed to go adrift.

PROVIDENTIAL RESCUE. During the night a tremendous gale prevailed with a heavy sea, and it is very probable, had not the boats been picked up, that not a soul would have survived to have told the story of the disaster to the Bavaria.

QUALITIES OF THE SURVIVORS. Captain Frostick took every care of the castaways, and they speak in the highest terms of his kindness and forethought in making their sojourn on board his ship as agreeable as possible. It is the unanimous opinion of the captain and officers of the Bavaria that nothing but the marvellous foresight and quick apprehension of the first state of affairs of Captain Frostick, aided by Divine Providence in so shaping his course as to pick up six different boats at the beginning of a furious gale, could have saved a single soul of the ill-fated steamer. While cruising for the missing boats he repeatedly said that time was of no value to him while a solitary life was in danger, and he clung tenaciously to his search until the roll call on the snug bark showed no one of the Bavaria missing.

CARGO OF THE BAVARIA. The cargo of the Bavaria consisted of 4,366 boxes of cotton, 1,000 barrels of resin and 200,000 Mexican dollars. The officers, passengers and crew left the ship with nothing but what they could carry. All their effects were lost. They will go to Charleston to-night in the steamboat W. S. Allison, Captain Meador, who has kindly placed his boat at their disposal, when they will be taken in charge of by the British consul.

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF THE PASSENGERS AND OFFICERS OF THE BAVARIA BROUGHT HERE BY THE ENGLISH BARK:—

Captain—Williams. First Officer—Thomas Bateman. Second Officer—William Covel. Third Officer—G. Berry. Fourth Officer—James Buck. Chief Engineer—J. Rankin. Second Engineer—J. Postlewait. Third Engineer—David Moffatt. Fourth Engineer—Richard Lanney. Surgeon—Charles Wilson. Steward—John White. Commodore Clitz, accompanied by Surgeon Clark and Assistant Surgeon Baitte, visited the English bark as soon as she came in, to offer every aid in their power, but it was found that, beyond a little nutritious food for the ladies, Captain Frostick had been able to abundantly supply their need. The delicate attentions of the Commodore were appreciated and gratefully recognized by Captain Frostick and all his passengers. The party officers, cooks, waiters, firemen and numbered forty-one in all. All are well.

BRUTAL MURDER.

A DEPUTY MARSHAL SHOT WHILE ATTEMPTING TO MAKE AN ARREST—HOT PURSUIT OF THE MURDERERS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 11, 1877. A very brutal murder was committed yesterday evening eight miles east of Independence, Mo., between seven and eight o'clock, the victim being Deputy Marshal H. H. Hughes. Hughes had a warrant for the arrest of two men named Green and Miller. The warrant was issued in Kansas City for their arrest on the charge of shooting at some parties in West Kansas City. The would-be murderers fled from that place and went to Blue Bottom, where they were engaged in cutting cord wood when their retreat was discovered.

Hughes proceeded to the dugout in which they were living, accompanied by Messrs. Fisher and Gilchrist. He went into their hut, read the warrant and demanded a surrender. Green, with a horrid oath, ordered him out, at the same time covering him with his revolver and firing, the ball taking effect in Hughes' breast about three inches to the right of the breast bone, between the sixth and seventh ribs. The ball took a direct course and lodged under the skin, about three inches from the spinal column; and about the same distance below the shoulder blade, where it was extracted during the post-mortem examination.

At the time Green fired he kicked a box as a signal to Miller, who also fired, and his shot struck Hughes in the shoulder, fracturing the bones. Hughes fell back and fired as he fell, without effect, however. His last words were, "Kill my wife," which were repeated. Further utterance was stopped by an effusion of blood through the mouth, and death ensued.

The county is thoroughly aroused. Marshal Liggett, with officers and posse, have started in pursuit of the murderers. They were tracked along the narrow gauge railroad track across the Blue Bridge, where the train was lost, and up to this time they have not been caught.

THE HOSTILE INDIANS.

SPOTTED TAIL ON A MISSION OF PEACE TO BITTING BULL—HOPES OF A TERMINATION OF THE WAR.

CAMP HENNING, W. T., Feb. 10, 1877.

General Crook returned to-day from Camp Sheridan, where he has been several days. Spotted Tail, chief of the Sioux, with a body guard of 200 chosen warriors, started to-day on a self-imposed mission to obtain an interview with the chiefs of the hostile bands, and to endeavor to induce them to accept while there is yet time the terms offered by the government, viz., surrender their arms and ponies. Spotted Tail expects to be here in about a month, but will communicate with General Crook as soon as he reaches the hostile camp of Indians. It is believed that the peace movement will be successful in terminating the war.

THE HARTFORD BANK TROUBLES.

CHARGES OF FALSE ENTRIES AGAINST THE PRESIDENT AND CASHIER—THE SPECIFICATIONS OF THE COMPLAINT—THE ACCUSED PARTIS ON DAIL—PENALTY FOR THE OFFENSE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

HARTFORD, Conn., Feb. 11, 1877. The nature of the serious charges on which ex-President Tracy and ex-Cashier Chapman, of the Farmers and Merchants' National Bank, were arrested last evening have been ascertained, the interested parties having abandoned all further efforts to keep the whole matter a secret since the fact of the arrest has been divulged.

COMPLAINT AGAINST THE PRESIDENT. The complaint against John C. Tracy, the president, was preferred by the National Bank Examiner, A. H. Mygatt, and the charges drawn thereon by Assistant District Attorney Stanton, specify—that Mr. Tracy made false entries of the indebtedness of the American Exchange Bank of New York to the amount of over \$300,000, whereas the true indebtedness of that bank to the Farmers and Merchants' National Bank was only \$100,000; also false entries showing an indebtedness of the Continental National Bank of New York amounting to \$100,000, and the real indebtedness being only about \$50,000. It may be explained at this point that the object of this was to deceive the bank officers and bank examiner by making it appear that the New York banks owed these amounts to the Farmers and Merchants' National Bank.

CHARGES AGAINST THE CASHIER. The specifications of the complaint against ex-Cashier James J. Chapman allege a general conspiracy in the above mentioned fraudulent transactions, and, further, that he embezzled funds of the bank amounting to \$200,000, and covered his offence by charging this sum against the National Bank in Hartford, Conn.

THE PENALTY. For making false entries to deceive the stockholders and bank examiner is fixed by section 5209 of the Statutes of the United States at from five to ten years' imprisonment. Under the condition of the bonds furnished by the accused they must appear for trial in the United States District Court in New Haven on the 27th inst. Nothing in the investigation as yet disclosed by the Connecticut Chamber of Commerce, nor any personal benefit from the loan transactions; but the charge against the latter of embezzling the \$7,500 is clear.

MIDNIGHT WEATHER REPORT.

WAR DEPARTMENT. OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER. WASHINGTON, Feb. 12—1 A. M.

For Monday in the South Atlantic States stationary or rising barometer, stationary temperature, light northerly winds and clear weather will prevail. For the Gulf States, rising barometer, northerly to southeast winds, warmer cloudy and rainy weather followed at the western stations by a brisk breeze.

For Tennessee and the Ohio Valley, southwest veering to colder northwest winds, rising barometer, partly cloudy or clear weather. For the Upper Mississippi and Lower Missouri valleys, northerly winds, diminishing to calms, rising barometer, colder clear weather.

In the upper lake region, north to west winds, rising barometer, lower temperatures and clear weather, following occasional light snows. For the lower lake region, falling, followed by rising barometer, warmer, break southerly backing to cooler light north or west winds, possibly cloudy weather and light snow or rain.

For the Middle and East Atlantic coasts, stationary or falling barometer, warmer southeast to southwest winds and partly cloudy or clear weather. The rivers will continue to fall, except remaining stationary or rising at Cairo and Memphis. Cautionary signals are ordered for Indiana and Galveston.

THE WEATHER YESTERDAY.

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

1876. 1877. 3 P. M. 3.30 P. M. 5.15 1877. 3 A. M. 3.30 P. M. 5.15 6 A. M. 6.30 P. M. 8.15 9.30 P. M. 12.30 12.30 4.45 4.45 12 P. M. 47 35 Average temperature yesterday, 47.7. Average temperature corresponding date last year, 46.7.

OBITUARY.

CHARLES EDWARD BENTON.

A despatch from Middletown, N. Y., under date of the 11th inst., says:—"Mr. Charles Edward Benton, one of the editors and proprietors of the Freedom Advertiser and Dunker Union, gave up business on account of failing health, and started six weeks ago with his wife and child for Florida. Stopping here for rest, he was advised by his physician to go no further, and died this morning of consumption. He was thirty-six years of age. His body will be sent to Freeonia to-morrow and the funeral will take place there on Wednesday."

SIR WILLIAM FERGUSON, F. R. S. A cable despatch from London announces the death yesterday of this eminent surgeon at the age of eighty-nine years. He was born near Edinburgh in 1808, and was educated at the High School and the University of Edinburgh, where he joined the College of Surgeons in 1828. He settled in London in 1840. He was professor of surgery at King's College Hospital, Surgeon Extraordinary to the Queen and Surgeon to the Prince Consort. He became President of the Royal College of Surgeons, and was appointed Sergeant Surgeon to the Queen, an important office in the household of Her Majesty. Fergusson's literary productions as a "system of practical surgery," which has become a text book in the profession.

SIR HARMAN BARKER. The latest mail advices from England announce the death, at Allerton Tower, Wootton, on the 27th inst., of Sir Harman Barker. He was the second son of Sir Thomas Barker, of Spelklands, who was one of the first old squires of the county. Sir Harman was born July 11, 1792. He was brought up in the mercantile house of Messrs. Morrell & Bolland, then merchants of high standing, but who have long since disappeared from the busy circles of commerce. After serving his apprenticeship there he entered the firm of brokers afterwards styled Salisbury, Turner & Ker, which he afterwards joined. He was a long period acting and managing partner. Sir Harman retired about the year 1850. Sir Harman was one of the original promoters of the Great Eastern Railway, and was also one of the original promoters and directors of the Joint Great Eastern and Liverpool, and also when it was further amalgamated with the London and Birmingham as the London and North Western Railway of the present day, he was elected to a seat on the board, which he has held ever since, occupying the post of chairman of some of its committees. He was, therefore, the oldest railway director living. Sir Harman was created a baronet in 1860. He was the oldest trustee living of the Blue Hill Hospital, and at his decease a generation seems to have passed away.

REV. JOHN WILEY.

Rev. John Wiley, aged seventy-one years, who was for thirty years a minister of the Protestant Episcopal church in Cecil and Charles counties, Maryland, died at his residence in Cecil county, Md., on the 10th inst. He had been the oldest ordained minister of the Protestant Episcopal church in Cecil county.

AN OFFICER STABBED.

Officer Clarke, of the Fourth precinct, while arresting Michael Pollario, an Italian, of No. 35 Mulberry street, last night, was stabbed by him in the breast. The wound is not dangerous.

THE WILLIAMSBURG.

A Corner Loungers' Quarrel That Ended in a Tragedy.

A FEARFUL GASH IN THE NECK.

The murder of Frederick Herfelder in Broadway, Williamsburg, on Saturday, an account of which was published in the Herald yesterday, creates great excitement in the locality where the crime was committed. The station house was surrounded during the day by an eager throng, which increased with the arrival of each additional prisoner arrested for cause or on suspicion. Each arrest brought out some new fact in relation to the tragedy, and when they were aggregated it was discovered that the murdered man sought his murderer for the purpose of raising a fight, and the meeting was expected by his opponents, who provided themselves with new weapons purchased for use in the encounter.

THE COMBATANTS. The murdered man, Fred Herfelder, was the second son of a brettel baker, residing at No. 165 Bushwick avenue. He was eighteen years of age, and a carpenter by occupation. He had not worked at the trade of late, and has been in the habit of spending several hours in lounging on the corner of Grand street, about 250 feet from his residence. The crowd included in their number Herfelder, the companions who accompanied him to the scene of his death on Saturday night, his murderer and one Robert Carr, whose connection with the affair will soon be shown. Herfelder is reported by all who know him as generally a quiet young man, but very stubborn. When he considered himself insulted, however, he always showed a quick temper, taking the first opportunity to demand a retraction or apology, and if he could obtain neither would fight his opponent.

The murderer—nicknamed "English"—is an Irish boy of about nineteen years, who came to this country from England about three years ago. His name is given as William Abernethy, though none of his associates know him by any other name than "English." He is a stout youth, five feet eight inches in height, with sandy hair, and bears a bad character. He lived in the neighborhood of Bushwick when he first came to Williamsburg, and when he began associating with the crowd on the corner a natural antipathy seemed to spring up between him and Herfelder. An exactly opposite feeling united him closely to another of the party, named Robert Carr, and this union was the prime cause of the fatal affray on Saturday night.

THE CAUSE OF THE MURDER. Frequent association tended to gradually embitter the feelings of Herfelder on the one hand and Abernethy and Carr on the other, until, some five or six months ago, they came to blows, and it is said that Carr drew a knife on Herfelder. Carr, about a week ago, in resenting a slur said to have been cast upon him by Herfelder, associated the name of the latter with a disgusting epithet, whereupon Herfelder discovered that he was annoyed by the name, and on Saturday night and compelled him to take it back or whup him.

HOW THE MURDER OCCURRED. By some means the word was given to Carr, and a reply was sent back that they would be ready on Broadway, near Boorum street. This led Herfelder to be wary, and about eight o'clock on Saturday evening, having collected ten or a dozen of his friends on the corner of Grand and Boorum streets, he proceeded to march down to Union avenue and thence to Broadway. Dividing his force at Twelfth street, he retained five men immediately behind him, the remainder taking the round about way for the purpose of flanking their opponents in case Herfelder and the five had more than they could do.

Carr and Abernethy, having purchased two strong, heavy pocket knives with wide blades five inches long, encased themselves in the doorway of No. 445 Grand street, and awaited the approach of the crowd. Carr and Abernethy, a few minutes before, saw Carr and Abernethy. A few minutes before, Carr and Abernethy struck out, hitting Carr with a heavy pocket knife. The two clenched fists were in the struggle two of the other party, James Ryan and Fred Bremer, closed with him, and the fight in an instant became a general one. Mr. Sherman, who saw Carr and Abernethy, a few minutes before, saw Carr and Abernethy. A few minutes before, Carr and Abernethy struck out, hitting Carr with a heavy pocket knife. The two clenched fists were in the struggle two of the other party, James Ryan and Fred Bremer, closed with him, and the fight in an instant became a general one.

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