opinion on this subject, but he was much struck with the suggestion made by the Turkish representative at the Conference that the Porte should be given a reasonable time to carry out reforms in its own way, and then if nothing was done the Powers would have the right to demand guarantees. This was admitted by Midhat Pacha, and he (Derby) thought the idea was a moderate and fair one.

ABUSING THE TREATY OF PARIS.

The Marquis of Salisbury, replying to the Earl of Kimberly, who blamed the government for having declared their intention not to coerce Turkey, said the present complications were peaceable to the treaty concluded after the Crimean war. The idea of six European Powers undertaking the tutelage of the subject populations of Turkey was an impracticable chimera. Long and sad experience had proved that Turkey would not reform herself as the Powers expected when they undertook the obligation to protect her Christian subjects. The government, however, are bound by the acts of their predecessors. "We, like all the governments since the Crimean war, are bound to respect the treaty by which that war was concluded." He pointed to the startling fact that the persons who signed that treaty, guaranteeing the independence and integrity of Turkey, are now attacking Lord Derby for not having fostered and encouraged the Herzegovinian insurrection when the hopelessness of Turkey's reform became evident. It is also plain that England's attitude toward Turkey could not remain the same as in 1856.

AN OLD FRIEND, YOU KNOW.

Lord Salisbury asked, however, "Were we justified in immediately turning around on our ancient ally, who had long been encouraged to count upon our support? If the terrible events in Turkey were to alienate the undoubted affection which had been entertained by the English people for Turkey surely it was our duty to struggle as long as possible against a change which forced us, at all events, to put a new and unexpected interpretation on words to which England was pledged. We have changed as far as force of circumstances have compelled us, but we have not dissolved our traditional alliance without sorrow, and we still cling to the hope that some change in counsels may restore that alliance. The refusal of the Turks to accept the recommendations of the Conference is a mystery. Their infatuation seems tremendous. The assertions of the Porte's irresponsible advisers that the Russian army was disorganized and diseased had much influence on its determination."

NO COERCION.

In regard to England's not having used threats of coercion at the Conference, Lord Salisbury thought it important to place upon record the fact that as far as the proceedings of the Conference went no Power had used such threats and nothing had happened at the Conference to pledge Russia as a matter of honor to take military action against the Porte. He energetically challenged the opposition to bring forward a definite motion stating the policy which they advised. He showed that the only coercion England could threaten would be the destruction of Stamboul by a fleet. Turkey would probably disregard it. As the question of yielding is not in the hands of those who are most deeply interested in the prosperity of the country, the execution of the threat would destroy the only government which now controls 30,000,000 of people. Our policy is to endeavor to secure some measure of liberty and safety for the subject populations. Of that we do not despair. Midhat Pacha was unquestionably the greatest opponent of the Conference. It is fair to assume until we know otherwise that his fall betokens a more conciliatory spirit. We hope that if the substance of the reforms be adopted no Power will consider itself bound or justified in trying to solve the question by the sword. If once the Powers are assured that peace is hopeless there is every reason to fear that the great energy which now induces them to strain every nerve to avert war will lead them in the future to say this question must be settled once for all. That is the terrible danger.

A CHALLENGE.

The Earl of Beaconsfield challenged the opposition to propose a distinct motion. He deprecated the policy of coercion. The policy of Europe, and not merely of England, was to maintain the integrity and independence of the Ottoman Empire. That was the principle which has always been acted upon by all statesmen as affording the best security for the peace of Europe. Nothing had happened since the Treaty of Paris to show that this principle was not wise and just.

THE SHAH AS ENGLAND'S ENEMY.

The Vienna despatch of the *Times* says news has been received that the Russians are actively working in Persia to induce the Shah to join them in the event of war. The inducement held out to Persia is the possession of disputed frontier territory. The Shah does not appear to be altogether averse to the plan. The Turkish frontier is almost denuded of troops, and even with 20,000 soldiers, whom the Shah can collect, something might be done. The chronic differences between Turkey and Persia would furnish a ready excuse for a declaration of war. The foregoing strengthens the impression that Russia, in the event of war, will make her chief effort on Turkey's Asiatic frontier.

THE SERVIAN ENVOY.

The Servian plenipotentiaries, now at Constantinople, had their first conference with Safvet Pacha yesterday. The interview lasted three hours. The conciliatory impression continues. The Porte does not seem disposed to press its points relative guarantees as a *sine qua non*. The Turkish flotilla on the Danube has returned to Sultina after an excursion to Rustchuk. It has just been reinforced by a second iron-clad corvette.

THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN BANK QUESTION.

The journals in Vienna report that an agreement has been reached on the bank question, and the Hungarian Ministers have started for Pesth.

RUSSIA'S STRENGTH.

The Vienna *Political Correspondence*, in its detailed account of the strength of the Russian army, says:—"In all Russia has 600,000 men, or two-fifths of her army, organized. Of these about half are ready on the frontiers, and only awaiting orders to begin operations."

REFORM WITH A VENGEANCE.

A special despatch from Pera says:—"Twenty more Bulgarians, charged with complicity in the May insurrection, have been sentenced each to twenty years' penal servitude. Chevket Pacha, of atrocities notoriety, has been appointed to command an army corps on the Danube."

NOW FOR AMERICAN BEEF.

Much uneasiness is felt on account of an outbreak of rinderpest at Hull, which cannot be traced to any contact with infectious beasts or matter. Stringent measures have been taken to isolate local outbreaks.

ARRESTS FOR TREASON IN SPAIN.

A despatch from Barcelona says seven persons have been arrested there. It is said they are charged with taking part in a Zorillist plot which was to have been carried into effect during the approaching sojourn of King Alfonso at Barcelona. The trial of the prisoners has already begun.

A RADICAL CHANGE.

M. Duverdier, an extreme radical, has been elected President of the French Municipal Council.

WHISKEY RING TO BE PROSECUTED.

A PROSPECT OF TARDY RETRIBUTION OVERTAKING REVENUE DEFRAUDERS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

PEKIN, Ill., Feb. 20, 1877.

Imminent danger threatens the Pekin Whiskey Ring, whose operations in defrauding the government by bribing officials and general corruption have made this district notorious in 1863, and of which X. P. Westerman, of Pekin, has the reputation of having been the chief operator. It is said that some time ago some of the leading men of Springfield and Pekin, including George Harlow, Secretary of State; Thomas Ridgeway, State Treasurer, and others, sent a letter to the government officials at Washington by James Robinson, ex-Congressman, asking for a compromise of the cases, which was refused. Westerman, it is alleged, has procured many indictments against the minor distillers of Pekin, always getting himself included in the indictments, so as to be able make the others pay for his defence. The total amount due to the government by the distillers, rectifiers and defaulting Pekin and district officials is $700,000, exclusive of the last batch of indictments. Westerman had one Ackerman, distiller, indicted, and Ackerman fled to Canada, just where Westerman wanted him to stay, so that he could not testify against him; but Ackerman has turned up here to-day penniless and discouraged, and his appearance strikes dread into the hearts of the whiskey thieves in Pekin and Springfield. The government having refused to accept and compromise or to do anything that would ameliorate Westerman's case will begin the prosecution of the criminal charges on the 26th inst., at Springfield, when long delayed justice will probably overtake one of the most notorious rings of the United States.

THE GREAT GALE.

A Tremendous Storm Bursts Over the British Islands and France.

THE HERALD'S PREDICTION FULFILLED

Dreadful Disasters Reported on the English Coasts.

SAD LOSS OF LIFE.

London, Liverpool, Paris and Boulogne Swept by the Tempest.

COLLISIONS DURING THE GALE.

[BY CABLE TO THE HERALD.]

LONDON, Feb. 21, 1877.

The storm predicted by the HERALD for the British and French coasts burst over us on the very day, the 19th, announced for its arrival in the cable despatch dated the 14th, addressed to the HERALD Bureau.

A FURIOUS STORM.

The violence of the storm was extraordinary. The force of the gale has been only equalled during recent years by that of one a few weeks ago. Its fury was felt with extreme severity on all the coasts. The storm broke with terrific violence over Queenstown on Monday evening.

THE TEMPEST IN ENGLAND.

The gale, attended by a heavy thunder storm, burst over Deal yesterday morning, causing considerable damage to shipping and alarm among the inhabitants of the town and dwellers along the coast.

"ALL IN THE DOWNS."

A large fleet of vessels moored in the Downs has been completely windbound and much difficulty was experienced in holding the vessels to their anchorage. Owing to the number of ships that have taken refuge in that well known mooring place there was considerable danger of disastrous collisions if any of them dragged their anchors and drifted before the force of the gale.

THE STORM AT BRIDGEWATER.

A terrible hurricane, accompanied by heavy rain and hail, with thunder and lightning, prevailed at Bridgewater. The roofs of many houses have been stripped of their tiles and a vast amount of damage has been caused to property generally.

AT PENZANCE.

The storm raged all Monday night over Cornwall and was exceedingly destructive at Penzance and over Mount's Bay, between Land's End and Lizard Head.

A VIOLENT GALE AT CHATHAM.

The ships moored in the Medway at Chatham required extraordinary precautions to prevent disasters. Additional anchors had to be employed to keep them in position, so violent was the force of the gale.

IN THE ENGLISH CHANNEL.

Communication by the mail steamers has been entirely interrupted by the prevailing storm between the English and French coasts and the Channel Islands.

ON THE WELSH COAST.

The storm along the Welsh coast was of almost unexampled severity. Among the disasters already reported is the loss of the British ship Rowantree, Captain Cunningham, from Liverpool for Mobile. She was driven ashore by the gale at Penrhos Beach, Holyhead. She is full of water and will be a total loss. Fortunately the crew were saved. Two coasting steamers and several sailing vessels are ashore near Holyhead, and several other vessels in a damaged condition have taken refuge in the harbor.

IN THE MERSEY.

Even within the comparatively sheltered reaches of the Mersey at Liverpool the effects of the gale were very severe. The British ship Lizzie Burrill, Captain Stuart, which arrived from New Orleans on the 29th of January, has been driven ashore. There is some prospect, however, of getting her off without serious damage. The bark Hiawatha, from Liverpool for Baltimore, is also ashore at New Ferry Beach, after having parted with her anchor. The Danish bark Tobasco, Captain Klitgaard, which put back on January 29 from a voyage to Hampton Roads, is also ashore.

COLLISIONS DURING THE GALE.

The ship Macauly, Captain Rogers, from Antwerp on the 15th, for Baltimore, collided with the Clio, off Flushing, on the Belgian coast. The latter was damaged. The bark General Fairchild, from Charleston, collided with a steamer in the Mersey Both vessels were damaged.

HEAVY LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY.

The *Shipping Gazette* of last evening contains a fearful record of losses during the storm. Thirty vessels, many of them with their entire crews, have been sacrificed to the fury of the gale.

THE STORM AT HALIFAX.

A terrible gale is reported to have prevailed at Halifax, in the county of York.

EXTENT OF THE STORM.

The area of the storm was exceptionally extensive. It embraced the greater part of the British Islands and the whole of Northern and Central France. The weather is now fair.

EFFECT OF THE STORM IN FRANCE.

[BY CABLE TO THE HERALD.]

PARIS, Feb. 21, 1877.

The HERALD's prediction of a great gale on the 19th inst. has been fulfilled to the letter.

AT PARIS.

A great storm raged over this city causing a vast amount of devastation. The streets and exposed places have been swept by a gale approaching a tornado in force.

THE GALE AT BOULOGNE.

The storm has visited this port with extraordinary violence. The sea was lashed into mountainous waves, crested with foam, which beat on the coast and against the jetties with awful force. It is impossible to estimate the damage caused along the coasts of Northern and Western France, as communications have been interrupted in all directions.

THE WAMSUTTA STRIKERS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

FALL RIVER, Mass., Feb. 20, 1877.

A mass meeting of mill operatives, held here to-night, resolved to aid the strikers of the Wamsutta Mills, New Bedford, and voted an assessment for that purpose.

MOLLY MAGUIRE MURDER TRIAL.

EVIDENCE FOR THE DEFENCE—TESTIMONY FOR THE PROSECUTION DIRECTLY CONTRADICTED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

BLOOMSBURG, Pa., Feb. 20, 1877.

The Molly Maguire trial is so replete with startling features that it is no wonder the court room continues to be crowded. Helen Hester, daughter of the prominent prisoner, was again subjected to the painful ordeal of being placed on the witness stand for the defence. She is generally regarded with pity, as trying to step between her father and the black shadow of the gallows that looms up in the background. She testified that the woman of whom her mother was jealous was a Mrs. O'Brien, who, it will be remembered, Kelly "the Bum" said he and eight others went to scalp one night at the instigation of Mrs. Hester. The witness claimed that she had seen the distillery which her father kept in the woods for making illicit whiskey, and which she said was the cause of his running away to Illinois; but upon cross-examination she could not tell what it looked like. It seems cruel to place a daughter in such an embarrassing predicament. Garner Pepper, who claimed to have been at Hester's house on the day of Rea's murder, said he heard the distillery trouble referred to, and heard Hester say he would get away until the affair blew over. He admitted afterward that he never saw the distillery, nor any of the whiskey that came from it. The witness referred incidentally to the domestic difficulties between Hester and Mrs. Hester, and the latter, who has been a constant attendant at court, sitting beside her husband since the trial opened, seemed overcome by emotion at this point and wept bitterly.

A witness named McKiernan swore that he would not believe Kelly under oath; that the latter boarded with him once and was ordered out of his house by his wife, and he then drew a revolver on her; he also stated that two years prior to the murder he and Kelly saw Superintendent Rea drag a poor woman out of a log hut that stood on his land and then tear down the hut.

A CONVICT WITNESS.

At several periods during the trial to-day, especially during the examination of a witness named Thomas, as to his belief in the existence of a God, a genuine sensation was caused; but the crowning one came in the afternoon, when the notorious Thomas Donohue, who had been brought from Pottsville Jail, was taken into court. He is slightly built, of medium stature, and not at all like the desperado he is said to be. Officer Parr, in his testimony, said Donohue was allowed into the cell of Hester and heard the latter confess to the Rea murder, and his appearance on the stand was looked for with anxiety by the prisoner and by the audience. He swore that he was never admitted into Hester's cell by officer Parr, and never had the conversation with the prisoner which the latter testified to; he never in all his life said to Hester, "It was a bad go to kill Rea," nor did Hester express any regret to him about it. Witness admitted to being imprisoned for being an accessory in an attempt to kill Bully Bill.

THE DEFENCE REST.

One or two other witnesses swore to seeing Hester at Ashland late in the night before the murder, and, to the surprise of all, the defence closed their case, with the understanding that they be allowed to introduce two more witnesses when they arrived. Several witnesses were then examined by the Commonwealth in surrebuttal, and denied in toto the testimony of some of the witnesses for the defence.

TROUBLED SOUTH CAROLINA.

PRESIDENT GRANT COMMANDS THE WHITE MILITARY COMPANIES NOT TO PARADE ON THE TWENTY-SECOND—POPULAR INDIGNATION AND A STINGING PROCLAMATION BY GOVERNOR HAMPTON.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

COLUMBIA, Feb. 20, 1877.

The volunteer military associations of this city and Charleston were deeply chagrined, disappointed and somewhat excited by the rumor that orders had been received from the President forbidding them to celebrate the birthday of Washington by a parade in both cities. These companies, which comprise all the old anti-bellum military companies, and which were subsequently denominated rifle and sabre clubs, were formally disbanded by the proclamation of the President in the month of October last. Since that time they had not paraded, nor even drilled at their halls until within the past week, when they were organized into militia companies under the democratic government, the officers holding commissions from Wade Hampton, as Governor, with the great seal of the State attached. In this city the preparations for the birthday parade amounted to nothing more than a march through the principal streets by the four military companies which had conjointly invited the Eighteenth United States Infantry and band to lead the procession. In Charleston the demonstration was to have been more imposing, and the parade was to consist of the Charleston Light Dragoons, Washington Artillery Battery, music, First, Charleston Riflemen; second, Sumter Guards; third, Palmetto Guard; fourth, Irish Rifles; fifth, Irish Volunteer Rifles; sixth, Montgomery Guards; seventh, German Fusileers, and, eighth, Washington Light Infantry. All of these were to parade under the flag of the United States. Two of these companies, the German Fusileers and the Washington Light Infantry, date their organizations back to the Revolution, headed and made successful by George Washington, and the latter company, bearing United States arms, participated in the celebration at Bunker Hill and the Centennial, where it was made the recipient of the highest honors. The Washington Light Infantry was also to have been presented with a silk woven portrait of Washington by the French Consul, and "Washington's Day," written by Miss Mary E. Lee, and first read to the corps at St. Augustine, Fla., in 1836:—

Rise, fellow freemen, and shout the proud lay,
'Tis Liberty's watchword, our Washington's Day,

was to have been the chief piece of music. The expectations of the volunteer white companies were completely upset by the receipt from Colonel Black, of the Eighteenth infantry, of the following order:—

THE PRESIDENT'S COMMANDS.

POST OF COLUMBIA, Feb. 20, 1877.

Captain THOMPSON, Columbia, S. C.:—

DEAR SIR—I have the honor to notify you that I have been this day directed by the Honorable Secretary of War to inform you that His Excellency the President of the United States directs me to notify you that members of the so-called rifle clubs who, under his proclamation of the 17th of October last, were instructed to disband, are not to make any public demonstration or parade on the 22d inst., as is said to be contemplated, and it is hoped you will give a cheerful obedience to this order and notify the members of your club or company in order to prevent a parade of any kind taking place. My orders require me to see that no such parade takes place. I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant, H. M. BLACK,
Lieutenant Colonel Eighteenth Infantry, Commanding Post.

Governor Hampton, upon being informed of the receipt of the President's order, issued the following proclamation:—

WADE HAMPTON'S KEEN PROCLAMATION.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
COLUMBIA, S. C., Feb. 20, 1877.

His Excellency the President of the United States having ordered that the white militia companies of this State should not parade on the 22d inst. to celebrate Washington's birthday, in deference to the office he holds, I hereby call upon these organizations to postpone to some future day this manifestation of respect to the memory of that illustrious President whose highest ambition it was as it was his chief glory to observe the Constitution and to obey the laws of his country. If the arbitrary command of a Chief Executive, who has not sought to emulate the virtues of Washington, deprive the citizens of this State of the privilege of joining publicly in paying reverence to that day so sacred to every American patriot, we can at least, by our obedience to the constituted authority, however abruptly exercised, show that we are not unworthy to be the countrymen of Washington.

We must, therefore, remit to some auspicious period, which I trust is not far distant, the exercise of our right to commemorate the civic virtues of that unsullied character, who wielded his sword only to found and perpetuate that American constitutional liberty which is now denied to the citizens of South Carolina.

WADE HAMPTON, Governor.

AN INDIGNANT PEOPLE.

The order of the President is stigmatized as a gratuitous insult to the white people of the State, prohibiting them from celebrating Washington's birthday, and at the same time according the undisputed privilege of doing so to the colored troops. It cannot fail to create additional antagonism between the races, and there is no doubt here that it was issued at the instance of Governor Chamberlain. It is universally deplored, because it needlessly antagonizes and irritates.

FIRE IN ST. LOUIS.

SEVERAL BUILDINGS DESTROYED, AND THE GREAT RAILROAD BRIDGE CONSIDERABLY DAMAGED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Feb. 20, 1877.

An extensive conflagration occurred early this morning in East St. Louis, just north of the Mississippi River Bridge approach. About a dozen houses were consumed, and a strong north wind carried the flames to the woodwork of the bridge approach. Some fire engines from St. Louis, attempting to cross the bridge, were cut off by the flames and forced to return; but two or three that were taken over by the ferry succeeded in doing good service. The conflagration was eventually checked, and engineers, who to-day examined the bridge, say that not more than about 300 feet of the approach is seriously damaged. In this distance many of the iron braces, chords and some of the supporting columns are injured beyond reclaim, but new ones will be substituted for them at once, and the railroad tracks will be restored and trains passing within a week at the furthest.

THE INSURANCE.

The following insurance on the bridge is held by the company:—American, of New York, $20,000; Tradesmen's, of New York, $13,700; American, of Newark, N. J.; Firemen's, of Newark, N. J.; Importers and Traders', of New York; Clinton, of New York; Mercantile, of New York; Pacific, of New York; Commerce, of New York; Resolute, of New York; Farragut, of New York; Standard, of New York, and Safeguard, of New York, $10,000 each, making a total of $153,700. The loss on the buildings where the fire originated is not known, but it is not large.

WASHINGTON.

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20, 1877.

GREAT ACTIVITY AMONG THE CABINET MAKERS—MORE SPECULATIONS AND GOSSIP—THE SEEKERS FOR OFFICE LOOKING FOR THE COMING HONORS.

The Cabinet makers are having a good time of it, and there are already enough cabinets formed here, all asserted to be real, genuine and original, to fill a dozen administrations. Even some democrats are engaged in this guess work. Among the new names mentioned to-day are Governor Hawley, of Connecticut; Mr. Rice, of Massachusetts; General Hampton, General Walthall, of Mississippi; Mr. McCreary, of Iowa, a very probable guess; Governor Brown, of Georgia; Senator Booth, of California, and Governor Hartranft. The Mississippi republicans, together with the carpet-bag people of Louisiana and some from Arkansas have united to push the claims of Senator Alcorn, whose term in the Senate expires in March. It is highly probable that Mr. Alcorn will not take a seat in Mr. Hayes' Cabinet. Colone Moseby, who has long been a zealous Virginia republican, is understood to be urging the appointment of Mr. Alexander McKenzie, President of the Virginia Midland Railroad, to a Cabinet place. In short, almost everybody who does not expect a Cabinet position for himself is engaged in pushing the claims of some friend or eminently fit and willing person. It is not forgotten either, by the prophets, that the new President will have to appoint a Judge of the Supreme Court in the place of Mr. Justice Davis, turned Senator. It is generally understood that if Mr. Evarts should not become Secretary of State he will be Minister to England. The number of persons willing to serve in high and responsible positions is rapidly increasing and the list given above includes but a small part; meantime if any one asks the prophets if their guesses are founded on any, even the least actual, knowledge they are obliged to confess that they know nothing.

FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20, 1877.

AN ALLEGED INELIGIBLE ELECTOR AT SOUTH CAROLINA—HUXLEY SAID TO BE AN ALIEN.

It is understood that Tim Huxley, one of the Hayes electors from South Carolina, who arrived here to-day from Charleston in the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House, is an alien who has never taken out naturalization papers. Huxley is a carpet-bagger that emigrated from Boston, Mass., to South Carolina soon after the close of the war, and has since been a leading republican politican in that State. The democrats are quietly working up his case, and if they fail in the Oregon case a big fight will be made over Huxley. I am informed that the committee have made diligent inquiry both at Charleston and Columbia, in neither of which cities has he taken out naturalization papers.

GENERAL WASHINGTON DESPATCHES.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20, 1877.

PRESIDENT GRANT AND GOVERNOR NICHOLLS.

Congressman Ellis, Colonel Burke and Counsellor Cavanac, of Louisiana, called on the President to-day and explained to him the condition of affairs in that State. The President replied that he was satisfied that General Nicholls was acting in good faith in preserving the *statu quo*, and he, therefore, had no intention of changing his instructions to General Angur.

In the course of conversation the President said that General Nicholls should not be held responsible for the freak of the crazy man who shot Mr. Packard.

A MUTUAL AGREEMENT THAT THE BANK ACCOUNTS OF THE PARTY LEADERS SHALL NOT BE CALLED FOR.

By mutual agreement the Senate committee on Privileges and Elections and the Committee on the Powers, Privileges and Duties of the House in counting the electoral vote, have decided not to go into an examination of the papers and accounts of the leaders of either political party. In consequence of this agreement Mr. Ellis, President of the Third National Bank of New York, will not be required to produce an abstract of the account of Samuel J. Tilden at the Third National Bank for examination by the former committee, while Hon. Z. Chandler, chairman of the National Republican Committee, will be excused from appearing before the latter committee with his account books, papers, &c. This harmonious agreement was brought about through the exertions of Senator Barnum and Mr. Ellis.

THE NEW DOMINION.

EXHIBIT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE—PROPOSED INCREASE OF THE REVENUES BY IMPORT DUTIES.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

OTTAWA, Feb. 20, 1877.

The annual presentation of the financial exhibition of the Dominion was made to-day by the Hon. R. J. Cartwright, Minister of Finance, occupying the greater portion of the day and evening. The government proposes to reduce the import duty on refined petroleum from fifteen cents to six cents. Import duty on tea is to be increased one cent, and the same of malt. Cigarettes will be taxed the same as cigars; all cigars to pay 50 per cent specific and 25 per cent *ad valorem*. Tubing, 17½ per cent; beer and porter increased 18 cents a gallon in glass, 12 cents in wood; six ply cotton, from free to 10 per cent. The result of these changes, it is estimated, will increase the revenues from $600,000 to $700,000. They will diminish the present burdens of the people, and make up the existing deficit of about $2,000,000. During his speech Mr. Cartwright stated that the whole United States exported $12 and imported $11 per capita. Canada exported $18 and imported $22 per capita. Unusual interest was exhibited by both parties, and the galleries were filled with ladies and gentlemen, who listened to the speech of the Hon. Mr. Tupper, of the opposition. The debate will probably continue for several days.

ACTION OF LEADING SHAREHOLDERS IN THE MERCHANTS' BANK OF MONTREAL—A FAIR SURPLUS LEFT AFTER FULL ALLOWANCE FOR BAD DEBTS.

MONTREAL, Feb. 20, 1877.

An informal meeting of leading shareholders of the Merchants' Bank of Canada, was held at the bank in Montreal at the request of the directors, for the purpose of discussing the reports circulated respecting the bank and efforts made to depreciate its stock. Statements respecting the position of the bank, generally, and showing the special points to be inquired into were laid before the meeting and inquiries were made of the president and general manager upon numerous points interesting to shareholders. After a full discussion the following resolution was passed unanimously:—

Resolved, That this meeting, having examined the statements laid before it, and having considered the explanations given by the General Manager and replies of the Executive to questions submitted to them, desires to express its satisfaction with the results shown by those statements and explanations and to record its opinion, based upon those results, that the assets of the bank are in excess of its capital after the deduction of an allowance for bad and doubtful debts considerably greater than their estimated amount, and this meeting recommends shareholders not to permit the temporary depreciation of the stock to lead them to sacrifice their interests in the bank.

BASEBALL CONVENTION.

A NEW ORGANIZATION FORMED BY CLUBS WITHOUT THE LEAGUE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

PITTSBURG, Pa., Feb. 20, 1877.

A meeting of delegates from the different prominent baseball clubs outside of the League was held here to-night. They met with a view to the formation of an association similar in its purposes and views to that which the League nines have constituted. There was quite a large attendance of the baseball fraternity, both from this and other cities, and it was decided that the name of the new organization should be "The International Association." The following list of delegates were present, and there was a number of other clubs represented by proxies:—Resolute, of New Jersey, A. B. Rankin; Fairbanks, of Chicago, Lewis Mecham; Brown Stockings, of Erie, Pa., James Burns; Chelsea, of Brooklyn, A. B. Rankin; Live Oak, of Lynn, Mass., W. A. Cummings, pitcher last year of the Hartfords; Tecumseh, of London, Canada, H. Gorman; Manchester, of New Hampshire, H. Clarke; Alaska, of New York, H. Rankin; Maple Leaf, of Guelph, Canada, J. Gorman; Buckeye, of Columbus, Ohio, J. A. Williams; San Francisco, of San Francisco, Cal., S. C. Waite; Mountain City, of Altoona, B. M. Crane; St. Louis Reds, Thomas McNary; Rochester, of Rochester, N. Y., C. A. Waite; Reading, of Pennsylvania, H. D. McKnight; Allegheny, of Pittsburg, McKnight, and the Essex, of Buffalo.

The evening was spent in a general exchange of views, and probably the constitution and bylaws will be adopted to-morrow.

THE RAILROAD STRIKE.

INEXPERIENCED ENGINEERS AND CONSEQUENT MISHAPS—MEETING OF THE STRIKERS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

BOSTON, Feb. 20, 1877.

The experiment of operating a railroad with inexperienced engineers has not proved altogether successful with the Boston and Maine Company. A passenger train approaching this city this afternoon came near going through an open drawbridge, and was only stopped with difficulty after dashing through the gates and by the signals. This forenoon there was also a big scare, and that came in consequence of the inexperience of one of the new engineers. As the Medford train was being pushed into the depot by a shifting engine it left the rails in the yard between the depot and Causeway street, in consequence of a misplaced switch, and went bounding over the sleepers for about sixty feet, striking a train standing upon the side track. The collision raised both trains from the ground, and, as they crowded against each other the seats were wrenched out of position and the sill timbers sprung, one of them being broken, the panels of the front car of the incoming train were stove in half its length, and the timbers of one truck were smashed. The train was quickly stopped and all excitement allayed, but some of the women were badly frightened and screamed frantically. There was danger of the car tipping over and had it done so serious consequences must have resulted, as a score or more had already left their seats preparatory to leaving the car as soon as it had reached the depot, and were crowded into the end of the car, where the stove and its contents must have been overturned among them. The switch had been placed so as to allow of the transfer of a train from one track to another, and it is said that the switchman had not had time to replace it. Before the strike this train was sent into the depot through means of a flying switch, and not pushed in by an engine in the rear, as in the present case. The new engineers, it is said, could not be trusted to make a flying switch, and their inexperience is alleged to have been the cause of the accident.

A MALICIOUS PLOT.

This evening, as the ten minutes past nine train was about leaving the Boston station, a police officer noticed a suspicious man loafing about the engine. Upon further investigation it was found that the fellow had placed an iron shackle in such a position that when the locomotive started it would break through one of the cylinders, having the effect of disabling the machine without endangering life. The man was arrested, and proved to be an ex-engineer of the road, named Charles Randall. He was intoxicated at the time, and upon being searched was found to be armed with a loaded revolver. He sent to the headquarters of the Brotherhood for bail, but the organization refused and denounced his act in the most emphatic terms. He was discharged from the road some three months ago for drunkenness, and suspended from the Brotherhood at the same time for the same offence.

MEETING OF THE STRIKERS.

The strikers held a secret meeting to-night which lasted until long after midnight. Engineers from all the roads running into Boston were present, and the situation was discussed at length in all its various aspects. The Boston and Maine men claim that the outlook is more favorable to them now than at any period since the strike commenced, and seem to have full confidence that all of them will be reinstated in the course of a few days. The idea of strikes on other Boston roads has not been abandoned, if any of them undertake to assist the Boston and Maine corporation. The officers of this corporation assert that they will not yield to the strikers under any circumstances; therefore the general situation between the opposing forces is unchanged. In view of the accidents which have taken place to-day there is much comment on the fact that the Railroad Commissioners declared on Saturday that the road was safe for public travel.

MURDER WILL OUT.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

CINCINNATI, Feb. 20, 1877.

Developments of to-day have stamped Abe Rothschild as the murderer of Bessie Moore in Jeffersonville, Texas, particulars of which were published in the HERALD of Sunday last. Dr. J. H. Turner, the proprietor of the hotel where Rothschild and his paramour stopped, accompanied by Edward Guthridge, prosecutor at Jeffersonville, and ex Sheriff Vines, of the same place, arrived in Cincinnati this morning with a Governor's requisition for Rothschild. They proceeded at once to the home of the murderer, where he was recognized by Turner as the man accompanying Bessie Moore, and as the man last seen in her company. Rothschild's recovery from his self-inflicted wounds is still regarded as doubtful, though an attempt will be made to remove him to the City Hospital to-morrow, where he can be more securely guarded. Two officers are now stationed in his room to see that his medicines are administered in accordance with the surgeon's directions. The Texas officers will remain in Cincinnati until Rothschild dies or recovers sufficiently to accompany them back to Jeffersonville.

AMUSEMENTS.

MR. MULLER'S CONCERT.

Mr. F. F. Müller, organist of the Church of the Ascension, gave a very good concert at Chickering Hall last evening before an audience that was more conspicuous for its enthusiasm than its numbers. The soloists were well chosen and the concert very enjoyable, the only drawback being the gloom of the stage. There should be footlights or something to enliven that sombre space and make the faces of the performers distinguishable. Mr. Müller opened the concert with the overture to "Don Pasquale," played on the organ. Such light-tripping measures played on an organ impress one with the same emotion as an elephant's dancing. Organ solos in a concert hall, generally speaking, seem incongruous. Mr. Müller's best performance was the Miserere from the "Trovatore," with a most marvellous voice effect. Both Mr. Fritch and Mr. Sobst were suffering from colds, but their fine voices did them good service notwithstanding. They sang a duett from "Belisario" in operatic style, which on the concert stage, as Nadal says, is too much like the factitious conversation of two clergymen sitting in the pulpit. They seem to be talking for their own edification, whereas the audience is uppermost in their minds. Mrs. G. W. Lockwood was heard in two songs, but hardly to advantage. Her voice is not strong enough for concert, but it would be charming on a moon-lit piazza of a summer evening. Mrs. Kate Reed, the soprano of St. Ann's, on the Heights, Brooklyn, sang *Una voce poco fa*, and displayed a voice of much richness in the lower, and great purity in the upper register. Her execution is fine. It is seldom one hears more brilliant *staccato*, a neater run scale or a more even trill. The quality of her voice is very sweet and flute-like. Altogether she made a most agreeable impression and was enthusiastically applauded. Mr. Arbuckle played the cornet in his usual masterly manner.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC NOTES.

Miss Abbott, after a very successful season in the provinces, appears at the Academy of Music on Friday night in the "Daughter of the Regiment."

Mme. Annette Essipoff, the celebrated pianist, was indisposed yesterday, and the consequence was that she could not appear last night at Steinway Hall.

San Francisco theatre goers ask the *Call* if Barney Williams ever played Lord Dundreary. Answers from correspondents respectfully requested.

The French Benevolent Society will have its annual benefit on Saturday evening, when the new opera, "Les Dragons de Villars," will be sung by Mlle. Aimee and her company.

Edwin Booth was greeted with a crowded house at the Arch Street Theatre, Philadelphia, where he began an engagement on Monday night. He will play "Hamlet" until Friday night, when "The Fool's Revenge" takes its place. Mr. Booth travels with a strong company, including Messrs. McVickar, Frederick Robinson, Hart, Conway, J. M. Hardie, Miss Clara Jennings and others.

In the revival of "Faust" at Kiralfy's Theatre Philadelphia, by the company organized by Mr. Strakosch, the opera is given in its entirety, as revised by Charles Gounod for the new Grand Opera House, Paris. For the first time in this country, probably, the opening scene of the fifth act, "The Walpurgis Night," is performed. The cast of the opera includes Mme. Pappenheim as Marguerite, Mr. Tom Karl as Faust, Mr. L. S. Gottschalk as Mephistopheles, Signora Galimberti as Siebel and Mr. G. Hall as Valentine.

"Our Boarding House" is in its fifth and last week at the Chestnut Street Theatre, Philadelphia. The "Two Orphans" will be revived next week. This might be thought a hazardous experiment were it not promised that it is to be produced with the same care that characterizes its production at the Union Square Theatre, and that two leading actors in the original cast are now members of the stock company at the Chestnut—namely, Messrs. McKee Rankin, who first played Jacques, and Mr. Mackey, the original Pierre.

A COMEDIAN'S FALL.

Early yesterday morning Roundsman Reed, of the Eighteenth precinct, found a man lying insensible on the sidewalk at the corner of Second avenue and Eighteenth street, with a wound in the head. On being taken to the station house he recovered sufficiently to give his name as James Gavin, aged twenty-eight, of No. 342 East Ninth street. He said that while walking up the avenue he was suddenly attacked with weakness and fell backward. At Bellevue Hospital it was ascertained that he had received a fracture at the base of the skull. Mr. Gavin is a comedian, and is well known. He generally played a female character in the panoramic drama of "Ireland and America." His injuries are considered serious.

CORRECTION.

[From the Newport Daily News, Feb. 14.]

In an article copied yesterday from the NEW YORK HERALD, on the Shakespearian controversy, the gross and unpardonable carelessness of a compositor made a change in the name of Joseph Watson to John Watson. The worse than blunder was not observed until it was too late to correct it.

THE DUCAL PARTY.

MOVEMENTS OF RUSSIAN PRINCES YESTERDAY—THE BUFFALO HUNT POSTPONED.

The Grand Dukes passed yesterday in about the same peripatetic manner as on each day since their arrival in the city. They arose somewhat earlier than usual, however, and shortly after nine o'clock the Grand Duke Alexis was on the street pursuing a morning walk. He remained out about an hour, and at half-past eleven o'clock the party breakfasted.

CONSTANTINE'S AUTOGRAPH.

During the morning the Grand Duke Constantine conferred on Miss Louise Leland, of Fifth avenue, the favor of his autograph, which he wrote in the album of that lady. This album contains the signatures of many of the world's celebrities, which, it is said, form one of the finest collections of the kind in existence. Among the autographs are those of the Grand Duke Alexis, written during his last visit to the country; General Grant, Andrew Johnson, M. Catacazy, several Japanese Ministers, whose chirography is not to be deciphered by every man; General Sherman, Miss Kellogg, Mlle. Belocca, Mrs. Scott-Siddons, Anton Rubinstein, Christine Nilson, Secretary Robeson and ex-Secretary Belknap.

Soon after breakfast the Grand Duke Alexis made a short call on Miss Adelaide Neilson, who is also stopping at the Clarendon. Later in the afternoon all the members of the ducal party ventured out to breathe the bracing air during long rambles about the city. During their walks their Highnesses are recognized by very few persons, and are suffered to pursue what seems to be their favorite occupation unanno