HISTORIAN'S OFFICE.
Church of Jesus Christ
of Latter-day Saints.

THE DESERET EVENING NEWS.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY

FIFTY-SECOND YEAR | MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1902. SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH. | NUMBER 75

IS PRISONER, SENTENCED TO BE SHOT, INNOCENT

Sensational Contention Regarding L. E. King, Who, With James Lynch, is Awaiting Execution of the Death Penalty For the Murder in This City, in September, 1900, of Colonel Prowse, Proprietor of the Sheep Ranch Gambling Rooms.

Affidavit of John Mace, a Discharged Colorado Convict, that John Strange, Another Colorado Prisoner, Confessed Having Committed the Deed—King, When Seen at the State Prison Today, Was Jubilant, and Said He Had Been Waiting For Just Such News For Months—Deputy Warden Burghart, of Colorado, Tells Interesting Tale.

Denver, Colo., Feb. 17.—The News this morning prints a dispatch from Canon City, Colo., to the effect that a man named Mace, who, according to The News, has just been released from the state penitentiary there, has made a statement to a representative of Italian Consul Suneo of this city that a man named Strange, now confined in the Canon City prison, had confessed to the murder of Geo. Prowse in Salt Lake for which crime a man named King, or Paguini, is now serving a term in the Utah prison.

Strange's term will expire in about two months, and, according to The News, the Utah authorities are arranging to have Strange brought to Utah and confronted with the charge of murdering Prouse.

Cuneo, through instructions from the Italian ambassador, Baron Fava, has been investigating the case of King, who is said to be a scion of one of the distinguished families of Italy. He expresses doubt as to the genuineness of the alleged confession of Strange, but says that he is confident that King, or Paguini, is innocent of the crime for which he had been sentenced in Utah.

The above dispatch will recall to the mind of many of "News" readers, a daring attempt to rob the Sheep Ranch gambling house in this city on the morning of September 11, 1900. The robbery was attempted by three masked men who suddenly entered the place and with drawn revolvers, called upon those in the room to throw up their hands on pain of instant death. "Colonel" Prowse, who was one of the owners of the house, was sitting at the dealer's table when the men entered, and while the other occupants complied with the robbers' demands, Prowse reached for his gun and a desperate battle ensued. "Colonel" Prowse fell, mortally wounded, but not before he had laid one of the robbers low with a bullet wound in his head. This man fell to the floor unconscious, but the other two robbers made their escape in the darkness without securing a cent.

Sergeant J. B. Burbidge was standing on the corner of First South and East Temple street when the shooting began and he dashed to the scene with all haste. On the floor in a pool of blood lay a masked robber. "Col." Prowse was sitting in his chair with his hands pressed to his side from which flowed a stream of blood. He was at once removed to the hospital, but despite all efforts to save his life, he died.

Sergeant Burbidge removed the mask from the robber and the feature of James Lynch were disclosed. He was marched to the police station and locked securely in a cell. The officers then began a careful and systematic search for the companions of Lynch, and finally they were rewarded in the arrest of L. E. King, alias Paguni, alias Marshell. He was arrested by Detective Sheets some days after the killing of Prowse.

On the morning of the battle with the thugs, the officers found near the entrance of the gambling house a small satchel which had been carried by one of the robbers doubtless for the purpose of putting the money in they expected to get. The satchel had been hurriedly thrown away. It was this that led to the arrest and conviction of King. The satchel was purchased at a Second South street secondhand store from a young man named Myers. The officers learned this by taking the satchel to all the stores and it was finally identified by young Myers. He then gave to Detective Sheets a good description of the man to whom he sold the satchel. He described his height, build, complexion and voice, the latter being rather peculiar. Shortly after, Detective Sheets found King, and placed him under arrest. When taken before Myers he was immediately identified as the man who purchased the satchel. Young Myers was absolutely certain in his identification of the man, and although he declares that efforts have been made to bribe him to withdraw that testimony, he sticks to it to this day that King is the man. The defense did not explain the presence of the satchel near the gambling house, and this fact with other evidence led to the conviction of King as well as Lynch for them urder of "Col." Prowse. They were given their choice of being hanged or shot, and they chose the latter method of shuffling off this mortal coil.

Lynch took his conviction as a matter of course, but King was loud in his protestations of innocence and in his denunciations of Detective Sheets and others who assisted in his conviction. He made a bitter fight for his life and his case was to have come up before the Supreme Court last Monday. On account of the request of the Italian ambassador at Washington and Secy. Hay, the case has been permitted to go over until May 12.

TWO UTAH PRISONERS CONDEMNED TO BE SHOT.

JAMES LYNCH,
Who was Badly Wounded by Colonel Prowse.

L. E. KING,
Alias Bob Martell, alias Paguini
Alias John Doe.

SUPPOSED ACTUAL MURDERER OF PROWSE.

JOHN STRANGE,
Now Doing Time in Colorado State Prison for Burglary.

BELIEVE KING INNOCENT.

Chief Hilton, Sam Dowse and Attorney Wanless So Hold.

There are three men in this city who have been firm in the belief of King's innocence for a long time. They are Chief of Police Hilton, Atty. Will F. Wanless and former Deputy Sheriff Sam Dowse. For over a year Atty. Wanless has worked unceasingly to clear up the mystery, working day and night, and spending money out of his own pocket. When Mr. Wanless induced the Italian consul, Signor Cueno, to come here, the latter advised the attorney to employ a detective in the case and Mr. Wanless at once engaged Sam Dowse. The statement in a morning paper that King's brothers have been working in his behalf is not true. King has written to them several times, but as yet has not heard from either of them and they have not furnished a cent towards securing his release. What has been done in his behalf has been done by the three gentlemen above mentioned.

ATTY. WANLESS' STORY.

When seen at his office this morning Atty. Wanless told the following story:

"One year ago last January I learned that a friend of Lynch's was in jail, and that his name was James Delaney. When he was here he went under the name of Davenport. He had served time with Lynch for burglary in Idaho and I learned that he was then, and is now, in the Colorado state reformatory. I also learned that there was a man named "John," who was a pal of Lynch's, and that name was all I had to work on. Shortly after the preliminary hearing of the two men, I called at the county jail to see them, and Lynch told King that he was sure to be 'turned up' and that if he (King) would stand trial with him (Lynch) he would probably escape with only life sentence. Lynch then told King that if he (King) was convicted, he (Lynch) would tell who was with him on the morning of the tragedy. This agreement was entered into with the result already known.

"I then began to search among the crooks and collected some photographs, and I got Strange's picture. I also learned that the mysterious third man was in the reformatory. Mace saw Strange and told one of the guards that they were going to free a man who was guilty of the crime for which a man was awaiting sentence of death in Utah. Some of the information I obtained came from Pat Sullivan, alias Connors, who is the man who carried saws into Lynch's cell. Now, then, this man Strange is the man who fired the shot that killed Prowse, and Delaney, or Davenport, is the man who stood at the door and there was a fourth man downstairs. Originally there were five men who had planned to rob the gambling house, but the fifth did not participate in it because he got on a drunk. King had nothing to do with it. Both Strange and Davenport will be brought back here if we can secure the papers all right and extradite them."

Following is a telegram received by Attorney-General Breeden from Canyon City on the 12th. It is now in the possession of Attorney Wanless:

"Canyon City, Feb. 12, 1902.—Corroborated evidence of confession by convict here shows King innocent and convict here, and one in reformatory, guilty. Every indication they are guilty. John Strange in penitentiary ordered paroled, but hold him awaiting your action to secure him. Answer."

The message was signed by Deputy Warden J. C. Burghart, who is now in the city. Of course the Colorado authorities were instructed to hold Strange by all means.

Detective Sam Dowse, when seen, had little to say on the matter save that King was innocent and that it would be proven.

"King is a crook all right enough. One of these card men, and lock men, but he did not mix up in any shooting and should not suffer for another's crime. We have been working on the case a long time and Mr. Wanless and Chief Hilton deserve a great deal of credit for their fine work."

"What about the testimony of young Myers?" asked the reporter of Mr. Wanless.

"There is no question but that he wanted to work me for some money and I am satisfied that it can be proved that he testified falsely when he said King bought the satchel from him. Strange is the man who bought the satchel, and at that time he and King looked a great deal alike. Of course since then King has fattened up some."

Quite early yesterday morning Chief Hilton quietly made a trip out to the state prison and had a long talk with the prisoner King, or Paguini, and he told the latter little by little of the facts which had been run to earth in his behalf, and he said:

"King, soon the doors of this prison will be open to you and you will be a free man." At this news King's face brightened and he danced around his cell in glee. The chief also had a talk with Lynch with a view of getting his corroboration of the story told by Strange to Mace, and it is said on good authority that in a short time Lynch will make some very startling revelations in relation to the case.

Of course with him there can be no mistake. He was shot down by Colonel Prowse and was taken in charge by Officer Burbidge before he regained consciousness. He knows the men who were with him on that fatal night and if he will he can tell all about it. The officers hope to be able to show him that his pals have left him to his fate without offering to give him any assistance and that it is about time he was doing something for himself. The officers hope not only to land Strange and Davenport but also the fourth man.

As soon as the papers are made out, which will probably be tomorrow, an officer will leave for Canyon City for Strange and will probably bring back Davenport.

DEPUTY WARDEN'S NARRATIVE

Mace First Told His Story to Officer J. C. Bringhurst.

It was learned this afternoon at the police station that it was to Deputy Warden J. C. Brughart that the prisoner Mace first communicated the fact that Strange was the murderer of Col. Prowse. The story is best told in the language of Mr. Burghart. To a "News" reporter he said: "Credit is not given to the right man in this case. Chief Hilton is the man who has done most of the work and to him belongs the honor. He has been working on the case for over two months and a half. It was last summer that Mace first told what he knew about the murder. I had been good to him and one day while he was working on the outside he called me to one side and unfolded the whole thing to me. He said he had it within his power to save a man's life and he wanted to do it. He then told me all about the robbery and murder. He was here at the time and told me things that he could not have related had he not been here at the time they occurred and been an eye witness to them. I think it was about two months and a half ago that I telegraphed the facts to Chief Hilton and he has kept them a profound secret since. Why, when the chief learned of what Mace said about things that happened here then, he was simply astounded. Mace recounted things that were done here that the chief knew of, and had he not been here at the time he could never have known them. He knows that Strange is the man all right, and there can be and is no doubt about it. I was afraid Strange would secure his liberty before we could look into the matter more thoroughly, and Mace was also anxious. He kept asking me why I did not do something about it, but I could not until I heard from Chief Hilton. In the meantime the chief was working up the case at this end of the line. Strange asked me why he was not liberated and I had to put him off with some excuse. He is doing time for burglary and was sentenced from one to three years."

Mr. Burghart is here to take back with him Edward Irving, the life convict who escaped from the prison in July, 1900. The officer said he would be here for two or three days as he had some other business to finish up.

KING INTERVIWED.

Proclaims He is Innocent and Praises Chief of Police Hilton.

Pedro Paguini, or L. E. King, was seen at the state prison this morning by a representative of the "News." He was highly gratified over the present turn of affairs in his favor and at times during his conversation with the newspaper man it was seen that his emotion was controlled only by an effort.

"You can scarcely imagine how I feel under the circumstances. I have spent many a sleepless night in that steel cell back there. I knew that I was innocent all the time, and that consciousness has helped to keep me fighting for my life.

"Look at my face. It is wrinkled now. When I came here there was no such thing upon my countenance. I have been here eighteen months and have seen very little but the inside of my narrow cell—and all for a crime which I knew nothing about.

PRAISES HILTON.

"To Chief Hilton, of the police force, I am deeply grateful, for it is due principally to him that I am alive today to hear of the confession of this man in Colorado. From the first he seemed to believe I was innocent and has always given me the benefit of the doubt. When I was arrested he said: 'King, if you are guilty you will have to take your medicine; but if you are innocent I want to see you cleared.'

"He has exerted himself in every way to get at the truth in this matter and it seems that his efforts are at last to be rewarded and I am to get the justice that is due me. I am very thankful to him indeed, and if you see him please tell him so."

CONDEMNS SHEETS.

Unsolicited the prisoner went on with the story of his arrest and the circumstances surrounding it. When he came to mention former Detective Sheets his spirit seemed to be much perturbed and it was with an exercise of his self-control that he paid his "respect" to the former city detective. Whether or no this dislike of the officer has any foundation in fact, or is simply the result of the detective having done his plain duty, it is impossible for anyone but Pedro Paguini and George Sheets to say.

"If it hadn't been for Sheets," said the prisoner, "I would not now be here with the 'brand of Cain' upon me. There is hope now that I shall be cleared of the horrible accusation that has been made against me and that my freedom may soon come. When I get out of here I shall take some steps against Mr. Sheets that may make it uncomfortable for him. I have it in black and white and know what I am talking about."

WAS WRONGED.

"Did you know this man Strange, who is in the Colorado state prison and who is said to have confessed to having killed Col. Prowse?" asked the reporter.

"Know him? Why, no; I never saw the man in my life. I have no idea who he is nor what he looks like. How could I? I was not in the place when the man was killed and know absolutely nothing about it.

"Two days after the murder Sheets accosted me and said, 'We have got a fellow named Lynch arrested for the shooting of Colonel Prowse. He says he is from California and perhaps you know him. Come up to the police station and see if you have ever seen him there.'

"I went up with this fine detective, who couldn't even catch the smallpox in the pest house, and as soon as we got in, a crowd of officers surrounded me and I was searched.

"I asked what it was all about and they told me I was one of the men that killed Colonel Prowse. Of course, I knew better, but what good did it do me?

FRIENDS INTIMIDATED.

"As soon as they heard of my having been arrested three young friends of mine rushed to the police station and asked for my release, because at the time of the shooting I had been with them in another part of the town. They were told to get out and were afterwards visited by certain officers and told to keep out of the business or it might be unpleasant for them.

"Thus they were prevented from assisting me by simply telling the truth, which they desired to do but were gagged."

NEVER SAW PROWSE.

"Did you know Colonel Prowse when he was alive?"

"No; nor when he was dead, either. I have never yet seen the man. It is a peculiar situation to be in—to have been sentenced to death for having killed a man whom I have never yet seen. But that is the truth. I am as innocent of the crime as you are and now, thank goodness, it is about to be proven.

"MURDER WILL OUT."

"I am not much of a religious man, but there certainly is truth in the old saying that 'murder will out.'

MUCH RELIEVED.

Just think of it! I have been here for eighteen months with a death sentence hanging over my head. There is no wonder that I am different now. Anyone would be.

THANKS CUNEO.

"I was informed only this morning of the confession of this man Strange and the news was a godsent, I can tell you. I have been constantly in receipt of letters from Signor Cuneo, Italian consul at Denver, and if at any time I have been a little slow in replying he has wired me. I owe him much for his efforts in my behalf, and when I am released I shall be proud to thank him and Chief Hilton for their kindness to me in my trouble and their belief in my innocence."

HIS LEFT HAND.

Again the prisoner's memory turned to the trial which resulted in his conviction. "What do you think of it? Those fellows absolutely perjured themselves. They swore that I held a gun in my right hand and some of the money in my left. You see that I have lost the thumb of my left hand. That was through a felon. They didn't notice, that, however. Oh, no!

"The facts are that I was not present at the time of the holdup and murder; that I was in another part of the town with three friends who will now probably come forward and say so; that I never knew, and don't know to this day, either Col. Prouse who was killed or the man Strange, who says he killed him. I am innocent of the crime and have been unjustly convicted and have been made to suffer this agony for the past eighteen months on account of some official persecution.

THINKS BETTER.

"But now I feel mighty glad that the truth is to come out. I don't think I shall bother with gambling houses after this."

NEGRO EDUCATION.

In the South Facilities Better for The Colored than the White Man.

Milwaukee, Wis., Feb. 17.—Prof. O. F. Hillyer, professor of biblical language at the Atlantic theological seminary, in an address at Plymouth Congregational church made the statement that there are twice the facilities for the education of the negroes in the south to that for the whites. The latter, Mr. Hillyer said, had been neglected and it was to the advantage of good citizenship that attention be made to this phase of development in the south. Prof. Hillyer has come north for a three months' leave of absence to arouse interest in the poor whites of the South. He says the greatest problem in the educational and religious work in the south is to secure men for the work. If 100 churches were to be organized there today, he said there would be no men for pastors.

Jno. Mace's Startling Story

Ex-Colorado Prisoner Makes Affidavit That John Strange Confessed to the Killing of Col. Prowse And That King is Innocent.

Atty.-Gen. Breeden this morning received the following affiadvit from the state prison officials at Canyon City, Colorado. The document was promptly turned over to Atty. Wanless, who has represented King and Lynch in the battle for their life that has been waging in the Salt Lake courts for the last year and a half:

State of Colorado, County of Fremont, ss.

John Mace, being first duly sworn, on oath deposes and says:

My name is John Mace; I am 51 years old, and a laborer by general occupation. I was in Ogden, Utah, on the morning after the attempted holdup of the Sheep Ranch saloon in Salt Lake City, Utah, on Sept. 11, 1900, in which attempted holdup the proprietor of said saloon, Colonel Prowse, was killed. I had been in Ogden about a week prior to that time and had then met Ed Davenport, who was later on convicted at Cripple Creek, Colorado, for burglary and sent to the state reformatory at Buena Vista; I believe he is still there. When I reached Ogden on the morning after this holdup I again met Davenport on the street near the Union Depot. When he met me he stopped and asked if I knew where a certain party, whose name he gave but I have forgotten it, was. He, Davenport, said at that time that he and the party he had inquired about had got into trouble at Salt Lake City the night before and that they were trying to get out, and that they were going to go into a room and stay until night and then get out of town. My partner, John Matthews, was in Ogden with me at that time and I paid $2 for the purpose of securing our way on the railroad to a point east of Rawlins, Wyoming. Matthews is now in the reformatory at Buena Vista. The evening after the robbery I again met Davenport on the train where I found that he and John Strange were also going east the same way my partner and I were. Davenport sat down in the seat by me while Strange kept in the other end of the car. Before the train left Ogden Davenport, while sitting by me, pointed out his partner, John Strange, and said that he would have to keep "shady" until the train pulled out, and that he didn't know but there might be some "mugs" (detectives) on the train with them. At this time Davenport told me that he and John Strange were two of the parties that held up the Sheep Ranch saloon. Davenport also said that it was lucky for Strange that he had passed by officers on the street in Ogden while he wore the coat and trousers of the suit, the vest of which (belonged to Strange and) was in the satchel or valise on one of the gang in the Sheep Ranch saloon. When we got to Rawlins the next morning Davenport, Strange, Matthews and I, together with a number of others, got off the train and stayed there.

About 9 o'clock that morning, after breakfast, I met Davenport on the street and he asked me to go to his room. I did so, and there I first met John Strange. They said they were afraid to go around on the streets and asked me if I had seen any persons who I might suspect of watching. Davenport handed me a Salt Lake paper and pointed to an account of the holdup and killing at the Sheep Ranch saloon and asked me what I thought of it. I read it hastily and said that they would have to look out for themselves or something to that effect. They talked the holdup over at some length and were wondering how much information the officers had that might lead to their arrest. They both seemed greatly agitated and were anxious to take every precaution to keep out of sight and get away. Soon after this I went away and knocked around town that day and evening. About dark of that day as I passed Davenport and Strange's room Davenport came out and asked me if I had any money. I said I had a little and he said he and Strange were going to leave town that night and that I might take their room. I paid him four bits and they afterwards went away and I found that they afterwards went to another room and stayed in town all night, because I saw them next morning. I saw Davenport and Strange a few times within the next few days, when they left for Laramie City.

Before going they had shown me several Salt Lake papers, among which was an account of the arrest of Robert L. King and James Lynch, and they were asking each other who King was, as neither of them knew him and that he was not in their gang, and that he had nothing to do with the holdup or killing of Prowse at the Sheep Ranch saloon. They concluded that he was some "Pete man" (safeblower). Davenport made the remark that he was probably some fellow that Detective Sheets of Salt Lake City was sore against and could not get evidence in any other way to pinch him. A few days after leaving Rawlins I met Davenport and Strange again in Laramie City. I stayed there a day or so and met both Strange and Davenport. While in Cheyenne and in talking with Strange about various things he told me that the attempted holdup of the Sheep Ranch saloon was put up by him and his partner, Davenport, while they were both in the Idaho penitentiary; that he, Strange, got out three or four months before Davenport did, and that he waited until Davenport was released when they went to Salt Lake City and met three other fellows, where they arranged for the five of them to do this holdup.

Strange said that he had held up this same place before. They gave Davenport $45 to buy three revolvers. He went out of Salt Lake and bought three revolvers. He came back with three revolvers, either 44 or 45 caliber. Strange told me that at the last minute one of the five backed out of the job and that there were four of them actually concerned in it. That they had loaded up with whisky and that was why the fifth man gave them the shake. Strange also told me that his vest was in the grip that was thrown away. Strange also told me that he was the man who "pumped it into Prowse when he saw one of the lads on the floor." Meaning the holdup who was shot. He told me this several times. I have frequently heard Strange and Davenport talk the matter over together, and from their conversation, as well as from what they told me directly, the above is a fair statement of what they had had to say. They talked to me and in my presence without reserve, and I heard a great many things, many of them often repeated, all of which was to the effect that this holdup was a premeditated affair in which four of them were engaged, but that Robert L. King was not engaged in it, and was not known to them. They talked of getting as much money as they could to help the man who was shot and fell to the floor, but instead of using the money that way they would blow it in.

I have known Strange ever since the time last stated and he is now in the Colorado state penitentiary, and his convict number is 5076. Some time last summer I had a talk with Strange in the penitentiary when he told me that King was convicted. This is the first I knew of it. He laughed about it and said: "Well, King is innocent, but they can do nothing with me about it now." Strange also told me after he had remarked that King was innocent, "I am the man; I bought the valise, shoes, neckties, handkerchiefs and so forth, and I see the cheeney I bought them of testified I tried to jew him down, but that is a lie, I didn't."

John Matthews also heard Strange and Davenport talk this matter over and knows that they have said practically what I have stated. I also wish to say that while I cannot put everything in an affidavit in the manner I would like, that my frequent talks with Davenport and Strange have been so numerous and of such a character and under such circumstances that I am positively and absolutely convinced, beyond any possible doubt, first, that Robert L. King, who was convicted with James Lynch of the killing of Prowse is innocent and that said John Strange, Ed Davenport, James Lynch and another are the guilty men.

I know this as well as I can know anything which I have not actually seen with my own eyes, and I never can be convinced to the contrary. If I could see John Matthews I know that he would corroborate my statement in every detail. He might without my being present, but he is a sort of a bullheaded fellow and might not want to say anything, but I know he would if I could see him. I make this affidavit purely for the purpose of aiding in the release of King, who is known to be innocent. I have not made it with the hope or promise of any reward or favor of any kind. Iknow King is innocent and I don't want him to suffer, and for this reason alone I have made this affidavit freely and openly and without reserve.

And further affiant sayeth not. JOHN MACE.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, in duplicate, this 13th day of February, A. D. 1902. CHARLES F. REED, Notary Public.

My commission expires Aug. 11, 1903.

Signed in presence of C. M. GANWOOD, C. M. MARTIN.

Great Snowstorm Over the Country.

Raging With Fury Along the Atlantic Coast—Tremendous Winds Accompany Storm in New York—Life Savers Patroling Jersey Shores—Weather Bureau Sends Out Special Warnings to Its Various Stations.

Washington, Feb. 17.—The severe storm which started on the Florida coast Friday night and raged along the coast in a northward direction, is now central off the coast of New Jersey, according to the weather bureau reports, based on the telegraphic advances sent at 8 o'clock this morning. At New York the reports show a velocity of 38 miles an hour, which is expected to increase to 60 miles during the day. The storm area this morning extends from southern New York to close to this section of the country. The storm is increasing in fury as it moves north through New York state, and the New England states, and in its wake during the next 24 hours or 36 hours, according to the bureau, will be heavy snowfalls already setting in in the southern part of New York.

Special storm warnings have been wired by the weather bureau to its stations in New York and New England, and to railroad companies through those states. The storm is expected to pass off beyond the St. Lawrence valley, though it will be felt along the northern New England coast. At Boston, the wind had attained a velocity of 44 miles an hour this morning. The storm passed over this city last night, but the snowfall was light. There is no snowfall south of New Jersey today.

WIND ACCOMPANIES SNOW.

New York, Feb. 17.—A snowfall, which began in the early hours of the morning, developed into a severe storm, and at 8 o'clock 6 inches had fallen. The snow was accompanied by a strong northeast wind but there was only a slight drop in the temperature. The thermometer at 7 o'clock stood at 30 degrees and up to 8 o'clock it did not get below 26 degrees. Elevated and surface roads were able to keep their tracks clear by running sweepers over them, and there was only slight delay in traffic in the city.

Highlands, Sand Hook, and Quarantine observing stations reported a northerly gale blowing. Two steamers, which had arrived during the night were anchored off the Quarantine station, being the Pinners Point from Dundee and Olinda from Cuban ports.

No other shipping was in sight. Coasting craft probably found shelter in good time or are keeping well off shore to escape damage from the storm. As the wind is off shore wrecks will not be so likely to occur off Long Island and the New England coast as during the last gale. Many passenger steamers are due to arrive them the Kaiserin Maria Theresa and the Karamania, both from Mediterranean points; Atlantic transport liner Manitop from London; Anchor liner California and Italian liner Isla De Lavanzo, both from Mediterranean ports and Red D line steamer Philadelphia from Venezuelan and Porto Rico. Possibly some of the steamers due have arrived outside Sandy Hook bar and have anchored until the weather clears.

The floating ice driven by the gale is packed in on the Staten Island shore, making navigation very difficult. The Staten Island ferry boats are making the trips without any attempt to observe schedules.

ON THE JERSEY COAST.

Cape May, N. J., Feb. 17.—The heaviest snowstorm of the winter is raging on the southern New Jersey coast. The wind is blowing from the northwest and the snow is now 10 inches deep. The lifesavers are experiencing difficulty in patrolling the beaches owing to the drifting snow and it is impossible for them to see more than a few yards from the shore line.

RAGING STORM IN DELAWARE.

Lewes, Del., Feb. 17.—A heavy snowstorm is raging here, seriously interfering with craft on the Delaware bay. It is impossible to tell whether any vessels have passed in the capes since midnight, as vision is impossible for more than 50 yards off shore. Of the vessels anchored in the breakwater not one has ventured to move since the severe storm began during the night. The steamship Noordland, Liverpool, for Philadelphia, which passed in the capes last night is supposed to be anchored in the bay above here as she has not been reported from any of the reporting stations between the Delaware breakwater and Philadelphia.

Snow to the depth of eight inches has fallen and the storm shows no signs of abating.

HEAVY SNOW IN PHILADELPHIA

Philadelphia, Feb. 17.—The heaviest snowstorm of the season began here at midnight and still prevails at 9 o'clock this morning with no indication of ceasing. A high wind prevails and the snow has drifted badly, interfering with trolley and steam railroad traffic.

FIRE FOLLOWS GALE.

Manchester, Conn., Feb. 17.—During the severe gale and snowstorm this morning the cracker factory of Frank Goetz in North Manchester, was destroyed by fire. A house connected with the factory and a large coal shed were also burned, the total loss being $75,000.

CONNECTICUT'S WORST STORM.

New Haven, Conn., Feb. 17.—The most severe snowstorm of the season begun in Connecticut at 8 a. m. The wind was from the north, blowing 35 miles an hour. Railroad trains were delayed by the drifting snow and street cars were stalled.

SNOW IN BOSTON.

Boston, Feb. 17.—A snowstorm began here early this morning. The high wind is causing the snow to drift which promises to make trouble for railway lines.

GOV. TAFT'S PHILIPPINE PLAN.

At First Would Give People a Qualified Suffrage—This Should Be Enlarged Through Education in English Language And in Theory of American Institutions.

Washington, Feb. 17.—Gov. Taft in his testimony before the senate committee on the Philippines today, stated more succinctly than he has heretofore done, his theory—which he said is also the thebry of the Philippine commission—as to what Congress should do in the way of supplying the Philippine people with a form of government. His plan is first to give the people a qualified suffrage with a gradual growth in popular government, which should be enlarged through education in the English language and in American institutions; second, to institute within a reasonably short time a local legislature to consist of two bodies, one to be chosen by vote and the other to be appointive; third, to permit the islands to send two or three representatives to Washington. In reply to questions Gov. Taft said he agreed with Gen. Funston that the establishment of a popular assemblage would give opportunity to demagogues to stir up the people, but that he did not include in this designation all persons who are opposed to American control. There are, he said, many men in the islands who conscientiously oppose the domination of the United States. To grant independence, would, he thought, have the effect of consigning the 90 per cent of uneducated people in the islands to the same servile position they held under Spanish rule. He thought there should be a declaration on the part of the United States of its intention to hold the islands indefinitely with the understanding that when they are suitable for such a condition they may be given a quasi-independence. Such a pronouncement by this country would be welcomed by many and would do much good. Many of the common people do not, he said, know the difference between independence and dependence and many of the better informed have not followed the agitation for indpendence to its last analysis. Some of the agitators seem, he said, to count on a protectorate by the United States. If the government of the islands should now be turned over to the islanders themselves there would be nothing less than an oligarchy, they having no idea of civil government.

RESULST OF AN EARTHQUAKE.

Two Thousand Persons, Mostly Women and Children, Perished at Shamaka—Four Thousand Houses Destroyed—Thirty-four Villages in Vicinity Also Suffered.

Baku, Russian Transcaucasia, Feb. 17.—Details which are slowly arriving at Baku from Shamaka, show that 2,000 persons, mostly women and children, perished as a result of the earthquake last week and that four thousand houses were destroyed.

Thirty-four villages of the country surrounding Shamaka also suffered.

To add to the terrors of the neighborhood a volcano near the village of Marasy, eastward of Shamaka, has broken out into active eruption. A great crevasse has appeared, whence immense flames and streams of lava are being thrown out. The course of the river Geonchaika has been altered in consequence of its bed being damned with earth which had been disturbed by the earthquake.

Battalions of guards and detachments of soldiers with tents have been dispatched to Shamaka to aid in the work of rescue.

The Red Cross society is active in alleviating distress.

MASKED MEN OVERPOWER JAILER

St. Louis, Feb. 17.—A special to the Post-Dispatch from New Madrid, Mo., says that last night a crowd of masked men overpowered the jailer and took a negro, Louis Wright, a short distance from town and hanged him. Richard and Pringle's negro minstrels gave an entertainment there Saturday night when an altercation arose between one of the musicians and some of the white town boys. Several of the boys undertook to take the musicians out, when the negroes on the stage began to shoot. Several whites in the audience were hit, but no one was seriously hurt. The negroes ran out the back way to their private car, which was soon surrounded by armed men, but no violence was done owing to the arrival of the town marshal. All the negroes were put in jail and as the result of an examination the name of the one who did the shooting was discovered. He was lynched and the others will be released. Several of the prisoners were badly beaten Saturday night.