The Somerset Herald.

EDWARD SCULL, Editor and Proprietor.

WEDNESDAY.....January 11, 1882.

THE Prohibitionists will meet in State Convention, at Harrisburg, on the 19th of this month.

THE losses by fire in Philadelphia during the past year are said to amount to nearly two millions of dollars.

REFORMER MAPES' journal, the *Petroleum World*, kicked the bucket with the close of the year. It died of too much Wolfe.

ON Tuesday of last week Postmaster General Howe and Attorney General Brewster entered upon the duties of their new positions.

THE proprietors of the hotel at Bellows Falls, Vt., have been sued for $20,000, for selling liquor to one Good, who died of alcoholism.

ONE hundred and ninety-eight steamships were wrecked during the year 1881, the largest number ever lost in a like period since steam was applied to ocean navigation.

THE public debt was decreased during the month of December $12,733,623.56, and the decrease for the six months from June 30th to December 31st was $75,107,094.89.

SOME of his friends are trying to get up a boom in favor of Judge Black for President. The meaning of it is said to be to keep Pennsylvania out of Tilden's clutches in 1884.

THE end of the Guiteau trial is at last in sight. The evidence is all in, and it is thought that another week will be sufficient for the lawyers' speeches, the Judge's charge and the jury's verdict.

A BRACE of polygamous missionaries from Utah were roughly handled by a London mob, while attempting to hold religious (?) services, and were obliged to seek refuge in a police station.

THE Girard estate, in the Quaker City, is growing steadily, the income of the property for the year just closed being $900,000. Friends of the Trust believe the income will soon reach a round million.

Gov. HOYT on Wednesday issued a proclamation declaring the payment, cancellation, extinguishment, and final discharge of $421,851.60 of the principal of the public debt of the State for the year ending Dec. 30, 1881.

THE State line between Pennsylvania and Ohio has recently been surveyed, and is now being marked by stone monuments which project one foot above the ground. They are set four feet deep and are dressed to a point and appropriately inscribed.

PHILADELPHIA dispatches say that Wolfe was in that city last week trying to make a dicker with the Democratic leaders to run a hybred ticket—part "reformer," part Democratic. The deal failed because Wolfe wanted the candidate for Governor.

THE Tammany and anti-Tammany Democrats in the New York Legislature have locked horns. No organization can be effected, the Tammany men holding the balance of power and refusing to join in with the regulars. John Kelly is still Boss.

THE policy holders in the Lycoming Mutual Fire Insurance Company will not be agreeably surprised to learn that the receiver has laid an assessment of twenty per cent. upon their notes. This assessment, it is said, will pay the debts of the company and close it up.

THE experts who examined the books of the "death-rattle" insurance company, called the "World Mutual Insurance Company," of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, found that during the ten months that the concern did business, its officers divided $40,000 among themselves.

POSTMASTERS throughout the country are appealing to the department at Washington for protection against the small-pox. Four postmasters have died from the disease, contracted, it is supposed, from infected mail matter. General Hatton should have all his men vaccinated.

WASHINGTON dispatches say that between four and five hundred persons called on Guiteau on New Year's day. That kind of people, by catering to his vanity, have induced the miserable creature to play the pranks he has before the court that holds his life in its hands.

THE Secretary of the Treasury has decided to ask Congress for an appropriation for additional vault room at the sub-Treasury at San Francisco, there being so much silver stored there that the Assistant Treasurer declined to receive any more from the Collector of the Port, on the ground that he had no proper place to store it.

THERE is a committee appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury, now counting the money in the vaults of the Assistant U. S. Treasurer at New York. They will have to count about 800 tons of silver, amounting to $26,000,000. There is also $57,000,000 in gold and $5,000,000 in notes. The work is expected to occupy three weeks.

WE last week published an item to the effect that ex-President Hayes had refused to subscribe to the Garfield monument fund. The story is denied on authority, and is said to have been started from malice to that gentleman.

IT is said the friends of Hon. Samuel Butler, our present State Treasurer, will urge him before the next Convention as a candidate for Governor. Mr. Butler's record as a legislator and as Treasurer, shows him to be an intelligent, careful, prudent man, and worthy of any honor the State can bestow upon him.

FROM all parts of the country comes intelligence of the rapid spread of small-pox. Large cities, as a rule, are the seat of this dangerous disease, but it is now scattered all over the country, and is said to be particularly violent in the far West, which has been so rapidly filling up with foreigners who as a class are hostile to vaccination.

THE Legislature at its last session passed an act authorizing the State Treasurer to make a loan of ten million dollars to refund the outstanding loans about falling due. The bids for this new loan were opened at Harrisburg on Wednesday last, and the awards were made at 3, 3½ and 4 per cent., and at these rates a premium of nearly $400,000 was paid the State.

This speaks eloquently for the credit of Pennsylvania under Republican rule, and proves that the management of the Treasury Department has been such as to inspire capitalists with confidence. More than double the amount of money required was bid for.

THERE is a general growl along the line of half-breed papers because the President in making his Cabinet appointments has chosen Stalwarts for his advisers. What would these gentlemen have? Would they, under like circumstances, have gone outside the circle of their friends for counsellors? The men thus far selected are all known to the country as able and experienced gentlemen; no one dare say, or even hint, that they are dishonest or incapable, or that they are not among the staunchest and truest Republicans, who will command confidence and respect, and the President would have been foolish, indeed, to select as advisers those who are not in harmony with his views.

FROM all sections of our broad land comes the same reports of prosperity and lucrative business during the past year. Trade and labor have flourished and been amply rewarded, and everywhere contentment and high hopes of continued success are to be found. If people will take care to avoid extravagance, live within their means, and get out of debt, the present year, if blessed with full crops, will witness a further advance in every branch of industry. Past experience has taught us that prosperity brings with it the spirit of speculation, and in the hurry to get rich, men will abandon the ordinary and sure paths of business and rush into speculations, the failure of which endanger the prosperity of entire communities. We trust that the predictions which are now being made of a reverse in business may prove untrue, and we are satisfied they will, if prudence and economy are not cast aside, and the spirit of speculation be held in check.

IT is announced that Gen. Grant has become convinced that General Fitz-John Porter is a greatly injured man and has been unjustly condemned. This conclusion has been reached after a careful reading of the testimony in the case, and the reports of the rebel officers who took part in the second battle of Bull Run, which were not before the court martial, but are now accessible. General Grant says he believes that "had all of the testimony and documents now available been brought before the court martial there would have been no verdict against Gen. Porter. The orders of the Confederate Generals show that the Confederate army was just where Porter said it was, and not where the court martial was led to believe it was. For nineteen years I have believed that the finding of the court was a just one and warranted by the facts. But now I see that I am in error, and the fact that for twelve years, when I was General of the Army and President of the United States, I had it in my power to do General Porter justice and did not, makes me feel under obligations to do all that I possibly can to remove the odium and disgrace from him now."

Of course, this change in General Grant's opinions will have large influence in many quarters, but there are those who will not agree with him, and the bill, which we presume will be again presented to Congress for the restoration of General Porter to his former position in the Army, will meet with very determined opposition.

GLEANINGS.

There is a good deal being written about "the Stalwart programme." The Stalwart programme is to do right.

SOMEBODY claims to have found gold in Iowa. No doubt of it. Thousands of men have found gold in Iowa and in Kansas and Missouri as well. They have found it in paying quantities, but they mine it with the plow and reaper, and some of it they drive to the market on four legs. It is genuine gold, however, and whether stocks go up or go down the laborer gets his share, and if he sticks to it he is sure to make his pile.—*Kansas City Journal.*

THE organ of the "Saints" of Utah announces that 1,500 converts to the Mormon faith were made in Great Britain during the year; a majority being women. When a proselyter or a procuress is discovered, he or she is arrested and punished, but there is no law under which the Mormon "missionaries," engaged in the same business, on the wholesale plan, can be punished. As long as the infamous work is done under the cloak of religion it is tolerated, the more shame to religion.—*Inter-Ocean.*

THE Wolfites and the Democrats who have been dickering for a mule ticket for next fall have got so far that the proposition has been made to give Wolfe the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, and the Democrats the Supreme Judge, Secretary of Internal Affairs and the Legislature. The proposition has not been accepted, but only because the Democratic chairman says that the Wolfites should come out boldly for the Democratic ticket instead of offering themselves for sale.—*Harrisburg Telegraph.*

THERE is a row among the Democrats of the New York Legislature, the usual Tammany and anti-Tammany fight. John Kelly and his adherents were kicked out of the last Democratic State Convention. New York City elected enough Tammany members of the Legislature to hold the balance of power in the Senate and House. The anti-Tammany Democrats cannot organize the Legislature without their votes, and Kelly is disposed to avenge his rejection from the State Convention by now dictating terms at Albany. The anti-Tammany Democrats squirm over the medicine Kelly prescribes, but they must swallow it or lose the offices. The Tammany men refused to go into the Democratic caucus on Monday night.

A SCHEME OF SECESSION.

It will not be surprising if 1884 sees a rather singular shifting of political positions in this country. In the first place the indications are that the South, heretofore so solidly Democratic, will veer entirely around, and become a very stronghold of Republicanism. The colored vote of those States, reinforced by the white Republicans and the liberal Democrats, will be too strong for the Bourbons, and that such a combination may be looked for is quite evident to the close observer. Before the Presidential year it is not at all improbable that a majority of the Southern States will have followed the lead of Virginia and joined the Republican army for good. There are dozens of influences at work to this end, and such a result is in the direct line of probability. This secession from Bourbonism will have to be made good, if made good at all, by proselyting at the North, and already the work has begun. There are a half-dozen newspapers of prominence that are preparing to rush from the Republican ranks, where they have maintained a doubtful standing, over to the arms of Democracy. The Chicago *Tribune* is one among them, and is already flirting and dallying with its old lover, preparatory to yielding everything asked of it. Other papers are exhibiting like anxiety to be won, and these organs are backed by a number of politicians in and out of Congress who only want the faintest excuse to jump clean into the middle of the party they affect to oppose. That this secession, if carried out as contemplated, will take some of the closer Northern States into the Democratic fold can hardly be doubted, so that the next Presidential contest is hardly likely to be a sectional one, but to show a closely contested field from Maine to Florida and all along the line. Of course, it is possible that the schemes now being concocted and put into execution may miscarry and a lukewarm and insincere support of the party continue to be given by the newspapers so anxious to shake off the allegiance of Republicanism; but the plan, the wish, and the hope are none the less apparent. From this time forth efforts will be made by so called Republican journals to create dissatisfaction with President Arthur and his administration. The work can be prosecuted under the guise of party friendship than as an open opponent, but as soon as the opportunity is ripe all disguise will be thrown off and the old sell-out of 1871-72 will be repeated. The honest Republicans of the country who have been accustomed to gain their impressions of men and affairs from these secret enemies of the party should be warned in time. The plan, and it is one that is boasted about in private, is to carry them over to the enemy under the plea that the present administration is unworthy their confidence and support. Let the columns of these journals and the course of their allies and coadjutors in Congress and elsewhere be watched, and the timeliness of this warning will be verified.—*Inter Ocean.*

A Bid for Guiteau's Body.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—Mr. Scoville has received a bona fide proposition from a medical gentleman for the body of Charles J. Guiteau. This gentleman whose name Mr. Scoville declines to make public at present, has offered to pay down immediately $1,000, the amount of the purchase money, in consideration that he shall have the body of the prisoner as soon as the exactions of the law have been met, to dispose of absolutely as he shall see fit. He also agrees to take his chances of waiting one month or twenty years for the consummation of the bargain on Guiteau's part. This somewhat liberal proposition was submitted to Guiteau, and seemed to impress him quite favorably. After reflecting a moment, he suggested: "I think I ought to bring more than that; perhaps some other fellow will offer $2,000—then I can pay my debts; and if I get a new trial, that miserable Corkhill can't bring on a lot of fellows just to swear how much I owe them."

Death of Hon. C. C. Clay.

CHATTANOOGA, Jan. 4.—A special announces the death of Hon. C. C. Clay at his country residence, near Huntsville, Ala., on Tuesday. He was buried in Huntsville yesterday with great pomp.

Guiteau's Sister.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—The *Republican* to-morrow will publish a long letter from Mrs. Francis Guiteau Scoville, the prisoner's sister, in reply to a recently published paragraph to the effect that "the only person who really seems to care what becomes of Guiteau is his sister."

Mr. Scoville says: "I deem that such statement calls for correction. Judging from the 300 or 400 letters which I have opened since the court adjourned Wednesday afternoon, to say nothing of newspapers sent with favorable extracts marked, I feel quite sure that a great many people not only care what becomes of him, but they have a decided desire that he shall have fair play. Among these letters, more than a quarter are especially sympathetic. A large number of the letters are requests for autographs couched in kind language, and in many instances they show a profound sympathy with him in what they are pleased to call his misfortune. Some speak of their sorrow at the suffering of President Garfield, but add "they are convinced he was honest in his delusion that God demanded the sacrifice," and hope he will have fair play. What they will think of the cutting short the defence and the declaration of Mr. Davidge for the prosecution that this case must be closed, although there were nine of our best witnesses in waiting to go on the stand (and all Mr. Reed asked in his eloquent plea for "this penniless, demented creature" was but one day more), remains to be seen. A time will come when the people will get the truth in this as well as in other matters, and they will demand a reckoning. God grant it may not come too late. The country—no country—can afford to see any injustice done anywhere. I should not have taken upon myself the responsibility of "rushing into print" at this juncture did it not seem to me that an effort is coming from some quarter to have it appear that the defence in the Guiteau case is becoming discouraged. Just how it is expected that this view in the newspapers is to affect the decision in the court, I cannot comprehend. Be that as it may, the one who probably cares more than any person living for the prisoner and his defence, begs leave to state that, so far as she is concerned, there is no discouragement. I shall stand by him against the whole world, against my whole family even, as I have stood since that fated 2d of July until the end, whatever that may be, shall come. Because I know that his cause is righteous, because to him it was the command of God, and he obeyed against his own will and inclinations. "This faith shall be accounted unto him for righteousness." If the Lord wills I can say good-bye to him on the scaffold even as calmly as if it were good night, so well assured am I of his eternal salvation.

"FRANCES GUITEAU SCOVILLE."

The Home of Giants.

Captain Martin Van Buren Bates, who lives on a farm near Seville, Ohio, is 7 feet 11½ inches high and weighs 478 pounds. Mrs. Bates is 7 feet 11 inches high and weighs 413 pounds. It is a difficult matter to convey an adequate idea of the proportions of such a dwelling as the one occupied by the Ohio giants. A door that is six feet six inches high is a large-sized opening in the side of a house—that is a dwelling house, not a cathedral. But the doors in the domicile of the Bates giants are ten feet high, and the knobs are nearly as high as the reporter's head. The house was built by Captain Bates in 1876 and is elegantly furnished. In the main building on the ground floor are, besides the spacious hall, the bed chamber of the giants, a sitting room and a parlor. The couch upon which the big couple sleep was made especially for them, and it is a curiosity to look at. It is extensive enough to give the great people room to stretch in, and it looks as big as an ordinary-sized floor. It is really ten feet long, wide in proportion, and about twice as high as a common bed. The magnificent dressing case is also a huge affair, with a glass upon it nearly as big as the side of a house. In the sitting-room is a piano of ordinary size itself, but it is mounted on blocks two feet high, so that the instrument is way up in the air, out of the reach of common folks. There are two rocking-chairs in this room that are so big that the reporter had to climb up into a "high chair." It is very expensive for the giant to live, as they have to pay such an exhorbitant price for everything they wear. For instance, it costs the captain $30 a pair for boots.

Mountain Mormonism.

UNIONTOWN, PA., January 5.—The *Standard* of to-day says Revs. Ingle and Wilson, Mormon missionaries, have been holding a series of meetings in this and Somerset counties, and strange as it may seem, people who are surrounded by free schools and Christian churches are daily becoming converts to Mormonism. In conversation with one of the missionaries, as they are pleased to call themselves, he said: "Our fondest hopes of success in Fayette county have been more than realized." One of the missionaries, James Ingle, was born and raised in this township, a few miles from this place, and married a respectable lady near Farmington several years ago. He drifted to the far west where he became a member of the Mormon church. They are boldmen of limited education and ordinary intelligence, and seem to have been schooled for their profession, never losing an opportunity to present their religious views, and always meeting any argument against their faith with a carefully arranged sophistical argument, well calculated to deceive. It is a compliment to a community to see a school house full to overflowing to hear a Mormon missionary preach, while an orthodox prayer meeting a hundred yards distant is postponed for want of members. True, many are attracted through curiosity, but the opportunity is improved to instil into the minds of the young the poisonous and demoralizing doctrines of polygamy. Before the enemies of polygamy in Fayette and Somerset counties are aware, a long train will fly to the West, freighted with a hundred families, that, through ignorance and undue influence, will pitch headlong into Mormonism.

The Dead-Lock in Albany.

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 5.—The dead-lock in the Legislature continues, without hope of a break. Both house have adjourned until Tuesday.

More Frauds.

YANKTON, D. T., Jan. 4.—During the past two days some interesting developments have been made regarding the Douglass county warrant and bond frauds. About the first of last February, Walter H. Brown appeared at the Executive Office with a petition bearing the requisite number of names to secure the organization of Douglass county. In order to prove conclusively that Brown, Stillwell and Hoyt, the persons named in the petition for commissioners, were bona fide settlers, Brown had entered the names of all three of them at the Land Office, and the names of several other persons, some of whom are known to be myths. For these frauds upon the Land Office Brown will probably be brought before the United States Commission in a day or two. The recent investigations have almost satisfied Governor Ordway that E. B. Hoyt, one of the commissioners appointed, is a myth, and as Stillwell failed to qualify, it now appears that the whole swindling scheme of procuring the organization of the county by forgery and perjury will be held illegal, and all of Brown's transactions in issuing the warrants and bonds will prove invalid.

C. F. Strong, a young man who appeared at Springfield last spring, and whose home is supposed to be at Newark, N. J., was employed to get up warrants and bonds in an artistic manner. Strong became dissipated and disclosed the whole proceeding. School districts were formed and a house built in the following manner: A shanty eight by ten feet was built on one side of the town line of the so called county. An officer moved into it, posted up a notice of a school meeting, and after the required number of days' notice this lone official would unanimously vote to build a schoolhouse costing $1500, and issue bonds therefor. As soon as this performance was over, the shanty was moved its length across the line into the next township. The same comedy was enacted and authority was granted to issue $1500 more in school bonds. In this way one small shanty was made to answer for two districts and to represent three thousand dollars in school-houses.

The friends of McCoy are struggling hard to cover up his tracks by making false affidavits, which they are sending to Washington in order to procure McCoy's appointment as United States Marshal before a judicial investigation can be made.

A Remarkable and Horrible Death.

BELAIR, Md., Jan. 5.—Thos. Briley, an aged man who has been working about the Jarrettsville neighborhood, met with a horrible death a few days ago. He was addicted to strong drink, and on Friday night about 9 o'clock was seen to enter a window of the blacksmith shop of James A. Ammon, near Jarrettsville, presumably for shelter. Nothing more was seen of him until Saturday about 2 P. M., when the occupants of the shop, on entering, found Briley hanging head downward from the window sill. On crawling in the night before his foot had caught between a board nailed across the window and a workbench standing close by, and he had fallen and hung head downward from that time until he was discovered the following afternoon. In his terrible struggles he had torn nearly all the clothing from his person, but was unable to free himself from his dreadful position. When found his head was swollen to twice its usual size, but he was still able to speak, and asked for water. He was removed to the house of his brother, Nicholas Briley, near the furnace, and Dr. Jarrett sent for, but the poor man died on Sunday at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. He was buried at Bethel on Monday.

Terrible Disaster in Ohio

CLEAVELAND, Ohio, Jan. 3.—During the Knights of Pythias' festival at Shanesville, Tuscarawas county, Saturday evening, the floor gave way, precipitating the company, numbering two hundred, to the floor below. Two persons were instantly killed, ten others fatally injured, and between seventy and eighty more or less bruised or burned. The building took fire almost instantly, producing a scene of the wildest excitement. The lights were nearly all extinguished, leaving the shrieking, struggling mass of humanity to grope their way from the ruins almost in the dark. By the prompt action of those who escaped uninjured, and other citizens summoned by the terrible alarm, the fire was subdued, but not until quite a number had been more or less burned. The list of killed and wounded will number nearly one hundred. The night was very cold, and the scene is described as frightful in the extreme. The names of the killed and injured are not given.

What Postmasters Shall Do.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—The Superintendent of the railway mail service has issued a circular to the division superintendents in which he says: "In view of the prevalence of smallpox throughout the country at the present time you are instructed in every case where a report is made to you in regard to the matter with the request that mail communication be suspended between the infected localities and others to take necessary action at once without waiting to consult this office. This is necessary in order that the department shall not in any way be responsible for spreading any contagious diseases."

Suicide by Fasting.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—Miss Chloe Ann Violet, who began a fast six days ago in Alexandria, Va., under an insane delusion that God had commanded her to commit suicide by fasting, died last night. Although she claimed to have begun the fast about sixty days ago she was not all that time without nourishment. Several times a small portion of milk was introduced without discovery into the water she drank, and lately meat extracts have been given as medicine. There seems to be no doubt, however, that she was without food for forty-three consecutive days.

Terrible Massacre.

LONDON, January 6.—Intelligence has been received at Liverpool from Acera, which confirms the report from Cape Coast Castle, received in November last, of the massacre of two hundred young girls by order of the King of Ashantee. The girls were prisoners, who had been purposely captured for the massacre in raids on neighboring tribes.

PICKET'S LETTER.

WASHINGTON, January 3, 1882.

The President's reception yesterday is destined to become a memorable one in the history of the White House. The weather was all that could be desired, and the walking perfectly dry, which is seldom the case at this time of year.

The fact of this being President Arthur's first reception brought out large numbers of those who otherwise would not attempt the task of approaching the White House on New Year's day; and many went to grasp the hand of the man who has, since called to the position of chief magistrate, shown the gentleness of disposition, the tenderness of heart and, withal, the strength and nobleness of character that makes a man among men great.

This was none of your spread eagle receptions, but one that showed the good social sense of the President. I know a goodly number of the attendants about and around the White House, and I was told that Mr. Arthur forbid the display of bunting and flags in decorating the place, as he considered it undignified and unbecoming the occasion.

Mrs. Senator Don Cameron wore white silk with front breadth trimmed with gold brocade satin. The dress was also trimmed with point lace and pearl fringe; ornaments, diamonds. Her attire was universally admired for its great beauty.

At 12:45 the Oldest Inhabitants' association, marshaled by Mr. S. Masi, numbering twenty-five or more, called, accompanied by the little band of "Associated Surviving Soldiers of the War of 1812." The general reception to citizens was at one o'clock. A great number called, and there would have been more had it not been for the very cold weather.

The civilians came next and occupied the balance of the day given to the reception. At this time a continuous line of humanity, four deep, stretched from the main entrance to the White House down the walk from a hundred yards beyond the entrance gate to the grounds.

All the details were managed with skill and forethought, resulting in system and order throughout the day. PICKET.

We were compelled to "boil Picket's letter down," as we published a full account of the President's reception on the fourth page of this paper.—ED.

A Mystery Unraveled at Last.

CINCINNATI, O, Jan. 4.—A special from Ashland, Ky., says: "The men arrested for the Gibbons murder are William Neal, Ellis Craft and Geo. Ellis, all white. All of them were arrested on Monday night and kept quietly at the hotel in custody of Constable Heflin. George Ellis confessed to the constable. He says Craft and Neal awakened him on the night of the murder and urged him to go with them to Gibbons' house. He went reluctantly. They entered by a window, and Neal and Craft assaulted the two girls.

Emma Thomas recognized Neal and said she would tell her mother. Robert, the boy, was then about to give the alarm, when Craft struck him on the head with an axe, killing him instantly. Craft then told Fanny that her time to die had come, and amid the piteous cries of the child for mercy he struck her on the head and killed her instantly. Neal then killed Emma Thomas in the same way.

Craft and Neal at first denied Ellis' story, but Neal confessed this afternoon, and both he and Ellis waived examination. Craft will have a hearing on Thursday. Ellis and Neal are married. Craft is single. They were all present when the Gibbons residence was burned, and one of them drove the hearse at the funeral and another was a pall-bearer. Crowds have been gathering all day at Catlettsburg, and threats of lynching are common. Suspicion at first pointed to Mr. Gibbons, the father of the two children, as the author of the murder, physicians having stated after examination of the bodies, that the girls had not been assaulted but Gibbons proved conclusively that he was innocent.

Small-Pox Spreading.

WASHINGTON, January 5.—Reports received at the postoffice department indicate that small-pox is spreading throughout the country. A letter received at the department from a postmaster in Pennsylvania says that the disease has appeared in his town, and a doctor who is treating a number of cases persists in calling at the office for his mail. Many citizens have notified the postmaster that they will refuse to receive their mails if these visits are allowed, and the official is in a quandery and asks for advice. He has been informed that he has no power to prevent persons calling for their mails, and under these circumstances the matter must be mutually arranged between the citizens and the physician.

The President this afternoon issued through the State Department a proclamation relative to small-pox. It directs a more rigid enforcement of quarantine regulations.

Frightful Accident in Maine.

KENNEBUNK, Maine Jan. 2.—As a train on the Boston and Maine railroad crossed the iron bridge at Wells this morning the bridge gave away, after the engine, baggage and parlor cars had crossed and precipitated the other cars down an embankment and they immediately caught fire and were totally destroyed. There were about 100 passengers on board. One man whose name is unknown was killed and some fifteen or twenty passengers were more or less injured. A special train from Portland has arrived with physicians on board.

The Extra Legislative Salary Case.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 4.—A writ of error in the case of Charles S. Wolfe against State Treasurer Butler, being the famous legislative salary case, was taken up to-day to the Supreme Court. The Court will set a day for its argument in the near future.

Part of a Poor House Burned.

CHICAGO, Jan. 5.—The insane department of the Macon county poor house was burned last night. Loss $14,000. All the inmates were rescued except two, who, however, are believed to be at large.

Logan Against Fitz-John Porter.

WASHINGTON, January 4.—Senator Logan says he has not changed and will not change his mind on Fitz-John Porter. He will fight him, if the case comes up again, as is probable.

A Frightful Scene.

QUINCY, ILL., January 5.—During the funeral service of the Rev. Simon Kuhlehenhoelter, at the Salem Evangelical Church this afternoon, a frightful panic occurred. In the rush for the street some forty persons were injured, six ladies seriously. The church is one of the largest in the city, and was filled by the friends of the deceased. All the seats were filled and the standing room in the aisles and about the door was occupied. It is said that a seat in the gallery broke down, and the people in the vicinity thought the gallery was giving way, and the rush commenced. Men women and children poured out of the doors leading from the main floors and galleries into the hall leading to the street, all effort to stop them being fruitless. The people were frantic, and would listen to nothing. The scene that followed was indescribable. The shrieks of the women combined with the shouts of the men who seemed to be frightened out of their senses, were fearful. In a few minutes the doorway was blocked up, and during the greater portion of the time half a dozen women were lying on the steps under the feet of the terror-stricken crowd. A few men who had recovered from their fright worked heroically to rescue the unfortunate women, and succeeded in extricating them from their perilous position. As fast as taken out they were removed to houses in the vicinity and cared for.

It was found that several were seriously and probably fatally injured. Mrs. Spiker, a married lady aged about 45 years, received internal injuries, from which, it is believed she will die. Maggie Meyer, a young lady, was bruised in the face by boot heels, and injured internally. Mary Keyes, Mary Ann Retter, Minnie Brundy and Mrs. Deckhut, all young women, were seriously injured, and their recovery is doubtful. Mrs. Doleman, an elderly lady; Mrs. and Miss Lohman and Miss Wiseman were also seriously injured, Rev. Dr. Hellenback was caught in the crowd and had a rib broken. Many who had been knocked down and received only slight injuries, were taken home as soon as rescued, and their names could not be ascertained. There was no cause whatever for the panic. After the excitement, which lasted for half an hour had subsided, the funeral ceremonies were resumed.

A Crank With a Mission.

READING, January 5.—Officer Burkholder took to the county insane assylum to-day a crank who gave his name as August Lincoln. He is lean and lanky, has long hair, a wild eye and a bushy beard. He came into the station house and introduced himself as the son of the late President Lincoln. Said he: "My mother was the daughter of King Wilhelm of Germany, and a fine lady she was, too. Abraham Lincoln was my father if you will remember. I, being his son, deserve better treatment than I am receiving. I think I have been deprived of my rights about long enough. The country has been disturbed by sectional strife for many years. Guiteau killed Garfield, but that didn't stop the dissensions at Washington. Guiteau claims to have been inspired. Now, I think the only way to stop all this is to 'remove' the Deity that inspired Guiteau. I am now on my way to Washington to kill this mysterious being. That'll stop all further inspiration. As an ex-president's son I'll have extraordinary privileges, and may be president myself some day. I am now on my way to Washington to take possession of the White House." When the carriage drove up to take him to the poor house he stepped into it with a grand flourish, and the officials good-naturedly humored him.

The Gibbons Murderers.

CATLETTSBURG, Ky., January 5.—Judge Brown fearing that a great crowd from Ashland would prevent a hearing of the case of the Gibbons family murderers, ordered a steamer to get up steam and take the prisoners to Maysville, Ky., for safe keeping. Owing to the difficulty of getting the prisoners on board the sheriff put them on a ferry boat and started down the river. A mob took possession of the steamer Mountain Girl and started in pursuit. A steamer met the boat with the prisoners at Riverton and transferred the Maysville Guards to it. The Mountain Girl, a mile or two behind at the time, abondoned the pursuit on learning that the prisoners were guarded by militia. No boisterous demonstrations attended the landing here, but it required the utmost efforts of the civil and military officers to keep the immense crowd from rushing on the boat.

The Shoe Box Man Captured.

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 4.—James W. Miller, the Catfish bond robber, was arrested at Toronto, Canada, yesterday. On December 22, Miller escaped from the Western Penitentiary by concealing himself in a shoe box which was hauled from the prison. C. A. Street is now in jail here for aiding in Miller's escape. Warden Wright, of the Penitentiary, was informed that Miller would call at the Toronto postoffice for a letter and telegraphed the chief there to arrest him. The information as to Miller's whereabouts came from a sporting house in this city.

Mail Robbery.

BISMARCK, D. T., Jan. 6.—At Glendine, two hundred miles west of here, the railroad express office was broken open yesterday. Three mail sacks from Fort Keogh, Custer and Miles City, bound east, were taken out, cut open and the contents abstracted. The sacks were then thrown near the track. Two watchmen were sleeping in the building at the time. There is no clue to the robbers. The value of the mail is not known.

A Five-Year-Old Murderer.

SPRINGFIELD, MO., Jan. 3.—During a quarrel between two little children, named Williams and Gates, aged seven and five years, respectively, the younger of the two secured a revolver belonging to one of the elder members of the family, and, discharging the weapon at his little adversary, killed him instantly.

An Indian Murderer to be Hanged.

YANKTON, D. T., Jan. 6.—Brave Bear, a member of Sitting Bull's band of hostile Sioux, was found guilty yesterday of the murder of David Johnson, near Fort Sully, several years ago. The death penalty will be pronounced on him on Monday next.

The Assassin's Law Points.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—Messrs. Scoville and Reed last night finished the preparation of the prayers to be offered by the defense to the court for instruction to the jury. There are fourteen prayers. The main point raised are that the legal test of insanity is whether the act was done as the result of an insane delusion or committed under an influence or power which the accused could not resist by the reason of his unsoundness of mind; that if the accused would not have done the act but for such insane delusion, he is not guilty of the crime charged against him; but if the jury have a reasonable doubt as to the insanity of the accused they should give him the benefit of the doubt; that the jury may take into account manifestations of feeling on the part of witnesses; that the jury have a right to consider the suppression of evidence by the prosecution as raising such evidence, if produced, would have been unfavorable to the prosecution; that if the jury believed the prisoner of sound mind, but without malice in the commission of the act, they should render a verdict of manslaughter; that the jury should find a verdict of not guilty upon the counts of the indictment representing the death of the President in the District of Columbia, and that a knowledge that this act was contrary to law would not make the accused liable to punishment if he did it under the insane delusion that it was commanded by God.

A rough estimate of the amount of money so far disbursed for witness fees and mileage by the Marshal places the cost of the Government witnesses in the Guiteau trial at $4,500, and the witnesses for the defense at $2,294.20. There are many witnesses whose bills not yet been paid. Until the termination of the trial no one is to see Guiteau in his cell, except his counsel and brother and sister. Warden Crocker says the assassin has grown more serious and thoughtful within the past few days, and believes that his egotism is giving way to a feeling of despondency at the prospect before him.

Curiosities of the Census.

WASHINGTON, January 5.—A bulletin just issued from the Census Office showing the approximate areas of the several States and Territories containing much matter of curious interest.

Texas, the largest state, has an area of 262,290 square miles, and Rhode Island, the smallest, has 1,085 square miles. Nye county, Nevada, is the largest county in the United States, covering 24,000 square miles. San Bernardino, Cal., with 23,000 miles, is the next largest. California has four other counties, each of them as large as Massachusetts, three that are larger than Connecticut, and fifteen others that are each larger than Delaware. Sioux county, Nebraska, contains 21,070 square miles. Oregon has also several large counties, Grant, Umatilla and Lake, containing respectively 17,500, 14,260 and 12,000 square miles. Persidio, with 12,000 miles, is the largest county in Texas. The smallest county in the United States is New York, State of New York, and has the largest population.

The largest of the Territories is Dakota, which is 147,020 square miles, and the largest county in any of the Territories is Custer county, Montana, with 26,500 square miles.

A Terrific Explosion.

OSKALOOSA, Ia., Jan. 5.—A terrific explosion of 500 kegs of powder, the property of the American Powder Company, occurred here this afternoon. It was caused by three boys—John Phillips, son of the mayor; Gerald Joyce and John Stedman—who used the side of the powder magazine, a wooden structure, as a target for rifle practice. They were instantly killed and their bodies frightfully mangled and burned, and were hurled from fifty to two hundred yards away. Nearly all the plate-glass windows in the business quarter were broken by the concussion, and many houses in the southern part of the city were badly damaged. The loss will aggregate not less than $20,000. Many persons were injured by falling glass and debris.

A Lively Event.

GRAHAM, TEXAS, Jan. 3.—Yesterday at the jail Deputies Murfee and Melton were giving the prisoners their breakfast. Three brothers named McDonald, murderers of Martin, were led out of the iron cage to be fed, with two other prisoners. The McDonalds suddenly attacked the deputies. Melton was shot in the head and Murfee killed. The murderers fled followed by citizens. A running fire was kept up and all three of the McDonalds were shot and killed. Two or three citizens were wounded.

What the Greenbackers Will Do.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—Representative Ford, of Missouri, the leader of the greenbackers in congress, says his party will oppose all legislation for the continuance of national banks; that the greenbackers will not only fight any extension of national bank charters, but they will antagonize all refunding legislation, as they believe the bonds should be paid off at once in greenbacks.

The Delaware River Closed.

BORDENTOWN, N. J., Jan. 6.—The Delaware river at this point is frozen over, and the steamboats from this city to Philadelphia have been taken off for the season. Ice men began cutting ice from the ponds in the vicinity yesterday, the ice being 4½ inches thick.

Fiends who Use Dynamite.

SHELBYVILLE, Ind., January 2.—Information reaches here that a saloon kept by two Germans at Palestine, north of this place, has been blown up by dynamite by unknown persons. This is the second building lost by these men in this way within the past three months.

Sad Accident.

WILMINGTON, Jan. 5.—John M'Cullion got his foot fast in a frog on the railroad while clearing snow from the track at Delaware Junction this morning. He was unable to extricate the limb before a train came along and killed him.

That poor bedridden, invalid wife, sister, mother, or daughter, can be made the picture of health by a few bottles of Hop Bitters. Will you let them suffer? when so easily cured.

Desperate Attempt to Escape by Three Convicts in Texas.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 5.—Advices from Graham, Texas, report that the three McDonald boys, murderers of a man named Martin, on Saturday made a desperate effort to escape from jail yesterday, which resulted in their death and the death of one deputy sheriff, besides the wounding of several other persons. About ten o'clock in the morning the McDonald boys were led from their cage to the calaboose, with Joe Boone and Jack Baldwin, two other prisoners, and were given their breakfast by two deputies. One deputy was testing the cage which was empty, and the other deputy, Davis Melton, stood in the doorway of the wooden cell opening from the calaboose to the steel cage, but on entering the calaboose he was shot and instantly killed by the prisoners. The prisoners then made a rush through the floor to the room below and taking Melton with them began their escape. A bloodhound watches the jail, but by a detour they avoided him and took their flight in a southerly direction. By this time the city was excited and the citizens had gathered together and followed them. The prisoners placed their hostage (Melton) behind them, and threatened to shoot him dead if they were fired on. Thus the murderers proceeded some 300 yards, when a citizen deliberately took aim and firing, mortally wounded one of the fugitives, who fell. Deputy Murfee seized the opportunity, broke away and ran. A general fusillade was now begun between the citizens and the escaping prisoners. The latter entrenched themselves in a wood stump. The battle raged for some time. When the shooting ceased the three McDonalds were dead, Melton was shot three times; one man, named Wood, wounded in the thigh, and a waiter, named Jones, the bone of his leg shattered. Baldwin and Boone took no part in the shooting, and were recaptured. Graham was the scene of terrible excitement during the affray.

Mina Muller Avenged.

JERSEY CITY, Jan. 6.—Martin Kokowski was executed in the county jail here shortly after 10 o'clock this morning.

The condemned man slept soundly all night, awakening at 3:30 this morning. He ate a light breakfast and later on received a letter from a prominent Catholic priest bidding him good-bye. At 9 the death warrant was read to him, after which his arms were pinioned and the noose adjusted on his neck. He declared himself innocent, and asked for an hour more in which was refused him. Upon the gallows he protested his innocence and asked God to forgive those who had brought this disgrace upon the state of New Jersey. His neck was broken, and after hanging thirty minutes the body was cut down and given to the undertaker.

The crime for which