The Wheeling Daily Intelligencer.

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The Intelligencer.

Office: Nos. 25 and 27 Fourteenth Street.

A Foul Slander Refuted.

This community will need no explanation of the subjoined correspondence after what appeared in the Sunday papers of this city yesterday, and after what has been current on the streets for several days previous. In order that the very few persons who may not yet be cognizant of the a fair may be fully informed of the subject to which we refer, we subjoin the following dispatch purporting to have been sent from this city:

WHEELING, W. VA., February 17.—Hon. A. W. Campbell, editor of the INTELLIGENCER, of this city, who became prominent in the Chicago Convention because he would not vote for Conkling's resolution to support the nominee of the Convention, has commenced proceedings for a divorce from his wife. One night last week he had arranged to leave this city on a train departing about 10 p. m. He missed the train, whereupon he returned to the editorial room of his paper and worked until 3 o'clock in the morning, when he started home. It seems that Mrs. Campbell, under the impression that her husband had left the city, was entertaining a gentleman who had no business there while the head of the family was absent. Mr. Campbell had hardly got the door of his dwelling unlocked and opened when a man rushed past him out of the house with nothing on but his undergarments, and carrying his clothes on his arm. Mr. Campbell chased the man into a livery stable, two blocks away. Here he had some difficulty in prosecuting his search, as he was opposed by a colored hostler who was friendly to the fugitive, but finally discovered the man crouched down in a dark corner of a stall; drawing him out into the light, Mr. Campbell, who is a man of powerful physique, jerked him to his feet to get a look at his face. On recognizing him, he said: "Oh, it's you, is it? that's all I want to know," and walked away.

Mr. Campbell went to a hotel and spent the remainder of the night. The next day he began a suit of divorce from his wife on the ground of adultery. The man whom he had seen down in the livery stable was George K. Wheat, the leading merchant of this city, and one of our wealthiest men. Mrs. Campbell is young, very beautiful and highly educated. Mr. Campbell married her about four years ago, when she was a teacher in the Female Seminary at Wheeling. She is Campbell's second wife; her maiden name was Mary Hallowell. Mr. Wheat is married and has several grown up children, among whom are four accomplished daughters. The event is the talk of the town, but owing to the prominence of the parties concerned the papers of that city have refrained from mentioning it.

The date of the occurrence (says the Sunday *Leader*) is not given, but rumor fixes it on Tuesday, February 7th

Immediately upon the arrival of the papers in this city the following telegram was forwarded to the *Dispatch*, and also to the Chicago *Times*, in which papers the same telegram was printed:

To the Editor of the Dispatch, Pittsburgh, Pa.:

The dispatch purporting to be from Wheeling *in your issue to-day, relative to* Mrs. A. W. Campbell and George K. Wheat, of this city, is a falsehood of the most atrocious and devilish character, conceived by some cowardly villian for some unknown, revengful purpose. It is known to the public here to be without the slightest foundation in fact, as the lady involved had been on a visit to Weston, in this State, for nearly a week prior to the time the occurrence is alleged to have happened.

[Signed] GEO. K. WHEAT,
A. W. CAMPBELL.

The above card, sent by telegraph, elicited the following prompt reply over the wires from the editors of the paper to which it was sent:

To Messrs. A. W. Campbell and Geo. K. Wheat, Wheeling, W. Va.:

The article in to-day's *Dispatch* was taken from the Philadelphia *Press* of the 17th, where it appeared under most prominent head-lines. We sincerely regret that it should have been used by our telegraph editor, and we will not only make all amends in our power, but will most earnestly join with you in all measures for the discovery and punishment of the perpetrator of the outrage.

Will telegraph you further to-morrow.

DISPATCH PUB. CO.

It will be seen that the telegram purporting to have been from Wheeling was not sent from here at all, but was put on the wires elsewhere, the cowardly villain who got it up not wishing to expose himself to the risk of detection. It is known now to have been set afloat at Pittsburgh. The scandal was furnished from here and put into telegraphic circulation from that city. The matter has been traced that far.

The Sunday papers of Wheeling commented on the matter in their issues of yesterdy as follows. Said the *Leader:*

The facts in the case are that Mrs. Campbell was visiting in Cleveland from about the middle of November last until about the 23d of January, at which time she returned home, bringing with her a lady friend who has been her guest ever since; that during part of her stay at home she was confined to her bed with a severe illness, and that on Thursday, February 2—five days previous to the date of the alleged occurrence—she, in company with her visitor, left on a visit to her sister at Weston, this State, and did not return until last Thursday. This alone stamps the affair as a physical *impossibility*. * * * The newspaper men, anxious to be fully acquainted with all the facts, for use if necessary, gave the whole affair a scare ing investigation, and instead of discovering anything to give foundation to the rumor, found everything to prove that it was all the merest fabrication without even the shadow of truth, and very wisely allowed the whole matter to pass without notice. * * The affair is a most painful misfortune and is to be sadly regretted; but now that the public is in possession of the facts and indubitable circumstances of the case, we are sure that the community will join with us in extending to the innocent victims of the foul slander clear exoneration of all suspicion and a heartfelt sympathy for their great misfortune.

The *Sunday News-Letter*'s comments were as follows:

"The fact has been clearly demonstrated that at the time the circumstances above narrated were said to have transpired Mrs. Campbell was *not in the city*, but the only alibi needed in the case is the denial of Mr. Campbell, who pronounces the story a dastardly lie, *supposed to have originated* from some designing enemy. * * * The originator of the story is at present unknown, and probably *never will be* known. The work of besmirching the character of two innocent persons has been accomplished, and as the slanderer is always a coward who stabs in the dark, he, or she, has doubtless taken good care to cover all evidences of identification. The lady in the case was absent from the city for several days previous to and after the time the affair is reported to have occurred, which fact alone brands the entire story as an infamous falsehood. As an evidence of the avidity with which scandal mongers seize upon the most trivial circumstances as the groundwork for such slanders, we will say that since this one started there have been originated in Wheeling no less than seven similar ones, all affecting persons of the highest respectability, and investigation shows that they are all without the slightest foundation in fact.

The editor of this paper has in the long course of his journalistic experience passed through many heated and bitter political and personal contests, and has received and given many blows. There have been times when he was subjected to the most acrimonious anonymous communications in other papers, and even to the receipt of cowardly and malignant, anonymous letters, but under every variety of provocation from every sort of foes he has never yet, as the records of this paper will attest, struck an assailant a foul blow. He never went behind his assailant to strike him through others, and especially and above all to strike him in those relations which even savages respect as shielded against any man's personal responsibility for any real or supposed wrong. No man who is not a murderous villain at heart, and a creature whom all honorable men would execrate and abhor as they would the most loathsome and deadly viper, would for a moment be capable of such methods of revenge. Such a vile monster deserves no quarter or any spot of earth, and is simply an object to be impaled when discovered before the scornful gaze of every decent human being.

THE bill which passed the lower House of Congress last week, and which will undoubtedly pass the Senate, by which the House is to consist after this Congress, and until after the next census, of 325 members, instead of 293, as now, does not give satisfaction to the Democratic brethren, inasmuch as it is supposed to inure to the advantage of the Republicans in the Electoral College. It seems that the aggregate Electoral vote in 1884 will be 401, or, if Dakota be admitted 404, a majority of which will be 202 or 203. The sixteen States, including West Virginia, which compose the solid South, will have a total of 153 Electoral votes, and in order to elect a President the Democrats would be obliged to hold not only the votes of those States, but to gain 49 or 50 votes more from the Nothern States. The Republicans admit that Nevada with 3 votes, Indiana with 15, New Jersey with 9 and New York with 36, will be doubtful, and they believe that with reasonable certainty they can count on the other 185 votes from the North. They will be required then to get 17 or 18 votes from the four doubtful Northern States, or to make inroads into the solid South. They believe that they will have, at least, an even chance with the Democrats of carrying New York, Nevada and New Jersey, and more than an even chance of carrying Virginia, with her twelve Electoral votes; Tennessee with her twelve, and North Carolina with her eleven. Some of the shrewdest Democrats in the House can see that, so far as any political advantage is concerned, it rests with the Republicans, and yet it has been obtained in so fair a way that no substantial complaint can be made regarding it.

As showing the necessity for improved methods for the consumption of coal smoke the *Westminister Review* for January shows that in the ordinary fire place about seven-eighths of the heat goes up the chimney; about one-half going up with the smoke, a quarter by the open space about the grate, and the remaining eighth is the unconsumed carbon of the smoke itself. According to statistics, one-third part of all the coal in the country is consumed in domestic fire places, and for this, one-sixth part only is utilized for the purpose of giving heat. The *Review* advocates the compulsory adoption in cities and towns of smoke burning grates.

The question of smoke abatement in London continues to attract much attention, and the exhibition of improved heating and smoke preventing appliances has been made free to all those engaged in constructing heating fixtures and to servants who have the care of fires. In the course of a discussion upon the subject at one of the regular meetings it was stated by a speaker that "at present London was choking in its own smoke, like Paris stewing in its own gravy, for smoke was one of the chief and most offensive constituents of the London fog, during the existence of which about 50,000,000 cubic feet of gas were consumed, costing about £7,000. If to this were added the cost of oil and candles, it might be said that £20,000 would not represent the whole expense of a fog."

THE New York *Bulletin* of Saturday thinks that the iron market is at its highest point, *and that it can only be quoted barely* steady. While there is no positive weakness yet it is not so strong as it has been. Consumers are now buying very cautiously. The hardware market is well sustained, and for the season quite animated.

Beer Stamp Technicality.

WASHINGTON, February 18.—Mr. Louis Schade, Attorney of the United States Brewers' Association, has received the following letter from the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, dated February 14:

SIR—You refer to this office a letter addressed to you on the 11th inst., by a Western brewer, who states that is has *been his practice to remove the stamps* from such kegs of beer as are unsold by the driver, and brought back to the brewery, and that the stamps thus removed are again attached to other kegs of beer. In reply to the inquiry made as to the legality of this practice, you are informed that the statute clearly prohibits it. Section 3342 of the Revised Statutes, as amended, requires that the stamps affixed to casks of fermented liquor shall be destroyed as provided, whenever the liquor is withdrawn from the casks. Section 3344 provides a penalty in case any person withdraws or aids in the withdrawal of any fermented liquor from any vessel containing the same without destroying or defacing the stamps affixed thereon. Section 3343 also provides a penalty for the purchase or sale, etc., of fermented liquor contained in any vessel on which a stamp once canceled is used a second time.

Respectfully, GREEN B. RAUM,
Commissioner.

Simply Recreation.

NEW YORK, February 19.—Hon Andrew Shuman and W. K. Sullivan, of the Chicago *Evening Journal*, who have been in the city for several days, will leave for home to-morrow evening. Although Mr. Shuman has been in conference with Republicans here and in Washington he states that he is east simply for recreation, and that his visit has no political significance.

BLAINE'S TETE-A-TETE

OF THE GREAT AMERICAN REPUBLICS

Doesn't Strike Mexico With Much Force—Contest for the Control of the New Jersey Central. Political Deadlock in Virginia—Militia Satistics—Washington Notes.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON, February 19.—It is reported in diplomatic circles that Mexico has declined an invitation of the United States to participate in a Congress of the American Republics at Washington. The reason given for this reported declination is, that Mexico objects to giving an equal voice in the Congress to the petty Central American and South American Republics with Mexico and the greater powers. The general impression among the members of the foreign legations in Washington is that the Congress proposed by the Administration under Secretary Blaine, will fail because *the Administration is not deeply interested* in the matter.

A DETERMINED PROSECUTION.

Indictments against the Star Route Thieves Confidently Expected.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON, February 19.—Colonel George Bliss, who is in charge of the prosecution of the Star-route ring, said in an interview to-night that he had placed all his testimony before the Grand Jury in the straw bond cases, and in the cases against Dorsey, Brady and others. He thinks he is reasonably sure of indictments in both cases, but especially the latter. He says his reason in having the straw bond cases arrested and brought before the police court was to secure them and gain time for the preparation of his testimony and to get it before the Grand Jury, which he has succeeded in doing. He says the Santa Fe case in which the government failed to hold Dorsey and Brady on informations will not be tried again, as the case depended entirely upon the testimoney of one witness, who was actuated by spite and which has since been proved. The civil suits against Dorsey and Brady are coming on slowly. Col. Bliss says they will not be on trial for some time. No attachments will be issued on these. Col. Bliss looks for indictments against twelve persons for participating in the alleged frauds, by March 4, when the grand jury rises.

FIGHTING FOR A RAILROAD.

A Spirited Contest for the Control of the New Jersey Central.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON, February 19—The attempt on the part of Gould, Lothrop and others to prevent the Baltimore & Ohio getting control of the New Jersey Central by running a bill through the New Jersey Legislature to authorize an increase of stock, was met by the Gowan-Garrett party in a befitting manner yesterday. The latter applied for an injunction in the Superior Court of New York city yesterday to restrain the action of the directors of the road, on the ground that under the company's charter no increase of stock could be made without the consent of two-thirds of the stockholders. The application was granted and the board of directors requested to show cause why the injunction should not be made perpetual. The whole matter is founded upon Gould's opposition to the proposed western connection of the B. & O., which comes into strong competition with Gould's southwestern lines. A B. & O. official who was in Washington yesterday says that the whole of the present board of stockholders of the New Jersey Central is pledged to Gould but that the B. & O. and Reading hold sufficient stock and proxies to secure the road.

Virginia Politics.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON, February 19.—A *Post* special dispatch from Richmond to-day shows the condition of Readjuster affairs in the Virginia Legislature to be anything but satisfactory. It was expected yesterday that with the aid of Wingfield, the Republican who now votes with the Readjusters, the caucus nominees for Judges and Auditors of Public Accounts could be elected, but the defection of Senators Mayo and Walker stops the entire proceedings, and puts the Readjusters in worse shape than they were in before. It is said that Mahone, who, by the way, has not yet returned to Washington, and Riddleberger are in despair, and that the factional disagreements are greatly injuring the prestige of the party. The Bourbons are exceedingly jubiliant over the turn in affairs, and are encouraging it as much as possible, with the hope that it may have an appreciable effect on the coming elections.

Military Statistics.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON, February 19.—In an abstract of the militia force of the United States submitted by the Secretary to the Senate this week, West Virginia is shown to have 100,000 men available for military duty; 508 non-commissioned officers and privates in the militia service, 45 company officers, 7 staff officers and 1 general officer. Ohio is found to have 500,000 men available for military duty; 6,934 non-commissioned officers and privates in the militia service, 301 company officers, 101 field officers and 16 general staff officers. There are in the United States 6,471,787 men available for military duty. There are 123,346 in the militia service, of which 114,524 are non-commissioned officers and privates, 6,053 company officers, 1,003 field officers, 1,040 staff officers and 126 general officers.

Relief for the Supreme Court.

WASHINGTON February 19.—Representative Manning states that the Committe of the American Bar Association, appointed to consider *methods for relieving* the United States Supreme Court of over-pressure of business upon it, will report soon. He says that ex-Secretary Evarts, Chairman of the committee, Merrick, of Washington, Phelps, of Vermont, and Parker, of New Jersey, will report in favor of the adoption of his (Manning's) plan, and that Hitchcock, of St. Louis, is opposed to this plan, and King, of Ohio, Stephens, of Kentucky, and Bradley, of Rhode Island, are inclined to favor other plans.

Congressional Apportionment.

WASHINGTON, February 18.—The Senate Census Committee this afternoon decided to recommend the passage of the House apportionment bill without amendment, and Chairman Hale was instructed to ask its immediate consideration on Monday, and if objection is made, to continue to press its consideration until it is finally disposed of.

JAPANESE INDEMNITY.

A Bill for Restoring Money to the Japanese Government.

WASHINGTON, February 18.—Mr. Williams, Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, will endeavor on Monday to secure by unanimous consent the consideration of the bill for the payment of the Japanese indemnity. This arrangement has been agreed upon by the committee, with the approbation of several leading members on the Democratic side who are familiar with the subject, and among whom there is no differance of opinion as to the merits of the bill. If some of the gentlemen who seem to be attempting to establish a reputation by objection to everything will forbear on this occasion, it is probable that the measure will go through Monday, and a national disgrace will thus be wiped out years after Congress should have taken this step. The bill provides for the restoration to Japan of about $1,500,000, which was never covered into the Treasury, and has been held for sixteen years in trust by the Department of State. It was money received as the result of an international piracy and the ransom of a city which a friendly power paid to save the town from being sacked by the overwhelming force of seamen brought against it by the confederated powers in whose name the expedition was sent out. This matter has dragged *along through six Congresses.* Bills for the return or the money have several times been passed by the two Houses, but never concurrently. In the last hours of the Forty-sixth Congress it passed the Senate by a vote of forty-six to sixty, and its passage was recommended in the House in a voluminous report, presented by Mr. Cox, of New York. The Chambers of Commerce of New York, New Orleans and San Francisco have unanimously petitioned Congress to restore the money to Japan. The leading journals of the entire country are without exception on record as having at one time or another urged upon Congress the propriety of this course. President Hayes twice invited the attention of Congress to the subject in his annual messages. President Arthur also mentioned it especially in his recent message. General Grant has expressed himself vigorously about the matter, and Wm. H. Seward, in a letter to the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as long ago as 1868, denounced the levy *of the money on Japan* in the most unmeasured terms and advocated its speedy return. Senators Edmunds, Thurman, Kirkwood, Logan, Voorhees, Ingalls, Eaton, Simon Cameron, O. P. Morton, Booth, Sherman, Saulsbury, Christiancy, Morrill, C. W. Jones, Frelingbuysen, Dawes and others have at various times spoken on the floor of the Senate in favor of the restoration of this money to the Japanese Government, and a bill is now pending in the Senate, similar to that for which Mr. Williams will attempt to secure consideration in the House next Monday. It is understood that President Arthur is very anxious that this Congress should should finally take concurrent action on this subject and as far as possible make restitution to Japan for an unwarranted and unprovoked outrage.

STAR ROUTE FRAUDS.

The Corruption Used by the Sympathizers with the Thieves.

WASHINGTON, February 18.—Star-route sympathizers in Washington are trying to cover up their disappointment at Judge Snell's decision in straw bond cases by exulting over the failure of Star-route prosecutions in Judge Dundy's court at Omaha, where a verdict of acquittal was directed from the bench. Colonel George Bliss, when asked what he knew of these cases, said they were local prosecutions, not under his control, and he knew little of the details. The cases originated in the confession of the postmaster at Deadwood that he had been giving false certificates of the arrival and departure of mails in order to enable contractors to draw their full pay, though they had not fulfilled their contracts. This confession was obtained by Postoffice Inspector Furay, in an investigation set on foot by himself. Strong local influence of mail contractors in that region (Monroe Saulsbury, one of the largest mail contrators, lives at Deadwood) prevented an indictment of the guilty persons once, but it was finally had. On the trial, however, the Deadwood Postmaster refused to testify, on the ground that he would criminate himself. Col. Bliss infers that the failure of this witness upon whom the prosecution seems to have unwisely depended, broke down the case. He is inclined to think that the same strong local influence which has helped the defendants has also inspired the favorable tone of the dispatches from Nebraska regarding them, and has begun a movement for Furay's removal. A Deadwood paper a few days ago published bitter charges against him. Yesterday morning, as soon as the paper arrived, it was carried to the Postmaster General by the person who has professed to be in active sympathy with the Star Route prosecutors and presented as reasons for Furay's removal. These incidents illustrate the influence of contractors.

THE PERUVIAN COMPANY.

Shipherd's Practical Joke—Amusing Features of it.

WASHINGTON, February 18.—The publication here of the list of names of prominent men in connection with Shipherd's Peruvian Company scheme, affords a subject more of merriment than anything else, even to those whose names are in the list. It appears that the names were used promiscuously, without any authority whatever from the owners of those names.

Congressman Hewitt, of New York, says he received a circular marked "confidential," and that the circular would be called for; that he put it in his desk without giving it any consideration, and subsequently somebody did call for it. He not only never consented to the use of his name, but never took any notice of this circular. The same state of facts applies to other names used.

Shipherd seems to have pursued a peculiar plan of claiming the acquaintance and association of public men; if he knew their names or address, that was enough. It is already apparent that he took unwarranted liberties with public men, but his methods are so apparent that no serious consequences are involved. He sent circulars to parties, and without waiting to hear from them, entered their names as associates of his in his chimerical scheme.

One amusing incident connected with the publication of these names, is that Representative Belmont offered a resolution calling for the submission of the list to the House, and among the names presented is that of his father, August Belmont.

NEW YORK, February 18.—Jesse Seligman, *Samuel Sloan, William K. Jessup* & Co., S. D. Babcock and Dr. Norvin Green declare the use of their names by Shipherd as unwarranted, and they know nothing of him or his Peruvian scheme. Shipherd and Grant refused to be interviewed.

Hawaiian Sugar.

SAN FRANCISCO, February 18.—A vessel recently arrived from Honolulu with sugar, consigned to William Diamond & Co., which is being shipped by rail to St. Louis at a low rate of freight. It is understood that, owing to the termination of the contract between the California Refinery and Hawaiian planters, such of the *sugar coming here as is not taken by the* refinery, is free to any buyers, and planters wishing the surplus, and it is likely to go overland.

WILD WATERCOURSES.

DISMAL PICTURE IN WATER COLORS.

The Mississippi Disregards the Conventional Lines of Its Course and Floods a Vast Area of Country, Destroying Property and Crops. Lower Ohio Also on a High.

MEMPHIS, TENN., February 18.—The *Appeal's* special to-night from Helena says:

There is no abatement of the disasters that have overtaken the planters of the Mississippi river between Memphis and Vicksburg.

For three weeks they have been battling not only with the elements from above (as it has rained almost daily during this period,) but inch by inch the mighty river has been encroaching upon them, until now there is but a dreary watery waste extending fully fifteen miles inland from either bank. The destruction to dwellings, stock and lands can not be properly estimated. There have been innumerable breaks in the levees, and the outlook for the future is anything but hopeful. Cattle and hogs have been drowned by the hundreds; barns have been swept away and their entire contents wasted, mules and horses are suffering and the loss to planters by these mishaps can not but have its effect in cramping their facilities for putting in a crop for the year. This condition of affairs exists to an alarming extent in Crittenden, Lee and Phillips counties, Arkansas, and in DeSoto, Tunica and Coahoma counties, Mississippi. These are the largest cotton growing counties in the Mississippi valley, and what is true of them is also true of others that have suffered in a similar manner. Starvation is threatening many poor people whose homes line the banks of the streams that have overflowed. In some instances cabins can be found wherein are negroes, hogs and mules, all gathered under one shelter, awaiting the receding of the river, that has in its mad fury driven them to seek safety by flight to the high lands. *The latest break occurred last night* about 300 yards above Austin, Mississippi. This will overflow the entire country between Austin and Friar's Point, a distance of thirty-five miles.

MEMPHIS, February 19.—The latest advices from down the river are that the break in the levee, which occurred just above Austin, Miss., Friday night, extends nearly all the way up to Mahone's Landing, a distance of about three miles. The levee which protects Laconia Circle broke Tuesday *night, and it is now* under water. The break occurred in the rear, and is about fifty yards wide. There are eighteen large plantations in the Circle, several being owned by Governor Luke Blackburn, of Kentucky, and his relations.

Planters are all busy at work trying to save their stock, which, whenever able, are being boated away to ridges. Great fear exists that the rise now coming down the Ohio will check the decline that has set in and add to the disaster that overwhelms the inundated sections. At Helena, Ark., the water has backed up into the city until the largest portion is covered to the depth of four feet and it is rising at the rate of a foot a day. Citizens are conveyed to their dwellings by means of skiffs. Planting throughout this section of the country from Memphis as far down as Vicksburg must necessarily be delayed this season.

CINCINNATI, February 19.—Rain began falling here at 12:05 this afternoon, and up to 10:30 to-night one inch had fallen. At Louisville, at that hour, one inch and thirty-four hundredths had fallen, and at Pittsburgh, where the rain commenced late, nearly an inch had fallen. The river at 7 o'clock to-night was 53 feet and stationary, which is within 9 feet 10 inches of of the great rise of '32, and within 9 feet of the great rise of '47. Business men on the landing are watching their cellars, some of which are flooded already. The water is over the sidewalk on the river front near the suspension bridge in Covington. This rain appears to be general, and it gives apprehension of great destruction, the flood coming as it does on the Ohio when that stream and all its feeders are at flood height.

LOUISVILLE, February 19.—Great crowds visited the levee to-day to see the big river. The river rose nearly two feet in twenty-four hours, and is still rising, with 29 feet 6 inches in the canal and 27 feet 6 inches in the chute on the falls. The foot of Fourth street is cut off by water from all communication with the river. The water has extended some distance up Fourth street, and cellars as far up as Gray's alley are filling with water. All the first floors of houses around the corner of Fourth street and the river are covered with water, and all houses along the wharf, from Fourth street down, are in water. Teams are busy hauling stuff off the levee and many people are moving.

CINCINNATI, February 19.—The *Gazette's* Zanesville special reports the Muskingum river as high and rising rapidly. Navigation almost closed. Rain falling.

CINCINNATI, February 19.—A *Gazette Madison, Ind, special says;* The starch factory, saw mills, ship yards, cooper shops and cellars on Ohio street are flooded, together with the Jeffersonville, Madison & Indianapolis depot.

A telegram from St. Louis reports a heavy rain setting in to-night, and all points in the Ohio Valley, from Pittsburgh to Cairo, report rain during the day and continuing at night.

THE HAVERHILL FIRE.

A Town Almost Blotted Out by a Disastrous Conflagration.

HAVERHILL, MASS., February 18.—The fire is under control. But one block remains on Wingate street and two at the upper end of Washington street. All else on the square bounded by the Merrimac river on the south and Washington square and Essex street on the east, the north side of Wingate street on the north and Railroad square on the west, burned to the ground. This territory embraces the largest part of the boot and shoe manufactories. The loss can not be estimated at present.

Joseph Pratt, a fireman, was killed, and George Whittier fatally injured.

What yesterday was the finest street in the city, and principal business mart, is to-day a smoldering *mass of ruins.* Some eighty shoe firms are entirely burned out, and others suffer more or less damage. Two thousand people are out of employment and several families homeless. The loss is now estimated at $2,000,000.

HAVERHILL, MASS., February 19.—The city is full of strangers viewing the ruins of the fire. Several safes were opened and the contents mainly found unharmed. Many, however, were broken by falling from the upper stories, and in them shone melted gold and silver. A severe beating of one thief by citizens and police restrained others, and no robbery is reported. While the ruins in many places are still burning, and smoke and steam envelope all, every one is hopeful.

Dr. Tanner's Rival.

CHARLESTOWN, IND., February 18.—A most remarkable case of self-starvation, rivaling Tanner, is occurring at the Poor Asylum of this county, situated about two miles from here. A woman named Ann Maria Herrmann, unmarried, living at Jeffersonville, early in January last took a delusive notion that she was religiously called upon to abstain from all food. After a few days she was removed to the Asylum. This is the thirty-ninth day of her fast, and during this time she has taken nothing in the way of food but two spoonfuls of cream. For nearly three weeks she has taken no water. She bids fair to live maybe a week longer.

SHARP PRACTICE.

Friend and Fox Paper Company Badly Victimized.

CHICAGO, February 18.—Wm. C. Clarke, formerly at the head of the wholesale paper house of Clarke, Friend, Fox & Co., has fled from Chicago, and is known to be in New York. It appears that he not long since bought out the other interests of the firm with promissory notes, and speedily transferred the stock to rival dealers for $175,000, of which $112,000 was in cash or good commercial paper. Complaints by creditors of the original house caused an investigation by Friend & Fox, which showed that $180,000 of the firm's paper was still afloat. *Of this amount* $40,000 was promptly paid, and the liabilities will be honestly met.

The history of Clarke's transactions, according to the Chicago *Times*, is that about December 1 Mr. Clarke, who a few days previously had returned from a conference at Cincinnati with resident members there of his firm, opened negotiations with the J. W. Butler Paper Company, of Chicago, for disposal of the stock of Clark, Friend, Fox & Co. He represented that he had purchased the interests of the junior members of the firm. The Butler Company closed negotiations by taking the stock and good will of the firm at a consideration of $175,000, of which $112,000 was paid over to Clarke in cash and notes. Then Clarke retired from business, and five weeks ago *took abrupt departure* for New York, where he is now employed by the firm of Colburn, Day & Field, No. 17 New street. It seems that Clarke had five years ago been given charge of the Chicago branch of the house, with a working capital of $20,000. When *he determined to wind* things up he represented to his partners that a good deal of the firm's paper was afloat among Chicago banks, but he proposed to return to the Friend & Fox Paper Mill Company its $20,000 working capital in the Chicago firm, with a bonus of $5,000, provided the company would stand by him in the event of a "cramp." This was agreed to, and soon after the dissolution of partnership was announced. Later events showed that Clarke had misrepresented the facts to the Cincinnati partners, *for instead of only a few thousand* dollars of the firm's notes being held by Chicago banks, the firm was responsible to bankers, paper manufacturers and others to the amount of nearly $200,000. This was not known till Wednesday last, when a *meeting of creditors* was held here, Friend & Fox having signified their intention to meet all claims. Some of the pressing claims, amounting to $40,000, were immediately settled. Among the claims presented were: Campbell & Smith, New York, $34,000; Rochester (New York) Paper Company, $10,000; Hampshire Paper Company, South Hadley Falls, Massachusetts, $8,000; Whitney Paper Company, Holyoke, Massachusetts, $7,000; Paton Mills, Neenah, Wisconsin, $4,500; J. H. Wren & Co, bankers, Chicago, $2,900; Batavia (Illinois) Paper Company, $3,000. Among the local banks said to be victimized are the Commercial National, National Bank of Illinois, Fifth National and three others. There are also a large number of paper mills in various parts of the country whose claims range from $500 to $5,000.

Missouri Affairs.

ST. LOUIS, MO., February 19.—The Fund Commissioners of this State received a letter from the Hannibal & St. Joseph Railroad Company asking for a conference with a view to settling differences between the company and the State without litigation. No time for the meeting was named, but the probabilities are that one will soon be held, when the Commissioners will consider any proposition that the company may make.

The Memorial Committee of the Missouri River Convention held here last October will visit Washington in a few days, and on the last Tuesday in March will present their case to the House Committee on Commerce, Chairman Pugh of that Committee having designated that day to hear what they have to say.

Killed in a Drunken Quarrel.

DES MOINES, IOWA, February 18.—Last night two young men, Wesley Slater and Thomas Frost, while returning home intoxicated, from Casey, got into a quarrel at Mr. Hibbard's house, by Slater insisting on starting on or he would shoot Frost. Frost seized a gun belonging to Hibbard, and declared he would shoot also. A scuffle followed, in which Slater got possession of the gun. Frost seized the muzzle, and placed it against his own breast and dared Slater to shoot, which he did, Frost dying almost instantly.

Alaska Notes.

SAN FRANCISCO, February 19.—The Port Townsend steamer Eureka arrived from Sitka. The United States hospital there, occupied as an industrial school and missionary house for Indian boys, burned on the 21st ult. Since the departure of Wachussett, dives, dance houses and grog shops have been opened at Sitka. Hochenoo is manufactured at all hours. The parties engaged in this business are mostly Russian half-breeds and aliens. They are under surveillance and on the return of Wachussetts they will be arrested and sent to Portland for trial. Winter has been unusually severe.

Italian Girl and Her Lover Murdered.

BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, February 18.—Information comes from Vera Cruz, Mexico, that Thursday evening an Italian, named Pietro Pastorino, went to visit a young country woman near there. A brother of the girl, named Gaitano Glocati, rushed in on the pair as they were billing and cooing together, stabbed the girl in the breast, fatally wounding her, and killed Pasterino. The assassin was apprehended.

The Chester Disaster.

CHESTER, PA., February 19.—Five more of the wounded by the fire and explosion of the old Porter mansion are in a precarious condition. The list of injured increases. Four of the victims were buried to-day. The funerals of the remainder will take place to-morrow. Crowds of people from the surrounding country viewed the ruins to-day.

Railway Collision.

ATLANTA, GA., February 19.—A south bound freight train, out of time, on the Atlanta & Charlotte Air Line came in collision with another freight train on the trestle just south of Gainesville. The trains and trestle were wrecked and four cars burned. The firemen and one of the engineers were injured by leaping to the ground.

Desperado Killed.

GALVESTON, Texas, February 18.—Two Deputy Sheriffs visited a Mexican ranch twenty miles east of San Antonio, yesterday, to arrest Juan Garcia, a noted desperado and horse thief. Garcia opened fire with a Winchester rifle, wounding Deputy Sheriff Stevens. The fire was returned and Garcia killed.

Duel Between Mexican Bloods.

LAREDO, TEXAS, February 18—Mexican news states that another duel occurred on Tuesday, near the Dolores Cemetery, just out of the City of Mexico, between two young men of the aristocracy, who had quarreled about a pretty girl. Two shots were exchanged, neither being dangerously wounded.

A Gang of Murderers Repulsed.

GALVESTON, Texas, February 18.—Last night a party of desperadoes headed by Wm. Ware visited the residence of Sheriff Robb, at Uvalde, and sought to murder him. Robb fought them, killing Walter Crane. Citizens came to his rescue, and the desperadoes were cleaned out.

A HORRIBLE MASSACRE

BY FIENDISH PERUVIAN SOLDIERS.

A City Sacked—Houses Burned and Over One Thousand People Butchered—German Indignation Over Skobeleff's Speech to Servian Students—The Czar's Seclusion.

LONDON, February 18.—A dispatch from Buenos Ayres, dated January 24, says particulars have been received there of the massacre of the inhabitants of Pisco by Peruvian soldiery. Col. Mas with 600 troops from Ica, attacked Villaricencio, and routed him and with the aid of his men proceeded to sack Pisco. A thousand pipes of wine were distributed among the men, who burned houses and murdered the inhabitants. *Four hundred foreigners* who attempted to resist were cut to pieces; 300 being killed, including the French Consul. The total number of victims was 1,000. It is said that Col. Mas has since been shot by Garcia Calderon's troops.

SKOBELEFF'S SPEECH.

PARIS, February 18.—In an interview Gen. Skobeleff, who is stopping at present in this city, refused to disclaim one jot or tittle of anti-German sentiments, to which he gave utterance in his famous speech.

"My position," said the General, "is an independent one. So long as I am summoned in time of war I care nothing for the rest. Yes, I did say that Germany is a common enemy, and I repeat it. I believe that safety lies in the union of the Slavs with France. The European balance of power must be re-established, or there will soon be only one power—Germany."

The General also told the interviewer that he had come to Paris entirely of his own accord, and that, far from being in disgrace, the Emperor had a new ship named after him as a signal mark of favor.

BERLIN, February 18.—All the newspapers here express indignation at the speech of General Skobeleff to Servian students, in which he said that Russia had hitherto been held in check by German influence, and that the sword was the only means the Russians had of ridding themselves of an incubus.

The *Germania* says it hopes the government will seriously ask Russia whether she grants her Generals leave of absence to preach a crusade in France against Germany.

The *National Zeitang* advises Austria to bring the struggle with the Herzegovinian insurgents promptly to a close.

BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

LONDON, February 18.—In the Commons Mr. Forster stated that while the government would afford every protection to caretakers in Ireland, it must be allowed to judge as to the means, and decide each case on its merits. He believed the object would be best attained by a good system of patrolling. It was impossible to give each caretaker a guard of police.

Chaplin stated that all the evidence before the Royal Commission tended to show that the United States had reached the acme of agricultural prosperity, and the worst, therefore, had been seen of foreign competition.

Northcote referring to Gladstone's utterances regarding Home Rule, said they were something between a dream and an electioneering move, which, though sufficiently characteristic of Gladstone, were exceedingly dangerous.

The [Marquis of Hartington expressed surprise at the alarm created by Gladstone's remarks. They only meant, he said, that Parliament should be relieved of local duties.

RUSSIA.

ST. PETERSBURG, February 18.—Russian journals express the warmest gratitude to the English Ministry for the tone adopted in replying to questions in Parliament regarding Russian affairs.

Six Russian officers have started for Herzegovina. Nine others will shortly follow. All are granted a year's leave of absence.

The Metropolitan of Moscow, Archbishop Macaire, who is an influential personage in the Russian political world, has addressed a letter to the Czar, urging him to quit his seclusion, which, he says, suggests pottroonery, and is injurious to national traditions. The Emperor's seclusion, he continues, will lead to a disunion between the Emperor and the people, who will finally accustom themselves to dispense with their sovereign.

The Czar was irritated by the letter, and sent for Privy Councillor Pobedonoszeff, Procurator General of the Holy Synod, of whom he inquired whether he (the Emperor) could dismiss the Metropolitan. Pobedonoszeff replied, "Yes, with the sanction of the Holy Synod."

DISTRESSED AT SEA.

LONDON, February 19.—Two of the Sardinian's passengers transferred to the Nederland, state that the Captain of the Nederland declined to take the Sardinian in tow, his vessel carrying the mails, but offered to take the Sardinian's passengers. The rudder being fixed, the Nederland left the Sardinian on the 8th inst. 900 miles from Queenstown with the stern leaking.

Proceedings of Congress.

WASHINGTON, February 18.—In the House to-day, a bill to promote efficiency in the Life Saving Service was reported, and the House went into Committee of the Whole on the Immediate Deficiency bill, which appropriates $1,822,983.

The item of deficiency for public printing gave rise to debate, during which Mr. Atkins stated the great cost of public printing was in a great measure due to the extravagance of the Committee on Printing of the last Congress. This brought Mr. Singleton to his feet in defense of the committee of which he was then chairman.

Over the clause of the Immediate Deficiency bill, appropriating $75,000 for construction of vaults in the treasury and subtreasuries, quite an interesting discussion arose upon the silver question.

Mr. Hewitt made a vigorous attack on the standard silver dollar, characterizing it as a cheat and a fraud, and flat money in its worst and most repulsive and obj