

CURRENT TOPICS.

John McCullough was at one time playing *Virginia* in Syracuse, N. Y. In the drama occurs the line, "There is no public virtue left in Syracuse." Scarcely had the tragedian sounded the words, when a man in the parquette sprang to his feet exclaiming "No, by jingo, nor in Utiky either."

As an indication of the rapidity with which Christianity is making its way in Japan, it is stated that one of the leading printing offices in Tokio has begun the publication of a paper in the interests of the Christian religion as a matter of enterprise. It is solely a native undertaking, none of the missionaries having anything to do with it.

The criminal classes in some of the Western States are imitating the Mollie Maguire by "putting out of the way" the men who are most active in suppressing lawlessness. The last victim is Dr. Daniel Pierson, an Illinois physician of high standing, who was murdered by some one whom he, as a member of a Board of Town Trustees, had assisted to punish.

It was found recently in Cincinnati that while there were at least 10,000 men in the numerous saloons and beer-gardens of the city Sunday night, only 12,487 persons attended at the Protestant churches of the city Sunday morning, though the Catholic churches made a better showing. Of the 12,487, the Methodist churches had 2,575, the Presbyterian 2,211, the Baptist 1,108, and the Protestant Episcopal 1,116.

Statistics of Bible societies indicate no diminution in the vigor with which the scriptures are circulated. The New York society last year distributed 89,854 copies, of which 4,232 were given to hotels and public institutions, 40,698 to seafaring men, and 32,483 to immigrants who arrived at Castle Garden, New York. From Philadelphia, since January, over 60,000 Bibles have been sent to Australia and the Antipodes. At the Paris Exhibition the number given away largely exceeds a million.

Mrs. Hayes recently received at the White House the seventy-three female delegates to the Women's National Christian Temperance Union. Two of the ladies made speeches and the President cordially responded, saying that Mrs. Hayes would show the company the house, that they might see what kind of a housekeeper she was. Accordingly Mrs. Hayes escorted them through the mansion, presenting flowers to the two speakers. One of the glass globes of the chandeliers happening to fall during the reception, each lady carried off a piece as a souvenir.

The world owes, in the form of bonded debts, about 23,000 millions of dollars. The best estimates of the amount of gold in the world gives it at 10,000 million of dollars. Yet the world is asked to do all its business and to pay all its debts in gold. A few banking houses in Europe own most of this gold and own most of the mines that produce gold. The figures and the fact tell the story—these few owners have the business of the world at their mercy, and can make a panic like that of 1873 whenever they want to do it. About the only hope there is for the payment of this enormous debt is through the Millerites.

Jeremiah Collins, of Jefferson City, killed his wife, was tried, convicted and sentenced to be hung. The Governor, upon application of the District-Attorney, commuted the sentence to imprisonment for life. After serving seven years Collins addressed a letter to the Governor beseeching him to be so merciful as to allow the original sentence to be carried out. He declares, "By so doing you will confer a benefit to me, and it may prove to your earthly advantage." The supposition is that the man is crazy. But does it follow that the supposition is true? Most culprits condemned to die on the gallows, eagerly appeal for commutation, yet it is a fact that many would prefer death to the solitude and weariness of a life imprisonment.

The latest allusion to the domestic life of Charles Dickens is furnished by a London letter to the *Auburn Advertiser*, which says: "It will be gratifying to thousands of Dickens' admirers in America to know that the wife of Dickens and Miss Hogart, her sister, are reconciled, and both united in compiling a memoir of the novelist. In an interview one evening with George Cruikshank, last December, at his residence in Hampstead, he told me that the difference which arose between Dickens and his wife grew out of her frequent criticisms, and what he thought intermeddling with his own exclusive creations, until he insisted upon their living apart in the same house at Gadshill. This she declined to do and at once took up her residence with Mr. and Mrs. Cruikshank. His eldest son, sitting with his mother, left also at the same time. Mr. Cruikshank added: 'There was no scandal otherwise connected with the matter.'

NEWS OF THE WEEK

CRIMES AND CRIMINALS.

Bowen, under sentence to be hung at Montreal, has escaped from jail.

By direction of the President, Supervising Architect Hill has been suspended from office, during the present indictment found against him at Chicago.

Another bloody fight has occurred, growing out of the late Jackson, Ky. disturbances, in which four men were killed. This last fight took place twenty miles from Jackson.

J. R. Haines, a respected engineer on the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad, shot himself at Chicago, fatally, through the head, on the 8th, inst. Cause, depression of spirits.

John Mullen, formerly owner of the rolling mills in Pittsburg, Pa., was arrested in St. Louis, on the 7th inst., by United States Deputy Marshal Soest, on a charge of concealing his assets of assigns in bankruptcy. He will be taken to Pittsburg for trial.

A Yankton dispatch says the grand jury have found forty-four indictments against Livingston and other Indian agents, government employes, and timber thieves. Livingston, LeClaire, Richardson and Russell have been arraigned on one joint indictment and will plead on the 23d.

PERSONAL AND POLITICAL.

Secretary Schurz opposes the transfer of the Indian bureau from the interior to the War department.

Rev. James Challen, of Cincinnati, a leading Disciple clergyman, editor of the *Christian Annual*, is dead.

Col. B. Hammer has been elected President and Dr. Ewelti Vice President of the Swiss Confederation for 1879.

Gov. Pillsbury, of Minnesota, has pardoned 18 convicts out of the Minnesota penitentiary, during the current year.

Intelligence has been received that the family of the Ameer of Afghanistan, have taken refuge in Russian Turkistan.

A private cable dispatch, states Henry Wells, of the Wells, Fargo & Co.'s express, is lying at the point of death at Glasgow.

Preparation is being made by those implicated in the cipher dispatches to make a defence before the Potter committee.

The Potter sub-committee will continue investigations in Louisiana if Congress will grant money to pay the expenses.

Mr. Whitbread, liberal, has given notice in the English Parliament that he will offer a resolution disapproving of the Afghan war.

Secretary Sherman has appointed Wm. Fletcher chief of the loan division of the treasury department. E. C. Coon succeeds Fletcher as assistant chief.

It is reported that Bismarck will only grant amnesty to those German ecclesiastics who specially apply for it and make submission to the May laws.

At the election for Mayor in Worcester, Mass., Pratt, citizens candidate, received 3,216 votes to 1,947 for Dickinson, nominated by the Butler club.

Postmaster General Key will recommend to Congress the discontinuance of the postal card service, unless larger appropriations are made to sustain it.

The total amount recommended by the pension appropriation bill is \$29,616,000, the department estimate, and \$244,000 more than the appropriation of the current year.

Secretary Stickney of the peace commission has been before the Indian transfer commission in session at Washington, giving his views in opposition to the transfer.

A cable dispatch states President Alcantara, chief magistrate of Venezuela, died November 30th, and that J. Guierrez, chief justice of the high federal court, was acting president.

The President has recognized Richard Reade consul of her Britannic Majesty for the States of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin, to reside in Philadelphia.

Secretary Sherman was before the Ways and Means committee of the House, Dec. 10, giving his views on financial matters and also in reference to the funding bill introduced by Mr. Wood.

In the English house of commons, Dec. 10th the under secretary for India said the council of India intended to increase the native army 15,000 men. They are not sending fresh soldiers from England.

Mahomed Damed Pasha has been summoned to the place at Constantinople, and appointed Governor of Tripoli, in Barbary. He left for his post immediately without returning home. This is equivalent to banishment.

A bill was introduced in the house by Mr. Finley proposing to prohibit the Union Pacific Railroad company, under penalty of heavy fines, from charging an additional sum for transportation of freight or passengers over the bridge at Omaha in excess of the amount now allowed by law for all similar transportation over any other portion of the road.

The Senate committee on finance have agreed to report favorably on the nomination of Hillhouse to be assistant treasurer at New York city. Gen. Lyon, of the purchasing committee of the Indian commissioners, and Barclay White, representing the society of Friends at the Winnebago agency have taken stand against the transfer of the Indian bureau to the war department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Buffalo, N. Y. has had a \$50,000 fire.

The child at Towanda, Pa., proves not to be the long lost Charlie Ross.

A fire at Montague, Mich., destroyed Tevpl & Co's curtain roll factory. Loss \$40,000.

During the late storm at the East the Delaware River rose higher than in any time since 1861.

A cotton mill at Ballston, N. Y., has been destroyed by fire. Loss \$60,000, Insurance \$30,000.

The Illinois Central railroad and employes contributed in all \$47,000 for yellow fever sufferers.

Advices have been received from Magador stating that a terrible famine prevails there. Deaths 25 a day.

At Cumberland river shoals, near Somerset, Ky., by a premature blast explosion in a quarry, two men were fatally injured, and one man seriously.

The loss by fire in Reynor Bros. wholesale confectionary establishment, at Pittsburg, Pa., will reach \$35,000. A large part of the loss was caused by water.

Gen. Meacham, of the army, testifying before the Indian bureau transfer commission gave as his opinion that the savage must be civilized, and that this cannot be done by the army.

A heavy snow storm occurred in Kansas City, and other portions of the South on December 8, at which place it measured ten inches deep. The storm extended from St. Louis, Missouri, to Abilene, Kansas.

A London Telegram says, the Chatterly Iron company has refused the offer of 900 men to resume work at a reduction of 5 per cent. Extensive discharges of workmen in the neighborhood are impending.

A bank at Montreal has received a cable dispatch announcing the suspension of the West of England bank, headquarters at Bristol. Capital stock £1,000,000, and it has forty-nine agencies. Trouble caused by loss of the iron trade.

The funding board of Louisiana are trying to make such arrangements as will enable the State to pay the January interest on consuls. It is believed that at least \$200,000 in addition to the interest fund then on hand will be required.

The *Evening Dispatch* of St. Louis, including all property and franchises, has been sold at auction under a second mortgage for \$2,500, subject to a first mortgage of \$15,000. All the presses, material and other properties of the morning *Journal*, which suspended publication a month ago, were sold at the same time, subject to the same mortgage.

A serious smash occurred on the Baltimore & Ohio railroad shortly before daylight the 11th inst. A west bound freight jumped the track near Laughlin Station and was badly wrecked. One of the brakemen named Fuller, was buried under the debris and when taken out found to be badly hurt. The road was badly blocked at the wreck and passengers compelled to transfer all day.

New discoveries of rich silver deposits continue in the vicinity of Leadville. It appears that nearly two millions pounds of base bullion was transported from Leadville by one route in November, and upwards twice that quantity of high grade. The Colorado Spring shipments alone in November, of base silver bullion, were 1,025,000 pounds. It is evident that the product in silver of the Leadville mines will very largely exceed any estimates hitherto published.

On the 11th inst., a great storm of rain and wind prevailed in the eastern states, sweeping through New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and a very wide sweep of country, causing inundations on rivers, the sweeping away of railroad and other bridges, interrupting railroad trains and destroying immense amount of property. In some places on banks of rivers people had to abandon their homes, and in some places dwelling houses were swept away. A great loss of life is not reported.

At Youngstown, Ohio, a terrible explosion occurred on the 6th inst., at the upper Briarth furnace. The furnace men were in the act of turning on a blast when the explosion occurred, throwing the hot blast in every direction and covering the men. Robert Lowe, of Newcastle, thigh broken and otherwise seriously injured; recovery doubtful. George Anderson, legs and head badly cut. Patrick Saunders, head and body badly cut. The boss had a leg broken and was otherwise seriously injured. Cause of the explosion not known.

The sugar traders at a meeting in New York city, pronounced emphatically against Secretary Sherman's proposed change in the mode of collecting duties on that article as in the highest degree unjust and impracticable. Instead of decreasing the temptation to defraud, they believe it will have just a contrary effect, and if any changes at all are to be made in the tariff they think it should be so framed as to avoid discrimination against qualities of raw sugar, whether of high or low grade, and that will conform as near as practicable to *ad valorem* duty.

It is stated by a Waukon paper, on what is asserted to be reliable authority, that the Waukon & Mississippi narrow gauge railroad, recently purchased by the leading stockholders in the Dubuque & Minnesota road, is to be transformed into a standard gauge road, and the work of extension up through Minnesota commenced early next spring with a view to reaching St. Paul. The line will probably pass through Preston, High Forrest, Kasson, and so on through Dodge, Goodhue and Dakota counties, and will thus prove a competing through line between St. Paul and Chicago.

As an argument against transferring the Indian bureau to the military department, Secretary Schurz alleges a lack of due economy in the habits of the military. He says soldiers never think of the cost of a thing if it is thought to be necessary. As an instance he mentions that at the close of the Sioux war there were about 2,000 horses, ponies, and mules taken from the Indians for which cows were to be given them, and it turned out that these ponies and mules cost \$19,400 besides the cows, and that to sell them cost \$5,683 additional. This was an instance of the cavalier way which was not found in the interior department.

The English Parliament convened Dec. 5th. The queen's speech, read in the house of lords, was unusually short. Her majesty regretted she was compelled to summon parliament earlier than usual, but the action of the Ameer of Afghanistan compelled the sending of an expedition into his territory, and the earliest opportunity has been taken to call the

parliament together and make to it the communication required by law. Papers on the subject will be laid before parliament. Assurances from all foreign powers are friendly and there is every reason to believe the arrangements for the pacification of Europe made by the treaty of Berlin will be satisfactorily carried out. Estimates for the ensuing year will in due time be submitted to the house of commons. After full deliberation upon the matters which have led to the early meeting of parliament, and after a suitable recess, parliament should proceed to the consideration of measures for the public benefit, which will then be laid before it.

FORTY-FIFTH CONGRESS.

SENATE, December 5.—The Vice President announced the committee on the yellow fever epidemic. Senator Morrill submitted a resolution of inquiry in regard to the Freedmen's Saving and Trust Com' any. Senator Cameron (Wis.) presented a report relative to the claim of David T. Cort n of South Carolina to a seat in the Senate. Senator Ferry introduced a resolution calling on the President for information concerning postal and commercial intercourse between the United States and South American countries. Several changes were made in standing committees by unanimous consent.

HOUSE, December 5.—Mr. Singleton reported the consular and diplomatic appropriation bill. Mr. Clymer reported the navy appropriation bill. Mr. Brentano asked for a committee to investigate a charge of the Washington Post, that he had taken \$25,000 bribe to influence his legislative action. Mr. Cox submitted a resolution of enquiry relative to the expulsion from the German Empire of Julius Baumer a citizen of Chicago. Mr. Garfield reported a concurrent resolution for the appointment of a yellow fever commission. Adopted. Adjourned till Monday.

SENATE, December 9.—Senator Windom introduced a resolution setting forth that the patent office had become an institution of oppression. Submitted a resolution requesting the President to produce correspondence with U. S. Marshals, in reference to the late election in South Carolina and Louisiana. A message was received from the House announcing the passage of a bill to correct the omission in the sundry civil appropriation bill regarding the Hot Springs appropriation. The bill to change the mode of counting votes in Presidential elections was taken up and Senator Edmunds spoke in favor of the bill.

HOUSE, December 9th.—Bills were introduced in reference to the silver standard dollar, touching national banking associations and to enforce the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to the constitution, having reference to the late elections in South Carolina. Mr. Sawyer introduced a resolution calling on the treasury department for certain information in regard to gold and silver bullion. Objection being made the resolution was not recited. Mr. Burchard introduced a resolution for a holiday recess from December 21st to January 6. Referred.

SENATE, December 10.—Senator Wallace introduced a bill to authorize the exchange of subsidiary coin for trade dollars. Referred. A special bill was passed authorizing the appointment of Dr. James Powell, ex-confederate, to be assistant surgeon in the U. S. A., by a vote of 39 to 21. Senator Allison from the committee to inquire into charges against Stanley Matthews, submitted a resolution requesting the House to transmit to the Senate the testimony of James E. Anderson, relating to Matthews. Agreed to. The consideration of the bill relating to Presidential elections was resumed.

HOUSE, December 10.—The speaker announced the committee on the yellow fever epidemic. The consular appropriation bill was taken up, considered and passed. The naval appropriation bill was passed, reducing the amount asked for by \$1,331,342. The request of the Senate to furnish Anderson's testimony was complied with. A resolution was passed to pay the widow of the late representative from Nebraska, Mr. Welch, the pay of a member to the end of the Congress.

SENATE, December 11.—Senator Windom reported the fortification appropriation bill. Senator Blaine reported House bill to correct error in regard to the Hot Springs appropriation. Senator Beck introduced a bill to repeal statutes prohibiting the appointment to the army of ex-confederates. Senator Merriman introduced a resolution calling on the Secretary of war for a statement as to arms and equipments issued for use by officers of the treasury and interior departments. Senator Windom reported with amendments the House bill making appropriations for the support of the military academy. The Senate took up Senator Blaine's resolution in regard to inquiry as to whether the constitutional rights of American citizens had been violated at the recent elections. Mr. Blaine spoke at length in favor of the resolution. Mr. Thurman submitted an amendment to the resolution, and spoke at some length upon it. A lively colloquy ensued between Senators Blaine & Thurman. Senators Lamar and Edwards spoke on the resolution. The resolution and amendments were laid aside to be called up hereafter.

HOUSE, December 11.—The pension appropriation bill was reported and referred. The bill to regulate inter-state commerce was taken up and considered, several members speaking upon the question. At the close of the discussion the bill passed, yeas 134, nays 110.

ANOTHER MILL EXPLOSION.

The Anchor Mill of Pillsbury & Co., at Minneapolis Destroyed.

On the evening of the 9th inst., another disaster occurred at Minneapolis which resulted in the destruction of the Anchor mill, C. H. Pillsbury & Co., proprietors. About 8 o'clock Nels Munson, one of the millers, discovered that one of the elevators which conducts the flour from the lower basement to the middlings purifiers in the upper story of the mill was clogged. He took a lantern and proceeded to the basement for the purpose of removing the obstruction. Arrived in the basement, he took the precaution to place his lantern some fifteen feet removed from the elevator, where the difficulty was, but placed it directly in front of the door opening into the elevator. Removing the obstruction he started the elevator once more, when a great puff of flour dust came out of the open elevator door, reaching to the lantern, when "whiff" and there was at once an explosion similar to the great one last spring, only smaller and unaccompanied with its disastrous effect. Munson was badly burned about the head, hands and face, but not dangerously. He immediately stopped the mill and he, together with Theo. Barthoff and W. W. Smith, immediately turned on the water and tried to put the flames out with the hose. It was no use however. The flames ran up all the

elevators and then the entire interior of the mill was soon on fire. The alarm was immediately sounded and the entire fire department of the city were on the ground with all speed, but with all their efforts it was impossible to stay the flames.

The fire was confined to the mill which was completely destroyed on the inside. The mill was worth \$75,000 and the wheat and flour on hand \$12,000 more. There was an insurance of \$49,000 on the mill and stock, Mr. Pillsbury says the mill will be immediately rebuilt.

THE SHADOW OF DEATH.

Remarkable Presentation of Approaching Disillusion Possessed by Heller, the Magician—A Similar Instance.

The magician, Robert Heller, never laid claim to the possession of the power of second sight, which his sister of blonde tresses and regal carriage was advertised as having an inkling of, but Miss Heller laughed at death's approach until his sojourn was within five minutes of his harvest, while Robert Heller had an early presentiment of what was in store for him. It was on Saturday last that he arrived in Philadelphia, and on Sunday in company with his business manager, Mr. John Donnelly, he started toward Concert hall to perfect some arrangement preparatory to the season's engagements that he intended playing in that city. He had just received a letter from his intimate friend, E. A. Sothorn, in which the impersonator of Lord Dunsyre spoke of the trouble he had with his attack of incipient paralysis. Walking up Chestnut street, Heller suddenly experienced a twitching in his arm, and was obliged to stop. To his manager and friend, Mr. Donnelly, he said: "Sothorn had an attack of paralysis, and now my turn has come." Six times in the short walk from the Continental hotel, at Ninth street, to Fifteenth street, was Heller obliged to stop. Before Heller was noted as a quick-witted and quick-fingered conjuror, he achieved fame as a brilliant performer upon the piano, but it was long before his audiences smiled upon and applauded him. One night—an occasion that he never after tired of talking about—he played "The Last Rose of Summer" in such effective style that his listeners shouted their approval, and Robert Heller had won a lasting name. On Monday night, in Concert hall, when the entertainment was interrupted by his illness, Heller made his apology to the audience, and said, before dismissing them, he would give a brief performance upon the piano. His pale face and actions showed that he was suffering, but he sat down before the piano and played "The Last Rose of Summer" again and for the last time, and played as his best friends unite in saying, he never played it before, not even on that night when he achieved his first success. As he left the hall he said: "I will never play again."

Boris de Bodisco, the 18-year old son of the Russian diplomat who is among "the missing," along with his mother and elder brother, seemed to have a most distinct presentiment of the fondering of the ill fated Pommernia. Before his departure from Philadelphia for New York to embark it was noticed that he frequently spoke of his fear that the ship would go down. "Oh," said he, the night before he started, as he buried his remarkably handsome face deep in the long fur of his favorite little Spitz dog, Seymour, owned by a young lady friend—"oh, Seymour, suppose our ship should sink and I should be drowned." Those who listened lovingly to his childlike fear recall distinctly now the shiver of the coming fate which passed over his noble frame.

Views of Prominent Bankers of New York on Resumption.

[New York Special to Chicago Tribune.]

A prominent banker in Wall street, in conversation this morning, gave his views in regard to the rumor that a movement was on foot among the banks to hoard gold and thus hinder resumption. The banker said he did not think any such movement was in progress. The rise in the gold premium was simply owing to a stock-gambling operation, intended to depress stocks. It would only take a small amount of money to lock up a million of gold. If, by doing this, stocks could be depressed about five points, a large profit would accrue to brokers. The action of the clearing house, the banker thought, would soon be reversed. Many banks in the late meeting are already regretting their course. The Clearing-House association has no ill-feeling toward the people, and, if they found the best interests of the country demanded it, they would reverse their action. The banker thought resumption would be accomplished in January without any difficulty. Although, perhaps, detrimental to himself personally, he was free to admit that resumption was best for the country. He had heard, from what he thought a trustworthy and official source, that, upon the re-assembling of Congress, a bill would be introduced making legal-tenders at once redeemable in gold or silver. This, if passed, would bring about resumption immediately.

Another equally well-known financier thinks the action of the Clearing-House association more deliberate than many suppose. They were nothing but a set of speculators, having in view only their own interests. They pretended they want to sustain the government. If this was their intention, they should have acted in the opposite manner. They should rather have turned a cold shoulder upon gold coin. The United States has declared that the silver dollar of 412½ grains shall be the equal of the gold dollar. If not yet, it would be the duty of banks, as true representatives of the people and the trade of the country, to do all in their power to make silver worth as much as the gold dollar. By enhancing the premium on gold the people are made to suffer, encouragement is given to stock-gambling, and the revival of business prosperity is seriously interfered with. Instead of aiding the government, the banks are weakening it. If they want to be patriotic they will recede from their false, damaging position, and make a clean breast of it by declaring themselves ready to assist the government.

The London *Lancet* says that ague is now such a rare disease in England that researches into its pathology and etiology have been little prosecuted of late. The majority of medical writers hold that the sole cause of fever and ague is the prevalence of marshes, but there is strong evidence to prove that water has much to do with it. The *Lancet* points to the prevalence of the malady at Cyprus as offering an excellent opportunity for a careful inquiry at the instance of the Government. The sick list there has not decreased.