IT TERRIFIED THE NEGROES.

Old Mother Shipton's Prophecy Is Fulfilled in Kansas City.

NEW AND NOVEL INVENTION

ELECTRIC CARRIAGE TRAVELS EIGHTEEN MILES AN HOUR.

It is About the Size of an Ordinary Carriage, and the Motive Power Is Supplied by Storage Batteries—A Big Improvement Over Anything of a Similar Nature Now in Existence.

Kansas City, Dec. 23.—A horseless carriage went spinning along the smooth asphalt of Fourteenth street, in the vicinity of Cherry street, today, fulfilling Mother Shipton's prophecy that "Carriages without horses shall go," and terrifying two negroes, who saw sparks and apparently sulphurous flames issuing from under it. The vehicle was an electric carriage of Kansas City invention and manufacture, and is the only one in the United States, although dissimilar ones are used in the old world. The invention is Dr. H. C. Baier's and was patented by himself and J. H. Elberg, in whose carriage shop in this city the carriage was made.

F. S. Patton had charge of the electricity on the trial trip last night, and the machine worked perfectly. A speed of eleven miles an hour was obtained.

The carriage is about the size of an ordinary one. One seat holding three persons faces the front and another one that will accommodate a similar number faces to the rear. A storage battery composed of five series of five cells each furnishes a current of 167½ ohms and the cells are arranged in three tiers beneath the seats. The wheels are of wood, with india rubber cushions on the tires. The rear wheels which are three feet, two inches in diameter, have on their inner sides a cast-iron flange 20 inches in diameter and five inches wide. Motion from the dynamo, which is over the hind wheels axle, is communicated to the flange by a rawhide friction pulley revolving from 600 to 1,300 time a minute and is capable of being elevated or depressed at will by the driver by means of drivers on which he places his feet. The steering is done by a foothed segment and pinion attached to the axle of the fore wheels and handled by a steering post, manipulated by the driver with his hands. The carriage can make quick, short turns. The storage batteries will run the machine about seven or eight hours.

The Kansas City invention weighs about 2,000 pounds and is quicker and lighter than the European coaches.

BERING SEA SIEZURES.

Representative Hitt Objects to the Payment of Prospective or Remote Damages.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Secretary Gresham's communication to Congress, relative to paying $425,000 for Bering sea seizure purposes, is occasioning much discussion among those who have been giving attention to the subject.

Representative Hitt, of Illinois, who introduced the resolution calling for the information, is not yet satisfied that the United States should pay the lump sum of $425,000 for the seizure, as he says the positive evidence already adduced shows this amount to be excessively large.

Mr. Hitt points out that the amount foots up to $439,000, which is little more than the amount of the proposed compromise. Of this $439,000, Mr. Hitt says $357,000 is for "probable earnings," estimated "catch," etc.; that is, the ships claim large damages for what they might have earned had they not been seized, so that their claim is for prospective or remote damages and only a portion for damages actually sustained. Mr. Hitt says this theory of prospective damages was expressly repudiated before the famous awards commission. It was then held that the United States could not recover for what a number of American ships might have done since they have been seized. The congressman says this precedent and others settles the principles of international laws, and that the remote damages cannot be collected.

It is also shown that of the eighteen ships claiming damages, ten were American ships. Some of these were flying the British flag merely for the sake of avoiding detection. Mr. Hitt urges that it is not for Great Britain to collect alleged damages to American ships. The claims of these American ships are included in the settlement of $425,000, although Mr. Hitt says the United States should deal with its own ships in its own way, and not through Great Britain as an intermediary. After deducting the $357,000 for "probable earnings" and further deducting the claims of the ten American ships, Mr. Hitt holds that there is very little left of the original claim, and that $425,000 is far in excess of what it ought to be.

NEW CURRENCY SCHEME.

Cashier Hoblitt Believes He Could Solve the Problem.

Bloomington, Ill., Dec. 23.—Alvin H. Hoblit, cashier of the National State Bank of this city, a member of the executive committee of the Illinois State Bankers' association, has formulated a currency scheme, which he believes is superior to the Baltimore plan, and which has received the endorsement of a number of able financiers in the Illinois State Bankers' association. His plan is as follows:

First—Begin funding the greenback and treasury notes by issuing $250,000,000 worth of 2½ per cent. bonds for banking purposes. Allow banks to issue currency to the par value of these bonds. Discontinue tax on their circulation.

Second—Allow banks with unimpaired capital to issue an additional 20 per cent. on circulation secured by their assets. Upon this added currency levy a tax of 1 per cent. per annum for the average time it is in circulation.

Third—This 20 per cent. of circulation in capital will give the necessary elasticity to our currency system needed in times of stringency of the money market.

Fourth—With the proceeds of the sale of bonds, retire a like amount of greenbacks and treasury notes, which are a constant menace to the government.

ALDERMAN POWERS.

He Will Demand a Full Investigation of the Charges Made Against Him.

Chicago, Dec. 23.—Alderman John Powers, who is alleged to have offered to "deliver," for a consideration, sufficient votes in the city council to kill off the anti-cigarette ordinance, tonight announced that he would demand a searching investigation, which he claims would vindicate himself and the other city officials who are implicated in the alleged expose.

The Civic Federation will take a hand in the matter. President Lyman Gage, of the Civic Federation, said tonight: "A great crime has been committed against the people. It should be investigated to the roots. There are judges in the state, prosecuting officers and a grand jury to take such matters in hand. Such a crime will not go unpunished. If the officers of the law fail to act and allow such an enormity to go by unnoticed, the Civic Federation most certainly shall not allow it to be said that the funds of the organization are being expended in other directions. We have on our hands now all we can care for, but we are not so much engrossed that we would allow the Powers case to slide by and out of sight without due justice being administered.

"I understand Alderman Kerr's proposition for the investigation of the police and his scheme to seek the aid of different business and reform organizations in the work. I am in sympathy with it, but the Civic Federation being busily engaged at the present time will not join in it."

Attorney W. S. Forest, who has been managing the Civic Federation's elections frauds case, thought it would be a mistake for any organization to undertake too much at once. He thought if the investigation could begin on some particular line it would grow out quite fast enough afterwards.

"The city council ought to be investigated," he said, "and I believe the Civic Federation will take up the work with a will.

"Members of the general assembly who were in the city yesterday discussed this question in connection with political affairs. The drift of sentiment among them was that the legislators ought not to be called upon to take a hand in the investigation, but that they stood ready to relieve Chicago in any way necessary.

"The new members, especially, are not anxious to become embroiled in Chicago and Cook county politics, and one of them said: 'If the Civic Federation will come down to Springfield with a plain case upon which we can act, there will be no hesitancy on the part of the senators and representatives from the rural districts.'"

BONACUM WINS.

Priests Who Have Been Fighting Him Admit Their Defeat and Utter Rout.

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 23.—The priests of the Lincoln diocese, who have been fighting Bishop Bonacum for two years, have surrendered. They admit that the bishop has won, and if he has not been sustained at Rome, the diplomacy of Mgr. Satolli have left them no chance but to seek employment elsewhere. Father English, the tenth priest to quit the Bonacum diocese, came to Omaha yesterday, and now has charge of a parish in this city.

The trouble between Bonacum and his priests began two years ago, over the refusal of Father Corbett, of Palmyra, to submit to some ruling of the bishop, whom he thought was tyrannical. The bishop was finally tried for libel, charges being preferred by Corbett in that it inured him in some of his publications to Corbett's congregation. The bishop was acquitted. Satolli visited Lincoln for the purpose of investigating the trouble, but was unable to do so. The matter was appealed to Rome, but if ever passed upon, the verdict was never made public.

The mortal offense of Father English was his testimony against the bishop in the Corkle case, in Nebraska City, last May. When the question of authorities on canon law was under consideration, the bishop and his supporters testified that the work of Father Smith, of Paterson, N. J., was regarded as an authority on canon law. Father English contradicted this testimony, and produced a letter from the bishop instructing him, as judge of the diocesan court, to study "Smith on Canon law," which he regarded as the best work on the subject. Within sixty days after giving this testimony, Father English was given orders to vacate the Hastings missions and report at David City on April 1. An appeal was taken to Satolli, who assured Mr. James English, brother of the priest, that a trial would be granted. "But not now," said the delegate, "not now. Tell him that; he will understand."

He never had a trial. The priests announced today that they had surrendered and would seek charges in other dioceses.

A CRIME UNEARTHED.

Fondness for Whiskey Unloosened His Tongue.

Erie, Pa., Dec. 23.—The ringleaders in the gang of masked burglars who, a week ago, beat and bound and under fearful torture secured the $10,000 which David and Sarah Slocum had laid up for a rainy day, have been captured. They are Frank Anderson, a farmer living within two miles of the scene of the robbery; Ralph Vansaler and Jeremiah Casey. Anderson and Vansaler were captured together at the house of the former. They resisted arrest, but were overcome. Casey was captured in the eastern part of the state.

The conspiracy seems to have been put up by Anderson and Casey in the Meadville jail. Anderson was there on sentence for larceny and met Casey, who was in for some minor offense. Anderson knew about Slocum's wealth, also that he had called in his money. In less than two weeks after the pair were out of jail, with four others, they met at the Anderson rendezvous, and carried out one of the most daring and successful burglaries in the history of crime in this section. Casey's fondness for his cups loosened his tongue, disarmed his secretiveness and gave the clue which resulted in the capture of the gang.

REAL ESTATE DEAL.

It Causes a Dynamite Explosion in Detroit.

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 23.—A small vacant cottage in Spring Wells township, owned by Charles A. Frost, was blown up with dynamite last night and almost completely destroyed. Frost resides in a house adjoining. All the windows in his house were shattered by the concussion and the pictures and other movables were knocked to the floor. Frederick Loy and Charles Browning were arrested early this morning charged with the crime. Frost alleges that Frost had sworn revenge upon him, claiming Frost had taken advantage of him in a real estate deal.

PROMINENT DEFENDANTS.

Big Chancery Case Now Pending in New Jersey.

New York, Dec. 23.—The Press tomorrow will say: Ex-Secretary of the Navy William C. Whitney, Theodore Havemeyer, Prescott Lawrence, Thomas N. Perry, Francis F. Vanderhill, Rush H. Herdokoper, George Green, Reginald W. River, Colonel William Jay, James T. Hyde, T. Suffern Tailer, and John G. Beresford, together with a number of other prominent citizens of New York, are defendants in a case pending in the chancery court of New Jersey. The action in question has been brought by Thomas L. Hamilton. In 1892, the defendants organized the United States Horse and Cattle Show society for the purpose of giving horse shows in the fall and spring of each year in this city. The society was incorporated under the laws of New Jersey with a capital stock of $75,000. The new organization leased Manhattan field for five years. The directors, through the executive committee, contracted with Thomas L. Hamilton for the construction of the necessary buildings at a cost of over $56,000. After the first show, which was not a financial success, $30,000 was paid to Hamilton on his contract, leaving $26,000 still unpaid. When the final accounting was had, the directors discovered the total amount of unpaid bills was $50,000. On application, Chancellor McGill made a decree declaring the society insolvent, and appointing the directors as receivers. Up to date, the receivers have filed no report with the chancellor.

WILL GO WILLINGLY.

Chicago, Dec. 23.—Adolph Jacobson, who was arrested here on a telegram from the Burt-Dexter company, from New York, has expressed his willingness to return there without extradition papers. Jacobson admits he is the man wanted, but denies that he took $18,000 of the company's money, as charged.

SIR JOHN'S REMAINS.

London, Dec. 23.—The cruiser Blonheim, having on board the remains of Sir John Thompson, prime minister of Canada, sailed from Portsmouth at 9 o'clock for Halifax. The gale had subsided.

IN A DRUNKEN ROW.

Irving, Ky., Dec. 23.—Charles Witt shot and killed Tom Puckett in a drunken row a few miles west of here last night. The murder was the result of an old feud. Puckett's body had four bullets in it, one piercing his heart and one going through his bowels. He died almost instantly.

SEVEN NEGROES BITE THE DUST.

Bloody Battle Between Whites and Blacks in Georgia.

MORE LIVES ARE AT STAKE.

A DESPERATE FIGHT CAN HARDLY BE AVOIDED.

Both Sides Are Determined and Each Black and White Man Is Armed to the Teeth—An Hour May Bring Forth a Tale of Blood That Will Thrill the Entire World.

Quitman, Ga., Dec. 23.—The lives of seven negroes have been taken in the last twenty-four hours in revenge for that of one white man; and unless all signs fail utterly, many more lives are in jeopardy.

Two bodies of determined men, between 400 and 500 in all, every man being heavily armed and each body about equal in numerical strength to the other, separated by a mile of country, and liable to clash at any minute—that is the spectacle presented here in Brooks county tonight.

The Opposing Forces.

One body is made up of stern, determined white men, bent on revenge for the brutal murder of one of the best citizens of this county. The other is made up of negroes, terror-stricken and fearful lest they or their families be made the objects of the same fate as has already befallen seven of their number, and ready to defend themselves from such a fate as well as they may be able.

What the next twenty-four hours will bring forth no one can predict.

That there will be an open clash seems very much more than probable at this writing. The authorities are powerless, and practically no efforts have yet been made to bring about peace, save by the relatives of the man whose murder is the cause of it all.

Part of a Plot.

On Thursday, Mr. Joseph Isom, one of Brooks county's most prosperous farmers and best citizens, was murdered by a party of negroes and it leaked out that the killing of Isom was part of a plot to kill all the whites who were in the posse which a few weeks ago arrested Jesse Jeffreth for the killing of Mr. T. Moulden. Isom was the most popular man in the county. He lived ten miles north of here, in a part of the county, where the negroes outnumbered the whites and the killing created great excitement. When it developed that the same gang of negroes had sworn to kill other white men, the whites gathered together, as if by one accord, and the work of death and destruction began.

Armed to the Teeth.

Of the seven who are dead, the names of only four could be obtained this afternoon. A reporter visited the scene late this evening. Every cross-road was found picketed with sentinels and every man in the county is armed to the teeth. When one of the race excitements occur, King Terror rules in the homes of the whites as well as blacks; and this is such a case. There are probably 500 men under arms, covering an area of about five square miles. About a mile and a half from the home of the Isoms were about 200 whites all well armed and breathing all sorts of vengeance. A mile further was a crowd of negroes, of about the same size armed with Winchester rifles, pistols, axes, clubs and every available weapon, waiting for the whites to attack them. They are entrenched in and around a lot of negro cabins in the midst of a thin grove and the latest information is that the whites are advancing on them from two sides.

Sam Taylor, Eli Fraser, Sam Pike and Henry Sherard are four negroes known to have been killed. It is understood that Waverly Pike, Jim McCall and a negro named Herring were probably the others. The county is comparatively sparsely settled and the facilities for securing information are very meagre. Pike is the negro who killed Isom. He has been in hiding near where the trouble has occurred, and the authorities here do not consider it probable that he has been caught.

Pitched Battle Probable.

As the reporter left the scene there seemed every likelihood of a pitched battle tonight. Captain E. Tillman, brother-in-law of Isom, was, however, doing everything in his power to restrain the whites. He has sent hurried messengers all over the county summoning to his aid conservative men, in the hope that they would prevent further bloodshed. It will be impossible to know tonight how well they succeed.

Details of the killing of the seven negroes are very meagre. Taylor, Fraser, Pike and Sherard were together about sunset last night. They were regarded as four of the ring-leaders of the conspiracy to kill and burn, and were being especially sought for. A half-dozen whites, one of whom is said to have been Isom's brother-in-law, came upon the negroes and ordered them to submit to arrest. One of the negroes answered with a shot that struck one of the whites, and four blacks were shot down in their tracks. The other three were caught, one at a time. Many of Isom's neighbors, who are in the crowd, will not listen to any peaceful talk. They declare that for the sakes of their wives and children and for their own safety, they must stamp out the gang that has sworn to murder, and tonight that spirit seems the predominant one. If the fight comes, it will be a desperate one.

The Conspiracy Theory.

The killing of Isom occurred in the public road not far from his home, and the circumstances attending it seem to throw doubt upon the conspiracy theory. Mr. Isom was here Thursday and while in town had some words with Waverly Pike, a negro living in his vicinity. Apparently everything was smoothed over when he left for home. After arriving there, he started with Henry Timmon, his brother-in-law, for Captain Timmon's home, about half a mile from Isom's. They met four negroes, two on horseback and two in wagons. Pike and West McCall were on horseback. The two Herring boys were in the wagon. They came near riding over Isom, who remonstrated. He said: "Look, don't run over me," and had stepped out of the way. Just then Pike drew a pistol and without a word fired. The bullet pierced Isom's heart. Pike and McCall fired three shots each at the prostrate body of Isom, and they broke for their horses. Pike made his escape, but McCall and the Herrings were arrested and are in jail.

In this present excitement there is grave danger of these three being hung.

LOADED WITH DUCKS.

President Cleveland Proves to Be a Crack Shot.

Washington, Dec. 23.—President Cleveland and his party of deer hunters returned to the city this morning on the Atlantic coast express. The train was due at 7 o'clock, but did not arrive until nearly 9 o'clock, all the trains on the line being late. The president was looking well, being a little browned by his exposure to the sun and wind. Altogether the party killed about 200 ducks, the president being responsible for rather more than half of them. He spoke very appreciatively of his reception at Georgetown yesterday.

DECLARED OFF.

University of California Team Will Not Meet the Chicago Chrysanthemums.

San Francisco, Dec. 23.—The University of California football team will not meet the Chicago team during the Christmas holidays. This was decided at a meeting of the players. They decided that it was hardly worth while to give up the holiday pleasures to train for a game in which even victory would be of no great importance. The main objection is that the game scheduled for Berkeley to play the visitors would be the last of the series, and it would be impossible to secure all the crack eleven for the game. Furthermore, they believe that by the time the last game is played the attendance will not be large enough to warrant the guarantee required.

Had a Picnic.

San Francisco, Dec. 23.—The football team of the University of Chicago, which is to play against the Stanford university men on Christmas day, arrived this evening. They say they have had a "picnic" thus far, and Manager A. A. Stag says his men are in fairly good condition for a battle on the gridiron, although he thinks the Californians will have the advantage by reason of their acclimation. The team was met at Benicia by representatives of all the football teams of northern California, who escorted the Chicagoans to this city.

A PIOUS FRAUD.

Colored Minister Arrested on the Charge of Seduction.

Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 23.—Rev. J. J. Totten, the pastor of the most fashionable colored church in Memphis, was arrested today and taken to Byhalia, Miss., where he is charged with seduction. Totten was formerly pastor of a church at Bahalia, and while there he seduced Nina Bell, a member of his congregation, under promise of marriage.

DOMESTIC DOTS.

Newsy Notes From All Portions of the Land Over Which the Stars and Stripes Wave.

Windom, Minn., Dec. 23.—Paul Peterson and Andrew Foss, while skating on the lake today, broke through and were drowned.

Kansas City, Dec. 23.—Charles Biggs shot and fatally wounded Nick Smith, at Sheffield, a suburb of this city tonight, the result of a quarrel.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Dec. 23.—Colonel R. L. Watkins, one of Chattanooga's oldest citizens and a veteran of the civil war, died tonight in his 59th year.

Muskogee, I. T., Dec. 23.—Tonight about 11 o'clock, Will Rider was shot and killed at the home of a woman named Chapman. The circumstances of the killing are not known.

Franklin, La., Dec. 23.—The bursting of a steam pipe at the Caffery Central Sugar refinery caused the instant death of two men, August Brumet and Joseph Catill. But slight damage was done to the refinery.

Tonawanda, N. Y., Dec. 23.—Fire broke out shortly after 3 o'clock this morning, in the lumber yards of Weston & Son, and destroyed 8,000,000 feet of lumber valued at over $150,000. The fire is supposed to have been of incendiary origin. The loss is covered by insurance.

Cattlesburg, Ky., Dec. 23.—Charles Frederick, white, fatally shot Clark Cornell, colored, during a dispute about a dollar in a card game last night. James Lovejoy, white, also took a hand in the melee and stabbed Cornell twice in the back. Frederick and Lovejoy escaped.

Burlington, Ia., Dec. 23.—The Hawkeye announces that the report from Cincinnati, that President Perkins, of the C., B. & Q. railroad is about to resign is only a repetition of a rumor current in western papers for several weeks past, and is wholly without foundation.

Racine, Wis., Dec. 23.—Robert Smith, alias James O'Connor, a notorious forger, escaped from the county jail last night. The discovery was not made until this morning. O'Connor was well known to officers in large cities as a clever all-around thief, and had done service at Joliet and Waupun. No clue to the prisoner has been obtained.

Providence, R. I., Dec. 23.—A meeting of the locked-out operatives of the Hosiery mill, at Thornton, was held this afternoon, and it was decided to remain firm in the refusal to return to work for less than the present schedule rates. It was asserted that fully twenty workmen would return to England rather than surrender.

Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 23.—Governor Mitchell received today at Tallahassee, a requisition from Governor Hogg, of Texas, for Henry M. Flagler, of St. Augustine, the railway hotel and Standard Oil magnate, who with other Standard Oil magnates have been indicted in the Texas courts for violating the anti-trust laws of that state. Governor Mitchell has not indicated his probable course.

Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 23.—At Rockford, Coosa county, Ala., Albert Gordan, aged 22, and well connected, was arrested on an indictment from Elmore county, charging gambling on Sunday, and was jailed after a desperate but unsuccessful effort to escape. Last night when Jailor Redit went to Gordan's cell to carry a blanket, he found him hanging to a bar by his suspenders with his hands tied behind him with his handkerchief, dead. Mortification over his arrest was the cause.

Syracuse, N. Y., Dec. 23.—The body of Matthew Fulton, a lineman in the employ of the Central New York Telephone & Telegraph company, was found early this morning beside the tracks of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western road. A large gash in Fulton's head was evidently made by some sharp instrument. Fulton's pockets were empty when found. It is thought he may have been murdered. The coroner and the railroad secret service detectives are investigating the case.

TURKS KEEP TRACK.

Closely Watching Reports About the Armenian Troubles—A Denial.

Washington, Dec. 23.—That the Turkish government is keeping posted on the reports in circulation concerning the Armenian troubles and that it desires a friendly public opinion seems evident from the ease with which it observes the reports which are in circulation abroad. It has made denials of several printed stories of oppression in Armenia and today the Turkish minister furnished to the press a dispatch from his government contradicting several recently printed stories. The dispatch is as follows:

"It has been published that the archbishop of Marash was imprisoned at Aiep; that the bishop of Hadjin, the archbishop of Zeiatoun and Father Jarask, of Marash, were condemned to death; that Sister Elizabeth and twenty-five other prisoners were under arrest and that fifteen leading men of Aiep were sent to prison. All these assertions are without foundation in fact; nor was the church in Beylan closed, as has been falsely reported."

The Delegates' Power.

Constantinople, Dec. 23.—The porte has agreed to instruct the foreign delegates who will accompany the Armenian commission that they are empowered not only to suggest questions to the witnesses, but also to personally examine them. Abdullah Pasha has withdrawn from the presidency of the commission at the last moment, and has been replaced by two officials from the ministry of justice, who will start today from Erzroum, where the members of the commission are already assembled. Abdullah's recall is supposed to be due to the representations that he is inferior in rank to Zedki Pasha, who, it is alleged, committed the atrocities, and will have to be examined.

TCHERKOFF AT PARIS.

Paris, Dec. 23.—General Tcherkoff, who was sent as special envoy to announce the accession of Czar Nicholas to the throne of Russia, arrived here this afternoon. He was received with military honors. Thirty thousand people were assembled along the streets through which the general passed, and he was heartily cheered. He will see President Casimir-Perier tomorrow.

CHURCHILL IS WORSE.

Marseilles, Dec. 23.—Lord Randolph Churchill has become worse since his arrival here. Symptoms of locomotor ataxia have appeared. Nevertheless he was determined to proceed to London and accompanid by his physicians he started for Paris tonight.

BLOCKADE HAS BEEN RAISED.

California Passengers Have a Merry Time in the Snow.

FALL WAS VERY HEAVY.

TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY MEN IN SAN FRANCISCO.

They Come to Study American Methods of Running Railways and Ferries—New Line of Road to Be Built from San Francisco to Los Angeles—Other News of Track and Train.

Dunsmuir, Cal., Dec. 23.—The blockade caused by the heavy fall of snow was raised at noon today, and the delayed passenger trains are now moving. The great depth of snow on the track broke the rotary plow. While it was being repaired the belated passengers had a merry time in the snow.

At Sisson.

Sisson, Cala., Dec. 23.—The blockade between this place and Dunsmuir has been temporarily raised. Last night two hundred snow shovellers and an extra train passed through Sisson, en route to the big snow drift some five miles north of Sisson, and this morning the northbound Oregon express passed through followed later by two other delayed passenger trains. The storm has abated, but the indications are that considerable more snow will fall before tomorrow.

COME FOR INFORMATION.

Officials of the Trans-Siberian Railway in 'Frisco.

San Francisco, Dec. 23.—Among the arrivals on the steamer Peking from the Orient were two officials of the Trans-Siberian railway, who have come to America to study the railway and ferry systems of the country. G. Adadvopan, one of the party, is chief engineer of the big Siberian railway, and P. Kokolon, who will accompany him, is the vice-president of the board of directors. They have a letter of introduction from Secretary Gresham to the presidents of all the large railroads in the country, and they will travel in search of information which they expect will prove valuable in the operation of the Siberian road. They are more interested in ferries than railroads, however, for the establishment of a line of ferry steamers on the Amoor river is contemplated, and the visitors say they want the advantage of the experience of Americans in such matters.

The two officials expect to visit the locomotive works in the eastern states with a view, possibly, of adopting the American locomotive for use on the Siberian railway. They expect to adopt many American ideas. They expect to remain in California some time before proceeding east.

NEW LINE OF ROAD.

San Francisco and Los Angeles the Terminal Points.

A company has been incorporated, says the San Francisco Examiner, to build a railroad between this city and Los Angeles. Its nominal capital is $20,000,000, of which $500,000 is said to have been subscribed and $50,000 paid in at the rate of $1,000 a mile.

None of the subscribers are reputed to be men of wealth, but Frederick Homer, who acts as trustee for unknown persons, says the projectors of the San Francisco and Los Angeles Railway company, are New York men of railroad experience and that its backers are London capitalists.

It is claimed that not only have the surveys been made and most of the rights of way obtained, but that the company has 300 miles of steel rails on hand and that contracts have been signed for the construction of that much of the line. Work, it is intimated, may begin in the spring. The route is from the bay to Stockton, thence practically parallel to the old Southern Pacific, touching it at Merced, Visalia and Bakersfield, with branches to Modesto and Fresno.

The articles of incorporation show that the subscribers to the capital stock of the company, who are also its directors, are the following: Frederick Homer (trustee), $450,000; Frederick Homer, $10,000; William H. Martin, W. H. C. Fowler, $10,000; A. Judson, $10,000; W. J. Behan, $10,000. The purposes of the corporation are stated to be "to build, lease, maintain and operate a standard gauge railroad, single or double track, from San Francisco to Los Angeles through Alameda, Contra Costa, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kern and Los Angeles counties, etc."

GOFF MAY RUN.

Has Been in Close Conference with His Political Friends.

Baltimore, Dec. 23.—A special to the News from Clarksburg, W. Va., says:

Judge Nathan Goff, who has been holding court in South Carolina, arrived at his home yesterday, and has been in close conference with political friends, including Hon. George C. S. Davis, who is himself an active candidate for the United States Senate against Elkins. It was given out this evening that Judge Goff would, in all probability, announce his candidacy for the Senate within the next twenty-four hours. If he does, he will probably prove a formidable opponent. He has eight votes pledged to him and Senator Whittaker and Hon. T. J. Hutchinson each have as many more. Judge Goff's candidacy would draw heavily from Elkins and at the same time solidify the followers of the candidates, all of whom are identified with the Goff wing of the party. The conference has caused some excitement in political circles throughout this section.

Of Whole Cloth.

Wheeling, W. Va., Dec. 23.—The dispatch from Baltimore tonight quoting Clarksburg, W. Va., special to the effect that Judge Nathan Goff will announce his candidacy for the United States Senate, against ex-Secretary Elkins, as the result of a combine of the anti-Elkins forces, is believed here to be made of whole cloth. There is, in fact, no probability that Goff will be a candidate for the Senate. He has emphatically stated he would not be. More than three-fourths of the Republican members-elect of the legislature have publicly declared themselves for Elkins.

MARKETS OF MANCHESTER.

Manchester, Dec. 23.—The market last week was very quiet. The proposed Indian duties on cotton and yarns temporarily averted business for India. The inquiry, however, was large, but the limits were made below the market. Business to a fair extent was done for China, but it was spotty. Moderate miscellaneous sales were made for the minor market. Prices were easy, though not quotably changed. In yarns the business was confined to daily needs and prices were mostly slightly lower. Stocks are increasing. The number of idle looms is still increasing.

SEEKING SAFETY.

Farmers and Ranchers Deserting Their Homes on the Guatemalan Border.

Aaxaca, Mexico, Dec. 23.—A courier from the Guatemalan border reports that there is such a disturbed condition of affairs on the frontier that farms and ranches are being abandoned and the people are seeking places of safety from the depredations and crimes that are being constantly committed by the bandits and outlaws following in the wake of the soldiers. The Guatemalan forces are being strengthened all along the lines, and the Indians and the other natives of the country are being pressed into military service.

The volunteer troops of this state, as of the states of Chiapas, are equipped and ready to march to the frontier as soon as war is declared.

English Cruisers at Acapulco.

Acapulco, Mex., Dec. 23.—The extended stay in this harbor of the English cruisers Royal Arthur, Champion, Satellite and Nymph is a matter of much speculation as to the plans of England with the war spirit in this part of the Pacific. The most generally accepted belief is that these cruisers have some designs upon the government in connection with the present dispute over the boundary between Mexico and Guatemala, especially in view of the uncommunicative policy being followed by the commanders of the boats.

The probable attitude of the United States in the event of meddling on the part of England, is also a matter being industriously discussed in some quarters. The cruisers have been idle for a month, and there is no indication of an early departure.

DREYFUS SUICIDES.

Paris, Dec. 23.—An unverified report is current that Captain Dreyfus, who was sentenced to imprisonment for life for revealing French military secrets to foreign powers, has committed suicide in prison.

THE DRUSES.

Curious Customs of a Curious Tribe in the Holy Land.

Of all the various races which at present inhabit the Holy Land, there are none more distinctive and interesting than the Druses. The interest attaching to them is due to several causes. In the first place, they are one of the most exclusive races upon earth. They keep religiously and rigorously to themselves, never intermarrying with outsiders, never interfering with the religious opinions of others, and never allowing others to interfere with theirs.

It would be equally impossible to convert a Druse to any other religion as it would be to become a Druse one's self. They have one great saying with reference to their religion: "The door is shut; none can enter in and none can pass out." They would on no account admit a proselyte into the mysteries of their faith, nor accept a convert from any other religion. It is equally out of the question to attempt to pervert any of the Druses to another creed.

It is true that in many parts of the Lebanon, and especially in the neighborhood of Beyrout, many Druse children may be found in the missionary schools of the Roman Catholics, Greeks and Protestants. They are allowed to be instructed in the catechisms of the various schools where they may be placed, and not unfrequently the teachers and pastors of the mission have fondly imagined that they have secured promising lambs for their folds from among the children of Druses. But as soon as ever they arrive at the age for leaving school, when the girls are marriageable and the boys ready to assist their fathers in the labor of the field, they are taken back to their Druse village and home and become as strict and exclusive in their religion as if they had never heard of any other. One could fearlessly challenge any missionary to produce a genuine case of a convert from Drusedom who has arrived at years of maturity.

OLD, OLD DANCES.

Some of Them Date Back to the Days of the Wandering Minstrels.

The gavotte and the bourree can be variously assigned to Spain and France for their origin; but the jig—homely appellation!—can be clearly traced to a most respectable antiquity. In the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries the name was variously written gigue, giga and geig, and signified simply "the fiddle dance," from the German geige, "a violin." We hear of these gigues, or "fiddle dances," as early as the days of the wandering minstrels, the peculiarity of them being an entire license of step, so that the most untalented performer could join in. They became fashionable among the upper classes at the Watteau fetes of Louis XV's time, but were naturally danced with considerably more elegance than their primitive form required. They still retained, however, their miscellaneous character, and, far from any symmetry of motion being demanded, the gigue was not correctly executed unless several varieties of step were represented among the dancers. It was, in fact, "a medley."

We can scarcely over estimate the influence of Lully, the chef d'orchestre of Louis XIV, on the art of dancing. His band, which was known as "the twenty-four violins," was required to furnish all the music for the fetes and balls of the brilliant court to which it was attached. The gavotte and the bourree have been ascribed to him, but probably without reason. The cotillon, however, has a more legitimate claim to such a paternity, and most likely was at least perfected in the brilliant ballrooms of Versailles.

MRS. GRUNDY SAYS.

That newspapers have made family photograph albums superfluous.

That honesty is even a better policy than a paid-up life insurance one.

That at least half the fashionable scandals start direct from the clubs.

That most masculine girls intimidate the young men they do not disgust.

That some comic weeklies need a refined editor to revise the coarse jokes.

That tradesmen who want their bills are still annoying "society people."

That "to err is human, to forgive divine," except, of course, in May fair.

That the portrait exhibition has revived some almost forgotten scandals.

That many men who didn't vote are most enthusiastic over election results.

That it is rude to ask the woman of the day from what animal her furs came.

That the fashionable children of this generation are wiser than their parents.

That it is a hazardous experiment to try to be somebody in town or nothing.

That the period of fashionable mourning is regulated by size of the estate.

That it could be wished slang was confined to those who didn't know any better.

That the torrent of talk over other people's affairs makes Niagara insignificant.

That among socially rising women of the period are bonifaces' ambitious wives.

That independent fashionable spirit is shown by taking orchestra seats at the opera.

That it would save trouble if men had their sanity certified when they make wills.

That a good deal of "society news" bears the earmark of "home composition."

That living pictures are reaching a point when they disgust even the depraved.

That international wedding anniversaries are rarely observed with enthusiasm.

That expectation is raised so high, many of a season's debutante is disappointing.

That New York women are reputed indiscreet in their use of wines in public.

That the whalebone bell-skirts are a dreadful thing to encounter in a crowd.

That Thanksgiving literature of the several governors makes an interesting study.

That social philosophy teaches to bear very calmly the misfortunes of our friends.

That some only "work among the poor" in connection with music and fireworks.

The sultan of Turkey is said to get up at 6 in the morning and work hard all day. But business is so piled up that he hasn't yet had time to attend to the butchers of Armenians.

Six amateur photographs of Boston beauties, taken by Walter Chase, have created a sensation in London. There are plenty of beautiful women in Boston, and no mistake.

Your country cousin thinks it only right that he should make you a visit and disgrace you before all your friends, just because last summer you spent a week on his farm and helped him harvest his crops.—Truth.

If you have attempted to flirt with the minister's wife she will now make you a little call and put your name down for a $50 subscription to the Christmas Tree fund, without giving you a chance to protest.—Truth.

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