"certain statements in the note requiring refutation."

The insurgent chief Rivera has arrived at Cadiz from Cuba. He will be incarcerated in a fortress. In an interview, Rivera said he believed nothing could induce the Cubans to cease fighting until they gained their independence. He justified the killing of Lieutenant-Colonel Ruiz, the Spanish peace emissary, as a means of arriving at this end.

General Ruis Rivera, who succeeded General Antonio Maceo as commander of the insurgent forces in Pinar del Rio, was wounded and captured on March 28 of this year in the hills near Cabaezdas de Rio Hondo. Rivera was kept in prison from that time on, and it was reported that the Spaniards intended to execute him, but strong representations were made in his behalf from the United States, and it was announced on December 20 that he had been released from the Cabanas fortress and had sailed the same day for Cadiz, his home.

Rivera landed in Cuba from Spain in 1863. He had formerly been a civil engineer at Barcelona, Spain. He was in Cuba during the ten years' war. Later he left the island and occupied positions of trust at London, Madrid, Manila and Honduras. Subsequently he removed to New York, where his wife resided, and returned to Cuba on the invitation of the late General Maceo, whom he succeeded when the latter was assassinated.

FEAST SUPPLIED FOR THE POOR

How Sacramento Charity Was Extended to the City's Indigent.

Nearly a Thousand Persons Dined on Turkey Given by the Salvation Army.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

SACRAMENTO, Dec. 27.—That Sacramento takes good care of her poor and needy there can be no doubt. Not a single human being went hungry on Christmas day. Better than that, there was not a family or individual who did not have turkey and cranberry sauce and plum pudding. In the basement of St. Paul's there was a scene long to be remembered by those who witnessed it, and longer still by those who participated as guests at a Christmas dinner provided by the people of Sacramento and arranged for by the officers of the Salvation Army and Rev. C. L. Miel, the pastor of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Great, long tables extended from one end of the basement to the other, and upon these tables were spread a meal fit for a king.

Many a poor wayfarer joined the crowd which thronged beneath the portals of St. Paul's and enjoyed a repast that could not have been duplicated in any of the cheaper restaurants of the town. Two tables were reserved for women and children, and at these the mirth of the hungry children robbed the occasion of all its color and air of pauperism. The men who gathered there wore grateful expressions, but were bowed with humility, and the women were sad. The children, however, were as joyful a lot as gathered around any feast-board in the city.

Before night came nearly 1000 men, women and children had enjoyed the hospitality of Sacramento's generous people, and went on their way with their hearts full of gratitude toward the soldiers of the Salvation Army.

The army folks had worked all the night previous, and Mr. Miel said, with a twinkle in his eye: "I understand the people living in this fashionable neighborhood heard many strange noises all night."

"I shouldn't wonder but that they did," replied Captain Reed. "We sang and prayed until the morning dawned."

"The good work by no means ceases with the Christmas dinner," said Mr. Miel to The Call correspondent as he led the way to the church storeroom, where thirty-two sacks of flour were piled, besides barrels and barrels of beans, and one locker after another bulging with provisions for the poor. In another room great stacks of clothing were piled. In another were toys and children's shoes and stockings. To-night the Salvation Army Christmas tree with its loads of presents was stripped, while every little waif in the city received some gift and remembrance of one of the brightest holiday seasons the Capitol City has ever known.

There are other charities busily engaged in looking after the comfort and health of the poor, and before New Year's there will not be a family nor an individual in Sacramento who, worthy and entitled to aid, will not have received it.

MILES STATION FARMER ACCUSED OF MURDER.

Charged With Having Enticed an Enemy to His Cabin and Taken His Life.

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Dec. 27.—Constable George Knapp to-day arrested Charles Wilson upon the charge of having murdered Samuel Thurston. Wilson summoned several friends to his cabin at Miles Station, near this city, and told them that Thurston was lying inside dead from wounds received upon the head as the result of a fall against the sharp corner of the door. The story seemed very improbable, and as the house bore every evidence of a struggle an investigation was made. It resulted in the finding of a shotgun with a blood-stained stock. Other circumstances which seemed to prove Wilson guilty of the murder were found, and he was arrested.

Wilson and Thurston are known to have exchanged bitter words over the ownership of a cabin upon a Government claim owned by the latter. Late in the evening the two men, both being intoxicated, went to Wilson's house and retired. It is alleged that Wilson enticed Thurston to his cabin in order to murder him.

TO ADVERTISE CALIFORNIA FRUIT THROUGHOUT EUROPE.

Yolo County Fruit-Growers Appoint a Committee to Canvass for Funds.

WOODLAND, Dec. 27.—A meeting of fruit growers was addressed by Hon. A. J. Filcher, secretary of the State Board of Trade, and R. D. Stephens. The chairman of the meeting was authorized to appoint a committee of ten to solicit subscriptions toward the fund of $1000 to be raised in accordance with the resolution of the State fruit growers' convention, to be used in defraying the expense of making exhibits of California fruit at various trade centers of Europe.

Shrimps in Monterey Bay.

MONTEREY, Dec. 27.—For the first time on record local fishermen have found shrimps in Monterey Bay. If the shrimps come in considerable numbers they will be caught for the San Francisco market.

HIS CHRISTMAS GIFT A PARDON

Convict Barker Breathes Free Air Once More.

Was Arrested on His Wedding Day and Convicted of Assault.

Governor Budd Commutes His Sentence From Six to Two Months.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

SACRAMENTO, Dec. 27.—Governor Budd to-day presented Charles H. Barker of Placer County with a holiday greeting which will, no doubt, stand out in the memory of Barker for many years as his most treasured and most memorable gift. Christmas time brings much pleasure and plenty of happiness, but there are few this year who received a more acceptable present than the one conveyed to-day by a stroke of the Governor's pen.

Barker's wedding day was two months ago. Two months ago found Barker behind prison bars, while his young and beautiful wife reached through the gratings of his prison cell and wept for the man who had been given her by an act of law in the morning and taken away by an act of law in the afternoon.

The records of Placer County for one day show a marriage license, a marriage certificate and a penal commitment, on each one of which appears the name of Barker and on two of which can be found the name of the Justice who united Barker in marriage at high noon and sent him to jail before sunset.

The story is a short one, and deals with Barker's marriage, his subsequent celebration and the meeting later in the afternoon with the Justice who had tied the wedding knot in the morning. Some words passed, a blow was struck and Barker's honeymoon was over, so far as his participation went.

Six months is a long time to postpone such an event, and a county jail is not the most delightful spot in the world wherein to contemplate the prospects of the future. But that is where Barker would have stayed had it not been for the commutation of his sentence to-day from six months to two, and the fine of $1000 to $50. Barker's petition was signed by the Justice who had interfered with his plans for a wedding trip, and when the story of Barker was told and the misery and sorrow of his bride explained there was not a man in Placer or Sacramento county who refused to join in the petition which was granted by the Governor to-day.

SUPERINTENDENT OF THE TWELFTH FEDERAL CENSUS.

E. J. North, Secretary of the National Association of Wool Growers, May Get the Place.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—The President is considering the qualifications of several men for the position of Director of the Twelfth Census, but as yet has not indicated whom he may appoint. E. J. North of Boston, secretary of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers, who was identified with the eleventh census and is a statistician of ability, is one of those whose names are under consideration.

It is understood the directors of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers are loth to relinquish the services of Mr. North and have indicated to him that they will make it a financial object to him to remain with them. Mr. North has discussed the matter with the President, and despite the increased salary offered him by the wool manufacturers it is believed that his final acceptance of the directorship of the census hinges on the placing of the clerical force of the census bureau in the classified service. Mr. North, it is understood, does not desire in the event of his acceptance of the position to be hampered in any manner by the distribution of places in his department.

FIRE AT SANTA BARBARA.

Total Destruction of the Hawley Block Barely Averted.

SANTA BARBARA, Dec. 27.—Only by the prompt action of the Fire Department this morning was a $200,000 fire averted. It seems like a miracle that one of the finest blocks in the city is not now a pile of ashes. The fire broke out in S. Jones' candy store in the upper Hawley block on State street. This store was entirely gutted, everything being destroyed. The loss amounts to $1000, fully insured. The other occupants suffered losses to the amount of $1500 by water and smoke.

GALE OFF THE OREGON COAST.

ASTORIA, Or., Dec. 27.—Another gale set in last night, and the velocity of the wind all day to-day averaged sixty miles an hour and seems to be increasing to-night. Four ships are known to be outside waiting to enter the harbor, three of them having pilots aboard. They are the Dundee, McMillan, Henriette and an unknown. The gale this morning blew the British ship Province, lying in the harbor ready for sea, upon the north end of Desdemona Sands, where she is still lying in an easy position, caught by the heel only. It was impossible to pass a line to her to-day to haul her off.

KILLED BY AN EXPLOSION.

FRESNO, Dec. 27.—Word was received this afternoon that Edward Lloyd, an old time miner of this county, was killed yesterday evening at his mine in the foothills near here. The mine, known as the Confidence, is a valuable one, and Lloyd recently refused $7500 for it. He has been working it himself. Yesterday, while he and his men were at work, a giant cartridge exploded prematurely, killing Lloyd and blowing off the hand of John Malo, one of the workmen. Lloyd had mined in this county for twenty-seven years.

BURGLAR MAXWELL'S DEATH.

QUINCY, Dec. 27.—Lowell Maxwell, the burglar convicted of having robbed the Wells-Fargo express office of $9800 last October, and who slashed his abdomen with a razor yesterday with suicidal intent, died late last night.

Maxwell's criminal career began in 1884, when he killed a man named Rabe in a saloon row in Greenville. For this he was not entirely to blame, but he was sent to prison for ten years. After serving six years he was pardoned, and conducted himself well for a time, but again started on a criminal career. Fear of going back to prison was the cause of his suicide.

MONSTER RAFT TO PUT TO SEA

Five Million Feet of Lumber Will Be Towed to San Francisco.

Portland Company Does Away With Transportation by Steamships.

If Successful the Experiment Will Be Repeated From Time to Time.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

PORTLAND, Or., Dec. 27.—Portland will send a raft containing 5,000,000 feet of lumber to San Francisco. The enterprise of some of her business men has taken a new direction, and one whose originality and daring will attract attention over the entire country. This is no less an undertaking than to transport lumber from the Willamette River to San Francisco by means of huge rafts, the first to contain 5,000,000 feet and to be 396 feet long and 53 feet wide.

It is difficult to realize the immense quantity of material represented by these seven little figures, though a comparative idea may be gained by considering the fact that the large ocean vessels seen in Portland's harbor have an average capacity of little over 1,000,000 feet. The contents of this one raft, if cut into inch boards and laid end to end, would make a foot walk from New York to Chicago, with enough over to build several houses at each end.

The idea originated in the fertile brain of John Poulsen of Inman, Poulsen & Co., whose attention was attracted to the subject by the difficulty of engaging vessels to take lumber to San Francisco to supply the extensive yard jointly operated in that city by the concern of which he is a member, and the North Pacific Lumber Company, also of Portland.

Rafts of piling and spars have for several seasons past been towed from the Columbia to the Golden Gate, but nothing like the present undertaking has ever been attempted. Poulsen has drawn his designs from a scientific standpoint, and after careful consideration of all the difficulties to be encountered, so that it will be practically impossible for the lumber to become dislodged. Doubters will scoff at the idea of transporting lumber in such a form, but the long years spent by the designer in the lumber business have included experience in rafting on Eastern rivers and lakes, as well as on the Baltic before coming to America, which was of great advantage in the present instance, though, of course, an ocean trip of 800 miles necessitates the strongest method of construction.

Everything is now in readiness for the commencement of work, and it will require several weeks to complete the strange craft. By the time it will be ready to put to sea the weather should be propitious, and the probability of encountering a violent storm reduced to a minimum. The raft will project very little above the surface of the water, and this greatly increases the chances of its making a safe trip, as the waves will wash completely over it, encountering little resistance, instead of expending their force in battering it to pieces. This is a principle used in the construction of the famous whalebacks, and one which experience has demonstrated to be correct. If seen from a distance at sea the raft would be more likely to be classified as a monster of the deep than as a great freight carrier.

WILL BE ASKED TO AMEND INTERSTATE COMMERCE LAW.

Congress Called Upon to Give the People Relief From Exactions and Discriminations.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—"Congress will be called upon at this session to amend the interstate commerce law," said a member of the Interstate Commerce Commission to-day, "as the latest annual report of the commission states the first section of the interstate commerce act declares that all rates shall be just and reasonable, and the third section that there shall be no discrimination between persons and localities. The twelfth section declares that the Interstate Commerce Commission shall execute the provisions of this law. The report attempts to show that the commission has not at the present time power to secure to the people the protection which the law contemplates, and that it cannot have without certain amendments to the law. The principal one of these amendments would give the commission power not to make the rate but to supervise the rate—that is to say, when the commission determines, after full hearing, that a particular rate is reasonable it should have the power to compel the carrier to put in that rate for the future.

"This is said to be a new power for which the commission is now asking for the first time. In point of fact that is not so. The commission has always exercised this power, upon the theory that it possessed it under the interstate commerce act until the United States Supreme Court decided on the 24th of last May that the commission had no such power."

In consequence of this decision, the commission will be obliged to stop the work that it has been doing in the past and will be unable to grant relief in cases which are now pending before it. The amendments asked for are to sections 6, 15 and 16 of the act, but in substance they come mainly to this one thing—the power to supervise and correct an unjust rate—and in no other way can the people obtain any real relief from unjust exactions and discriminations.

LONG VOYAGES OF THE STEAMER CITY OF EVERETT.

The Vessel That Took Food to Starving Hindoos Is Returning From Spain With a Cargo of Ore.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—The American steamer City of Everett, which made the trip from San Francisco to Calcutta with a cargo of food for the starving Hindoos, is now on her way across the Atlantic from Spain with a cargo of ore for Charleston, S. C., where she arrives about New Year's. After discharging her cargo at Calcutta she made a trip to Madras with coal, and, returning to Calcutta, she took on a small cargo of jute for Valencia and Bilbao, Spain, via the Suez canal. Discharging the jute in Spain she got a cargo of iron ore for the United States. This is the first voyage of this kind ever made by an American steamer.

BUCKLEY OFF LIFE'S STAGE

Paralysis Ends the Career of the Well-Known Actor.

Made His Professional Debut With a Stock Company at Stockton.

Was for Many Years a Prime Favorite With the Theater-Going Public.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—E. J. Buckley, for many years one of the best-known actors on the American stage, died to-day at No. 74 West One Hundred and First street. He had been paralyzed for several years, and had calmly awaited the end. He was 54 years old. The funeral will be held at 1:30 o'clock to-morrow afternoon, and the interment at Calvary Cemetery.

Edward Joseph Buckley was born in Australia, and came to America with his parents when a child. He made his first appearance on the stage as an amateur in Victoria, B. C., in 1864, in the part of William in "Black-Eyed Susan." He became a professional soon afterward, opening in Stockton, Cal., in a stock company, in which Amy Stone was the star, taking the small part of Etienne in "Fanchon." A week later he assumed the leading role of Black Donald in "The Hidden Hand." That same season he joined John McCullough's company as "the walking gentleman." When the California Theater was opened in 1869, Mr. Buckley became a member of the great stock company that included John McCullough, Lawrence Barrett and John T. Raymond. He remained in San Francisco until 1875 when he went to Chicago, returning later to the Pacific Coast with Hooley's Comedy Company, in which William H. Crane was the leading man.

Mr. Buckley was next engaged by Tompkins & Hill to play the principal parts in the Boston Theater. He made a success as Captain Molineaux in "The Shaughran," and for three years he remained a favorite in the Hub. He supported Mary Anderson on her first appearance in the Fifth Avenue Theater in New York City.

When Edward Booth and Lawrence Barrett starred together Mr. Buckley played with them and with marked success. His Mark Anthony was widely commended. After William J. Florence's death he took the part of Sir Lucius O'Trigger with Joseph Jefferson in "The Rivals." His last public performance in New York City was about five years ago in Nat Goodwin's company in "The Gold Mine."

He was a great athlete and his fine physique was known to most theater goers. He had a stroke of paralysis of the face while he was playing the leading part in "In the Ranks" in Montreal. Since then he had several strokes, and for two years he had been absolutely helpless. Mrs. Buckley has been a most faithful attendant at his bedside, and she is left physically prostrated by his death. He leaves one son and two daughters, all members of the profession of which he was so distinguished a member.

Critics and former associates declare that E. J. Buckley was in his day one of the greatest performers of juvenile parts ever seen on the American stage.

COMEDIAN DALY BADLY INJURED

Thrown to the Stage by the Breaking of a Slack Wire.

Sensational Incident During the Progress of the Play "The Belle of New York."

Special Dispatch to The Call.

BOSTON, Dec. 27.—Dan Daly, the well-known comedian, was badly injured at the Park Theater to-night by the breaking of the slack wire upon which he was performing. Mr. Daly was rendered unconscious, and is at the Massachusetts General Hospital in a serious condition. The surgeons at the hospital say that he will recover in a few weeks, if nothing happens to change his condition. He has concussion of the brain.

The famous comedian went on the stage to perform his act in "The Belle of New York," a few minutes after 9 o'clock. About 9:25, while Daly was completing one of his many funny movements on the wire, it broke without warning. The audience was horrified to see the performer hurled to the floor. By a superhuman effort Daly managed to land on his feet with terrible force, and then fell to the ground on his side. Many of the fairer sex who were present screamed and several fainted when they saw Daly unable to rise.

Several attendants were at his side in a minute, and he was carried to the wings, where surrounded by the members of the company, the comedian was unable to speak, and several messengers were dispatched for physicians. When they arrived they thought Daly's skull was fractured. An ambulance was summoned and the comedian was driven to the hospital.

JOHN DONALDSON DEAD.

CLEVELAND, Dec. 27.—John Donaldson, the well-known sporting man, died here to-night, after a brief illness, of inflammation of the bowels. Donaldson was once in the ring, having stood up for ten rounds before John L. Sullivan at Cincinnati in 1880. Donaldson was best known, however, as J. J. Corbett's sparring partner and trainer. He put Corbett into condition for his fights with Mitchell, Jackson and Sullivan, and was in Corbett's corner at the Fitzsimmons fight at Carson City. Donaldson had a gymnasium and cafe in this city.

DEATH CLAIMS DR. S. B. BELL

Passing of the Theologian and Statesman at Santa Barbara.

Through His Efforts the College of California Was Established.

Presided Over the First Republican Convention Held in This State.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

SANTA BARBARA, Dec. 27.—Samuel Bookstaver Bell, D.D., died this morning at the age of 80 years. He was born in Montgomery, Orange County, N. Y., on September 17, 1817. In 1845 he married Miss Sophia Walworth, a member of Chancellor Walworth's family. While a young man he took up the study of law and for a few years practiced in the courts of his State. Subsequently he studied theology and was ordained a minister of the Presbyterian church.

In 1852 Dr. Bell left his native home, coming to San Francisco around the Horn in the clipper ship Trade Wind. During this voyage the ship took fire and the vessel and passengers were nearly lost. A mutiny occurred as well, and a white squall almost wrecked the ship.

It was through the instrumentality of Dr. Bell that a religious college was established at Oakland, and this became the basis for the formation of the University of California. Dr. Bell served in both branches of the California Legislature, and presided over the first Republican convention in this State. He was a personal and intimate friend of Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War.

Dr. Bell was a member of a Masonic Lodge of Oakland.

DR. BELL'S ACTIVE CAREER.

Prominent for Years in Legislative and Educational Circles.

OAKLAND, Dec. 27.—Rev. Samuel Bookstaver Bell was the founder of the First Presbyterian Church here, and was its first pastor. It is thought that he was the first minister to hold services regularly in this city. He came direct from his home in the East, arriving in the latter part of 1852 or early in 1853. He erected a tent under the oak trees in which to hold his first services, and shortly afterward began the erection of a building. This he constructed largely by the labor of his own hands. To obtain some pecuniary assistance he made a trip to the mines, where there was more money in circulation than in Oakland.

It was while living here that he was elected to the Legislature, and procured the passage of the bill for the incorporation of the College of California, which subsequently became the University of California. He labored assiduously for the institution in its early struggles. His early life was a part of the history of Oakland. He took a prominent part in everything that occurred in the young town, and was very popular with the pioneers.

Dr. Bell's connection with the county dates back to the time when Alameda and Contra Costa counties were separated and the first prominence given this portion of the State politically. All of the pioneers remember him with respect. His recent poor health was the cause of much solicitude among his friends, who will learn of his death with the deepest sorrow.

Dr. Bell was one of the oldest members of Live Oak Lodge No. 61, F. and A. M., and it has requested the lodge at Santa Barbara to pay him all the respect due one of his standing. The Masons will conduct the funeral services.

SAILING RECORD BROKEN BY THE SHIP GLENCLONA.

Trip From South Africa to Tacoma Completed by the Vessel in Eighty-One Days.

TACOMA, Dec. 27.—The four-masted British ship Glenclova has completed a voyage from Cape Colony to Puget Sound in eighty-one days, breaking all previous records from South Africa to a Pacific Coast port. In consequence Captain John Low is the happiest skipper who has arrived here in many days. Ordinarily 240 miles in twenty-four hours is considered a very good gait for a sailer, but a reference to the Glenclova's log shows that on her banner day she skipped over the ocean 331 miles. Following in close succession were other single-day runs as follows: 326 miles, 325, 318, 301, 295, 290 and 288. For thirty-one consecutive days she averaged 220 miles with every setting of the sun.

The gales were terrific, but as good luck had it the wind came from the right quarter, forcing the ship forward in her course at a sprightly pace. After passing Pitcairn Island unusually heavy northwest gales and seas were experienced, the wind eventually shifting into the southwest and blowing with great fury. The Glenclova left Cape Town on September 21, and for eighty days, until Cape Flattery came into view, land was not sighted.

In the fall of 1896 the ship Aneurus sailed from Cape Town to San Francisco in eighty-five days, which was considered remarkably fast time, but it was beaten by four days by the Glenclova, which has come 800 miles farther. In Captain Low's cabin is found a small conservatory of tropical plants on which thrives his pet chameleon from Africa's shore.

Ella Dana Conway Dead.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—Ella Dana Conway, wife of Moncure D. Conway, the author and lecturer, is dead at her home in this city, aged 64 years. She had been failing for more than a year, and in June last Mr. Conway, who was filling a pulpit in London as minister of the South Place Ethical Society, resigned on account of his wife's health and brought her back to her native land to die.

POLICE CALLED INTO SERVICE

Lively Time at a Meeting of San Jose's Council.

Nolting Refuses to Sit Down at the Command of the Mayor.

Chief of the City's Bluecoats Ordered to Compel Him to Keep the Peace.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

SAN JOSE, Dec. 27.—Everything was harmonious at the meeting of the Council to-night until just at the very close, when the Mayor found it necessary to call upon the Chief of Police to compel Councilman Nolting to take his seat. The ebullition of bad blood between the Mayor and the Councilman was caused by the notorious Riddell claims for horse and dog scalps, amounting to $458. The Mayor had completed a superficial and fruitless investigation of the poundmaster. Nolting asked what the Mayor proposed to do about the bills. The Mayor promptly retorted that that was his business. Nolting resented this. He arose in anger and shouted at the Mayor:

"You are making a whole lot of gallery plays."

Rap! went the Mayor's gavel, but this had no effect on the incensed Councilman.

"You sit down," ordered the Mayor.

"I won't sit down," answered Nolting, with the air of a bad boy at school.

"I call on the Chief of Police to preserve order," said Mayor Koch.

"I have a right to speak, your Honor, and I will speak. I am going to make a statement. I rise to a question of privilege."

Nolting then charged the Mayor with having signed a bill for $24 in favor of the San Jose Herald for publishing the delinquent tax list. Nolting claimed that this list should have been published without any extra charge, in accordance with the contract made between that paper and the city. He suggested to the Mayor that he ought not to pick out any particular bills that were questionable, but ought to treat them all alike.

The Mayor replied that Nolting had voted to allow the Herald bill.

Nolting claimed that the Mayor ought either to sign or veto the Riddell bills to-night.

"I will do as I please about it," was the only answer that his Honor vouchsafed. "I don't want any instructions from you."

An incident of peculiar significance occurred in connection with providing the city with a storage battery fire alarm system. At a previous meeting an offer had been received from the United States Fire and Police Telegraph Company to provide the city with a new system. At to-night's session a communication was read from the Gamewell Fire Alarm Telegraph company asking that it be allowed to put in a bid for this improvement. No attention was paid to this communication, but the Council voted to accept the offer of the first named company. The members present and voting thus were Fay, Krieg and Nolting. The Mayor announced that their action did not meet with his approval, as he thought the other company should have been given an opportunity to compete. He stated that he would veto the resolution giving the contract to the United States company. This caused Fay to remark:

"There is no use being Mayor if you can't exercise your veto power once in a while."

A petition from the Standard Oil Company was read, asking permission to erect warehouses for the storage of the products of petroleum at the corner of Seventh and Jackson streets. It was not granted, and Councilman Fay said that they ought to be prevented from locating within the city limits.

Another outgrowth of the fatal fire of last Friday was the petition of the Chief of the Fire Department asking that the number of fire hydrants be increased.

Santa Claus Badly Burned.

MILTON, Dec. 27.—While impersonating Santa Claus at a family distribution of presents, Danny Schroebel, aged 14, was severely burned, his white cotton beard catching fire from the lighted tapers. His hair, eye lashes and eyebrows were burned off, but he will not lose his eyesight.

Mrs. Booth Is Better.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—Mrs. Ballington Booth is somewhat better to-night.

POTENT POWER OF MORMONS

Dr. Hamilton Says They Dictate in Utah Politics.

Hold the Balance of Power and Sway the Two Old Parties.

The Church Really in Control of the Government of the Infant State.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

BOSTON, Dec. 27.—Rev. John A. Hamilton, D.D., of Boston, one of the editors of Congregational Work and the secretary of the Congregational Education Society, has just made a special investigation and report on the present status of Mormonism, in which he says that it has been the hope of many that statehood in Utah would result in the essential ending of Mormon denomination; but it is becoming more and more manifest that such hope is not well grounded. It is true, he says, that statehood brought new activity to the two political parties, and it was prophesied that, as the intensity of the strife between these increased, the thought of church control, pure and simple, would proportionately decrease. But, as events prove, the church finds in the new order of things a means most favorable to the enhancement of its political influence.

Apparently it has already come to be the practical balance of power between the two great parties. According to its own pleasure, it ordains victory for one and defeat for the other. Officers, laws, administration—all seem to be more and more within its gifts, and, while this is not ostensibly operating to the formal re-establishment of the "peculiar instruction" of Mormonism, it clearly is operating to foster and promote its essential spirit.

The present constitution of the State, in many of its features, is said to be strongly obnoxious to the Mormon Church. This opens the way for attempts at constitutional revision, and that such attempts are already meditated cannot, says Dr. Hamilton, reasonably be doubted. The authorities of the church are even now making this more and more manifest through the press.

As to the public opinion of the church, it was difficult to conceive that much more could be desired than now exists, even by the stanchest Mormon. But there is a large proportion without the ecclesiastical pale that must be reckoned with. Among them it that class whose interests in some form connect them with the non-Mormon schools. The church leaders are not slow to see that the continued establishment of such schools must be prevented, and that, as far as possible, every essential condition to life and prosperity must be withheld from those already in existence. To accomplish the latter, every effort has been put forth to secure prominence of church representation in the personnel of the various boards of instruction. So far as the State University is concerned, the movement has been successful. To-day the management of this university is essentially Mormon. To effect the same in lesser schools seems also to be determined. Even mission schools like those under the former New West Education Commission are embraced in the number whose independent control it is the aim to prevent.

"In view of the foregoing facts," continued Dr. Hamilton, "can it be doubted that the one effective remedy for the traditional and deep-seated evils of Utah is found in the principles represented in Christian schools? It is through these that the progress hitherto realized among this people has been attained, and nothing short of this will save them from retrogression and secure to them the conditions of future progress."

No Receiver for This Company.

SEATTLE, Dec. 27.—According to newspapers received from Juneau, Alaska, it seems that an error has been made in reporting that the Nowell Mining Company has been placed in the hands of a receiver. A receiver has been appointed for the Berners Bay Mining and Milling Company, the Northern Belle Gold Mining Company, the Seward Gold Mining Company and the Ophir Gold Mining Company, which are practically owned by Thomas Nowell and associates. No receiver was appointed for the Nowell Mining Company.

SHOWS YOU!

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