The National Republican.

VOL. XVIII---NO. 198. WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 18, 1878. FIFTY CENTS PER MONTH.

CURRENT CAPITAL TOPICS.

Important Action of the Treasury Department.

Provisions for Putting the Coin in Circulation—Interesting Matters Relating to the Mints—Coinage of Quarter and Half-Eagles Ordered — Five-Twenty Bonds Called in—Story of a Dead Soldier and a Dead Letter—Ingenuity of Female Clerks—Naval Affairs.

Steadily Nearing Resumption.

The Assistant United States Treasurers have been ordered to pay out silver dollars in their vaults on checks in exchange for legal tenders and bank notes to parties wishing them for disbursements on pay-rolls, and in lieu of one and two-dollar notes. Depository national banks have also been notified that silver dollars will be sent them, free of expense, from the mint for disbursement. It is hoped that the fall demand for small notes for the movement of the crops may be supplied by the use of standard silver dollars. The Treasurer is taking an inventory of the small gold coin, to see what amount is on hand, and if found to be advantageous to the interest of the Government it will be disbursed. It is believed that the action of the Government, taken in connection with the importation of gold from Europe, which it is predicted will commence unusually early this season, will have the effect to wipe out entirely the present very small premium on gold in the United States, and give us practical specie resumption some time before the period set by act of Congress.

Mint Matters.

With the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, instructions were yesterday sent by telegraph to the mint at San Francisco to coin $500,000 in quarter and $500,000 in half eagles, and hold the same subject to orders from Washington.

The purchasing rate for silver in lots not exceeding 10,000 ounces at the Philadelphia Mint and New York assay office has been, by order of the Secretary of the Treasury, reduced to one-half cent per ounce below the equivalent of the London rate.

The amount of silver dollars exchanged at par for gold coin at the San Francisco Mint for the week ending July 8 was $180,000, which is very gratifying to the Treasury Department, as such exchanges return to the Treasury gold in place of the gold coin paid out for silver bullion during the first two months succeeding the passage of the act authorizing the coinage of the silver dollar.

Bonds Called In.

The Secretary of the Treasury yesterday issued the sixty-second call for the redemption of five-twenty bonds of the act of March 3, 1865. The bonds will be paid at the Treasury on and after October 17, and the interest on them will cease on that day. The following are the numbers and denominations of the bonds so called in:

Coupon bonds: $50—No. 65,001 to No. 68,000, both inclusive; $100—No. 110,001 to No. 114,000, both inclusive; $500—No. 76,201 to No. 79,500, both inclusive; $1,000—No. 140,001 to No. 145,000, both inclusive. Total coupon, $2,500,000.

Registered bonds: $50—No. 2,251 to No. 2,300, both inclusive; $100—No. 17,851 to No. 18,250, both inclusive; $500—No. 10,451 to No. 10,550, both inclusive; $1,000—No. 34,401 to No. 35,200, both inclusive; $5,000—No. 9,251 to No. 9,650, both inclusive; $10,000—No. 17,731 to No. 18,463, both inclusive. Total registered, $2,500,000; aggregate, $5,000,000.

History of a Dead Letter.

Some time in 1877 a soldier stationed with the cavalry in Texas died very suddenly, and was buried with military honors by his comrades and the spot carefully marked. On his person was a discharge, which he had received the day before for physical disability, and a letter from his mother in England, and one evidently from his sweetheart, but signed only by her first name. These were carefully preserved by the lieutenant of the company and forwarded, with a letter of sympathy, to the bereaved mother in England. In due course of time the letter was returned to the United State dead-letter office as undeliverable, the mother not being at her former address. It was then opened, and, after an examination, returned in its open condition, with the suggestion that the contents would enable the English post officials to discover the person it was intended to reach; but in due course of time it came back the second time as undeliverable. The letter was then turned over to one of the lady clerks in the Dead-Letter Office, who, on reading the contents, with a woman's instinct, divined that the "Ollie" who wrote the one letter and the Miss L—— spoken of in the mother's letter were identical. What is technically termed a "letter of discovery" was addressed to this suppositious lady at the address in Scotland postmarked on her letter. This letter, on reaching that office, was forwarded to London, whither the young lady had gone, and the Dead-Letter Office here has just received a reply from her, with thanks for the diligence displayed in endeavoring to secure the delivery of the letter, stating that it was the first they had heard of the soldier's death, and giving the present address of the mother of the soldier, to whom the original package has been forwarded, making its fifth trip across the Atlantic Ocean.

The Life-Saving Service.

Mr. S. I. Kimball, of the life-saving service, accompanied by Captain Merryman, has gone to the lake coasts for the purpose of selecting sites for the new life-saving stations recently ordered to be established by Congress. From the lakes they will proceed to New England to select sites for the new stations on that coast. Sites are also being selected on the North Carolina and Virginia coasts for fifteen new stations. It is intended to complete the new stations this season, if possible, and have them ready for opening in the fall. By the bill three additional stations are provided for the New England coast, one on the Delaware coast, two on the Maryland coast, fifteen on the coasts of Virginia and North Carolina, five on the Texas coast, ten on the lakes, and one on the California coast.

Naval Matters.

The following officers have been ordered from the Constitution and placed on waiting orders: Captain J. A. Greer, Lieutenant-Commander R. P. Leary, Lieutenants W. B. Newman, E. A. Field, S. F. Clarkson, A. R. H. Lillie, and Kossuth Niles, Ensigns N. R. Usher, H. F. Fletcher, H. M. Hodges, William Winder, J. F. Parker, and William B. Caperton, and Cadet Midshipman P. W. Lansdale.

Midshipman Walter McLean has been ordered to the Powhatan, at New York, August 1, and Ensign Frederick Tyler to the Swatara, at Boston, on the 20th instant.

Lieutenant-Commander Gerringe, commanding the Gettysburg, which is on special duty, reports to the Navy Department, under date of June 17 last, the arrival of his vessel at Bon Ghazi, Africa. He had made a survey of the reefs at Zouage and searched successfully for reported dangers in the Gulf of Sidia, making 375 soundings. He also reports having rediscovered and examined dangers reported by Borchey, after his return around the shores of the gulf. Such discoveries were made as will permit (combined with similar work done by Captain Mouchez in 1876) the construction of a chart and a description of the coast and dangers sufficiently accurate for all purposes of safe navigation.

The Constellation, Captain Greer, left New York yesterday afternoon, at half-past five, for Annapolis, where she will take on board the first and third classes of cadet midshipmen for their summer cruise.

Capitol and Departmental Notes.

Subscriptions to the 4 per cent. loan yesterday amounted to $759,050.

Revenue receipts yesterday were—from internal revenue, $284,249.37; customs, $289,498.02.

Mr. Telesford St. Peters has been appointed keeper of life-saving station No. 7, district No. 10, coast of Lake Michigan.

Outstanding circulation of legal-tender notes and fractional currency yesterday: United States notes, new issue, $18,989,746; United States notes, series 1869, $143,391,863; United States notes, series 1874, $37,102,769; United States notes, series 1875, $139,289,508; United States notes, series 1878, $7,907,100; total United States notes, $346,681,016; fractional currency, $16,514,968.17; grand total, $363,195,984.17.

RAILWAY POSTAL CONVENTION.

Meeting of Prominent Railroad Officials.

A convention of leading officials of the railway mail service, the registered mail branch, and superintendents of mails was held in the Post-Office Department yesterday. The gentlemen present were summoned to Washington to consider what reforms could be made in the postal service, and the best method of making available the facilities at the command of the Department. The convention was called to order by General A. D. Hazen, Third Assistant Postmaster-General, who made a short address of welcome, and briefly outlined the business for which they had been called together. The convention then organized by the selection of W. B. Thompson, of Toledo, superintendent of the ninth railway mail division, as president; G. D. Fox, secretary, and Dwight Curtis, of Washington, assistant secretary.

The following propositions were submitted by Mr. Stratton, chief of the registry division of the Post-Office Department, and were informally discussed and referred to a committee consisting of Messrs. Stratton, White, Forrester, French, and Holmes:

1. Is it desirable to extend the present system of through registry pouches?

2. Should railway postal clerks be allowed to open registered packages and add registered matter?

3. Should there be a general exchange of registered pouches between the large post-offices and the railway post-offices?

The subject of registry of third-class mail matter was discussed at some length, and a general feeling that it was not advisable was indicated. It was, however, referred to a committee, consisting of Messrs. Bailey, McGrath, Stratton, Pearson, Bingham, Cheney, and Forrester.

The subject of cancelation of postage stamps by railway mail clerks was discussed. It seems that since the 1st of July, when the law went into effect regulating the compensation of postmasters by the number of stamps canceled, instead of the number sold, many of the postmasters go to the depot with their canceling stamps to cancel letters taken to the postal-cars, instead of being sent through their offices, claiming the right to cancel those stamps, and thereby increase their commission.

Various other matters relating to the mode of transacting business were discussed, and at four p. m. the convention adjourned to meet at nine o'clock to-morrow.

The convention will probably remain in session two or three days.

The following is a list of the gentlemen present yesterday: A. D. Hazen, Third Assistant Postmaster-General; H. G. Pearson, assistant postmaster, New York city; J. T. Bingham, assistant postmaster, Philadelphia; Theodore N. Vail, superintendent railway mail service; D. B. Parker, chief special agent; S. R. Stratton, chief of Division of Registered Letters, Post-Office Department; J. B. Harlan, superintendent mails, St. Louis; A. J. Hildreth, superintendent mails, Boston; John H. Crocker, superintendent registry branch, St. Louis; M. J. McGrath, superintendent mails, Chicago; John M. Nilsey, chief clerk stamped-envelope agency, Hartford, Conn.; Charles Forrester, jr., superintendent division registered letters, New York, and the following division superintendents of railway mail service: T. B. Cheney, Boston, first division; R. G. Jackson, New York, second division; M. V. Bailey, Washington, third division; L. M. Terrill, Atlanta, fourth division; C. J. French, Cincinnati, fifth division; J. E. White, Chicago, sixth division; E. W. Alexander, Nashville, seventh division; W. B. Thompson, Toledo, ninth division; John Jameson, Washington.

THE OREGON INDIANS.

Result of the Fight of Monday.

General McDowell has sent to General Sherman the following dispatch, received by him from one of General Howard's staff, dated Pendleton, July 15: "Miles struck the enemy at Umatilla agency this a. m. After a stubborn fight of seven hours, the entire command, including Bendire's and a company of cavalry, charged the enemy, driving them in confusion several miles. Our wounded—two; none killed. The enemy had five killed and a large number wounded."

THE SIMCOE AGENCY.

A Portland dispatch says there are 2,000 Simcoes at the Simcoe agency, commanded by Chief Joseph Squires, but he has little or no influence with the tribe. They have few arms and no ammunition, and even if so inclined could not offer the hostiles battle. Thus far they are peacefully disposed, and Agent Wilbur apprehends no danger from them, although some of the renegade and disaffected Indians have been missing of late. Chief Moses, with all his Quintallicums, is camped in Keteltas Valley, and the settlers are afraid they may conclude to commit depredations, in consequence of which they are seeking the protection of the towns. Yakima City, on the boundary of the Simcoe reservation, is full of people.

THE UMATILLAS LOYAL.

A Boise City dispatch says: "It is not true that the Umatillas have joined the hostiles. On the contrary, 100 warriors have joined Colonel Forsyth and fought the hostiles yesterday, bringing in twenty-two scalps and 300 horses."

Dr. Livingstone's Side of the Story.

YANKTON, D. T., July 17.—An article appeared in the Chicago *Tribune* and other Eastern papers, on the 15th, reflecting severely on Dr. H. F. Livingstone, late Indian agent at Crow Creek, and stating that Commissioner Hayt has discovered that the gigantic frauds charged against Dr. Livingstone are proven by the records of the safe, which was opened by Government officials despite the protest of the Doctor. Since these charges have been frequently reiterated, Dr. Livingstone is understood to have taken preliminary steps toward instituting action for libel against the Chicago *Tribune*. He claims that he has been misrepresented in the matter, and that he will be able to vindicate himself by legal proceedings.

Repairs on the Patent-Office.

The ceiling of the east hall of the Interior Department building is being handsomely kalsomined and the walls and woodwork painted, causing it to present a much more seemly appearance than it did with the smoke and dirt of the great fire. The north and west halls will not be put in order until the greater repairs to those two wings are completed. It is expected that work on those wings will be commenced very soon.

THE EQUATORIAL WAVE.

Continued Oppressive and Fatal Heat in the West.

Fewer Casualties at St. Louis, but the Weather Still Hot—Four-Fifths of the Whole Number of Victims Habitual Drinkers—Farmers Harvesting at Night—Thermometer Ranging from Ninety to One Hundred—Long List of the Suffering—No Signs of Relief.

The Heat at St. Louis Continues.

ST. LOUIS, July 17.—The weather continues intensely hot, but there is a fine southern breeze, which tempers the heat somewhat and renders it more bearable. Sergeant Finn, of the signal service, predicts rain this afternoon or evening, but says he doesn't think it will have more than a temporary effect, and that the heated term will continue for some days yet. There were few sunstroke cases this morning, only five cases having been treated at the dispensary, none of which were serious. Three of them were women. Few outside cases have been reported, and the opinion of the health officers and physicians is that the worst is over.

Of yesterday's cases sent from the dispensary to the hospital Newman, Egan, and McNerin died during the night. The deaths, so far as have been reported to the authorities up to last night, number one hundred and forty-five. Of this number probably two-thirds or four-fifths were men or women who were either drunkards or habitual drinkers of strong liquors or beer. The total number of prostrations during the same time cannot of course be correctly stated, as a very large number of persons have been treated at home or elsewhere by family physicians or doctors called in for the occasion, but it is probably safe to say that since last Monday week, or during the past ten days, between 1,500 and 2,000 persons have been more or less affected by the heat, and have required medical attendance.

ELSEWHERE IN MISSOURI.

ST. LOUIS, July 17.—Telegraphic and other reports from interior towns in Missouri and Kansas state that the weather is extremely hot, and that there have been numerous sunstrokes, many cases proving fatal. In Southern Missouri and Kansas the weather has been so intensely hot during the day that all outdoor work had to be suspended, and a considerable part of the harvesting in several localities has been done by moonlight.

CONTINUED HEAT IN THE NORTHWEST.

CHICAGO, July 17.—Yesterday's fatal cases of sun-stroke numbered 9. To-day the fatalities so far as known are 4. Probably a score of people were sun-struck during the forenoon. Horses are suffering greatly, some fifty having died since the heated term began. Last night thousands of people sought relief from the heat by means of excursions on Lake Michigan, where there was a cool, refreshing breeze. The cold wave seems to have reached the Mississippi River, but according to reports it is not so great a relief as was anticipated, as after it has passed the heat resumes its sway.

A southwest wind is blowing here to-day, but is only effectual in favored localities, and the thermometer has been as high as ninety-seven in the shade. The average is about ninety-two. In the Northwest reports show that the heat continues unabated. The telegraph operator at Sioux City sends the following dispatch, dated one o'clock:

"The cold wave passed here last night at eight o'clock. The mercury at Yankton shows eighty-six degrees, and at Sioux City eighty-three, but it has been down to sixty-eight."

THREE CASES OF SUNSTROKE AT COLUMBUS.

COLUMBUS, O., July 17.—There were three cases of sunstroke here this afternoon. Two of the stricken men were United States mail-carriers and the third a driver of an ice wagon. The heat is excessive, and has necessitated a partial suspension of business.

BUSINESS SUSPENDED AT MILWAUKEE.

MILWAUKEE, July 17.—The heat to-day has been very oppressive, the hermometer registering 99 to 103 degrees in the shade. There was no afternoon session of the Chamber of Commerce. Street labor was generally suspended. One hundred and three authenticated cases of sunstroke were reported for to-day. Among the fatal are Anthony Sanger, father of Sheriff Sanger; John Cogly, head porter of the Plankinton House; Hobart Saunders, hackman; Alvis Hess, a child of Williams Fords, William Gray, teamster; Mr. Wilds, tailor; Charles Lohmier, Christian O'Cooney, of the town of Lake, and Christian Houry, of Bay View.

SUFFERING AT OMAHA.

OMAHA, NEB., July 17.—A very severe thunder storm last night, with a fall of rain, gave comparatively cool weather to-day, after nearly a week of scorching hot weather. Four grown people have died from the effects of the heat. The death rate among children has been very large. The effect on the crops generally through the State has been good rather than injurious. Heavy rains preceded the hot spell, and during the hot days corn has grown prodigiously. The barley and wheat harvest is now in progress, and will nearly justify all the previous high expectations.

HOT WEATHER EVERYWHERE.

CINCINNATI, July 17.—This was the hottest day of the season, the thermometer reaching 96° in the shade. Three cases of sun-stroke were reported, none fatal.

BUFFALO, N. Y., July 17.—The weather has been intensely hot to-day, the thermometer ranging at 90°. A number of persons were prostrated by the heat, one case proving fatal.

OTTUMWA, IOWA, July 17.—For the past ten days the heat at this point has been intense, the thermometer ranging from 90° to 101° in the shade. There have been four cases of sunstroke in this city, one of which was fatal.

COVINGTON, KY., July 17.—Four cases of sunstroke here to-day, one fatal.

CHICAGO, July 17.—The heat to-day was more powerful and fatal than on any previous day, there being five or six deaths. Three persons who were struck yesterday also died to-day. About thirty minor cases were reported.

MILWAUKEE, July 17.—Archbishop Henni was overcome by heat this morning, and it is feared will not recover.

MEMPHIS, July 17.—Frank Leonhard, a German, was overcome by the heat yesterday, and died last night.

LOUISVILLE, July 17.—The heat to-day was very oppressive, the thermometer ranging from 95° to 100°. Several cases of sunstroke were reported.

WHEELING, W. VA., July 17.—The thermometer was 101° in the shade this afternoon. There were two fatal cases of sunstroke.

TORONTO, ONT., July 17.—Dispatches from various parts of Ontario to-day show that the thermometer ranged from 90° to 103° in the shade. Although a large number of cases of sunstroke are reported, none terminated fatally.

Death of a Prominent Editor.

BALTIMORE, July 17.—Oliver P. Baldwin, sr., one of the editors of the Baltimore *Sun*, died at his residence at Waverly, Baltimore County, this morning. Mr. Baldwin has for forty years been a prominent writer and journalist. He was once the editor of the Lexington (Va.) *Banner* and the Richmond *Dispatch*. In politics he was an Old-Line Whig, and was once a member of the Virginia State Senate. He has a wide reputation as a humorous lecturer and author. His most popular work was "The Flush Times in Alabama." His sketches of Southern statesmen and politicians is one of the most vivid and picturesque books of the kind. He was about sixty-seven years old.

THE LOUISIANA COMMITTEE.

A Rival of Weber and Anderson.

NEW ORLEANS, July 17.—Before the latter sub-committee to-day several witnesses were introduced to prove the bad character of Hiram Smedley, who testified a few days ago that he had seen Joseph W. Jones sign Weber's name to the Anderson-Weber agreement; that no one else was present, and Jones is now dead.

Ex-District Attorney Beckwith testified that he had refused Smedley as juror on an important case, because he did not think he should be trusted in such a position. Several witnesses testified that they would not believe Smedley on oath and to his general bad character.

W. H. Seymour, notary public, contradicted the statement made by Smedley in his testimony a few days ago, that he (Smedley) had told witness the jaunt to the Anderson-Weber agreement was false. Says he never had any conversation with Smedley.

John S. Dula (colored), of West Feliciana, testified that he was parish judge in 1876. Was invited to resign, but did not. Made affidavit before the returning board charging intimidation, violence, and murder. Made statements on information received from others.

Cross-examination by Governor Cox brought out the statement from Dula that he had been daily in the company of E. L. Weber for the past week; that Weber had offered him $300 and the promise of a position in a public school as a teacher if witness would follow his (Weber's) example—recant his affidavit before the returning board and deny intimidation in the parish. Weber said he was all right now; that he had made arrangements with those who opposed him and thought he would now be safe anywhere. Had acted wisely, and advised witness to do the same thing and place himself right before the people of the parish and State. Witness promised Weber he would follow his example, but his conscience would not permit him to do so. Witness believed Armistead and Duncan, who testified yesterday, had been paid by Weber. Understood money was put up by a gentleman from New York three or four weeks ago. Dula had been promised a place in the custom-house. Witness received $10 from Weber yesterday and $35 to-day; was to receive the balance after testifying. Said this was the only bribery case he had ever had anything to do with. Thinks it doubtful if colored men can trust themselves when there is money at stake.

S. H. St. Martin, of St. James Parish, who was appointed deputy sergeant-at-arms of this sub-committee, on the recommendation of E. L. Weber, testified that he was present in Weber's room when the interviews mentioned by Dula took place. Weber and I room together. We are very intimate. When Dula first came Weber was not in. Dula and I talked of Weber's testimony, and Dula said he believed there was money in it. He said Swasey would go along with them, but he wanted two thousand dollars. Dula said if he could get fifteen hundred he could manage Swasey. Dula giving witness to understand he was going with Weber on the same line of testimony. Never heard Weber offer Dula any money; but Weber borrowed $10 of witness yesterday and $35 to-day, which was paid to Dula by Weber, Dula remarking he did not receive it as a bribe, but as a loan.

E. L. Weber recalled—Heard testimony of Dula to-day. His statement that I attempted to bribe him is false. Admitted loaning Dula the money as stated by St. Martin.

Testimony was introduced to show that Seymour, the notary, and L. B. Jenks were acquaintances.

CORNELL-HARVARD BOAT RACE.

Cornell the Winner by Three Lengths.

AUBURN N. Y., July 17.—The Cornell-Harvard eight oared freshman race was called by Referee Blaikie at 4:13 p. m. The weather was exceedingly hot and the water not entirely calm. Cornell was afloat first, and paddled to their position on the inside of the course. Harvard followed soon after, and halted in position on the outside, awaiting the word. With a few precautions the referee gave the word from the moving grand stand, composed of thirty-nine cars, well filled, which accompanied the oarmen from the start to the finish on the Southern Central Railroad, not more than eight rods from the course. The crews seemed to take the water simultaneously, and very injudiciously started at the rate of nearly forty strokes per minute.

In the first quarter of a mile Cornell had forged half a length ahead, which at the half-mile point was increased to a full length. Time, 2:30. Cornell rowing a forty stroke and Harvard ten less. The mile was made in 5:22, with Harvard one and one-half lengths in the rear. Two miles were passed by Cornell in 11:25 and Harvard in 11:34, each pulling thirty-four strokes per minute. Previous to reaching this buoy Harvard made a powerful spurt, but the Cornells maintained a commanding lead. In the last mile victory was certain for the Cornells, and the cheers, urging them on, from the shore were tumultuous. Cornell crossed the finish line winner by nearly three lengths in 17:13¾. Harvard finished at a leisurely stroke in 17:27¾.

POLITICAL.

Texas Democratic Convention.

GALVESTON, TEXAS, July 17.—A *News'* special from Austin says the State Democratic Convention met to-day. Fifteen hundred delegates were present. Colonel Charles Stewart was elected temporary chairman, and the usual committees appointed. Adjourned until four p. m.

THE CONTEST IN SCHLEICHER'S DISTRICT.

The *News'* San Antonio special says: "After a session of five days and nights the Democratic Congressional Convention of the fifth Texas district adjourned *sine die* without making a nomination. Fifty-five ballots were taken. The candidates are the present incumbent, Gustav Schleicher, and Judge John Ireland."

COLORADO DEMOCRATS.

PUEBLO, COL., July 17.—The Democratic State Convention met here to-day, and after effecting a temporary organization and appointing the usual committees adjourned until to-morrow. Every county except one is represented.

Proposed Commercial Convention.

NEW ORLEANS, July 17.—A committee of forty leading merchants and citizens, representing the Chamber of Commerce, Cotton Exchange, and city of New Orleans, met to-day and resolved to hold a great national and and international commercial and river convention, to assemble here on November 9 next. Representatives are to be invited from all cities and towns interested in the extension and development of the export trade of the country, the establishment of steamship lines, improvement of navigation of the Mississippi River and its tributaries, and the construction of a Southern Pacific railroad. The South American States and Mexico will be invited to send delegates. General Cyrus Bussey, president of the Chamber of Commerce, was elected president of the permanent committee.

Probable Fatal Accident.

JAMESTOWN, N. Y., July 17.—At the new State insane asylum in North Warren, Pa., yesterday afternoon, a scaffolding gave way. Eight men at work on it fell upon a mass of iron and stone. All were severely injured, the sharp material cutting deep gashes in their heads and bodies. Enos Rees had his back broken. A Mr. Rafferty had his head cut open so the brain protruded, and it was covered with small pieces of stone. Some of the men it is thought cannot live.

THE WEST POINT INQUIRY.

Conclusion of the Testimony for General Porter.

Ex-Governor Newell, of New Jersey, Relates an Interview with Mr. Lincoln—Major Ruggles, who Wrote the 1:30 Dispatch, Examined—A Significant Inquiry Made by General Pope—Porter Sick with the Dysentery—Fruitless Search for Three of Longstreet's Scouts.

Continuation of Testimony by Porter's Witnesses.

WEST POINT, N. Y., July 17.—This was an important day in the Fitz-John Porter case. Ex-Governor William Newell, of New Jersey, was the first witness. He testified that he had a personal interview with President Lincoln, at the suggestion of Governor Randolph and others, regarding General Porter's case, and was proceeding to testify further, when the Recorder of the board interrupted by asking what the purport of the evidence to be given was.

Mr. Choate, of counsel for General Porter, stated that in his decision Mr. Lincoln said that he did not rely upon the evidence before the court-martial, but upon the review as presented by the Judge-Advocate General.

The Recorder replied in argument, when the board held a consultation and decided the evidence admissable on the ground that it will give the present President an opportunity to thoroughly understand the approval of the previous President.

Witness, continuing, stated that President Lincoln said to him that he had not been able to give the personal attention to General Porter's case which its merits required, but had accepted the opinion of Judge-Advocate Holt, and meant to offer him a chance to put in new evidence. The President further added that he had a high regard for General Porter as a gentleman and a soldier, and hoped he would be able to vindicate himself that way. Witness was a member of Congress at the time of the interview, and was very intimate with the President.

Major George P. Ruggles, of Pope's staff, was the next witness. He testified that he wrote the noted 1:30 order, and that the date was put on it before Pope commenced to dictate it. He then had to write it out, make copies, seal it up, and direct it, and then detail an aide-de-camp's orderly to carry it.

Pope's address on taking command of the army was read to refute the charge that Porter had used disrespectful language about Pope, Porter's counsel claiming that the disrespectful language referred to was simply quotations from Pope's address. In relation to the condition of the road from Warrenton to Bristoe on the night of the 27th, when Porter received Pope's order to march at one a. m., witness said it was impassible to do so. The road was blocked with stumps of trees and saplings and runs, and the night was very dark, and he himself lost his way looking for his mess wagon. His further testimony indicated that Porter could get no plan of campaign from Pope, the latter being very reticent, reserved, and uncommunicative. One time, in particular, he left Pope serious, despondent, and in a dejected manner. Pope said to witness on the retreat from the Rapidan, "Don't you think Porter will fail me?" This fell like a thunder-clap upon witness, for he had known Porter for years, and never knew him to fail. As bearing upon some missing dispatches from Porter to Pope, which the latter has said are not in his possession, witness testified that the dispatches from corps commanders were all preserved, and when received it was indicated on the envelope, and the latter sent back as a receipt. As to the alleged battle on the 29th, he testified that there was some infantry fighting. He saw Porter's corps on the 30th, and Porter also, and the latter was cool and alert and doing his whole duty. The dispatch to Halleck on the 30th was read and identified by the witness, but its admission was objected to by the Recorder as irrelevant, but admitted as evidence showing the heavy fighting of the Fifth Corps that day. Witness suggested to Pope at the time that he thought it was a mistake to say, "We have lost nothing—neither guns nor wagons."

Frederick T. Locke, Porter's assistant-adjutant-general and chief of staff, testified in corroboration as to the darkness of the night of the 27th. He said it was pitch dark, couldn't see his hand before his face, and said that within five minutes after General Porter received the 1:30 order witness took it, and going to General Morell ordered him into action at once, adding, "General Porter will be up immediately." At this time it was nearly dark. It had been charged that Porter received the order lying down in a careless manner, &c. Witness testified that Porter was sick and worn out, too sick to sit up, and suffering from dysentery, yet he was in the saddle a great deal that day.

George Monteith, of Cincinnati, was captain and aide on Porter's staff. He strongly corroborated other witnesses in relation to the bad condition of the road from Warrenton to Bristoe, and the intense darkness on the night of the 27th. All of his testimony was corroborative of previous testimony of members of Porter's staff.

Here the petitioner rested his case, with the proviso that he will have the right to call four other witnesses who are now prevented from coming by illness.

Mr. Maltby, of counsel for Porter, said: "I should like also to state, so that it may go all over the land, that some years ago General Porter instituted a search for three scouts that he captured on the 29th of August, 1862, at the second Bull Run, who said they were Longstreet's men, and one of whom said he had known him personally when a boy, in Alexandria. I also, since my connection with this case, a year ago, have carried on a close search, but have been unable to find them. I hope the papers will mention this, in order that any of these scouts may volunteer information." The Recorder stated that he would have witnesses to-morrow for the Government, when the board adjourned.

Narrow-Gauge Railroad Convention.

CINCINNATI, July 17.—The Narrow-Gauge Railway Convention met this morning. About 200 persons were present at the opening, representing narrow-gauge railways in all parts of the United States, inventors of railway appliances, and car-builders. The convention was called to order at eleven a. m. by Colonel E. Hulbert, of Bedford, Ind., who stated the objects of the convention in a brief address. Colonel N. S. Yeoman, of Washington Court-house, Ohio, was made chairman, and Major John Byrne, of Cincinnati, was chosen secretary. A brief address of welcome to the delegates was made by Hon. S. F. Covington, president of the Board of Trade, after which the convention took a recess until this afternoon.

The afternoon session was consumed in the formation of committees on rolling stock and machinery, on operating expenses, on construction, and on resolutions. The convention then adjourned until morning.

Trotting at Belmont Park.

BELMONT PARK, PA., July 17.—The summer trotting meeting, second day. Summaries: First race, 2:30, 2:30 class—Sorrel Top, 1, 1, 3, 1; Ambler, 2, 2, 1, 2; Dudley, 3, 3, 2, 3. Time, 2:35½, 2:37½, 2:38, 2:38¼.

Second race, $100, pacers that had never beaten 2:25—Bill Cooney, 3, 1, 1, 1, 1; Don Cameron, 5, 1, 3, 3, 2; Bill Arlington, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3; John S., 1, 2, 2, distanced; Nellie Anderson, 4, 5, distanced; Harry, distanced. Time, 2:33, 2:34, 2:35, 2:36, 2:36¼.

THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT.

What is Being Done Toward Its Completion—The Exact Height Ascertained.

Work will not be commenced on the top of the Washington Monument for at least two months. Workmen have been engaged in clearing away the scaffolding at the top for several days, and yesterday completed their work. Colonel Casey and his assistants are at present engaged in making an examination of the base of the structure, in order to ascertain what means shall be taken to strengthen it. At present it would not be able to sustain the immense pressure which will be brought to bear upon it when the shaft is completed. The result of these observations will be reported to the joint commission appointed at the last session of Congress for their action. There are no materials available to begin work with on the top, and at least two months will elapse before proposals will be advertised for. The paragraph which appeared several days ago, in the *Post*, regarding the miraculous escape from death of a rigger who ascended to the top by means of an old rope, was manufactured from whole cloth. Colonel Casey and several of his aids stated yesterday that nothing of the kind occurred. A piece of new rope was attached to the end of the old one, which was within a short distance of the base, and pulled up. As the old rope descended the new one took its place, and when the former was all paid out a boatswain's chair was swung and a rigger ascended. Upon arriving at the top he found that the block through which the rope passed was somewhat decayed, and a new one was sent up in its place. Several pieces of marble at the top were found to have become displaced, owing to the fall of the derrick and scaffolding which surmounted the structure. The height of the shaft has been ascertained. Instead of being nearly 200 feet high, is is only 156 feet 4 inches. The officers in charge of the work say that it must be made a success, as its failure would be a disgrace to American engineers and modern engineering.

A SERIOUS RUNAWAY ACCIDENT.

Lieutenant-Commander Hoff Fatally Injured.

About eight o'clock last night, while Mr. W. B. Hoff, lieutenant-commander U. S. N., accompanied by his wife and Mrs. General Foster, was driving out in a carriage at the corner of Twelfth street and Massachusetts avenue the push bolt in front drew out, the fifth wheel broke and the carriage was let down with a terrible crash, precipitating Mr. Hoff, who occupied a seat on the driver's box in front of the vehicle, to the ground, directly under the horse's feet. The breaking down of the carriage frightened the horse, which started up Twelfth street, dragging the remains of the carriage after him and strewing the other occupants of the vehicle about the streets.

At the corner of Twelfth and M streets the horse was stopped by Dr. Palmer's coachman. Mr. Hoff was seriously, if not fatally, injured. He had several of his ribs broken and was injured in the abdomen and about the head and other parts of the body. Mrs. Hoff had her arm broken and was otherwise slightly injured. Mrs. General Foster, residing at 941 M street, was also slightly injured. Mr. Hoff's attending physician, Dr. Palmer, states that he cannot live. The coachman, David Johnson, was injured but slightly, as he jumped from his position. The carriage, an English dog-cart, which was the property of Mr. Lewis J. Davis, had just been purchased by that gentleman in New York. Lieutenant and Mrs. Hoff were taken to their residence, No. 1432 L street northwest.

Overcome by the Heat.

A white man named Joseph Crandall, who was under the influence of liquor, while sitting upon the steps on the east side of the Patent-Office yesterday, was overcome by the heat. He was found by one of the employees of the office, who gave notice of his condition. Dr. Howard and several other physicians employed in the Patent-Office went to his assistance. He was placed upon the lawn and soon recovered. He was then taken to his home, on I street, near Ninth, by Officer Melton, of the Fifth Precinct. When the man's condition was first known Dr. Antisell was summoned, but refused to go, saying, "Let him be taken to a drug-store."

G. B. Abrams, a laborer employed in the Patent-Office cleaning models, was yesterday overcome by the excessive heat, which pervaded the room under the temporary roof, in which he was at work. He was well taken care of, and soon recovered, when he was conveyed to his home.

To test the heat a thermometer, which stood at 87 on the main floor, was carried up there, and in a few seconds ran up to 98.

A Convert to the Dashaways.

On the excursion of the Franklin Legion down the river, on Saturday night, soon after the boat left the wharf a gentleman, somewhat intoxicated, produced a bottle, and after taking a drink himself proceeded to offer it to others around. He was approached by a member of the Legion and told that would not be permitted. "What are you going to do about it?" gruffly asked the offender. "We will throw the bottle overboard," said the other party, suiting the action to the word; "and if you do not behave we will throw you overboard." Deprived of fresh stimulants, the young man quieted down, and, as he sobered, began to see that temperance people could enjoy themselves more rationally than by swallowing rum, and so thoroughly did he become satisfied on this point that on Sunday evening he attended the meeting of the Dashaways and signed the pledge, resolved to imitate the good example set him the night preceding.

Catholic Friends' Excursion.

The annual excursion of the Young Catholic's Friends' Society, which left here on the steamer Lady of the Lake for Norfolk on Monday night last, returned yesterday morning, at six o'clock. Contrary to expectation, the steamer was at all the points named ahead of time, thus giving the excursionists ample opportunity for promenade, &c., at both Fortress Monroe and Norfolk. All felt at home when it was known that Captain J. C. Bonneville was in charge, as he spared no pains to make the trip enjoyable, both for young and old. With him presiding at the table every one had a whetted appetite, which was fully appeased by the excellent provision made by the steward, George Greason. It is seldom that the Lady of the Lake can be chartered for excursions, but when she is, Captain B. says she will run on fast time, and all parties interested will really find themselves at their destination even sooner than they expect. Fathers Fortune and Walter were on board, as also many prominent citizens of the District, with their families.

A Chase After Shoplifters.

Yesterday morning two colored women, named Lucinda Moore and Maria Suter, entered the store of A. King Chandler, on Seventh street, near L, and succeeded in making off with a roll of cambric edging and a large piece of calico, which were lying upon the counter. One of the employees, seeing the women leave the store with the goods not wrapped up, thought there was something wrong, and, calling to one of his fellow-clerks, followed the women and overtook them. They stated that they bought the goods, but when the young gentleman wished them to go back to the store with them and prove their story they dropped the goods and ran. The boys secured the stolen property and started in pursuit of the thieves, and after a long and very exciting chase again overhauled them and turned them over to the police. They were taken to the Police Court, where Judge Walter fined them $5 each and sent them down for thirty days.

AFTER THE TREATY.

England Boasting of Her Success at Berlin.

Lord Salisbury Quotes from His Circular of April to Show England's Policy has been Sustained—Russian Affront to an English Crew—An Officer Sent to Inquire into the Case—Italy Longing for Tyrol—Popular Demonstration in Favor of Speedy Annexation.

Lord Salisbury's Dispatch.

LONDON, July 17.—Lord Salisbury, in his official dispatch from Berlin of the 11th inst., to the Ministers in London, which is now published, quotes the following from his circular of the 1st of April: "The separate and individual operation of the clauses of the San Stefano treaty, which, defensible or not, is not that which should engage the most earnest attention of the signatory powers. Their combined effect, in addition to the results upon the Greek population and upon the balance of maritime power, which have already been pointed out, is to depress almost to the point of entire subjection the political independence of the government of Constantinople.

"It cannot be otherwise than a matter of extreme solicitude that that government should be so closely pressed by the political outposts of a greatly superior Power that its independent action, or even existence, is almost impossible."

"To these three cardinal objections," says the present circular, "the congress of Berlin has supplied an entire remedy. The Greek populations no longer fall within the boundaries of the autonomous Slav principality, and all Russian influence has been removed to a distance from the shores of the Ægean Sea. The same territorial arrangements have the effect of attaining the essential aim which in their recent negotiations Her Majesty's government have had in view—the independent existence and action of the government of Constantinople.

"The political outposts of the Russian power have been pushed back to the region beyond the Balkans, and its opportunities for establishing influence in the reduced Bulgaria have been materially diminished. The Sultan's dominions have been provided with a defensible frontier, far removed from his capital. The interposition of the Austrian power between the