THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN.

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A BRAVE ENGINEER.

HOW HE STARED DEATH IN THE FACE

His Miraculous Escape—Frightful Railroad Accident in North Carolina—Efforts Made to Avert the Catastrophe—A List of the Dead and Dying.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., Dec. 27.—Intelligence of another frightful railroad disaster reached the city this morning about eight o'clock. It occurred on the Air Line Railroad, 500 yards beyond Paw Creek trestle, nine miles from the city, about seven o'clock. Two freight trains of the usual size left Charlotte yesterday morning in sections—that is, the one about fifteen minutes behind the other. On the up grade, just beyond Paw Creek trestle, fourteen cars of the forward train, Engineer Anthony, broke loose and stopped after running only a short distance. In the rear car were the flagman, Bob Griffith, of this city, and six passengers, three of whom were colored.

When the detached cars stopped Flagman Griffith immediately jumped off, and, having told the trainmen to notify the passengers that they had broken loose from the remainder of the train, immediately started back to signal the second section, which he knew must be only a few miles behind. He had not gone back far before he heard the approaching train blow, and then realized the fact that he could proceed no further, because of the trestle, which is one hundred and fifty yards long and very high. He waved the flag as the engine, in charge of Engineer Wisenberry, came in sight, and the engineer expressed his recognition of it by immediately blowing on breaks, but his train was heavy and he was nearing the bottom of one of the biggest grades on the road, and it was impossible to stop.

As soon as he realized this fact, and before crossing the trestle, he reversed his engine, and continued to blow on brakes. Realizing the catastrophe, he left his seat, and standing in front of the firebox with his hand on the lever awaited the shock. It came, and he was partially knocked down by a stick of wood from the tender, but was otherwise unhurt, though almost entirely shut in by the mass of debris which was thrown against the engine. His life was probably saved by the fact that the rear of the tender was thrown to one side, thus diverting the full momentum of the train from the engine to the side of the cut, against which the shattered cars were piled in an inextricable mass.

What occurred in the cab is obtained from a statement made by Mr. Thomas H. Gaither, of this city, who was one of the passengers, and who miraculously escaped from death, though seriously injured, having had several of his ribs broken and the skin torn off the rear part of his head. No attention was paid to the approaching train. It was upon them before they knew it. Mr. Gaither remembers that he and Mr. Philip S. Whisnant started to get out, but before he had passed the middle of the car he was knocked down. He managed, with the assistance of a colored man, to extricate himself by lifting the whole top of the car off. The other passengers—Philip S. Whisnant, of this city; Charlie Sellers, whose parents live in Pinhook, and a negro named Ned Shroud—were all killed.

The cars telescoped, and were piled in greatest confusion. The wreck caught fire, and the remnants of two cars, including that in which were the passengers, were destroyed. At le ast one of them was burned alive, as his cries were heard, but it is not known which. The charred remains were rescued after several hours, but could not be recognized but for the marked difference in size. The heads, feet, and hands were entirely burned off.

A large number of persons visited the scene during the day, and the railroad company sent Drs. Moore, Graham, O'Donoughue, and McCombs to the scene, but they could do nothing except attend to the wounds of Mr. Gaither, who has been brought to the city, and is now suffering only slightly. The bodies will be brought to the city to-night.

A large force of hands is now engaged in moving the wreck and building a track around it.

NEW YEAR'S CALLS.

The Custom in the Olden Time—How it was Inherited.

The custom of making New Year's calls was brought from Holland to Nieuw Amsterdam, now New York city. The first observance of it was January 1, 1615, when the hardy Dutch settlers on Manhattan Island congratulated each other in their newly erected log houses at the beginning of their second year in the New World. Every returning year brought increasing prosperity to the colony, and the day continued to be celebrated with boisterous merriment and good cheer. Every family was visited by the jolly Dutchmen, and they were served by buxom wives and daughters with a New Year's beverage of rum, sugar and spices.

John Pintard, who was an authority in annals fifty years ago, an original member of the venerable Historical Society of New York, was a passionate lover of all the old Dutch customs, and in 1832 he defended New Years calls against an attempt of fashionable society of the city to frown them down as a relic of a ruder age and not suitable to the more refined habits then sought to be encouraged. He published in the *Mirror* his well-told defense of the annual commemoration, describing with loving care the good cheer of the forefathers. After the conquest of the Nieuw Nederlands by the English, August 27, 1664, the next New Year's Day was doubtless a mournful one to the conquered Wynhers, but the visiting, eating, drinking, and good wishes were never interrupted, and the English

SOON GREW TO LIKE IT, TOO,

and Dutch customs and manners, mellowed by time and foreign intermixture, still predominated and retained their influence until the war of independence. On New Year's Day the churches of every denomination were opened, as at present, for divine worship, and the congregations attended to render thanks to God for the mercies of the past, and to supplicate his blessing for the future. Afterward visits were paid to their dominies, relations, friends, and acquaintances, and greetings were reciprocally interchanged. The New Year's drink and cookies loaded the tables, for sideboards were then unknown, and none went empty away. "It is related of Dominie de Ronde that he returned home half a dozen times, at least, to disburden his pockets, which were of no mean capacity.

Distinctions of rank were somewhat relaxed during the cheerful season, and many an animosity was extinguished and many a friendship renewed. It was customary to send, under the care of their nurses, the younger branches to be introduced to their kinsfolks, and thereby to unite the links of family relations. The silverings, the cookies, and the blessings were liberally bestowed to gladden the hearts of the youngsters.

"Shall sacrilegious hands, then," exclaims Mr. Pintard, "attempt to overthrow

THIS ANCIENT LANDMARK

of our simple ancestors without a solitary effort to regain it? Descendants of the Dutch! emulate the example of the bold British barons, who, resisting the encroachments of their pusillanimous King John, unsheathing their formidable weapons and striking their iron basket hilts on the massive oaken council table, which made the hall resound, exclaimed: 'We will not suffer the laws of England to be changed!' In like manner do you indignantly aver, 'We will not permit the customs of Holland to be obliterated!'"

To enforce his defense Mr. Pintard called up the authority of President Washington, of whom he had personal recollections. To effectually prove the excellence of the habit of personal calls and congratulations upon New Year's Day, Mr. Pintard related the following anecdote, for the authenticity of which he pledges his veracity: General Washington, in the first year of his Presidency, under the new Constitution, 1789, resided in the Franklin House, at the head of Cherry street.

ON NEW YEAR'S DAY, 1790,

he was waited upon by the principal gentlemen of the city. The day was uncommonly mild and pleasant. After being severally introduced and paying the usual compliments of the season, the citizens mutually interchanged their kind greetings and withdrew, highly gratified by the friendly notice of the President, to most of whom he was personally a stranger.

In the evening Mrs. Washington held her levee. It was about full moon, and the air so bland and serene that the ladies attended in their light summer shades. Introduced by aids and gentlemen-in-waiting, after being seated, tea, coffee, plain and plum cake were handed around. Familiar and friendly conversation ensued, and kind inquiries on the part of Mrs. Washington after the families of the exiles, with whom she had been acquainted during the Revolutionary War, and who always received marked attention from General Washington. Standing near the President, she remarked:

"Of all the incidents of the day none so

PLEASED THE GENERAL

[by which title she always designated him] as the friendly greetings of the gentlemen who greeted him at noon."

To the inquiry of the President whether it was casual or customary, he was answered that it was an annual custom, derived from our Dutch forefathers, which had always been commemorated After a short pause, he observed:

"The highly-favored situation of New York will, in process of years, attract numerous emigrants, who will gradually change its ancient customs and manners. But let whatever changes take place, never forget the cordial, cheerful observance of New Year's Day." "These words," says Mr. Pintard, "made an indelible impression on my mind, and I am glad to be able, even at this distance of time, to rescue them from oblivion."

AMID THE SOCIAL CHIT-CHAT

of the company, continues the narrative, the hall-clock struck nine. Mrs. Washington, a small and portly person, plain in her attire, rose with great dignity, and looking around the circle with a a complacent smile, observed: "The General always retires at nine, and I usually precede him." At the hint the ladies instantly arose, adjusted their dresses, made their salutations and retired. What a contrast to the usages of the present day! At the hour when their grand-mothers returned home, their grand-daughters in ecstasies hie away to evening parties, to display their brilliants, their splendid dresses, and to revel in all the luxuries that the four quarters of the globe can supply! Mr. Pintard closed his defense of New Year's calls and festivities with an appeal to those who were then flocking in to make it what it now is, the imperial city

OF THE NEW WORLD.

The city of New York has always been distinguished for its cordial and hospitable reception of all who come to reside in it. Our citizens never dreaded the introduction of foreign capital, foreign talents, or foreign industry, the successful employment of which has so eminently contributed to promote its prosperity, and to raise this commercial emporium to its present envied elevation. Merchant adventurers seek their fortunes alike in the frigid and torrid zones, the fens of Holland, the baleful, burning deserts of Arabia or Africa, as on the smiling, verdant banks of the Hudson. It is not love of us, but their own benefit, that attracts them to these shores. Come and welcome! All that is asked in return for a kindly, hearty reception is *to tolerate* the few remaining customs derived from our ancestors, for whose simple domestic virtues, probity, and piety their descendants, to remotest generations, will never have cause to blush.

SCARED DEMOCRATS.

A Joint Caucus of the Two Houses to be Called On the Electoral Count.

From a brief conversation held by THE REPUBLICAN last night with a prominent Democratic Congressman, it is evident that the few remarks of Senator Edmunds upon the subject of counting the electoral vote and the pending Bicknell resolution have created a state of feeling nigh akin to a panic among the majority in Congress.

During the conversation it was stated that the Democrats regarded Senator Edmunds as the exponent of the position of the Republican party on this question, and are convinced that there is much more in the opinion expressed by him than would at first be supposed; that, from information in the hands of Democratic leaders it is thought that the minority in both Houses have determined to resist the passage of the Bicknell resolution, or any other legislation bearing upon the electoral count; that the programme in the House is to delay the resolution as long as possible, and then to insist on such amendments as will send it back to the Senate, where, under the peculiar rule in that body, it will be practicable to withhold action by a series of long speeches, and thus crowd it entirely out under the pressure of business, and the general desire of the Democrats to do almost anything to obviate the necessity of an extra session; that to devise some means for defeating this scheme it had been determined to call a joint caucus of the Democrats of both Houses immediately upon the reassembling of Congress, when the matter would be discussed in all its bearings and an effort made to determine whether it would be most expedient to enter upon a new line of action or to finally abandon all further discussion of a joint rule, and count the electoral vote under the plain letter of the Constitution as construed by the Republicans.

Mississippi Legislators.

General McMackie, who died recently, was well known all through Mississippi as a hotel-keeper. He was a perfect character in his way, and had acquired as much reputation from his peculiarities as from his well-kept country hotel. He had a profound contempt for the Mississippi State Legislature, from the fact that he had once wanted an office in the gift of the Legislature, and they had given it to some one else. A prominent Southern politician who stopped at General McMackie's hotel a short time before his death said that he was much surprised on going down to dinner to hear a loud voice from the dining-room calling, "Oh, here's your nice mock-turtle soup! Oh, here's your nice mock-turtle soup!"

The gentleman, on entering the dining-room, found that it was General McMackie who was thus announcing his bill of fare. As each course was brought on the General announced it in the same way, and in rhyme whenever practicable. Like this, for instance: "Here's your lamb and ham, your jelly and jam." After dinner the politician entered into conversation with the General, and asked him during the course of it why he called his bill of fare out in that way, instead of having it printed. "Well," replied the General, "the fact is, it is for the benefit of the members of the Mississippi State Legislature. A good many of them come here from time to time, and so few of them can read I have found that my easiest way was to announce my bill of fare as you have heard me."

Prophetic.

The Brookline (Mass.) *Chronicle* recalls an interesting incident apropos of the John Brown talk. As the hour for hanging John Brown struck, I. N. Luce, of Martha's Vineyard, said in the Massachusetts Senate:

"I move that the Senate do now adjourn. I think that this action on our part is fitting, because at this hour the first man to be hung for treason in this country is to be executed; because, in the language of Governor Wise, of Virginia, that man is the 'most unselfish, the most truthful, and the bravest man ever known' to the Governor who signed his death warrant, and because this Government, which knowingly submits to an act so inhuman, must itself be on the eve of some great crisis."

The remarks of the rural member called out derisive laughter.

CAPITAL GOSSIP.

The National Bank notes received for redemption yesterday amounted to $201,000.

The receipts from internal revenue yesterday were $1,106,808.20, and from customs $658,728.42.

Secretary Sherman yesterday received from an unknown person, in an envelope postmarked New York, the sum of $27, which was placed to the credit of the conscience fund.

Ex-Senator Dorsey is expected to arrive in Washington about the 15th of January, and immediately thereafter he will be tendered a complimentary banquet by the Southern Republican Association.

Among the callers at the Executive Mansion yesterday were Senator Brown, of Georgia; Representatives Jones, of Texas, and Hall, of New Hampshire; Judge Schofield, Hon. John D. Defrees, and Secretaries Ramsey and Schurz.

The delegations of Sioux Indians now here held a long council with Assistant Secretary Bell, of the Interior Department, yesterday relative to granting the right of way through their reservations to certain railroad companies. No decision was arrived at, and to-day they will interview Secretary Schurz.

Secretary Schurz had a final interview with the chiefs of the Ponca tribe yesterday, after which the head men, ten in number, signed a paper declaring that they desired to remain on the land they now occupy in the Indian Territory, and to relinquish all right and interest in the lands formerly owned by them in Nebraska and Dakota Territory. They asked as compensation for the land, for personal property destroyed, and for depredations of the Sioux Indians, $148,000, the same sum asked for by the Interior Department two years ago.

Army and Navy News.

The United States steamer Quinnebaug, of the European squadron, has arrived at Alexandria, Egypt.

The current history of the army since May 24 has been compiled by the Adjutant-General. It shows thirteen deaths among officers, six resignations, six retired, and three dismissed.

Colonel Hoyt, who was prominent in the late Ute trouble, and who has been in the city for some time, will probably go to Mexico soon on business, but will return in time for his trial at Denver in April next.

It is understood that the case of Whittaker, the colored cadet, who is now on leave of absence, will be finally settled in a few days. Professor Greener has submitted to the President and Secretary of War an argument in behalf of his protege. The argument is longer than the previous paper that he filed in behalf of Whittaker, but is based upon practically the same grounds. It is stated that the final disposition of Whittaker will be to give him another chance at West Point, by being turned back into the class below.

How to Cross the Avenue.

There is only one decent pathway across Pennsylvania avenue. THE REPUBLICAN grew tired of looking at people swimming over this splendid thoroughfare yesterday, and called out the street-cleaning brigade by General Order No. 1. A ten-foot swath was swept through the snow and slush in front of this office, and now the "devil" of the composing-room tunes his lyre and singeth thusly:

"One can skip across lively
Without wetting the feet,
Or slipping down ker-plump
In the dirty snow and sleet."

NEARING THE CRISIS.

POURING TROOPS INTO IRELAND.

A Gloomy Christmas in the Emerald Island—A Meeting of Home Rulers—More Attempts at Assassination—John Bright and the Land League Leaders.

DUBLIN, Dec. 27.—It was a dull and sad Christmas in Ireland. Sullen depression marks the spirit of the people, and traders, who have for some time been feeling very acutely the effects of the disturbed state of the country, are beginning to exhibit signs of great embarrassment. But the agitation which is paralyzing trade, putting capital to flight, and poisoning commercial life still extends its deadly influence, while the sufferers look on its progress in helpless dismay.

The efforts of the Land League are now chiefly directed towards the north of Ireland, where it is persistently trying to overcome the repugnance to its practices. There can be little doubt that it has succeeded considerably, when mostly all the districts are honeycombed with its organizations. The exertions of the agitators are also directed toward County Dublin and the borders of Dublin itself. Malahide, near Dublin, was the scene of a second demonstration on Sunday, but there was no reason to boast of its success.

JOHN BRIGHT'S REPLY.

Right Hon. John Bright, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, replies to the Earl of Carnarvon's letter in which he protests against Mr. Bright's speech at Birmingham last month, as follows: "You comment on my speech of the 16th of November, and find in it terrible blemishes not discovered by other critics. You condemn me for attacks on the Sovereign, the aristocracy, and the land-owners. I have defended the monarchy, although defense is little needed in this country and in the reign. I have warned the authorities of the danger I wished them to shun.

"As to the land-owners, I have been one of the most prominent supporters of a policy so necessary for the country and so wise for them that had it been obstinately resisted the great land-owners of England and Scotland would long ago have been running for their lives, as some of the Irish land-owners are reported to be doing now. I will not reply at length to your letter. I am content to leave it and my speech to the judgment of the public."

MEETING OF HOME RULERS.

The Home-Rule members of Parliament held a meeting at City Hall to-day, Mr. E. Dwyer presiding. Thirty-seven member were present. Mr. Charles S. Parnell was elected chairman of the party. Mr. Parnell proposed that a vice-president be chosen, as he might be unable to attend the Parliament. Mr. Justin McCarthy was then elected vice-chairman.

A resolution was carried pledging the members to consult together on important questions, and to abide by the decision of the majority. A resolution was also adopted binding the members to sit in opposition to every government that refuses the just demands of the Irish people, especially that for legislative independence.

When Mr. Parnell, on coming out from the meeting, entered his carriage, the crowd detached the horses and drew the carriage through several streets.

Messrs. E. Dwyer Gray, T. P. O'Connor, A. M. Sullivan, John Dillon, Arthur O'Connor, J. G. Biggar, John O'Connor Power, Charles J. Fay, and Andrew Cummins were selected at the meeting of the Home-Rule members to form a parliamentary committee.

The *Standard*'s Dublin correspondent reports that many of the jurors in the State trials are securely boycotted, and will be unable to answer to their names when called.

The Hon. Mrs. Dunlop and daughter have been fired at in Monasterboice County, Louth, but neither was hurt. Their assailant fled. Miss Dunlop secured his gun.

A torchlight procession which was to take place in Kildare to-night has been prohibited.

Mr. Joseph W. Foley, Nationalist and Home Ruler, has resigned his seat in Parliament for Newross.

The Boycott relief fund has now reached £14,009.

Several notices have been pasted at Clonakilty threatening Mr. Bence Jones or his employees, or any person furnishing him with supplies, with death.

Fifty-two members of the Ride Brigade have arrived at Galway. There are two gunboats in the bay.

The Land League have closed the subscription to the Parnell defense fund, as £14,000 have been collected. At the Home-Rule meeting to-day the parliamentary committee was empowered to act as it deemed advisable when the Queen's speech is known, and it was recommended that the party should produce no measure until the government had shown their hand.

On motion of Mr. Parnell, it was resolved that the committee arrange for an amendment to the address in reply to the Queen's speech, praying the Queen to refrain from employing the navy, police, and military in enforcing ejectments where the rent exceeds the poor-law valuation, pending the consideration by Parliament of the land bill.

Five hundred troops have been sent to different parts of Ireland since Friday.

One hundred soldiers patrolled the roads in the the Parsonstown district nightly.

Four laborers have arrived to work for Mr. Bence Jones.

Emile de Girardin as a Spy.

PARIS, Dec. 27.—Deputy Laisant recently communicated to the parliamentary committee on the De Cissey case a letter from the widow of the late M. Duvergier de Hauranne, accusing M. Emile de Girardin of having carried on an extensive system espionage for the benefit of foreign countries, and of having handed to Prince Bismarck, through the medium of a woman, important documents relating to the organization of the French army. The committee returned the letter to M. Laisant without even retaining a copy of it. M. Girardin, in the Chamber of Deputies, said he would have ignored the charge against him had it not emanated from a member of the Chamber. He then summoned M. Laisant to retract the accusation. M. Laisant said he had considered it his duty to refer the letter to the committee, and he refused to retract.

The president of the committee stated that the committee declined to make any use of the communication. The order of the day was then passed approving the conduct of the committee.

A Rumored Assassination.

LONDON, Dec. 27.—A dispatch from Constantinople says: "It is rumored that Dervisch Pasha, Governor of Albania, has been assassinated, which seems to confirm the rumors that a meeting of the Albanian League has condemned him to death. As none of the foreign ambassadors here have received any news on the subject, it is highly probable that the rumors are unfounded; but the fact that they were current among Albanians in Constantinople, some of whom are in direct communication with the Leaguers, proves that the relations between the league and the Porte are far from cordial, and gives new importance to the recent arrest by Dervisch Pasha of the Prince of the Miridites. There is a great deal of smouldering discontent among the north Albanian chiefs, which might early produce open sedition."

The South African Troubles.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—A battery of artillery will be sent to the Cape. The *Standard's* dispatch from d'Urban says the Boers have released the men of the Ninty-fourth regiment whom they took prisoners, and have sent them to Pretoria. It is supposed that the leaders of the rebellion disapprove the massacre. The Ninty-seventh regiment has left Gibraltar for Natal.

A dispatch to the *Times* from d'Urban says the disaster to the Ninty-fourth regiment on the road between Lydenburg and Pretoria has been exaggerated. Thirty only were killed and wounded. The rest were disarmed and allowed to proceed to Pretoria. A steamer, with 140 soldiers, has arrived at d'Urban.

The Grecian Question.

LONDON, Dec. 27.—A dispatch from Athens says: "The government, without absolutely refusing European arbitration of the Greek question, seems desirous of knowing whether Europe desires to recede from its former decision, and whether it will charge itself with the execution of its ulterior decisions. The position of the government is very difficult, as public opinion against arbitration is very strong. The king's language on the scheme is very decidedly negative, even more so than that of the ministers, so that its acceptance seems impossible."

A dispatch from Berlin to the *Times* says Turkey is resolved to have nothing to do with the arbitration scheme.

Another Mine Disaster.

PARIS, Dec. 27.—An explosion of fire-damp occurred to-day in a coal-pit at St. Etienne while the miners were at work. Eleven bodies have been recovered up to the present time.

Trying to Convince the Pope.

LONDON, Dec. 27.—A dispatch from Rome to the *Times* says: "The publication of the note in the *Aserratore Romano*, in which the Pope deplores the serious character of the agitation in Ireland, is the one topic of conversation among the British Catholics here. These are divided into two groups—the active sympathizers with the Land League, and those who feel how serious may be the consequences to Catholicism in Great Britain should the Pope be supposed to favor the movement in Ireland. The latter are greatly in the majority. The Irish colleges, which have constant access to the Vatican, and have influence with the clerical press, spare no effort to convince the Pope that the agitation is legitimate, and that the condition of Ireland is greatly exaggerated by the London press."

Booth as "Bertuccio."

LONDON, Dec. 28.—Edwin Booth appeared at the Princess Theatre last night as *Bertuccio* in the "Fool's Revenge." The *Times* in its criticism says: "There are scenes in the 'Fool's Revenge' in which Mr. Booth confirms the opinion that he is a most accomplished actor, but neither in his tenderness, rage, nor despair was there sufficient depth. He acts in the last scene with admirable skill. Mr. Booth was badly supported."

A NEW TRUNK LINE.

Proposed Railroad to the Great West Near the National Capital.

At meetings held recently in Baltimore and West Virginia the new trunk line from Baltimore to Cincinnati, known as the Baltimore, Cincinnati, and Western Railway Company, was organized. The incorporators are Messrs. W. S. Carroll, T. C. Marriott, A. B. Davis, E. D. McConkey, of Maryland, and William H. Schoenberger and Thomas L. Young, of Ohio. Ex-Governor Young was elected chairman, and E. D. McConkey secretary of the incorporators and stockholders. Baltimore and Eastern capitalists are sanguine that the enterprise will prove a very successful one, especially as the necessity for additional facilities for the transportation of the great crops of the West to the seaboard is pressing upon both sections. It is expected that the contracts for construction will be closed during the month of January, and work begun as early in February as the weather will permit. The road will be 371 miles in length, and the route selected is a very practicable and beautiful one: From Baltimore to Elkridge, thence across the main stem of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and off into Montgomery County, crossing the Metropolitan branch of the Baltimore and Ohio above Rockville.

The eastern terminus will be at Curtis Bay, on the Baltimore side, opposite Canton, and on the southern boundary of the city. The western terminus will be Cincinnati. Leaving the Maryland line the route is first to Leesburg, Va., thence to Winchester, Va., and down the valley to Moorefield, Hardy County, West Virginia. This includes the eastern division, a distance from Baltimore of ninety miles. Branching westward the route lays through miles and miles of valuable iron and coal lands, the next principal point being Charlestown. The Ohio River is crossed above Ironton, and thence the route is a direct line to Portsmouth, on the Ohio River. From Portsmouth it is expected with some slight change of grade to absorb the narrow gauge road already constructed from that city to Cincinnati. The new road will touch no less than 208 towns between Baltimore and Cincinnati, of which twenty only at present have railroad connections. Only two tunnels will be required, and the grade in West Virginia will at no point exceed seventy-five feet to the mile. This new line will give additional facilities to the people of the great West to visit Washington, the Nation's Capital, while en route to transact business with the commercial centres of the East.

STRANGE MEETINGS.

The Changes Brought About in Twenty Years—Embryo Senators.

There are strange meetings in the Senate, says a Washington correspondent: Seven young men, early in the war, were boarders at the Burnham House in Omaha. They were all pushing, driving men. Six of them were inseparable companions. The entire company separated in the early days of the war, only to meet afterward as members of the United States Senate. The six companions were William Pitt Kellogg, Spencer, ex-Senator from Alabama, Saunders and Paddock, present Senators from Nebraska, and Hitchcock and Merrill, ex-Senators from Nebraska. The odd man, who was also a boarder at the same house, was Tipton, also ex-Senator from Nebraska.

At the time of the breaking out of the war, Saunders was Governor of the Territory, Kellogg was chief justice, Paddock was secretary of the Territory, while the others were interested in various ways in the development of the Territory. Nebraska raised a regiment at the outbreak of the war, and Merrill was its colonel. There was great trouble about appointing a chaplain. Tipton, who was afterward Senator, was a candidate warmly pressed by a band of devoted friends. A sleight-of-hand performer, a local lecturer, was also a hot contestant for the place. A prominent local politician said he would be "God damned" but what he would get his man in.

Saunders, the Governor, who had the power of appointment, finally, to avoid embarrassment, left the decision to the Federal officials. They assembled, with Pitt Kellogg at their head. These lively young men decided to have the two candidates preach sermons in a competitive examination. This was done in the presence of a large crowd. Tipton preached half an hour against an equal time by his opponent. There was no real contest. Tipton was really a pious man, while the other was a charlatan. Tipton secured the award. Through his services during the war, and his careful nursing of sick and wounded soldiers, he so endeared himself to the people of Nebraska that they made him United States Senator after the war closed.

George Francis Train was in Omaha, living at the Burnham House at the time when it was so full of embryo Senators. The six friends mentioned above used to meet for social jollity in Kellogg's room every night, when champagne flowed freely. Train tried to join this select circle, but they refused to take him in.

A Terrible Explosion---The Deaths.

NEWBURYPORT, MASS., Dec. 27.—At noon the boiler at E. P. Dodge's shoe factory exploded, killing the engineer, James Huntington, of Boston, Daniel Bridges, a stock-fitter, and John R. Bailey, a heeler. The Chase heeling establishment, Smith's heeling factory, and the boiler house were nearly demolished, and the boiler was thrown 200 yards into Green street, breaking thousands of panes of glass in the vicinity. Several others were slightly injured, and a fireman is reported missing. Had the help been at work the loss of life would have been terrible.

General Sherman at a Lunch.

BOSTON, Dec. 27.—The Boston Merchants' Association entertained General Sherman at a lunch to-day. The General was introduced to the members by President John A. Ordway. Plates were laid for two hundred guests. Among the prominent gentlemen present were Governor Long, Mayor Prince, Collector Beard, and Congressmen Rowe, Field, and Rainey, Colonel Bacon, of General Sherman's staff, and Adjutant-General Berry.

A Cold Wave Coming.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—At eight o'clock this morning the mercury at Fort Gary was forty degrees below zero; at Pembina, thirty-four degrees below; at St. Paul, eighteen degrees below; at Lacrosse, fifteen degrees below; at Duluth, twenty-one degrees below; at Omaha, eight below; at Milwaukee, it was zero; at Cheyenne, four degrees above zero; at St. Louis, six above; at Chicago, eleven above.

A Handsome Bequest.

CINCINNATI, O., Dec. 27.—Mrs. Lizzie Patterson, widow of Nicholas Patterson, a well-known merchant of this city, has given to the Children's Home of Cincinnati thirty acres of land in this county, worth, with improvements, $80,000. She had drawn a will with this bequest in it, but changed her mind and has given the property at once.

Way Down Below Zero.

CHICAGO, Dec. 27.—The thermometer registered at seven o'clock to-night thirteen degrees below, and at the present rate will reach twenty below before morning. It is by far the coldest spell of the season, but an absence of wind and a clear sky makes it less trying than weather which is not so rigorous.

The Press Boys' Banquet.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—The annual dinner of the New York press club takes place at the St. Nicholas Hotel on the 6th of January. Among the prominent guests who have accepted invitations are Ex-President Grant and General W. T. Sherman. Many distinguished literary men will participate.

An Experimental Tea Farm.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Dec. 27.—Mr. LeDuc, Commissioner of Agriculture, is here and completed arrangements to-day for the establishment of a tea farm. The location selected is twenty miles from Charleston and two miles from Summerville, on the line of the South Carolina Railroad.

Death of an ex-Alabama Judge.

MOBILE, ALA., Dec. 27.—Judge Perry Walker, ex-member of Congress and judge of the inferior court of criminal jurisdiction, died this afternoon.

A Murder in Tennessee.

GALLATIN, TENN., Dec. 27.—A report of the murder of George Martin, in Robertson County, is received. Mr. and Mrs. Hester are under arrest.

Suffocated.

LOGAN, IOWA, Dec. 27.—John McKening, an old citizen here, was suffocated to death last night.

CABLE CLATTER.

—Dervisch Pacha, Governor of Albania, has arrested several more Albanians.

—M. de Tillancourt, a Republican member of the French Chamber of Deputies, is dead.

—The Kurdish chief, Hamzeh Agha, has re-entered Persia and occupied Serdasht with a small force of Kurds.

—The *Golos* of St. Petersburg says: "The forthcoming increase in import duties and the tax on trade guilds will not only cover the loss caused by the abolition of the salt tax, but will produce a surplus of 2,000,000 roubles."

—The Porte is still considering the circular to be sent to the powers to prevent them from requiring the Porte to accept arbitration of the Greek question. It will propose a new conference, of which the Porte is dictating the basis.

TALK ABOUT PEOPLE

IN WASHINGTON AND ELSEWHERE.

Reminiscences of the Olden Time—Whisperings of the Weather—Movements in Society—Short Sketches of Individuals of Prominence—Other Gossip.

Such weather as this, so long continued, is an anomaly in Washington. It is a dismal barrier to hospitality; worse than that, it has interfered seriously with holiday trade. A leading picture dealer of the city said yesterday that every prospect pointed to the liveliest Christmas trade for years till the stormy weather of last week came on. It is discouraging to our merchants, who have provided so lavishly of beautiful goods and advertised them so freely only to have them lie unsold on their counters. One class of gifts which have suddenly grown up from nothing into a great trade is the cards for the different holidays of the year. Perhaps valentines first suggested them, but certain it is that the Christmas, New Year's, and Easter cards far surpass the offerings of Saint Valentine in beautiful and universal significance. Now that the Christmas cards are being put out of sight into store drawers and boxes, those for New Year's turn up brisk and shining, and are a lovely temptation. A new design, grotesque and rather captivating, is one in the shape of a bank-draft, and on similar paper, got up with due form and ceremony on the "Bank of Felicity," and addressed to the "Goddess of Fortune," thus: "January 1st, 188—. On demand, please bestow upon —— three hundred and sixty-five happy days. Value received in ——, and charge same to account of ——." Up in one corner, very business-like, "965 H. D." This is a pleasant way of being remembered by a friend, yet, probably, the most of us would prefer one regularly drawn up by authority of John Sherman.

The January magazines are a bonanza to people housed into solitude against their own will this stormy weather. Many such have missed from the January *Atlantic* the charming serial reminiscences of Washington contributed by Major Ben: Perley Poore, and are asking if they terminated with the very interesting paper on the Polk administration, in the December number. They will be glad to learn that the series will be resumed in February, lack of time alone having prevented Major Poore from preparing one for the current number of the magazine. How vivid and realistic the picture brought before the eye when we read that "at the inauguration of her husband Mrs. Polk wore a black silk dress, a long black velvet cloak, with a deep cape, trimmed with fringe and tassels, and a purple velvet bonnet, trimmed with satin ribbon."

There are few arrivals to chronicle in this dull weather. Mrs. Lander, widow of General Lander, who with her two sons has spent some months in Europe, has returned, and is registered at the National. Mr. Charles Lander is with her. The other son remains abroad, studying for the stage.

General Hawley returned to Washington Christmas morning from a brief trip to Connecticut.

It is said that Irvin, General Garfield's third son, is a name-sake of General McDowell's.

A Washington letter to the Providence *Press* gives the following romantic origin of the name and family of Mr. Crapo, one of the most valued members of the New England representation in Congress, and also his witty estimate of the relative value of the average Congressman's jaw: "A thousand times I have tried to reconcile Mr. Crapo's quaint name with his sterling New England face, but in vain. It suggested nothing else to me so strongly as 'Johnny Crapeau,' the traditional name for a Frenchman. Dining recently in his company at the house of another Congressman, the subject of New England ancestry was introduced, and the genial host asked Mr. Crapo to tell me the story he had once told him of the origin of his family in America. Mr. Crapo complied, saying that seven generations ago, not far from the beginning of the eighteenth century, a French bark was wrecked off Cape Cod, and every soul perished except one little lad, who was cast ashore and cared for by the inhabitants. He was too young to tell his name, nor could any clue be found to it, but from the nationality of the vessel they surnamed him 'Crapeau,' prefixing 'Rufus,' because of his bright, red hair, and Rufus Crapeau—in time anglicised to Crapo—became the stalwart ancestor of a line of good Puritans.

"Mr. Crapo does not figure largely in the *Congressional Record*—he is not one of the howlers; but his word is weighty in counsel and highly prized. He represents the New Bedford District, where whale fishing is one of the great industries, and I verily think he could give Jonah 'points' on the subject of whales. Referring to the commercial contents of the average Arctic whale—150 barrels of oil and 1,800 pounds of whalebone—he sensibly observed: 'The jaw of a whale is worth more than the jaw of a Congressman.'"

Associate Justice N. B. Woods (lately confirmed, vice Justice Strong, resigned) is about forty-five years of age, quick and nervous in his movements, very active and alert, with keen, shrewd eyes, that look one through at a glance. He is said to be as fond of the game of whist as is Hon. Alexander Stephens, from the same State, or even ex-Senator McCrary, of Kentucky. Justice Woods has a charming family—an elegant wife, a son of twenty-two or thereabouts, and an exceedingly graceful and accomplished daughter (Miss Florence). The family have long been leaders of society in Atlanta, and will be welcomed as an acquisition to the National Capital. Judge Woods was originally an Ohio man—a rarity in Washington in these days—having been for years a member of the Ohio bar, and for several terms a member of the Ohio Legislature; and all his children were born in that lucky State that now disputes with Virginia the distinction of "mother of Presidents." Later, under the Grant regime, he was Judge of the United States Circuit Court for Alabama, since which time he has lived in Atlanta.

Captain Theodore F. Singiser, of Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, whose appointment as Secretary of Idaho was confirmed by the Senate during the last hour before adjournment, left a clerkship in the Treasury Department only two or three years ago with the wise resolution to adopt Horace Greeley's advice and "grow up with the country." He and his agreeable wife are well known here. Mrs. Slugiser remained at Ogden, Utah, where their daughter is at school. Boise City, the capital of the Territory—a growing town of several thousand inhabitants—will be their future home. By the way, those who look upon Idaho as a wilderness, given over to savages and snow-storms, were never more mistaken. Cities and towns are springing up all over the length and breadth of it as if by magic, the hills are alive with mining camps and their accessories, and not less than a dozen newspapers are already printed in the Territory.

Hon. Mark H. Dunnell, the member from Owatonna, Minn., has just been joined at the National by his wife and daughter. Mrs. Dunnell is one of the most gentle and loveable of ladies, and their daughter, Miss Fannie, is universally beloved for the same womanly traits that have characterized her mother. Colonel Dunnell was for three years consul at Vera Cruz, Mexico, and has represented his adopted state in the councils of the Nation for five successive Congresses, and was re-elected to the Forty-seventh.

A new literary society, called "The Phœnix," has arisen from the ashes, so to speak, of the "Bancroft," which grew so large as to become unwieldy. The membership of the Phœnix is limited to twenty, and convenes every alternate Tuesday. Each member must contribute in turn an original paper, and send a sketch, either in prose or poetry, to the journal of the society. No "shirking" is tolerated; hence there are no drones in the hive. An hour is given to the literary exercises, then comes the collation, after which music and conversation complete the evening. Among the members are Mr. Spofford, son of the Congressional Librarian; Professors Montague and Gore, Messrs. Ross, Thompson, Tullock, MacFarland, Merrill, Janus, Misses Howitson, Hanson, Rohrer, Westcott, Arrick, Green, and others.

Among the pin-cushions and other nicknacks for sale at the recent fashionable kettledrum for the benefit of the Children's Hospital, were dozens of yards of Macreme lace made by the deft fingers of a young naval officer well known in society. A novel qualification for our marine service, that of lace making, to be sure, but a harmless way of beguiling time upon the high seas. Had Ralph, of the immortal "Pinafore," had such resource his love would set more lightly.

Miss Annie B. Irish has returned to the city much improved in health. She is busily engaged in preparing a course of lectures, which she will deliver at the college in Wooster, Ohio, some time in March. Her arrangements with that institution are such that she will spend her winters in Washington, and thus be enabled to participate in many of the literary reunions to which she has always been so welcome.

A Sensible Board of Directors.

The board of directors of the National Fair Association, at a meeting held yesterday, adopted THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN as their official organ, and instructed the secretary to insert the notice of the annual election, as required by