The National Republican.

VOL. XXIV.---NO. 149. WASHINGTON, D. C., MONDAY MORNING, MAY 19, 1884. THREE CENTS.

FIELDS WHERE MANY FELL.

Last Days of the Trip of the First Corps to the Virginia Battle Grounds.

The Spot Where Sedgwick Fell Identified and Marked.

The Fight at Spottsylvania Discussed on the Ground—The Famous Death Angle.

Incidents Recalled and Anecdotes Retold—The Losses in Four Battles.

SPOTTSYLVANIA COURT HOUSE, VA., May 17.—On the 7th of May, 1864, Gen. Lee's army was beaten in the battle of the Wilderness, where he lost 11,400 men, while the Army of the Potomac suffered the enormous reduction of 37,747 in killed, wounded, and missing. The high resolve of Gen. Grant to push right on to the speedy closing of the war—a resolve seconded by the country and by the soldiery under him with an enthusiasm never surpassed in history—led him next day to the new line of Lee's army, posted in front of and to the right and left of Spottsylvania Court House. The distance from Fredericksburg, the largest town in the county, is twelve miles. To-day this field was visited by the Historical society of the 1st corps of the Army of the Potomac, and an extended examination of the line was made. Maj. Gen. Robinson, who lost his leg here, was the leader of the party, consisting of Maj. Gen. W. S. Rosecrans, Col. Speare, of Maine; Col. J. C. Kniffen, of New York; Capt. A. H. Van Dusen, of New York; Capt. Joseph S. Clarke, of the 7th Ohio; Capt. A. J. Huntoon, Col. J. F. Batchelder, of Massachusetts; Maj. J. H. Stone, of the 1st army corps; Private H. S. Stiles, 3d New York independent battery; John C. Johnson, private 6th Pennsylvania; J. W. Edwards, private 14th Indiana; E. H. Harner, corporal 115th Pennsylvania; T. F. Kinney, private 7th Wisconsin; John C. Johnson, private 61st Pennsylvania; Hugh Hastings, correspondent New York *Commercial Advertiser;* C. C. Coffin, correspondent Boston *Globe*; A. B. Prentice, Thomas Brooks, D. H. Taylor, Hon. John J. Kleiner, Hon. J. H. Bagley, of New York, and Hon. R. M. Murray, of Ohio.

About half of the company began the survey of the field at Todd's tavern, where Gen. Robinson led in the opening of the fight. The general located the time of his advance, and found the place where he received his wound. The party then went to the position occupied by Gen. Sedgwick, where a rifle ball from a confederate sharpshooter had killed him instantly. He was engaged at the time in placing two mortars preparatory to shelling the woods in his front. A young son of the owner of the Alsop farm pointed out the position generally assigned to it, and this was confirmed by Private Stiles, of the battery stationed close at hand. He was serving a gun at the time, and saw the general fall. The place was marked by a stone by the aid of young Alsop.

The remainder of the company started in on the line at the Court House, and were shown various places of interest by Capt. J. P. H. Crismond, the clerk of the court here. The works were followed out to the famous position called the "Bloody Angle," or "Laurel Hill." Capt. C. said he was home on furlough from his command (the 36th Virginia cavalry) in October, 1864, and then went over this ground. The space between the inner and outer line (in the shape of a horse shoe) had been, under the tread of the contending lines, tramped as hard and bare as a turnpike. The small trees and bushes now on the ground had grown up since. Only the very large trees, he said, stood here before the fight. For a wide range around it was almost as bad. The neighborhood had been for three years a camping ground for a large portion of Lee's command, and was reduced to a desolate waste.

The site of the tree cut through with bullets, a portion of which is on exhibition in the Army museum, in Winder's building, at Washington, was inquired for and found. There are large trees and large tree trunks lying around inside the entrenchments, which were undoubtedly killed by bullets and shells, and many maimed stumps high up still show the effect of the fire.

The captain stated that at his visit in 1864, in a marshy place between the union line and the outside confederate line, he found, surrounded with high weeds, the skeleton of a union soldier, his uniform still intact. The face had not decayed, and the skin drawn tightly, was as white as chalk. A circuit of the position was made, but he was unable now to recognize the place.

At the base of the hill, by the McCool house, lunch was eaten and a couple of hours were spent in reminiscences. It would be very interesting reading if all the stories told were to be collected and made part of the historical volume in prospective. Some eight hours were spent on the field, when the parties returned to Fredericksburg.

The excursion has been the occasion for many pleasant incidents, a few of which, at least, ought to be preserved, and I herewith send some of those I have been fortunate enough to gather.

When the son of the owner of the Alsop house was asked his full name, he replied, "Robert E. Lee Alsop." Simultaneously the circle of four about him extended their hands saying, "We are each other's now."

A lady from New York, an invalid, on a recent visit to Fredericksburg, found in the woods something resembling a tortoise shell, and with that idea she planted in it some wild flowers and carried it to her stopping place, when it was discovered that her vase was the crown of a human skull. The flowers were very quickly transferred.

An ex-confederate soldier, who had enjoyed unusual opportunities in his position on detached service, which made it necessary for him to move constantly about through one of the corps of the army of northern Virginia, told the story of his promotion to his higher and easier place. He was on a very important picket station along the Potomac, and numerous and trying tests, which he endured repeatedly without a failure, led to his advance. When asked which of their generals was most popular and most trusted among the soldiers, he replied, "We all esteemed Jackson as an able and excellent leader in a dashing campaign. For steady, thoughtful plans, thoroughly and carefully executed, we relied on Longstreet. He made few mistakes, and was generally a victor, too."

John C. Johnson, private company A, 61st Pennsylvania, and J. W. Edwards, private 14th Indiana, are now living in Newton, Kan., and came 1,700 miles to join this excursion, and another on the occasion of the reunion at Fair Oaks of the Louisiana Tigers with the 61st Pennsylvania, on the field of their fight of May 31, 1862.

Part of the famed stone wall at the base of Marye's heights, which shielded the union soldiers who reached it in the disastrous charge, was used in building the lodge for the keeper of the national cemetery. It was thought the best and most fitting form in which they could be used as a memorial of their own usefulness.

Within thirty miles of this place four of the greatest battles of the war were fought, and 130,000 men bit the dust. The losses are summarized as follows:

	Union.	Confed.
Dec. 13, 1862, Fredericksburg	12,653	4,576
May 1-4, 1863, Chancellorsville	16,030	12,281
May 5-7, 1864, Wilderness	37,747	11,400
May 8-18, 1864, Spottsylvania	36,431	9,000
Totals	92,861	37,257
Total losses	129,818	

Dead in National Cemetery at Fredericksburg.

Known	2,487
Unknown	12,770
Total	15,257

A view of the plain along the Rappahannock occupied by the center and left of Burnside's line at the battle of Fredericksburg, through an opening in the timber on the heights from the road from Fredericksburg to Spottsylvania Court House, at a point in the neighborhood of a mile from the national cemetery, startled the party with the revelation it gave of the exposed position of that portion of the line and the magnitude of the task of carrying the confederate position. It was the clearest explanation of the hopelessness of the plan.

Hon. W. L. Van Alstyne, of Troy, N. Y., was one of the party of the first and second days. "He was mayor of that city at the breaking out of the war, and an active and efficient helper of Col. Carr, now secretary of the state of New York, in raising the Second New York regiment, the first regiment of union troops to enter Virginia."

The list of names on the excursion showed a representation from every part of the country from Maine to California, from Oregon to Florida.

The form of the outside confederate line at Spottsylvania was nearly a copy of the union line at Gettysburg, and suggested the thought that Gen. Lee had, in this case, tried to copy the plan of Meade's lines in that engagement. Whatever his purpose the plan has been criticised as the one capital mistake made eby him in all his campaigns.

D. D. C.

PLAYING FOR A BIG STAKE.

"Plunger" Walton to Win or Lose a Fortune on the English Derby.

LONDON, ENGLAND, May 18.—The odds against "Plunger" Walton's horse, Richmond, for the Derby are now quoted at 12 to 1. The horse, however, is under suspicion. It is believed that the Walton syndicate is at present practically bankrupt, having lost almost everything which it had to venture on recent turf events. Mr. Brewer, who was formerly Walton's agent, now repudiates him, ostensibly on the ground that Richmond was purposely trained in such way as to deceive the touts and the public into the belief that he was in very bad form. It is stated that during the whole time that Richmond was reported to be injured, and was supposed to be "eating his head off" in the Walton stables, he was being regularly exercised by long gallops early in the morning and late in the afternoon. Meanwhile Walton was taking long odds on Richmond, and now he stands to win an immense sum if the horse lands the Blue Ribbon of the Derby. In any case he could make a handsome thing of it if he were to hedge now, but it is said he has no intention of seeking partners in his venture, which he still considers good.

Brewer says that he indignantly left the service of Walton when he discovered how the public was being tricked; but Mr. Brewer's virtuous indignation is rather spoiled by the fact that he demanded a share of the long odds which Walton had obtained about Richmond, and only severed his connection when Walton positively refused to admit him to partnership. There is no doubt that Walton means to win the Derby with Richmond if possible, and, indeed, he cannot refuse to train the horse for that race under the terms upon which he became its owner. Mr. Wright sold the horse to Mr. Hendry upon the express condition, among others, that he was to be trained to run for the Derby, and Mr. Hendry, who, by the way, is nearly bankrupt through his recent losses on the turf, sold the horse to Mr. Walton under the same conditions, but even more stringently expressed.

The feeling of the English sportsmen generally is one of sympathy with Walton, in consequence of the general belief that he is fighting a powerful ring of Epsom touts, who are systematically bribed to deceive their employers.

Mr. Hewitt's Defense of His Tariff Bill.

PITTSBURG, May 18.—The *Sunday Globe* prints the following letter of Mr. Hewitt, in answer to Mr. Oliver's comments on his tariff bill:

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 16, 1884.—HENRY W. OLIVER, JR.—*Dear Sir:* I have read your letter of the 15th instant with pleasure and profit, but as you have overlooked a few points I will, with your permission, endeavor to supply the omission in the brief interval allowed me from arduous congressional duties.

I beg leave to inquire: 1. What was the duty recommended by the Oliver commission (p. 27) on wire rods, barbed wire, &c., well-known specialties of Oliver Bros. & Phillips?

2. How does it occur that, under the operation of the Oliver tariff, you have been enabled to purchase two new wire mills, one blast furnace, and a partnership in the Hartman mill, while other mills are content with the old-fashioned 10 per cent?

3. How does it occur that under the benign operations of the Oliver tariff the mills of Oliver Bros., in Pittsburg, are enabled to run the whole year, while other iron mills run on an average of but four months in the year?

4. Now that you are operating blast furnaces, will you inform the public whether you hold the same view on raw material as you did (p. 132) when on the tariff commission, and, if not, why not?

5. Will you kindly inform an anxious public how many of your $1.15-per-day employes enjoy the benefits of the Oliver tariff?

I would suggest that, so far as wire rods, barbed wire, &c., are concerned, the Oliver tariff report might be appropriately termed a "bill for the relief of Oliver Bros. & Phillips." Very respectfully, yours, ABRAM S. HEWITT.

An Editor's Sudden Death.

BALTIMORE, May 18.—W. F. Halyburton, telegraph editor of the *Evening News*, died suddenly this evening about 6 o'clock. He was discovered in an unconscious condition, and before the doctor, who was immediately summoned, reached him he had expired. Deceased was about 42 years of age, and was a son of the late Judge Halyburton, of Richmond, Va. Immediately after the war he came to this city and became connected with the *Gazette*, on which he remained a number of years. He was subsequently connected with the *German Correspondent* and the *Sun*. He was a gentleman of fine literary acquirements and taste, and popular with those who knew him. A post mortem examination will be held to-morrow.

Fisk & Hatch Likely to Resume.

NEWARK, N. J., May 18.—It is stated on reliable authority that negotiations are on foot, with a strong promise of success, for the settlement of all matters in difference between Fisk & Hatch and the Newark Savings institution, and that if these negotiations can be carried through the firm will shortly resume. The basis of the negotiations is the securing of the entire claim of the bank. If this be done its depositors must receive payment in full.

Mgr. Capel's Sermon.

NEW YORK, May 18.—Mgr. Capel preached to-day before a large congregation at St. Agnes's R. C. church. The subject was the "Necessity of Religion to Humanity." He deplored the growing tendency toward infidelity and said it would work great harm if such ideas spread among the ignorant and uneducated classes. Religion was the safeguard of society, for without it men would be led to commit all manner of crimes.

Diplomatic Courtesies in Athens.

ATHENS, May 18.—King Georgios I entertained the American legation at lunch to-day. Mr. Eugene Schuyler, the American minister, afterward gave a garden party to the diplomatic corps. The American, Russian, French, and Greek admirals, in command of their respective squadrons in these waters, were among the invited guests.

Shooting Tournament Postponed.

LOUISVILLE, KY., May 18.—The great shooting tournament for the champion cup of America, announced to take place here June 2, has been postponed to June 25 because birds could not be procured.

CLEANSED FROM SIN.

Nearly Two Hundred Colored People Baptized in the Potomac Yesterday.

Songs and Prayers Give the Converts Courage for the Ordeal.

Thousands of People Witness the Ceremonies and Variously Amuse Themselves.

And the Thrifty Boatmen and Lemonade Venders Improve the Occasion.

"By command of the Lord Jesus, and by thy profession of faith, I now baptize you in the name of the Father, Son, Holy Ghost," and, suiting his action to his words, Rev. William Gibbon put an old gray-haired colored man under the water. The man jumped four feet when he came to the surface and said "Zion." He then swayed to and fro and shivering waded ashore.

Thirty-eight men and 125 women were cleansed of their sins, and went away happy. The baptism took place yesterday afternoon at a point just west of the Long bridge, and 5,000 people stood on the surrounding bluffs in the hot sun and looked on. Twenty large mud scows surrounded the space where the baptism was going on, and the owners did a thriving trade by charging 10 cents a head for the privilege of standing on them. These barges contributed about 2,000 of the attendance, and innumerable small craft dotted the river. About one-third of the assemblage was composed of white people, and the carriages that lined the road contained many prominent persons. The lemonade man, with his sickening fluid, refreshed the crowd at intervals, levying a penny a glass, while the owners of small boats turned a profitable eye to business.

The crowd was a heterogeneous one, and amused itself in scores of ways until the "tute consumble," as one old man characterized the baptism, began.

The spectators began to arrive about noon, and by 1:30 o'clock the vast and noisy multitude had assembled One old colored lady with whitened hair was the first to arrive, and seated herself on the edge of the bluff, from which point she besought the divine blessing on "dese here bred'en and sisters." She created considerable excitement at one stage of the proceedings by boxing a young colored gentleman's ears for laughing at her. A young colored lady, carrying a cardinal parasol, wanted to mash another girl's face for smiling when she fell in the water.

One of the penitent sinners got thirsty, and called out: "Moses, smite dat dere rock!" Failing to be served, however, he drank some of the Potomac water.

On a raised platform, about three feet from the water, stood Rev. Mr. Gibbons, Brother Simons, and the choir, the latter being gifted with strong and melodious voices.

Mr. Gibbons wore a long damask gown and a general air of perplexity. He advanced to the front of the platform about 2 o'clock and stated that he was "a follower of Jesus," and that one hundred and sixty-three souls would be purified. The converts were ranged along the shore in pairs, and each had a white cloth tied about his or her head. Some were in white, some in green, while the color and texture of the clothing of others could not be told. One of the ladies said she had not had water all over her for a year, while another hung back fearing pneumonia. Standing knee deep in the water were two men wearing oilcloth overcoats. These were the deacons of Zion church. After Mr. Gibbons had set every one of the colored spectators swaying to and fro by his eloquence, the choir sang a hymn which began:

Washed by the blood of the lamb.

Brother Simons, a short, jolly looking man, wearing a full dress suit, then offered prayer.

The choir then sang "Over There," accompanying the music by waving their hands and swaying their bodies to and fro. The spectators chimed in and the effect of the music was perceptible in every quarter. Old colored women would straighten up at the first strains and then rocking their bodies would croon the words to themselves, and interject such phrases as "Oh, Lord," "Christ is here," "Blessed be they that are saved," and the like.

A hush came over the crowd at the close of the hymn, which was only broken by the cry of "Lemonade" and "Cakes and Candy" from the venders, which led a brother, seated on a mud scow, to remark, "Some people leaves their manners at home."

Mr. Gibbons then descended into the water and shivered. He waded deeper, however, and called upon the deacons to bring in the converts.

They came four abreast and were plunged beneath the water in quick succession. One of them, wearing a red bandana, and standing six feet high, declared that he was "drownded" as he came up.

While Mr. Gibbons was baptizing the women the choir sang, "Sinners, You Must Be Born Again." The music was weird and beautiful, and every one of the voices sounded clear and sweet. A large steamer stopped in the offing as this song was being sung, and a number of the spectators lifted their hats and maintained silence.

After the baptism the choir sang "Mansions in the Sky." Mr. Gibbons then blessed the "washed lambs," and the exercises closed by a long prayer.

MARYLAND JOCKEY CLUB.

Horses Which Will Test Their Speed on the Pimlico Track.

BALTIMORE, May 18.—The spring meeting of the Maryland Jockey club at Pimlico will begin on Tuesday next, and there is every indication that it will be of more than usual interest. The track is in splendid condition, and the steeplechase course is dry and covered by better turf than ever before. There will be five races each day, and all the stakes are well filled. About one hundred and forty horses are now at Pimlico, and they are generally in good condition. A large number of people visited the track to-day, and the horses were worked thoroughly the entire day. The following stables are present to take part in the several contests:

Oden Bowie's Compensation, Nettie, Mac, Bessie, Empress, and seven others. Whittaker & Berry's Lady Dean, Congaree, and Koree. T. W. Doswell's Torpedo, Pericles, Bullfield, Sun Maid, and three others. Clapham Smith's Coraline, Regal, Mystic, Mineral, Botheration, and Mabel (colt). Davis & Hall's Ella Warfield, War Eagle, Performer, Vinton, Rosiere, and four others. C. W. Medinger's Old Lis, Pet, Emma, Fairmount, and four others. Harry Howard's Tonkaway. P. Toban's Inconstant and Nickel. Mr. Kelso's Rica, Heel-and-Toe, Water Lily, Valley Forge, and four others. M. J. Daly's Mark, Mike's Pride, Camillus, Eli, Captain, and three others. Wyndham Walden's Belcher, Tolu, Ghost, King Tom, Lulu S, and eight others. Perry Benn's Pasha, Secret, and Wooster. Wm. Garth's Shamrock, Joseph McMahons, Kate Cronin, Joe Mitchell, Hilarity, Wandering, and Swift. W. L. Scott's Florio, Blue Grass Belle, Reforse, Blast, and six others. P. Lorillard, jr.'s Nimrod, Perception, True Blue, Silly, Alissa, and two others. J. J. Carroll's Annie G, Solitaire, Polonia, and Lost Cause. J. E. McDonald's Hassan, Woolly, Douglass, and Murmur. James Shield's Baily, Col. Watson, and Solomon. P. J. Flynn's Beaverwick, Coinage, Glenarm, Lizzie Flynn, and a 2-year-old colt by Mortimer. Excelsior stables, Quebec and Abraham. J. F. Walden's Democrat, Cummins, Welchman, and Wasp. C. W. Pettingill's Duke of Montalban, Fair Count, Constantina, and another, Jeter Walden's Antrim, Chicadee, Flower of Meath, Patapsco, Blue Bell, Marmaduke, and Pearl Thorn.

THE FIRE RECORD.

$200,000 Worth of Property Destroyed in New York—Other Fires.

NEW YORK, May 18.—The repair shops of the New York and Harlem Railway company, at One Hundred and Seventy-second street and Fourth avenue, took fire to-day. The buildings cover a large area, and contain machine shops and workrooms, where all the repairing of the rolling stocks of the company is done. The flames spread rapidly, and were soon beyond the control of the few fire companies which were available. A general alarm was sent out. With the assistance which arrived the fire was extinguished after four hours' hard work. Three passenger cars and three locomotives were destroyed. The origin of the fire is unknown. Sparks from the burning building set fire to several small dwellings. The loss is $200,000; insurance not known.

CARLISLE, PA., May 18.—A fire at Mechanicsburg last night destroyed the extensive spoke works of Seidel & Sons. It originated in the boiler house, and is generally supposed to have been caused by heat from the boilers. Besides the works a large amount of lumber and finished stock, stored in yards and buildings about the mills, were burned. The loss amounts to about $50,000; insurance, $12,000.

TROY, N. Y., May 18.—A portion of Lamb & Leroy's knitting mill, at Cohoes, was destroyed by fire this morning. Loss, $40,000.

Schwarz's tannery, at Ballston, was burned this morning. Loss, $25,000.

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., May 18.—Hunter & Drennan's butter store and Wm. Marshall's barber shop, near the Mansion house, were burned to-night; loss, $5,000; insurance, $3,000. There is a large forest fire in the vicinity of Absecon, and that town is in imminent danger.

A Waterspout in Kansas.

LEAVENWORTH, KAN., May 18.—A waterspout washed away the track of the Missouri Pacific and Union Pacific railroads south and west of here yesterday. On the former road 150 feet were washed away, and seven cars loaded with cattle and an engine-tender went into the river. They were completely wrecked and seventy cattle were killed. The track was covered with water in some places, and in others the water was from two to five feet deep. On the Union Pacific road hail fell to a depth of two inches. Three-quarters of a mile of track was washed away and a bridge was carried away further west. All trains have been delayed. There was a heavy fall of rain here, but no damage has been reported to crops.

The McCoy-McDonald Prize Fight.

BUTTE, MONT, May 18.—The McCoy-McDonald fight occurred to-day. Over 3,000 persons were present on the race track. The crowd was orderly. Thirty-one three minute rounds were fought, Marquis of Queensbury rules. The fight lasted two hours and thirteen minutes. McDonald drew first blood. McCoy got first knock-down McCoy was knocked down three times, and McDonald four times. McDonald was badly punished about the face and neck. In the thirty-first round McCoy got in a left hander on McDonald's neck and knocked him out of time. McCoy is around this evening. McDonald is in bed, and no one is permitted to see him.

The Bennett-Mackey Cable.

BOSTON, May 18.—The Bennett-Mackey cable is expected to reach Rockport sometime Monday or Tuesday. The steamer Faraday left Halifax Thursday night, and started to complete the section which is to extend from Cape Sable to Rockport, where all the necessary arrangements for receiving the cable were completed to-day. The Faraday, at high water, will drop the cable well up to the shore, so that when the tide recedes the wires can be hauled and connected with the cable house. Many of the gentlemen prominently identified with the enterprise, including the company's officers, are expected to be present.

The Bankers and Merchants' Election.

BALTIMORE, May 18.—At a meeting of the stockholders of the Bankers and Merchants' Telegraph company, of Baltimore city, held here last night, Anthony W. Dimock, of New York; Robert Turner, Francis P. Stevens, J. G. Case, Bentley S. Bibb, G. S. Mott, and Wm. A. Dunn were elected directors for the ensuing year. The following officers were unanimously elected: President, Anthony W. Dimock; vice president, Robert Turner; secretary and treasurer, J. G. Case; general superintendent, G. S. Mott; attorney, Francis P. Stevens. It was stated that the company was in a prosperous condition.

What the Wool Growers Insist Upon.

CHICAGO, May 18.—The Ohio delegates to the national wool growers' convention, which will meet here to-morrow, held a caucus to-day and decided to present to the convention a resolution to the effect that the wool growers of the United States will support no candidate for national, state or other office of whatever party unless pledged to the immediate restoration of the tariff of 1867 on wool. They set forth that there are over 1,000,000 wool growers in the United States controlling 2,000,000 votes, which they say is the balance of power.

For Gen. Gordon's Relief.

LONDON, May 18.—Cairo advices of to-day state that the preparations for the Khartoum expedition for Gen. Gordon's relief include equipments for 12,000 men, 40 steam launches, 400 shallow-draught boats, and several thousand camels. It is doubtful whether the expedition will be ready to start before the end of August. The officers of the army of Egypt are getting furloughs until the end of July.

A Cyclone in Illinois.

CHICAGO, May 18.—A *Daily News* Quincy (Ill.) special says: Meager particulars received here of the cyclone this evening. In Melrose township, four miles southeast of here, near the point of starting, buildings and fences on two well improved farms were wrecked and some blooded stock scattered. Fortunately nobody was hurt. It is feared that much damage has been done further east, but there is no telegraph in that direction.

No Plot to Assassinate the Prince.

PARIS, May 18.—The statement that a Fenian plot to assassinate the Prince of Wales was brewing is declared to be untrue. The prince freely moved about the streets of Paris and made many visits unattended. He left Paris for a suburban hotel last evening. The prince refused to allow his carriage to enter the intercourt of the hotel or to permit the police agents to accompany him.

The Siamese Embassy in New York.

NEW YORK, May 18.—The Siamese embassy arrived in this city to-day from Washington, and are staying at the Fifth Avenue hotel. They will remain in this city three weeks and then make a tour of the country. A public reception will be given the embassy by the mayor to-morrow.

Diamonds in Wisconsin.

MILWAUKEE, May 18.—S. B. Boynton, of this city, who is digging for diamonds near Waukesha, Wis., reports finding two on gravel strata this week. One of the stones was a fine specimen, the other was imperfect crystallization.

A Nihilist Said to be in America.

VIENNA, May 18.—The *Political Correspondence* says that Dogaieff, the nihilist conspirator, is in America, and that Russia intends to apply for his extradition.

THE FRENCH CLAIMS COMMISSION.

A Lively Petition Against an Appropriation to Pay Its Awards.

A petition has been presented to congress, signed by a number of persons who represent themselves to be citizens of the United States recently appearing as claimants before the French and American claims commission, or as counsel for citizens of the United States, or others having claims before said commission, protesting against the appropriation of money for the payment of the awards of the commission in favor of the French claimants until the proceedings of said commission shall have been investigated.

The petitioners assert that they have been wronged and unjustly treated by the commission, and charge that body with various irregularities, with want of knowledge of law, and with partiality in the making of awards. They assert that the commission was for nearly a year before its close illegally constituted because of the unlawful removal of M. de Geofroy, the French commissioner, and the appointment in his place of M. Lefaivre, which removal and substitution, they allege, were made because the decisions of M. de Geofroy were not considered sufficiently favorable to the French side of the commission.

"The gross irregularity," the petitioners say, "with which the proceedings of this commission were conducted; the ignorance of the English language on the part of the second and illegal and usurping commissioner on behalf of the French republic; the ignorance of both the English and French languages on the part of the third commissioner named by the emperor of Brazil; the ignorance of law on the part of both these commissioners; the prejudices and want of fairness of the commissioner on the part of the United States rendering him wholly unfit to sit as impartial arbitrator on so varied and numerous questions of international conflict; the utter contradictoriness of many of the decisions of the commission, in which cases arising under precisely the same state of facts were decided in opposite ways; the acceptance, in at least one case, of additional evidence after the time for filing evidence had legally expired; and the general violation of public law, private justice, and private and public equity which the commissioners were, by article 4 of the treaty and by their solemn declarations made in accordance therewith, bound to maintain; the want of familiarity with the French language and want of knowledge of French law on the part of counsel for the United States—all these things present a record of injustice, ignorance, imbecility, and partiality seldom, probably never, equaled in the proceedings of any tribunal, judicial or diplomatic, ever organized under the legal authority of the United States.

In conclusion the petitioners point out that the result of the labors of this commission, covering a period of nearly four years, at an expenditure of $325,000 on the part of this government was the award to citizens of the French republic of the sum of $625,568, less 5 per cent. thereof, and the award to citizens of the United States of $2,731, less 5 per cent. thereof and say: "It is respectfully submitted to your honorable body that no appropriation whatsoever should be made by it until both the citizens of the United States and the citizens of France shall have been fairly dealt with, and at least until your honorable body shall by a proper proceeding have fully inquired into all these matters."

ATTACKED BY HIGHWAYMEN.

Lieut. Col. Whistler's Report of the Attack on Paymaster Whipple.

The war department has received a report from Lieut. Col. Whistler, commanding Fort Buford, Dak., dated May 15, giving particulars of the recent attack on Paymaster Whipple by road agents. He was attacked by seven masked highwaymen about four miles from Burna's ranch. Sergt. Conrod, of troop F, 7th cavalry, in charge of the escort, was killed while gallantly repelling the attack. Private Buch, of troop L, 7th cavalry, was severely wounded in the arm while in the act of discharging his piece. The driver of the ambulance also received a slight scalp wound. All the party in the ambulance, excepting Sergt. Conrad, jumped out at the second volley, and were exposed to a murderous fire. The paymaster started in pursuit of the mules which had taken fright and were running away with the ambulance containing the funds and the dying sergeant. He overtook them after a mile chase, and reached Scott's ranch in safety with the funds. Mr. Such, the clerk, and ambulance driver were covered by the rifles of the robbers and ordered to run to the escort wagon. After an unsuccessful search for the safe containing the funds supposed to be in the escort wagon, they broke the arms of the escort, and ordered them to get into the wagon and drive off. Watch was kept at Scott's ranch all night in fear of a renewal of the attack. Maj. Bell with his troops, Lieut. Maney, 15th infantry, and Indian scouts, are in search of the robbers, having reached Scott's by a forced march at daylight on the 15th.

De Long's Attitude When Found.

Judge Arnoux, representing the defense in the Jeannette investigation, by a subcommittee of the house of representatives, summed up his case Saturday. He argued that the allegations against Capt. De Long and others were unfounded; that the evidence brought out by the prosecution was of immaterial consequence, and showed only minor personal differences of opinion between the men.

Capt. De Long's journal was referred to in the argument. Mrs. De Long and her little daughter, 10 or 12 years old, were present. On reference to the journal the former, who has been in daily attendance at the committee's meeting, was affected to tears. Judge Arnoux described the finding of the book, and eloquently spoke of its last entry, "Mr. Collins is dying." He continued: "Capt. De Long was found before the remains of a fire, leaning upon one hand. The other hand rested on his side with the palm outturned. Behind him, as if it had fallen from his hand when the last pathetic entry was made, was the journal, that will stand as a monument to the dead official's heroism."

Inspection of the Pensacola.

The naval board of inspection has returned from an inspection of the United States steamer Pensacola at Hampton roads. The board found the vessel a hundred men short of her complement, but her condition very fair considering the long passage she has just completed. She left the Pacific station about a year ago, and came home by way of China. She is not suited for a long cruise at present, and will either be put out of commission or ordered to join the north Atlantic squadron, probably the latter, as but slight repairs will be necessary for that duty. She has been ordered to proceed to the Norfolk navy yard.

Threats Against a Spanish Consul.

The secretary of the navy on Saturday received a telegram from Commander Batcheller, commanding the United States steamer Galena, at Key West, saying that the threats against the life of the Spanish consul at that place were made in a barroom by two or three drunken Cubans, but that neither the consul nor the authorities there attach much importance to the threats. The secretary telegraphed Commander Batcheller, in reply, to use all the naval forces there, if necessary, to preserve the peace and protect the consul. The Galena and Yantic are now at Key West

The Weather To-day.

Increasing cloudiness and local rains, southeasterly winds, lower barometer, stationary temperature.

Yesterday's thermometer—7 a. m., 53.3°; 11 a. m., 71.2°; 3 p. m., 77.7°; 7 p. m., 71.1°; 11 p. m., 63.0°; maximum, 78.8°; minimum, 49.7°.

THE WHEELMEN'S MEET.

Members of the League of American Wheelmen Gathering in Washington.

Arrangements for the Parade and Races To-morrow.

History of Bicycling in Washington and in the World.

Polo Game and Races of the Capital Club Last Saturday.

The first attempt, so far as known, to improve the velocipede by eliminating one of the wheels was made by Baron Von Drais, a German of considerable scientific attainments, who, in 1816, manufactured a two wheel machine, the wheels being connected with a bar. It was propelled by the feet on the ground on a level road or ascending a hill, while in going down a declivity the feet were raised and the rider seated on the cross bar allowed the machine to go by itself. Two years later a man named Johnson, in England, made an improvement on this machine of Van Drais's, the connecting bar being curved so as to make a kind of seat, and this was called the "pedestrian curricle." In the following year Wm. Clarkson, of Troy, N. Y., invented what he called "an improved velocipede," which was about the same thing as the pedestrian curricle, and it was used to some extent in New York and Massachusetts. It was not, however, until 1835 that the bicycle in anything like its present shape was made, and even then it was not a thoroughly practical wheel, its complete arrangement not being effected until three years later. It is said that of the bicycle which has now come into such extended use a German furnished one part, a Frenchman, Lallement, two, and an American one, and Englishmen three.

The bicycle first attracted attention in this country during the year 1876, when such splendid specimens were sent from abroad to the Centennial exhibition. A number of machines were purchased, and the pioneer riders became enthusiastic over the new method of locomotion. Besides enabling them to get over the ground at an exceedingly rapid rate as compared with pedestrianism, they found it exhilarating exercise, bringing into play nearly all the muscles of the body, while the swift motion quickened their respiration and strengthened their lungs. The early riders imparted their enthusiasm to their friends and induced them to try exercise on the silent horse, and the number of bicyclists increased quite rapidly. The fever was strongest in Boston, and it was at the "Hub" that the first bicycle club in this country was formed. This was the Essex club, which was organized in December, 1878.

The broad avenues and smooth concrete pavements of this city early proved that Washington would be a paradise to wheelmen, and individual riders began to traverse our streets on their bicycles, attracting the curious attention and [illegible] terror into the hearts of horses, who were unaccustomed to these competitors on the road. A month after the formation of the Essex club in Boston the Capital club of this city was determined upon, and was formally organized on the 31st of January, 1879, starting with only seven members. From the organization of the Essex club to that of the Capital, three other clubs had been formed in different parts of the country, which made our local club the fifth in point of seniority. Two of those clubs, however, including the Essex, have now gone out of existence, so that at present the Capital club is the third oldest in active operation in the country. Its rooms were for a long time in the Le Droit building, but finding that its membership had increased to such an extent that those quarters were insufficient for its requirements, the Capitals on the 1st of last month moved in the house No. 919 G street northwest, occupying the entire building. The quarters of the Capital club are said to be the most commodious and elegant of any cycle club in the country, with the possible exception of the Boston club house. The building is four stories and basement, the latter having a wide entrance from the street and serving as the machine room. In the basement also is the repair shop, furnished with tools and various appliances for cleaning and repairing machines. The house contains in all fourteen room, with gas and water throughout, large bathrooms, &c. The parlor or reception room is handsomely furnished, the walnut floor being covered by Turkish rugs, while a fine piano stands in one corner. On the same floor as the parlor is an office room and library, with desks for the secretaries and treasurer, bulletin boards, &c. Here the executive work of the club is done. On the second floor is the pool room, containing a fine Collender table, and in the rear a large locker room completely fitted up. The billiard room is in the third story, where one of Brunswick & Blake's tables attracts "the boys" nightly. The janitor's rooms are in the rear.

The present membership of the club is 125, and it holds the second in rank in this respect among the bicycle clubs of the country. The officers are as follows: President, Leland Howard; vice president, C. R. Dodge; treasurer, C. G. Allen; secretary, C. A. Caldwell; corresponding secretary, D. E. Fox; captain, Max Hausman; subcaptain, B. W. Hanna; junior subcaptain, W. S. Dodge. As it is one of the oldest and next to the largest cycle clubs in the country the people of Washington have a natural pride in the progress it has made, and in the notice which it has received from other clubs in this country and abroad.

Mr. Henry Sturney, of England, who is the great bicycling authority in Great Britain, is an honorary member of this club, and last year at the great North of England meeting at Harrowgate when the Capital club, of the capital of the United States, was toasted he responded most handsomely in their behalf. Last year seven members of this club made a tour of England and the continent on their bicycles, and Mr. Owens, one of the number, is said to have been the first who ever rode a strictly American machine in England.

There is another club in this city, which, although of but comparatively recent formation, numbers in its membership some of the most enthusiastic local wheelmen. This is the Cycle club, whose modest headquarters, on Eleventh street, near E, show its prosperous and energetic condition. This club is a member of the League of American Wheelmen, which meets here to-day, which the Capital club is not, and the Cyclers naturally feel that they are the hosts of the large visiting representation of the league, and right royally have they endeavored to discharge their hospitable duties. Delegations of the club meet the visiting clubs at the depot on the arrival of every train yesterday and escorted them to their respective quarters. Their club rooms were open all day, and members were present to give the visitors a friendly and hearty greeting. The Cycle club was organized March 31, 1883, and now has thirty-two members, and bids fair within a brief time to overtake its elder brother, the Capital, in membership and prosperity. Its present officers are: President, M. J. Wine; vice president, E. T. Pettingill; secretary and treasurer, T. J. Putnam; captain, J. J. Brereton; lieutenant, T. A. Newman, and chronicler, Rev. L. H. Schneider.

The league, of which the Cycle club is the Washington representative, was formed in Newport, R. I., in 1880, when the first general meet was held. The next meet was in Bos-