The National Republican.

VOL. XXV—NO. 117. WASHINGTON, D. C., MONDAY MORNING, APRIL 13, 1885. THREE CENTS.

SIMPLY AWAITING DEATH

GEN. GRANT IS VERY LOW, AND FAILING GRADUALLY.

A Bad Day—Coughing a Good Deal—Dreamy Semi-Consciousness — Vivid Dreams — Disjointed Utterances—Increased Ulceration of the Throat—Two Attacks of Choking.

NEW YORK, April 12.—Dr. Douglas remained all night with Gen. Grant, and did not deem it necessary to summon either of his medical colleagues during or after the coughing paroxysm of his patient.

The first bulletin, at 6 a. m., was that Gen. Grant had after 11 o'clock a quiet night. At 4 o'clock this morning he fell into a natural slumber from which he has just awakened. His pulse is 72, temperature normal. Voice strong.

Shortly after noon the patient's throat was treated, and he walked into the library where the doctor applied the medication.

Gen. W. B. Franklin, an old war comrade of the general, called at 1 o'clock and was told by Jesse J. Grant that there was no special change to report in the general's condition.

At 2 p. m. Drs. Barker, Sands, and Shrady arrived, and they were in consultation forty-five minutes.

The 3 p. m. bulletin was as follows: Gen. Grant has been very quiet since the fit of coughing last night. He has taken his nourishment regularly and well as usual. Pulse now 72, temperature 99.

At the consultation just held, Drs. Barker, Sands, Shrady, and Douglas present, the treatment pursued was approved by all.

Drs. Barker and Sands went away together. Dr. Barker said the condition of the general's throat admitted of freer examination than for many days. The laryngoscope was used and by aid of a strong light reflected into the throat the development of the ulcers was noted. The ulceration has not made much progress during the last two days, though there has been a gradual increase during the week. The inflammation in the throat is not as pronounced as at one time. The patient's general condition, Dr. Barker thought, was somewhat better, though it is still precarious. His appearance would be improved only by a great change. He is suffering from weakness and exhaustion.

"Is there any reason to fear a speedy fatal termination of the disease?"

"There is no special cause to fear more than in the last two or three days, though we must be prepared for emergencies.

Cyrus W. Field called at the general's residence.

Senator Chaffee and ex-Senator Roscoe Conkling called between 3 and 4 o'clock. The latter said when he left that the general was quiet, with, to him, no apparent change since last Sunday when he called. Gen. Fry visited the house at 4 p. m. Senator Leland Stanford and wife also called, bringing flowers. When Dr. Newman called at 11:30 o'clock yesterday morning, he entered the library next the general's room and shook hands with Mrs. Grant and Mrs. Sartoris. "Father," called the latter, "Dr. Newman is here." Whereupon the general left his chair, walked into the library and greeted Dr. Newman. He remained a few moments and then returned to his room, with the remark that the air in the library was too cold for him. The conversation of the household before the general is always cheerful and pleasant, and family affairs and every-day matters are discussed. The general always sits in his chair with the back to the window, it being shifted obliquely at times as the light may be. The patient is simply awaiting death. There is not so much of hope, as of resignation in his manner. When Gen. Grant first became seriously ill he seemed averse to his wife being with him, lest she be distressed to witness his sufferings. She is calm, and supervises the household. The general is not delirious. He receives only eight minims of morphia in twelve hours. The general's dream has by letters from many soothsayers been interpreted to mean that he will live seventeen days, as many weeks, and by others as many years, the seventeen being the number of dollars the general had with which to pay duty on the satchel he left on the wrong side of the fence. The astrologer who prophesied good days and bad ones for the general has thus far been right. It was prophesied that if the general survived March 31 he would live until September. That remains to be seen.

If the patient lives until summer Leland Stanford will try and take him to California in a special car. The probable good results of the western climate on the general's health has been discussed, Senator Stanford urging that the general would be benefited thereby.

H. Victor Newcomb and ex-Lieut. Gov. Dorsheimer left their cards during the afternoon.

At 9 o'clock to-night Col. Fred Grant in speaking of his father's condition during the day said that he had coughed a good deal and had had altogether a bad day, although the paroxysm of Saturday night had not recurred. The general was very low, but Col. Grant did not apprehend the end would come to-night. Four days ago the general walked without seeming difficulty from the front to the rear of the house, but each day he has moved around less, and to-day when he walked to the rear of the house through the hall he stopped before returning.

To be sure twice during this afternoon the general had walked into his office and remained there an hour at one time and three-quarters of an hour at another, conversing briefly with those who were near by, but one of these occasions Gen. Grant left his room because the burning of a deodorizer irritated his throat. As he left the room at that time and passed into the office he remarked, "I cannot stand that," referring to the sweet and pungent odor. Col. Grant said that his father had not at any time been delirious in the sense of impaired mental faculties, but that he had been much under the influence of morphine for a week, and that for twenty minutes or a half hour as the influence was passing off the general would experience a dreamy semi-consciousness, during which he might, and often did, recur in broken sentences to dreams that had been extremely vivid during the influence of the anodyne. A casual caller in the room might catch such disjointed utterances and regard them as an evidence of delirium, but those who were with the general from the beginning of his awakening to the time the influence passed off entirely would be able to follow and fully understand the context and relation of the general's utterances.

But Col. Grant stated that before morphia was used his father often talked in sleep or semi-consciousness. For instance, at one time, he spoke in this way and said: "Gen. Wheat, which is your regiment? Where are your men?" and Col. Grant explained that at the time his father thought he was at the battle of Shiloh, for Gen. Wheat was there, and Gen. Grant thought he was getting the forces into line again. This was before morphia was administered to a great extent, but since the anodyne has been used freely the general has had similar illusions, but while recalling them during the dreamy doze of waking from sleep by morphia the recollection is not so prompt or vivid.

A case in point was mentioned by Col. Grant. The influence of the opiate was passing off on Friday or Saturday, when the general ejaculated: "It's the strangest thing in the world," and then stopped; but at intervals continued until he had thoroughly awakened, and was, as the colonel said, "clear as a bell." Then the general explained to Col. Grant that he thought he was out in Indiana and was calling at the house of Thomas A. Hendricks. He then began awakening and slowly recognized the furniture and fittings of his own house, wherein his dream had been that of Mr. Hendricks's residence; and then it was that, between sleeping and waking, the general had ejaculated: "It's the strangest thing in the world."

Col. Grant, when asked this evening if it was possible to secure the general's autograph, replied that it was an impossibility at present, and feared it was too late. The general never wrote except sitting at the desk in his office, and it was growing more and more wearing to walk to and from adjoining rooms. Col. Grant remarked that he had at least 500 pictures and albums waiting for his father's autograph. There were addressed and stamped letters bearing requests enough to fill a dry goods box, but Col. Grant doubted if his father would sign anything more, though he might if asked, and permitted by the doctors.

At 10:45 Rev. Dr. Newman left the house and proceeded toward Madison avenue to take a car. In response to a question he said: "I expect a very anxious night. Gen. Grant has had a bad day, and I think there has been a recurrence of the coughing. Dr. Shrady is in the house and the general at this moment is quietly sleeping."

At 12:30 a. m. the following bulletin was issued by Dr. Shrady:

Gen. Grant has been troubled during the latter part of the afternoon and the entire evening of increased mucous secretion in his throat, and has coughed considerably in consequence. He has also suffered from two attacks of choking, which were attended with difficult breathing. These were happily relieved by local applications and the removal of the phlegm. He is now dozing in his chair, after having slept on his bed for three hours. His pulse is 72 and temperature normal.

GEN. GRANT'S REAL CONDITION.

The *World* says:

There is no doubt that the physicians attending Gen. Grant are fully aware of the terrible price—agony and delirium—which the general must pay for the hours of ease and comfort which morphia has given him. And there is still less doubt that these eminent doctors are doing everything which medical science can do to stave off the hours when the reaction from the morphia must come, and when the pains of the disease, no longer deadened by the drug, must make every moment of Gen. Grant's life fraught with the most bitter woes. * * * But there are more persons in the house than the doctors, and it is curious to note how different their testimony is. * * * The doctors stated during the day that no morphia was administered to the general before he retired. Morphia was replaced by stimulated food. This was done, because although the physicians will not admit it, they are unwilling to mix any more of the drug with the general's blood. Stimulated food, however, proved to be anything but a satisfactory substitute for the powerful anodyne. Its power lasted just two hours, and then the general awoke, or, to be more exact, the general remained senseless under the influence of the food just six hours shorter than when his blood was mixed with morphia. * * * The stimulate food did not have the slightest noticeable effect on the general, and five minutes after he had taken some gruel and coffee he fell back in his chair in a doze. He called Harrison to his side and told that old and faithful servant that he had received a most pressing invitation to attend a banquet, and that unless he accepted it he would be socially ruined. The doctor, the nurse Henry, and Mrs. Grant, who had been called in this hour of extremity to the sick room, attempted in vain to cool the troubled brain of the old soldier. Their expostulations were in vain, for running through the delirious brain of the general were all the glories and delights of a banquet. The bulletins are silent in regard to this. The doctors calmly deny it. Harrison and other people say that not only did the general request to be permitted to go to the ball, but that the general actually requested the servant Harrison to dress him for the banquet. Harrison refused to do as his master requested. In his ignorance of the peculiar fancies which morphia produces, he endeavored to argue the general out of his delusion. The doctors were wiser. They told the general that of course he should go to the banquet, and that they were going too. Such is the story. This delusion was not the only one that flitted through the brain of Gen. Grant. He imagined that his old war generals, the men who had battled with him by the church at Shiloh and fought along the Mississippi, had come to see him; that the servants refused to admit them, saying that he was too ill; that he was not too ill and that the servants should immediately show up to his room these old military friends of his in order that he might pass an hour or so talking of the bitter conflict in the Wilderness and the contest at Shiloh. Why the general's thoughts should veer to battle scenes, and victor and vanquished, is explainable from the knowledge that on Friday there was much talk in the sick chamber about the Anglo-Russian war. It was probably through thinking of England and Russia and speculating on the fortunes of war that his thoughts ran away to southern fields and the festive gatherings which characterized Washington and this city after the bonnie blue flag was folded forever at Appomattox Court House.

GEN. GRANT WELCOMES DEATH.

Ex-Senator Chaffee said:

There is nothing new in the condition of the general. We did think that the general would get better when the warm weather came, but he has not. It has produced no salutary effect whatever. Gen. Grant has come to that point when a man welcomes death as a relief to the troubles and vicissitudes of life. For the past six weeks his ideas have run in this direction. His life during this time has been only a life of worry, and the only thing that makes him sad is the knowledge that he must part from his family and his lifelong friends. He has done his work; all his duties have been fulfilled, but he believes that the crowning work of his life would have been his war history, and this he must leave incomplete. The general is resigned to the inevitable, and so are his children and his wife.

Anticipating a Vigilance Committee.

CHICAGO, April 12.—An extra force of men was on duty at the armory police station last night, and more than the usual amount of attention was bestowed upon revolvers and the guns which are stored in this station. The utmost secrecy was maintained by the men actually on duty as to the purpose for which they were brought together. It is only known that the captain had received a request during the day from Superintendent Doyle to send an account to him as soon as possible of all the firearms and ammunition good for service which are stored in the various station houses. The force on duty comprised all available men, and those on day duty were ordered to sleep at the armory, instead of at their homes. A report was started that vigilance committees had been organized in the thirteenth and eighteenth wards and that an attack was to be made last night on the city clerk's office for the purpose of capturing the ballot boxes. Ridiculous as this report was, there were many who believed it. A brass band that paraded the streets during the evening brought crowds together, thinking the vigilance committee had taken the field.

A Battle in the Northwest.

WINNIPEG, MAN., April 12.—While no reliable information can be had to-night from the west, rumor has it that the 90th battalion had a skirmish with Riel's party within thirty miles of Humboldt and that eighty men were killed. Dispatches just received, however, do not confirm the statement. More troops go west to-morrow and although this is Sunday nothing can be seen on the streets but soldiers and cannon.

The news of a battle between the 90th battalion and the half-breeds is not confirmed, but is still believed on the streets. It can be traced to no reliable source. All wires from the west are controlled by the Canadian Pacific Company and telegrams from the seat of war are inspected by the officers in command. Official messages are sent the government in cipher. Much uneasiness is felt here over the report, although the rumor is discredited by the authorities. Associated Press reporters are trying to verify the report or correct the rumor.

Another Outrage in Maryland.

BALTIMORE, April 12.—A special to the *Herald* from Snow Hill, Worcester county, Md., states that about dusk last evening Mrs. George R. Hill, wife of a farmer living about four miles from that village, was feloniously assaulted by Robert Collins, a negro. Meeting her in a lonely spot near her home the brute beat her into insensibility, and then outraged her person in the most horrible manner. Mrs. Hill regained consciousness shortly after and gave the alarm. A large party of armed men started in pursuit, and in a short time tracked the scoundrel to a house, which they surrounded. It was first agreed to resort to lynch law, but wiser counsel prevailed, and a deputy sheriff took possession of the prisoner and conveyed him to the county jail to await trial.

LATEST FOREIGN NEWS.

RUSSIAN TROOPS ADVANCING IN THE DIRECTION OF PENJDEH.

Russian Aggression Confirmed—Council of War Held by the Czar—French to Cease Hostilities in China—"God Save Ireland"—Rebellion Against El Mahdi Spreading.

BERLIN, April 12.—It is reported that a council of war has been held at St. Petersburg, at which the czar presided, and that the czar has appointed Gen. Komaroff commander-in-chief in Turkestan, and has issued orders to push 50,000 troops forward to the Afghan border.

LONDON, April 13.—Advices from Tirpul state that no news has been received there that the Russians are advancing along the line of the Murghab river, in the direction of Penjdeh.

Up to an early hour this morning the government had received no further dispatches from St. Petersburg.

ST. PETERSBURG, April 12.—The *Official Messenger* publishes the following telegram from Gen. Komaroff, dated April 1: "On the 25th of March our detachment approached Dashkepri. When near the bridge we saw an intrenchment occupied by Afghans. In order to avoid a conflict I stationed my troops five versts (a little over three miles) from the Afghan position. Negotiations with Capt. Yate (a member of Sir Peter Lumsden's force) commenced on the 26th. When the Afghans became convinced that we had no intention of attacking them, they daily drew nearer to our camp. On the 27th they dispatched against a company of ours, covering a reconnoitering party, three companies with a gun and some cavalry. Next day their audacity and arrogance increasing, they occupied a high and commanding position on the left flank of our camp, made intrenchments, and placed a cavalry post in the rear of our line and a picket within gunshot of our fort. On the 29th I sent the Afghan commander an energetic summons to evacuate the left bank of the Kushka and the right bank of the Murghab as far as the mouth of the Kushka. He replied that acting on the advice of the English he would not retire beyond the Kushka. I then sent him a private letter couched in amicable terms. On the 30th, in order to support my demand, I marched with my detachment against the Afghan position, still expecting a pacific issue, but fire from the Afghan artillery and an attack of their cavalry compelled me to accept a combat."

The St. Petersburg *Journal* says that the foregoing statement leaves no question of Russian aggression; that, moreover, Sir Peter Lumsden's second dispatch to the British government justified Gen. Komaroff's action, and that even Mr. Gladstone has shown a praiseworthy anxiety to atone for the ungracious words about Russia which first escaped him.

ST. PETERSBURG, April 12.—It is reported that Lieut. Gen. N. Obroutcheff, chief of the general staff of the imperial army, is about to proceed to Merv to assume command of all the military operations in Turkestan and Afghanistan. Gen. Obroucheff is known as the conqueror of Moukhtar Pasha, whom he defeated at Aladja-Dagh, after a pitched battle lasting two days, in October, 1877.

A rumor is current that the conflict between the Russians and Afghans arose in the following way: Some of the English officers stationed at the Afghan outposts invited some Russian officers on the other side to breakfast. The Russians were unable to accept the invitation, but they sent an invitation to the English officers. The latter accepted and stayed in the Russian camp until late at night, and then asked for an escort. Gen. Komaroff disguised some of his officers as privates to accompany the escort, with the object of obtaining news of the Afghan forces. When the escort arrived at the Afghan camp one of the Russians was observed taking notes in his pocketbook. The Afghans tried to take away the book; a struggle ensued and shot was fired, from which side is not known. The Russians hurried back to their camp and the Russian troops were called to arms and advanced against the Afghans next morning.

BOMBAY, April 12.—Troops are moving toward Quetta as rapidly as the transport facilities will allow. The third and fourth army corps have been ordered to be placed on a war footing.

LONDON, April 12.—The Ameer upon leaving Rawal-Pindi expressed himself as certain that the whole of Afghanistan would welcome the assistance of British and Indian troops to repel Russia.

Gen. Komaroff has made a detailed statement tending to show that the Afghans provoked the recent battle. The effect of this statement, however, has been weakened by reports received by way of the Austrian telegraph stations on the Russian frontier. Penjdeh was occupied by Col. Alikhanoff on the 22d instant.

Russia explains that Gen. Komaroff was obliged to occupy Penjdeh in order to stop the pillaging of the district by Turcomans, and that the Afghans had threatened to resume offensive operations. The Russian minister of war has sent a congratulatory message to Gen. Komaroff, and has directed him to thank the troops in the name of the czar, and to announce to them that all who took part in the battle will be rewarded according to their rank.

LONDON, April 13.—The *Daily Telegraph* publishes a dispatch from Berlin, which states that Russia refuses to yield an inch of the territory she has occupied on the Afghan frontier, and that the czar intends to express his approval of Gen. Komaroff's action by appointing him commander-in-chief in Turkestan.

The *Daily News*, in an editorial this morning, says that it is not likely that the government will make any statement of its policy in parliament to-night, but that it will simply announce the details of the dispatching of the reserves. Continuing, the *News* says that if Gen. Komaroff's statement be correct, it of course shifts the blame upon the Afghans, but that it is difficult to reconcile the statement with the fact that neither Sir Peter Lumsden nor Capt. Yate, who must know the facts, mention the circumstances as reported by Gen. Komaroff.

LONDON, April 12.—Mr. Charles Marvin, the journalist and explorer, who is the author of several valuable works on Central Asia, delivered an important lecture on the Anglo-Russian imbroglio at Sunderland last evening. He warned the government that in case of a war Russia will probably attempt to block the Suez canal, either by sinking vessels in the channel, or by blowing up the bank at certain points, which he specified, where the canal is narrow and the banks high and rocky.

The *Observer* states to-day that the Russian cruisers Nostromia and St. Petersburg have been passing to and fro in the canal for a week, and that their movements require watchfulness.

VARNA, April 12.—The Turkish ministry is divided in regard to the question of an alliance with England or Russia. Meetings of the ministers are held frequently. It is stated that the Russian government has offered to surrender Kars, and to allow Turkey to occupy the Balkans in return for the closing of the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus against English men-of-war. The sultan favors the adoption of a neutral policy.

DONGOLA, April 12.—The Mahdi has gone to El Obeid, leaving the emir to govern Khartoum. The rebellion against the Mahdi is spreading.

CAIRO, April 12.—Gen. Wolseley says he has no idea of abandoning his intention to recapture Khartoum in the autumn.

Nubar Pasha, the prime minister, has applied to M. Barrere, the French ambassador, in regard to the seizure of the *Bashore Egyptien*, and that he intends to maintain his action, which, he says, is according to precedent and international law.

PARIS, April 12.—Orders to cease hostilities were sent to Admiral Courbet and Gen. De Lisle on the 10th instant. French troops are still embarking for Tonquin.

A dispatch from Haip Hong says that Gen. De Lisle, in the order of the day to the French troops, attributes the recent events to the transfer of the command, in consequence of Gen. Negrier's wound, to hands unprepared to undertake the charge, and expresses surprise that the enemy did not venture to pursue the French.

CORK, April 12.—At a mass meeting held here to-day resolutions were adopted declaring that the addresses presented to the Prince and Princess of Wales do not express the feelings of the people. Very little enthusiasm was manifested at the meeting.

MALLOW, April 12—Mr. O'Brien, M. P., editor of the *United Ireland*, in an address to a meeting of Nationalists to-day, expressed his intention upon the occasion of the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales of organizing a movement for the purpose of showing that the people disagreed with the way in which the English newspapers construed the effect of the visit. The meeting groaned at the mention of Earl Spencer's name, and sang "God Save Ireland."

DUBLIN, April 12.—The Prince of Wales was heard to remark to a guest at the state ball at Dublin Castle last Friday night that he had never been so highly gratified at any public receptions as at those tendered him in Ireland since the first entrance of the Princess Alexandra, when she came to London as his bride.

QUEENSTOWN, April 12.—Mr. Stephen J. Meany, associate counsel for Cunningham and Burton, who are charged with causing the explosion at the tower of London last January, arrived here to-day on his return from New York. He says that his journey to the United States to secure evidence to exculpate his clients was crowned with the greatest success. He says he has procured conclusive evidence to prove an alibi for Burton, and he expresses the opinion that the government has no direct evidence against Cunningham, except that he was in the tower at the time of the explosion.

A STATE LEGISLATOR DEAD.

Another Illinois Representative Passes Away—Further Delay in Electing a United States Senator.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., April 12.—Death has claimed another member of the Illinois legislature, this time the victim being J. Henry Shaw, of Beardstown, Cass county. About 12:45 this afternoon the clerk of the Palace Hotel, missing Representative Shaw at dinner and not having seen him during the morning, went to his room to call him. Receiving no answer he looked over the transom and saw him lying as though dead. The door was broken open, and Dr. Kerr, who had been called, upon examination gave it as his opinion that the representative had been dead several hours. The deceased has been ailing during the whole season, but not so that he could not attend to his duties most of the time.

Representative Shaw was over 60 years old, and served in the thirty-second general assembly, this being his second term. He has been an unswerving Democrat, and thus there occurs another break in the ranks of that party. This makes the third death during this session, something which never before occurred. It was anticipated that upon Senator Davis, from Green county, assuming office something tangible would be done in relation to the United States senatorship question; but this unexpected occurrence will again throw it back for twenty days at least. What makes the situation still worse, it leaves the house a tie upon any question which will be construed into a party issue, and thus retards business. The governor will be requested to issue a writ for a new election to-morrow, but the election cannot take place before twenty days after the call.

An Alleged Washingtonian in Trouble.

J. Clarence Duffy, said to be a married man and a resident of this city, made an unsuccessful attempt to abduct a young girl from Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Saturday. He is a member of the Standard Opera Company, and early in the week induced three young people to accompany him from there to join the troupe. He returned Saturday afternoon from Binghamton, and succeeded in persuading Gertrude Blackman, a pretty young girl, to elope with him. Duffy was accompanied by a man named Morris Dougherty, and the trio embarked on a Philadelphia and Reading train at the lower end of the town. On reaching the main depot uptown Miss Blackman was detected, taken from the cars, and conveyed to her home. Before a warrant could be procured for the arrest of Duffy he, with Dougherty, had left town.

Attempted Murder in Virginia.

BALTIMORE, April 12.—Intelligence has reached this city that on Thursday night last two negroes called at the farm house of William A. Palmer, on the Rappahannock river, in Middlesex county, Va., and told him that his aunt, living five miles distant, was ill and desired to see him. Mr. Palmer hastily dressed himself and started toward the stable to get his horse when the negroes attacked him and knocked him senseless with a club. After taking from his pocket $165 they carried him into the house and set fire to the building. A younger brother, who was sleeping upstairs, was aroused by smoke and ran down stairs. Near the door he fell over his brother and dragged him from the house. The house was entirely destroyed. The assailants are not known.

Mr. Frelinghuysen Dying.

NEWARK, N. J., April 12.—Ex-Secretary Frelinghuysen has been in a stupor nearly all day. At 3 o'clock this afternoon he was raised up in bed and took a little nourishment, since then he has been in a continuous state of stupor, and it has been impossible to rouse him. At 10:30 o'clock to-night Dr. Mercer, one of his attending physicians, said Mr. Frelinghuysen was gradually sinking, and would likely die to-night. He may, however, last forty-eight hours.

Trouble Expected.

JERSEY CITY, N. J., April 12.—Gov. Abbett intends to act promptly in the matter of the expected trouble between the Delaware and New Jersey shad fishermen. He will consult Attorney General Stockton to-morrow as to the constitutionality of the act passed by the Delaware legislature giving the fishermen of that state a monopoly of the Delaware river and bay.

TELEGRAPHIC BRIEFS.

—In the joint assembly of the Illinois legislature, Saturday, Morrison received 19 votes, Logan 2, Black 2, and Streeter 2 for United States senator.

—Charles H. Rugg, the negro who murdered the Mayhew women near Oyster Bay, L. I., says he will make a full confession to the sheriff before his execution.

—A cablegram was received at Bath, Me., yesterday, announcing the arrival at Dublin of the ship Louisiana, which left San Francisco on Oct. 14 of last year. The vessel was supposed to have been lost.

—The Christian convention at Pittsburg, under the direction of the evangelists, Moody and Sankey, closed last night. It is estimated that over 30,000 people attended the meetings. The conventions number 1,000.

—A Brooklyn dispatch suggests the belief that either Gens. McClellan, Slocum, or McMahon will be elected president of the Society of the Army of the Potomac at its reunion at Baltimore next month to succeed Gen. Grant, who was elected its president last June.

—A circular has been received at Toronto from General Manager Hickson, of the Grand Trunk, announcing a reduction in wages of the road's employes there. The reduction is 10 per cent. on salaries over $600 and 5 per cent. on those from that sum down to $50. The men are indignant.

SEVERAL SERIOUS FIRES.

Exciting Conflagration in a Hotel—Narrow Escapes—Heavy Losses.

CLEVELAND, April 12.—At 7:30 o'clock this morning a fire was discovered in a room on the seventh floor of the Stillman Hotel and apartment house on Euclid avenue near Muirson street, and in a very short time the entire upper story of the building was in flames. The chambermaid who made the discovery ran screaming down the corridors toward the office, and the guests, only a few of whom had yet arisen, ran from their rooms in the utmost confusion. The clerk hearing the noise of the commotion, hastened up stairs when he learned the cause of it. He quietly informed the frightened people that there was no danger, the building being regarded absolutely fireproof. His reassuring tone allayed their fears and the guests returned to their rooms. Meanwhile, however, the flames which originated in a room where the scrubbing utensils are kept, were spreading rapidly and the sixty servants, whose quarters were on the upper floor, barely had time to escape with their lives, many losing all their clothing. Eight steamers were called, and it was not until after five hours' hard work that the fire was gotten under control. The roof was entirely destroyed, the heavy timbers falling on the seventh floor and crashing through it in many places. In this way the fire worked down to the sixth floor, and thence to the fifth by means of ash sluices, but it was not allowed to spread. A heavy beam fell in front of the door to Harry Stevens's room on the sixth floor and shut him in. He was rescued from a window on an extension ladder. Beyond a few cuts from breaking window glass nobody was hurt.

The Stillman House is the finest building in Cleveland. It was erected only a year ago at a cost of about $500,000. It is owned by Col. W. H. Harris and Dan P. Ells. With the exception of the roof, it was fireproof. The loss on the building is about $50,000, on which there is no insurance. The guests and families lose about $15,000 by water. The loss of the servants will aggregate $3,000. It is supposed that the fire was caused by a curtain blowing into a gas jet.

SOUTH BETHLEHEM, PA., April 12.—The Excelsior Knitting Mills, owned by J. T. Skinner, were destroyed by fire last night. Loss, $25,000; partially insured. The fire was probably of incendiary origin.

At 5 o'clock this morning the residence of Mr. Gannon was totally destroyed by fire, together with $250 in cash in a bureau drawer. The fire was caused by the explosion of a coal oil lamp. There is no insurance. The family escaped in their night clothes.

NORFOLK, VA., April 12.—Mapp & Co.'s stove and tin warehouse, Water street, was destroyed by fire this morning. The stock was valued at $30,000. Insurance, $23,000. The origin of the fire is unknown.

UTICA, N. Y., April 12.—Kinney's hotel and store at Poolville have been destroyed by fire. Loss $9,000. Insurance $5,000. The freight house of the Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg railroad at Camden was destroyed by fire to-day. Loss $9,000, partially insured.

KANSAS CITY, MO., April 12.—A disastrous fire occurred this afternoon at Lee Summit, a small town on the Missouri Pacific railroad, twenty-five miles east of this city. Twenty-eight buildings were burned, comprising the entire business portion of the place. The loss will probably reach $100,000; insurance about $40,000. The fire started in a photograph gallery from some unkown cause. A hose reel sent from this city by special train arrived in time to do good service. The *Post* office and *Journal* office were burned.

A TREATY OF ALLIANCE.

Honduras Joins San Salvador—Armies of the Latter and Her Allies Advancing on Guatemala City.

LA LIBERTAD, April 12) via Galveston.)—A treaty of peace has been signed between the governments of San Salvador and Honduras, and the latter republic has joined the alliance against Guatemala. No arrangement has as yet been made with Guatemala. The armies of San Salvador and her allies are advancing on the city of Guatemala from various points, and are everywhere welcomed by the populace. Many of the disbanded Guatemalan troops are joining the allied forces.

No information has been received at the Central American legations in this city with regard to the treaty of alliance said to have been signed between San Salvador and Honduras. Senor de Peralta, the minister from Costa Rica, has, however, received a dispatch from the Costa Rican minister at the City of Mexico, in which the latter says that the Central American trouble is settled. The dispatch gives no details, but Senor de Peralta assumes that the fact that Honduras has entered the already-strong alliance between the states of Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Salvador, and the determined attitude of the Mexican government against the Barrios project of compelling a union of the Central American states have convinced the Guatemalan government that it is the better policy for them to make no further steps toward forcing the states into a union.

The Alleged Dynamiters' Defense.

Secretary Bayard has replied to a request by the Irish National League of New York city that this government take steps to defend Burton and Cunningham, who are awaiting trial in London for complicity in the recent dynamite explosions. He says that there are no funds available for this purpose, though the department was "ready to lend promptly all lawful aid in its power to secure a just and fair trial' to any American citizen" criminally charged in foreign countries. Mr. Bayard trusts that the People will recommend and Congress appropriate enough to provide for a careful supervision and intelligent report of such trial as may be had. He adds that no information of the citizenship of the parties charged or of the crime alleged than is contained in the communication has been received at the department, but that due inquiry will be made and the proper steps taken.

John Howard Payne.

The empty tomb where the remains of John Howard Payne lay so long at Tunis, Mr. W. W. Corcoran, so well beloved and honored here, has just decorated with a memorial monument which briefly tells the story of the great poet's homeless life and death. Col. John Worthington, the American consul at Malta, was commissioned by Mr. Corcoran to do this work, and he selected Dr. Nicolo Zammit, an eminent sculptor, to prepare the memorial. The monument is of the beautiful drab stone peculiar to the island of Malta, and is an obelisk in shape, 7 seven feet in height and 4 feet square at the base. On the four faces of the shaft are suitable inscriptions, the last one bearing the quotation from the man whom it honors: "Then be content, poor heart."

An Excursion to New Orleans.

A number of Washington newspaper men have received invitations from Maj. E. A. Burke to participate in an excursion to the World's Exposition at New Orleans. The party will leave this evening at 10 o'clock, to be gone ten days, four days of which will be occupied in the journey. In case of the death of Gen. Grant before the time of starting the trip will be postponed; and should this occur while en route or during their stay in New Orleans accommodation to return will be immediately furnished. Maj. J. G. Pangborn will have charge of the party.

An Invasion of Elks.

The arrival of the Kinalty troupe yesterday and the remaining over of the Haverly minstrels brought quite a number of visiting Elks to the city. Washington Lodge got up an impromptu social for the visitors at their lodge room last evening, which proved a most enjoyable affair. There was vocal and instrumental music, recitations, and story telling, which made the evening pass quickly and agreeably and proved a more satisfactory entertainment than if prepared with time and care. It was after midnight before the party separated.

WHY WASHINGTONIANS DIE.

DR. GIHON SAYS IT IS LARGELY OWING TO BAD VENTILATION.

The President's Pleasantry With a Colored Delegation—Base Ball Games That Will be Played Here Next Week—A Sensible Lecture to Plumbers.

In the lecture of Medical Director Albert L. Gihon, U. S. N., delivered Saturday afternoon at the national museum, was given his views of the almost absolute ignorance that exists among all classes of the simple sanitary laws that should govern all. In tenements, as well as the modern palaces of Washington, he said, the true principles of ventilation are lacking, and among both classes the knowledge of proper diet is but little known. The theory that has so long been held that any person should rise from a meal leaving the appetite still unsatisfied he holds as untrue, and instanced the satisfied content with which the household cat or dog curls up for comfortable sleep after a full meal. No single school room in the District of Columbia, he says, is properly ventilated, and in most of them the confinement of children during the recitation hours is enough to breed disease and stunt the growth. "If a clot on the brain of a wise man," he says, "is sufficient to change him to a driveling imbecile, and a single strain of a muscle changes a great oarsman to a helpless mass of humanity, why does not mankind realize that there are other things in our own use of life that are even more important?" He spoke at length of the bad ventilation of the various executive offices here, and told that the chief of one bureau in the newest and best of all of these buildings discovered one day last year that the ventilating outlet to his room lead down to an untrapped sewer, and that fact at once accounted for the assiduous malarial attacks which he had been fighting for months. Outdoor exercise is the best help to health as a natural and easy escape from the evils of bad ventilation. It is shameful, he says, that the health officer of the capital city of so great a nation as this should be crippled with small an annual appropriation as the paltry $17,000 which Dr. Townshend has at his disposal. Malaria, which has been alleged as the worst feature of Washington life, is due far more to absurd ignorance of the laws of ventilation and food, as well as lack of reasonable exercise, than to the marshy flats to which it is most commonly ascribed.

THE PRESIDENT'S PLEASANTRY.

He Draws an Offensive Editorial Upon a Visiting Colored Journalist.

The President received on Saturday a delegation of colored persons, including William Calvin Chase, C. H. Marshall, Maj. C. A. Fleetwood, and Rev. R. S. Laws, who invited him to review their parade on Emancipation day and be present at their exercises in the evening. The meeting was arranged some days ago, and the President's attention was called at the time to a violent editorial which appeared in the *Bee*, of which Chase is editor, last November. The delegation was received in the President's library and the following address was read to him:

Whereas the President and Vice President elect (Cleveland and Hendricks) have declared that the rights of this country shall not be disturbed in their rights, we, the delegates of the District of Columbia in convention assembled, and in the name of 70,000 citizens, welcome to the capital of the nation the President and Vice President elect (Cleveland and Hendricks), with a sincere hope that they will be rulers of the people and for the people, irrespective of color or previous condition of servitude; therefore be it

Resolved, That, in the name of 70,000 colored citizens, we ask from the administration recognition according to merit, equal rights, and the advantage of education throughout the United States.

Mr. Cleveland replied to the address in a brief but kindly manner, adding some words of advice about the kind of men the colored people chose as leaders. He emphasized this last point by drawing from his pocket a copy of the *Bee* with the incendiary editorial in it. Mr. Chase was at first taken aback, but quickly asked permission to send for the President's perusal copies of the paper since November, wherein more temperate editorials appeared. This was freely granted, and the delegation was pleasantly dismissed with a promise that he would review the procession.

BASE BALL THIS WEEK.

Four Games with the Leading Clubs of the Country to be Played at Capitol Park—The Batting and Fielding of the Home Team This Season.

Four very exciting games of base ball will be played this week at Capitol Park, the first of which is set for to-morrow, when the home team will try to get even with the Athletics of Philadelphia. The Providence champions will return to play a game on Thursday. On Friday and Saturday the Buffalo League team will be here, and local patrons will have a chance to see how big Dennis Brouthers slugs the ball. The Nationals will make a determined effort to defeat the Athletics, and will put their best nine in the field, with Barr and Baker as their battery.

The great superiority of this year's team over that of last season in all-around batting has already been clearly demonstrated. Taking in all the games played, Knowles has made the most base hits, but, leaving out the Brown University games and considering only those against professional teams, it will be found that Barr, Fulmer, Morrissey, and Knowles have each made seven hits, but Fulmer leads, having only played in five games. Baker and White have five hits each. Powell has four hits, and Moore has three for his four games played. The surprising part of it all is the style in which Barr has been smashing the ball. Batting has never been considered one of Robert's strong points, but he promises to be a regular "slugger" this season if he keeps on finding the ball in the fashion that has characterized his play so far.

So far as fielding is concerned it is doubtful if any improvement has been made, except at short field and perhaps at third. Knowles is very good at first, but no better than Joy was and not so good as Baker. Evers's work at second so far has not been up to the standard of his playing last season. The outfield was well guarded last year and will be this. Fulmer is catching in magnificent style, and in throwing to bases has decidedly improved. It is, however, too early in the season to expect any of the boys to play up to the form they will exhibit after a month's exercise has put them in good physical condition.

Educating Mormons.

Last evening at the Congregational Church Rev. C. R. Bliss, of Chicago, gave a recital of the evils of Mormonism, and explained the means which the New West Education Commission, of which he is the general secretary, is using to extirpate this giant evil. Mr. Bliss characterized the Mormon Church as a gigantic business and political enterprise, and a swindle. The motive that urges the Mormon leaders on is a motive of gain, and nothing else. We should never know, he said, how to combat this evil until we look upon Mormonism as a religion. It builds its temples, collects its tithes, and directs its affairs by appeals to religious motives and religious fears. The expense of the system of schools he advocated was $500 per year a station, the pay rolls of the commission amounting to $3,000 per month. The need of money was pressed, and probably a liberal financial aid will be extended this work by the Congregational Church.

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POPULAR SCIENCE.

The Plumbers' Course of Lectures—A Talk on Animal Poisons.

Dr. Elizey delivered the ninth lecture of his course on the elements of sanitary science before the Master Plumbers' at German Hall Saturday night. The subject was animal poisons. The nature of the so-called ptomaines or cadaveric poisons of the human subject was explained, and the danger and impropriety of burying the dead where any possible source of drinking water may be contaminated was pointed out. Poisons analogous to these ptomaines are sometimes developed in food containing albuminoid substances when not quite sound, such, for example, as fish, canned meat, sausage, cheese, &c. The dangerous character of "sick meat," or the meat of diseased animals, was made plain. The Hebrews rigidly reject this sort of meat, and this precaution, with other sanit