The Free Press.

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The Vermont Republican State Committee are called to meet at Vergennes next Wednesday, to fix time and place for the next Republican State convention. This is pretty early for such action, and the call probably indicates a purpose on the part of some to have the convention called at an early date.

It is the general opinion in Maine that Governor Garcelon will not submit to the Supreme Court the questions propounded by ex-Gov. Morrill. The Republicans are prepared for this, and an Augusta despatch says they "will present the question through a majority of the members of the last Senate, as it is thought such proceedings would conform with the law. Their disposition is to exhaust every legal means before others are tried."

Ex-Governor Morrill has submitted to Governor Garcelon a list of fourteen questions relating to the technical points at issue to be submitted to the Supreme Court of Maine. The Governor is extensively beseeched by petitions signed by Democrats as well as Republicans to accede to Mr. Morrill's request and submit the points to the court. If he does so, and the court sustains the action of the Governor and Council, then, in the language of the Springfield *Republican*, "there will be nothing to say but to give Governor Garcelon the credit of discovering the worst [illegible] ever sprung upon a self-governing people."

The frightful railroad disaster in Scotland was the only one on record from which there was no survivor. Probably not less than 100 lives were lost, and but one body has been recovered. The bridge, opened to traffic in May, 1878, was about two miles long, being the longest iron bridge in the world, and it had 89 spans. It was considered a triumph of engineering skill, its cost being $2,545,000, while seven years were occupied in its construction. Fourteen of the widest spans were blown down, leaving a gap half a mile wide in the middle of the bridge. The train fell 88 feet before reaching the water, which was 50 feet deep.

The bill introduced in Congress by the Greenbacker Weaver, to pay all persons who served in the army or navy during the last war the difference between the value of the greenbacks in which they were paid and the value of gold at that time, if it should become a law, would probably make the greatest raid upon the Treasury ever known. Experts who have examined the provisions of the bill, and who have had access to the records of the Government, say that the bill would require nearly a thousand millions of dollars. Mr. Weaver asks for what the Greenbackers consider a bagatelle of $100,000,000 to begin with. The average depreciation of greenbacks during the war was about forty per cent, and on this basis the amount to be paid by the Weaver bill to soldiers in round numbers would be $440,000,000. But the bill provides that interest shall be computed on the difference in the value of greenbacks and gold at six per cent, which would amount to $352,000,000, or a grand total under the bill of $792,000,000. This is for the army alone, and does not include the navy. Adding the navy, it is estimated that the total required by the terms of the bill would be $900,000,000.

For Greenbackers, who think that all the Government has to do to raise any quantity of money is to run a few more printing presses, the issue of a billion or two more or less of greenbacks is a mere trifle. But other people, who believe that something more than a Government stamp is needed to make paper into money, will be somewhat staggered by the proportions of this scheme.

Washington advices say that the Democratic Congressmen are not well pleased at the situation in Maine. Mr. Springer of Illinois, who is one of the most radical of them, says: "If I had been in Governor Garcelon's place I think I should not have done as he has, but if I had done so I should stick to it. I see that there is talk of now submitting the matter to the Supreme Court of the State. That cannot be done, for there is nothing left for the Governor to submit. Both he and his Council are *functus officio* so far as declaring the result and issuing certificates of election to members of the Legislature are concerned. Suppose the Supreme Court should now decide that the Governor has been wrong in issuing a number of these certificates, he has already issued them, the members have received them, and he has no power to recall them. So, whether the Governor has been right or wrong, I do not see how the Republicans are going to help themselves." Having been asked whether the Maine Democracy would be likely to carry their action to its logical conclusion and elect Democratic Presidential electors, Mr. Springer said: "I hope not; that is a game that two can play at, and the Democrats would be pretty sure to lose by it. I think that within two weeks after the Legislature meets the House will become Republican. Of course, before that takes place the Fusionist candidates for Governor and the other State officers will have been elected. As soon as the Governor and other officers have been elected the House will seat some of the Republican members. A number of the seats are vacant, and the House, having the right to judge, will admit the members who were elected. Then, even if there was a purpose to change the mode of electing Presidential electors, it would not be done unless the Republican House should agree to it."

One of the points suggested by ex-Gov. Morrill to be submitted to the Supreme Court was whether the Governor and Council could recall certificates of election, after discovering that they had been wrongfully issued.

The War in Afghanistan.

On Monday the 22d information was received by Gen. Roberts that a general attack would be made at daybreak Tuesday by the enemy around Cabul. A large number of the enemy were seen occupying the distant villages and approaching nearer as it became dark. At six Tuesday morning a fire was lighted on Asmai heights, the enemy's signal for an attack, and immediately afterward the attack was commenced on three sides. Gen. Roberts says in a despatch to the English government: "We were prepared for it. On the south and east the enemy did not show much determination, but on the northeast corner of the Behmaroo heights some thousands collected and evidently contemplated an assault. Gen. Hugh Gough, ably assisted by Col. Jenkins, commanded here. As soon as the enemy's intention was fully developed I determined on a counter-attack with the cavalry and artillery. These issued by a [illegible] fire on the enemy's flank, and speedily dislodged them. The cavalry pursued and cut up numbers of the enemy, who [illegible] from all points and hastily retreated to the city. We have now occupied some of the walled villages, particularly those on the Butkhak road. Gen. Charles Gough's camp is [illegible] six miles to the east." On the 24th Gen. Gough telegraphed as follows: "Our success yesterday was complete. The enemy's loss was severe. Our losses were few killed, including Capt. Dundas and Lieut. Nugent of the engineers by a premature explosion when blowing up the towers of a neighboring village, and 33 wounded, the majority of whom are doing well. Those of the enemy living in Cabul went straight to their houses after the defeat and remained in Cabul a few hours, but all fled during the night."

NOTES AND NOTES.

A lottery without a newspaper, remarks a [illegible]

Belknap, late War Secretary, called at Gen. Grant's [illegible] but the General was "engaged."

Garcelon has jumped from obscurity to infamy quicker than any other man in modern political history.

Did it ever occur to Mr. Sherman that he would like a judgeship in certain contingencies? asks the Cincinnati *Enquirer*.

Life is put together considerably like a set of [illegible]

The Defence of the Maine Conspirators.

The Governor and Council of Maine have given to the public an extended and elaborate defence of their action, in the form of a report of a committee of their number. It is doubtless the best defence that they can make; but instead of furnishing any real justification of their course, it affords clear evidence not only that they have undertaken to nullify the will of the people by means of the merest and most trivial technicalities; but that they omitted to apply those technicalities where they would have worked against them; and that they deliberately and wilfully disobeyed provisions of the constitution and statutes, as obligatory as any of those under which they profess to have acted.

It is to be remembered in considering this report that this whole Maine business is the outcome of a plot concocted before the election; that many of the irregularities which the Council have decided to be "fatal" were arranged for by Democratic and Greenback officials and brought about by means of intentionally erroneous blanks and instructions. The report is thus a trumped up and pettifogging attempt to defend an intentional swindle. But as such it is a failure. It convicts instead of vindicating the conspirators. The committee cite the provision of the Constitution of Maine, that the returns shall be made and sealed in open town meeting; and give a list of towns whose returns they threw out because they (the Governor and Council) had become satisfied from affidavits furnished to them that the returns were not made up in the town meetings, but after they closed. But to begin with, the Council had no right to go behind the face of the returns. That is for the *Legislature* to do, if it is necessary to be done by any body. The Constitution of Maine provides that:

"The Governor and Council shall examine the copies of such lists (the returns made by municipal officers) returned to the Secretary's office, and twenty days before the first Wednesday of January issue a summons to such persons as shall appear to be elected by a plurality of all the votes returned, to attend that day and take their seats."

The Constitution also provides that "each House shall be the judge of the elections of its own members." The Maine Republicans challenge the Fusionists to cite a statute, precedent or decision conferring authority upon the Governor and Council to go behind the face of the returns. When they received affidavits and rejected returns they transcended their Constitutional authority and usurped that of the Legislature. But if this were not so, at least one town, that of Buckfield, is mentioned by the Republican journals of Maine, in which the returns were not made up in open meeting, and were not rejected by the Council. The obvious reason why is that Buckfield gave a Fusion majority! It is stated that this is but one of many similar cases.

Again the committee mention a number of Representatives who were thrown out because the initials of their names were omitted in the returns. Thus, in the town of Danforth, the Republican votes were cast for Charles A. Rolfe, but it seems that the Democratic clerk of that town returned them as for Charles Rolfe. The Council threw out Mr. Rolfe, though a statute, the law of 1877, ignored throughout by the conspirators, authorized them to correct the return by the record. So in the town of Weston, Frank C. Nickerson, Republican, is thrown out because the return omitted his middle initial. But proof is offered that every Republican vote cast in that town was printed "Frank C." Another case is mentioned, which the Council neglect to explain. In the Ashland district (Aroostook County) a number of votes cast for the Republican candidate, Mr. Burnham, were rejected because his name was spelled "Burnam," while the votes cast for his Democratic competitor, *Alfred* Cushman, were counted, though they were erroneously returned as cast for *Alford* Cushman!

A statute provides that no ballot shall be received by the election officers which has a designating mark. In Skowhegan the Republican ballots bore the names of the candidates in *two* columns instead of one. The Council chose to consider this a designating mark, and threw out the Skowhegan return, therefor. But the same statute specially declares that "*no vote shall be rejected on this account* [that is on account of a designating mark] *after it has been received into the ballot box*." The selectmen received the votes and counted them, and the Returning Board cast them out in distinct violation of the positive statute, as well as of that provision of the Constitution which makes the Legislature the judge of its own elections.

The Council state that the five Representatives of Portland were thrown out because a few votes were returned as "scattering." The blanks sent to that city by the fusion officials, contained a heading of "scattering," expressly to mislead the clerks; and if every scattering vote were added to the Democratic column the Republican representatives would still be elected! In previous years, and no later than last year, when Democratic Representatives received their seats under the ruling, the Governor and Council have held that the fact that a part of the votes were not properly given should not prevent counting the votes which were. This year the Governor and Council reversed this practice established by precedent. The return of Cherryfield was thrown out because they learned, by affidavit, that one of the Selectmen was a foreigner and could not legally hold the office. But, asks the Boston *Journal*, "was there anything on the face of the return to show that one of the Selectmen was an alien? Will this Returning Board show their authority for receiving affidavits and deciding this question without hearing both sides? The names of three Selectmen were appended to the return. If on the face of that return there are the names of three selectmen they have no power to go behind it, and accept affidavits showing that he is an alien. If the Returning Board had looked further in the reports of the decisions of the Supreme Court, they would have found the case of Frenchville, where the clerk made an affidavit that he was an alien, and did not know what was in the returns he signed, the court decided that the Governor and Council must be governed by the returns, and they could not act upon an affidavit."

Another case is mentioned by the committee where a town was thrown out by them because there were two different returns forwarded to them. They had, they say, no legal evidence which was the correct one; and so they threw out both! In other words they threw out a perfectly legal and correct return, because, perhaps, some Democratic clerk or other person, for the sake of a swindle, sent with it a false return. In this way, of course, the vote of every Republican town and district in Maine could have been nullified.

The above are samples of the excuses put forth by the Governor and Council. Their report, in fact, sustains the positions taken by ex-Governor Dingley in his speech at the Lewiston indignation meeting. He maintained:

That the returns of Democratic towns had been surreptitiously corrected; that the Governor and Council twisted the law for the purpose of thwarting, rather than carrying out, the verdict of the polls; that the Governor and Council conducted their canvass with the apparent purpose of counting out Republicans and counting in Fusionists; that the Constitution has been ignored to defeat a good return, and invoked to prevent the correction of an alleged defective return; that a large proportion of the defects under which the Republicans were counted out were amendable under the Constitution, without regard to the statutes; that all errors in Republican returns were amendable by copy of the record, under a statute enacted in 1877, whose existence is entirely ignored; that Republican returns, entirely correct, were rejected on various pretexts, in defiance of law. Each of the above charges was sustained by examples furnished by the action of the Governor and Council, in respect to the different cities and towns. In conclusion, Gov. Dingley said: Now, in the face of such facts as these—facts which show the deliberate reversal of the will of the people by a plain usurpation of power—it will not answer for Governor Garcelon to set up the plea of strict obedience to law, and good intentions. The cases of plain defiance of law, to which I have referred—some of which even Mr. Gould, one of the attorneys of the Governor and Council, admit were illegally decided, and one of which (Ashland) even the Governor himself [illegible] to have been decided wrongfully—[illegible] of the Governor's defence. What legal justification can there be for the deliberate nullification of a law which provides for the lawful correction of all the errors on which the will of the people has been overthrown?

POLITICAL NOTES.

Congressman Reed stated the Maine case when he remarked that the laws for canvassing votes were not intended to "trip up the voters."

Let another State follow the example of Maine in throwing out Representatives on technicalities of no moment, says the *Pilot*, and we shall see the leaves of United States bonds begin to shake in the breeze.

Solon Chase, the Greenback Apostle and champion, writes a letter to the Bangor *Commercial* (Dem.) in which he says: "In acting according to the strict letter of the law the Governor and Council may have overlooked the common law which is founded on common sense and justice. If the Greenbackers had carried the House and Senate on the face of the returns, and the Republicans had had the Returning Board and they had done just what the Governor and Council have done, how we would howl, and it is no wonder the Republicans howl."

On Monday I went on the floor of the Senate at Washington with Bayard of Delaware, and he introduced me to all the prominent Senators. I drew a number of the Democratic ones out to talk about Grant's chances as a candidate. I will not give names, but five prominent gentlemen assured me that, should he consent to run, the Democratic party might as well hang up the fiddle. Three of the five Senators I have reference to were from the South, and had fought for the dissolution of the Union.—*G. A. Sala, the Englishman, in an interview.*

The Maine Excitement.—The excitement at Gardiner to-day has been at fever heat. The scenes on the streets resembled those which were so familiar in war times. Groups of men were gathered on the corners eagerly discussing the two local sensations of the day. The first was the discovery of a large-sized schism in two prominent churches of the town. The Rev. Austin L. Park, pastor of the Congregational church, and a brother of Trenor W. Park, of Vermont, signed the call for the Republican indignation meeting held here a few days ago. This incensed a large number of his flock, who showed their displeasure in various ways. About twenty-five per cent of the worshippers in his church are Democrats, and they were making preparations to go over in a body to the Episcopal church, presided over by the Rev. Mr. Bradley, a young man who has recently come from Trinity church, Boston, where he had been an assistant of the Rev. Phillips Brooks; but when the meeting came off it was found that Brother Bradley was one of the speakers at the indignation demonstration, and so they are now without any spiritual place in which to lay their heads.—*Cor. N. Y. Herald.*

The following conversation is reported as having occurred between H. J. Sargent, a theatrical agent, and Fred. Mussey, private secretary to Gov. Foster of Ohio, in the depot at Columbus:

S.—I see by the papers that you've been getting some kind of a position. What is it?

M.—I've been appointed private secretary to the Governor.

S.—That so? What Governor?

M.—Governor of Ohio.

S.—O, what's his name?

M.—Foster.

S.—O, yes. He was elected, was he?

M.—Of course.

S.—(assuming an air of political knowledge)—O, yes, yes. What majority did he get?

M.—About 17,000.

S.—Pretty close vote, wasn't it?

M.—Close? Thunder! It was an immense majority.

S. (looking wise)—O, yes I remember; Ewing did good work for him. Helped to elect him, didn't he?

M. (aghast)—well, hardly! But what are you doing?

S.—I am going to Louisville to start Adele Belgarde.

M.—Trotter or runner?

S.—What?

M.—"Aint Belgarde a horse?"

S.—Horse! Great heavens! No!

M.—It is a man or woman?

S.—A woman, of course; you [illegible]

M.—O, yes, I remember. She's a trapeze artist.

S.—A trapeze artist? She's the greatest tragedienne alive, sir.

M. (quietly)—That so? Never heard of her.

S.—It is possible that the private secretary of Gov. Foster never heard of Adele Belgarde?

M.—Is is possible that the manager of Adele Belgarde never heard of Governor Foster?

GENERAL SUMMARY.

Coal has been advanced twenty-five cents per ton by the Reading Company.

Chicago and Milwaukee report a great increase in trade during the year past.

James B. Van Every has been elected president of the Western Union Telegraph Company.

The striking pork-packers at Chicago are still wasting their time and their places are being filled rapidly with non-union men.

The record of vital statistics in New York shows that during the past year there were 28,165 deaths, 25,332 births, and 8,385 marriages in that city.

At Bethlehem, Pa., Monday, two brothers, named Harry and Thomas Zimmerman, aged 9 and 10, were drowned while playing on the ice.

A Winnipeg despatch says the severe weather has interfered with railway and other travel, and reports are current of several people frozen.

Charles F. Brush of Cleveland has just sold his English patent for the electric lighting apparatus to a large incorporated company in London, for £30,000 sterling.

The death rate at the penitentiary at Frankfort, Ky., is increasing. There were five interments Monday and many are sick. The Legislature will have to provide a new prison graveyard.

Last Saturday, at Pope's Station, Mississippi, Bedford and Frank Duke, cousins, had an encounter over a game of cards, which resulted in Frank's shooting Bedford with a double barrel shot-gun, killing him instantly.

The roof of a building occupied by Edgar A. Thompson at Pittsburg, Pa., as iron and steel works, fell in with a crash Sunday, burying beneath it a number of men. They were extricated as soon as possible, but nine were seriously injured and two fatally.

Flat Rock, Ky., is excited over the shooting affray between a negro named Simpson and a constable named Gibson. The latter attempted to arrest Simpson, who shot the constable in the thigh. Gibson then shot Simpson in the groin and the left breast. It is reported the latter is dead.

The California supreme court has decided that the indictments against Charles De Young for the shooting of Rev. Isaac Kalloch are valid, notwithstanding that the jury which found them was reduced to less than eighteen by the death of Lewis Cunningham, the foreman of the jury.

An explosion of fire damp occurred at the Paine's town mines of the Pennsylvania Gas Coal Company, near Irwin's Station, on the Pennsylvania Railroad, which resulted in the death of Samuel Kistler and Michael Kessler and the fatal injury of Cyrus Fox. The cause of the explosion is unknown.

Sunday night Thomas Shannon of Mingo, Ohio, went home drunk with a bottle of whiskey in his pocket, which his wife took and hid while he was asleep. On awaking, he demanded the bottle, but she refused to give it up. He then seized a hatchet and struck her a blow on the head, inflicting a probably fatal wound.

The failure is announced of J. Lloyd Haigh, wire manufacturer of New York, Brooklyn and Chicago, with liabilities amounting to $300,000, with nominal assets of $450,000. Mr. Haigh was one of the contractors for the Brooklyn bridge, and has obtained nearly $900,000 from the bridge company. He had $200,000 worth of steel rejected a short time ago as not meeting the requirements of his contract. This ultimately caused his failure.

A Mount Vernon, Ky., special reports the bloody ending of a sanguinary feud in Rock Castle county. At Pine Hill, William O. Owens shot and killed James Langford. The parties have been enemies for years. In 1868 Owens killed Langford's brother Henry, was tried and acquitted, since which time Langford has attempted several times to kill Owens. Once he emptied the contents of a shot gun into Owens' back as he was fleeing for his life, and at another time he chased Owens several miles on horseback, when the latter escaped by taking to the woods.

Two brothers, named George and Haight Drummond, living in Westhampton, N. J., were drowned while skating Friday.

The six-days' pedestrian match in New York, last week, proved quite remarkable in its results, eight of the contestants making 500 miles or over, while Hart, of Boston, the winner, beat any previous record in this country.

An unknown man, about sixty years of age, committed suicide on Wednesday by jumping from the suspension bridge at Niagara Falls. He plunged head and down, the awful distance of 192 feet into the river.

It is stated that within a few days $2,500 has been offered for shares of the Edison electric light company which originally sold for $100, and it is asserted that the gas companies are almost in a state of panic in regard to their condition and prospects.

Six detachments of Cincinnati police, five men each, moved simultaneously Saturday night upon six gambling houses, and arrested nineteen men. Two wagon loads of gambling implements were taken to the station house.

Wilhelmus Westfall, a farmer of Sussex county, N. Y., had a narrow escape a few days ago from death from a wild cat nearly six feet long. He was saved by the early arrival of his son, who shot the animal dead. Westfall's body was terribly lacerated and his clothes were torn to shreds.

Herman Roberts, a saloon keeper at Springfield, Mo., was shot dead Friday night by a stranger named John Vaughan, who did not have money to pay for drinks. The murderer escaped into a brush and was pursued and captured. It was with great difficulty that lynching was prevented, even the rope having been secured.

The largest dividend of the year is that of the First National Bank of New York city. On a capital of $500,000 they have divided one hundred and twenty per cent (120) for the year, after adding $500,000 to their surplus, making the surplus $7,500,000, and after leaving $2[illegible] undivided in profit and loss account.

Two men, Samuel Woodruff and Joe Seminole, the latter a half breed Indian, who murdered R. B. Hayward, a farmer of Jefferson county, on the 18th of last September, were taken from jail at Golden, Colorado and lynched at one o'clock Sunday morning by 150 masked men.

Denver despatches allude to the fact that in the secret testimony before the Indian commission there had been proved against certain of the White River Utes a crime that had not been hinted at before. This is understood to mean that Mrs. Meeker and the other women at the agency were outraged by Chief Douglass and some of his followers after their capture. The statement is freely made as coming direct from Gen. Hatch that such was the case.

P. S. Gilmore made a great success of his new American anthem, at the New York Academy of Music; it was played first by the strings, then by the reeds, then by the full orchestra of 150 performers; after that George Vandenhoff read the words, and a chorus 200 strong sung it, with Emma Thursby taking the third verse solo, and in the last verse leading the chorus and audience, all rising to their feet, while "cheer upon cheer" welcomed the completion.

The steamer Prairie City, plying on the Wabash river, between New Harmony and Wabash Station, on the St. Louis and Southeastern railroad, blew up Saturday afternoon below Hodge's landing. The fireman, cabin boy and female cook are missing. The body of Mrs. Captain McIntyre was found with both arms off. Captain Cox, who was at the wheel, was blown up with it, fell in the wreck and had his arm broken, ankle sprained, and was otherwise bruised. The engineer received only slight injuries. The survivors escaped on a barge.

The Governor Question.

To the Editor of the Free Press and Times:

"Why not select the next Governor from among the farmers?" is a question that has already been asked by some of our most intelligent men, and we see no good reason why it should not be answered in the affirmative. Nine-tenths of the people of Vermont are farmers, and it would certainly be very proper, once in fifty years or so, to take a farmer for Governor, unless it is a fact that it is absolutely necessary to take a lawyer, or some one at least that has been for a time a very near neighbor to sheep-skin covered books. A good farmer must of necessity have some executive ability; for is he not chief magistrate of his domain, "saying to one man go and he goeth, and to another come and he cometh?"

Thomas Chittenden and Ezra Butler were plow-jogging farmers, and their names are among the best Governors that ever filled the executive chair of the State.

Living not far from the exact centre of the State so far as that goes, a practical farmer, a man who has filled important offices with credit, the Hon. E. D. Mason, would be an excellent man for the place. Never mind the old traditions of "East side" and "West side." Farmers of Vermont! why not take one of your own number to fill the Gubernatorial chair? Y.

Waterbury, Dec. 25, 1879.

From Southern California.

Anaheim, Los Angeles, Dec. 12, 1879.

To the Editor of the Free Press and Times:

An article copied in your paper from the *Atlantic Monthly* on the condition of farmers in Kansas led me to think, perhaps, your readers might be interested in knowing something of the condition of that class of people in Southern California. The *Atlantic* writer said the State officials of Kansas were consulting as to the best means of providing for the support of the destitute families the coming Winter. But in this State *none* suffer for food, and the mildness of the climate precludes all idea of suffering from cold. The population is made up of persons from every State in the Union, and from nearly all quarters of the globe, and from all classes and conditions of society. The Vermonter is living neighbor to a Russian, and the reduced banker, from an Eastern city, next door to a Swiss peasant, a Swede or perhaps a native Californian of the "greaser" persuasion. Of course from such a heterogeneous mass it is hard to lay the foundations of law, order and good society. A large proportion are here for health, very few brought much capital with them, and many, especially from the Southwestern States of Texas and Arkansas, had nothing, being stripped by the ravages of war, and were in the condition of refugees upon reaching this State. But nearly all came with high hopes, not of being contented with a comfortable living, but of amassing a fortune by some lucky stroke. This is partly the fault of the local papers which mainly paint only the fair side of the picture, and chronicle the successes, but are very reticent upon the subject of failures. The day for amassing wealth speedily is past, and nearly all who expect it are doomed to disappointment. And from this fact, that class who lack the elasticity to recover from ill luck, as they call it, join the great army of chronic grumblers, to be found everywhere, and settle down in board boxes on the plains, a la Kansas, and live in comfortless, uninviting homes with nothing pleasant or attractive about them, and apparently determined that there never shall be.

But a large class profit by experience and learn to adapt their wants to the capabilities of the country, and nowhere in the United States, I verily believe, can a family live with less expense, so comfortably, and in a measure, luxuriously even, if they will divest themselves of the idea of becoming rich, and be content with a moderate but steadily increasing income.

Trees grow very rapidly, and a place five years old has the appearance of an old settled country, with large shade trees, an abundance of fruit and all the home comforts. With two or three cows, a few pigs and chickens, a vegetable garden and economy, a man may support a family of six persons. Ten acres of good land with water will enable him to do this, and live with comparative ease. On the 25th of last June I stood under the trees in a fruit orchard and picked ripe peaches, apricots, figs, apples and pears; we can have strawberries for the table nine months of the year; peaches are not gone before we have apples, pears and grapes, and these are succeeded by the citric fruits, such as oranges, lemons, etc. There was an exceedingly fine exhibit of the so-called Northern fruits at the Los Angeles horticultural fair; as fine apples and as great a variety as can be grown anywhere, along with fruits supposed to be especially adapted to the climate. A succession of fresh vegetables can be supplied from your own garden, the entire year, or if you do not choose to take the trouble to raise them, the Chinese vegetable peddler, for half a dozen egg, will give you peas enough for dinner, with a head of lettuce, a bunch of radishes and a few turnips thrown in.

But do not think you can purchase your land, plant your trees, and build your house, and then sit on the porch in the shade, and the fruits of the land will be poured into your lap. By no means. Industry, economy, patience, and perseverance, and an intelligent mind to direct the hands are as necessary to success as a fertile soil, water and a favorable climate. Farming on a large scale, generally, has not paid well, for several reasons; labor is from $20 to $25 per month, the nearest market is San Francisco, and that for many things is only a shipping point, and freight is high, being controlled mainly by the Southern Pacific Railroad. For the last two years this section has felt the pressure of hard times, and the disturbance produced by the adoption of the new State constitution (or confusion) has given an uncertain feeling in business circles. But it has also taught the people to be cautious, and not stake all upon a single experiment, and the present outlook is more hopeful. The wine interests never looked so encouraging, or brought such large returns. Thousands of acres will this year be planted to vines. I heard two intelligent men estimate the profits from a bearing vineyard, either for raisins or wine, at $50 per acre, and say it was a moderate estimate. Wheat raising bids fair to be profitable, and other enterprises await the careful business man, who has the elements of success in himself. The present public school system is excellent, and the teachers as a class, are cultivated, middle aged men and women, such as in Vermont are found in the academies and seminaries. You can seek your own society if you wish good company it is to be found, and if you prefer low associates there is no lack. It is too true the saloon keeps company, and sometimes precedes the church and school house. But as the country grows older, it is to be hoped public sentiment and education will correct this. One great and crying need of the country is good substantial men and women, with sufficient principle and stamina to build up comfortable Christian homes, and help counteract the baneful influence of the loose immoral element to be found in all comparatively new countries, where there is a considerable floating population. To such persons there are as great inducements, I am sure, to be found here, in Los Angeles county, as in any part of the so called Western States. L. C.

AGRICULTURAL.

At the recent agricultural meeting in Montpelier, Col. Mead, Superintendent of Agriculture, called upon O. M. Tinkham, Esq., to give a report upon the recent International dairy fair.

Mr. Tinkham, as reported in the *Watchman*, said the fair was held in the American Institute building, New York. A conspicuous object was a pyramid of American cheese sixty feet high, with cheeses one thousand two hundred pounds each at the base and tapering to the small pine-apple cheeses. Then there was a pyramid of salt, and another of imported cheese. The latter was very strong-smelling, and not likely to suit American tastes. On each side were tables with boxes of cheese and packages of butter, arranged by seasons and States. Vermont made a very creditable show. Her exhibit was separate from that of the rest of New England, and many times more extensive. Mr. Tinkham spoke at considerable length of the offensive character of several kinds of European cheese, and the success of some American makers in imitating them. In dairy implements Vermont led the van, and may be fairly said to have surpassed all other localities. The Centrifugal Cream Extractor was exhibited. This throws out the cream from the new milk. It revolves two thousand times a minute, and separates the cream from a milking in about twenty minutes. So far the results of its use have not seemed satisfactory in this country. Mr. Tinkham gave an amusing account of a churning contest between Iowa and Vermont, in which, of course, Vermont came out ahead. The show of dairy stock was very extra, and of all the leading dairy breeds, Jerseys, Guernseys, Dutch and Ayrshires, with a few Grade Shorthorns.

At the request of Col. Mead, Prof. Peter Collier, of Washington, sketched the work of the department of agriculture.

The entomological division looks after the injurious insects that interfere with agricultural crops, studies their habits and seeks to devise and make known practical remedies. Birds are also made the subject of similar investigations, and their value as insect-destroyers made known. The microscopist studies and reports on the rusts, mildews and other minute plants that affect our crops, minute insects of the same character, etc., etc. The statistician collects statistics of crops from all parts of the nation, and has other important duties. The chemist analyzes artificial fertilizers, deposits of natural fertilizing substances, useful and injurious plants and plant products, and does a great variety of other work for the benefit of the farming community. The botanist makes a complete collection of all American plants, seeds, woods, etc., etc., and exchanges specimens of these with other nations.

In speaking of the work of the chemical department, Professor Collier mentioned the singular fact that though the United States produces upwards of $400,000,000 worth of corn, and at least one hundred and fifty varieties, no analyses of corn have been made until within the last few years. Recent analyses made at the department to determine the relative value of Eastern and Western corn do not show so much difference between them as has been supposed to exist. When Western corn has seemed to be inferior it has probably been because it was not first-class corn. Besides corn, the department has recently made a series of analyses of grasses to determine their comparative value for feeding, either as pasturage or for winter forage. The botanical division has acted in concert with the chemical in this work, to determine the habits of growth and adaptation to peculiar soils and climates of the various grasses and forage plants.

Professor Collier, referred to the imperfect means at the disposal of the department for the prosecution of its investigations, especially in the chemical division, which is far less perfectly equipped than hundreds of our colleges and technical schools for efficient laboratory work.

On Tuesday evening, Professor Collier lectured on "Sugar Industry in the United States." He said: The average consumption of sugar per head of population in the United States is between thirty-five and forty pounds, of which by far the greater portion (eighty-seven per cent) is imported. The annual imports of this commodity equal our total annual production of the precious metals, or upwards of $73,000,000. The payment for this imported sugar is made almost entirely in cash. The question, therefore, of raising our own sugar, if possible, is a very important one. The professor asserted his confident belief that this could be done, and that we have two sugar yielding plants that will grow anywhere in the United States, either of which is capable of giving us all the sugar we use on a very small acreage. These are the sorghums and our common Indian corn. Nine per cent of the land planted to corn in the single State of Illinois, if the corn stalks were utilized for sugar making, would supply our whole deficiency and keep all the money at home that is now sent away to pay for our imported sugar. The professor expressed a strong conviction that this can not only be done, but can be done at a good profit to the producers.

From the experiments made at the department of agriculture during the last two years, it has been proven beyond the shadow of a doubt that the different kinds of sorghum, when worked at the proper stage of growth, will give from twenty-four hundred to five thousand pounds of merchantable sugar of a high grade to the acre, besides a large quantity of good syrup. The sorghum that gave the best result in these experiments was the Honduras. The one best adapted to growth in the more Northern States was the Early Amber, which gave a yield of two thousand four hundred and forty-one pounds of sugar to the acre, besides syrup.

The corn experimented with was a common field variety grown in the vicinity of Washington. This was found to yield at the rate of one thousand two hundred and five pounds of sugar, besides syrup, to the acre. The best yield of syrup was obtained when both the sorghum and the corn had reached nearly to the point of maturity as regards its seed. At early stages of growth there was less sugar but more syrup. The Early Amber cane at Washington was in good condition for making sugar all the time from August 16th to October 29th. The quantity of uncrystalizable sugar in the juice was very little if any greater than in the Southern sugar cane, and the percentage of crystalizable sugar in the juice was fully as high as in sugar cane. H. A. Russell of Crystal Lake, Illinois, made forty-two thousand pounds of sugar from the Amber cane the past fall, which sold in Chicago at ten cents a pound. Specimens of this sugar were exhibited to the audience and greatly admired for its beauty and excellent flavor.

Mills can be had for $150 which are warranted to extract from sixty-five to seventy per cent of the juice from sorghum or corn-stalks. This juice contains from ten to seventeen per cent of crystalizable sugar. Of this about two-thirds can be extracted in practical operations. The average product of Louisiana sugar cane in sugar per acre is about a hogshead (sixteen hundred pounds).

The reason why preceding experiments have not shown equally good results is probably that the stalks were worked at too early a stage of growth, or the stalks were kept too long after being cut before they were pressed. The juice also was not properly purified or promptly evaporated. All these points are absolutely essential to be observed if successful results are expected. It is also of great importance to select the variety of sorghum or corn best suited to the climate of the locality and to sugar making. There is no doubt great choice in regard to these matters.

The stalks after the juice is extracted are greedily eaten by cattle and swine, if fed to them before they became sour. If all except the sugar is returned to the soil either directly, or in the manure of the cattle fed with it, very little other manure will be needed to keep up the fertility of the land used for sugar production.

In manufacture, the juice is first heated in a metallic tank nearly to boiling and the natural acid neutralized with milk of lime. Then it is heated to boiling and the scum removed. The fire is now drawn and the syrup allowed to settle. The clear liquid is then transferred to the evaporator or sugar pan and boiled down just the same as maple sap. When sufficiently concentrated, so as to "puff" it is drawn off into tubs and allowed to grain. The mass is then shoveled into grain sacks and the syrup squeezed out in a screw or lever press. The professor thinks that farmers who make for sale would do best to boil down only to a syrup that is not dense enough to grain. This will sell readily to the sugar refiners at a good price. In order to get the sugar as free from syrup as possible, it is best after the first pressure in sacks to throw out the sugar, moisten it with clear water, return to the sacks and press a second time.

Thursday afternoon the dwelling and barn of F. B. Hovey, St. Johnsbury, Somerville district, were destroyed by fire. The goods and furniture were saved. Loss, $1,200; insured for $[illegible]. The fire originated in the barn; cause unknown. The house was occupied by George Willoughby, whose family was removed the day previous. Two of his children are sick with scarlet fever, and only one is expected to live.

The Carr Murder Case.

A STRANGE TALE OF BRUTALITY AND CRIME.

The Montpelier *Argus* gives the following relative to the murder case in the Washington County Court, which ended on Tuesday, in a verdict of murder in the first degree against the respondent, Royal S. Carr:

The respondent is an ignorant and stupid man of 45, who has already served a term of ten years in the State Prison for the murder of Mary E. Loomis at Worcester, in the summer of 1863. This was a horrible combination of outrage and murder, which at the time sent a thrill of horror through the entire community. The victim was a young married woman, the wife of a brother of Austin J. Loomis, Carr's fellow murderer. One Saturday evening Loomis and Carr waylaid her in a secluded spot; Carr held her while Loomis endeavored to ravish her, and the next morning the poor thing was found lying strangled to death on the edge of an adjacent pond. They were tried upon a joint indictment for murder, at the September term of Washington County Court, 1863. Carr was convicted of manslaughter, and Loomis escaped for want of evidence. Carr would have escaped had it not been for his confession made soon after his arrest. His ten year's sentence expired about six years ago, and he has since lived with his relatives in Worcester and Calais, and partially earned a living by day's works. It does not seem that his imbecility is so great that he is unable to distinguish between right and wrong; but he is unable to read or write; he cannot reckon; he does not know all the names of the months, or of the days of the week. He is now a man of forty-five, of good size and strong frame, dark complexion, and with a face and forehead which indicates the possession of at least average intelligence. Very likely his long imprisonment at Windsor neither improved his disposition nor his mind, and probably he is now an ignorant brute, in whom the animal predominates over the intellectual.

About the first of last December, an athletic vagabond, said to have been three-quarters Scotch and one-quarter Indian, named William Wallace Murcommuck, took possession of a deserted school-house in East Elmore. He brought with him his "woman," his dog, his gun, his fiddle, and but little else. He was already known to many of the residents of those portions of Calais, Worcester and Elmore which are in that vicinity as a good fiddler, having been there three or four years before. When he first came around he was accompanied by a woman he called Mary. This time a good-looking girl whom he called Hattie was his wife. Murcommuck was a man of magnificent physique, more than six feet tall, broad-chested and as straight as an arrow. He could read music well, was quite intelligent, and could play on the violin with more than common skill. But "the Indian," as he was called, like the rest of his race, was averse to work, and basket-making was his main reliance for a livelihood. He soon began to play at dances in the neighborhood, and he also visited among the residents to some extent, paying for the entertainment of himself and wife with his music. Hattie told some of the women folks, after she has got a little acquainted, that she belonged in Lyman, N. H.; that she was only eighteen years old, and had eloped with Murcommuck in the previous May. She said that Mary, the old wife, had had a quarrel with Murcommuck, had left him, and was now keeping the shanty for the woodchoppers "in the mountain" near where she came from in New Hampshire.

As the related the story of her elopement, her parents, farmers in Lyman, wanted her to marry a young man against her will; the Indian was living with them, and that she fell in love with him, and followed him off. She told various stories about the wealth of her folks, her own gold watch and jewelry and nice clothes, and there was a vague rumor in the neighborhood that she had money at home. So much for the principal *dramatis personæ*.

Among the families in that section was Ira Carr, who lived in Calais, not far from the Worcester line, and Chester Carr, who lived in Worcester, near the Calais line, and near the Eagle Ledge road, both cousins of Royal. Ira is a well-to-do farmer, but Chester is a roving ne'er-do-well, who does not sustain a very good reputation, and who is supposed to have two or three wives living in different places. About a month before the murder Chester and his *de facto* wife invited Mr. and Mrs. Murcommuck to visit them, and the invitation was accepted. Royal, who was vibrating between Ira's and Chester's, sometimes boarding at one place and sometimes at the other, made the acquaintance of the Murcommucks during their visit. Chester carried them home on Sunday, the 8th of December, 1878. On Wednesday, the 11th, Chester and his wife drove up to Murcommuck's shanty, and asked Hattie to come down to their house and sew a few days. She assented, after consultation with her husband, and he agreed to come too. Mr. and Mrs. Carr and she rode down; the "Indian" walked to Chester's through the woods. At dinner Royal, who was there, asked Murcommuck to walk over to Ira Carr's with him, saying that he wanted to get an axe, which was there, and that they could have plenty of cider and a good time. The Indian assented, and right after dinner both started off through the woods, with their guns over their shoulders, and accompanied by the Indian's dog. This was the last ever seen of Murcommuck alive. Royal arrived at Ira Carr's at about nightfall alone. There he spent the evening in cleaning his revolver. Among other things he asked of Ira: "If two men should start out into the woods together and one should come back and the other didn't, what would they do with the man that didn't come out?" Ira answered, "I think they would take the man that did come out, and make him show up where the man was that didn't come out."

Royal slept there that night, and the next morning, having got his axe, started for the woods, to go over to Chester's. He arrived there about noon, and on entering the house asked, "Hasn't he come?" "No," said Hattie; "where is he?" Royal said that he had parted with him on the mountain in the woods, saying that he was going further north to visit the Sloans. Royal went up to Mr. Plummer H. Richardson's, and worked all that afternoon with Chester. Then he told Chester, as Chester said, holding out the five fingers of one hand and one of the other, "My gun and my revolver never miss fire." Meanwhile the little widow, as yet uninformed of her bereavement, was overwhelmed with dismal forebodings of misfortune. The preceding day she was repeatedly insulted by Chester, and now had the undesirable attentions of both to combat and rebuff. She had hardly entered the house on Wednesday before Royal had informed her that her husband abused her by not clothing her better, and asked her why she lived with the "old nigger Indian." The Carrs kept house on a small scale; had only two beds, and they all slept in the kitchen together Thursday night, Chester and his wife and child, Hattie and Royal.

Friday forenoon the poor little woman, becoming wild with grief, and unable to induce Chester to search for her husband, tried to find him herself, but lost the track, became bewildered, and returned. On Friday afternoon her expostulations were so earnest that "Chet," finally became frightened, and, getting Minot W. Harris and Nathaniel Hersey to accompany him, led the way to where the Indian's corpse lay in the primeval forest, near the top of what is known as "Little Mountain," or "Hawkins' Ledge." It was partially covered up with rotten wood and brush, as if to conceal it. Royal Carr was arrested that night. The next day a large concourse of people went to the spot, secured the body of Murcommuck, found the body of his dog, traced the tracks leading from Chester Carr's to the body, and from the body to Ira Carr's, and from Ira Carr's back to the body, and found that one of Royal's boots fitted into one set of them exactly. The theory of the government, which was overwhelmingly upheld by the proof, is that Royal got behind the Indian as they were walking over the mountain, and first shot him in the right shoulder with the gun to disable him, and then shot him with the revolver three times. One of the shots went through his brain, and another through his heart. Going to Ira Carr's and spending the night, the next day he returned to the spot, shot the dog, and with his axe chopped wood and brush, and covered them up. A wilder or more inaccessible spot than the scene of the murder cannot well be imagined. The murderer might well deem that his crime would never be revealed to his fellow-men, and nothing but what many would call special interpositions of Divine Providence would ever have brought the crime to light.

On the day of the murder the weather was mild and the snow was damp; so on Thursday. Therefore both they and the dog made clear tracks in the snow. But if it had continued thawing, or rained, or snowed, the tracks would have been obliterated. Instead it froze hard Thursday night, and fixed the tracks just as they were made, so that a perfect measurement and identification was obtained. Again, Royal nine or ten days before the murder had borrowed an *Argus and Patriot* of Jed W. Carr, Ira's son, for gun wadding. On Saturday Burton Harris, a boy, picked up near where the dog was found some old wadding which had been fired from a gun, and on a piece of it was a label bearing the following: "W. Carr, Apr. 25, '77". Of all that paper, it certainly seems wonderful that the murderer should use for that particular charge the piece containing that label, which identified him beyond question, and it is still more wonderful that that label should have been preserved there on the spot, and not obliterated by the discharge or blown away afterwards by the wind. The theory of the defence is not only that Royal is imbecile, but also that Chester was the real leader in the crime, and that Royal, if he committed it, was simply his tool. Chester's conduct certainly does look very suspicious. He knew a great deal too much about the locality of the body at the time he led Messrs. Harris and Hersey to where it lay on the Friday after the murder; and he soon after removed to Canada, whence the State could not possibly induce him to come and testify. His wife came and gave important evidence as bearing on Royal's conduct.

The most likely theory is that Chester and Royal both desired to get possession of Hattie's person, and the most feasible way was to make way with her husband. Chester, having the stronger mind, made Royal do the bloody work, perhaps himself intending to reap the fruit. But the little woman's virtue and firmness baffled him, and, finding that an investigation was inevitable, he resolved to give Royal up and save himself. Mrs. Murcommuck made a good appearance upon the stand, and told her fearful story modestly and convincingly. She is said to have attended a number of terms at Newbury Seminary, and she is evidently a woman of a good deal of intelligence and some refinement. However much she loved him, and she is said to have mourned bitterly at the time of the discovery, the Indian's death rescued her from a terrible life and one that would have inevitably dragged her down to ruin. She is now living in Lisbon, N. H., near her parents' home in Lyman.

PERSONAL.

Gov. Van Zandt of Rhode Island has accepted the Russian mission.

The will of the late Alexander Stuart, the wealthy New York sugar refiner, who died last week, leaves his whole estate, real and personal, which is valued at about $7,000,000, to his brother, Robert L. Stuart, and appoints him executor of the will.

W. Hepworth Dixon, the well-known historian, and for many years the editor of the London *Athenæum*, died on Saturday. Mr. Dixon was born January 30, 1821. When 25 years old he settled in London, where he soon became known by his writings for various periodicals. His first literary work was a five act tragedy. Becoming interested in social questions he wrote for the London *Daily News* a series of papers, which were afterwards revised and enlarged and published under the title of "London Prisons." In 1849 he published a memoir of John Howard, which has passed through many editions, both in England and America. In 1851 he published a "Life of William Penn," in which he refuted Macauley's charges against the great Quaker. A life of Admiral Robert Blake appeared the following year. Mr. Dixon made a tour of Europe in 1852, and on his returning in 1853 became chief editor of the *Athenæum*, to which he had contributed historical articles in previous years. He continued his editorial connection until 1869, when he resigned. In 1864 he made a long journey in the East, and on his return published "The Holy Land" in two volumes. He assisted in founding the Palestine Exploration Fund, and was an active promoter of the excavations at Jerusalem. In 1866 he visited this country, the result of his travels being two works, one entitled "New America" and the other "Spiritual Wives." The latter is a work on the Mormon question and has had a very wide reading. He has made other extensive tours since then, and out of them grew his two volumes on "Free Russia" (1870) and "The Switzers" (1872). Among other works which he has published are "Her Majesty's Tower," and the "History of Two Queens, Catherine of Aragon and Anne Boleyn."

Recorder John K. Hackett, who died in New York on Friday, was a son of the famous actor, James H. Hackett, and was born in Utica in 1821. He studied law with Horatio Seymour and Francis Kernan as fellow students. He went to California in 1850, and formed a law partnership with Eugene Casserly, afterwards United States Senator, and was elected Corporation Counsel of San Francisco. He returned to New York in 1857. In that city he held the offices of Assistant Corporation Counsel and Recorder, filling the latter office since 1866. He was taken ill while presiding at the Court of General Sessions, the 1st of October, 1878, and he has not since appeared on the bench. The Recorder was noted for severity toward offenders.

During his journey to Mexico, General Grant will have an opportunity to revisit the scenes of his first military exploits. He will land at Vera Cruz, which he helped capture in 1846, and go over the ground between that place and the City of Mexico, which he traversed with the army of Gen. Scott. Grant was only 23 years old when, as a stripling officer, just out of West Point, he was sent to Texas with his regiment. He fought at Palo Alto, Resaca de la Palma and Monterey, and then went to join Scott before Vera Cruz. He missed the battle of Buena Vista by this transfer, but, with the single exception of that engagement, he took part in every battle of the war. There were few other officers who had the luck to be where the fighting was hardest from the beginning to the end of that struggle. Molino del Rey gave him his promotion to a First Lieutenancy, and his behavior at Chepultepec earned him a brevet Captaincy.

George H. Stuart, the well-known philanthropist and Christian of Philadelphia, has lost his princely fortune by the failure of another whose endorser he had become. Mr. Stuart was the president of the sanitary commission during the war, and devoted himself to the humane and patriotic service for which the commission was organized with an earnestness and zeal which made his name not only known but beloved in every camp of the Union armies. He surrendered his entire estate to the creditors of the party for whom he endorsed.

STATE NEWS.

The Passumpsic Railway shops at Lyndonville are running on full time and employing extra help.

Plymouth claims the boss fat boy, a son of Frederick Butler, who weighed [illegible] pounds on his eighth birthday.

Mark Mudgett, of Fletcher, a gentleman upwards of seventy, recently shot a white owl after an exciting chase of 25 miles.

Mr. Williamson, youngest son of Paschal P. Williamson of Pomfret, fell some [illegible] feet from the steeple of a church he was slating in Chicago one day last week, and was instantly killed. His remains were brought home for burial.

Mr. David Sunderland, a well-known and much respected citizen of Highgate, died at his residence in that town on the 22d, of consumption, though his death was probably hastened by his having been knocked down and trampled upon by colts, several weeks ago.

Mr. William J. Gower, of Leadville, Colorado, writes the postmaster of Rutland under the date of December 16, saying that a man by the name of Michael Walsh was frozen to death at that place on the night of December 13. He further states that the deceased claimed he was from Rutland, and had a family there. This proves to be the fact.

The lumber export of Lamoille county for 1879 was nearly seven million feet, of which George A. Morse, of Elmore, shipped some 1,000,000; O. A. R. Buck, of Johnson, about 1,500,000; and C. S. Page 2,500,000, the balance being made up of smaller lots. Large as was the manufacture in 1879, the indications are that it will be considerably larger in 1880. The Bucks contemplate increasing their business to 2,000,000 feet; Mr. Morse expects to have 1,500,000; while the present indications are that Mr. Page's business will reach 5,000,000 feet.

Hon. George A. Morey of Fairlee fell, the 25th inst., ten feet from a pile of wood in his shed, fracturing the whirlbone in his left hip. Judge Morey is eighty eight years old, has been an active man, holding prominent places of trust in town and State.

A. C. Patch, carpenter, fell from a building at Richford, Saturday, badly injuring him.

Lunenburgh several years ago sold its poor farm for lack of custom, but as the pauper business is "booming" there, it wants to buy another.

The pupils of a Wheelock school have put out their teacher, Ferley Johnson of St. Johnsbury, after the father of a boy he had punished for disobedience had told Johnson that his boy should do what he liked.

James McKenney was severely injured, while working in the woods at Richford, Saturday, by a tree falling on him. His recovery is doubtful.

Drowned While Skating—A Curious Dream.—Saturday, Eddie Gilbar, aged 18, who lived with Charles Hyde on the west shore of North Hero, was drowned while skating. Being missed near night, it was thought he had gone to a rehearsal of the cornet band, of which he was a member. About 4 o'clock next morning, Mr. Hyde was awakened by a dream of seeing him come in dripping. He went to his room and found that his bed had not been occupied. He looked for his skates and found that they were gone. With the help of a neighbor he traced him about three-quarters of a mile south on the ice and there found where he had broken through, about ten rods from the shore. The ice was still open and the body was seen on the bottom, in about nine feet of water, and so it was easily recovered. The deceased was a very worthy young man. He has a brother and sister in Isle La Motte, and his father is said to be living in Northern New York.—*St. Albans Messenger.*

News by Telegraph.

VERMONT NEWS.

DEATH FROM CHLOROFORM.

St. Johnsbury, Dec. 31.—George Noyes, aged 21, died to-day from the effects of chloroform administered by a dentist.

INDIAN MATTERS.

Intense Anxiety for the Safety of the Ute Commission.

FEARS OF ANOTHER MASSACRE.

Denver, Col. Dec. 30.—Up to this time nothing has been heard from the commission. Communication between Lake City and Los Pinos is not yet broken, but there has been no news official or unofficial since Friday night. General Hatch was to leave for Chine's Ranch, 25 miles from Los Pinos yesterday morning, but whether he left or stayed is not known. The anxiety is intense and there are fears of another massacre.

CONSULTATION BETWEEN SECRETARY SCHURZ AND CONGRESSMAN BELFORD.

Washington, Dec. 30.—Congressman Belford of Colorado has had an interview with Secretary Schurz on the Indian question, especially with reference to the failure of the Indians to give up those engaged in the recent massacre, which failure occasioned some uneasiness at the interior department. Hatch telegraphed he would bring five chiefs from the eastern agency to Indian creek and wanted to know whether he should bring them to Washington. This telegram led to the interview. Belford was in favor of bringing them on in hope they might agree to the removal of the tribe to the Uintah reservation. The secretary was of the same opinion. It was conceded that the hostile White river Utes had forfeited their treaty rights and were to be dealt with as though no treaty ever had been made with them. Belford, however, took the position that the tribe should be treated as a unit. He argued that they refused as a tribe to deliver up the Indians engaged in the massacre, and although all were not originally concerned in the war on Thornburgh's command and the massacre at the agency, they were associates after the fact and were as guilty as the original participants. The secretary said he would make a careful study of the treaty. It was possible the treaty required the Utes to deliver up those making war and that a failure to do so abrogated the treaty. Both agreed that the Utes should be removed to the Uintah reservation and if they were not removed trouble would be likely to occur in the spring. It is quite possible if the Indians refuse to agree to a peaceful removal the government will compel them to go.

Washington, Dec. 29.—Secretary Schurz is said to be very much discouraged about the Ute difficulties. He has not entirely given up hope, and is waiting official corroboration of the newspaper despatches. He had great confidence in the fidelity and honesty of Ouray and if he turns out to be treacherous it will shake his faith in the Indian conscience. General Sherman believes the commission has utterly failed, as he predicted it would. He says when the matter is turned over to the army, unless there is an unconditional surrender of all those engaged in the Meeker massacre the tribe will be swept from the face of the earth. He never had faith in Ouray and believes him to be a typical Indian of extraordinary cunning and ability. He thinks he will convince everybody that a settlement by the army will not be unjust. The army in that section is all ready for war, and although the weather will be severe for several months the troops can stand it better than the Indians who have no place to leave their families and no forage. Probably Sheridan will not accompany Grant to Cuba, as war with the Utes now seems inevitable. Sherman will be reluctant to have Sheridan go and Sheridan will himself hesitate. Sherman's idea is that he better go to Denver and direct the campaign from that point.

THE UTE COMMISSION—THE SITUATION AT LOS PINOS A GRAVE ONE.

Los Pinos, Dec. 28.—The commission adjourned yesterday to meet on the 29th inst. at Cline's ranche, twenty-five miles southeast of the agency, there to await the arrival of the prisoners. Hatch and escort left this morning at four o'clock in a drizzling rain. The five days extension expires the 29th, and if all the Indians demanded by the commission are not surrendered then, peace negotiations will end. "All or none" were Hatch's parting words to Ouray, as he left the commission rooms yesterday for his ranch to hold a final Indian council, which ere this has decided the fate of the Ute nation. Ouray fully realizes the situation and knows the ultimatum of the commission is the demand of the nation, and if not complied with the Utes must go. A surrender of the prisoners is very doubtful. Chief Guero, second to Ouray, being a medicine man, has a large following and has done more than all others to hinder the commission from accomplishing its work. He is in favor of war, and at the time of the White River troubles wanted to massacre the people living in the garrison and was only restrained by Ouray. When Ouray leaves for Washington there will be no one left to restrain the young bucks, and Guero is so hostile to the whites that he is liable to cut loose at any moment, and thus Los Pinos may become a second White River, unless forces are sent here soon.

THE MATTER IN A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT LIGHT.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Secretary Schurz has submitted to the cabinet several despatches which he recently received from Los Pinos, relative to Ute affairs. They contained no further details than those already given. Information in the possession of the government however is of a somewhat different character from that received by the press. There is nothing in this official information to show that the Ute commission has been a failure and nothing to indicate that Hatch and his party are in any danger from the Indians. Steps however have been taken to protect the party in case there should be an attack upon them. It was agreed that the friendly southern Ute chiefs, about whom Hatch telegraphed, should be brought on to Washington.

FROM NEW YORK.

New York, Dec. 26.—Recorder John K. Hackett died to-day. He was a son of the famous actor Hackett, was born in Utica in 1821, and studied law with Horatio and Francis Kernan as fellow students.

PRESIDENT HAYES ON THE MAINE SITUATION.

New York, Dec. 30.—President Hayes said yesterday in relation to Maine affairs that he believed there would be no necessity for hearing the legal points in the case advanced by Mr. Morrill, and believes an understanding will be arrived at by a week from Wednesday. The democrats, he said, cannot do otherwise than back down. He concluded by saying he felt confident the people of Maine were thoroughly capable of fighting their own battles. He knew that throughout the country there was an intense feeling upon the subject and if the democrats of Maine retained their present attitude it might become serious.

SWINDLE UNEARTHED.

It is stated that thorough investigation proves that a complete system of swindling is practiced in this city by eight different firms who solicit orders for stock transactions by advertising throughout other cities. The concerns implicated are alleged to be making immense sums of money at the expense of credulous country customers, who imagine they are to reap fortunes for dollar investments. The investigation has been made by the Stock Exchange committee, and an order will be issued to-day by Postmaster-General Key, prohibiting the delivery of mails to these swindlers in the future.

NOT EVEN IN MEXICO.

A Salt Lake despatch says a Mormon apostle made a recent trip to the City of Mexico to ascertain the views of the Mexican government relative to the treatment to be expected if the Mormons fled to that country. He was assured that while there was plenty of land in the northern States of Mexico which the Mormons could occupy, the Government would under no circumstances permit the practice of polygamy on Mexican soil, but would punish with the utmost rigor any attempt to introduce it there.

RECORDER HACKETT'S FUNERAL.

The funeral of the late Recorder John K. Hackett took place this morning from Trinity chapel and was attended by prominent members of the judiciary and bar and many of New York's leading citizens.

THE MAINE BUSINESS.

GEN. B. F. BUTLER INTERVIEWED.

Boston, Dec. 29.—Gen. Butler contradicts the statement that he gave Governor Garcelon and his council legal advice in the course they have taken. He never has been asked about that matter. He does not see how the governor and council could have acted otherwise than they have and strictly followed the constitution and laws. The governor is not a judge. Butler is reported as saying: "Nor are he and the council a returning board, but simply a canvassing board. They are to ascertain who appear to be elected from the returns certified by them under the provisions of the constitution and laws. Whether defects discovered are amendable or unamendable under the laws I don't know; most of them would seem to be amendable by the final judges—the legislature." Butler thinks one way for the republicans to meet the situation is by legal and constitutional means. In response to the question, whether the legislature of Maine can choose seven presidential electors next year, Butler said: "Certainly; that is provided for by the constitution of the United States, which says the electors are to be chosen in any way the legislature may appoint." Butler doesn't believe there will be any fighting in Maine. He thinks there is too much common sense and sees no parallel between the action of the Louisiana returning board in 1876 and the present condition of affairs in Maine. The difference is very observable. In Louisiana the returning board claimed and exercised the power of counting the votes not thrown which they said ought to have been thrown; whereas Governor Garcelon only decides that he has no power to judge between the electors and the elected except upon legal evidence brought before him, and then his act is not judicial but simply ministerial.

PREPARING FOR THE MEETING OF THE MAINE LEGISLATURE.

Augusta, Me., Dec. 30.—Garcelon went to Belfast yesterday to attend a meeting called to sustain the course of the governor and council. A similar meeting was held last evening at Rockland. The governor sent for the mayor yesterday afternoon to consult in regard to a proper police force for preserving order on the assembling of the legislature. The mayor had not [illegible] a communication to the governor on the subject and conveyed it in person. [illegible] He said he was able to keep order and begged the Governor not to bring troops to the capital or make preparations for arming them. He thought the citizens of Augusta would bear him out in these assurances. [illegible]

STATEMENT FROM GOV. GARCELON.

New York, Dec. 28.—Governor Garcelon sends the following statement to the Herald:

The difficulty grows out of the fact that the governor and council confine themselves to the constitution. In the legal provisions in tabulating and counting the votes as returned by municipal officers the constitution makes certain things to be done by them imperative. The law corrects others and the supreme court has given official opinions as to what is to be done under certain circumstances. Every year there have been defective returns rejected—that is not counted—for non compliance with constitutional or legal provisions. But this year, in addition to the usual occurrences in this direction, a sort of mildew or epidemic seems to have infected several of our larger cities. These returns are fatally defective, not only as would appear to ordinary sight but as decided by rules laid down by our highest judicial tribunal. It is alleged, however, that by a law passed in 1877 the governor and council have authority to make alterations or amendment to a return, but unfortunately for their claim that law, even if constitutional, as applicable to senators and representatives confines any correction of returns to the record made in open town meeting. The simple and only question therefore is shall the governor and council follow the mandates of the constitutional law and judicial decisions explanatory thereof, or in obedience to a popular clamor violate their oaths of office, trample the constitution under their feet and forfeit all self respect, and that which they have the right to claim both from friends and foes so long as they adhere to the line of duty.

GARCELON IN A STUBBORN MOOD.

Augusta, Dec. 30.—The committee on public safety here this forenoon had a lengthy interview with Garcelon. The committee consisted of Gen. Boynton, ex-Governor Connor and others. They informed the governor that they represented the people of the town and would cordially join with the mayor in his recommendations and suggestions. They trusted that no arrangements would be made to bring the military here and that the augmented police force would be able to quell any disturbances. The governor replied that he had already ordered Gen. White of Bangor, and Major Folsom of Oldtown to take 100 stand of arms and ammunition from the state arsenal at Bangor and ship them by express to Augusta. He should do this to test the sincerity of the citizens of Bangor as to whether they would obey the civil authorities. He had never ordered any troops to Augusta and should not unless there was an outbreak. Various rumors and stories which are rife, he said, were made of whole cloth. He was urged not to take arms from Bangor but he steadily asserted that he would in order to test the sincerity of the people. One of the committee suggested that a portion of the extra police provided by the city could be detailed for duty under the direction of the governor. The governor replied emphatically, "I have force enough now" and also informed the committee that they might be aware of the fact he had full power to call the legislature whenever he pleased and on the slightest disturbance he should take the legislature away from Augusta. The conversation then turning on the question of submitting certain questions to the supreme court, the governor said he should go to Portland to obtain further legal advice before deciding to submit such questions. He left on the two p. m. train.

VARIOUS MATTERS.

The petitions of 40 additional towns were received to-day praying the governor to refer all matters in dispute to the supreme court. No definite intelligence is received as to the governor's present intention touching submission to the court. There is no longer any opportunity to examine the returns at the State house. Councillor Fogg said those who examined them furnished the newspapers items in regard to them, and this thing must be stopped, hence all access to the returns is cut off. The governor returned from Portland this evening. It is reported the governor is preparing a reply to Mr. Morrill. The governor wishes it stated that he has given no authority for the statement that he refused to submit certain questions to the court.

FOREIGN NEWS.

A Fearful Accident.

PROBABLE LOSS OF NEARLY TWO HUNDRED LIVES.

London, Dec. 28.—A portion of the bridge across the Frith of Tay was blown down while a train from Edinburg to Dundee was crossing last night. The gale was so strong that steamboats were unable to reach the scene of the disaster. There is no doubt that the train is in the water. The passengers, who are supposed to be all drowned, are estimated from one hundred and fifty to two hundred.

LATER.

The gale having moderated somewhat, the provost of Dundee and a number of leading citizens started in a steamer to the scene but have not yet returned. The excitement at Tay bridge station is appalling.

STILL LATER.

New York, Dec. 29.—A despatch from London says of the Dundee disaster, on Saturday, that the train was bound for Dundee and had arrived safely at the south end of the bridge crossing the Frith of Tay shortly after seven. The bridge was intact at the time, for signals were given to allow the train to cross. The wires were interrupted a few minutes thereafter and no further communication could be obtained. Immediately after the disaster large quantities of wreckage and clothing and six London mail bags for Dundee and Aberdeen drifted ashore and by nine o'clock all the beach was strewn with remains of the broken carriages and pieces of bridge work. It is not known how many passengers were on the train, but the number is estimated from 170 to 200. It is believed that half a dozen of the largest girders of the bridge were blown down, but the full extent of the disaster will not be known until to-morrow. Several parties are looking for bodies coming ashore and the gale having moderated somewhat an effort is being made by some of the people of Dundee to reach the scene in a steamer. The excitement is very great and the people are thronging from all parts of the neighboring country to hear something definite as to the catastrophe.

THE DISTRESS IN IRELAND.

London, Dec. 28.—The bishop of Achonry, Sligo and Mayo, states that he fed three hundred starving people Christmas eve out of his own funds. He reserves the money sent by charitable persons for "a darker and not distant day." He gives an appalling picture of the approaching misery and censures "the callous conduct of the government who, while they cannot spare money to avert the Irish famine, can waste millions in wars of equivocal morality."

ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF THE KING OF SPAIN.

Madrid, Dec. 30.—As the King and Queen were driving through the gate of the royal palace this evening, a young man dressed as a workman fired a shot from a revolver at the royal carriage, but his aim was bad and nobody was hurt. The ball has since been found and weighs an ounce. It passed close to the head of one of the royal footman. The would-be-assassin was immediately arrested. He confessed that his name is Gonzales, and his age 19. He is a waiter and a native of Galacia.

LATER—NARROW ESCAPE OF THE QUEEN.

Two shots were fired at the royal carriage, the second passing close by the queen's face. The weapon used was a double barrelled pistol. The diplomatic body have gone to the palace to congratulate their majesties upon their escape. The attempt excites general indignation in Madrid. It is believed Gonzales had accomplices and three persons have been arrested on suspicion. Gonzales has been living in Madrid some time. The king attended an opera at night.

GENERAL DESPATCHES.

Great floods occurred in Canary Islands on the 21st inst., houses a crops being destroyed.

The American consul at Buenos Ayres reports that only machinery from the United States will be allowed on exhibition at the great fair in 1880. All other articles from the United States will be excluded.

The state commissioners fail to find pleuro-pneumonia among the cattle at Haverhill, N. H.

The gale which destroyed the Tay bridge was the most violent seen in Scotland since the memorable storm of January, 1868. It is claimed by some that the bridge was not demolished by the gale, but that one or more of the back carriages went off the rails, came against the lattice work, and tore the structure to pieces.

Sixteen Indians students for Hampton normal school have arrived from Yankton agency, 11 girls and 5 boys, aged from 17 to 20.

It is asserted that in many cases, especially in Alabama and Florida, colored men who have attempted to become owners of vacant public lands have been prevented by white people.

Sidney Geer, a prosperous farmer of Jewett City, Conn., while out hunting, Friday, accidentally discharged his gun into his abdomen. Although the intestines protruded he crawled 200 yards through the snow to the highway where his cries were heard. When found his hands and feet were frozen. He died next day.

There is an unexpended balance of over $10,000 from the congressional appropriation of $190,000 for the Paris exhibition.

Robert Mitchell, a wealthy furniture dealer of Cincinnati, gave ten members of his family $50,000 as a Christmas present.

The Irish citizens of Chicago have contributed $3,000 for the sufferers of Ireland.

The city council of Augusta, Ga., have unanimously adopted a resolution to extend the hospitalities of the city to Grant on his way to Florida.

Fifty thousand more immigrants arrived in New York this year than last.

Clarence Howard, son of a respected citizen of Huntington, L. I., who entered the recent walking match, and after making [illegible] miles within [illegible] days, died Sunday from exhaustion.