THE STATESMAN.
AUSTIN, TEXAS.

SPECIAL TELEGRAMS

DUPRE, April 28.—Between one and two o'clock this morning Springer & Tardy's whiskey establishment was burned to the ground. Nothing was saved. Loss about $2100; insurance, $800. Springer and Charles Lawson came near perishing in the flames, the latter losing $600.

JEFFERSON, April 28.—The man who committed the raping case was caught at Marshall, and is now in jail. His name is Hunt.

A flood of rain has visited our section, but the weather is clear to-night.

Our opera house is newly and elegantly furnished.

GROESBECK, April 28—The smallpox quarantine has been raised, and farmers from the west appear in town for the first time in weeks.

The sheep owners organized to-day for the purpose of protecting themselves and enforcing the recent scab law of the eighteenth legislature.

Weather favorable to farmers who are behind with their crops.

MARSHALL, April 28.—An attempt was made last night to burn up the courthouse. Quite a quantity of rags and straw were found saturated with coal oil under the stairs leading from the inside of the sheriff's office up to the courtroom. This is the second attempt in the last ten days, and Judge Keller has appointed two men to watch the building until a suitable vault can be made.

The grand jury adjourned yesterday after finding 121 indictments.

The storm last night was very severe in some portions of our section. In the northeastern portion of Harrison county considerable damage was done. Several houses were blown down and the negro child of Wm. Watson was instantly killed. It is thought that the section between Big and Little Cypress was severely visited by the storm fiend, but the water is so high no communication can be had up to the present. The rainfall was the hardest in years, and all the streams were swollen greatly and a large amount of fences were washed away and cultivated lands inundated.

SAN ANTONIO, April 28.—Edward Campbell, who was in jail at Pleasanton, Atascosa county, charged with the assassination of the outlaw Dolly Durand, one of the Altilo pasture murderers, some months ago, and who broke jail recently, was arrested last night here by Sergeant Rudd, of the Rangers.

Hays Robinson, cow thief, two years; Felix Garcia, horse thief, eight years; and Tim Sinclair, theft, two years, were the convictions in the district court. A rape case is on trial to-day.

The inquest on Jerry Holmes' remains at Del Rio yesterday resulted in a verdict that he came to his death from a pistol held by J. C. Carr. Carr, instead of being a desperate man, is a newspaper correspondent, and one of Del Rio's most enterprising citizens. He can get good bond if allowed. His habeas corpus examination is going on to-day. Col. J. H. McLeary is defending.

Joe Foster, Tom Mullaly, Sam W. Bennett and Dr. Ellis each started today for Galvestion with their pet race horses, to take in the races. Others expect to go from here.

HOUSTON, April 28.—A hospital in this city to be in charge of the Catholic church, has been fully determined upon. Ground is to be secured and buildings erected in a locality so convenient that it can be readily reached from their offices by any of the practicing physicians of the city. The ground and buildings are to be provided with such conveniences as are found in the first-class hospitals of the larger cities. Special attention is to be given to drainage and ventilation.

The result of the term of the criminal court just closed has been to give the state four 8 year terms and one life term in the penitentiary, and the county thirty days service by confinement in the county jail. Fines imposed during the term were $489, and one final death sentence was passed.

Mrs. Jarley, with her wax works, will not be at Lyceum hall Monday and Tuesday night as was expected. Her coming is postponed.

The Fifth Ward Baptist Sunday school is going to picnic at Clinton on the first of May.

The boys in the auditor's office of the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio railway system, are banqueting to-night the California clerks who have come over here to introduce the California system of running railroad departments, which has been adopted by the Huntington system.

GALVESTON, April 28.—Cinthia Davis a servant girl in the employ of Joseph Davis, sought oblivion by the laudanum route, but her attempt was frustrated by the prompt application of antidotes. She gave as a reason for the rash act that she wanted to end a wretched existence

What transpired at the railroad conference last night the participants therein refused to divulge Gen. Palmer and secretary left on the early morning train for New York, and Maj. Clinton G. Gardner, accompanied by the Messrs. Hinchman, left for Monterey, Mexico.

The projectors of the Huntsville, New Orleans and West Texas railroad have consummated a contract with Messrs. Burnett & Ross for the building of the first fifty miles of the road from Huntsville to Brenham. Under the charter the first ten miles will have to be built within ninety days.

The commissioners to locate the site of the new custom house have come to no definite conclusion. Two or three locations are favorably considered but the price may be a serious objection.

Real estate records filed for transcript this week amounted to $1,357,030. Deaths for the same period five; one child and four adults.

The smallpox patient died last night and the remains were not buried until a late hour today, in consequence of inability to get some one to do the work.

DALLAS, April 28.—A score or more of railroad men from the east arrived in the city to-day, to be present at the foreclosure sale of the Texas Trunk road next Tuesday. They represent the bondholders of New York and Boston syndicates and several projected roads. The idea prevails, and the hope is entertained, that the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe will ultimately secure the Texas Trunk.

J. W. Paramor, president of the Texas & St. Louis narrow gauge, arrived last night and departed this morning for St. Louis via the Missouri Pacific.

About four years ago one of the Dallas banks was robbed and among other monies taken by the burglars was twelve hundred dollars of postoffice funds, which the then postmaster, A. M. Cochran had on special deposit for safety, but in violation of postoffice department regulations, and which he had to pay to the government, but congress at its last session passed a relief bill, and to-day by instructions from the postoffice department at Washington, Postmaster Whissen paid to Cochran the twelve hundred dollars out of the Dallas postoffice moneys.

Bishop Garrett, of the Episcopal church, on missionary work in Texas and located at Dallas, declines elevation to the bishopric of Indiana, which the church in that state desires him to accept. He says he prefers prosecuting his labors in his present field.

Information was received in Dallas to-day that Rev. J. H. Curry, who left the pulpit of the First Baptist church in Dallas two years ago to accept the pastorate of the Garrison Avenue Baptist church in St. Louis, and who a few months since vacated the latter pulpit and returned to Texas on a lecturing tour, has become hopelessly insane. Rev. Mr. Curry was regarded by many as of much brilliant promise, both as a divine and an author. He wrote and published while in Dallas a book entitled "Decensus Averno," or the "Downward Drift," which secured a very large sale.

WACO, April 28.—A terrible storm of wind, hail and rain swept over the central portion of Bell county last night and did much damage. The Missouri Pacific section-house, near Miller Junction, was destroyed and one of the hands killed; Mount Vernon school-house was destroyed and much damage done in the neighborhood of Rock church, three miles from Belton; the house of Cliff Brenham was demolished, himself and wife killed outright, one child blown several hundred yards away, and his other three children could not be found; and the car windows of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe train smashed in.

Ella Arnold, an actress in the Horse Shoe variety theatre, died suddenly this morning of delirium tremens. Her father, Dick Harker, is proprietor of the American theatre, New York, and her husband, Billy Devere, is manager of Stenobi's theatre, Milwaukee, Wis. She will be buried here to-morrow.

One Professor A. Chun, porter in the wholesale dry goods house of Lessing, Solomon & Rosenthall, and August Kaester, porter for Geo. Kellum & Son, wholesale grocers, were arrested and jailed for theft of goods from their employers. Chun's premises were searched and about $590 worth of goods recovered. Kaester was a boarder with Chun.

It is reported that the heirs of Geo. Barnard, lately deceased, will bring suit for ten acres in the heart of the residence portion of the city, sold in 1860 by Barnard to Joseph Taylor. Some of the finest residences, churches and school buildings in the city are on this tract, and the value of the improvements are fully $60,000. The suit will be based on the ground that Barnard's wife did not sign the original deed, and claiming that a subsequent one of ten or twelve years ago, purporting to be signed by her, is a forgery. On the tract are the Catholic church and academy of the Sacred Heart, the Jewish synagogue, the elegant mansion of T. J. Jones, the houses of W. W. Seely, Wm. Ragland, Tom Padgett, S. A. Hogan, M. N. Rosenthal and many others.

EL PASO, April 28.—The district court is still in session at Ysleta. To-day three persons were convicted of theft and sentenced to the penitentiary for three years. Their names are Slippery Jim, Eugene Moss and Geo. Freerety.

J. B. Leahy was to-day indicted by the grand jury for forging county school warrants, and is to-night in the hands of the sheriff. He was formerly a justice of the peace in this county.

The Odd Fellows celebrated their anniversary last night.

The Mexicans have been damming the Rio Grande under the guns of Ft. Bliss and carrying all the water to the Mexican side. There is a great deal of indignation, and measures will be taken to stop them.

BELTON, April 28.—Several parties are in town to-day after offions for their neighbors who were killed in the storm yesterday. Fifteen are reported killed, but have only the following names: Mr. Branham, his wife and son; Mr. Mitchell and a young Mr. Scott living with him. About three miles northeast of Belton a great many houses were blown down. The wind twisted off a cedar post at the ground six inches in diameter. Some of the hail stones were over three inches in diameter and weighing two pounds. All the window lights in the north side of houses in Temple were broken out. A school house near Miller was blown over and several children crippled.

BASTROP, April 28.—In the district court to-day, the case of the state vs. Tom Pearson, charged with the murder of Willis Franklin, in this county, in 1872, was taken up, and the trial consumed the whole day. The jury was absent about thirty minutes, and returned a verdict of not guilty.

The weather is threatening to-day, and rain is expected to-night.

TAYLOR, April 3.—Mr. Swancoat, of the Rockdale coal mine company was offered $20,000 for his interest in the mine this evening. This happened on board the train from Austin to this point.

PALESTINE, April 30.—Jerome B. Dinninger, for many years connected with the International road, is dead, and was last night shipped north to be buried at Anville, Pennsylvania. He was immigration agent here for the International road and had a wide acquaintance throughout the state, and was universally esteemed. He was carried to the depot with Masonic honors and followed by a large concourse of friends.

TYLER, April 30.—About seven o'clock last night an altercation occurred near here between Sim Shilton and B. R. Randolph, in which Shilton was instantly killed by a knife, in the hands of Randolph, being plunged into his brain. The affray took place at Porter's camp, about three miles south of this city, on the line of the Kansas and Gulf Shore railway, on which both men were employed. The difficulty originated over the matter of fifty cents. Shilton was a young man and has always lived near this place. Randolph escaped and has not yet been taken, although officers are in pursuit of him.

SAN SABA, April 30.—J. D. Coggins, of Llano county, while returning from the town of Llano to his home, some four or five miles distant, was fired upon by some unknown parties from the roadside and mortally wounded, the shot taking effect in his bowels. His little son, who was in the buggy with him at the time, received a slight wound in the forehead by a stray shot. J. D. Coggins was one of the principals in a fight which occurred in Llano about a year ago, in which two men were killed. He is supposed to have been waylaid on account of the part he had taken in that affair.

This evening as Mrs. J. M. Harkey, wife of the sheriff of San Saba county, was returning home with her children from Richland Springs, the horses became frightened and ran away. Mrs. Harkey, with her children, were thrown from the carriage, hurting one of the little boys badly and crushing in her baby's skull. The attending physician thinks it will prove fatal.

There is a disease raging here to an alarming extent among the cattle, of which quite a number have died. Every symptom of which indicates hydrophobia.

The Stuttz dramatic company have been billed here for to-night.

FORT WORTH, April 30.—Yesterday afternoon at two o'clock Conductor Fowles' construction train ran into a cow on the track near Ronger, a station on the Texas and Pacific, throwing two cars off the track and killing three men, Rice Johnson, T. Simmons and Gordon Bonds, (negroes,) and wounding five other hands. The loss to the company is several thousand dollars.

Wm. McEwen, alias Calamity Bill, was arrested to-day by Deputy U. S. Marshal Woody for stealing a draft coming through the mails to a friend, whom he personated in order to get the money. McEwen was put in jail.

Judge Hood opened the district court to-day. His charge to the grand jury is strong on the subject of gambling, and it is thought the gaming houses will have to close or run blind tiger.

The negroes in "hell's half acre," the low quarter of the city, have been creating considerable disturbance for three nights past, three shooting affrays having taken place. The marshal and police to-day notified a number of negroes to leave the city at once.

The citizens have subscribed the $10,000 required to secure the Texas Wesleyan college, to cost $40,000. The money is in bank. Work begins on the building in June.

Work on the new opera house began to-day.

SAN ANTONIO, April 30.—The negro child, Wallace, who had the smallpox has died. No other cases yet.

Carr, who killed Holmes at Del Rio last week, has been released on $500 bond.

Mrs. Schroeder, of Bavaria, brings suit in the federal court against Thos. Weymiller, for $30,000 damages, for the killing of her husband at Uvalde.

Fowler & Berliner have a new building nearly finished in the heart of town, which they propose to use as a fine gambling hall if the state will grant them a charter to conduct a club room.

To-day at noon two deputy sheriffs, Alexander and Van Riper, in attempting to arrest Rafe Gardner, a negro horse thief and escaped convict, had great trouble. He resisted, knocked the officers down and would have got away had not Alexander shot him in the stomach. He is very seriously wounded.

A thief named Jack, alias Walsh, of Houston and St. Louis, was arrested to-day, on the charge of an eastern man who had been drunk with him. He accused Walsh of the theft of $150 and a $100 diamond pin. Walsh returned $100 and said he spent the other $50, but knew nothing of the pin.

An old German named Heiligman insulted, attacked and badly beat, on Saturday night, a German widow named Reininger, who had long been his enemy and who once cowhided him. He was fined $100 and put under a peace bond.

The following party came from the city of Mexico via Monterey and Laredo yesterday: Senator Warner Miller, of New York, Congressmen Amos Townsend, of Ohio, Anson, G. McCook, of New York, a cousin of Gen McCook, of the sixth infantry, formerly stationed in Texas, and Col. James W. Wadsworth, of New York. They left for El Paso and California.

The Bexar County wool grower's association assembled in annual session this morning. The members in attendance are Robert Stapper, Billy Gerfers, Amos Jones, Peter Claessen Jarluss, Herman Uecker, Henry Mason, Joe Devine, P. J. Moss and Adolph Peal. The following Southern Pacific, Central Pacific and Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio railway men were in the city yesterday and to-day in a party: Mr. L. C. Manlove, auditor of the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio, Mr. Ball and wife, Mr. W. H. Chamberlain, Mr. James Clyde and Southack. They left to-night for California.

GALVESTON, April 30.—The commission consisting of Messrs. Tracy, Dwyer and Ashe, to select a site for the new custom house, have concluded their investigation and will forward the report to the secretary of the treasury. What selection is made from the twenty-three propositions of property submitted to them will not be known until the secretary of the treasury acts upon the report.

The board of health was organized to-night by the election of Dr. J. M. Haden as president of the board. Quarantine goes into effect to-morrow, and all vessels from ports south of the 25th parallel of lattitude will not be admitted unless presenting clear bills of health and having no sickness aboard upon arriving here.

The legality to hold the office of harbor master by Capt. Chubb, recently appointed, is to be contested in the courts by Capt. J. H. Router, late harbor master, who has appealed for a writ of injunction restraining Capt. Chubb from exercising the duties of harbor master, alleging that he obtained the office through fraud in claiming to be a citizen of Galveston when he was not.

City Collector Fisher reports having collected $28,133.55 during the month of April.

A grand concert is now in progress at the pavillion under the auspices of the Galveston rowing association, in which some of the best musical talent of this city and Houston are engaged.

The city is rapidly filling up with Malfest visitors.

HOUSTON, April 30.—This afternoon the new fire alarm system of ringing the bells by electricity was tried and was a success.

Last night at the Presbyterian church a mass meeting was held and a Harris county Sunday school association was organized, with the following officers: August Beering, president; Geo. Baker, secretary; Dr. Cowling, treasurer. The annual meeting of the association will be on the first Monday in May of each year.

On Thursday of this week will commence the fifteenth annual Volksfest, continuing two days. Everything is now in readiness to make the affair an unprecedented success. Fifteen out of the twenty-four members of the Spanish Fort band, of New Orleans, engaged to play at the Volksfest, arrived this morning and will go down to Galveston this evening to furnish music for the Galveston Maifest, which commences Wednesday. The other nine members will arrive in time for the Houston Volksfest. Besides this music the Lindenberg band, of Galveston, consisting of fifteen pieces, will also furnish music for the Volksfest, making together the finest musical programme ever before executed in this city.

The children of the city will be given a half holiday on Friday to attend the Volksfest.

Charles Johnson, former chief clerk of P. C. Walker, ex-assessor and collector, was indicted by the grand jury and arrested to-day, charged with defrauding Walker of about $500 by false entrees on the collector's stub books, Walker asserting during his (Johnson's) impeachment that he directly traced that much of the shortage to Johnson. Johnson has many friends who speak of his arrest and incarceration in the county jail as an outrage.

Judge Amos P. Foster, of Austin, is in the city.

A destructive hail storm went through the Hobermacher neighborhood Friday night. It destroyed garden and growing crops and killed birds and chickens, and broke glasses in all the windows of the side of the houses the storm came from.

DALLAS, April 30.—The city council has finished consideration and disposed of the municipal tax question for the ensuing year. The public free school fund of 25 cents on the $100 assessed valuation, as voted by the taxpayers last year, will net $15,000; the ad valorem tax has been fixed at $1.50 on the $100 assessed valuation and will bring in $86,000; the poll tax, after eliminating all exemptions, will net $1200; occupation tax, markets and public carriers are set down at $11,000, making the total revenue available for general expenses, sinking fund and interest on the city debt, $97,200. It is passible the total may reach $100,000. The assessed valuation of real estate within the corporate limits for 1883 is about $6,000,000, an increase of $1,000,000 over the assessment of 1882. The city has now on hand $22,000, special water works fund, from the recent sale of the balance of the $100,000 of water works bonds. The council has authorized the water commission to purchase 600 feet more of pipe to extend the water mains. The special committee on sewerage and street paving is in session to-night. The paving and sewerage question is to come up before the city council at its regular meeting to-morrow (Tuesday) night. Much interest is felt in the report by all classes of citizens, and no doubt some system for these needed improvements will be determined on soon so that the work may be consummated the present year.

Hon. B. F. Frymier, of the special legislative committee to locate a north Texas branch of the lunatic asylum, arrived to-night. Other members of the committee are expected on the late trains. The committee meets to-morrow.

Late last night a cutting and shooting affray occurred which doubtless will result in the loss of two lives. For some time back Watkins has suspected that a criminal intimacy existed between his wife and Chas. Wilson, and missing Mrs. Watkins, when he returned, he secreted himself near the sidewalk with a razor. Soon the suspected pair passed. Watkins sprang out and assaulted Wilson, slashing him twice to the bone, each wound extending from the top of the breast down through the hips and thigh. Wilson drew a pistol, placed it to Watkins' breast and fired. The bullet passed through in the region of the heart. Both men grappled and fell fighting. The police arrived and separated them. The men were so weak from the loss of blood that both sank to the street and were taken to their home in hacks. Both are alive, but their physicians have little hope of their recovery. Mrs. Watkins fled during the fight and has not been heard from since.

J. T. Hair, of Chicago, claiming to have hotel register patents, and the exclusive right to manufacture the registers with advertising features is in Dallas jail to-night. Hair recently had J. A. Tucker arrested, charged with libel, for causing the publication of articles derogatory of his character, and also alleged infringement of his patents. Tucker has not been able to get a trial so he had Hair arrested charged with malicious prosecution and perjury. There are said to be seven different indictments against Hair. He tried all day to get bond here but failed to make it. This evening he telegraphed to northern bankers to secure bondsmen but received no favorable reply.

AUSTIN, April 30, 1883.

Hon. I. G. Searcy, Commissioner and Member of Penitentiary Board, Austin:

Sir—Circumstances have not permitted earlier attention to your favor of the 23d inst., received the 24th.

Your denial that you were influenced by the "decision" or "action" of the old board by no means negatives my report of what you said in our brief conversation, viz.: That you were "governed in your acquiescence in the appointment largely by the recommendation of the superintendent and the old board."

The old board could not decide: it could not act. At the utmost, it could only recommend; and recommend only as individuals might.

Waiving, as immaterial, the point whether you were governed by the recommendation of the superintendent and board, or of the superintendent only, I accept in other respects your statement of facts, which entitures, among other things, the following matter:

1. When the appointment of financial agent was taken up, Superintendent Goree was present in the meeting of the board.

2. Mr. Brahan was "entirely unknown" to you, and to satisfy your mind as to his fitness and qualifications you interrogated Superintendent Goree before the board, and he then and there "endorsed in the highest degree the capacity" and other qualifications of Mr. Brahan, which endorsement, as you afterwards said, "to some extent, controlled" your vote.

I have never intimated a doubt that the action of the commissioners was dictated by a sincere desire to do their duty. I have no complaint to make of either of them, and though the question of comparative qualifications of applicants, suggested by you, may be of "vital interest to the public," it is foreign to the issue presented by me, and from that issue I will not be diverted.

The penitentiary act lodged the appointment of the two commissioners in the governor. The governor might, at his pleasure, consult members of the late board or other persons, but their advice could have no legal force or authority. The act also devolved on the penitentiary board created by it, composed of the governor and commissioners, the appointment of a financial agent; and, in reference to said appointment, any nominal action of the old board had no legal character or effect.

The legislature could have constituted the commissioners a little senate to confirm or reject an appointment of financial agent made by the governor, but it chose not to do so. With the law before him, no one will pretend that it contemplates or authorizes this method of proceeding; and the governor and the commissioners recognized their duty under the law by acting together as a board on all applications.

It is doubtless true that a majority of the late board, viz., Gov. Ireland and Supt. Goree, at some one of its later sessions, did join in some expression of preference for Mr. Brahan.

I presume Treasurer Lubbock, being for Col. Darden, although in the end it appeared that the colonel was not an applicant for the appointment, did not concur; but no matter; such expression could not be the official "action" of the board, notwithstanding it became necessary in the governor's correspondence with me that it should so appear.

In reference to the appointment, the old board was not an organized body, but a mere casual collection of individuals. Had the concurrence of opinion of those individuals been submitted to the new board as "an understanding reached by the old board," to receive, as of course, the formal ratification of the new, I am sure the self-respect of yourself and Mr. Tips would have revolted, and you would have asserted your right of untrammeled judgment.

You seem to think it proof of perfect fairness in the governor that he kept back all knowledge of the "action" of the old board, which he had been referring to in his letters to me. Do you suppose he would have had the board know he had been telling me the business was all settled in and by the old board, so I need not bother myself to push the matter any further?

There was danger of influences being brought to bear in some direction which might possibly disarrange things, hence it must be kept quiet, so the governor administers a soothing anodyne: "Of course this"—the "appointment" of Brahan by the old board—"cannot be construed as any disparagement to yourself as it was tendered before it was known that you either wanted or would accept it. It will be gratifying to me to be able to retain your valuable services to the state in some capacity."

But Brown will not be quieted. Late the night of the 19th he writes the governor a letter in which he quotes back to him what he had said about "the appointment." Before sending it, next morning, he learns that your board has been in session two hours, and realizes the moral certainty that it has already done what it was "agreed upon" it should do. Feeling no longer any other interest than to force the governor's hand, in his "little game," he sends the letter right into the midst of your board, and along with it a full copy under seal to each of the commissioners. That, you say, "was the first intimation I had that the old board had taken any action whatever in the matter." Very true; and but for that letter you probably would never have had so good an opportunity of observing the governor's peculiar tactics.

If the alleged action of the old board is to be assumed as conclusive, it must have been the purpose of the governor, under whatever show of deference, to treat you commissioners as clay in the hands of the potter. If not conclusive, his statement to me was without foundation.

Let us see what measures were adopted to effectuate what had been "agreed upon" between himself and Superintendent Goree. On the morning of the 20th the board assembles in the governor's office, and, in due time, the business of appointing a financial agent is taken up. My letter of application, addressed through the governor to the board, and which respectfully claimed the attention of the entire board, is suppressed, but my name is laid before the board with the names of others. Superintendent Goree, who has been summoned in connection with his report and preparations for resumption, is incidentally present all the while the board is deliberating, and canvassing the merits of the several applicants. His intimate relations with Brahan are known to the board. Nothing more natural than that you should have interrogated him, as you did, without any particular thought as to the propriety of his being there.

Under the circumstances, it was inevitable that an opportunity would occur to him to speak a good word for Brahan. He availed himself of it to pronounce a somewhat earnest eulogium upon that gentleman, well calculated, with his presence, to chill the ardor of the commissioners in behalf of any other applicant, and to check any symptoms of a disposition to support any other. Here was a majority of the old board participating in the counsels of the new; one of them—the superintendent, chanting the praises of his friend; the other—the governor, chiming in, or quietly assenting.

The governor was properly there, but not properly as the coadjutor and confederate of an intruder.

If he had invited the attorneys of outside applicants to this delicate consultation, possibly the effect of Superintendent Goree's panegyric might have been less decisive.

There was no just occasion for this over-strained unwillingness to let the commissioners know the honest views of members of the old board. There was a proper way in which those views might have been openly and freely presented to have such weight as your board would choose to allow. With perfect propriety also the governor might have expressed to applicants his own honest preference, or withheld an expression, and have sustained his preference in the board by speech and vote. The views and preferences of members of the old board should have commanded the careful consideration of the commissioners, and if favorable to Mr. Brahan, and free from the suggestion of any bias due to the peculiarly close official relations which would necessarily obtain between one of said members and the appointee, might have given him a powerful advantage in the competition; an advantage of which others could not justly complain.

God forbid that I should do the governor injustice! Let the full record of all proceedings and communications in relation to the appointment of financial agent of penitentiaries be produced. If it does not warrant my charge of disingenuousness and unfairness on the part of John Ireland, governor of Texas, I shall stand ready to make to him privately and publicly the most ample apology and reparation for the wrong which it will then appear I have done him.

Respectfully,
W. M. BROWN.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

[From Our Special Correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, April 27.

The latest piece of official deviltry that has come to light in turmoil-ridden Washington is the charges of Messrs. Mullett and Murch against Supervising Architect Hill, of the treasury department. It is a common practice for jealous government officials to make

CHARGES OF CROOKEDNESS

against a brother employe who excites his jealousy and envy. An investigating committee is the result and if the charged official is not found guilty his character is somewhat damaged any way and he will feel it much harder to rise in the service in the future. Hill is in a position of great responsibility. He has to make contract awards and see that work is properly done, and if he wished to be dishonest he could make immense sums by having understandings with the numerous shrewd contractors with whom he deals. He has been in charge of the supervising architect's office now for a long time and until recently was giving unqualified satisfaction to his superiors. Mullett and Murch are bitter personal enemies to Hill, and to damage him they claimed in a general way that great corruption and irregularities existed in his office, hoping that an investigating committee would be able to discover frauds. The committee was promptly organized and began a detailed examination of the supervising architect's office, but everything was found to be efficiently and honestly conducted as far as they went. The two accusers were called upon to testify, but they attempted to cowardly sneak away, claiming that the investigation was conducted in the interest of Hill, and that they would not be allowed to make correct statements. Here the matter rests at present. The investigation is being openly conducted and the action of Mullett and Murch in not wanting to testify is strongly denounced by government officials who contend that their accusations are groundless and false and simply an attempt to injure Mr. Hill. The supervising architect's office is one of a general importance, and Murch and Mullett will probably be made to prove these allegations or be sued for malicious defamation of character. Accusing officials has got to be a common practice in the last few administrations, and the accusers should always be forced to appear before a committee appointed for the purpose and prove their charges or be summarily punished.

THE POLITICAL CHESS BOARD.

Sam Randall has been busy at work in the last few days among the Maryland Democratic politicians fixing his fences for the speakership of the next house. The ex-speaker is one of the shrewdest wire-pullers in America, and to thus more than to his ability he always relies in a political contest. He hates newspaper talk, and likes to move around entirely unknown to the public. Maryland will probably be as far south as he will venture to go, for the Democrats in the other southern states hold tariff views entirely different from Mr. Randall, and he would get little comfort by going there. Even in Maryland his canvass did not work very smoothly, for, in spite of the enormous manufacturing interests of that state, there is a strong sentiment in favor of tariff for revenue only. Randall's tactics are to obtain the votes of all of the northern Democrats, and on the assembling of congress say to those from the south: You will have to vote for me or there will be a split in the party. In other words, he expects to bulldoze the Carlisle men from that section and from the west. He cares nothing for the other Democratic aspirants. In the mean time it is to be regretted that

MR. CARLISLE AND HIS FRIENDS

are doing nothing; that statesman seems entirely to rely upon his past record for support, putting more faith in honest intentions than upon machine methods. Of the two men, Carlisle undoubtedly possesses the greater strength, both with the people at large and in Democratic circles. He represents a new and great issue. Randall represents machine working; he means a stand-still on the leading question now before the voters of the country, the Philadelphia statesman is only a Democrat in name, while Mr. Carlisle is a leader of pure and progressive democracy.

POSTAL AFFAIRS.

The postoffice at Cottonwood, Callahan county, has been discontinued. Mail will be sent to Putnam. The postoffice at Chiami, Angelina county, has also been discontinued, the mail for which will be sent to Lupkin. Special mail service has been discontinued to Gilliam, Webb county. Oscar H. Leland postmaster at Waco, has been placed under $15,000 bond. Willis T. Stuart has been appointed postmaster at Gertrude; John F. McReynold at Gibson; Robert D. Phillips at Nevada; Fritry Witt at Rose Hill, John T. Baker at Winchester.

Lately much complaint has been made to the general postoffice that samples of fertilizers, paints, inks, powders and other unmailable articles are being sent through the mail especially from the larger offices in violations of the regulations. In the hurry of making up and dispatching mails it may not always be possible for postmasters to scrutinize every package and exclude illegal matter, but they are ordered to be as careful as possible by the department. W. B. Thomson, general superintendent, has ordered the minor superintendents in the different parts of the country to confer with the postmasters in their respective divisions as to the best means of exercising a more rigid scrutiny of fourth class mail matter. It would be well for postmasters to call the attention of the public, through the press and otherwise, to the class of matter not allowed through the mail. The department is annoyed more in the spring than any other season of the year, on account of the commencement of planting operations. L. S.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS AND THINGS.

When a Chinese merchant suspends, his creditors suspend him, if they can find him. In the celestial land debt and death go hand in hand.

The New Orleans Times-Democrat lost two hundred subscribers by leaving out the sporting news one day to make room for a column on the organization of the woman's temperance union of Louisiana.

New York City spends $24 per capita annually on all its expenses, and Paris, which is said to have the most expensive city government in the world, only $22.22.

A Paris woman advertises for sale a monkey, a cat and two parrots, on the ground that she is soon to be married and will have no use for them. She has different ideas of marriage to some women outside of Paris.

Six gentlemanly detectives, clad in citizen's dress, were hired by the Vanderbilts to attend their ball on Monday evening, presumably to see that the other guests, who came without hire, did not carry off anything belonging to the host.

An acrobat gives an exhibition in Chicago that for daring surpasses anything ever seen. He balances himself on his head on a trapeze thirty feet high, and, without support from either hands or feet, remains for fully five minutes eating and drinking in this inverted position. He then makes the trapeze swing sidewise.

The Power and Velocity of Wind.

[N. Y. Herald.]

The spring wind storms and tornadoes which have begun their desolating work in the South and West will afford meteorologists fresh opportunities of studying the much-mooted question of the maximum force of the wind. In the current number of Longman's Magazine Prof. Laughton, of the Royal Naval college at Greenwich, attempts to elucidate "Wind Force and How it is Measured," but he is candid enough to tell his readers that on the latter part of his subject his article is "eminently unsatisfactory," because as yet "no exact measurements" of the force of the wind have been made. The imperfection of all anemometers yet devised more or less vitiates their readings, and long before the severest tornado or hurricane wind attains its maximum force the best anemometer is disabled. In a recently published report on the character of six hundred tornadoes, by Sergeant J. P. Finley, of the civil service, it is stated that "the velocity of the wind within the cloud vortex was variously estimated at from 70 to 800 miles an hour, the average being 392 miles." This is a startling estimate. A velocity of 800 miles an hour corresponds on the lowest basis of calculation to a pressure of about three-fourths of a ton on a square foot. Such a force is totally incomparable with the utmost pressure recorded or indicated by the wind gauge in the most disastrous hurricanes. In the almost unprecedented British cyclone of October 14, 1881, a pressure of fifty-three pounds was registered at Greenwich, almost at the very moment when thirty magnificent trees near by were blown down, and no recorded hurricane has risen to velocity of more than 180 miles an hour, which would correspond to a pressure of only eighty-one pounds per square foot, by Mr. Laughton's method of calculation. Aside, however, from nice questions of anemometry, it is important to all people to know that the limit of wind pressure even at sea level has not been determined, and that in dealing with this unknown quantity they must not underrate it. At a meeting of the London institution of civil engineers last year one of its foremost representatives well said: "Engineers are not at present very far advanced in their knowledge with regard to wind." The large number of houses and other structures blown down in this country shows that our architects and engineers have something to learn in this direction.

The Monterey Excursion.

One of the gentlemen who accompanied the senatorial excursion to Monterey, gives the nortial results of his trip as follows:

While on our trip to Monterey we were continually wondering what other interesting place would be shown us by our friend, Major Jules Randle, who kindly gave us the benefit of his long experience and perfect knowledge of the country. We visited the celebrated battle ground known as Independence Hill, commanding the bishop's palace and the city of Monterey. The beautiful house of Gen. Guerra, whose daughters played for us the national air of Mexico which was highly appreciated by all of our party. We then took carriages for the celebrated hot springs now the property of Major Randle. Here language fails to express our delight. A quantitave analysis of one of the springs shows fourteen grains of mineral constituents to the gallon, the temperature of which was 106. The diseases most benefited and cured are rheumatism, gout, scrofula, diseases of the liver and kidneys, and chronic diseases of a private nature in all forms and complications. I learned that a magnificent hotel and bath houses will be erected as fast as men and money can push such matters. On our return from the springs, the major had a fine supper smoking hot and after our glorious bath we did ample justice to the same. We spent the evening at his residence and had a call from the federal judge of the states of Nueva Leon, Coachuilla and Tamaulipas, Gynacio Galindo, who gave to our senators a perfect treat of information on all points of legal and legislative matters, speaking with pride of the future development of his grand country, assuring us that Americans were appreciated and welcomed there. On our return the smelting works of the Rosario mining company was pointed out. The company was organized by Jules Randle, at Dallas, about one year ago, and is said to be one of the most valuable properties in the Bepublic. Col. J. A. Leonard, of the firm of Adams & Leonhard, is the president of the company; the Texas stockholders are among our best men on this side, while we are informed that the interests owned in Mexico are by the same character of gentlemen. Upon the whole, the trip was one of the most delightful and interesting of my life. TRAVLER.

In an article on "Church Nuisances" the Christian Intelligencer blames the minister, saying: "He ought to preach against whisperers and gossipers. He ought to instruct his people to go directly home when they are dismissed, and not to hang about the doors of the sanctuary to visit and gather news. He ought to prevent his officers from making ushers of men who wear creaky boots. He ought to counsel his hearers to finish their toilettes before coming to church. He ought to make them sit still in their pews. He ought to insist upon it that foot benches be nailed fast, so as not to be upset by clumsy feet right in the midst of the service. He ought to forbid tobacco chewing and abolish the spittoon. He ought to teach wives not to get angry, but to amicably submit themselves to the idiosyncrasies of their husbands, under the most ire-provoking circumstances. In a word, he ought to right all wrongs and have his people worship God decently and in order."

GREAT LENIENCY.

CHATTANOOGA, April 30.—A special from the government works at Muscle Shoals, near Florence, Alabama, gives an account of the lynching of Geo. Ware, colored, who murdered a white boy, aged twelve years, to secure $12. The boy had just been paid. After robbing the boy he threw him eight times into the river, but the boy swam back to shore. After amusing himself by throwing the boy in the river he tied him and beat out his brains with a stone, and threw him in again. A man on the opposite shore witnessed the murder, but the river was too wide to make his presence known. A description of the negro was given to the jailer, who arrested him the same night. A large crowd of workmen, employed on the river improvements, visited the jail and demanded the prisoner, but owing to the delicate condition of the jailer's wife at the time, the mob were persuaded to disperse. This all occurred on the 20th instant. Saturday night the mob again visited the jail and carried the jailer's wife to another house, and then took the prisoner and hung him to a beam in the depot and riddled his body with bullets. The negro confessed.

THE LONDON TIMES SPEAKS.

LONDON, April 30.—The Times, in an editorial, says the Irish convention at Philadelphia began with a claptrap of folly and malignity, and closed after the same fashion. The whole scene, it says, would be painful were it not so supremely ridiculous. The only practical suggestion made by the convention for injuring Great Britain is the advice of the people of Ireland to buy nothing from England unless obliged to. It is a confession of impotence when Irish malice is driven to such a paltry expedient, which, if tried, would only injure its cause. The lesson for Great Britain is to ignore Irishmen and abandon the hope of bringing them to a better aim of mind by a continuance of unmerited favors. They have already convinced the rest of the world that they are unfit to have national independence, and they must be made to feel the strong arm of the law.

A SAD MISTAKE.

BOSTON, April 30.—Albert H. Beals, of the firm of Beals & Perly, spice dealers, Boston, shot and killed his partner, Frickett Perly, on the Fall River steamer Bristol, last night. Both men occupied a room together, and about 1:30 Perly got out of his berth and went to the window. Beals was awakened by the rattling of blinds, and thinking some one was trying to enter the room, he drew a revolver and fired. The bullet entered Perly's forehead and passed out the back of his head. He lived about an hour and a half. Beals was delivered to the police on arrival of the boat at Fall River.

A GREAT FEAT.

Prof. Platt, known as the man-fish, performed a remarkable feat at Dime Museum here, yesterday, remaining under water four minutes, eleven and a half seconds, beating the best previous record—four minutes, two and three-quarter seconds—of J. B. Johnson in London. He came very near losing his life, however, becoming helpless after four minutes had expired. When removed from the water on the repeated demands of those present, Platt was insensible.

THE IRISH TRIALS.

DUBLIN, April 30.—The trial of Fitzharris, known as "Askin, the Goat," one of the alleged principals in the murder of Cavendish and Burke, was begun this morning. The prisoner pleaded not guilty. The case for the prosecution was opened by Porter, attorney general for Ireland. He argued that although Fitzharris did not personally stab Burke, yet he was cognizant of the act, and was an implement of the murder as he drove off the assassins red handed. The defense will endeavor to prove that Fitzharris merely drove the murderers in the course of his vocation as a cab dri