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CURRENT NEWS.

WASHINGTON.

The following list of Representatives of the present Congress whose seats are to be contested, together with the names of contestants, was furnished by Clerk Adams and submitted by Speaker Randall to the House: Sixth Massachusetts District — Benton against Loring; Twentieth Pennsylvania District—Curtin against Yocum; First North Carolina—Yates against Martin; Second North Carolina—O'Hara against Kitchen; Second South Carolina—Mackey against O'Conner; Fourth Alabama—Haralson against Shelley; Third Louisiana—Herbert against Acklin; Third Louisiana—Merchant against Acklin; Second Arkansas—Bradley against Siemons; Second Florida—Bisbee against Hull; Third Minnesota—Donnelly against Washburne; State of Oregon—McDowell against Whiteaker.

The President has nominated Edwin W. Keightley as Third Auditor of the Treasury and James M. Melton as Collector of Internal Revenue for the Second District of Tennessee. Keightley was a member of the last Congress from Michigan.

Prof. Cyrus Thomas, State Entomologist of Illinois, has accepted the position of Entomologist, Department of Agriculture.

The President has nominated Frederick W. Miner United States Attorney for the Northern district of Texas, and Wilson M. Stanley of Illinois Iddian Agent for Los Pinas Agency, Colorado.

An official circular by the Secretary of the Treasury, issued April 18, gives notice that the $10 refunding certificates will be on sale by Postmasters and other Government officers in sums not exceeding $100 at one time until June 17, after which time, if the popular demand does not absorb them, the remainder will be turned over to the syndicate. There are $40,000,000 of these certificates to be issued, to be hereafter converted into 4-per-cent. bonds.

Representative Murch has filed two petitions from Maine, praying "that all the moneys used as a circulating medium of exchange be issued by the Government direct to the people; that all moneys, metal or paper, when the seal of the United States shall have been stamped thereon, shall be a full legal tender for all dues, public or private; that said moneys shall be a unit of value; that all moneys now used as a circulating medium of exchange, not a full legal tender, be withdrawn at the earliest practical moment, and full legal tender money take the place thereof."

The Secretary of war has addressed a letter to Gen. Sherman, directing that in case Sitting Bull or any of his followers cross the British Possessions, they be held as prisoners of war until further orders from the President. In view of this action Sitting Bull and his band have voluntarily subjected themselves to the authority of Great Britain, and ceased to be subjects of the United States. They will not now, even with peaceable intentions, be permitted to cross the frontier.

Chief Moses and other Indians had an unimportant interview with the President on the 19th.

WEST AND SOUTHWEST.

The Iowa Republican State Convention is called to meet at Des Moines, June 11.

A man named Collier is reported to have been lynched in Lampasas County, Texas, for harboring a member of the Howell gang of desperadoes.

A package containing $5,000 in bank notes was stolen from the counter of the State Treasury at Springfield, Ill., on the 15th, by one of two confederates who went into the office ostensibly to get a bill changed.

The village of Lisbon, Texas, 10 miles from Dallas, was struck by a tornado on the 15th. Ten or more houses were demolished. Mrs. Vaughan was killed; Mrs. Mary Belt was wounded and two of her children badly hurt, while a number of other persons were more or less injured.

Upson, Democrat, has been elected to Congress from the Sixth Texas District, to succeed Schleicher, deceased.

The village of Pocahontas, Tenn., on the line of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, was almost destroyed by a tornado on the night of the 14th. Several persons were injured.

The Kansas Central Narrow-gauge has been purchased at foreclosure sale by Commodore C. K. Garrison. It runs from Leavenworth west by north to Osago, Kansas, a distance of 84 miles. It will be run as a branch of the Kansas Pacific, and the present management will not be interfered with materially.

A convention of colored men was held at Little Rock, Ark., on the 12th, to consider the subject of emigrating from Arkansas where it is claimed the colored men in many localities are not allowed the free enjoyment of their constitutional rights. Delegates were chosen to the conference to be held at Nashville, May 6, and the Convention resolved itself into an Auxiliary State Migration Aid Society, and appointed an Executive Committee.

Dr. Samuel P. Chalfant, a San Francisco dentist, on the 15th shot and killed Josiah Bacon of Boston. Chalfant had been sued by Bacon for infringement of a dental patent, and in an excited interview between the parties, in Bacon's room in the Baldwin House, Chalfant shot him. There were no witnesses. Chalfant fled, but subsequently gave himself up. He admitted the shooting, but said in extenuation that he drew his pistol during the controversy with the view of compelling respectful treatment, but with no intention of firing at him. Harsh words followed, the dispute waxed warm, and in his excitement the pistol went off.

Mr. X. B. Trower, President of the Moultrie County Bank of Sullivan, Moultrie County, Ill., has absconded, as reported, with all the assets of the institution, about $50,000 belonging to depositors. Mr. Trower had just been elected Mayor of the city, but had not yet qualified.

William Love, colored, was hanged at Austin, Miss., on the 18th, for the murder of J. F. Sanderson at Commerce.

Dr. St. Louis, who was sentenced to be hanged at Wahoo, Neb., on the 18th, for poisoning his wife, on the morning of that day shot himself with a revolver, inflicting a mortal wound.

A convention has been called, to meet at Vicksburg on the 5th of May, to take into consideration the labor troubles in the Mississippi Valley, and especially to devise some means to check the present exodus of colored laborers. The call is signed by Governor Stone of Mississippi and a number of prominent cotton-growers, and the colored people are requested to send delegates to participate in the deliberations of the convention and to plainly state their grievances.

A train of loaded freight cars, together with the locomotive and tender, went down through a burning bridge on the Kansas City branch of the Hannibal & St. Joe Railroad, near Kearney Station, on the morning of the 19th. The wrecked train immediately took fire and the wood-work was entirely consumed. James Hawkes and W. Bailey of Springfield, Ill., were in a car loaded with stock and household goods, in the middle of the train. Hawkes was caught under the falling timbers and could not be extricated before he was burned to death. His companion had his arms and legs broken and his skull fractured, but was taken out alive, although doubtless fatally injured. All of the trainmen were saved with the train, but all escaped with slight injuries except the conductor, F. D. Murray, who had his leg broken. It is believed that the bridge was fired by tramps.

The city of Eureka, Nevada, suffered severely by fire on the night of the 18th. Some of the largest business houses, newspaper and telegraph offices, Masonic Hall and other public buildings, together with many residences, were burned. Three hundred families were reported destitute and 2,000 without shelter. Loss roughly estimated at $1,000,000.

The Pacific coast steamship Great Republic was wrecked on the night of the 19th while entering the mouth of the Columbia River. The passengers were all safely landed and taken to Astoria. The last boat that left the ship, containing a number of the crew and several waiters, was capsized and 10 men were drowned. The vessel is a total loss.

A negro, accused of the murder of a man named Fred. Hendricks, was lynched near Cawker City, Kas., on the 17th. Hendricks was a traveling man and the negro was employed by him as a driver. Hendricks's body was found under a bridge, near the town, with a bullet hole in the head and the skull crushed. The negro was pursued and overtaken at Beloit, and when within a mile of Cawker City, on their return, the officer's posse having him in charge were surrounded and overpowered and the prisoner hanged to a tree.

At Cincinnati, on the 19th, Will Taft, son of ex-Attorney-General Alphonso Taft, and Captain of the Yale College Crew of 1877, assaulted and badly beat one Rose, editor and publisher of a sensational paper called the Cincinnati *Sunday News*, for publishing an item seriously reflecting upon the personal character of the elder Taft.

Col. Hatch, in command of the Department of New Mexico, telegraphs that Lieut. Merritt, of the Ninth Cavalry, reports from Ojo Caliente that Victoria and his whole force of Warm Spring Apache Indians escaped on the 15th inst., and have gone to the San Mateo Mountains.

At Chicago, on Sunday, the 20th, 1,100 Communists, many of whom were armed, paraded the streets, displaying inflammatory banners. No disturbances occurred.

EAST AND SOUTHEAST.

At Baltimore, on the 16th, Denwood B. Hinds, a young man of 23, shot and killed Isaac D. James, father of Miss Lizzie James, who, it is charged, was seduced by Hinds under promise of marriage. Her brother attempted to kill Hinds last Christmas Eve, and both men were seriously wounded, but both recovered. Since that time Hinds had been keeping out of the way of the Jameses, having been out of the city for a part of the time. About the first of April Miss James died from puerperal fever, and the father, learning that her betrayer had returned to the city, prepared to shoot him on sight. Their first meeting was on the day named, and the shooting was begun by Mr. James, his first shot taking effect in Hinds's left arm. The latter quickly returned the fire, and seven shots in all were exchanged. Mr. James was mortally wounded and died in a few minutes. Hinds received two wounds, neither fatal, and his brother Harry, a lad, was wounded in the arm. Intense excitement followed the shooting, and threats of lynching Hinds were made, but he was quickly placed under arrest and no violence was offered.

A dispatch from Charleston, S. C., gives meager particulars of the destruction of life and property by a terrible hurricane which swept over the southern portion of the State on the night of the 16th. In the village of Walterboro more than 100 dwellings and all the churches were swept away. Three-fourths of the inhabitants are homeless. Fifteen persons were killed and many wounded. At Oakley, a station on the N. E. Railroad, all the negro houses were leveled and one negro killed, besides many hurt. Similar casualties are reported from various points in the track of the tornado.

Hezekiah Shaffer was hanged at Chambersburg, Penn., on the 17th, for the murder of his wife in February, 1878. He died protesting his innocence of the crime. On the Monday preceding the day fixed for his execution, Shaffer made a desperate effort to commit suicide by opening his arteries with a piece of wire taken from a broom. He was so prostrated by loss of blood that he had to be carried to the scaffold and seated in a chair while the rope was placed about his neck.

James Carroll, a negro, accused of committing an outrage upon a white lady, was taken from a train at Licksville, Md., on the 17th, by a band of masked men, and hanged to a tree.

The United States Grand Jury at Charleston, S. C., have returned indictments against a number of parties for violation of the Federal Election laws.

Myron A. Buel, convicted of a most foul murder, his victim being a young girl whom he attempted to ravish, was hanged at Cooperstown, N. Y., on the 18th. He steadfastly refused to confess his guilt, and died game.

General John A. Dix died at his residence in New York City on the 21st. He was born at Boscawen, N. H., July 24, 1798. He entered the Army in 1812, but resigned in 1828, studied law, and was admitted to the bar. He actively entered politics as a Democrat in 1842, and held many offices. In December, 1860, he was appointed President Buchanan's Secretary of the Treasury, in place of Howell Cobb, resigned. He then served under President Lincoln's administration, and has alway ssince been ranked one of the strongest adherents of the Republican party. At the outset of the war he was appointed a Major-General of the New York National Guard; in May, 1861, commissioned Major-General of the United States volunteers, and subsequently received the same rank in the regular army and had charge of the Department of Maryland in 1862, from whence he was transferred to Fortress Monroe. He was appointed Minister to Paris in 1866, and in 1872 elected Governor of New York. He was again nominated in 1874, and defeated by Tilden. This ended his political career.

FOREIGN.

The Mexican Congress convened at the City of Mexico on the 1st. President Diaz in his message informs Congress of the conclusion of a contract by the Secretary of Public Works for laying a sub-marine and land line of telegraph from a Gulf port of the United States along the Mexican coast, touching at various Mexican ports and passing by way of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec to the Pacific coast, where it is to terminate. Referring to the United States, President Diaz complains that the order of Gen. Ord for the pursuit of raiders across the border is still in force, and the treaty of 1848 is thereby violated. He hopes the United States, obeying the dictates of justice, and considering the interests of commerce and industry, will revoke that order, as it is contrary to international law.

The exact condition of affairs in Zululand, according to late advices, is this: On the south side of Tugelar River there are 1,200 cavalry, 14,000 infantry and 35 guns, all from England, and in readiness for operation, which, it is hoped will not only relieve Col. Pierson from his now desperate situation, but make a final end of Cetawayo. The latter, however, is in excellent trim for making a desperate fight. He has caused all the roads along which the English columns can advance to be broken up; bridges have been destroyed, ravines deepened, and countless trees felled so as to lie across the roads. It is stated that, while hoping to prevent the advance of his foe to any great distance by this means, Cetawayo has prepared a post upon which to fall back, if necessary—an almost inaccessible fortress, about 30 miles north of Ulandi. The advance of the British column has already begun, but news from it can not be expected before about the 5th or 6th of May.

Queen Victoria and the King and Queen of Italy met on the 18th inst. at the castle of Monza, near Milan. After a walk in the park and a lunch the royal party returned to Baveno and Rome, respectively.

Pierre Lorillard's American gelding Parole has won the Newmarket handicap race.

By an explosion of fire damp in the Agrappes coal pit, near Mons, Belgium, the wood-work of the shaft caught fire and fell in. There were 240 men in the mines, and at last accounts none had been rescued.

The last attempt to assassinate the Czar has led to the adoption by the Government of still more stringent measures of repression. A Governors-General are to be appointed for the six most populous districts of Russia, clothed with absolutely despotic power over the lives and liberties of the people. The wide-spread conspiracy against the rulers of the Empire has become so formidable, embracing, as is well known, men and women in all ranks and stations, and many of them doubtless occupying positions of trust, that it is now a life or death struggle.

The action of the Khedive of Egypt, in summarily dismissing his foreign ministers and forming a truly Egyptian Cabinet, has occasioned no little excitement. It was reported that France and England would unite in a vigorous remonstrance, and intimations were thrown out that the Khedive's action might result in his abdication. The Khedive has published a manifesto justifying the course which he has taken, and insisting upon the carrying out of his own programme of reform. He says he will be fully responsible for the public safety of Egypt and for the due payment of the foreign debt, if he is allowed to exercise the power he wishes through the National party. The Sultan, in receiving an envoy from the Khedive, expressed his disapproval of the Khedive's conduct, but said he did not intend to dethrone him.

A dispatch from Pesth, Hungary, 18th, says: The Rivers Maroso and Koros have again broken their dams. Zerend is destroyed and Arad endangered.

Of the 240 miners imperiled by the explosion in the Aggrappes coal-pit near Mons, Belgium, 89 were finally rescued alive.

Another revolution has occurred in Panama. There was fighting in the streets, lasting four hours, in which a number of persons were killed.

Fourteen lives were lost by a coal mine explosion at Departure Bay in British Columbia, on the 15th.

GENERAL.

Cyrus W. Field has accepted the Presidency of the Wabash Railway Company, on condition that as soon as he could find a thoroughly practical and reliable railway man to take his place he could resign, and in the meantime would serve the company without charge.

The entire amount of the 4 per cent. funded loan ($150,000,000) recently offered by Secretary Sherman at one-half of 1 per cent. above par has been taken by the First National Bank of New York City, acting for a syndicate of Eastern and foreign bankers.

CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

In the Senate, on the 15th, the Vice-President gave notice that he would be necessarily absent, on account of sickness in his family, and requested that a President pro tem. be elected. Mr. Bayard nominated Allen G. Thurman. Mr. Anthony moved as a substitute the name of Thomas W. Ferry. The substitute was rejected—yeas 18, nays 28—and Mr. Thurman was then chosen and escorted to the chair by Mr. Ferry. Several new bills were introduced, among them one by Mr. Jonas—To provide for the speedy completion of a line of railroad and telegraph between ports of the Lower Mississippi River and the Southern frontier of the United States, and to aid in the construction of the same and for other purposes. The Army Appropriation bill was then taken up and Mr. Logan addressed the senate in opposition to the proposed amendments. Mr. Beck commenced a reply to Mr. Logan, but yielded to a motion to adjourn.....In the House, Mr. Chalmers (D., Miss.) rose to a personal explanation in regard to statements made in the Cincinnati *Gazette* and *Enquirer*, connecting him with the battle of Fort Pillow, and in regard to a speech made in Cincinnati, by Representative Butterworth. He offered a resolution for the appointment of a Committee, to be composed of ex-Union soldiers, and a majority of whom shall not be Democrats, to investigate into and report upon the charges. After debate, the resolution was laid over for the present. The Senate bill for the purchase or construction of a refrigerating ship for the disinfection of vessels and cargoes passed with trifling amendments. The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the Legislative bill, the pending question being on Mr. Bragg's motion to repeal the law creating a Southern Claims Commission and transferring claims now pending before it to the Court of Claims. Mr. Bragg (D., Wis.) spoke in favor of the proposition, and several others against it. Mr. Bragg's amendment was rejected—yeas 65, nays 112.

In the Senate, on the 16th, consideration of the Army bill was resumed, Mr. Beck continuing his remarks in favor of the amendments and Mr. Dawes following in opposition to them. Mr. Hampton of South Carolina was sworn in and took his seat.....In the House, under the call of committees, Mr. Stephens (D., Ga.), Chairman of the Committee on Coinage, Weights and Measures, reported a bill for the interchange of subsidiary coin for legal tender money in sums of $10 and multiples thereof, and making such coin legal tender in all sums not exceeding $20. The report of the committee states that the bill is based upon petitions referred to the committee. Mr. Conger (R., Mich.) raised the point of order that no bill on the subject had been referred to the committee, and therefore the committee had no right to make a report. The speaker said the question at issue was whether the committee had a right, on petitions appropriately referred, to propose legislation. He was of opinion that any committee had that right, and therefore overruled the point of order. Mr. Young (D., Tenn.), Chairman of the Committee on Epidemic Diseases, reported a bill, for which the Senate joint resolution to the same effect was substituted, relating to the organization of the National Board of Health. Passed. The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the Legislative Appropriation bill, and a general debate was inaugurated regarding those provisions of the bill in respect to the mode of selecting grand and petit jurors, repealing the jurors' test oath, and also in respect to Supervisors of Election and Deputy Marshals. An effort was made to limit speeches to 30 minutes, but it failed. The Chair said there were 96 names on the list of those desiring to speak.

In the Senate, on the 17th, the Army Appropriation bill was further considered, and speeches were made by Messrs. Voorhees and Teller.....In the House, the bill reported yesterday from the Committee on Coinage, Weights and Measures, to provide for the exchange of subsidiary silver coins for legal tenders in all sums not exceeding $20, came up. The question was on a motion of Mr. Buckner, Chairman of the Committee on Banking and Currency, to refer the bill to that committee. After discussion the previous question was moved, and the motion to refer the bill to the Banking Committee was rejected—88 to 94. The bill then was before the House, but pending action it will go to-morrow, the morning hour having expired. Mr. Atkins (D., Tenn.) moved that the debate on the Legislative Appropriation bill close Saturday. This motion brought on a pointed personal tilt between Messrs. Atkins and Conger (R., Mich.) The former then substituted Tuesday next, Mr. Garfield (R., O.) moved Friday. Agreed to—yeas 131, nays 91. The House then went into committee on the Legislative Appropriation bill, and was addressed by Mr. Kelley (R., Penn.).

In the Senate, on the 18th, the Army Appropriation bill was further considered, and Mr. Randolph spoke in favor of the measure. After an executive session, adjourned until Monday.....In the House, the morning hour was dispensed with, and the House went into Committee of the Whole on the Legislative Appropriation bill. Mr. McKinley (R., O.) spoke in opposition to the proposed repeal of the Federal election laws. He was followed by Mr. House (D., Tenn.), and then Mr. Burrows (R., Mich.), Mr. Gibson (D., La.), Mr. Coffroth (D., Pa.), and Mr. Dickey (D., O.) spoke in the order named.

The Senate was not in session on the 9th.....In the House the Subsidiary Silver Coin bill was taken up and discussed until the expiration of the morning hour, when the Legislative Appropriation bill was further considered in Committee of the Whole, Mr. Blackburn (Dem., Ky.) in the chair. During the discussion Mr. Blackburn came down from the chair to reply to some remarks of Mr. Fry (R., Me.), which he said misrepresented his remarks upon a previous occasion. Quite a heated debate ensued, at the conclusion of which Mr. Blackburn resumed the chair and the House adjourned.

In the Senate, on the 21st, consideration was resumed of the Army Appropriation bill, and speeches were made by Messrs. Bayard and Maxey in support of the proposed amendments....In the House, a large number of bills were introduced and referred, among them being several in reference to Pacific railroads, a host of financial measures, a number for amending the revenues, and a large lot of a miscellaneous nature. The exact number of bills introduced was 1,288. An evening session was held, at which the Legislative Appropriation bill was further discussed in Committee of the Whole.

THE COLORED EMIGRANTS.

Some Statistics Concerning the Movement—The Situation at St. Louis, Kansas City and Wyandotte.

The St. Louis *Globe-Democrat* of the 17th publishes the following figures regarding the movement of colored emigrants:

Total number arrived at St. Louis.....	6,2 0
Paid their own fare to Wyandotte.....	2,300
Remaining in the city.....	350
Sick in the city.....	63
Total amounts of contributions:	
Money.....	$1,969
Clothing and food (estimated value).....	850
Total.....	$2,819

AN APPEAL FOR AID.

ST. LOUIS, April 16, 1879.—A second appeal from the organized colored refugee committee. To the humane and liberty-loving people throughout the country: The colored refugees from the South, fleeing from oppression and inhuman treatment, continue to arrive at our wharf daily. The committee are working hard to feed, clothe and send them forward. We are embarrassed and in debt several hundred dollars. We are much in need of money and clothing. Help us in God's name. Any contributions sent to the following persons will be faithfully applied and received with thanks: Rev. Moses Dickson, No. 1211 Morgan Street; Rev. John Turner, No. 1512 Morgan Street.

An Appeal from Kansas City and Wyandotte.

KANSAS CITY, MO., April 16.—A large number of colored Southern refugees have been landed by steamboat at Wyandotte in an entirely destitute condition during the past few days, and are occupying the churches and public halls of that place. Many of them are sick from exposure and dying. Mayor Shelley of Kansas City today telegraphed the Secretary of War for an order for the issue of rations from Fort Leavenworth to feed them. Secretary McCrary replied that he had no authority to do so; that Congress was in session and applications could be made to that body. A committee has been appointed at Wyandotte to look after the sufferers. They issued the following to-day:

To the Generous Citizens of the United States: The undersigned Executive Committee of the Citizens' Relief Committee of Wyandotte, Kas., make an earnest appeal for immediate financial aid to assist the sick, suffering and destitute colored refugees that destiny has suddenly thrown on the citizens of Wyandotte. Seventeen hundred destitute are already here, and thousands more in the same destitute condition on the way. In the midst of this general suffering and great need for immediate aid we send this Macedonian cry for immediate assistance. Send all contributions to Northrup & Sons, bankers, Treasurers.

[Signed] GEORGE H. MILLER,
G. W. BISHOP,
Y. J. LANE,
Executive Committee.

A PROCLAMATION BY THE MAYOR.

WYANDOTTE CITY, Kas., April 18, 1879.—To any and all Steamboat Lines or Transportation Companies: GENTLEMEN—Allow me to state to you, most respectfully, but most emphatically, that the City of Wyandotte will hold all boats' officers, agents or any other persons who may be concerned in importing destitute persons to our shores to the strictest legal consequences and penalties of the law attaching to such offense. Hoping that this may be received in the spirit it is intended, to prevent trouble and preserve harmony and good will, I am, very respectfully,

(Signed) J. S. STOCKTON,
Mayor of the City of Wyandotte.

THE RUSSIAN NIHILISTS.

The Secret, Oath-Bound Organization that Threatens the Overthrow of the Russian Government.

ST. PETERSBURG, April 15.—Telegrams were received Friday and Saturday last from the Berlin Secret Police, giving warning that on Easter an attempt would be made to assassinate the Emperor, the Czarowitch, or some member of the Imperial family. In consequence of these telegrams from Berlin the usual entrance to the Winter Palace was closed, and the Czarowitch went at midnight to the Easter Eve reception of the Czar, escorted by four Cossacks. It is said the heads of the secret police are about to resign, having discovered that three-fourths of the force are in league with the Nihilists. Letters from Kieff state that between the 8th and 11th inst. five attempts at murder were made against officials there.

The name of the assailant of the Czar is now ascertained to be Solowjeff. This morning Solowjeff was insensible, but was expected to rally. No papers were found upon him. Throughout Monday night all suspected houses were searched. Last week the revolutionary committee issued a proclamation threatening the life of the Emperor and a second St. Bartholomew massacre.

LONDON, April 15.—With respect to the attempt, yesterday, upon the life of the Czar, the following information concerning the Committee of the revolutionary association of Russia has been obtained from authentic sources: This Committee is composed of elected representatives of a great number of local and secret Nihilist and other revolutionary associations. It has in its ranks artisans, students, public officials, peasants, military officers, and women of low and high birth. The fidelity of the members to each other have been perfect, save in two instances, and in each of these the would-be traitor has been killed ere he fully carried out his treason. This secret Committee acts as a secret court, and tries, sentences and executes officials of the Empire for acts which it considers worthy of death. It is believed that the committee, of which branches exist in each of the large cities, send their decisions to the Chief, who either approves or disapproves, and if the former, designates the person to carry out the sentence. It has been through the agency of this committee that Gen. Prepoff, Chief of the Secret Police, was shot by Vera Sassulitch; his successor, Gen. Mezazeff, killed; Gen. Drentelen shot at; Prince Krapotnine, Governor of Charkoff, shot; and Col. Knapp of Odessa, choked to death. Through the same agency many of the subordinate officers and agents of the Government at Moscow, Odessa, Loganretg, Kieff, and other places, have been slain. Vera Sassulitch was the only one of the assassins who has been arrested, and she escaped and is now in safety. The police are themselves suspected of being implicated in the conspiracy, or by being so alarmed by it as to be afraid to make arrests. For some days past proclamations of the secret committee have been sent directly to the Czar, and numbers of them have been received by members of the Imperial household. The state of feeling in official circles at St. Petersburg and Moscow is represented as being one of mingled terror, rage and mutual suspicion, and it is even said that the attempted assassination of yesterday was the result of a plot to which the Crown Prince was not a stranger. This calumny, however, is not believed to have the slightest foundation.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Personal and Literary.

—Mary L. Booth, editor of Harper's *Bazar*, is described as a matronly looking woman, with no nonsense about her.

—Mrs. Matilda Fletcher of Des Moines, Iowa, has been offered $3,000 for a lecture tour in Colorado, upon "Social Science."

—Donald G. Mitchell is writing a history of the republic of Venice, the material for which was in part gathered by him while Consul in that city in 1853-55.

—Mr. W. S. Gilbert, author of "Pinafore," is a tall, lank, raw-boned Scotch lawyer, with sandy hair and whiskers. His face is usually wrinkled with an expression of great nervous irritability, and his temper is of the shortest.

—Tennyson as Laureate has written a poem dedicated to the Princess Alice, which leads the *Echo*, of London, to remark that it is satisfactory to know that he is "doing something for the £100 he receives annually from the people's taxes."

—Two of the most striking figures in the Paris salons are Ivan Turgeneff, with his imposing stature and flowing white hair, and Emile de Girardin, who, though 70 years old, is the most brilliant, witty, and youthful of Frenchmen.

—Beranger, who forbade that a stone should be erected over his grave, is to be complimented with a statute next year, on the hundredth anniversary of his birth. Victor Hugo is chairman of the committee for raising funds. George Sand, Michelet, and Rabelais are also soon to have statues.

—Walt Whitman recently appeared in New York City for the first time as a public lecturer. His long, full beard and flowing hair are snow-white, but his face has the ruddy glow of health. He recited his recollections of Abraham Lincoln in his peculiar graphic and striking language. He announced with much naivete that he desired to make engagements as a lecturer and reader of his own poems.

—Thomas Hardy, who is the only rival of William Black for the honor of being the most popular of recent English novelists, is 38 years old, and was educated in a provincial village, becoming, as one might fancy from his figures of speech, the apprentice of a country architect. In London, however, he became a student under Bloomfield, and a disciple of the Gothic school. He won prizes in architecture, and studied to be an art critic. Finally he chose fiction.

—Miss J. M. Slocum, a teacher of Canandaigua, N. Y., is winning a place as a writer on political economy. She graduated in the Law Department of Michigan University. She had chosen political economy as a life-study, and the legal studies were pursued with a view to increasing her knowledge of that science. She delivered, some time since, a lecture on "Demand," which met with such distinguished success that she has been called on to repeat it at numerous other places.

Science and Industry.

—In Paterson, N. J., 30 manufacturing establishments employ over 9,000 men.

—American plate-glass manufacturers are driving their French rivals out of the market.

—The Newark, N. J., cutlery manufacturers have, it is said, more orders than they can fill.

—There is a heavy demand for steel rails, and the Pennsylvania mills are nearly all at work.

—Pittsburg, Scranton and Troy are furnishing steel rails for the Southern Pacific Railroad.

—Birmingham, Eng., is importing hay-forks, clocks, apple-parers and clothes-pins from Philadelphia.

—The Philadelphia Locomotive Works has 1,900 men engaged on locomotives for Australia, and it is busier than since 1873.

—The Troy Bessemer steel works are producing over 1,200 tons weekly—an unexampled product.

—Well informed persons estimate that the British emigration to the United States this year will reach 300,000.

—The crop prospects in the Southern California coast counties are better than at any other time for the past seven years.

—Florida is turning her attention to the cultivation of rice, which is stated to be a better crop there than wheat is in any other State.

—The industrial authorities and tradesmen of the city of Berlin have arranged for an exhibition to be given on the 1st of May next in a prominent part of Berlin.

—Gen. W. S. Rosecrans is engaged at San Francisco in the manufacture of a patent safety powder, which explodes only under high pressure or at a great heat.

—Stout calico is made waterproof by the Chinese with a preparation which proves efficient in any climate, and is supposed to be composed of the following ingredients: Boiled oil, 1 quart; soft soap, 1 ounce, and beeswax 1 ounce, the whole to be boiled until reduced to three-quarters of its quantity when mixed. The calico treated with this mixture answers well for life-saving apparatus.

—European journals announce a new method of lighting railway cars lately adopted upon the Nicholas road, which which connects St. Petersburg with Moscow. The new light is carburretted hydrogen. The lighting apparatus consists of an elegant globe, in which burns a jet of gas supplied from a reservoir in every car. These reservoirs are always filled at both ends of the route, though they contain much more than enough for the journey, so that the immense comfort of a lighted car can be enjoyed even when the train should be "snowed up" all night.

School and Church.

—Illinois churches received 18,000 members from the Sunday-schools last year.

—A translation of Longfellow's "Song of Hiawatha" has been published at Moscow for the benefit of soldiers disabled in the late war.

—The Sunday-school for the Chinese in Chicago has 26 scholars, and for every scholar a special teacher is provided.

—Fisk University, at Nashville, Tenn., has just received $50,000 from the Stone estate, through the Rev. W. H. Wilcox.

—The telephone has been successfully introduced into the Breckenbridge Street Presbyterian Church at Buffalo, so that the pastor can address at once two congregations two miles apart.

—The German language is now taught in 56 public schools of New York City. Ten schools give instruction in French. A large majority of the pupils in almost every class in these languages read and translate the foreign text in the text book correctly.

—Six candidates for the Methodist ministry were asked in the conference at Hartford whether they used tobacco. They all replied that they did not. Thereupon the Bishop ejaculated, "Thank God!" A hearty amen resounded from the Conference.

—The Rev. Louis Mazawacanayana—Louis Iron Thunder—once a hostile savage, but now an ordained minister of the Gospel of Christ, is pastor of a church at Buffalo Lake, Dak., consisting of 55 members, all of them full-blooded Dakota Indians.

—The Rev. Joshua V. Himes of Nebraska, formerly a well known "Millerite" preacher in New Hampshire, has joined the Episcopal Church and is now a candidate for holy orders. He is 73 years old, and has been in the ministry 53 years, but is in the enjoyment of vigorous health.

Haps and Mishaps.

—At Marysville, O., Otto Conder, aged 17, while loading a rifle was shot through by the ramrod.

—An old man named Shank was fatally mutilated by a circular saw in a mill at Monterry, Ind.

—Henry McLaughlin, a Philadelphia boy, died from the effects of being struck in the stomach by a base-ball.

—An infant child of Jacob Clerger, living near Ada, O., was strangled to death while being fed from a bottle by its 3-year-old brother.

—James Ault of Washburn, Barry County, Mo., died from the effects of strychnine administered by his mother through mistake for quinine.

—A boy named Isbell fell into a steam vat at the Saginaw (Mich.) Barrel-works and was literally cooked to death.

—A small child of Mr. Joseph Borda of Sandy District, near Charlestown, W. Va., was scalded to death by the negligence of the cook in allowing it to try to lift a kettle of hot water from the stove.

—The little son of Rev. C. J. Cocke, Sulphur Springs, Texas, climbed up on a yard fence, and, falling, his clothes caught on a nail in such a manner as to hang him by the neck and choke him to death.

—John Bryant, a well-to-do farmer, living at Pander Court House, N. C., and his whole family, consisting of five persons, were poisoned, Bryant and two others fatally, from eating wild honey.

—Mrs. Everhart of Union Court House, Ind., was horrified upon awaking the other morning to find her baby dead in her arms. As it had been in perfect health, it was probably smothered to death.

—Henry Dolcater, a well known farmer and stock raiser of Mason County, Ill., was leading a ferocious horse to water, when the animal sprang upon him and trampled him so badly that he died of his injuries next day.

—Shaw & Co.'s mill at Silver Springs, Tenn., blew up on the 16th, killing Sam Brantsford, seriously wounding Kemp and G. Mallen, badly scalding Shaw, and killing a horse. The mill is a total wreck. The boiler in Hawley & Co.'s steam saw-mill at Shelby, Oceana County, Mich., also exploded on the 16th, killing the engineer and seriously wounding two other persons. The mill was entirely destroyed.

Foreign Notes.

—Sir Richard Wallace has given 10 new fountains to the city of Paris, which are to be erected against the walls in different parts of the capital. They are of cast iron, and on the same pattern throughout, like those now seen in the streets. A constant supply of filtered water will thus be at the command of the poorer inhabitants in the vicinity of each.

—The royal plate at Windsor is worth $6,300,000. It includes a gold service ordered by George IV. to dine 140 persons, and a shield formed of snuff boxes worth $50,000. It includes also a peacock of precious stones of every kind, brought from India, worth $150,000, and Tippoo's footstool—a tiger's head with crystal teeth and a solid ingot of gold for his tongue.

—John Bright addressed his constituents at Birmingham on the 16th. He was enthusiastically received. The whole tenor of his speech can be gathered from the concluding sentence, which was: "The Government are imbecile at home and turbulent and wicked abroad. I leave them to the judgment of their constituencies and the heavy condemnation of history."

—At the Marlborough Club, London, Count Shouvaloff, the Russian Ambassador, played away in a few hours a sum equal to his whole salary, and one of the wealthiest Commoners has been so heavily bitten that he is going into bankruptcy for a total exceeding half a million pounds. Another young politician, heir to a historic coronet, who had been going at a terrible pace, was was dragged out of the club to the amazement of the members by his mother, who said, "You are not going to follow Hastings and Newcastle."

—Rudolph, future Emperor of Austria, promises to be an accomplished and scholarly sovereign. He is an excellent linguist, a good scientific student, and has also fine literary abilities. As he desires to speak the language of every race he will one day have to rule over, he is now studying the Turkish, that he may not be at a loss if he ever found himself in Bosnia. He speaks ten languages already, seven or eight of which are used in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. He is very popular with his soldiers, whom he always addresses in Czechian.

—Ada Hungerford, sister of Mrs Mackay (wife of the California millionaire), and star of the American colony at Paris, was recently married at Rome with great pomp to Count Telfener The Pope sent a representative to attend the wedding, which drew out the elite of Roman society, and King Humbert was present at the races with which the day was celebrated. Telfener is connected with railroad operations in South America. He takes his bride to the grand palace built for Victor Emanuel.

—When Bismarck is absent from Berlin serious embarrassment in the business of the Government ensues. The Vice-Chancellor takes his place only when his superior is sick and incapable of attending to affairs. It is therefore necessary, when the Premier is away, to follow him with messengers, and telegraphic dispatches without number; and when he betakes himself to a place like Friedrichsruhe, where he was recently staying, and which is distant almost a day's journey from the capital, and has only two wires communicating with it, the conduct of business necessarily becomes slow and difficult.

A Visit to a Dead City.

Yesterday we visited Carthage, leaving the hotel about 10 in the morning. The drive occupied two hours and then we were on the ground where, 2,000 years ago, stood a city larger than New York and more prosperous. Now all that remains is a mass of stones, almost entirely covered with wheat, sown by the shepherds for their flocks. Only four excavations have been made—the Amphitheater, the wells of the city, and Dido's baths and a little of the city walls. You remember the Bible speaks of the people going "down into the well" and "coming up out of the well." I have just seen such an old well. It was 30 feet deep and about 30 feet in diameter. Beginning at the top and going down to the bottom were steps winding around inside, where the women went with pails or jugs on their heads to draw water.

We wandered over the site of Carthage for an hour or two. Then we began to think of lunch. The dragomen knew the old monks who kept the chapel, erected to the memory of Louis of France over the place where he did not die. So we went there and they offered us their dining-room. The sun was scorching hot, and there was not so much as a palm tree under which to spread our lunch. So we rid ourselves of the romantic idea of eating on sacred ground, where Queen Dido had stood, and spread our repast in a comfortable corner on a table like "Christian dogs," as the Arabs call us.

We started for home at 5 o