

HAPPY NEW YEAR

HISTORICAL RECOLLECTIONS BY THE "GLOBE" FIEND.

How It Was Observed in St. Paul--A Superb Day and Calls Numerous--Sobriety the Order of the Day--Col. Allen's Splendid Feast--The Multitude Throng to See Him--The Day Elsewhere.

Lake a true courtier the year 1880 made its bow to the universe yesterday morning, smiling. Paradoxical as it may seem, every new performance of the resistless magician, and every notch scored by the great annihilator on the mile board of time is received with manifestations of delight the world over.

Without awaiting the pretensions development of the year that was made a year that was born on yesterday, the blushing cherub of Time was received by humanity with open arms, much in the same manner as a bride is accepted at the altar, for better or for worse. In point of weather, a more perfect day than yesterday could not be desirable. Not the least notable feature of the day was the crowning manner in which old Sol conducted himself, who did his level best to make the day a success.

The sun shone resplendently and the air was sweet, crisp and almost as balmy as June. A layer of well packed snow made the best of sleighing, and this species of delightful recreation was enjoyed by an unusually large number of citizens. The time honored custom of observing the advent of the new year can be traced back to the earliest practices of civilization.

In the days of the Roman empire the commencement of the new year was made a day for special rejoicing. Sumptuous feasts were spread, and in honor of the old superstitions, it was the custom for every Roman to propitiate his guiding genius by offerings of frankincense and costly gifts. The favors of Juno, the haughty goddess of the day, were carried by unusual sacrifices, which usually consisted of the offering up of a steer.

The day was marked by one of the principal events in the Roman government, the installation of the emperor, who took their seats on this day amidst the most profound and elaborate ceremonies. By some of the more corrupt emperors the day was signalized by the exaction of rich and costly gifts, and the courtier who made the most valuable presents was accorded the first place in the esteem of the sovereign.

In Japan the advent of the New Year is observed with unusual ceremonies. It is the custom to propitiate the evil and guarding genies, and various are the means employed to accomplish this laudable purpose, which is frequently accomplished by no less an offering than a crawfish.

In Siam and other heathen countries the inhabitants flee into their houses on New Year's, remaining indoors for three days, the superstition being that by so doing they avoid contact with the spirit of evil, which is supposed to be rampant for the period mentioned.

The wassail-bowl and mistletoe celebrations of Scotland and Merry England are too well known to require detailed mention, while on this day all Paris is absorbed in a perfect mania for gift-making. The day is a perfect bonanza for the confectioners, who reap a rich harvest of shekels from the sale of bon-bons, in the giving of which there is manifested a perfect frenzy.

As to America, everybody knows how the New Year is observed in this country. Everybody calls on everyone else, and all are supposed to have a good time generally. It is made the special occasion to form new acquaintances, and most of all, to perpetuate old friendships. Like many other features of modern times, however, the custom has degenerated, and while it has grown in extent, it has lost many of its charming features by assuming the form of a stilted and common place conventionality.

Once was, when the gallant of continental times, in making his rounds on this day, was accorded the privilege of saluting his lady acquaintances with a kiss, but things have changed since the days of the Knickerbockers, and modern society does things differently.

In St. Paul on yesterday the fashion of making calls was observed throughout the city. St. Paul belles are famous for their matchless charm in entertaining. The clatter of hoofs and rush of vehicles kept up a pleasant din in all the resident thoroughfares, and troops of gentlemen callers might have been seen meticulously scanning their list of lady callers as published in yesterday's issue of the Globe. The pernickious, not to say beastly, custom of offering wits and other strong drinks was honored more in the breach than the observance, thanks to the good sense of those receiving. The day and appointments were simply perfect, and everyone seemed to make the best of the opportunity.

Col. Allen's Festival.

A recognized and pleasantly looked forward to feature of the day in St. Paul, especially by the old settlers, is the reception and spread by Col. Allen, of the Merchants' Past experienced the Colonel's army of friends to expect an extra treat yesterday, and they were not disappointed. Eleven o'clock was the hour announced for the spread, but even before that time large numbers of leading citizens began to assemble to pay their respects, extend congratulations and wish their best and friend many returns. At 11 o'clock the doors of the ladies' ordinary were thrown open and the guests invited inside to partake of the feast of good things prepared. And it was a feast. Col. Allen's spreads are famous, but he turns over a new leaf for 1880 by making it more magnificent and tempting than any of its predecessors. The tables were elegantly decorated as well as loaded with all the choicest luxuries attainable. The mammoth punch bowl supplied superb egg-nogg, which, like the widow's crust of oil, was inexhaustible. A happier assembly it would be hard to find, and Col. Allen's health was drunk (and eaten) several hundred times by the multitude of friends who congregated. It seemed as though everybody was there, and it would be easier to enumerate the absentees than those present. We trust that there are a host of "happy New Years" in store for the Colonel. He is sure to make them happy for all his friends, and that includes everybody.

At the Metropolitan.

Cola Belote and Farrington, of the Metropolitan, received their friends in handsome style. Col. Belote himself did the honors, ushering the callers, after the customary compliments had been passed, into the billiard room, where a bonifatil repast of meats

and confections was spread, the whole flanked by a generous bowl of egg-nogg, over which Snyder presided with his accustomed ease and grace.

Visited by His Parishioners.

Yesterday Father Payette, of the Church of St. Louis, was paid a New Year's visit by his parishioners. Services were held at the church, after which the members, in a body, visited their pastor at the parsonage. Happy greetings were the order of the day, and a formal address, full of good feeling and cordial support, was made to the father in behalf of the parish by Mr. Berthiaume. Following this a "Happy New Year" was given and taken, and the visitors departed. On leaving, many placed about the room gifts of various kinds; some of the packages upon being opened were found to contain something more valuable than the marked contents. In one two twenty dollar gold pieces were deposited. The reunion altogether was very pleasant, and the evidence of esteem made manifest is very grateful to Father Payette.

THE PRESIDENTIAL RECEPTION.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.--There was an unusually large attendance to-day at the New Year's reception of President and Mrs. Hayes. The executive mansion was elaborately and tastefully decorated with flags, evergreens and blossoming plants. The chandeliers in all the parlors were trimmed with similar, and cut flowers were used in the greatest profusion to adorn the tables and mantels. The Presidential party consisted of President and Mrs. Hayes, Vice President Wheeler, Mrs. McKee, Miss Matthews, Miss Cook and Miss Martindale, of Indiana, ladies visiting at the executive mansion, Mr. Webb Hayes and Col. Casey. The usual order of reception was observed.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 1.--New Year's day was characterized by a more general observance of the custom of congratulatory calls than for several years past. The weather was warm and a thaw prevailed. No casualties occurred.

MINNESOTA NEWS.

It is reported to be in contemplation to establish a bank at Sleepy Eye next spring.

George Tuft, of Plainview, Wabasha county, lost his house by fire the other day. A portion of the furniture was saved.

Mr. Berry is building a steam mill in Marshall. He has recently removed his family to that place, and taken up his permanent abode there.

A drunken tramp last week spent a night in a barn at East Henderson, Sibley county, and came out in the morning with his feet badly frozen.

Fred Halverson of Urness, armed with an axe, gave chase the other day to a full grown otter, and succeeded in capturing and dispatching him.

Blue Earth county has paid for 161 wolf scalps during the past year. The county pays a bounty of \$5, and the State \$3, making \$8 for each scalp.

J. O. Adams & Co., of St. Paul, are about to build at once, at Fergus Falls, a horse elevator. This firm are building elevators at Brandon and Brighton.

A boy in Faribault the other day fell into a well fifteen feet deep, while drawing water and his sister drew him out with a rope, not much damaged by his cold bath.

Augustus Rider, of Millville, Douglas county, was recently very badly injured by the loss of a gun which he was carelessly and indiscreetly handling. He will recover.

Dan Berry, of Sleepy Eye, while hunting on a late Sunday afternoon, had one of his legs broken in two places. The surgeons chloroformed him and put his leg in proper shape.

On Christmas day A. E. Somerville, of Speezy Eye, was knocked down and run over by some one driving a cutter at break-neck speed. He was much bruised, but fortunately escaped fatal injury.

A postoffice has been established at Kindred (Shell river) in Wadena county, and William Kindred is appointed postmaster. A mail route has also been established between Kindred and Verndale.

On a late morning Thurston Land, living near Fergus Falls, was found lying by the side of a fire which he was carelessly and indiscreetly handling. He will recover.

Dan Berry, of Sleepy Eye, while hunting on a late Sunday afternoon, had one of his legs broken in two places. The surgeons chloroformed him and put his leg in proper shape.

On Christmas morning a fire broke out in the attic of the building in Brainerd owned and occupied by J. M. Hartly, as a fruit and confectionery store. By the most energetic exertions of the "fire bucket brigades" the fire was confined to the building where it originated, thus saving the village from a devastating conflagration. The weather was bitter cold, the thermometer marking from 50 to 52 degrees below zero. Several of the brave men who fought the fire had fingers, ears and toes frozen.

Alexandria (Douglas county) Post, Dec. 26: Rev. John Salmon, minister of the Baptist church, preached his last sermon in the Baptist church about two weeks ago, on the 85th anniversary of his birthday. Last Thursday he walked down town and called in our office for the last time. He complained of feeling very well, went home and lay down, and at 10 o'clock, Sunday evening his spirit entered the Saint's Rest. For all his ministerial labors he never asked nor received a dollar of compensation.

The Little Falls Transcript says: Mr. H. Burrall, of Swan River, has had remarkably good success in the honey business during the past season. Last spring he had twenty-seven swarms, and during the season he stored a little over twenty-one hundred pounds of honey, and now has twenty five swarms in winter quarters. If Mr. Burrall had saved all the swarms, he would now have over seventy; but he adopted a plan to get as much honey as possible without increasing the number of swarms.

A man residing in the western part of Stevens county, and living in his claim shanty, was awakened the other morning by hearing a noise; he awaited developments, and pretty soon off went a roof board from his house, and board after board kept going until nearly half the roof was gone. The owner began to think it was time to investigate this, to him, ool proceeding, so he got up and went out, and discovered a neighbor, busy piling up the lumber on his sleigh. Two more surprised men probably never met, but the owner was equal to the occasion, the thief was compelled to not only replace each board, but also made pay for every article that had disappeared from the premises during the season.

Texas & Pacific Railway Contract.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 1.--It has been authoritatively learned that the contract for the construction of the Texas & Pacific railroad, from Fort Wayne to El Paso, a distance of 750 miles, was signed yesterday. The price paid is said to be \$20,000 per mile in first mortgage bonds of the company.

EUROPEAN EVENTS.

GENERAL AND POLITICAL OLD WORLD NEWS.

The Famine in Persia Increasing--Only Five Months Supplies for Seven Months--Disquieting Rumors in Germany Owing to Reported Negotiations Between France and Russia--Movements of British Troops in Afghanistan--Miscellaneous.

INDIA AND AFGHAN.

PEACE PROPOSALS. LONDON, Jan. 1.--A dispatch from Cabul, dated the 22d, reports among the stipulations presented by Mahomed Jan as a basis for peace, were the retirement to India of the British force at Cabul, and that a promise of arms and food be sent back to the British officers to remain at Cabul as hostages for the fulfillment of the promise.

GEN. BAKER'S WORK. The victory of India telegraphs as follows: Gen. Roberts reports, Dec. 30th, that the force under command of Gen. Baker, which left Cabul on the 27th of December, is returning from Kohistan, having destroyed unopposed the port of the rebel chief Mirobacha, which was found unoccupied. Several Kohistan and Logar chiefs have tendered their submission.

LOSSES OF THE ENEMY. The enemy's losses in killed and wounded during the last fortnight are estimated at 3,000. On the 30th of December Gen. Bright made a descent upon some of the villages where the inhabitants had been prominent in harassing British outposts, and took them by surprise. The weather is fine, but very cold.

RUSSIA.

THE EMPEROR AND CAZAREVICH.

ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 1.--The *Golos* announces it is proposed to enact a special punishment for persons convicted of propagating nihilism doctrines among the troops.

At a review of some of the regiments of the guard yesterday the emperor made a speech to the troops expressing the conviction that they will serve the czarvich as faithfully as they had served him. The emperor then saluted the czarvich. At a dinner given on the anniversary of the crossing of the Balkans, the emperor entered the hall leading the czarina and accompanied by the czarvich.

GENERAL FOREIGN.

FAMINE IN PERSIA.

LONDON, Jan. 1.--A cabinet council will be held Saturday.

The Turkish missions aid society have written to the *Times* regarding the famine in northern Persia, stating they have received a telegram from Osmiah to the effect that the famine in all that region is increasing daily and that unless strenuous efforts be made to send help from England and America a great number of the population must perish. There are only a few months' supply of food to sustain the people for the next seven months.

AID FOR IRELAND.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul in France, has resolved to have a special collection in each of its conferences to relieve the distress in Ireland.

RECALLED.

PARIS, Jan. 1.--Gen. Claidini, Italian minister, has presented to President Grevy his letters of recall.

NEW FRENCH MINISTRY.

LONDON, Jan. 1.--A Berlin correspondent hears from a good source that a circular note has been signed and will be issued by De Freycenet. It will declare that the new ministry will remain true to its former political traditions and will uphold a policy of peace. The same correspondent says: It is doubtful whether Challemel-Lacour's appointment to succeed Comte De St. Vallerie will be welcome here because of his former violent attacks upon Bismarck.

DISQUIETING RUMORS.

LONDON, Jan. 1.--The *Post* has the following from Berlin: Disquieting rumors continue to circulate here regarding the conduct of the French ambassador at St. Petersburg, who is charged with violent Russophobia and with intriguing against Germany. Numerous arrests continue in Russia. A number of army officers have recently been imprisoned, charged with complicity in nihilist plots.

THE TAY DISASTER.

LONDON, Jan. 1.--Diving in the Tay at the scene of the recent bridge disaster has been suspended, owing to boisterous weather. The railway authorities say there is little doubt that the bodies have been washed seaward, and a boat expedition is being organized to search for them.

MISCELLANEOUS.

LONDON, Jan. 1.--A Vienna correspondent announces the Porte has promised to send a special commissioner to Gushnje with a document certifying the transfer of Gushnje and Plava to the Montenegrins.

LONDON, Jan. 1.--A dispatch from Cairo says one of the Abyssinian chiefs who favored an aggressive policy has been recalled from the frontier by King John. It is thought at Cairo that this step indicates the king has adopted a pacific attitude.

LONDON, Jan. 1.--The brigade of Gen. Sir Evelyn Wood, one of the commanders in the Zulu war, by the queen's desire, will accompany the ex-Empress Eugenia to Zululand, in February.

A Vienna correspondent emphatically denies that the Austrians have established a reign of terror in Bosnia and Herzegovina. A Berlin dispatch says 20,000 tons of steel rails have just been ordered in Westphalia for the American market.

The steamer *Anchosia*, from New York, arrived at Millville, yesterday. She lost her quartermaster, and had her boats smashed during heavy weather.

A St. Petersburg dispatch says General Count Paul Ignatieff, president of the ministerial commission, a member of the council of State, and father of Gen. Ignatieff, is dead.

A Berlin correspondent reports Prince Bismarck is expected to arrive at Berlin Sunday. The emperor has specially requested him to return, being of opinion that the climate of Varz is not beneficial to the prince.

An Alexandria dispatch says Ismael Eryoud Pasha has been appointed governor of Sandan vice Garday Pasha resigned.

GRANT IN THE SOUTH.

Enthusiastic Receptions at Savannah, Ga., and Beaufort, S. C.

AUGUSTA, Ga., Jan. 1.--Gen. Grant and party left this morning for Beaufort and Savannah. The day was beautiful and the visitors were waited on by the mayor and councilmen, and escorted to the Union depot by a band of music and the colored military.

SOUTH CAROLINA'S WELCOME.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Jan. 1.--Upon the announcement that Gen. Grant would visit Beaufort, an impromptu reception was arranged this morning by the leading citizens, irrespective of party. An immense concourse of all classes proceeded to the depot with bands of music and a copious display of bunting. Two colored military companies, the Beaufort light infantry and the Sumner guards, were out. The Beaufort volunteer artillery, the crack white company, was on the road leading to town, with one field piece, firing a salute of thirteen guns. Every available vehicle was in requisition to add to the demonstration of welcome.

At half-past 3 the special train arrived with Gen. Grant and party and was greeted with cheers from the crowd of 3,000. The guests were seated in handsome conveyances. Gen. and Mrs. Grant and Col. Wilson were in the first carriage, followed by a procession of citizens. The cavalcade proceeded through the streets, decorated with flags, to the hotel. At the entrance to the town was an arch bearing the word "Welcome," in evergreen. Arriving at the hotel, the mayor extended the hospitality of the town on the part of the citizens in a short speech. Gen. Grant responded as follows:

"It gives me great pleasure to be allowed the opportunity to visit Beaufort, though only for an hour. This locality occupies a conspicuous place in history for the last twenty years. It certainly has the best qualities of the newly emancipated race developed here. I thank you for your hospitable and warm welcome."

AT SAVANNAH.

SAVANNAH, Ga., Jan. 1.--Grant and party arrived at 10 P. M. and were received by the mayor and board of aldermen and collector of port. The colored military, who had been parading in honor of emancipation day, assembled at the depot with a band and when the train rolled in gave loud cheers. Gen. Grant was taken in charge by the mayor, the remainder of the party being accompanied to the hotel by committees of aldermen. The colored military desiring to accompany Gen. Grant, the battalion was formed, and the carriage containing the General and the mayor was escorted from the depot, followed by a large crowd. At the hotel a considerable number of whites were gathered, but there was no demonstration. As the General left the carriage and ascended the hotel steps three cheers were given by the colored military.

WISCONSIN NEWS.

Marathon county is to have a new jail.

Logging is brisk on the Wisconsin river. Neenoh millers have paid a high as \$1.35 per bushel for wheat.

C. O. H. Gill, of Madison, has received \$5,800 average of pension. His business was started with a capital of \$10,000, has been started at Oshkosh.

The Sank County Republican is the name of a new paper just started at Baraboo. There are now 310 convicts in the State prison at Waupun, ten of whom are females.

A Lewis Valley party of hunters have recently killed fourteen deer in Trempealeau county.

A young son of George Beck, of Platteville, had a leg broken and an ankle joint dislocated last week.

With the exception of one house, and two poor shanties, there is not an unoccupied house at Stevens Point.

A convict in the State prison at Waupun committed suicide, the other day, by hanging himself in his cell.

The Primitive Methodist church in Dodgeville has been destroyed by fire. Loss \$6,000. It will be rebuilt.

Christmas night, the dwelling house of Ira Noyes, near Eau Claire, was destroyed by fire. Loss, \$3,000; insured.

A project is said to be in contemplation for the erection of a mill at West Bend for the manufacture of straw paper.

There is a movement on foot to abolish the State board of charity and reform at the approaching session of the legislature.

Ex-Gov. Washburne has tendered the Southwest Wisconsin Industrial association a gift of five acres of land for a fair ground.

Bishop Henni, of Milwaukee, has so far recovered from his late, severe and dangerous sickness as to be able to sit up and receive his friends.

At Merrillan, the other day, a car of the Great Northern Minnesota railroad, loaded with rags, took fire from spontaneous combustion, and was destroyed. Loss, \$700.

The heaviest tax payers of Fond du Lac are making a movement to lessen taxation. A meeting has been held and committee appointed to suggest appropriate legislation.

A Frenchman in Chippewa county shot and killed a desperado, the other day, who was laboring under delirium tremens. The verdict of the coroner's jury was justifiable homicide.

It is reported that a Deperre merchant last fall, in the absence of his wife, seduced their two female servants, each of whom is about to become a mother. His wife has sued for a divorce.

Detective John Barry, of Milwaukee, has been in the neighborhood of Grand Rapids for four weeks investigating matters pertaining to the recent incendiary fire and supposed existence of a kluks organization, the alleged object of which is to work against Cochran, the bank cashier, who shot Judge Hayden.

It is reported that the Oneida Indians, at their reservation near Green Bay, have concluded to change their system of government, by dispensing with a chief and adopting a representative form of government, to consist of a board of councillors and a lower house--in essence a republican form of government.

On Christmas night a boy 17 years old, named Alex. McCommond, residing in Oshkosh, was badly frozen and narrowly escaped death. The boy had been out with another boy named Haywood, and both had become intoxicated. In endeavoring to get home in the evening, McCommond was so drunk that he dropped down on the sidewalk and went to sleep. He will lose a few fingers but will recover.

DOWN IN MAINE.

PREPARING FOR WAR IN TIME OF PEACE.

The State House Approaches and Interior Guarded by Armed Men--The Charges of Bribery and Intimidation Against Republicans to be Investigated--The Governor's Questions to the Supreme Court--New Democratic Daily--Miscellaneous.

THE GOVERNOR'S QUESTIONS.

BOSTON, Jan. 1.--The *Herald's* Augusta special says: It appears that not a single member of the executive council agreed with the governor in his determination to ask the opinion of the supreme court on the questions telegraphed last night. Pillsbury too, was strongly opposed to the plan. But the governor, backed by Mr. Gould, made the concession to public sentiment. But it is safe to say that the governor agrees with the council that the action of the court will have no effect on the result. The count is completed and certificates issued. The questions are so framed that it is expected answers favorable to the fusionists will be given, and if by any chance a contrary result should take place nothing can be done about it. Probably Morrill will concur in this opinion.

THE PROGRAMME.

One of the fusion Senators-elect, Isaac T. Hobson, a Lincoln county Greenbacker of Republican antecedents, has grieved his fusion friends here by declaring that the sole business of the legislature after organizing will be the adjustment of the question of disputed seats, and that nothing else should be done until that is finished. Hobson is one of the members in himself. The fusion managers insist that the election of Governor and State officers must be proceeded with, and the election cases deferred as usual. To settle the contested seats and complete the fraud and bribery investigation contemplated, would be to leave everything at loose ends, and the State without a governor for weeks if not months.

GARCELON'S QUESTIONS.

BANGOR, Jan. 1.--Chief Justice Appleton has summoned all the associate justices of the supreme court to assemble in this city to-morrow to consider the questions propounded by Gov. Garcelon.

COMING CONTESTS.

BOSTON, Jan. 1.--An Augusta dispatch to the *Advertiser* says: It is reported on good authority that the Democrats have arranged for the seats of a number of Republicans, and that in case they should determine to settle the election cases before doing anything else they would turn out another Republican for every one of those counted out whom they saw fit to admit and thus preserve their majority.

NEW DEMOCRATIC DAILY.

The first number of E. T. Pillsbury's new Democratic daily paper, the *Standard*, appeared to-day. It has the following concerning its legislature: The coming session of the legislature will be one of the most important, interesting and exciting ever held in the State. For the first time in twenty-four years the opponents of the Republican party will be in a majority in both branches, and in control of the State government.

READY.

BOSTON, Jan. 1.--A special from Augusta states that the approaches to the State house are closed and guarded, and that armed men are also posted in various parts of the interior of the building, for the purpose of affording the authorities any protection that may be needed.

GUARDING THE CAPITAL.

AUGUSTA, Jan. 1.--The armed guard at the State house is there only in the night time, and then not to keep away any one who has business at the capital. The authorities explain that such force is deemed prudent on account of threats made in public meetings, and otherwise of forcible resistance to regularly constituted authority. It is very quiet here now, nothing of public interest having occurred. Fusionists and Republicans are here in large numbers by Saturday. It is expected the decision of the court at Bangor on the questions at issue will be rendered by Saturday.

COLORADO'S CROW.

Highly Favorable Statistics for 1878--Extraordinary Silver Production of 1879.

DENVER, Col., Jan. 1.--Statistics published this morning show that 1879 has been the most prosperous year of Colorado history. The failures were fewer and the amounts less. Within six months 1,500 new dealers have opened up different branches of trade. The farmers had an unusually fine season and are in easy financial condition, as are all other interests in the State. City merchants have received much patronage that has heretofore gone East. New towns are springing up in every direction and all are prospering. Business in the city shows an increase of fully one-third over 1878. Real estate valued at \$2,700,000 has been transferred. Over 400 brick and stone buildings have been erected, and one hotel costing \$500,000. The cattle shipments from the state were 128,000 head, wool product 7,000,000 pounds, wheat 225,000 bushels and other grains in proportion. The railroad and telegraph companies have been extending their lines rapidly. Total mine production, \$19,110,822, against \$9,820,743 in 1878. Lake county alone increased nearly nine millions. In Leadville the total amount of ores treated was 110,483 tons, realizing \$10,605,106, or \$95 per ton in pure silver and metallic lead, the greatest production ever known in any camp of its age in the history of silver mining. The average during the year has been a little over 335 tons, worth \$9,373 per ton.

Protecting Indians.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 1.--Pleasant Porter, D. M. Hodges and other Creek Indians arrived here to-day from the Nation. They are a committee appointed by the council to bear to Congress and the President a series of resolutions adopted by the representative body of the Nation, protesting against the opening of the Indian Territory to emigration. They claim that the sentiment of their people is almost unanimous against the Oklahoma bill.

Fire at Menomonee, Wis.

Mr. A. O. Bailey received news, yesterday morning, that a double brick building owned by him, at Menomonee, Wis., was burned the night previous. One of the first floor store rooms was occupied as a branch for his St. Paul house, the other by a general store, and the upper floor by offices. Fortunately the collection of furs in Mr. Bailey's store had been shipped to St. Paul Tuesday last. Loss about \$10,000, with only \$2,000 insurance.

THE WEST'S WISHES.

Opinions on the Presidential Question gleaned from Observation Among the People.

[Chicago Times.] Mr. E. L. Merritt, of Springfield, Ill., for a long time editor of the *State Register*, was in the city on yesterday. Mr. Merritt recently returned from a prolonged and extensive business trip through the Western States. Being a politician by second nature, and a fairly close observer of things, his opinion of the situation in the West was sought by a representative of the *Times*, who met him in the Sherman house.

THE GRANT BOOM HAS WEAKENED THAT CANDIDATE IN THE WESTERN STATES.

"The feeling," said he, "among the masses in Iowa and Nebraska especially, is strong for Blaine. The hummers and place hunters want Grant, but the people at large do not want for him. And Minnesota may be pulled down to the same category. When you get down to the voting Republicans of any of these States, and especially the Germans--the people, that is, who shape political results in a State and furnish the sinews of war--you find them for Blaine."

"Are they any more for Blaine than they were before Grant returned to the country?" he was asked.

"Yes, I think the feeling is more enthusiastic, because they see it is going to be necessary to make a fight for their man."

"What is Blaine's chance?"

"Because he is more of a stalwart politician than Grant ever was. They like a man who talks loud and makes a bluster in a canvass. There is the feeling that Grant, who used to be a Democrat--and was a Democrat when the war broke out--is liable to be indifferently Republican. Although he has acted with the Republican party, and owes himself to them, and did some very radical things while he was President, they can't help thinking that he is not the partisan a Republican candidate for the Presidency ought to be, especially in such a canvass as we are about to have. Blaine on the other hand suits them exactly. He is the 'best Republican' exactly as before the war the man who damned the niggers and made the best money against the abolitionists was the 'best Democrat.'"

"WHAT IS THE CONDITION AND FEELING OF THE DEMOCRAT IN THE WESTERN STATES so far as you have observed it?"

"Well, of course the Democracy of Iowa and Nebraska (where I spent most of my time) are in a minority that, for the present, at least, is hopeless; but in Nebraska I found their organization as perfect and as solid as that of the Republicans."