The Sun.

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THE EXCITEMENT IN MAINE.

RUMORS OF AN INTENDED ATTEMPT TO CAPTURE THE STATE HOUSE.

The Building Guarded by Armed Men—When Gov. Garcelon's Term Expires—Questions to be Submitted to the Supreme Court—Eugene Hale's Warning to Gov. Garcelon.

AUGUSTA, Dec. 31.—The excitement here increased to-day by a rumor that the Dover military company, which voted the other day to come to Augusta and help by force of arms to seat Corporal Davis, were coming to this city to-night, but diligent inquiry failed to substantiate the rumor. Leading Republicans say that there is no foundation for it, and that all such rumors spring only from the imaginations of timid men. The argument that Gov. Garcelon's term expires to-morrow receives no support from intelligent men. Gov. Garcelon was to-night asked about it, and he said that it was a humbug, that his term of office did not expire until noon on Wednesday, Jan. 7, and that Mr. Haynes could not by any possible means be declared Governor. Mr. A. P. Gould was also questioned about the same subject, and he said that there was nothing in it, that the term of office of the Governor extended one year from the first Wednesday in January—that is, from one first Wednesday to the next first Wednesday. "Why," said Mr. Gould, "the very fact that the Constitution declares that the term of Senator expires the day before the first Wednesday of January precludes all possibility of Mr. Haynes ever being declared the Governor. It can't be done. His term of office, therefore, expires the day previous to Gov. Garcelon's." Other legal gentlemen are of the same opinion.

Stories about town conflict greatly. Some men are certain that an attempt is to be made to-night or to-morrow night to capture the State House by force; others are just as confident that nothing whatever will be done in that direction. A great many are still inclined to believe that a conflict will be had between the Republicans and the State authorities, but the more sensible are inclined to believe that if the necessary precautions are taken by the Governor no trouble will ensue. Intense impatience is noticeable on every hand, and the greatest solicitude is manifested by men of all parties as to the events of the next few days. A force of nearly seventy-five men, under the charge of Superintendent Lancaster, are quartered at the State House, armed and prepared to resist any attack that may be made upon that building.

The military officers summoned from Bangor had an interview with the Governor to-day in reference to the propriety of the calling out of the militia companies, should they be needed. The officers promised to obey the orders of the Governor so long as he was in office. The Governor spoke in strong language in opposition to calling out military companies.

Gov. Garcelon to-night finished his preparation of the questions of law to be submitted to the Supreme Court for consideration. They are based upon the law points contained in Mr. Morrill's proposition, but do not contain the questions of fact therein set forth. The decision of the court, either affirmatively or negatively, can have no bearing upon the result of the canvass, and the questions are only asked for the purpose of instructing the Governor in his duties under the Constitution, and informing the Legislature what its duties are. The Governor was assisted in the preparation of the questions by the Hon. A. P. Gould of Thomaston.

ELLSWORTH, Dec. 31.—At an indignation meeting held here last night ex-Congressman Eugene Hale spoke. He said that he had not yet fully got back his strength after his late illness, and should need it all in the conflict which would set in on the first Wednesday of January at Augusta. He had been elected and certificated as a member of the House of Representatives, and should have an official part in the conflict, and it was not fitting that he should seek to inflame the people. Then, referring to the manner in which the returns were canvassed, he said: "It is a gigantic and appalling conspiracy to seize the Government of Maine, and it does not mean to stop until the electoral vote in 1880 is either secured to the Democrats or tainted so that it cannot be counted." Concerning the threats that the Republicans intended to resort to arms, he said:

> Tell me what manifestation there has been of this. While the plot has been unfolded before our eyes they shut us public records never exhibited from inspection; they refused to let the Republican Secretary of State and Mr. Emery, when they courteously sought access, they rudely thrust from their doors elected members who desired to look at returns on which their seats were based, and yet no man in the Republican party stirred in silent protest. They, on a peaceful Christmas, without taking pains to get an official order, and against a sworn injunction of the Court, seized the public streets of Bangor, selecting the most frequented ways for the purpose, arms and munitions of war, and when people of this gallant city assembled to see the show by thousands, almost road at the outrage, a single word from the Mayor and other leading citizens dispersed them like magic, and to-day, to put new humiliation on Bangor, which elected three Republican Congressmen, and so could not be counted out, the Adjutant-General has appeared on the scene, and arms and munitions have been taken from the jewelers' shops of Bangor. For what reason is it proposed to summon the Irish company from Portland to preside over the inauguration next week? Those men, while they howl against violence, are with marble faces and unblushing impudence the perpetrators of violence by which they can shift the issue and yet hold their plunder and booty. They build upon the well known moderation, forbearance and conservatism of the Republican party—forbearance and moderation which has been shown all through this villainy—such forbearance and moderation as never has been exhibited before by any party in circumstances. How much further will they dare to go? I am in favor of peace. I want it kept. I want a pure and peaceable election. I want the information from the dancers which lead us. I yet hope for and expect it, though I shall not dwell upon the ways by which it can be brought about. Let its hope for that, long for that, pray for that. But we eight men who stand as the dogs have sat before in places that seemed safe and rock-rooted, but which yet were only an inch from the volcano, I warn you that if you go too far in your experiments upon the forbearance and moderation of the citizens of the State of Maine.

FUN IN BROOKLYN.

The New Year's Eve Athletic Games of the Twenty-third Regiment.

The Twenty-third Regiment of Brooklyn ushered in the new year with what was called an "Athletic Stag Racket," consisting of running, walking, bicycle races, turns-of-war, sparring, jumping, a three-legged race, wrestling, a hurdle race, a jockey race, singing, and a variety of fun not down in the bills. Although an admission fee of half a dollar was charged, there was an audience of nearly 2,000 men. The first four fifty-yard dashes were won by R. M. Winans, G. C. Neidlinger, D. R. Aldridge, and W. H. Handy. The final heat was won by G. C. Neidlinger in 6¼ seconds. The one-mile walk was won by F. H. Wells of Company B, in 8 min. 21½ sec. S. G. Chapin was second man, in 8 min. 56 sec.

The three-mile bicycle race was exciting. On the last lap of the first mile the men were well together going round a turn. T. Hood Muir was trying to pass J. W. Daniels and Daniels fell, and Muir fell over him. Then the next instant R. A. Maxwell fell over the two. All three men were bruised, but none was seriously hurt. Maxwell was up and off first, but his machine was injured so that the right handle was almost useless. Muir's machine was so disabled that he was practically out of the race. Maxwell won easily in 13 minutes 47 seconds.

The first light weight tug of war was won by Company F in 10 minutes. They pulled Company K out of it in 6 minutes. The second light weight tug of war was won by Company E's team, who pulled Company B's team three inches, after a very close struggle, in 10 minutes. The two-mile walk was won by S. C. Chapin of Company D after a very close contest with K. B. Butler, in 19 minutes 41 seconds. The standing broad jump was won by T. C. Roberts of Company G, who jumped 8 feet 11¾ inches.

The first heavy weight tug of war was won by Company D's team in 2 minutes 47 seconds. They pulled over Company A's team easily. The second tug of war for heavy weights was won easily, in 1 minute 24 seconds by Company E's team.

The 440-yard hurdle race and four hurdles, 2½ feet high, was won easily by G. C. Neidlinger of Company B in 1 min. 9¼ sec. The final test for light weights was won by Company F's team. The final tug for heavy weights was between teams from Companies D and K. Company E's team won.

A feature of the evening was the singing by the quartet of Company F, consisting of Rose Randell, D. J. Smith, Luke Jones, and Frank Davis. The evening's enjoyment was wound up with jolly songs, blowing of tin horns, and shouting the old year out and the new year in.

Shot in the Eye by his Jealous Wife.

ROCHESTER, Dec. 31.—Andrew Jackson Hall, a young married man, who lived in this street, was shot in the right eye this afternoon with a small pistol by his jealous wife. She is a Catholic and he a Protestant. They had been separated for a year on account of religious difficulties, and she charges infidelity to his marriage vows. He will probably die, although still alive with a bullet in his brain.

AMUSEMENTS.

Production of Gilbert & Sullivan's New Opera, "The Pirates of Penzance."

"The Pirates of Penzance" received what may be considered as essentially its first representation at the Fifth Avenue Theatre last evening, for though it was played once on Monday afternoon of the present week at a little obscure theatre in an out-of-the-way English town, that was done simply to preserve to the authors an English copyright in their play, which would have been sacrificed by its prior performance in this country.

It is the good fortune of Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan to attract to the first nights of their productions the most notable audiences of the representative people of this city, and such a one was gathered last evening at the Fifth Avenue Theatre.

These gentlemen are fully entitled to the enthusiasm that their works receive, for they have succeeded in giving to the public something that has long been waited for, but which they are the first to have created—works in which an amusing plot is illustrated by excellent music.

The French theatre has given the same thing, but disfigured for the most part by indecency, and obscured to the general audience by the veil of a foreign language. As for the musical extravaganzas first brought here by the Lydia Thompson company, and under which our good-natured public suffered for years, they were as imbecile in their musical structure as they were in their plot and dialogue. The translations from the French opera bouffe, of which there have been many, have preserved the coarseness of their originals and lost the whole of their brightness and vivacity.

It was left, therefore, for Gilbert and Sullivan, and, also, for Gilbert and Clay, working in the same direction in the opera of "The Princess Toto," to produce works appealing to us in our own vernacular, sparkling with humorous dialogue, refined in suggestion, pure in style, admirable in dramatic situation, and embellished with music, at the same time musically and popular. Such a work is "The Pirates of Penzance, or the Slave of Duty."

The two questions that would naturally be asked by those who were not present at the first representation would be, first, whether the piece was successful, and, secondly, is it as good as "Pinafore?" Both of these inquiries we should be inclined to answer affirmatively. Its success with the audience was instantaneous. The points—and it bristles with them—were immediately appreciated, and the performance was constantly stopped by the laughter and applause that attended the humorous parts.

As for a comparison with "that infernal nonsense, 'Pinafore,'" as one of the characters in the present play calls it, it can fairly be made, since the two come from the same hands. Gilbert's share of the present work is even brighter than in the former opera. It is full of points and happy witticisms. As for Mr. Sullivan, he has evidently spared no pains to prevent himself from falling behind his previous reputation, and has given to the "pirates" even a more elaborate and carefully written score, and a broader and more scholarly treatment than he brought to the composition of the "Pinafore."

To many it will probably seem at first that the music is less spontaneous than that of the earlier work, where so many happy melodies and striking rythms were hit upon, but the music, like most really good melody, will find more favor as it grows more familiar. The present work has also the advantage of two scenes, instead of the one which made the scenic part of the "Pinafore" a little monotonous.

It would be almost useless to try to give a summary of the plot of the opera. It is a wild tangle of nonsense such as Gilbert's humor delights in. Everything is turned topsy turvy in a bewildering maze of the most delightful absurdity.

Nothing happens in it from beginning to end that every could possibly have happened in actual life, and yet it is all as coherent as though it were true, like some ridiculous dream that does not seem in the least strange while you are dreaming it. The very title shows how bold the absurdities are, the pirates being supposed to have their lair near one of the pretty towns on the west of England coast, where *Major-General Stanley* of the British army is quartered. His twenty-four daughters, wandering about on the seashore, fall in with the twenty-four pirates, who propose to marry them at once, in spite of the protests of the father. But they are pirates with the keenest sense of honor and the most tender and sensitive feelings—so tender, in fact, that they always make it a rule never to molest an orphan.

The Major-General informs them that he is one, whereupon the twenty-four daughters are released. The pirates take great credit to themselves for this act of poetic justice, and everybody kneels, and a "Hymn to Poetry," a very effective piece of writing, concludes the first act. The second act is laid in a ruined chapel—a very beautiful scene of a vista of Gothic arches with ivy about them.

To this the Major-General has retired to commune with the spirits of his ancestors, being torn with remorse for having told the pirates a false story when he said that he was an orphan when in reality he was not. To this place all the pretty daughters come in their Swiss muslin morning dresses with pink and blue sashes and caps to match. The pirates and the constabulary come also, and the act is full of the most pleasing music—the policemen's chorus and duet with Frederic in unison being drollier than anything in the "Pinafore." The play ends with the betrothal of the girls to the pirates, who turn out to be young noblemen who have temporarily "gone astray" rather for the fun of the thing, and who resume their rank and titles. Such a synopsis as this does no justice to the humor of the affair, and only serves to show the thread of absurdity upon which it is strung.

The cast with which the opera is given follows:

Richard, a pirate chief ..... Mr. Breeckhi
Samuel, his lieutenant ..... Mr. F. Cook
Frederic, a pirate apprentice ..... Mr. Hugh Talbot
Maj.-Gen. Stanley of the British army ..... Mr. J. H. Ryley
Edward, a sergeant of police ..... Mr. F. Clifton
Mabel, Gen. Stanley's youngest daughter ..... Miss Blanche Roosevelt
Kate, Edith ..... (Gen. Stanley's daughters) ..... Miss Rosina Brandram, Miss Jessie Bond
Isabel, Marian ..... (Gen. Stanley's daughters) ..... Miss Emma Barrow
Ruth, a piratical maid of all work ..... Miss Alice Barnett

Taken as a whole, the opera was admirably represented. The scenes were both very pretty, and the pretty female chorus were dressed most picturesquely in the old quaint English style, in such hats as Sir Joshua Reynolds and Gainsborough painted the lovely women who sat to them, and in dresses rich and effective in combinations and contrasts of color. Little allowance was needed for any of the characters. Mr. Ryley made a distinct success in the character of the Major-General, a sort of army duplicate of the *Sir Joseph Porter*. Mr. Breeckhi was no less effective as the pirate chief, and his fine voice added to the excellence of his personation. Mr. Talbot, the tenor, had unfortunately apparently not thought it necessary to commit his lines, and made nonsense of much of his role, reflecting no credit upon himself, and nearly bringing the play at times into confusion. Miss Blanche Roosevelt was the heroine, than whom a prettier or more picturesque one could not be found. Her voice is fairly managed, but it is thin in texture and not always true. But these slight blemishes did not materially mar the performance or prevent the general impression that in "The Pirates of Penzance" the "Pinafore" will find its rival in public favor.

RELIEF FOR IRELAND.

The Land League to Distribute Assistance—The Duchess of Marlborough Fund.

LONDON, Dec. 31.—The Mayor of Limerick has received a letter from the President of St. Patrick's Society in Chicago, Ill., informing him that he has forwarded $500 for the relief of the distressed poor in Ireland.

At a meeting in Galway of a committee of the Irish Land League, a report was read from Mr. Michael Davitt, Relief Commissioner, on the distress in the west of Ireland, and it was resolved that the League shall undertake to receive and distribute any assistance that may be intrusted to them. Resolutions were also adopted recommending the formation of branches of the League in every parish in Ireland, with sub-branches on every large estate, and land clubs in the towns and cities of Ireland, and in the centres of the Irish population in England, Scotland, and America.

DUBLIN, Dec. 31.—The fund instituted by the Duchess of Marlborough for the relief of distress in Ireland now amounts to $1,500.

Dr. McEvilly, coadjutor of the Archbishop of Tuam, in acknowledging the receipt of £5,000 from the churches of Cardinal Manning's diocese in England, says that no amount of private charity can cope with the approaching famine in Ireland, and that a system of remunerative public works can alone be effectual.

Messrs. Poole & Donnelly have offered free of any charge the use of the Grand Opera House for the entertainment that is about to be given under the auspices of the Ladies' Lecture Bureau in aid of the suffering poor of Ireland. The performance will be of an exceedingly character, ladies alone taking part, and all the lecturers and ticket takers will be ladies. Offers of aid have already been received from many ladies, including professors, actresses, and lecturesses, and others who may desire to take part should address Celia Logan and Cynthia Leonard at 46 West Fourteenth street.

NEARLY 30 MILES OF BRIDGE

AT PLACES AS HIGH AS THE STRUCTURE OVER THE FIRTH OF TAY.

Shorter Curves than those on the Bridge at Dundee—Traversed with Vastly Greater Frequency—What Manager Winslow Says.

The bridge across the Firth of Tay, Scotland, which has recently been brought to the knowledge of the world by the most terribly complete railroad accident on record, was but 10,340 feet in length—a little less than two miles—and was divided into eighty-nine spans. It was supposed that whatever was in the power of science to accomplish in making a bridge secure, even under the most extraordinary conditions of elemental disturbance to which the structure was subjected, had been done in this case. The bridge was of iron, of an approved truss pattern, and scientific calculations had so conclusively established—on paper—its exceptional strength that those acquainted with its construction do not yet believe that it could have even been shaken by the storm; but, to account for the awful catastrophe of its fall, they insist that the train must have jumped the rails, and by its leverage twisted and torn down the section that gave way. This was indeed the theory generally expressed by railroad men in this city yesterday in speaking of the disaster.

The Tay bridge was the longest in the world crossing water, but was very short by comparison with some bridges over land. Of this latter class there are now in operation twenty-seven miles, and by the first of February next there will be thirty-two miles, in the city of New York alone. Those gigantic bridges are the elevated railroads. Two of them—the Third avenue road and that in Sixth and Eighth avenues—are each eleven miles long; the one in Ninth avenue is five miles long, and that nearly completed on Second avenue will be five miles in length. These are bridges just as much as the structure across the Firth of Tay was a bridge, and they resemble that ill-fated piece of engineering in many respects. They are in the main iron truss bridges, resting on piers and foundations of iron and stone, supposably solid, even where the greatest difficulties in the way of secure ground and quicksands have had to be overcome. Where the iron truss pattern is not followed, as on the Sixth avenue line, they are of rolled plate girders, with riveted longitudinal sections on top and bottom, heavier but stronger than the truss form. The Tay bridge was double curved. These long bridges have in them a number of curves much shorter than those of the Tay bridge; and if, as is supposed, the wheels of the train mounted the rail on that long curve, it is hardly an impossibility that these shorter curves would raise the wheels on the rails of our long bridges, above the grip of their flanges. The Tay bridge, where it broke, is eighty feet high. At one point, at least, one of our bridges, that on the Eighth avenue line at 110th street, is almost as high. It is seventy feet from the track down to the ground, and that on a curve.

Gen. Winslow, General Manager of the Manhattan Railway Company, says that on each of these elevated roads, or bridges, a force of careful and competent track walkers is maintained. These men patrol the tracks day and night, seeing that everything is kept in repair. The service of a track walker is a highly responsible one, requiring more skill and care than is necessary for the discharge of kindred duty on a surface road, and the authorities endeavor to procure the best men attainable for it. Their work is performed under not a small difficulties and dangers. On the Third avenue road trains run day and night. On the Sixth and Eighth avenue line they run from 5 A. M. to 12 P. M. How frequently they run the following exhibit of trains per hour in a single day will show:

	Sixth Avenue.	Third Avenue.		Sixth Avenue.	Third Avenue.
5:30 to 7 A. M.	27	37	6 to 7 P. M.	26	77
7 to 8 A. M.	19	78	7 to 8 P. M.	20	38
8 to 9 A. M.	19	76	8 to 9 P. M.	19	26
9 to 10 A. M.	26	80	9 to 10 P. M.	18	25
10 to 11 A. M.	22	54	10 to 11 P. M.	18	24
11 to 12 M.	19	29	11 to 12 M.	19	23
12 to 1 P. M.	20	24	12 to 1 A. M.	14	14
1 to 2 P. M.	20	23	1 to 2 A. M.	—	9
2 to 3 P. M.	21	25	2 to 3 A. M.	—	8
3 to 4 P. M.	21	27	3 to 4 A. M.	—	8
4 to 5 P. M.	30	40	4 to 5 A. M.	—	9
5 to 6 P. M.	29	90			

On the Sixth avenue line the same number of trains go north and south in each hour, so that in the tabulated statement but one-half the number of passenger trains for any given sixty minutes is stated. On the Third avenue line the trains going north and those going south vary in number at different times of the day, though they even up in the course of the twenty-four hours. There were in motion, on the day of the Tay bridge disaster, on the Sixth avenue line 788 trains, and on the Third avenue 870. These numbers are sometimes largely increased on special emergencies. On the evening of Dec. 30, between 5 and 8 o'clock there were 93 trains, of four cars each, started north over the Metropolitan road from the Recton street stations.

Track walkers have to look out for themselves when a train comes along, by either stepping aside to a cross girder or dropping down below the ties. Repairs, when necessary, are made after midnight, when trains are few on the Third avenue line and stopped altogether on the Sixth and Ninth. Does not the wisdom, or gratifying lack of necessity for repairs, except of the most trivial character, encourages the managers of the roads to believe in the stanchness of their structures.

It is authoritatively denied by Gen. Winslow that there is any intention of laying the Third avenue road up for repairs as soon as the road on the Second avenue is completed, a rumor which has obtained circulation among the residents of Harlem and Yorkville. He says that no such extensive repairs are needed, and it is not intended to diminish the accommodation of the public by laying off either road.

BOSTON'S MYSTERIOUS TRAGEDY.

The Shooting of Mrs. Ward while in Bed, as is Supposed by her Daughter.

BOSTON, Dec. 31.—Additional details of the shooting of Mrs. Ward, yesterday morning, as is supposed by her daughter, afford no clue to any motive whatever for the act. The affair was the subject of comment last night, but no one is able to justify a charge that the shooting was in any way the result of malice. The girl was visited at the police station last night, and wept bitterly over her situation. She expressed the most sincere affection for her mother, and begged that she be not interred until she can see her. The friends of the young woman assert that it must have been a case where great nervous excitement made her entirely irresponsible for the act, even if it were committed by her.

The daughter will probably remain in jail until Jan. 7, and will then have an examination in the Municipal Court. The Medical Examiner held an autopsy upon the body of Mrs. Ward to-day, which developed the fact that two shots were fired, one of them in the forehead, fracturing but not entering the skull, the other entering behind the ear, and passing into the brain, causing death. The bullet was extracted from the brain, and a flattened bullet, which undoubtedly caused the wound on the forehead, was found on the floor of the room. This involves the case in deeper mystery, as the gentleman who lent the revolver to the ladies for their protection says that he left one chamber unloaded for fear of hammer to rest in as a precaution against premature explosion, and the revolver, when found, had only two empty chambers. Friends of Mrs. Ward testify to the affectionate relations existing between mother and daughter, and no motive for the commission of the deed has yet been discovered.

ACCUSED OF ILLEGAL VOTING.

Why Buffalo's Street Commissioner Elect Cannot Take Office on New Year's Day.

BUFFALO, Dec. 31.—Michael Maher, the Street Commissioner elect of this city, was arrested to-day on a charge of illegal voting at the November election. The affidavit presented by George W. Mason, the present Deputy Street Commissioner, charges Maher with having voted at Prescott, Ontario, in 1867, 1868, and 1869, and of first coming to Buffalo in 1863. They also charge Maher with having obtained his papers on March 4, 1870, under the false representation that he came to the United States in 1846, and that he had continually resided here since. The affidavit, which seems to make a clear case, alleges that Maher had children born to him in 1854 and 1859, and that he lived in Buffalo at the time of that time. Maher appeared before Police Justice King and the examination was ordered for the 8th of January, the prisoner, in the meantime, going up on his own recognizance. Maher is a politician of the strongest Republican stripe, and is charged by Democrats with having done a good deal of political dirty work at the last election, and in that way was able to get the nomination and election to the office of Street Commissioner. He was to have taken his office to-morrow, and there is much speculation among politicians as to what the upshot will be.

Saving the Price of Milk.

Mix Jenkins's prepared buckwheat with cold water; have griddle hot. Delicious cakes in five minutes.—*Adv.*

TIDINGS FROM GEN. HATCH.

The Indians Offered for Surrender Permitted to go Away on a Hunt.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—Mr. Schurz to-day received two despatches from Gen. Hatch, written at Cline's Ranch on the 29th and 30th inst. One of them says that among the Indians offered for surrender on the 25th inst., but whose surrender was not received, were Douglass (the hostiles' chief) and several other of the principal culprits concerned in the Meeker massacre. The last sentence of the other despatch seems to indicate that after Gen. Hatch refused to receive the surrender of these Indians they were permitted to go to the lower Grand River on a hunt for game, and that they are not likely to be found again for a month. Mr. Schurz entertains doubt as to this being the real meaning of the despatch sent, and has telegraphed for explicit information. Cline's Ranch, at which these despatches are dated, is ten miles nearer than Los Pinos to the White River Agency, and twenty-five miles nearer to Lake City. It is inferred that Gen. Hatch and his party do not consider themselves in danger, as these despatches do not express any apprehension of that kind.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—A determined effort is being made to cause the Administration to declare war against the Utes in advance of definite information of the results of the labors of the Peace Commission. Army officers from the beginning have ridiculed the efforts which have been made to obtain the peaceable surrender of the Indians engaged in the Meeker massacre. Gen. Sherman believes that the only way to deal with troublesome Indians is to kill them, regardless of whether their treaty rights have been trampled upon or not. The people of Colorado are anxious to occupy the valuable mineral lands owned by the Utes, and the press despatches sent from Denver concerning the Ute troubles are designed to create public sentiment against the Indians. The best proof of this is the fact that official despatches received at the Interior Department from agents of the Government and members of the Ute Commission contain nothing calculated to excite apprehension for the safety of Gen. Hatch and the party, or whites now supposed to be en route for Lake City. No information has been received here to indicate that the labors of the Commission have been futile. The delays which have occurred in surrendering the hostile Indians to the Commission can be appreciated from a statement made by Congressman Belford of Colorado to-day in relation to the journey of Gen. Hatch and party. Mr. Belford said it is 120 miles by the wagon road and 40 miles by the trail to Lake City. The snow is 20 feet deep on the mountains, and for Hatch to reach Lake City he must cross one of the mountain ranges. If he goes by the wagon road he can only travel on buck boards. From this statement some idea of the difficulty under which the Indians labor in bringing into camp on foot the murderers of Meeker and the accomplices can be formed. Mr. Belford is doing all in his power to cause the removal of the entire tribe of Utes from Colorado. He desires that the sins of a few members of the White River tribe be visited upon all of the Utes in the State. The refusal of Congress before adjournment to permit the holding of a joint resolution which involved a rupture of treaty stipulations with the Utes is considered indicative of a desire on the part of the majority to deal fairly with the tribe. The injustice of taking definite steps to oust the Utes from any portion of their country in advance of a fair hearing of their side of the question is apparent. Carl Schurz is in favor of removing the White River band from Colorado, and it is more than likely that if the tribe refuses peacefully to abandon their old homes they will be compelled to depart by force.

DOWN AN EMBANKMENT.

A Sleeping Car Badly Wrecked and Many of its Occupants Injured.

CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—The *Times'* special from Minneapolis says that the Chicago express train on the Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad, coming north, met with an accident at Mendota, seven miles south of Minneapolis, this morning. The train was two hours late, and reached the scene of the disaster at about 9 o'clock. It consisted of the express and baggage cars, two coaches, and the sleeping car Rembina. It had just pulled out at a slow rate of speed from St. Paul junction, and was rounding a curve on an embankment sixty feet high, and approaching a bridge under which the St. Paul and Sioux City track, twenty feet below, passes. From the Sioux City track the road ascends about twelve feet to the river below.

Owing, it is thought, to a broken rail—broken by the express car after the locomotive had passed over it—when about 150 feet from the trestle work, all the cars except the "smoker" jumped the track. The sleeping car was pitched over the embankment, turning twice over in its descent, more or less injuring every occupant. When the *Times'* correspondent reached the scene of the disaster, the sleeper lay at the bottom of the embankment a complete wreck. The car was lying on its top, with that portion of it crushed out of all semblance to a roof, the left-hand side reduced to a mass of debris, and scarcely anything recognizable about it save the bottom. The trucks, fortunately, on the descent had lodged on the Sioux City track. In the hall, seats, bedding, and timbers were scattered in the utmost confusion, and the wonder is that any human being in the car escaped with his life.

The injured are: Dr. D. A. Stewart of Winona, seriously, internally, it is believed; head cut and otherwise bruised.

Prof. H. C. Whitney; left foot so injured that the amputation of about half of it will be necessary; cut about the head, and bruised on the head; bruised in the back and about the limbs.

The Rev. J. H. Coonry; cut about the head and bruised about the body.

Ed. J. Blood, Redwing; injured internally and about the back, but probably not seriously; slight cut in the forehead; bruised about the head, bruises from the weight found on his legs.

Mrs. E. J. Blood; wrist dislocated, arm and body bruised, and right ear torn.

Mrs. Prior; bruised about the head and body. Her boy was slightly injured.

Henry A. Platt, the colored porter; right arm bruised, back of head cut, and numerous bruises about the body.

Mrs. Prior and son were taken out without much difficulty, and the Rev. Mr. Cowdry managed to get out of the wreck with but little assistance, wielding, in his endeavors to do so, his pocketknife, which was broken in the attempt. Mrs. Prior's little boy was almost the first out. Blood volunteered to get Mrs. Blood from the ruins. Prof. Whitney and Dr. Darling Stewart was buried beneath the thickest of the debris, and were not removed till the whole immense weight of the wreck had been lifted by the united effort of every available man within call. They were the most seriously injured. The wounded were removed to a coach, and surgical attendance was sent from Minneapolis to their relief.

WHAT DR. MOSS AVERS.

That the Health of 300 Western Union Operators is Endangered.

Dr. Moss of 240 East Thirty-fourth street, last week wrote to the Health Board that he had several patients in his care who were operators in the main office of the Western Union Telegraph Company, and whose illness was caused by breathing the vitiated air of the operators' room in the seventh story of the big building at Broadway and Liberty street. There were 300 operators, male and female, he said, whose health was thus endangered, and pale countenances were conspicuous among them, owing to the cerebral troubles caused by the bad air, combined with the effects of heat and electricity. The company, he added, was aware of the condition of the premises, but pleaded poverty as an excuse for not mitigating it.

The letter was handed to Sanitary Inspector Tracy, who yesterday reported as to the condition of the premises complained of. The operating rooms, his report says, is 23 feet high, and contains 200,000 cubic feet. These dimensions not only do not supply sufficient air for the 300 operators, but the atmosphere is vitiated by the impure air rising from the elevator shafts, which end in the story beneath, and conduct nearly all the bad air in the building to that seventh story. The air in the operating room is further rendered impure, says the report, by the proximity of a number of closets, and the operators take cold from the windows being single. The report adds that the company is willing to remedy the defects, but knows no way of so doing. It advises that the elevator shafts be continued to the roof, so as to no longer discharge their impurities in the building and that communication with the closets be cut off; and further, that means be taken for supplying pure air to the operating room, and that double windows be provided.

The report was sent to the counsel for the Board.

Two Boys Sentenced to be Hanged.

MASSILLON, O., Dec. 31.—Judge Meyer this afternoon overruled the motion for a new trial, and sentenced Gustave Ohr and George Mann to be hanged May 7. They are boys, 17 years old and were convicted of the murder of John Wattmough of Philadelphia, in August last, near Alliance, O.

THE SHOOTING AT ALFONSO.

THE KING UNMOVED, BUT THE YOUNG QUEEN GREATLY AGITATED.

Popular Discontent in Spain—The Political Situation Described as Very Critical—An Alliance Between Campos and Sagasta.

MADRID, Dec. 31.—The attempt to assassinate King Alfonso was made as he was taking his evening drive to the Prado with Queen Christine. The carriage was an open landau, drawn by two horses, with two footmen behind. The King held the reins. As the carriage arrived at the palace gate, a young man was seen to advance from the garden in the centre of the Plaza del Ariente, in which the royal palace stands. An instant later a report was heard, and the Queen felt something whizz by her cheek. The King rose to his feet. Then it was ascertained that a shot had been fired, and the would-be assassin, who was little more than a boy, was seized by the King's footmen, the police, and the bystanders. The ball, which had flattened against the palace gate, was picked up on the pavement. The King showed himself as cool as when his life was attempted in the Calle Mayor last year, but the nerves of the young Queen were shaken, and for some hours last night she was in great distress.

The arrested youth said that his name was Gonzales, and his age 19. He is a waiter by profession, and a native of Galicia. It is believed he had accomplices, and three persons have been arrested on suspicion. Gonzales had been lying in wait about the door of the royal palace and fired from the corner of the sentry box. He did not make much resistance on being arrested, and the guards had to protect him from the violence of the crowd. He is said to have confessed to the Judge who examined him that he was the agent of men whom he scarcely knew, but who worked upon him, partly by fear and partly by promises, to attempt the life of the king.

LONDON, Dec. 31.—A despatch from Hendaye, France, says: "Madrid letters describe the political situation in Spain as very critical. An alliance is being negotiated between Gen. Martinez Campos and Señor Sagasta for the purpose of overwhelming the Constitutionalists. Notwithstanding the urgent representations of the Navarrese Senators and members of the Chamber of Deputies, the Government refuses to reestablish the Fueros."

[Since the beginning of the Ministerial crisis in Spain, which resulted in the fall of the Martinez-Campos Ministry, the political excitement in Madrid has been growing in intensity. Gen. Campos was a favorite with the populace, and his fall provoked much popular indignation. The army also resented it, officers of high grades threatening to resign and others putting their names on the retired list. The Liberals, too, who had been fighting for liberty and reform in Cuba, believed that all their labors had come to naught by the dismissal of Gen. Campos. The popular excitement was unsatisfied by the withdrawal of seventy Opposition members from the Chamber of Deputies on the day that the new Ministers took their seats. People began to shout in public places "Long live the republic!" and the situation became so critical that troops were held in readiness to prevent an outbreak. It is not, therefore, surprising that amid so much popular discontent an attempt should be made on the life of the King.]

NEW YEAR'S IN THE CITY.

The Baptism of Noise that 1880 Received—Watch-Night Services.

Wet streets and a still cold atmosphere, but starlit skies, were found by the new year at midnight in this city. Up town, in the avenues, the sidewalks were populated long after the traffic of the roadways had ceased. By way of ushering in 1880, there was pistol firing, bell-ringing, and whistle blowing, in a less extent than on recent occurrences of the holiday. A great proportion of the jubilant noises seemed to rise from the harbor. Watch meetings were more numerous than ever before, and were not confined to Methodist congregations. They were held by the Church of the Disciples, St. Ann's Episcopal Church on the heights of Brooklyn, the Moravian Church in Jay street of the same city, where buns and coffee were served in 1879, and a hymn closed the session in the next year. The Spiritualists kept watch in Republican Hall.

At the church of the Disciples Drs. Sabine, Bevan, and Davis united in leading the services. Of the Methodist churches, Washington Square, Central Asbury, Bedford Street, St. Paul's, St. James's, Harlem, Forty-third Street, Fifty-third Street, Eighteenth Street, Thirtieth Street, Williams street, and Forsyth Street were opened. In Brooklyn, Williamsburgh, and Jersey City the services in the Methodist churches were generally observed.

At Carmel Chapel in the Bowery the services began an hour earlier than usual, and consisted of prayer, praise, promises, testimony, review of God's goodness and consecration for the coming year. There were chimes at St. Ann's in Brooklyn and at Trinity in New York. Albert Meislahn, Jr., the bellringer of old Trinity, had announced a collection composed of such favorite tunes as "Maggie Lauder," "Auld Lang Syne," "Yankee Doodle," "Old Folks at Home," "The Blue Bells of Scotland," beginning at half-past 11 o'clock last night, but long before that hour knots of impatient people gathered on the stoops and sidewalks near the church. By the time the bellringer began his task both sidewalks were thronged with men, women, and children, in many tangling lines, all trying to keep warm. The great church was illuminated, the graveyard was blanketed with clean, white snow, and behind its trees the lights of the elevated trains passed to and fro. Cabs and private carriages drew up in lines along the curbstones, and the roadway soon gained its complement of jostling men and women and romping children. Boys of every age and size carried tin horns, and a few were in the hands of girls. Their blast was continuous, but the clear notes of the great bells sounded plainly above the noise. The bellringer only failed to make his music heard for a few minutes—that was at midnight and during the next few minutes. Then the air was filled with a roar of whistles and a rattle of firearms, and the shout of "Happy New Years!" greeting that the multitude sent up was only distinguishable at the edges of the throng away from the main volume of local noises.

At precisely 12 o'clock three or four half-grown young men indulged in a fierce fight of the rough and tumble description, scattering the women and children as they slipped and tumbled in the street or on the sidewalk. At 20 minutes past 12 o'clock the part of Broadway contained only a few stragglers hurrying to the ferries.

THE COLORADO RAILROAD CONTEST.

A Decision of the Contest Over the Occupation of the Grand Canon of the Arkansas.

DENVER, Dec. 31.—The Circuit Court to-day announced a decision in open court in the contest between the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad Company and the Atchison and Topeka Railroad Company over the occupation of the Grand Cañon of the Arkansas. This case has created deep feeling here, and has attracted much public attention.

The Court decides that the lease and contemporaneous papers executed in Boston in October, 1878, have no relation to and do not affect this controversy; and therefore the mandates of the United States Supreme Court, made last April, adjudging the Denver and Rio Grande Company to have prior right to use and build its road in the cañon must be enforced. The court decides that the Atchison Company must deliver to the Denver and Rio Grande Company the entire line, with railroad on it, from the mouth of the cañon to the South Arkansas River, fifty-six miles, on being paid the actual cost of construction, a commissioner to report such cost. Then if the Atchison company wishes to build, it must build on the other side of the river in narrow places or by parallel line adjacent. The formal decrees are yet to be prepared as to the line from the South Arkansas River to Leadville, sixty miles. The present graded line is awarded to the Atchison company.

The topography of that country admits of the easy construction of other lines. The Denver company has filed its petition to pay or deposit money to cover the cost at once and have immediate possession given it so that it may go on and finish its line to Leadville.

Calling the Republican National Convention.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—Chairman Cameron of the National Republican Committee issued to-day the following call:

> A National Convention of the Republican party will meet at Chicago on Wednesday, the 2d day of June next,