THE EVENING NEWS

MONDAY, : : : : : JANUARY 30, 1882

SENSATIONAL JOURNALISM.

So long as readers of newspapers demand a daily presentation of sensational topics, just so long will publishers of newspapers be found who will endeavor to provide their patrons with the kind of mental food desired. And as newspaper readers of today generally seem to enjoy the excitement produced by a discussion of sensational topics better than any other one thing under heaven, how can it be expected that unscrupulous publishers of newspapers will refrain from taking up every "live issue" that can be found? And when clean, first class issues can not be readily found, people should not be surprised if public sewers are raked for topics that will cause sensation, or that personal matters not proper for public discussion are put in print. Something exciting must be furnished—the people demand it, and publishers must gratify them. If political topics are not in season, the next best thing that can be thought of is perhaps an attack upon a Board of School Trustees, and, when the discussion of that subject palls upon the public taste, personal abuse of the editor of a neighboring newspaper will perhaps serve to keep up an excitement for a while. After these lesser issues become worn, what better to create excitement than an awakening of race prejudices. In this topic there is matter sufficient for almost endless discussion, and, if conducted with ability by two antagonistic journals but a short time will be required to set a whole community by the ears. On this question none can long remain neutral or indifferent. Two weeks discussion of the question will suffice to divide a community into two opposing parties. Friends will soon become enemies, and families be divided. And all because newspaper publishers thought, and perhaps thought rightly, that sensational journalism would increase the circulation of their papers.

Briefly stated, these are some of the causes and effects of sensational journalism. And so long as the public generally demand it, and so long as it pays better than honorable and impersonal journalism, just so long will it be continued. Whether for a short or a long time depends, as may be seen, wholly upon the people who sustain newspapers.

But aside from the evil effects named of sensational journalism, the demoralizing effect of it upon sensational journalists themselves may be mentioned. The taste for sensational writing grows by what it feeds on, and as the confirmed opium eater has to gradually increase the quantity taken in order to longer derive pleasure from the use of the drug, so the sensational writer goes from a courteous presentation of his subject gradually to vulgar personal abuse and downright blackguardism. And to a person once thorougly wedded to low sensational journalism, there is as little chance for him to reform as there is for a confirmed opium-eater to return to decent habits. They are both wedded to their idols, and respectable people, if wise, will leave them alone.

The flight of a nun who escaped from a convent in Graz by throwing herself into the ice-cold waters of the river, has caused a sensation there. The Superior claimed her and assured the police that the girl had not been detained against her will. But the police did not give the girl up, because the fact of her risking her life by drowning sufficiently proved the untruth of the Superior's assurances. It seems that the girl's mother had made a vow that her daughter should become a nun, and that the girl repeatedly implored her friends not to force her to take the veil. She has fled from the convent three times only to be recaptured. She refuses to return to her mother, who would give her up to the convent again, and is desirous of finding some employment to support herself.

The Troy *Press* of January 20th says: The debate in the Senate on the pension swindle is very instructive. Mr. Beck shows in a clear, indisputable way the iniquities of the law and the ease with which acts involving hundreds of millions of dollars are rushed through both houses of Congress. The veto of R. B. Hayes, had it been interposed, would have defeated the job. Had he, a Republican and an ex-Federal soldier, taken a position in opposition to the measure the Southern Democrats would have been free to support his veto. It was known at the time that it could not pass over his veto. The moral courage required was considerable, and it was wanting.

A gentleman, accompanied by a favorite dog, visited the studio of one of the Cincinnati artists the other day. There was a picture on the easel, and the dog began to bark furiously at it. "Nature may be relied upon after all," said the gentleman. "The best evidence of the faithfulness with which you have painted that dog in the background is the earnestness with which my dog barks at him." "But that isn't a dog," said the artist, blushing, "it is a cow." The gentleman was nonplussed for a moment, but he quickly replied: "Well, the dog's eyes are better than mine; he never did like cows."

Prince Bismarck, assisted by his sons, is said to be writing his memoirs. The part of them which will come from the Chancellor's own hand are those which concern the conflict between the government and the Prussian Diet, the wars of 1866 and 1870, and his stay at St. Petersburg and Paris. His childhood and youth will be written of by Count Herbert, while the younger son, Count Wilhelm, will write out his father's impressions of the various Ministers—home and foreign—with whom the man of iron has been brought into contact.

WHY BLAINE WAS NOT NOMINATED.

Frank Pixley, in a letter from Washington under date of January 15th, furnishes the readers of the *Argonaut* with some facts relating to the National Republican Convention of 1880, which go to show that Blaine might then have received the Presidential nomination if the managers of his fight had been competent men and true to him. The substance of Pixley's story is that on the evening of the day preceding the nomination of Garfield, Senator Cameron and Senator Logan had an interview with the Blaine people, and agreed that if an adjournment could be had, and time given for arrangement of details, the Grant vote would be cast for Blaine. Senator Cameron had in his pocket a letter of withdrawal from Grant, in harmony with such a programme. The Grant leaders preferred that Blaine should succeed rather than any dark horse. Logan believed this would have been accomplished, and that the Blaine men would have accepted the proposition. To Logan's surprise, when the convention met the next morning the Blaine forces went to pieces, and Garfield was nominated.

The Reno *Journal* publishes a comparative statement, showing the cost of maintaining criminals in our State Prison and the cost of our public schools from the organization of our State government to the year 1882. As the figures are valuable for reference, they are here given:

Year.	State Prison.	Schools.
1865	$26,505 47	$3,949 52
1866	34,245 06	7,960 95
1867	62,361 43	6,844 33
1868	19,308 61	14,233 13
1869	20,608 01	16,223 48
1870	40,017 99	17,124 41
1871	41,291 76	17,823 79
1872	49,050 27	22,613 74
1873	36,324 56	25,669 90
1874	64,090 97	30,510 70
1875	67,308 67	36,783 55
1876	83,066 33	44,154 27
1877	87,267 45	45,312 28
1878	87,110 06	46,679 33
1879	74,040 36	40,653 81
1880	83,414 90	44,168 43
1881	71,139 42	45,532 92
Totals	$957,090 70	$468,329 54

The St. Louis *Republican* of January 20th says: "Why should not Conkling go into the Cabinet? No sentimental consideration should make him shrink, since sentiment has been so completely ignored in every act of the Arthur administration. Conkling would add no additional shock to the upheaval which has been so complete in the last few months that scarcely a trace of the Garfield administration remains. The mighty Roscoe may step to the front without fear. Nobody will be appalled when he openly assumes the reins of power, which everybody knows he has been handling under cover.

There are several bills before Congress for the admission of new States. Every one of them, says the New York *World*, ought to fail. The admission of Nevada and Colorado were mistakes by which we ought to learn enough not to repeat them. A Territory should not be admitted to the rank of Statehood until it has not only the requisite population but is also a settled, compact and homogeneous community, with well-defined local interests and a well-defined social organization preceding its political organization.

The Cleveland *Herald* says: Mr. Samuel J. Tilden will not be the Democratic candidate for President in 1884, and those ambitious Ohio Democrats who are using his name to aid in the advancement of their own schemes or in the punishing of their enemies are doing so without Mr. Tilden's consent and with no prospect that their promises or prophecies can be made good. We have sufficient warrant for this declaration, and are sure that time will make it good.

The eulogy upon President Garfield will be delivered in the House of Representatives on the 27th of February, by ex-Secretary Blaine. A Joint Committee on the Death and Memorial Services of the late President Garfield has been decided upon. The programme is substantially the same as that adopted for President Lincoln.

A Washington letter says: "Mr. Blaine just now finds his time closely taken up in preparing the eulogy which he is to deliver next month before all the dignitaries of the land on the late President. It will be one of the most important efforts of his busy official and political career, and great expectations are formed of it."

The wife of a Methodist presiding elder in Maine is applying for a divorce. Her most serious allegation is that his credit is so bad that when he is away from home she cannot get trusted for "so much as a red herring," which makes it difficult to feed the family.

A district in the heart of Chicago two blocks wide and a little more than half a mile long — bounded by Van Buren, State, Fourteenth and Clark streets—is reported to contain 500 saloons, 200 houses of ill-fame and 150 concert-rooms, gambling-houses and pool-rooms.

The Supreme Court of Illinois, in the case of John Longress against the Quincy Board of Education, has decided that negro children cannot be compelled to attend a separate school, but must be admitted to the public schools.

A jolly looking beggar woman recently entered a shop in Dublin, and asked the owner for charity. He shook his head and said: "I am not able to give you anything." The woman promptly replied: "Thank you, sir, and may you long be in the same position."

The News is indebted to Senator Fair for a bill introduced by him into the United States Senate "To provide for the erection of a public building for the use of the United States Courts, Post-office and other government offices in the city of Carson, State of Nevada."

EASTERN DISPATCHES.

GUITEAU MATTERS.

Scoville Moves for a New Trial—Twelve Reasons Given for His Motion.

WASHINGTON, January 28.—This afternoon Scoville filed in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia the papers upon which he bases his motion or motions for a new trial. Not being familiar with the practice in this District Scoville concluded to file motions to assure himself against the possibility of being deprived, through any legal technicality, of the right of review by the Court in general term. The papers filed in support of the motions are: The prisoner's affidavit and the affidavit of Frederick H. Snyder as to finding a newspaper in the room occupied by the jury under circumstances indicating that it had been read by the jury. The affidavit of J. W. Guiteau recites that he is acquainted with the signatures of the five jurors whose names are written on the margin of the paper said to have been seen by the jury. The affidavit says he has seen the jurors write their names, and believes the writing on said paper to have been made by the jurors named. The last affidavit, or that of Mr. Scoville, sets forth newly discovered evidence upon which he based the new trial. The first paper is the motion for a new trial on the grounds: First—By reason of the uncertainty of said verdict, in that the jury thereby found the defendant guilty, whereas the indictment consists of different counts at variance and inconsistent with each other in matters of substance. Second—That said verdict of the jury does not specify which count or counts of the indictment it was founded upon, and several of the counts being different from the others, the defendant is not advised by the form or substance of said verdict as to the finding of the jury upon the material facts of the death or place of death of the deceased. Third—For that the trial of this cause was commenced at the June term of this court and was not concluded in the same term of court, but was extended into the December term without authority of law. Fourth—For that this court had no jurisdiction of this cause, by reason of the death of deceased having taken place outside of the District of Columbia. Fifth—For that the Court erred in overruling each and all the prayers upon the question of law asked by counsel for the defense and in refusing to instruct the jury, as requested, in each of the fourteen prayers proposed by them. Sixth—That the Court erred on the trial of this cause in excluding proper evidence offered by the defendant, as set forth in the bill of exceptions. Seventh—That the Court erred on the trial of this cause in admitting to go to the jury improper evidence on the part of the prosecution, as shown in the bill of exceptions. Eighth—That the Court erred in commenting improperly during the trial upon the actions of the defendant and in entering into an arrangement with the District Attorney, without the knowledge of counsel for defendant, whereby the jury and the expert witnesses for the prosecution during a portion of the trial might observe certain conduct of the defendant to subserve the purpose of the prosecution (the defense being insanity), without the restraining power of the Court being exercised until those purposes were accomplished, to the great prejudice of the defendant. Ninth—Misbehavior of the jury in reading or having read to them a newspaper calculated to prejudice their minds against the defendant, as shown by the affidavits of Frederick Snyder, George Scoville and John W. Guiteau, filed herewith. Tenth—By reason of new and material facts, unknown at the time of the trial and ascertainable by reasonable diligence on the part of defendant and his attorney, having come to light since the trial as shown in the affidavit filed herewith. Eleventh—That the verdict is contrary to the evidence. Twelfth—That the verdict is contrary to the law of the case.

(Signed): GEORGE SCOVILLE,
Defendant's Attorney.

Mysterious Explosion.

NEW YORK, January 30.—On East Ninety-ninth street Benjamin Burns, aged fourteen years, picked up the other day from the debris what appeared to be a tomato can filled with grease. He threw it into a bonfire, when an explosion immediately occurred violent enough to throw a saloon-keeper in an adjoining street from his stoop to the ground. A dense black smoke and cloud of ashes obscured the scene. When it drifted away, ten persons were found lying in the lot. The killed and injured are: Benjamin Burns, killed. Wounded—Mary O'Keefe, Eliza Jones, John Ross, Joseph Jones, Albert Jones, Catherine Miller, Michael Palerno, Thomas Ward. Some are severely wounded. The can is thought to have contained nitroglycerine.

Attempted Murder and Suicide.

PITTSBURG, January 28.—A young man named Lee, out hunting near the west of Middlesex, met two lady friends and, without provocation, fired twice, wounding both. They managed to reach home. Four of their gentleman friends found Lee. He made a desperate resistance, but finding capture inevitable, blew the top of his own head off. All the families are eminently respectable. The motive for the shooting is shrouded in mystery.

Proposed Fund for the Guiteau Jurors.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., January 30.—An old and well-known citizen of this city sends a dollar to the office of the *State Journal*, suggesting it as the foundation of a fund for remunerating the members of the Guiteau jury for their loss of time and as a recognition of the righteousness of their verdict, saying he thinks it proper that a fund of this kind should originate at the home of Abraham Lincoln.

Attempt to Wreck Trains.

NEW YORK, January 30. — Saturday morning a flagman on the New York Central found a piece of wood driven between the rails at the Riverdale Avenue crossing, near the iron bridge, so as to throw trains off the track. Two trains had passed over safely, however, when the wood was found, the flanges of the wheels having cut into it. A searching investigation will at once be set on foot by the police.

Miscellaneous.

CORINTH, Ky., January 28.—A family named Romano, living on the outskirts of the town, were poisoned night before last at supper. It is supposed that arsenic was put in the corn bread. Five of the family are lying at the point of death. No investigation.

HARRISBURG, Pa., January 30.—Frank Rumberger, the youngest of the Troutman murderers, under sentence of death, made what he calls a true confession yesterday. He charges the shooting of Troutman to his brother, Henry Rumberger.

ROCK ISLAND, January 30.—The jury in the Heilwagen murder case this morning brought in a verdict of murder in the first degree, and fixed the punishment at hanging.

MINNESOTA, Minn., January 30.—In addition to the three persons who died from thrichinæ recently in Minnesota, five more of the seventeen who were stricken are despaired of.

DETROIT, January 30. — Dr. Cox, physician of Mr. Schneider, has been arrested by the authorities on a charge of complicity in the Whitlaw murder case.

PHILADELPHIA, January 30.—The well known actor, John E. McDonald, is dangerously ill, suffering from cancer involving the lower jaw, tongue and neck.

NEW YORK, January 28.—The Mineral Creek mine, of Arizona, was sold in the Exchange salesrooms today to Samuel Turck, of New York, for $14,000.

PITTSBURG, January 30.—The lower parts of Pittsburg and Alleghany are under water. No great damage has yet been done, and the rivers are stationary.

Oscar Wilde's lecture in Philadelphia brought into the house $1100. The *Press* says that he has expressed himself as much dissatisfied with the treatment he had received from his Philadelphia audience. He said his hearers were so cold that he several times thought of stopping and saying: "You don't like this, and there is no use in my going on," and then abruptly leaving the stage.

MARRIED.

In Virginia, January 25, Benj. Wood to Mary E. Conklin.

In Carson, January 25, W. P. Merrill to Miss Mary O'Neill.

At Huffaker's, John Cahlan to Miss Charlotte C. Warren.

DIED.

In Virginia, January 25, T. B. Moore, aged 60 years.

In Shoshone Valley, William Swallow, aged 3 years.