The Meekly Herald.

FISK BROS. - - - Publishers.

THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1887.

THE national debt of the United States if reckoned as an incumbrance upon its land, would be about seventy-five cents

\$30 per acre. AFTER all the conflicting rumors about the great Baltimore & Ohio deal, we are glad to know that the deal has been completed, and we may reasonably expect soon to know the size and significance of it. A and Boston capitalists is at the bottom of

IF the Independent has a contract for publishing the laws, as it claims, it would seem highly appropriate to print at least a portion before the session laws are out that are to be printed at government expense. Perhaps the Secretary is too busy at the more profitable business of making certified copies for other purposes.

most of these great deals.

WE commend the firm prudence of our Governor in refusing to intervene further in the case of Harding. We are not thirsting for his or any man's blood, but we have heard nothing of substantial merit in any of the claims urged for sympathy or mercy in his behalf. We think as well of his poor victim and of others liable to be victims of similar crimes if the guilty can escape. We reserve sympathy for those more deserving

THE thirteen car loads of delayed passengers arrived this morning, but no mails, In explanation disappointed visitors to the postoffice express the opinion that the mails did not require feeding. But we are inclined to be more reasonable and acknowledge that the living freight required the first consideration. Some eastern mail from Chicago and still further east is find ing its way hither by the Union Pacific. We are kindly allowed to indulge the pleasures of hope for another twenty-four

By the end of this present year, if the wealth of Montana were computed on the basis of most of the states, to include the value of our railroads and only the market value of the stocks of our dividend-paving mines, it will reach the handsome aggregate of \$250,000,000. This will be as much as that of half the states in the Union can average. Our wealth increases faster than our population and we shall be surprised if our per capita of wealth does not exceed that of any state in the Union or any country in the world.

It would be a misfortune if Elijah Smith, president of the O. R. & N. Co. should by any possibility gain a controling interthe benefit of his Columbia river monopened and the world we find beauty is but little richer to-day for all the wishes to learn the and temple of the world we find beauty is but little richer to-day for all the wishes to learn the analysis and temple of the world we find beauty is but little richer to-day for all the wishes to learn the analysis and temple of the world we find beauty is but little richer to-day for all the wishes to learn the analysis and temple of the world we find beauty is but little richer to-day for all the wishes to learn the analysis and temple of the world we find beauty is but little richer to-day for all the wishes to learn the analysis and temple of the world we find beauty is but little richer to-day for all the wishes to learn the analysis and temple of the world we find beauty is but little richer to-day for all the wishes to learn the analysis and the the ana range and in the work on the tunnel would be delayed. The effrontery of the endeavor is simply amazing. Wonder if the suggestion of a paralell line to Portland has got something to do with Smith's move? By the way, we have been told often that the Union Pacific had bought

BESIDES the roads in this immediate vicinity that interest us especially, the coming season is going to witness a great deal of railroad work beyond the limits of the Territory that interests us but very little less. Of such are the completion of the Northern Pacific direct to Puget Sound by the switch-back over the Cascade range, the connection of Portland and San Fran cisco by the Oregon & California road under the ownership and management of the Southern Pacific, and to the east of us the construction of a road by the Ste St. Marie more direct to the East. To these may be added the progress of the Northwestern in our direction from the Black Hills and the possible work of the Union Pacific on some of its many projected

OUR Delegate, Hon. J. K. Toole, is at home, looking as hale and fresh as if congressional duties had not worried him nor the hardships of a long journey exhausted him. We are glad to be able to correct our contemporary in saying that our Delegate had no voice in Congress. He has a voice and has often used it to purpose. If he had a vote as well as a voice it would add effect probably that can be supplied from no other source. We are glad to testify that our present Delegate has shown successful skill and ability that compare favorably with those of our former delegate, or those who represent any other Ter ritory. He bears witness to the fact that Montana is commanding attention everywhere for the wealth of her resources and for the great destiny that is opening for her in the near future.

THE Virginia legislature is in extra ses sion considering the question of making some settlement of its defaulted State debt There is but one honest and honorable way to settle it and that is to provide for its payment. West Virginia should assume a portion, reckoned on the basis of its population and resources when the separation took place. But we have no idea that any honorable settlement will be made. The future looks gloomy enough for the old Dominion. The soil is not half so poor and exhausted as the degenerate character of its ruling classes. There is more honor and honesty in the "huckstering Yankee" than the proudest representative of Virginia chivalry. The real estate of Massachusetts is assessed at \$1,287,993,899, while that of Virginia is only \$262,956,697. Yet the area of Virginia is more than five times greater, and acre for acre the soil of Vir-ginia was superior to that of Massachusetts. The little Yankee State could buy out Vir ginia and South Carolina together with one-third of its assessed wealth.

SHERMAN IN TENNESSEE.

Republican members of the Legislature of Tennessee, Senator Sherman, after a tour of rest and recreation in other parts of the South, has, on his way home, R. E. FISK, - - - - - Editor fulfilled his promise with usual credit to himself, and we think to the satisfaction of those who invited him. It marks some advance of tolerence when men of either section so recently engaged in deadly contest can go into the other section and secure a friendly and per acre. In the five principal nations of respectful hearing. There never has Europe this incumbrance would exceed been a time when a Southern man could not get a cordial hearing at the North, but the case has been quite otherwise at the South. It is not altogether to be wondered at that there was this difference. The victors are always disposed to be more generous. The defenders of gigantic competition between New York the lost cause, in the midst of their poverty, reminded everywhere and at all time of their losses, disappointments and defeats, have some excuse to feel sore, and even if they should be implacable it would not be strange. The feeling is widely prevalent at the South that the North, after exhausting them utterly, heaped the final indignity upon them by trying to subject them to the political

control of their late freed men. We have always fancied that this was the real secret of the continuing hate of the South. If Lincoln had lived, the situation would have been different. We do not think universal suffrage would have been conferred upon all the freedmen at once, but only as they acquired intelligence and property, and the representation would have been proportioned to the qualified voters. Here was the great mistake of the Republican party. The ballot was thrown into hands that could neither use it intelligently or defend it. It would have been better for the blacks if they had acquired the right of suffrage gradually. It would not then have consolidated the opposition to themselves. The whites would have been divided and the black voters would have been divided also. Besides if representation in Congress had been proportioned according to the number of qualified voters, it would have influenced the whites to extend the suffrage and protect those who wished to vote so as to increase their representation. This grand original error, made under the sway of the fierce passions that were aroused by Lincoln's assassination and the subsequent defection of Johnson, has been the chief cause of the present deplorable condition of the South. The whites at first refused to vote and the ballot was almost exclusively in the hands of the blacks. They used their power as well as they knew how, but very recklessly and extravagantly to arouse the anger of the whites and consolidated them naturally in self-defense. It soon became apparent that the sufest in the Northern Pacific. The result frage conferred upon the blacks could graves." Ruskin is evidently bilious and will be invested and expended at home would be to subordinate its operations to only be available to them by the presa majority of the people in the North. The troops were withdrawn and ever since negro suffrage has been a barren right. It is a miserable state of affairs but the Republicans have themselves to blame as much as the southern whites.

> What should have been the method prescribed by law must now be slowly and painfully acquired by other means. Sherman's advice to the colored men of Alabama was right and wise. Patience, forbearance, industry and intelligence is the only way to put them in peaceful possession and enjoyment of their legal rights. Some fiercer spirits at the North would urge the negro to resist force by force, but this would cover the whole South with bloodshed and utter ruin. It would make fiends of both white and black. No sane man would really advise the blacks to such a course.

We see no evidence in Sherman's speech that he trimmed any more than Carlisle did in Boston on the State's rights issue. That issue was fought out and settled. The only chance to retrieve the original error is to appeal, as Sherman did, to the blacks to be patient and build up their manhood, and to the Southern whites to show them that they were injuring themselves by systematically defrauding the black man of his legal rights and keeping up the alienation, which prevents attention to common material interests, that keeps out immigration and makes capital slow to seek investment.

We would now deliberately advise the people of all the Southern States to adopt a property and intelligence qualification of voters and accept the corresponding reduction of representation. This would relieve a constant source of exasperation at the North because a million legal black voters are systematically terrorized or defrauded out of their ballot, and more than thirty representatives in Congress are holding seats to which they have no just title or right. If the Southern whites would only seek by kind and fair treatment to win the following and support of the blacks we would not have a word to say. They can do it if they would, but so far they have seemed unwilling to exert themselves in this direction, preferring the old whip or the more effective shot gun, and more recently the quieter method of making the election returns without re-

gard to the votes cast. Senator Sherman's speech was a good one, as the telegraphed epitome clearly shows, but it is not what we could have wished. It does not go to the root of the trouble. We believe that it could be shown to the people of the Scuth in a way that they would listen and heed, that there is a sure way of speedy and honorable deliverance to them from their

migration and thus counteract the danger. A thorough reconciliation of races In response to an invitation from the and co-operation of all the energies of the people within ten years might restore prosperity and credit to every Southern

It is gaining slowly now, but this slow rate of progress might be increased ten fold as well as not. Until this race question is settled at the South, it is a waste of breath to consider any other. Party issues and divisions are mere surface ripples, and they can well be let to shift for themselves. Until the Southern people will get down to the heart and root of the matter and settle it for them? selves according to reason and right, no settlement and very little improvement can ever be hoped.

A BELATED champion of "the lost cause."

Percy Greg by name, has recently published in London a secession history of the United States, in two volumes of over a thousand pages. We have been interested in a notice of the work by the London Spectator, which says of it: "The book is ably, sometimes powerfully, and always furiously written." The writer himself says of his own work that "it is a review from the bench of history of a course that he once argued at the bar of politics." The sum of the writer's historical opinion and verdict is that all the people of the United States living north of the Potomac are a low, vulgar buckstering, greedy, intolerant set, while those south of that stream, particularly Virginians and South Carolinians are wise, high-minded, sagacious, generous, honorable and eminently humane. We should rather like to see this book, though as the Spectator remarks it is of no value as history and can only rank as a polemical work on a dead, damned, and forgotten issue. If Percy Greg has so successfully nursed his wrath for a quarter of a century as to satisfy himself that America was settled, the revolution fought and all the rest of our history up to 1860 enacted for the express purpose of carrying into existence a slip-shod confederacy founded on the idea of human slavery, we shall expect in a few years more that he will write a history of the world from the creation of or before, for the same lofty purpose. His next essay will be to break into the archives of the sovereign of the universe and attempt to reverse the decrees of nifinite wisdom. And when he has done with slavery he can take up the guantlet for polygamy. There are always plenty of flapping wind-mills for such historical Sancho Pansas to run a tilt with and of writing books there is no end.

IF this is the conclusion of high art, we would say, in more liturgy, from John Ruskin and his school and all such. Good Lord deliver us. Hear him on railroads: "They are to me the loathsomest form of deviltry now extant, animated and deliberate earthquakes, destructive of all wise social habit or possible natural beauty, carriages of tion to inhabit a world where it is all beauty and no utility. The smoke and dust and noise and danger of railroads are not agreeable in themselves, but for the substantial advantages that come with them they are tolerable, and by association become welcome sometimes. We can see more beauty in a Pullman car than Ruskin can point out in a palanquin or a donkey cart. Pedestrianism and a mounted mail boy may do for such a little bit of the world as Great Britain, but lightning express on trans-continental railroads are the only thing for America.

PERHAPS we ought to be thankful for the successive ten million calls that are fast wiping out all that is redeemable of our outstanding national debt, but it strikes us that it would be better at once to make a call for all of them, stop interest and let the holders invest in something else. There is plenty of money lying idle in the treasury, and if the surplus were reduced a little for a month or two it would soon be made good and the accumulation go on. It was a great neglect that our last Congress did not provide for refunding all the outstanding bonds at 24 per cent., paying the difference of interest till due. There are \$250,000,000 of 41 per cents, and \$739,967,500 of 4 per cents. This will soon be all of our outstanding interest-bearing debt. In the course of another year this could, with suitable legislation and a possible extension of the life of the new bonds, be refunded, so that our fixed annual interest charge would be only \$25,000,000. Then we could consider with more propriety the matter of reducing revenues or building a suitable navy as the first step towards reclaiming the ocean commerce.

THE action of a hotel keeper in Birmingham, Alabama, in refusing to allow Senator Sherman to receive colored visitors in his room, is characteristic of Southern sentiment, and shows that the spirit and manners of the new South are not much of an improvement on those of the old South. Birmingham has been built up since the close of the war in the center of a rich iron and coal region. It has been developed by Northern capital, and if there is any locality in the whole South where a new and improved spirit of liberality should be manifested, we should expect to see it there. But it is plain that it does not exist anywhere at the South. Senator Sherman's act in leaving such a hotel and his advice to his colored visitors in the United States court room, where he was permitted to receive them, will meet with hearty approval at the North. We look for a hearty reception to the Senator in Tennessee, where a profession of Republican and protection principles does not work social exclusion, and where there is poverty and social evils. If they fear good ground to believe that these princibeing Africanized, let them invite im- ples will soon be in the ascendant.

MINES AND RAILROADS.

Our people will never tire of hearing

of new railroad enterprises for Montana. The dispatches from ex-Governor Hauser received yesterday confirm all our previons expectations and give assurance of still other works contemplated for the present season, one of which will be a branch to the Elkhorn mine and another to Red Bluffs in Madison county. The list so far as the Northern Pacific is concerned is the Wickes extension through Boulder to Butte with a branch to Elkhorn. The Drum-Lummon branch, Red Bluffs branch, the Phillipsburg branch, and the Bitter Root Valley branch. Here are branches aggregating between two and three hundred miles in addition to the thousand or more to be built by the Manitoba company. It is by no means certain that this will be all the railroad building in Montana for the year, but it is enought to satisfy any reasonable ambition. At the moderate estimate of \$30,000 per mile, these 1,200 miles of oad will add \$36,000,000 to our permanent wealth. But if we add the increased value these roads will give to our mines, own lands and city property, we cannot estimate the increase less than hundred millions.

All this railroad building is the work of our mines. A single rich mine will furnish enough transportation in a single year to pay for the building of a branch road of moderate dimensions and cost. It gives us a glimpse of the future when there shall be a hundred paying mines to every one that we now have. These mines that are bringing us railroads are not placers that can be worked out in two or three years, but will continue to yield vear after vear, summer and winter

Our stock and agricultural resources, were they even greater than we have ever estimated them, would never have brought us these railroads. Still all other industries will share in he bene-

To support the large mining population that will find constant employment here insures a good home market for our farmers and for the beef and mutton from our ranches. A better market than to send across the ocean.

The cars that go east loaded with ores and bullion will bring our dry goods and groceries at the cheapest rates. It will take daily trains even to supply the demand of Montana for fresh fruit.

In course of time many if not all the finer manipulations of ores will be performed at home, and many of the baser metals which are now counted as utter waste will be saved and added to our

Another good feature of our mines is that they are going to be principally owned and worked by our own citizens. The wealth produced from them is not damned souls on the ridges of their own going to be mostly carried away, but needs physic. In God's great workshop in permanent improvements. Nevada idioms and constructions; book learning duced. It is the same with Mexico. It may all rejoice to hear of good sales of mines at high figures to foreign companies, but we very much prefer to have our mines owned and worked by residents. Foreign companies purchase to make profits and will carry away and expend these profits elsewhere, contribating as little as possible to build up Montana.

But our own citizens who make money in mines will use their money to open other mines, will build fine residences, keep nice stock and will foster all our industries.

Smelters, foundries and woolen mills vill multiply and flourish, giving employment to skilled labor and improved markets for all the products of our soil. Some may call cotton king and others give the scepter to corn, but of all the products of the earth, the precious metals are the most reliable and least subject to fluctuation. And of these Montana has been most richly endowed

THE Northern Pacific has had a hard eason to contend with and it would be unreasonable to dwell upon any local or personal inconveniences in view of the energetic efforts made by the company to meet and overcome the accumulating and rapidly succeeding difficulties. Until the continuous severe storms in February there was no interruption of travel or traffic. Then came a storm such as we have never before seen in this country and probably shall never see again. This disappearance of the snow has done more damage and caused more delay than its coming. The severe cold had caused the formation of an unusually thick body of ice in the river and it was not only thick but firm when the water began to rise. Gorging was a necessary consequence and the tenacity of the ice has made these gorges hold out beyond all precedent. When heretofore such gorges have broken in a few hours, they have now held on for days. The only wonder is that vastly greater damage has not been done. It has been as severe a test and trial of the road as could ever have been made. The rapidity of construction did not allow time for a thorough study of all the difficulties to be encountered. this severe winter had followed the first completion of the road, the damage would have been vastly gteater, but every season has suggested and added increased security till now the final and severest test of all is bravely met with moderate interruption and damage.

Gen. Wilcox Retired. WASHINGTON, March 25. -- Brigadier eneral Wilcox, commanding the department of the Missouri, will be placed on the retired list April 16th. The probabilities are that Col. Wesley Merritt, superintendent of the military academy, will succeed Gen. Merritt.

Moral Malaria.

BY REV. F. D. KELSEY.

[Written for the Herald.] Malaria is much to be dreaded; it does not make a noise like a boiler explosion, but it causes surer and greater and more dreadful results to health and life; it does not break out as small pox and rage in havoc, but it silently, quietly, and unobserved works constantly day and night, here a little, there a little, until suddenly health or life collapses and the end

So the moral downfall of men is not often by a great moral accident, or some great moral epidemic, but by some moral malaria, working unobserved, until its defects demonstrates its fatal presence.

Vice is a monster of such rightful mien.
As to be hated needs but to be seen; "
But seen too oft, familiar with her face,
We first endure, then pity, then embrace

This moral malaria is what makes evil ompanionship so dangerous. Little by little the tone of one's moral conceptions is lowered, until what recently shocked him, shocks him no more; one wrong step leads to another in the same way, step by step, moral insture descends, until he finds himself at the bottom of a pit which made him shudder when he glanced over its brink. Evil companionships act like malaria in its deadly work; there is no harm which can be seen, yet the harm exists and poisons the soul; suddenly the dreadful fever shows what a malaria has

A Christian can no more mingle in the intimate companionship of the ungodly and escape contamination and spiritual harm than we can live in malaria and escape the fever.

A Christian has this serious and import-

ant question to decide, whom will I serve? I can be a christian, or I can be a man of the world, but I cannot combine them. If I serve God, that is one thing; If I serve on, even if I try to do right, I shall live in a moral malaria and inevitably

Lot supposed himself a good man but when he went down to the "Cities of the plain" and pitched his tent toward Sodom, we are not at all surprised that Lot was soon inside the city, shorn of all religious escaped barely with his own life and two daughters, and even they had been better off had they perished in the flames.

How often is it said of this thing or that thing, this practice in society and that social custom, "Why, what harm is it?" And for the life of us we can neither tell the harm nor you see the harm. Yet a proved moral malaria hangs over it; and a true Christian avoids the place, dreading not only the appearance of wrong but those pleasures, amusements, and practices in connection with which there is a moral malaria. He knows he cannot serve God and Mammon; he has determined to serve God. Hence will he avoid the dangerous

malaria of sin and Satan.
On the other hand, as evil has a malaria, so good has an unseen influence and power. A child born of pure and cultured parents catches a certain spirit of culture, which never escapes him; one trained by polite and courteous parents of high social culture, shows that bringing up, by a peculiar refinement of manner, which is a second nature to him. So the Christian, whose life is spent in Christian company, distinctively Christian associations, grows into a Christian culture which is peculiarly charming, beautiful and blessed. But the worldly inded Christian knows nothing of all

If a man wished to learn French or German so as to speak it fluently, he must mingle with French or German people and catch by association their intonations. must mingle much in the company of the subjects of the Great King of kings, and is not going to be so with Montana. We catch from intimate companionship with them their spirit and their speech.

By mingling with the world, a moral, spiritual malaria will inevitably be caught; by a careful and earnest association with God's people, there will be felt the unseen influence of a spiritual culture like to that which artists catch in a European tour of inspection of the great masters, and a stuwith the enthusiastic scholars of the great centers of learning.

serve, and make his choice clean-cut and "For he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and will grow upon a man unobserved; he thinks himself safe in this or that indulgence, when lo! a malaria has all the while been at work doing the dreadful work of death and ruin.

IT seems to be settled at last that Carter

Harrison has finally withdrawn from the Mayoralty race in Chicago. It has not been a voluntary and creditable declination of the honor, for it is evident enough that he wants the place as much as he ever did. According to his own statement it is the administration that has driven him from power. It was preparing to use all its powers and influence to defeat him if he persisted in running. Many of Carter's old supporters have been seduced by higher official influences to desert him, and for a time he yields to the storm and will withdraw, but we have no idea that he is going to bid adieu to public life. Carter Harrison, with many failings, is a strong man, and he wields a power that will yet be felt. In this interference of the administration we think we see an indication that President Cleveland and his administration are in the field for re-election and that an administration policy of low revenue tariff is going to be forced to the front. Every protection Democrat who has followed Randall is going to be shown the displeasure of the administration. We are glad to see the issue shaping itself thus. We are confident of the result. Protection will win. The policy that has run the products of our home manufactures within the last twenty-seven years from \$180,000,000 up to \$5,000,000,000 annually and is giving employment to millions of skilled mechanics is not going to be laid aside on any theoretical crotchet of free trade. While some seaboard cities might hope to gain from an increase of foreign commerce, every interior city like Chicago, St. Louis and others would lose by the change. When the country is deliberately asked to choose between free trade, cheap labor and poverty on the one hand, and protection, with its plenty, good wages and booming prosperity of every kind, there will be no doubt of

Found Guilty.

READING, Pa., March 26.-Frank Kerner, the religious monomaniac who killed his wife, has been found guilty of murder in the second degree.

EXECUTION OF HARDING.

The Murderer of the Glendale Stage Driver Hung by the Neck Until Dead.

Scenes and Incidents at the Gallows-The Crime and its Results.

A Hard Fought Battle for his Life.

DILLON, M. T., March 25 .- Special to the HERALD.]-Thomas Harding, the condemned criminal, sentenced to be hung to-day for the murder of George Ferguson, driver of the Glendale and Melrose stage, in May last, was visited by Father Dols, his spiritual adviser, last evening. The father communicated to him the news that the Governor had refused to commute his death sentence. Harding understood the full import of the message, but seemed little affected by it, maintaining a stolid indifference as the news was imparted. He remained quietly in his cell during the night and his spiritual adviser was with him the greater part of the evening.

J. H. Duffy, of Campbell & Duffy, Harding's attorneys, arrived late last night, but could not gain access to the prisoner as the jail was ele

The execution must take place between the hours of 11 a. m., and 3 p. m., to-day. The sheriff has made all preparations for erected and everything is in readiness to

carry out the death sentence.

NOT TILL THE LAST MOMENT. DILLON, March 25, 12:30 p. m.-Special to the HERALD. - Harding's lease of life will beprolonged to the utmost. The execution will not take place until just before 3 o'clock.

The Execution. DILLON, March 25. [Special to the Herald.]—Harding was hanged in the jail yard here, at 2:35 o'clock this afternoon. The prisoner was awake early, indeed he slept but little last night. About nine o'clock this morning he ate a hearty breakfast, and at ten was shaved for the last time by Brownie, the barber. He told Brownie not to be too particular, as it was

HIS LAST SHAVE. He passed the morning in conversation with Father Dols, his attorneys and others. At 2:30 p. m. Harding was led from the ail by Father Dols, accompanied by the sheriff, and taken to a corner of the yard where the gallows was erected. The prisoner was dressed in a neat suit of black,

wore slippers and was hatless ON THE GALLOWS The scaffold was soon reached. Harding was cool and collected, he did not show any signs of nervousness or fear, though he was very pale. He stepped naturally to the gallows and stopped beneath the dangling rope. Sheriff Jones pinioned his legs and arms and adjusted the noose, which was of 5-8 inch cotton rope. The sheriff advanced to the front of the gallows and repeated the

which Harding said no. At 2:35 p. m. exactly the 290 pound weight fell and Harding shot up with a jerk that broke his neck. In six minutes his

Harding if he had anything to say, to

HEART CEASED TO BEAT. He was lett hanging some time before he was cut down and placed in his coffin. The space around the instrument of death was occupied by the officials and spectators.

AFTER THE EXECUTION. Outside was a crowd of men watching and waiting for the awful moment to arrive. The crowd was kept away from the jail fence by armed guards. Father Dols remained with the doomed man until the last moment and gave him what consolation be could

the inter-mountain country. Harding was tana to-day.

Harding has had every chance for his him, includ-FFF

On the night of Saturday, May 22d, 1886, the stage coach plying between Melrose, on the Utah & Northern, and Glendale, the Hecla mining camp, was held up by a highwayman, who sprang from the roadside, covered the driver with a shot gun and commanded him to halt. The stage had left Melrose at 8 o'clock and carried a good load of passengers and express matter, and had only proceed a short stance when the road agent appeared The driver, George Ferguson, at the peril of his life, refused to heed the command norses to pass on. It was a fatal effort at the unflinching performance of duty. Scarce had the arm holding the whip been elevated, when the sharp report of the brigand's fowling piece rang out on the night air, and the faithful driver let the eins fall from his nerveless hands and dropped from the seat into the front boot coach, his head perforated with the murderous slugs, sent on their death-deal-ing errand from the muzzle of the deadly eapon in the hands of the fiendish high wayman. He was foiled in his attempt at plander, but his demoniac disappointment was assuaged by the life's blood of the brave driver. A commercial traveler riding on the box with the driver, seized A commercial traveler the reins when the latter was shot, and drove the coach safe into Glendale. SEEKING THE MURDERER.

News of the affair spread far and wide and the next day after the occurrence the sheriff's officers were on the trail of the desperado. Thoughonly one man had been seen it was thought by reason of tracks found in the vicinity that a party of three or four were connected with the affair. After a long and weary chase, three men were finally arrested, two in the country that had been followed from the scene the murder and one in Butte City. This one was Harding, who arrived in Butte on the Tuesday following the day on which the crime had been committed. It is supposed that the robbers thought that was treasure on the coach and inended to plunder the boxes. The three men arrested, Harding and the two others were put in jail and the usual judicial examination followed. This resulted in clearing the two men first mentioned and binding Harding over to answer to the grand jury. The preliminary examina- \$250,000.

tion was held at Dillon in the early part of June and disclosed such damaging tes-timony against Harding that his indictment by the grand jury seemed a fore-gone conclusion. T. S. Merchant, the drummer, who was on the outside of the coach when it was attacked, identified him positively as the man that did the shooting. Other witnesses made the chain of evidence stronger and completely overturned Harding's flimsy attempt to prove an alibi.

TRIAL AND CONVICTION.

In due course of Time Harding was indicted by the grand jury, tried and convicted before the district court at Dillon In pronouncing judgment Judge Galbraith sentenced Harding to hang by the neck until dead and that the sentence be exe-

cuted on the 21st day of December, 1886 From the moment this sentence was pro-nounced Harding's attorneys, Campbell & Duffy, of Butte, have been unremitting in their efforts to save the life of the doomed man. Early in December they obtained from Acting Governor Webb

THE FIRST REPRIEVE.

Their application for this reprieve was based upon alleged errors at law in the trial and the desire of Harding to carry his case to the Supreme Court of the Territory. This body would not meet until January, so the Acting Governor granted Harding a reprieve until the 21st of January, 1887. Prior to that time the case came up before our Supreme Court but was decided adversely to Harding, the action of the lower court being held valid and its judgment affirmed.

The tireless attorneys at once applied to Governor Hauser for

A FURTHER REPRIEVE,

as they desired to take the matter to the Supreme Court of the United States. This was granted, and Harding was given a new lease of life, the date of his execution being deferred thirty days. Before the expiration of that period (Governor Hauser in the meanwhile having gone out of office the indefatigable attorneys applied to Gov-ernor Leslie for a further respite for Harding. They desired to apply to the supreme tribunal of the United States for certain writs, and upon representing the situation to the new Governor executive clemency was once more exerted and the culprit granted a reprieve until March 25th to day.

THE LAST HOPE GONE.

A few days ago word was received from Washington that the action of the Supreme Court had been unfavorable, it having refused to consider the Harding case. That same day Mr. Duffy, still energetic and full of resources, appeared before Governor Leslie, and as a dernier resort argued before him for a commutation of Harding's sentence to life imprisonment; and in case this failed, the indefatigable lawyear announced his intention of having a judicial inquiry as to Harding's sanity. Time, however, failed him as to the latter. Governor Leslie heard the argument for commutation, but reserved his decision until late yesterday afternoon, when he telegraphed to the attornevs in the following words

THE ULTIMATUM:

THE TERRITORY OF MONTANA,) GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, HELENA, March 24, 1887.

Messrs. Campbell & Duffy, Attorneys at Law, Butte, M. T.: After carefully considering the application and reasons urged for commutation of punishment of Thos. H. Harding to life imprisonment, I have decided to withhold any further interference with the due course and execution of the law. May God have mercy on his soul

Governor Thus was the prisoner's last hope shatthe only possible hope remaining being in terference from a higher source—the President of the United States. At the last hour all expectation of such assistance vanished, and the doomed man met his

fate to-day, as recorded above THOMAS H. HARDING.

But little is known at the Capital of Harding's antecedents. We believe he was a prospector and miner, and had lived at Butte about two years previous to his arrest for Ferguson's murder. He has a mother living in New York, his only living relative so far as is known. She is in rather poor circumstances, but despite that fact ent every dollar she could raise to assist in her son's defense. The amount, however was not sufficient to pay the costs incurred by the attorney's in managing the affair.

After such sacrifices and the anxiety of son, it will be a sad blow to her to hear of

life, but the testimony against him, includ-ing positive identification by an eye witness of the murder, was so overwhelmingly direct, that nothing short of proving perjurers the witnesses against him could ave him from the gallows. While lamenting such an end, and the affliction it will occasion, the people of Montana can but recognize the stern exactions of justice that demand his death and bow to the decrees of the law, while they join with the Judge and the Governor in saying, "May God have mercy on his soul."

OUR 42 per cent. bonds fall due in 1891 and our 4 per cents in 1907. Counting that the first class have four years to run and the latter twenty years, and we should advance the difference of interest at the time of refunding, which we should not be called on to do without rebate, it would cost about \$240,000,000 to make the conversion. We could do it in the course of a year or two without disturbing our revenues or reducing our surplus. The only alternative seems to be to accumulate enough in the next four years to take up the 41 per cents when they come due. Then if we pay any more we shall have to go into the market and pay excessive premiums on these bonds. By paying a hundred millions a year, as we are now doing, we could wipe out the whole debt in about ten years.

Death of an Eminent Physician. LONDON, March 25 .- Arthur Farre, M. D., F. R. S., a celebrated surgeon and writer, physician extraordinary to the Queen and physician accoucheur to the Princess of Wales and her sister, is dead. He had just reached his 75th year.

BUFFALO, March 25 .- Jacob Cahn, of New York, died here to-day, making the fourteenth victim of the Richmond hotel

Verdict Against Hopkins. REDWOOD, March 25 .- The jury in the breach of promise case of Mrs. Harriet A. Moore against Moses Hopkins, a well known millionaire, which has been on trial here for several days, to-day returned a verdict for plaintiff for \$75,000. The suit was for