

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The East.

A shocking disaster, by which several people lost their lives, and many others were badly maimed, is reported from Boston. A large gas main running under Federal street exploded at 7 o'clock in the evening, tearing up the pavement for a distance of 150 feet or more. The street was thronged with people at the time, and many were buried under the debris. About a dozen persons were killed, and some fifteen seriously injured.

President Grant dined with the New England Society in New York, on Forefather's Day.

Gov. Hartman has granted pardons to Xingo Parks and several of the miners convicted with him in Clearfield County, Pa.

The Landing of the Pilgrims was commemorated in various places, on the 22d ult., by the sons of New England.

Howard and Yale Colleges have both withdrawn from the National Rowing Association of American Colleges.

The Bank of Brandywine, West Chester, Pa., has suspended.

The liabilities of the Providence (R. I.) Trust Company, which recently failed, are stated at \$2,783,000; assets, \$4,145,000. Creditors have granted an extension, and the business of the company will go on without interruption.

Henry C. Bowen sued the Brooklyn Eagle for libel, claiming \$100,000 damages. The case has just been tried, the jury awarding him \$1,000.

A short time ago Leodica Fredenburgh and Albert Fredenburgh, her son, were condemned to be executed at Herkimer, N. Y., Dec. 31, for the murder of Orlo Davis, an aged cripple. They were committed on the evidence of a young married daughter of Albert Fredenburgh. A day or two before the day set for their execution, the daughter confessed that she testified falsely on the trial; that she and her grandmother committed the murder, and that her father had nothing to do with it.

Patrick Gallagher, of Providence, R. I., getting drunk on Christmas night, attempted to strike his wife, but struck his infant child, killing it instantly.

The ninety-eighth anniversary of the battle of Trenton, which occurred Dec. 26, 1777, was celebrated with considerable spirit at Trenton, N. J., on the 26th ult.

The Hudson River Sugar Refinery, at Hastings, N. Y., was burned last week. Loss, \$500,000.

A Mutual Council is to be called by Plymouth Church and Mrs. Moulton to consider the two questions submitted by that lady—the sufficiency and validity of the reasons of the church for dropping her name from the roll; and the sufficiency and validity of Mrs. Moulton's reasons for abstaining so long from the services and sacraments of the church.

Thomas R. Houston, of the Pittsburgh Gazette, is dead.

Several heavy failures are reported from the East, among others are the following: C. J. C. Collins, hat dealer in New York, with liabilities of \$200,000; G. N. & J. A. Smith, woolen manufacturers, of Worcester, Mass., liabilities, \$300,000 to \$600,000; Lee & Walker, of Philadelphia, liabilities, \$200,000.

Harvard and Yale have withdrawn from the Inter-Collegiate Rowing Association, and will not hereafter take part in the annual rowing contests.

Recognitions on seven indictments for felony against Tweed have been declared forfeited. It is stated that the sureties will claim exemption from the forfeiture of the bonds upon the ground that the escape was due to the negligence or connivance of the law officers, and that the sureties cannot therefore be held accountable.

Frank Moulton has brought suit against Mr. Beecher for malicious prosecution, laying damages at \$50,000.

Three men lost their lives in a mine near Wilkes-Barre, Pa., last week by the explosion of fire-damp.

The West.

Those terrible younger brothers are shooting around Missouri again. They were recently seen in St. Clair County, going north. It is believed they had a hand in the late express robbery near St. Louis.

D. B. Carson, formerly of Sioux City, Iowa, and W. Jackson, of Covington, recently met a horrible death near San Juan, Cal. They were caught, while descending a mountain, in an avalanche of snow, and carried down the mountain a distance of 1,500 feet, and were dead when taken out.

The trial of W. W. Embury for shooting Col. D. R. Anthony, at Leavenworth, Kan., has resulted in a verdict of acquittal.

St. Louis celebrated Christmas in a lively manner. In a fight between some boys, one shot the other in the mouth. In a domestic row, a woman chopped up a man with a hatchet. Another boy was stabbed in the knee by a boot-black. Two women got on a Christmas drunk, and one slashed the other with a razor. The list of festivities closes with another domestic affray, in which one man beat another with a club almost to death.

Hon. William A. Richardson, a leading Democratic politician of Illinois, and an ex-United States Senator, died at his home in Quincy, on the 27th ult., aged 64. His disease was paralysis.

A monster aerolite, emitting a light almost as great as that of day, passed over St. Louis a few nights ago, and exploded near the city. The concussion caused by the explosion was distinctly felt, and was sufficient to shake the windows of houses, and, in some instances, to shake entire buildings.

Supreme Judge Wilson, of Idaho, is dead.

The South.

Heavy rains and damaging floods are reported throughout Southern and Western Texas.

Richmond, Va., and the surrounding region experienced a violent earthquake shock on the night of Dec. 22, causing much alarm.

Within the past week the revenue officers have captured fifteen illicit distillers, destroyed ten stills, and secured 10,000 gallons of sour mash, in the neighborhood of Greensboro, S. C.

Extensive arrangements are being made for the Mardi Gras festival in New Orleans and other Southern cities.

Woodward, the dishonest School Trustee of Shelby County, Tenn., who some time ago embezzled \$150,000 of the school fund, has been

arrested in San Francisco and taken back to Memphis for trial.

E. L. Patterson, member of the Legislature from Natchitoches Parish, La., was recently shot and killed by one Congrove, editor of the Natchitoches Vidicator.

The Alabama Legislature met on the 28th ult. Fisk University, of Nashville, Tenn., a magnificent new building for the education of colored youth, was dedicated on New Year's Day.

Washington.

The policy of the House Committee on Appropriations, as outlined in the Washington dispatches, contemplates a reduction of \$40,000,000 in the public expenditures during the ensuing fiscal year. The War and Navy Departments are to be reduced \$10,000,000 each, the former by reduction of the army to a maximum of 15,000 men, and the navy by selling all but first-class war vessels.

The "Granger" cases, involving the question of the right of States to regulate the carrying rates of railroads, will be further argued before the Supreme Court on the 11th of January.

Gen. Babcock returned to Washington last week. It is stated that the President firmly believes in his innocence, and has no doubt that the forthcoming trial will fully vindicate his secretary.

The Chicago Times' Washington correspondent telegraphs that "the Government people are getting ready for a good hard fight in Chicago. They regard the whisky men of that city as more powerful, socially and financially, than those of St. Louis. They know also that Chicago men in a fight have better staying qualities, and that it will not be reasonable to expect that there will be any pleading guilty in advance of trials, as there has been in St. Louis. The men of Chicago are banded together, for a desperate resistance, and will use every means to defeat the Government."

The ball opens in Chicago on the 11th of January. There are whispers in the air that some startling disclosures are in store for the public, compared with which the St. Louis developments will fall into insignificance. Information has been filed with the authorities at Washington that Spanish agents have violated the neutrality laws by enlisting Italian soldiers in Cuba. The matter is to be investigated.

A delegation of Texans recently called upon President Grant to urge him to take some effective measures to protect the Rio Grande frontier from Mexican depredations. The President, in reply, referred to the proposed reduction of the army, and said that the present force was not sufficient to occupy all the territory needing protection; and if the army is reduced, it will be necessary to withdraw troops from Territories where new armies are to be opened, and where now comes new protection. A greater force on the Rio Grande, he said, is out of the question.

The Comptroller of the Currency has called upon the National Banks for their reports showing their condition at the close of business on Friday, the 17th of December. Secretary Fish says there is not a word of truth in the stories of impending troubles with Spain, but, on the contrary, that the countries are on good terms, with every prospect of every question pending between them being peacefully settled.

A Washington dispatch says: "It is asserted in prominent circles that if as reported from London, 'There is a near advent of European intervention in Cuba,' our Government would inform such powers as might combine for this purpose that their course would be highly offensive to the United States, as it would imply a design of controlling affairs in localities contiguous to this country, thereby injuriously affecting our commercial and political interests, and for this reason, apart from other considerations, the United States should continue to act in the spirit of the Monroe doctrine."

The work of consolidating the revenue collection districts throughout the country has been completed, and the number is reduced from 209 to 163. The annual saving to the Government by this consolidation will be about \$250,000.

The Secretary of the Treasury has given directions for the retirement of \$644,550 legal-tender notes on account of national bank circulation issued during December. This will leave outstanding legal-tenders, until a further reduction, \$37,182,722. The amount of additional national bank notes issued since Nov. 1 is \$1,761,290, and the total amount issued since the passage of the act of June 14, 1874, is \$12,715,975. The amount of legal-tender notes deposited by national banks for the purpose of retiring circulation since Nov. 1 is \$2,987,206.

Political.

The chairmanships of the several committees of the lower house of Congress, we find by examination, are apportioned among the several States as follows:

SOUTHERN STATES.	
Virginia.....	2
Mississippi.....	2
Kentucky.....	1
West Virginia.....	1
Tennessee.....	2
North Carolina.....	2
Total.....	10
WESTERN STATES.	
Illinois.....	3
Ohio.....	2
Missouri.....	2
Total.....	7
NORTHERN STATES.	
Pennsylvania.....	1
New York.....	5
Maryland.....	1
Total.....	7
EASTERN STATES.	
None.....	0

In the last Congress the Eastern States had seven chairmen.

A Washington dispatch states that Pinchback has given up his fight and will resign before the Louisiana Legislature adjourns, in order that a successor may be elected.

Speaker Kerr passed the holidays with a friend in Philadelphia.

The St. Louis police have commenced a vigorous war against the policy shops of that city.

The Washington correspondent of the Chicago Tribune telegraphs: "A number of Republicans are preparing to make vigorous opposition to the proposition of the Democrats to reduce the army. The political argument need quietly among members will be that it is a device of the Democrats to deplete the army while it is strongly Republican, and to fill it up again if the Democrats carry the next election, mainly from the South."

General.

It has been discovered that Thompson, the dynamite demon, who attempted to blow up a steamer at Bremerhaven, once lived in St. Louis. This information may be of service in assisting the effort to ascertain how it was possible for a human mind to hatch out the enormous scheme which led to the Mosel explosion.

At a recent meeting of coal merchants in Pittsburgh, who are interested in the improvement of the Ohio River, a report was read by a

committee appointed at a former meeting, in which it was set forth that the best method of improving the Ohio would be to keep it near to its unobstructed normal condition; to remove the wrecks, snags and other impediments; to place wing-dams where the water spreads too much, and at the head of some of the islands, to turn the water and increase the depth in the channel side; and to require channel spans of 400 feet length in all bridges.

There has been received in Philadelphia a formal acceptance by Pope Pius IX. of an invitation by the Centennial authorities requesting his Holiness to give his recognition to the enterprise by contribution to the Exposition works of art from the galleries of the Vatican or from the workshops over which he has control. The letters of the Pope are couched in the warmest terms of friendship for the United States.

The Philadelphia parties who made the recent shipment of fresh beef to Europe have received word that it reached Liverpool in good condition. Another shipment has been made.

The Dominion Government have under consideration the subject of extending the provisions of the extradition treaty, so as to prevent criminals within Canada or the United States from taking advantage of the facilities of escape afforded by a long line of boundary.

Chicago is enjoying a season of comic operas. Mrs. James A. Oates and her company having begun an engagement at McVicker's Theater, on Monday last. As an opera bouffier Mrs. Oates is unrivaled, and the company supporting her is said to be first-class.

The Mark Lane Express reports the European breadstuffs market dull and declining.

The Secretary of the Centennial Commission has received a letter announcing that the editors of Indiana, with their wives, numbering in all about 200 persons, will visit Philadelphia about the 16th of January, for the purpose of viewing the Centennial buildings.

Susan B. Anthony refuses to go to Brooklyn to testify in the Loader perjury case.

Postmaster-General Jewell has notified the British postal authorities that from and after the 1st of January his department will demand the payment of the full cost of transporting all Australian mails across this continent, which are now transported at an actual loss, under Great Britain's construction of the Postal Union requirements.

Foreign.

From a Shanghai dispatch it would seem that the Chinese Government, not content with sending one Minister to represent it in this country, as other and less pretentious nations are, has appointed two, and their names are Chen Lang Pin and Yung Heng.

The English school-ship Goliath was recently burned at Gravesend. Twenty boys lost their lives by the disaster.

Spain has decided to send more reinforcements to Cuba.

Tweed is reported to be in Havana.

The Sultan of Turkey is spending all his available cash in hastily arming his forces on sea and land.

The Prince of Wales was at Calcutta at last accounts, where he had a magnificent reception.

A serious revolution is in progress in Sonora, Northern Mexico, and anarchy reigns supreme. A cable dispatch announces the death of Earl Stanhope, the English historian and essayist, aged 70 years.

Ex-Senator Thiers has consented to stand for election as a Senator in the new branch of the French Legislature.

A Vienna dispatch says that Turkey has sent a circular to the powers pledging herself to the execution of the reforms promised by the Sultan.

Russia, it is said, will shortly annex the whole of Khokand.

Late advices from Abyssinia state that a force of 2,000 Egyptian troops sent by the Khedive to subjugate the Abyssinians were drawn into ambush and nearly every man slaughtered. The bodies of the officers were literally heaped to pieces and their heads stuck on spears and thrown to the wild beasts. The Khedive will send a force of 12,000 men, accompanied by all the American officers, to avenge the massacre.

The work of restoring the Column Vendome, in Paris, destroyed by the Communists, was completed on the 27th ult., and the statue of Napoleon was replaced on the top of the column. No public ceremonies attended the proceedings.

A Christmas gathering in the village of Hilkon, Switzerland, was overtaken by a fearful calamity. The festivities were being held in a school house, when the flooring gave way, and 80 persons were killed and 50 wounded.

Advices from the seat of war in Herzegovina report a great battle at Nitchitz, lasting nearly all day. Fifteen thousand troops were engaged. The Turkish forces claim a decisive victory. The fighting on both sides was desperate, and the losses were severe.

Ex-Queen Isabella, of Spain, is down with the measles.

From the Philippine Islands comes news of a dreadful hurricane, resulting in an appalling destruction of life and property. Two hundred and fifty lives were lost, and 3,800 dwellings were destroyed. Many cattle perished, and the crops in all directions ruined.

The little unpleasantness between China and Great Britain, growing out of the murder of some of the latter's subjects, has been settled by negotiation, but the terms are very unsatisfactory to the Mongolians, and a war between the two countries is not improbable.

Advices from India report that the British troops have completely quelled the Malay insurrection.

RECORD OF 1875.

A Chronology of the Important Events of the Year.

JANUARY.

1—With the new year came a new dynasty for Spain; Alfonso XII., son of the ex-Queen Isabella, was proclaimed King, and was supported by the army and navy; a new Ministry was announced, with Castro at the head.

FEBRUARY.

3—The Marquis of Hartington chosen leader of the English Liberals.

6—Fire at Osaka, Japan; 1,200 buildings destroyed, and several lives lost.

7—Fire at Yonchama, Japan; three hundred houses destroyed.

15—Extensive fire at Port au Prince, Hayti; 500 houses burned.

MARCH.

3—Senate bill for the admission of Colorado as a State passed by the House.

4—Telegram from London announcing the wreck of the steamer G. Thuesen on one of the Færø Islands, in Bæns Straits, between

Van Diemen's Land and Australia; of 110 persons on board, only 22 reported saved.

5—The Senate of the Forty-fourth Congress met in extra session; action on the admission of Pinchback, as Senator from Louisiana, postponed.

6—Destructive tornado in Georgia; great loss of life and property.

24—Explosion in a coal mine near Charleroi, Belgium, causing the death and injury of many persons.

APRIL.

23—Three steamers burned at the New Orleans levee; 50 lives sacrificed.

28—Destructive fire at Oskosh, Wis.; a square mile of the city laid in ruins. Explosion of a powder magazine in London, England, and several lives lost.

MAY.

1—Explosion at Bunker Hill Colliery, North Staffordshire, England; 41 lives lost.

18—Earthquake in New Granada; six cities desolated. The city of Cucuta entirely obliterated; 15,000 lives lost.

20—Fire at Oceola, Fla.; 250 houses destroyed; loss over \$2,000,000.

24—Intelligence in London, England, of the sinking of an Australian ferry boat in the Tyne, with Roman Catholic pilgrims on board; 70 lives lost.

26—Explosion in a drug store in Boston, Mass.; several people killed and others fatally injured.

27—Burning of the French Catholic Church at Holyoke, Mass., during the celebration of the feast of Corpus Christi; 75 lives lost.

30—The steamer Vicksburg, bound for Liverpool from Montreal, went down in a field of ice; 83 lives reported lost.

JUNE.

2—The Ohio Republican Convention, at Columbus, nominated ex-Gov. Rutherford B. Hayes for Governor.

3—Sixty persons drowned by the capsizing of a lighter on the Tagus, in Portugal.

17—The Ohio Democratic Convention, at Columbus, renominated Gov. Wm. Allen. The centennial anniversary of the battle of Bunker Hill was celebrated at Boston; Judge Devens delivered the oration.

22—The American team in Ireland won the rifle match at Dollymount, the score for the American team being 368 and 323 for the Irish team.

JULY.

5—Near Far Rockaway, Long Island, collision between two trains on the South Side Railroad; 7 persons were killed, 6 fatally and 22 seriously injured. The steam tug Lumberman, while returning from Fortress Monroe with a pleasure party of 18 on board, was run down by the steamer Isaac Bell, of New Bedford, and sunk in 85 feet of water; 9 of the company were drowned; the steamer was not injured.

8—A serious insurrection against the Turkish Government broke out in Herzegovina, a province with 7,000 square miles of territory and a population of 250,000.

9—A water-spout bursting over the town of Kirm, in Rhénish Prussia, inundated the place, and 13 persons were drowned.

13—Explosion in the arsenal at Hildesburg, Prussia; 1 person killed and 19 wounded. The centennial anniversary of Daniel O'Connell's birthday was celebrated in Ireland, with great enthusiasm.

23—Collision on the Midland Railroad, in England; 5 persons killed and 40 injured.

SEPTEMBER.

2—A railway train broke through a rotten bridge near Goshen, en route for Kingston, Canada; 25 persons injured.

7—Gov. Ames, of Mississippi, telegraphed to President Grant declaring that that State domestic violence existed in its most aggravated form, and that he was compelled to appeal to the General Government for assistance.

8—The New York State Republican Convention held at Saratoga; Frederick W. Seward was nominated for Secretary of State.

9—Loss of the propeller Equinox, near Point au Sable, Lake Michigan; 26 persons drowned.

11—Loss of 11 lives from poisonous gas in the Donington Wood Colliery, Shropshire, England.

16—The New York State Democratic Convention at Syracuse nominated John Bigelow for Governor of that State.

17—Violent cyclone on the Gulf of Mexico; in Galveston the water was driven over the island alternately from gulf and bay; houses were removed, the railroad damaged, and numerous vessels driven ashore; in Louisiana, on Matagorda Bay, over 100 lives were lost; the place was flooded 80 feet deep, and houses, stores, wharves and the lighthouse were swept away; nine-tenths of the houses in town were destroyed.

26—A dummy train near Philadelphia was run into by an excursion train on the Pennsylvania Railroad; 5 persons killed and 20 injured. The steamer Adler came in collision with the Swedish steamer King Oscar II. near Grimsby, England; the latter sunk, and 14 persons on board were drowned.

30—At the reunion of the Army of the Tennessee at Des Moines, Iowa, President Grant presided, and a speech was made for the first time since his return to the United States, for the stress laid upon the question of sectarian schools.

OCTOBER.

4—The Swedish steamer L. J. Pongee, running between Lübeck and Copenhagen, burned in Baltic; 24 of the passengers and 11 of the crew perished.

21—Severe gales off the Scottish coast; 5 vessels lost, with their crews.

26—Great fire in Virginia City, Nev.; the business portion of the city completely destroyed; estimated loss, \$4,000,000.

NOVEMBER.

4—The steamship Pacific forwarded from San Francisco and Portland; nearly 300 lives lost.

7—Wreck of the British ship Calcutta, from Quebec to Liverpool, on Grosbe Lake; 28 lives lost.

9—The steamship City of Waco burned off Galveston Bar; nearly 70 lives lost.

15—News in London of the wreck of the British ship Austria, near Boulogne, France; 9 persons drowned.

16—Joseph Aubert was buried in the Catholic cemetery, Montreal; the coffin was laid in a bed of cement, to preclude the possibility of its removal.

17—Unveiling of a monument at Baltimore to the memory of Edgar A. Poe.

18—Railway disaster between Stockholm and Malmö, Denmark; 60 passengers killed or severely injured.

20—Daniel O'Leary, a Chicago pedestrian, finished a walk of 605 miles in six days, beating E. P. Weston 52 miles, for a purse. News received of a terrible storm on the English coast; 16 vessels wrecked with a loss of 50 lives.

26—Fighting on the Rio Grande River between Mexican cattle thieves and Texas militia; four of the former killed; the Texans overpowered and driven back from the Mexican side.

28—Storm on the English coast, in the vicinity of Yarmouth; 40 vessels wrecked and many lives lost. Information received of a great battle in Asia between the Russians and the insurgents in Khokand; nearly 4,000 of the latter killed.

29—Liberians at war with the native tribes represent themselves in a state of starvation, and petition our Government for aid.

30—Chas. D. Whylard ("Big Charlie"), proprietor of the Great South Bay, Chicago, killed by a drunken desperado named Henry Davis, alias John Turner. Dismal gale off the coast of Fifehire, Scotland; 16 fishermen drowned, with 14 missing, and a number of fishing vessels lost. Loss of six Canadian vessels bound for the Magdalen Islands, with supplies for the starving inhabitants; 45 lives lost. The schooner Sunshine, from San Francisco, wrecked and capsized at the mouth of the Columbia River; 30 passengers and a crew of 10 all drowned. Chavez, the California bandit, killed in Arizona while resisting arrest.

29—Part of the Russian garrison at Khokand massacred. Twelve hundred Egyptians surprised and killed by the Abyssinians.

1—Burial of Henry Wilson at Natick, Mass. Eleven lives lost by the sinking of the steamer Sunnyside on the Hudson River—out in two by ice. Sailed J. G. Jenkins foundered on Lake Ontario, near Oswego, and all on board, 9 persons lost.

4—Fertile explosion in a coal mine near Tredegar, Wales; 20 miners killed. Wm. M.

Tweed escaped from Ludlow Street Jail, New York. Wm. Aden, of Cleveland, O., killed his wife, stepdaughter, and a neighbor. Destruction by fire of La Jeunesse Hotel, at Back River, Canada; 3 persons consumed in the flames. Explosion of a sugar house boiler near Franklin, La.; 3 men killed, and a dozen others badly injured.

6—Another colliery disaster, more appalling in its results than any that has occurred for many years, reported from Yorkshire, England; 140 miners killed. Congress organized, M. C. Kerr, of Indiana, elected Speaker of the House.

7—The German passenger steamer Deutschland wrecked on the English coast; 50 out of the 175 on board drowned or perished from cold.

13—Rev. W. E. McLaren consecrated Episcopal Bishop of the Diocese of Illinois.

9—Explosion in a coal mine near Leeds, England; 6 men killed. Riot in Iaquena County, Miss.; 7 colored men killed by a Sheriff's posse.

10—News received of the loss on Lake Michigan of the schooner Windgate, of Manitowish, Wis., with all on board.

51—Fifty persons killed and a large number wounded by an explosion of dynamite on a quay in Bremen harbor, Germany.

12—Election of Senators for life begun in France; 9 chosen, all Republicans.

14—A great land slide, involving \$20,000,000, developed in Missouri and Arkansas.

14—A bill offered in Congress providing that the President at the end of his term shall become a Senator for life. The cabinet shops at the Wheeler & Wilson works, in Bridgeport, Conn., burned down; loss, \$500,000; insurance, \$300,000.

16—Terrible explosion in a Belgian coal mine, caused by the ignition of fire-damp; 110 persons killed. Thompson, alias Thompson, who caused the Bremerhaven explosion, committed suicide; he confessed his crime. A 27-ounce nugget was found by a Black Hills gold miner. The jury in the case of the murderer Albert Mabel Young, at Boston, could not agree.

17—Three colored murderers hanged at New York; a German, aged 65, executed for murder at Hermann, Mo., and a desperado informally hanged at Carson City, Nevada, for general wickedness.

20—News received of an earthquake in Porto Rico on the nights of Dec. 8 and 9, which created great alarm; the capital of San Juan was almost entirely destroyed.

22—Explosion of a gas-main in Boston; 6 persons killed, 9 seriously hurt, and 7 missing. Burning of the training-school ship Goliath at Greenwich, England; 20 boys reported to have perished.

NECROLOGY.

A List of the Distinguished Dead of 1875.

JANUARY.