

CONGRESSIONAL.

SENATE.—MONDAY, JANUARY 21.—Mr. Van Wyck introduced a resolution providing that any further debate on the Mexican treaty be had with open doors. Objections were made to its reception and the chair ruled it out of order to present such resolutions to the open senate. Mr. Van Wyck appealed from the decision of the chair. On motion of Mr. Edmunds, the senate resolved to close the doors in order to discuss the appeal. The ruling of the chair was sustained by the senate in secret session. Objection was then made to the immediate discussion of the resolution, even in secret session, and it went over for one day under the rules. The doors were then opened. The bill permitting retired army officers to hold civil office in the territories was passed—yeas 37, nays 11. The establishment of a civil government in Alaska was taken up. It provides for a government to be appointed by the president, with powers similar to those of governors in other territories, and establishes courts, etc. The amendment proposed in the senate, making the laws of Oregon, as far as applicable, the laws of Alaska.

HOUSE.—Bills were introduced: By Mr. Valentine, authorizing a bridge across the Missouri river at Decatur. By Mr. Taylor (Ohio), repealing all limitations of time in which meritorious applications for pensions should be filed. By Mr. George, authorizing the commissioner of Indian affairs to make an investigation into the massacre of Dr. Marcus Whim and others, in the year 1847. By Mr. Warren (Penn.) (by request), to procure information relative to the demand and price of American agricultural products in other countries. By Mr. Anderson, to provide for the adjustment of railroad land grants, etc. By Mr. Edmunds, to amend the act granting aid for the construction of a railroad telegraph line from the Missouri river to the Pacific ocean, and secure the government use of same for postal, military and other purposes.

SENATE.—TUESDAY, JAN. 22.—Mr. Cameron (Wis.), from the committee on Indian affairs, reported adversely on a number of petitions asking for the opening of the Oklahoma lands to settlement. At the conclusion of the morning business Mr. Anthony's resolution, relating to the prohibition of American pork by France and Germany, was called up and Mr. Beck proceeded to address the senate. Mr. Miller (N. Y.) did not think the senate was prepared now to say we should enter upon a course of absolute retaliation. The senators should not act hastily. The senate could not say at this stage of the information whether the claims of Germany were not honestly entertained. Mr. Logan thought that congress ought to pass a general law authorizing the president to protect American interests when congress is not in session against embargoes laid on our exports by foreign countries. The senate took up the bill to provide for a civil government in Alaska. Without reaching a conclusion on the bill the executive session adjourned.

HOUSE.—MR. PARKER offered a resolution reciting that it is alleged that the interest of American agriculturists and dairymen are greatly injured by the manufacture of oleomargarine and butterine, and directing the committee on agriculture to inquire into the allegation and ascertain the facts. Referred. The bill passed providing that no damages be recovered for infringement of patent against the mere user for his own benefit if purchased in the open market without notice that the article was patented. Mr. Davis, of Missouri, introduced a bill to repeal section one of the act making the grant of land in aid of the construction of the Iron Mountain railroad from Pilot Knob to Helena. Referred. On motion of Ryan an order was made fixing Thursday, the 28th of February as the time of delivering appropriate tributes to the memory of the late Dudley C. Haskell.

SENATE.—WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25.—Mr. Sherman introduced a long preamble and resolution, reciting the circumstances connected with the election riots at Danville, Va., and the killing of Matthews in Copiah county, Mississippi, and instructing the committee on privileges and elections to make a full investigation of the whole subject and report by bill or otherwise. Mr. Van Wyck offered a resolution which, after amendment, was agreed to, calling for full information from the attorney general as to fees paid attorneys in the star-route cases. Mr. Butler called up his resolution, providing that clerk salary be \$1,000 per annum for each senator who is not chairman of a standing or select committee. The bill providing for a civil government in Alaska was discussed without action. Mr. Logan presented the minority report on the Fitz John Porter bill. The senate went into executive session and then adjourned.

HOUSE.—MR. ELLIS, of the committee on appropriations, reported the joint resolution appropriating \$50,000 for the support of the destitute Indians at the Crow agency at Fort Belknap, Fort Peck and the Blackfeet agency in Montana. Passed. Mr. Hewitt (N. Y.) offered a resolution calling upon the secretary of the treasury for information in regard to the trade between the United States and Mexico, and the traffic over railroads connecting the two countries. Referred. The bill to provide a more speedy delivery of letters at free delivery offices was taken up. It authorizes the postmaster-general to issue a special ten-cent stamp, which is to be attached to the letter in addition to the regular postage, and will insure immediate delivery at free delivery offices up to midnight. A long discussion sprang up, the opponents of the measure taking the ground that its passage would have the effect of cutting the revenues of the postoffice department, and its advocates replying that the new system would be found self-sustaining, and insure a great convenience to the people.

SENATE.—THURSDAY, JANUARY 24.—Hale reported favorably the house joint resolution for the relief of the Greely expedition. The senate voted down all attempts to limit the expenses of the expedition. The chair announced the next business in order was consideration of the Alaska civil government bill. On motion of Van Wyck, the clause relating to compensation of the marshal of the territory, partly by salary, partly by fees, was amended, making it exclusively by salary, the fees to be paid into the treasury. He claimed payment by fees was an inducement to officers to oppress the people by arresting them on trivial offenses in order to secure fees therefor. Mr. Logan submitted a joint resolution for the removal of the remains of the late Gen. E. O. C. Ord from Havana to Washington, which was passed.

HOUSE.—The bill making appropriation for the payment of the rebate tax on tobacco and payment of expenses of the New Mexico legislature was passed, yeas 270, nays 1. Cook introduced a bill providing that pensions for total disability be \$20 a month, without regard to rank. Blanchford, from the committee on rivers and harbors, reported a resolution calling for the removal of the remains of the late Gen. E. O. C. Ord from Havana to Washington, which was passed.

the house committee on commerce against the bills regulating inter-state commerce. He objected to any law restraining railroads pooling business.

SENATE.—FRIDAY, JANUARY 25.—The house having disagreed to the senate amendment of the Greely relief bill, the senate insisted on its amendment and a committee on conference was appointed. The bill passed donating a part of the Fort Smith military reservation to the city of Fort Smith for the benefit of public schools. Mr. Hoar's bill providing for the performance of the duties of president in case of removal by death, resignation or inability to serve of the president and vice president, was passed. The bill vests the right to perform the presidential duties in such a contingency in the secretary of state, then in the secretary of the treasury, then in the secretary of war, and so on through the cabinet. Mr. Gibson introduced a bill to facilitate the reform of the civil service. Mr. Bayard, of the committee on finance, reported favorably the bill providing for the issue of circulating notes to national banking associations. Placed on the calendar. (This is the bill agreed upon in the committee to-day.)

HOUSE.—The Fitz-John Porter bill was again under discussion, but no vote on the measure was taken. The senate bill passed providing for the removal of the remains of the late General Ord from Havana to Washington. The speaker laid before the house the response of the secretary of the navy to a resolution, stating that he has no knowledge of any service rendered by American officers or men to the British navy during the bombardment of Alexandria. Referred. Also, a letter from the postmaster general in response to the house resolution in regard to expenditures of star route cases, requesting the names of persons indebted to the government and expected to rely upon the prosecution of such persons. Referred. The postmaster general informs the house that an itemized list of expenditures is being prepared, but that it is detrimental to the public interest to give the names of persons indebted to the government and the names of prepared witnesses.

HOUSE.—SATURDAY, JANUARY 27.—The speaker laid before the house the credentials of F. W. Rockwell, member elect of the Twelfth district of Massachusetts. He took the oath of office. Mr. Hatch (Missouri), of the committee on agriculture reported a bill for the establishment of a bureau of animal industry to prevent the exportation of diseased cattle. It provides for the suppression and extirpation of pleuro-pneumonia and other contagious diseases in domestic animals. Ordered printed. The house went into committee of the whole (Springer in the chair) on the Fitz John Porter bill, several members taking part in the discussion.

Later Concerning the Colorado Mine Explosion.

DENVER, JANUARY 26.—Twenty-three more burned bodies were to-day recovered from the Crested Butte mine, making fifty-seven in all. But two remain. These will be recovered to-day. They were all found in chamber No. 2 and in the passage way in the immediate vicinity. Many have arm and legs broken, skulls crushed in, and clothing burned, and in many cases that drops of rain in rags when the body is moved. The hair is burned from the heads and all the skin burned from the face and other exposed portions of the body, leaving it an utterly unrecognizable mass of raw and bleeding flesh. The appearance of these bodies is horrible beyond description, and it is not likely that any of them can be recognized. Many of the faces have coal dust ground into them until they are as black as coal itself. To-day the company began the erection of a large frame building, where the bodies will be placed and where the funeral services will be held. Crowds are coming on every train and on snowshoes from all the surrounding camps. The Colorado Coal and Iron company, besides the erection of the building spoken of, will bear all the funeral expenses and make ample provision for the needy families of the deceased.

Snatched from the Gallows.

LINCOLN, JAN. 22.—Governor Dawes to-day commuted to life imprisonment the sentences of John Pollin, to be hanged at Plattsmouth on Friday, and George Hart, whose execution is also set for Friday at Grand Island. In the case of Pollin it was rather expected that the action would be taken, since the prisoner's relatives and attorneys made such a touching appeal to his excellency on Thursday last. In Hart's case, however, some surprise was manifested, among those who thought they understood the case pretty thoroughly, as it was generally conceded that he ought to hang. The action of the executive is based on letters from Chief Justice Cobb, Justice Lakes and M. B. Reese, Hart's prosecutor.

School Fund Leases.

STATE JOURNAL.
A suit recently came before the supreme court from Lancaster county relative to the refunding of taxes collected by county treasurers upon school lands sold and not wholly paid for by the persons against whom assessed, question arose as to whether the title of the bill embraced two subjects, contrary to the constitutional provision. It transpires that the court was agreed that such was the case, but a subtler question arose: Whether the court could declare a part of the law—the main and important portion of the bill—to be valid, and to prune it of the surplus matter alone; whether it most all go to pot together, or only such part of it as created the conflict with the constitutional limitation. Upon this question the court is said to have been divided, and the approaching retirement of Judge Lake led to a postponement of its consideration. If the law is determined to be invalid, as a matter of course the old law remains unreppealed, and instantly comes into all of its former force and effect. Its provision for the lease of lands are identical with those of the act now in controversy, and there can be no disturbing effects upon contracts with the state for the sale or lease thereof. There can be no sounder title to realty in Nebraska than that acquired from the land commissioner, and all alarm or uneasiness upon the subject is entirely unnecessary.

OUT OF THE DEPTHS.

Our Correspondent's Researches and a Remarkable Occurrence He Describes.

ST. ALBANS, Vt., Jan. 10, 1884.
Messrs. Editors: The upper portion of Vermont is one of the pleasantest regions in America during the summer and one of the bleakest during the winter. It affords ample opportunity for the tourist, providing he chooses the proper season, but the present time is not that season. Still there are men and women here who not only endure the climate, but praise it unstintingly, and that, too, in the face of physical hardships the most intense. The writer heard of a striking illustration of this a few days since which is given herewith:

Mr. Joseph Jacques is connected with the Vermont Central railroad in the capacity of master mason. He is well advanced in years, with a ruddy complexion and hale appearance, while his general bearing is such as to instantly impress one with his strict honor and integrity. Several years ago he became afflicted with most distressing troubles, which prevented the prosecution of his duties. He was languid, and yet restless, while at times a dizziness would come over him which seemed almost blinding. His will power was strong, and he determined not to give way to the mysterious influence which seemed undermining his life. But the pain and annoying symptoms were stronger than his will, and he kept growing gradually worse. About that time he began to notice a difficulty about drawing on his boots, and it was by the greatest effort that he was able to force his feet into them. In this manner several weeks passed by, until finally one night, while in great agony, he discovered that his feet had, in a short while, swollen to enormous proportions. The balance of the narrative can best be described in his own words. He said:

"When my wife discovered the fact that I was so bloated, she sent for the doctor immediately. He made a most careful examination and pronounced me in a very serious condition. Notwithstanding his care, I grew worse, and the swelling of my feet gradually extended upward in my body. The top of my head pained me terribly; indeed, so badly that at times it seemed almost as if it would burst. My feet were painfully cold, and even when surrounded with hot flannels and irons felt as if a strong wind were blowing on them. Next my right leg became paralyzed. This gave me no pain, but it was exceedingly annoying. About this time I began to spit blood most freely, although my lungs were in perfect condition, and I knew it did not come from them. My physicians were careful and untiring in their attentions, but unable to relieve my sufferings. My neighbors and friends thought I was dying, and many called to see me, fully twenty-five on a single Sunday that I now recall. At last my agony seemed to culminate in the most intense, sharp pains I have ever known or heard of. If red hot knives sharpened to the highest degree had been run through my body constantly they could not have hurt me worse. I would spring up in bed, sometimes as much as three feet, cry out in my agony and long for death. One night the misery was so intense that I arose and attempted to go into the next room, but was unable to lift my swollen feet above the little threshold that obstructed them. I fell back upon the bed and gasped in my agony, but felt unable even to breathe. It seemed like death.

"Several years ago Rev. Dr. J. E. Rankin, now of Washington, was stationed here as pastor of the Congregational church. We all admired and respected him, and my wife remembered seeing somewhere that he had spoken in the highest terms of a preparation which had cured some of his intimate friends. We determined to try this remedy, accordingly sent for it, and, to make a long story short, it completely restored my health, brought me back from the grave, and I owe all I have in the way of health and strength to Warner's Safe Kidney and Liver Cure. I am positive that if I had taken this medicine when I felt the first symptoms above described, I might have avoided all the agony I afterward endured, to say nothing of the narrow escape I had from death."

In order that all possible facts bearing upon the subject might be known, I called on Dr. Oscar F. Fassett, who was for nineteen years United States examining surgeon, and who attended Mr. Jacques during his sickness. He stated that Mr. Jacques had a most pronounced case of Albuminuria or Bright's disease of the kidneys. That an analysis showed the presence of albumen and casts in great abundance, and that he was in a condition where few if any ever recover. His recovery was due to Warner's Safe Kidney Cure.

Mr. John W. Hobart, general manager of the Vermont Central railroad, stated that Mr. Jacques was one of the best and most faithful of his employes, that his sickness had been an exceedingly severe one and the company were not only glad to again have his services, but grateful to the remedy that had cured so valuable a man.

Mr. James M. Foss, assistant superintendent and master mechanic of the Vermont Central railroad, is also able to confirm this.

I do not claim to be a great discoverer, but I do think I have found in the above a most remarkable case and knowing the unusual increase of Bright's disease, feel that the public should have the benefit of it. It seems to me a remedy that can accomplish so much in the

last stages ought to do even more for the first approach of this deceptive yet terrible trouble.

F. B.

CHOKED BY FIRE-DAMP.

A Terrible Mine Explosion Resulting in the Loss of Many Lives and Placing Colorado in Mourning.

GUNNISON, JANUARY 24.—A terrible explosion occurred at 8 o'clock this morning in the Colorado Coal and Iron Company's mine at Crested Butte. So far only the most meagre details have been received here, but the loss of life is supposed to be terrible. There were 67 men in the mine at the time of the explosion. Of these, seven (who were just entering) were blown back to the entrance by the force of the explosion, and have been rescued. One of these men is dead. The others are all badly injured. There are 56 men in the mine and cannot be reached. They are all supposed to be dead.

LATER.—The explosion was one of the most appalling that ever occurred in a coal mine in this country. The cause of the explosion is not definitely known, but it is supposed to have occurred from fire damp. It occurred half an hour after the day force of sixty-seven men had gone to work. There were ten men at work in the chamber. Four of them escaped unhurt, except John Angus, who was in the passage way outside the chamber. He was badly burned, but will recover. Fifty-seven men were at work in chambers one and two. These are all thought to have perished. The explosion was of such force as to completely barricade the main entrance. At this hour everything is in such confusion that it is impossible to give details. The town of Crested Butte is in mourning. Crowds of women cluster about the entrance of the mine, praying, wringing their hands and crying piteously. It is said that at the time of the explosion there were ten kegs of blast powder in the chambers where the men were working and where the explosion is supposed to have taken place. The mine has three miles of drifting, and so it is impossible to definitely locate the accident until the rescuing parties can gain admittance to the mine. The mine has long been considered dangerous by those acquainted with it. While one of the best producing mines in the country, its operation has always been attended with more or less apprehension and real danger.

The exploring party has almost reached chamber No. 2, and has discovered one dead body with skull broken and whole body terribly bruised and blackened. The gas is so bad in the mine and the passage ways so blocked that progress is very slow. All hope of finding any of the buried miners alive has long since been abandoned. Threats are made this evening against Superintendent Robinson and Mine Boss Gibson, principally against the latter, and serious trouble is feared. Robinson is at the mine superintending the work of searching for the bodies. No special fears are entertained for his safety, but a strong guard has been placed about the residence of Gibson to prevent violence.

DENVER, JAN. 25.—It is impossible to get only meagre reports from the scene of the Crested Butte disaster. Through almost superhuman efforts the rescuing party reached chamber No. 2 in the mine this morning, where some of the men were supposed to have been at the time of the explosion. Fifteen dead bodies were found in this chamber, but they have not been taken out, and their names are not learned.

The workmen gained an entrance to chamber No. 1 this morning, but no bodies were found there. Searching further, eighteen bodies were found almost in a heap in an air passage leading to the up cart, near the entrance. The men, alarmed, but not injured by the explosion, evidently attempted to reach the furnace room and were overcome by fire damp within 200 feet from it. Fifty feet back further six more were found, all evidently suffocated. Some had tied handkerchiefs over their mouths. This makes a total of thirty-four bodies found, and includes all at work in chamber No. 1. Workmen will begin the search for bodies in chamber No. 2. This is further into the mine and is undoubtedly where the explosion took place. It is expected that the bodies there will be found badly burned. It is known that there were fifty-nine men and boys in the mine. The cause of the accident is not yet definitely known.

An Effort for Free Ships.

BUFFALO EXPRESS (Rep.)
Already two free ship bills have been introduced in the house, one by Mr. Hewitt, the other by Mr. Cox. As both contain substantially the same provisions, one would have answered. They provide for the repeal of everything in title 48 of the revised statutes that either prohibits or restricts citizens of the United States from purchasing ships built in other countries to be used only in the foreign carrying trade of the United States; also everything imposing taxes, burdens or restrictions on such ships when owned by citizens of the United States which are not imposition ships built in the United States. They further provide that "hereafter it shall be lawful for American citizens to buy ships built wholly or in part in any foreign country, have them registered as ships of the United States and sail them subject only to the regulations now provided for the government and management of ships built wholly in the United States and owned and controlled by citizens thereof. But ships so purchased shall not engage in the coasting trade." On what grounds intelligent men can vote against such bills one would be puzzled to guess.

A genuine Rembrandt has, it is said, arrived in Paris, and is pronounced by competent judges to be superior to the one in the Louvre, which is valued at \$100,000.

AMERICAN "SOCIETY."

As it is Pictured in the Modern Fovel.

If the value of novels to posterity is the pictures they preserve of the social life of the times they delineate, it may fairly be questioned whether our descendants will obtain very accurate notions of American manners in the year of our Lord 1884 from some recent fiction. But two extremes of our social life appear to be favorites with our novel writers, the very poor and the very rich, and the contrasts between the states is presented as if the parties occupying these stations belonged to fixed classes, like the foreign proletariat and the foreign aristocracy. Herein lies falseness of the pictures. It is a truism remembered by all except those who write American novels, that there is no fixed, permanent, enduring social position in America. The son of the poor man of to-day may be the social leader of the next generation. As wealth with its golden keys opens every door in this country, what arrogates to itself the name of "society" simply represents a large number of rich people and their friends, a collection which is depleted as its members lose their money, and recruited as the new rich appear on the scene. There is and can be no fixity of this class so long as its membership depends upon wealth. It is not singular that it should contain very few men or women of high scientific or literary attainments, as these very seldom qualify their possessors to enter the race for social pre-eminence in which the competitors striving for the goal kick up so much gold-dust. That the manners of "society" should reflect the manners of the class from which its members consider themselves promoted is nothing remarkable, for the line of demarcation is not here as in Europe based upon traditions hardened by generations. If the family life of a newly-admitted member of the golden circle has been favorable to the cultivation of gentle manners and modes of thought, he will possess them in his new estate, not by virtue of his admission but of his previous training. Consequently an American novelist who represents one class as delightfully well-bred and another as hopelessly rude, draws a picture which may interest a future generation, but certainly is not recognized in this.

Take ten or twelve bread winners; will eight of them include dullards, knaves, loafers, two very ignorant and one scheming and immodest woman? Perhaps a selected group of this number may include such a proportion, but will the author who makes this selection typical of the largest class of the community leave behind him a picture by which a future generation will obtain a correct idea of the American working people of the last quarter of the nineteenth century? We think not. Surely it must occur to every impartial observer that there must have been at some time a bread winner who was a gold winner as well as in the history of every family who are gold hoarders to-day. Trace back our wealthiest families—and the American novelist knows of no others who have a claim to be considered "society"—and we find their founder a mechanic with more talent than his fellow workmen, or a tradesman who developed into a great merchant. These men in the bread winning stages of their career were neither blockheads nor knaves, nor were their mothers and wives shallow-brained and immodest women, and yet morally these ancestors of the modern rich did not probably differ greatly from their associates. From the ranks of American working-people have sprung many men justly eminent for great services to the state, who held themselves well in high stations, and the future we have no doubt will furnish yet other illustrations of this truth.

A Serious Case.

PHILADELPHIA CALL.
A violent ring at the door, and the doctor poked his head out of an upper window and demanded:
"What's the matter?"
"For pity's sake make haste," came back the answer. "It's a case of life or death. I'm Mr. Simpson, and you are wanted at the house immediately."
The doctor closed the window, and in about fifteen minutes later sauntered leisurely out of the front door and said:
"Ah, Simpson your wife has another fainting spell I suppose?"
"No, no; worse than that. It's her little dog, her pet poodle. He's all rolled up with cramps."
"What! shouted the now alarmed physician, "her pet poodle sick? This is indeed serious. If he should die your wife wouldn't live a week."
And the two men rushed madly up the street.

Harper's Magazine for February is a strong number in both its artistic and literary features. The two serial novels, William Black's "Judith Shakespeare," and the Rev. E. P. Roe's "Nature's Serial Story," have a commanding interest. The front-piece engraving, from Abbey's drawing, "The Bible Reading," is an illustration for Black's novel; and both Delman and Gibson have done their best work for "Nature's Serial Story." The editorial departments are well sustained, as usual, and full of entertainment and instruction.

A man should be careful never to tell tales of himself to his disadvantage. People may be amused and laugh at the time, but they will be remembered and brought up against them on some subsequent occasion.—[Johnson.]

He who sedulously attends, pointedly asks, calmly speaks, coolly answers, and ceases when he has no more to say, is in possession of one of the best requisites of men.—[Lavater.]