

## BLOWN TO ETERNITY.

Charles Thomas Instantly Killed  
in a Boiler Explosion.

From the Lincoln Journal.

A terrific boiler explosion occurred yesterday afternoon about 3:30 o'clock at the new B. & M. wells near F. between 5th and 6th streets. Charles Thomas was instantly killed and Fred Kane and Ernest Reichelt were seriously injured.

For several months past John Latham, of Crete has been engaged in digging a large well for the B. & M., their old well proving inadequate to their demands. This new well was to furnish 1,000 gals. per minute. Mr. Latham let the contract to John Roberts, a machinist of this city, to furnish the power to keep the water out of the well while digging and to test the capacity when finished. Roberts furnished a small portable, and a forty horse stationary boiler, to furnish this power. Considerable trouble was had with the stationary engine, as it was rather old and had seen some very hard service in the 7 or 8 years since it was manufactured. It was therefore standing idle and two upright boilers were borrowed from the railroad company, but these also failed to furnish the necessary power. The old boiler was put in repair and fired up yesterday to test the well, as the company was anxious to use the water. Six men were employed at the well. Roberts was engineering the work and Charles Thomas was firing. The engines had been running about an hour when it was found that the injector was not working. There was from 100 to 120 of steam registered. The injector was labored with for some time but it was found impossible to make it work and the water in the boiler had become very low. The engines were stopped and the injector at once began to work throwing a heavy stream of cold water into the boiler. There was then but 60 pounds of steam registered in the gauge. The water was so low that the crown sheet was uncovered and had grown red hot. The introduction of this cold stream of water into the boiler caused the explosion.

The crown sheet was blown out and the boiler, weighing 8,000 pounds was sent whirling through the air, landing 175 feet east, and plunging up the ground for about 20 feet. There was no warning and after the steam cleared away Charles Thomas, the fireman, was found lying on the railroad about 20 feet away, dead, having been killed instantly. His body and head being terribly scalded and mangled.

Fred Kane and Ernest Reichelt, two laborers who intended going to work last night at the pumps, were standing near by and were badly scalded, although it is not expected that their injuries will prove fatal. They were at once taken to their homes and attended by Dr. Beachley.

The escape of Mr. Roberts and Mr. Latham was certainly miraculous as they were within a few feet of the boiler when it burst.

The body of Thomas was taken by Coroner Roberts to the residence of the deceased's brother, near the old soap factory on the asylum road. The following jury was empaneled, and will meet this morning at 8 o'clock to take the testimony in the case: W. C. Lane, C. C. Beach, A. G. Hastings, C. W. Barbour, John Haverly and Walter Bohanan.

## NEARLY DESTROYED.

The Metropolitan Hotel Damaged  
by Fire this Morning.

A few minutes after 12 o'clock last night the fire department was called to the corner of O and Eighth streets to fight a blaze in the old Metropolitan hotel. When first discovered the flames had gained considerable headway. There was fire in the basement, fire on all of the stairs and fire in the attic, and when the fire companies arrived there was a lively struggle before them. A line of hose was carried into the main hall where it did effective work on the stairways. Another stream was turned in through the basement windows and soon had that part of the building in darkness. In the meantime, however, the blaze was ready to break through the roof and seemed to have gutted the entire upper portion of the house. As quickly as possible three more streams were brought into play on the roof and through the windows, and at 1 o'clock the fire was completely subdued.

The building is badly damaged. Fire or water or both entered every room. The loss cannot be estimated at this writing, and the amount of the insurance is unknown. The property belongs to Mr. J. A. Backstaff. He did not appear at the fire last night, and all efforts to reach him by telephone were unavailing. It is hardly probable that he will consider himself greatly damaged as it has long been his intention to tear down the old Metropolitan to make room for a fine block of wholesale stores.

The place was unoccupied and the furniture was advertised for sale. Wm. Spain, who has been conducting the hotel for the last few months, moved his personal property to another part of the city a short time since. It is thought that the furniture belonged to Mr. Backstaff.

No theory of the cause of the fire was advanced last night but that of incendi-

arism. Chief Newbury states that the house was fired in half a dozen places. It is possible that day-light may bring other explanations.—Lincoln Journal.

## Plattsburgh Sporting Club.

The Plattsburgh Sporting Club gave their twenty-seventh annual game supper Friday evening at the residence of Mrs. Allie Coverdale, on Main street.

The following persons were there as members of the club or as guests:

Dr. and Mrs. Livingston, Capt. and Mrs. L. D. Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Weber, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Drummond, Mr. and Mrs. P. E. White, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Turner, Mr. and Mrs. M. E. O'Brien, Mr. W. S. Wise, C. W. Sherman and daughter, Miss Valery, Miss Simpson, W. H. Baker, Mr. and Mrs. Cook, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. White, Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Morley, Mrs. P. Curtley, C. C. Parnell, Miss Fulmer and Miss Livingston, Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Frickie, P. Seidenstricker, J. P. Antill, E. B. Lewis and our representative.

At 5 minutes past 10 o'clock they all were seated at the tables and the following menu was served: Oyster soup, raw oysters, chicken salad, roast mutton duck, with jelly, cold duck with game sauce, jack snipe, hunter sauce, quail stuffed with oysters. Green peas, mashed potatoes. Pate de foie gras. Baked prairie chicken. Cheese, celery. Assorted cakes, oranges and grapes, nuts and raisins, tea and coffee. Assorted imported wines.

After all had partaken of the bountiful repast till they were satisfied, Frank E. White rose and moved that in the absence of the president of the club, that Dr. Livingston act as president, which was carried unanimously.

Then the president of the evening appointed F. E. White, E. B. Lewis and Wm. Weber as a committee to present and introduce the champion shot of the year, and they immediately introduced to the company M. E. O'Brien. When Dr. Livingston arose and in an appropriate speech presented Mr. O'Brien with a beautiful gold medal, the medal is about the size of a silver quarter hanging by two gold chains on a gold bar. On the bar is the owners name M. E. O'Brien and the medal bears the following inscription: "P. S. C. Best Fall Hunt, 1887" surrounded by a wreath of grass.

Mr. O'Brien thanked the club for their appreciation of him, after which toasts were responded to and the different members told their late experience some of which was very amusing.

The banquet lasted till after midnight.

Last week there arrived at San Francisco the pioneer steamship of a fleet that is to ply regularly between that city and Panama, touching at all intermediate ports, and which will consequently run opposition to the Pacific Mail line. This addition to San Francisco's facilities of commercial intercourse is hailed as of the highest importance, and the most gratifying results are predicted. Among other benefits looked for, it is thought that some day San Francisco may be as important as a coffee center as New York or Havre, while many other valuable articles of commerce produced in Central America and Mexico will go to that city for distribution. The enterprise owes its origin to the Marquis del Campo, who is understood to have ample capital at command to maintain it.—Ree.

W. A. PINKERTON, the St. Louis detective, relates a curious incident to a St. Louis newspaper reporter. He says that a few days ago he received a letter from Joe Kopski, alias Gray, alias Paper Collar, the notorious confidence man, who is now down in Cairo, Egypt, and in high feather. The confidence man tells of the laughable way in which his servant goes ahead of him and cries out: "Make way for the American gentleman." He says that every official turning out is similarly announced along the streets, and, as he writes, he hears the cry, "Make way for the chief of police." "I wish to heaven," writes Joe, "that they'd adopt that plan of announcing the police in America. It would be safer to live there."

The Liquor League of Pennsylvania has united with the democrats against the republicans. This proves that the liquor men know who their friends are, and propose to stand by them. The alliance between the partisan prohibitionists and the democracy is not so open as this, but it is as complete and actual. However, as these elements of darkness will be overwhelmingly overthrown on election day, the conservative, law-abiding citizens of the state are not depressed at the prospect. The republican plurality in Pennsylvania on November 8th next, will not be less than 40,000.—Globe Democrat.

The compromise which has just been made with the railroads reduces the coal tariff sixty cents per ton from Chicago to Nebraska points. Coal consumers are now watching for the benefits but they will have to look a long time before they receive them.

## TALES OF GEN. FORREST.

The Rough and Tumble Manners of the Confederate Cavalry Leader.

The following interesting incidents in the army life of Gen. Bedford Forrest were witnessed by an eye witness, and now for the first time published:

In December, 1862, Gen. N. B. Forrest crossed the Tennessee river and made a raid through west Tennessee, which portion of the state was fortified in many places, all of which were strongly garrisoned. While making a feint against Jackson (to enable the larger part of his brigade to unobtrusively capture the small stockades on the railroad) a staff officer galloped up to the general and exclaimed:

"General, the Yankees are coming up in your rear!"

"Without a moment's hesitation, in the most indifferent manner imaginable, Forrest replied:

"I don't care a— I'll about face and I'll be in their rear."

While crossing the Tennessee river (returning from this same raid) his rear was strongly pressed by the Federals. The ferryboats had to be pulled back and forth by hand. The weather was terribly cold and the men huddled upon the wet ropes their hands would literally freeze to them. Forrest thought those on the east side were working too slowly and crossing over he immediately put every one to work—officers as well as privates.

The colonel who had been left in command on the west side sent his sergeant-major across the river with an important message to Forrest.

The sergeant found the general handling on a rope, alternately encouraging and damning every one near him. He ran up to Forrest, and began:

"General, Col. Woe!"

"D—m colonel whoever he is. Ketch hold of this rope and help pull the boat in!"

"But, general, colonel!"

"Don't talk to me. Help pull this boat in, or I'll throw you in the river," shouted Forrest.

"But, general, I'm sent—" began the sergeant, when Forrest seized him, and with one twist of his muscular arm lifted the messenger clear off his feet, and stood him up in the water waist deep. The sergeant, to save himself as he went over, lost hold of the rope's end, and pulled the general in with him. Forrest retained his hold of the sergeant, and exclaiming, "Spunky dog, eh?" he seized him under the water and held him there a few seconds; then lifting the sergeant's head above the water long enough for him to catch his breath, he would have him upper water again, and again bringing him up would exclaim:

"Spunky dog, eh?"

After immersing the sergeant several times Forrest helped him ashore, when the latter, half-strangled and coughing, tried to draw his pistol. Forrest gave him two or three slaps on the back to help him expel the water, from his lungs, saying at the same time:

"You—let me feel, don't you know your pistol is wet and won't fire?"—Jacksonville News-Herald.

## Patent Leather Shoes.

"Can patent leather boots be kept from cracking? Humph, well, I should say they can. Why not? And the fashionable boot-maker when an inquisitive reporter approached on the subject shrugged his shoulders and smiled the smile of one who knows much.

"But how can you prevent this destruction?"

"Easiest thing in the world. Of course I don't mean that this cheap trash which is sold for patent leather can be made to last after a couple of days' wear, but good stuff may be preserved until the soles wear off by the way, quite an unusual thing nowadays. First, a great difficulty is brought up in the buying. No fine shoe can be found in the stores that will exactly fit. Patent leather, unlike other foot covering, must be perfectly made to the wearer's foot, and any excess will immediately form, which if not attended to will make great cracks. Now a good shoe of this kind should, with proper care, last the average man two seasons, and will at the end of this time be scratched to be sure, but not cracked. Every couple of days a bath of oil should be given the boots. Any oil will do, but as much as possible, the boots should be rubbed with a rough woollen rag, and there you are. The tirade made by some alleged medical experts against patent leather amounts to nothing, for this material makes a comfortable and healthy covering for the feet, and when made properly admits all the air necessary to keep the skin and circulation in perfect order."

"It is being worn as much as ever?"

"Bless you, yes, and a hundred times more. I myself have made many pairs of this sort of any other leather this year, and, putting it down in dollars and cents, patent leather saves a great deal in 'shines' to its wearers. The bootblacks cry it down, but sensible people see its economy and clamor for it."—New York Mail and Express.

## The Pepper Tree.

Some time before reaching Santa Barbara we began to see the pepper tree—of which we had seen isolated specimens before—in great numbers, and presently miles of hedges composed of this graceful tree met our eyes. The pepper tree is large and tall, with branches drooping after the manner of the weeping willow, only not to the same extent. The foliage is thick, the leaves being long and slender, growing close together and having a very graceful and feathery effect. In the spring they are covered with clusters of tiny light yellow, creamy blossoms which look as soft and downy as the back of a newly hatched chicken and of about the same color, taken as a mass. These disappear and long clusters of small berries gradually ripen and bush to a vivid scarlet in the warm sun, making a wonderfully pretty bit of color, contrasting with the light green leaves in the landscape. In leaf, in bud, in blossom, in fruit, it is always a beautiful and graceful thing to look upon. As the seasons change it simply changes its dress, the new one seeming lovelier than the old; it is never bare and desolate like other trees. The pepper tree is very common in southern California, but its perennial beauty preserves it from the fate of many another common thing.—Cor. Cleveland Leader.

## A Much More Graceful Way.

To bombard a stage favorite with huge bouquets, hurled by the muscular arms of gallants from the galleries, as used to be the fashion in bygone days, or to hide her behind a pyramid of baskets, pillows, harps, stars and other emblems suggestive of a political funeral, as is done now, is alike inartistic and unseemly. How graceful, how graceful it would be for members of the audience to toss from their places each a single rose, or spray of buds, which would carpet the stage and make a bed of flowers for the actress to tread upon, as blossoms are strewn in the path of a bride. Surely this custom would be more beautiful than that which is now in vogue, and there would be a sentimental phase to it which is lacking now—namely, the fact that the humblest as well as the grandest admirer could afford to take part in the demonstration.—Washington Star.

ALL the crimes on earth do not destroy so many of the human race as drunkenness.

A THIRD term for W. C. Showalter, who held the office of district clerk for eight years, is a very proper thing; but a third term for J. C. Eikenbary, who has held the office of sheriff for four years, is a very, very bad thing.—Sample page of Sherman's constabulary.

SENATOR CAMERON says New Mexico ought soon to be admitted to statehood. There is a certain other territory which we think should be admitted first and that is Dakota. New Mexico has probably enough population to entitle it to that privilege now, but Dakota has more than three times as many, and yet Dakota is kept out against the desires of its people.

We have noticed of late, in several democratic newspapers a great deal of complaint about hard times, which has been charged up against a protective tariff. Although we have a democratic president and have had a democratic congress for eight years; yet, it seems we are having hard times, a thing that was not expected, if any creature had been given to the promises of the democratic orators, four years ago. We opine, however, that by the time the four years trial trip of the democracy has closed, the people will be only too ready and willing to change back to republicanism and prosperity, which have always went hand in hand.

The sentiment of the congress, which will assemble seven weeks hence, so far as regards the leading issues before the country, is not known with accuracy. It is believed, however, that on the tariff and silver coinage its attitude will be but little different from that of the congress which closed on March 4 last. The free traders will not be powerful enough to make any radical changes in the tariff, nor will the ultra protectionists be numerous enough to prevent judicious modifications in the customs schedules, so as to assist in reducing the government income. The coinage laws will probably be left unchanged, unless some time in the next twelve months a period of trade depression should set in. In such a contingency, which is not likely to occur, an urgent demand would once more be made for the repeal of the Bland compulsory coinage act.—Globe Democrat.

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