

COAL MINE DISASTER OUT WEST.

Terrible Explosion of Fire Damp—Thirteen Men Instantly Taken to Pieces.
One of the most serious and horrible fire-damp explosions in the history of Rocky Mountain coal mining, says the Omaha Republican, occurred last Thursday night in the Union Pacific mines at Alma, a point four miles northwest of Evanston, Wyoming. The affair, however, was not known here until yesterday, and last evening a reporter called at General Manager Callaway's residence to learn from him any of the shocking particulars that might be in possession of. He, however, had not been able to ascertain very much information, but with what he readily gave to the reporter and what could be gathered from telegraphic advices, the startling story may be related in these lines. It seems that shortly after the night shift of miners went to work there was a terrific explosion of fire-damp down in the mine.

Occurring when it did, at night, when only a light force of miners were at work, the death toll was limited to thirteen souls, but had it taken place during the day the loss of life must have run into hundreds, for every person in the mines at the time met with instant death. The whole face of the country and that portion of the settlement fronting the slope gives evidence of the force of the explosion. The weight and fan houses were totally demolished, and the engine-house wrecked, while residences and business houses lost fronts, windows, doors and chimneys. The mouth of the slope has the appearance of a huge funnel, from which falls a stream of mud and rock has been torn and distributed over the adjacent country. A train of thirteen cars going down into the mine at the explosion was broken into fragments and shot out as though from the mouth of a cannon. William and Joseph Evans, passengers thereon, were most terribly mutilated, the former being blown over the engine-house and a portion of the town. The body was found 700 feet from the mouth of the tunnel minus the head and arms and the contents of the stomach. It had bounded and rolled fully thirty yards after striking the ground. Timbers and track for seventy feet inside the slope were torn up and scattered over the surrounding country, and the ground for fully half a mile from the mouth of the mine was covered with pieces of cars, timbers, and other debris. Every air shaft was blown away leaving huge pits. All of the victims save two were Mormons, married, and leave large families. Many people living near the mine narrowly escaped death. Huge timbers crashed through the roof of Saml. Paul's residence, 250 yards from the slope, and fell between two beds occupied at the time by himself and family. John Smith lives in a house in front of the air-shaft mouth of the mine. Here the force of the explosion tore a great hole in the earth twenty feet in diameter and a rock weighing over a ton fell through the roof into the kitchen, demolishing the stove. The store of Beckwith, Quinn & Co., two hundred feet away, burst its front, and some good goods were damaged. The wind from the pit-car passed through an out-house near by, as if thrown from a catapult. The mines are worked by Beckwith, Quinn & Co., under contract with the Union Pacific, who are making every effort to recover the bodies in the mine.

Those at work therein at the time of the explosion were: Enoch Thomas, Frank Mason, John Peake, Ellis Gridgerman, John Hunter, Joseph and William Evans, John Pearson, John Hood, Henry Nounmuck, William Hasseley, Alex. Jones, Henry Milliken.
The bodies of the last two were found Friday morning in the eleventh level. Only one, that of John Peake, was burned seriously. The remainder were evidently killed instantly by the force of the concussion.

PARAGRAPHS THAT ARE POLITICAL.

Ex-Congressman Belford is reported in Washington hunting for the nucleus of a new party.

Lieut.-Gov. Hugg of Pennsylvania, the great son of a great sire, is being prominently spoken of as a candidate for governor of his state.

Labor organizations have gained strength in the Massachusetts legislature and have enough representatives in the joint committee on labor to shape the reports.

The stage coach and horseback fashion of electing a congress and then not letting it legislate until thirteen months afterwards seems to have few friends in the newspaper press of to-day.

Representative Holman says he has driven thirty miles at a stretch over fine land in Dakota without seeing a single house, yet he learned that every acre was taken up under homestead, timber culture and other laws.

The present Iowa legislature is expected to accomplish more in revising the laws of the state than has been done for some years past. There will doubtless be changes in the judicial system and the insurance and the election laws.

Ex-Speaker Haines of the Illinois legislature is laying his plans to get elected to the next body. He thinks he can accomplish it with the assistance of the minority representation plan in force in Illinois.

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A BOLD ROBBERY.

Six masked burglars robbed three houses in North Tarrytown on the night of Jan. 21st. Their most successful raid was upon the house of the widow of Gen. Henry Storms. The only persons in the house were Mrs. Storms and another lady. The burglars terrified them with threats of instant death, and almost smothered Mrs. Storms with a pillow. They then ransacked the house carrying away every thing they could lay hands on. They carried away a silver plate service weighing 60 ounces, which was presented by the brigade of cavalry to their commander, General Storms, besides other articles of high value to his family as relics. These included a pair of candle sticks, very massive, which were brought to this country just after the war of independence, a silver plated sword set with gems which once belonged to General Marsena, and was carried by him in the Italian campaigns. The christening cups of silver, Apostles' spoons, and all the accumulated domestic silverware of three generations. The burglars, in addition to the above, took all the money, a lot of fine brass and antique cut glass ware. The property stolen amounted to many thousands. Every effort is being made to capture the robbers.

THE LAND SHARK HAS NO SHOW.

But the Honest Settler is to be Protected in All His Rights.

Washington special to the Omaha Rep. Commissioner Sparks of the general land office to-day received delegations from Aberdeen (Dak.) and Omaha (Nebr.) In each instance his visitors called to protest against certain rulings of the land office, and learn from the commissioner verbally something definite regarding his intentions. The Aberdeen delegation presented a long memorial, signed by Delegate Gifford and several other western representatives, setting forth the troubles of the land business. It was claimed that the withholding of patents and the cancellation of entries were inflicting hardships upon innocent persons and frightening capital out of the west settlements. The burden of the address in effect was that the receipts given by the district land officers should be final, in order that money loaned upon such receipts would be secured. Another feature of the memorial was the statement that investigation of fraudulent entries after issuance of land office receipts inflicted injury upon the innocent purchasers of the land.

Commissioner Sparks met the various phases of the case in the following sentiments as laid out in the receipts cannot be final under the law. If you wish the law changed you must appeal to congress. The decisions of the courts are plain upon this point. This department cannot amend the law. It is our duty simply to enforce the law. When you loan money upon the land office receipt and taking a mortgage is perfectly secure if the entry was made in good faith. I apprehend that no man loans money upon public land in this stage without knowing something about the improvements, the actual residence and the good faith of the settler. If he does he is not ordinarily prudent. The bona fide settler who is making his home upon the land, and has substantial improvements, will not be molested. The man who goes in with all he has, enters land in good faith, maintains a habitable dwelling, and does what he can in the way of cultivating his farm, is a safe person to loan money to. He is not going to be disturbed. On the contrary, I mean that he shall be protected. It is the chap who is not making improvements of an actual residence, who has a worthless shanty in place of his place in which he occasionally spends a night, and who proves up by means of perjury and other kinds of sharp practice, that this department is after. This is not a safe person to loan money to, for if the land is deserted as soon as the loan is made, or if our agents discover and report the manner in which the entry was made, no patent can be issued. I would not advise anybody to loan money upon land taken by a non-resident who leaves the country as soon as he has made the loan, but a loan would be perfectly secure in a case where there is actual settlement. The courts have decided that the government has not parted with the land issued, but we have taken the position that when a settler has secured his receipt it is equivalent to a patent for the purpose of mortgaging or alienating the land, provided he has complied with the law in obtaining his receipts. In loaning money it is wise to ascertain that the borrower has made a proper residence and otherwise observed the law in good faith. This is perfectly safe to deal with him the same as if he had a patent. Regarding the statement that patents are being withheld to an unusual extent, I can assert that they are being issued faster by 500 or 1,000 per cent than ever before in the history of this country.

The visitors acknowledged the fairness and justice of General Sparks' position. An Omaha banker stated that he considered the commissioner to be right on the subject and he declared that he would not loan money to any man who was acquiring land fraudulently.

KILLED BY MEXICAN TROOPS.

Capt. Crawford, of the U. S. Army, Shot by Mistake.

San Francisco dispatch: A telegram received at Presidio from Fort Bowie, Arizona, signed Gen. Crook, gives the contents of a dispatch received by the latter from Lieut. Maus, dated Nogori, Sonora, Mexico, Jan. 21st. It states that the troops under Capt. Crawford, on Jan. 11th, surrounded and attacked an Indian camp fifty miles southeast of Nogori. A running fight took place and several Indians were wounded, but all escaped. The hostiles sent word that they wished to hold a conference. While the troops were awaiting the time fixed for the conference they were attacked by a hundred and fifty-four Mexican soldiers. Efforts were made to let them know that the troops were Americans and friends. Capt. Crawford and Lieut. P. Maus advanced to talk with them when a volley was fired. Capt. Crawford was shot in the head and Mr. Horn intercepted by a slightly wounded man, left arm. The Mexican fire was partly returned by the scouts of Capt. Crawford's command, but only sufficient to keep them at a distance. The firing lasted half an hour, when Lieut. Maus succeeded in having a talk with the officer in command of the Mexicans, their captain having been killed. He was told that the Americans were taken for hostiles, owing to the darkness. The loss to the Americans by the unfortunate affair was Capt. Crawford, mortally wounded; Mr. Horn, chief scouts and two Indians slightly wounded and another severely wounded. The Mexican loss was four killed and five wounded. In the telegram sent by Lieut. Maus of this affair, he believes that it was expected to drive the Americans off with overwhelming force and scour their camp and effects. Capt. Crawford died on the 18th during the march to Nogori, where he was buried. Lieut. Maus then assumed command. While the troops were on route to Nogori four squaws entered the camp, through whom arrangements were made by Lieut. Maus for a conference with two bucks of the hostile band. This ended by Chief Nana and one buck, the wife and child of both Gerominio and Natheez, sister of Gerominio, one boy and a woman being given as hostages to Lieut. Maus for the observance of peace until Gerominio meets Gen. Crook, with whom he expressed a wish to have a talk. The meeting between Crook and Gerominio will take place in about a month and will undoubtedly end in the Indians surrendering.

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AFFAIRS IN FOREIGN LANDS.

Mr. W. H. Smith took the oath of office as chief secretary of Ireland on the 26th, and immediately after started for London.

Sir Michael Hicks Beach, conservative leader, gave notice in the house of commons that the government would introduce a bill to suppress the Irish National league and other dangerous societies, to prevent intimidation, to protect life and property and maintain public order in Ireland.

The ports have issued a circular to the powers in which it points out that the present strained political situation is unalterable. It says: Turkey, though not to blame for this state of affairs, is compelled to maintain a large army on a war footing at an expense which will empty her treasury unless the powers effect a speedy settlement.

The Greek minister at London has been interviewed in reference to the possibilities of war between Greece and Turkey. He denied that the government of Greece had any intention of issuing letters of marque, in event of hostilities breaking out. His government, he said, has sufficient number of vessels to cope with Turkey without resorting to such extreme measures. Greece has no desire to follow the Alabama experiences in England.

The people of Athens, through a committee, have telegraphed Gladstone as follows: "We place in your hands the Hellenic cause with a firm hope that it will find in you a generous champion." Gladstone in response telegraphed: "Considering the authority attaching to the action of the great powers, both on general grounds and by reason of their intervention in the formation of the Greek kingdom, I earnestly hope Greece will pause before plunging herself on this occasion in conflict with our deliberated and united recommendation."

A NEW LAND DISTRICT.

For the Creation of Which Citizens of Cheyenne County Petition.

Washington special to the Omaha Bee: To-day Representative Dorsey presented in the house a petition signed by ninety-five citizens of Cheyenne county, asking for the creation of a new land district in the western part of the state, with Sidney as its place of location. The document is accompanied by a letter from Leavitt Burnham, land commissioner of the Union Pacific railway, Omaha, in which he says: "The unparalleled occupation and development of this section of Nebraska and the west makes the establishment of such a district no longer a mere desirability but a necessity, and without which this section of country cannot make the advance to which its possibilities entitle it. The petitioners represent that the North Platte district as now existing comprises within its boundaries the whole of Cheyenne county; that a large proportion of the country is being taken up by actual settlers as homesteads and transient land business, they therefore ask that Cheyenne county may be created into a land district by itself, or with such other adjoining territory as to the department may deem proper. The petition was referred to the committee on public lands, and the Nebraska delegation will work for its success."

CONGRESSIONAL FORECAST.

Since beginning of the present session of congress, says a Washington dispatch, 4,418 bills and 40 resolutions have been introduced. If the session lasts until August, as is commonly expected at the present rate of progress, which is about twenty working days in a month and the passage of half a dozen bills a week, the prospect for the success of half the bills introduced is rather narrow. This week the Dakota admission bill, Dawes' bill to open the Sioux reservation, and the silver question will transact their land business. They therefore ask that Cheyenne county may be created into a land district by itself, or with such other adjoining territory as to the department may deem proper. The petition was referred to the committee on public lands, and the Nebraska delegation will work for its success.

A dispatch from Shosa, Martin county, Ind., says that an attempt was made about midnight to lynch Thomas Archer and Martin Archer as the prisoners were being taken to Washington for safety, but it was frustrated by the prompt action of Sheriff Padgett, John Archer and John Lynch, who had been indicted for murder with the first named, were left in jail, and threats of lynching were freely made.

THE MARKETS.

OMAHA.	
WHEAT—No. 2.....	63 1/2 @ 64
BARLEY—No. 2.....	48 @ 50
RYE—No. 2.....	44 @ 44 1/2
CORN—No. 2 mixed.....	22 1/2 @ 23
OATS—No. 2.....	22 1/2 @ 22 3/4
BUTTER—Fancy creamery.....	25 @ 16
BUTTER—Choice roll.....	13 @ 22
EGGS—Fresh.....	20 @ 22
CHEESE—Dressed per lb.....	9 @ 10
TRUCKS—Dressed per lb.....	12 @ 14
DUCKS—Dressed per lb.....	7 @ 10
GEESSE—Dressed per lb.....	9 @ 10
LEMONS—Choice.....	6 25 @ 6 50
APPLES—Choice.....	3 00 @ 3 50
ORANGES—Mesina.....	4 00 @ 4 75
HAY—In bulk.....	1 25 @ 1 50
ONIONS—Per bushel.....	6 00 @ 6 75
POTATOES—Per bushel.....	45 @ 50
GREEN APPLES—Per bbl.....	2 75 @ 3 24
SEEDS—Timothy.....	2 30 @ 2 40
SEEDS—Blue Grass.....	1 75 @ 2 00
HAY—Baled, per ton.....	5 00 @ 6 00
HAY—In bulk.....	6 00 @ 6 75
HOGS—Mixed packing.....	3 50 @ 4 50
BEEVES—Butchers.....	3 00 @ 2 25
NEW YORK.	
WHEAT—No. 2 red.....	93 1/2 @ 94
WHEAT—Ungraded red.....	87 @ 90
CORN—No. 2.....	51 1/2 @ 52
OATS—Mixed western.....	36 1/2 @ 39
PORT.....	10 25 @ 10 75
LARD.....	6 50 @ 6 52 1/2
CHICAGO.	
FLOUR—Choice winter.....	4 40 @ 4 85
FLOUR—Spring extra.....	3 70 @ 4 00
WHEAT—Per bushel.....	80 1/2 @ 81
CORN—Per bushel.....	36 1/2 @ 37
OATS—Per bushel.....	20 1/2 @ 20 3/4
PORT.....	10 25 @ 10 75
LARD.....	6 50 @ 6 52 1/2
HOGS—Packing & shipping.....	3 40 @ 4 25
CATTLE—Stockers.....	2 50 @ 4 00
SHEEP—Western.....	2 25 @ 3 75
ST. LOUIS.	
WHEAT—No. 2 red.....	89 1/2 @ 90
CORN—Per bushel.....	33 1/2 @ 34
OATS—Per bushel.....	28 1/2 @ 29
HOGS—Mixed packing.....	3 40 @ 4 00
CATTLE—Stockers & feeders.....	3 40 @ 4 00
SHEEP—Common to choice.....	2 50 @ 3 50
KANSAS CITY.	
WHEAT—Per bushel.....	71 @ 71 1/2
OATS—Per bushel.....	27 1/2 @ 28
CORN—Per bushel.....	27 1/2 @ 30
HOGS—Good to choice.....	4 80 @ 5 20
SHEEP—Common to good.....	2 50 @ 4 38

A MERE WASTE OF TIME.

That Devoted to Discussion of the Silver Question.

Washington special: The advocates of silver are so confident of their ability to prevent any modification of the coinage laws touching their favorite metal that they are contemplating a movement to force the fighting by bringing forward a measure to give further freedom to silver coins. Nothing has been decided upon as to the character of the measure they will formulate, although many favor some such proposition as is contained in the bill introduced in the senate by Mr. Van Wyck. It is not likely that any concerted movement will be made to secure the passage of such a measure as that indicated, but the fact that such a movement is talked of indicates the feeling of independence that prevails among the silver advocates. It is becoming more apparent daily that the discussion in congress of silver is a mere waste of time, so far as any legislative results are concerned in the direction of suspension. There is no doubt that a decided majority exists in both houses against a suspension, and the opinions of members are fixed. The more conservative of the silver advocates are disposed to urge the house coinage committee to report a bill in a few lines providing for the repeal of the act of February 28, 1877. Mr. Brand, however, will not assent to this proposition, being determined to use all his efforts to negative any proposition looking to the suspension or modification of the present coinage law. It is thought that the coinage committee will act on some proposition at its next meeting which will indicate the attitude of the members on the question of suspension.

OPENING OF MINERAL LANDS.

One of the Most Important Western Bills Before Congress.

Washington special: One of the most important western bills before congress this winter is a general proposition to open all mineral lands to public sale that are located in Indian reservations. Some of the finest mineral deposits in the west have been known for years to geologists and business men, but it has been impossible to develop them because of the Indian title. The Indians could neither sell nor lease and there has been no way of getting at these vast resources of wealth. Even in Dakota, where there is such a dearth of land and coal is of such great value, the splendid deposits of coal in the Big Sioux reservation and in the Black Hills have been inaccessible. The fine deposits of coal in the old Ponca reservation in Nebraska are being developed to some extent and, with the passage of this bill, will be opened to improvement. The coal deposits in the Crow reservation in Montana where, it is said, the best coke in the world can be made, will also be opened under this law. All the business interests gathering around these various deposits have combined to urge the passage of this bill, and those who are in position to know declare that it will surely pass congress this winter.

THE DAWES INDIAN BILL.

The bill of Senator Dawes in relation to trespassers on Indian lands, provides that every person who, without the authority of the law, enters and shall be found upon any Indian lands with intent to occupy any part of it, shall for the first offense pay a fine of not more than \$500 and be imprisoned at hard labor not more than one year, or both in the discretion of the court; and for every subsequent offense the penalty is a fine of not more than \$1,000 and not less than \$500, and be imprisoned at hard labor for not more than two years, or both. The wagons and teams and outfits of the trespassers shall also be forfeited.

PURSUED BY AN INFURIATED MOB.

An Atlanta (Ga.) dispatch reports a posse in pursuit of W. L. Britt, a white man in Heard county, and there is little doubt that he will be hanged as soon as he is captured. He is charged with a felonious assault upon a poor cripple girl. Britt went to the house of the widowed sister of his victim, and, with an oath, threatened to kill her if she made any outcry. The girl's sister, who was in an adjoining room, heard the noise and started to her sister's aid, but was met at the door by Britt, knife in hand, who threatened to cut her throat if she did not keep quiet. The ruffian succeeded in making his escape.

A FRENCH STATESMAN DEAD.

Hippolyte Melloa Victor Charamaude, the French lawyer and statesman, is dead.

A disastrous fire occurred at Ames a few evenings ago. It was first discovered in the clothing store of K. W. Brown which entirely destroyed his stock and building and the building occupied by Miss D. E. Dix, milliner, and Thomas Bros., is almost an entire loss. Chas. Franks, a fireman from Boone, was severely injured by a falling wall. A brick wall fell on the building of Charles Barroll crushing it. The total loss will be between \$12,000 and \$15,000. The insurance amounts to \$10,000. The dry goods store of D. A. Biglow & Co. was damaged from \$500 to \$1,000. This is the most destructive fire in the history of the town. The fire companies from Boone and Nevada arrived too late to be of any service.

A Dublin dispatch says: A regular fortnightly meeting of the National League was held. Deasy, member of Parliament of West Mayo, occupied the chair, and in an address he ceased neither about the proposed coercion or reform; the Parnellites were the masters of the situation, and before the end of the year Ireland would have its own Parliament. Redmond, member of Parliament for North Fermanagh, said: "England has enemies everywhere, and the first blow struck at Ireland would fire a train perhaps leading to a successful India mutiny, and lighting the Russians into London to stable their horses in the house of commons. No power on earth could prevent retaliation by the Irish. The Parnellites are resolved to persevere in their demand for home rule." Mr. Henry, member of Parliament, said any government attempting to interfere with the National League would be deprived of office in a few weeks.

The news has been received of the burning of an enormous hay stack at Lemberg, Bavia, which had been used during the cold weather for shelter by vagrants. Only a few nights ago a larger number than usual of homeless wanderers sought shelter under it, and while all were asleep the hay stack took fire, probably from the ashes of a pipe. Twenty dead bodies have a ready been taken from the ruins, and it is thought that many more have been burned to death.

The war fever is raging in Serbia. The government at Belgrade has summoned the second ban and has ordered another twenty million of cartridges, a battery and several machine guns. Traffic between Nissa and Belgrade has been suspended by the government. This action on the part of the authorities has caused much dissatisfaction among the transportation people.

STORY OF A BANK NOTE.

A Neat Piece of Detective Work Without Detectives' Aid.

Some years ago, says a writer in *Chambers' Journal*, I was resident in New York. One day a gentleman, who announced himself as the British consul at that port, entered my father's office, saying that he wished to speak with Mr. M—.

"That is my name," I replied. "Pardon me," said the consul, "but I was under the impression that Mr. M—, who I am desirous of seeing, was an older man than you are."

"Ah, it is my father, then, whom you want. Unfortunately, he is and has been for some days past confined to the house by indisposition. Can you communicate to me the nature of your business, and it may be in my power to attend to it in his absence."

"I am obliged to you," said the consul. "Well," he added, after some slight hesitation, "I should like to speak with you in private for a few minutes, if convenient."

"Certainly," and having shown the old gentleman into an inner room, I requested him to be seated, and waited for him to broach the matter concerning which he had sought the interview.

Without preface, the consul took out from his pocket a £20 Bank of England note, handed it to me, and said: "I believe this note passed through your father's hands about two months ago."

"Very possibly," I replied, rather surprised at the question. "But I can ascertain for a certainty in a moment." Then summoning a junior clerk, I desired him to bring me the rough cash book. On looking over its pages I soon came across an entry regarding a Bank of England note, the amount, date, and number of which corresponded with those of the one before me.

"I find," I said, "that this note was in my father's possession at the time you mention. But may I ask the object of your making the inquiry?"

"It is this: Some fourteen months since this note was abstracted from a letter posted at Glasgow for Aberdeen. Nothing was heard of the stolen money until five weeks ago, when the note was stopped, on being paid into the Bank of England by a firm of private bankers. They stated that it had been received by one of their customers in the ordinary course of business. The customer, when applied to, said that it had been remitted to him by a Mr. M—, of New York. I have, therefore, been instructed by my government to trace, if possible, the note during the period it was in this country. Can you inform me from whom your father had it?"

"Exactly," I said, referring to the book before me. "It was bought of a Mr. White, who has an exchange office on Wall street. But I fear," I added, "you will find it very difficult, if not quite impracticable to carry the matter further, since it is the usage with brokers to buy English bank notes offered for sale without asking any questions, being aware that even if they have been stolen, the innocent holder can legally enforce the cashing of them."

"That is true. I agree with you that it is most unlikely that Mr. White will be able to let me know who was the person from whom he bought the note; however, I shall call upon him without delay, since it is just possible that he may have it in his power to afford the information I seek." Then after thanking me for my courtesy in the matter, the consul took his leave, and I presumed that I should hear nothing more of the affair.

However, some months later I was lunching at Delmonico's one day, when the consul entered the room. Recognizing me, he came over to the table at which I was seated and took a chair beside me. In the course of conversation he said: "You recollect the circumstance of my calling upon you some little time ago, with respect to a stolen Bank of England note?"

"Perfectly," I replied.

"Well, after all, I was successful in tracing the note?"

"How was that?" I inquired.

"I will tell you. When I left your office I went to that of Mr. White. He referred to his books, and found that he had changed the note for the managers of one of the agencies of the Central Railroad company. I then called upon that gentleman. He had no recollection of the individual from whom he had received the money; and, disappointed, I was leaving the establishment when a clerk interposed, and addressing his employer, he said: 'Mr. Saydam, we had the note in question from a man who bought a through ticket for Chicago. He came in to inquire what was the fare to that city. I told him. He said he would go by our line, but that he must first change some English money at a broker's. I informed him that this was quite unnecessary, as I would take it in payment of his ticket, at the current rate of exchange. To this suggestion he agreed, and thus the note came into our hands. Why I remember the transaction so clearly is that the man's name was a rather unusual one—Blenkiron, and I had to ask him how he spelled it. Mr. Blenkiron, mentioned incidentally that he was going west to fill a situation in a large manufacturing establishment, but he did not say the nature of the business, nor the name of the firm which had engaged his services. 'Furnished with these particulars,' continued the consul. 'I met the

difficulty of putting myself in communication with the man in this way. I wrote to him, stating the information I sought, and addressed my letter to him at the poste restante, Chicago. At the same time I caused advertisements to be inserted in two of the leading daily newspapers in that city notifying Mr. Blenkiron that there was a letter for him at the head postoffice. Well, some days afterward I had a reply to my communication, informing me that the writer had received the bank note from an Uncle in Bombay, whose address he gave me. This information I forwarded to the postal authorities in England, on whom, of course, devolved the duty of pursuing all further inquiries with respect to the matter; and for some little time thereafter I heard nothing more about the business. However, subsequently I learned the sequel of it. The Mr. Blenkiron resident in Bombay, when communicated with, stated that the note had been sent to him by a merchant in Glasgow. That merchant had received it from a tradesman in the same place; that individual, in his turn, had taken it from a clerk in one of the branch postoffices in that city, in payment of his account. Thus, finally, the theft of the money having been brought home to the clerk in question, he was duly tried and convicted of the offense."

This was the consul's story, which struck me as a rather curious one. It is said, with justice, that the strength of a chain, is simply the strength of its weakest link. In this case some of the links of the chain of circumstances which had rendered it possible to trace the people through those hands the stolen bank note had passed, had been of the slightest, and had threatened on more than one occasion to part. Yet, by a concurrence of purely fortuitous events, they had not done so; but, on the contrary, the chain had held together so strongly as to bring an offender to justice, after so long a period had elapsed since the commission of the crime that the criminal doubtless supposed himself quite safe from detection.

"See here, old copper-face," said one, as he shut and locked the door. "I'm down on Injuns, first, last and all the time. They shot an uncle of mine, and I've sworn revenge. Maybe you are ready to take the all-fired lieking a redskin ever got!"

"Hu!" replied the Indian as he looked from one to the other.

"And the infernal varmint scalped and roasted my grandmother!" put in the second white man. "I didn't care particularly about the old lady, but it's the principle of the thing I look at. I've got to have Injun blood!"

"And I," put in the third man, "am down on Injuns in a general way. After these other two fellows have got through with you I propose to walk on the mangled remains. Let the performance now begin!"

It begun. People