THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

SEVENTEENTH YEAR. OMAHA, MONDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 20, 1888. NUMBER 247.

DEMONS OF WIND AND FIRE.

They Wipe Out of Existence a Little Illinois Town.

A TERRIBLE FATALITY RECORD.

Nearly Fifty People Known to Have Been Killed and Fatally Injured —A Tale of Horror From Mt. Vernon.

A Fearful Catastrophe.

EVANSVILLE, Ind., Feb. 19.—A cyclone struck Mt. Vernon, Ill., at 4:50 p. m. to-day from the northwest, sweeping around in a half circle and levelling half of the town. The remainder of the place caught fire, and as there was a strong wind blowing the flames soon got beyond the control of the fire department. Above the roar of the wind could be heard the groans and shrieks of the dying. The bodies buried in the debris could be seen on every hand.

It is feared many more than are now known to have been killed will be found in the ruins of the buildings. The fire broke out all over the city amid the ruins, spreading rapidly, owing to the damage done to the engines by the wind. The storm passed from the southeast and had a rotary motion. It swept down with fearful fury, striking first just south of the city hall, then carried away the third and fourth stories of the Mt. Vernon mill. From there it swept on in a path 500 yards wide. The Methodist church fell just a few minutes after 260 people had left the Sunday school room. The Commercial hotel lost its third story. Next the wind struck the county court house and rendered it a heap of ruins. By rare luck, however, the county records were saved. The Crews block on the south side of the square is leveled with the earth. Under it was found the body of John Crews, owner of the block, formerly of Chicago.

The news of the cyclone is still fragmentary, but an Associated press reporter will correct the accounts as soon as possible. The train due from there at 12 a. m. will bring details. The telegraph lines are working unsatisfactorily. The cyclone struck the town about half past 4 and committed terrible damage. So far as learned twenty-seven dead have been taken from the ruins. Over 200 are injured. The town is on fire in several places. The damage is principally in the northern part and on the court house square.

The mayor telegraphed here for aid. One fire engine and two hose reels were sent, with firemen to work them, also nine physicians and twenty-five citizens, including newspaper reporters. The telegraph line between Mount Vernon and St. Louis is reported down. The distance from here is eighty-five miles. A special train will reach there about 11 o'clock and will have some details after.

A destructive storm is reported at Nortonville, Ky., but no particulars are obtainable. The only connection from Evansville is by a railroad wire used to run the train by. St. Louis has limited telegraph connection.

The roof and second story of R. L. Stratton & Co.'s hardware store blew away. A large two-story brick schoolhouse did not withstand the terrible shock any better than the smallest house in the track of the cyclone. The large two-story frame house of George Ward was picked up and carried about twenty feet and left unhurt, while two brick buildings in 100 feet were left in ruins.

The loss cannot be estimated, but not less than $500,000 worth of property has been destroyed by the cyclone or fire in that neighborhood.

The sky has cleared and no clouds gave any intimation of the disastrous storm of a few hours ago. It is growing colder and many homeless will suffer if the weather becomes severe.

Reports are coming in from the country and the storm seems to have swept everything for miles. An incalculable loss of life and great suffering will follow unless outside assistance is given Mayor C. H. Harnell, who will give it to the proper committee. A meeting of business men was held and committees appointed to care for the dead and wounded and protect property as much as possible. Many who escaped with their lives have nothing besides. Many are walking the streets with no home to go to. The north side of the court house square is injured considerably. No buildings were wrecked except Howard & Stratton's.

The wounded are being cared for by physicians in the best possible manner. The railroad shops are badly damaged and a great number of homes destroyed. People are out of doors who lived in the track of the storm.

The dead and dying are scattered throughout the city. All the doors of the remaining houses have been thrown open to the less fortunate.

Three-fourths of the business portion of the city is ruined financially. The public square is in the center of the town, the court house is in the center of the square. The school building is in the northeast corner of the city. All dwellings in that portion of the city are destroyed and the ruins of some are still burning. In all 500 buildings are destroyed and many others injured.

The dead are now being gathered at the supreme court house, which has been converted into a hospital for the dead and wounded. This building is also damaged, but not seriously.

The latest reports shows twenty-nine dead and about 100 injured, some of whom will die before morning. Later reports say two more have died. They are Eddie Maxey and Mrs. Colonel Cooper. A number of wounded are dying. A number of men struck by falling timbers and whose names cannot be learned at present are reported badly injured and dying.

The storm was preceded by hail, but not more than five minutes elapsed until the fearful destroyer had swept over the doomed town. It came from the southwest. Buildings were wrenched, twisted, then dashed to pieces total wrecks. The storm passed south of the city hall, missed Joe Chance's house, swept away the third and fourth stories of the Mt. Vernon mill and destroyed nearly every house from the mill north for a space of about five hundred yards. The Commercial hotel lost the third story. The entire west side of the square was wrecked. The county court house was struck and the building reduced to a massive pile of ruins. The clerks have worked into the records and they are saved.

Henry Ellis was covered by the brick of his building and escaped by a miracle. He was covered up and Charles Ellis, his brother, was seriously injured. R. E. Ryan escaped in a peculiar manner. He was standing by Murray in the Crews block, and told him to run, but Murray remained and was killed. Ryan ran west, and finding the street full of flying timcers jumped into a doorway, held to the latch, and the building against which he was standing fell around him, but he escaped untouched.

A. B. Cox's store, G. W. Morgan's jewelry store, Maxey, West & Swift's store, and Jackson's saddlery store are all ruins. On the south side of the square the frame buildings, though injured, escaped destruction. Hasserman's bakery, the Baptist church, Cook's drug store, Marron's saloon, Perry's hotel and Stratton and Johnson's brick stores were leveled with the ground. The entire east side of the square is destroyed, and in one of the buildings John Walters and child lost their lives, as did Henry Walters, father of John. Mrs. Walters was found with her babe in her arms, both dead.

The northeast corner of the square, Howard's grocery store, was blown down and the roof and second story of R. L. Stratton & Co.'s hardware store was blown away, while the frame hotel adjoining was unharmed. Across, toward the northeast portion of the city, swept the storm, and a number of people were killed and the school building blown down. Not less than half a million dollars worth of property has been destroyed by the cyclone and fire.

The southern portion of Mt. Vernon is the newest part of the city and has many large and fine buildings. The court house has not been injured, but stands alone. All about is ruin and devastation, and it is now being used as a hospital for the wounded. Many are suffering greatly.

It is now thought that the northern portion of the town will escape the fire, which is confined to the east and south and west sides, and is being fought manfully.

A pathetic incident of the disaster is the fact that the operator at the Mount Vernon end of the Louisville & Nashville, whose name is Yearwood, has an uncle and cousin dead in the ruins, and the poor fellow, with his heart bursting with grief, is sitting manfully at his post of duty.

Four men in the Evans bank were imprisoned in the ruins and burned to death. Their cries of pain and distress were agonizing in the extreme, but nothing could reach them. Their names could not be obtained.

Twenty-one physicians joined the relief train from Evansville en route. They arrived shortly before midnight.

It is growing colder and many helpless people will suffer if the weather becomes severe. Reports are coming in from the country and the storms have swept everything for miles.

At 1 a. m. the fires are under control. Only occasional groans of the dying and the broad track made by the cyclone tell of the terrible catastrophe.

The following is a list as far as known of the killed and seriously wounded:

LIST OF THE KILLED.

MRS. RUSSELL DEWEY.
MRS. JOHN M. WALTERS AND BABE.
HENRY WALTERS.
DAVID F. YEARWOOD AND WIFE.
JOHN C. MURRAY.
MR. CUMMINGS, an engineer.
MARY WESTBROOK.
JAMES BEARSON.
MRS. HOLCOMB.
DR. JOHN YEARWOOD AND WIFE.
SAMUEL YEARWOOD AND WIFE.
GEORGE PURCELL.
MRS. WILLIAM JONES AND CHILD.
JOHN DODSON.
MISS JOSIE SUTTON.
JOHN SHEW.
A BLACKSMITH, name unknown.
MRS. COLONEL COOPER.
EDDIE MAXEY.
S. K. WALTERS.
GEORGE PIERCE.
MRS. L. F. LEGG.
TWO TELEGRAPH OPERATORS.

THE FATALLY INJURED.

LAWLER E. LEGG.
MRS. HENRY WATERS.
MISS LAURA LISENBY.
CHARLES ELLIS.
MR. AND MRS. C. GALORAITH.
CHARLES WIER.
MR. AND MRS. WESTBROOK.
AMANDA BEARDEN.
W. H. HINMAN.
LIZZIE BEAUNETT.
J. C. HANBRICK.
CHARLES POOL.
MISS CORINNE HANBRICK.
BROWNLOW HAWKINS.
MRS. ALBRIGHT.
HENRY ELLIS.
MR. MILLICROP.
JOEL HOWARD.
MR. AND MRS. GALVIN.

ANOTHER FIRE AT PROVIDENCE.

Over $200,000 Gone and the Flames Still Raging.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Feb. 19.—The Daniels building, in which are located the grocery of Daniels, Cornell, and J. A. and R. A. Reid's printing establishment is on fire, although the flames are under control. Damage $235,000.

The Lebanon mills at Pawtucket are burning; one mill is gone and the other is going.

RIVERSIDE MILLS, (Olneyville), Feb. 19.—The private alarm has just sounded twice. The Atlantic mills boarding house is known to be burning.

TIFFANY TROUBLES.

Suits Follow the Marriage and Estrangement of the Young Couple.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—Burnett V. Tiffany, son of the senior partner of the big jewelry firm of Tiffany & Co., married Emma N. Pierson last March. Young Tiffany greatly feared his father's objection to the marriage, which caused a great sensation in the city. The senior Tiffany vowed never to receive the wife of his son and never has. Now young Mrs. Tiffany says her husband came from New Jersey, where they lived, to try to conciliate his father, and never returned. Mrs. Tiffany went to her father-in-law's house and was refused an audience with her husband. She soon learned that her husband had gone to Europe. She sued the senior Tiffany for $25,000 for alienating her husband's affection and also sued Charles T. Cook, partner of the senior Tiffany, for the same amount for conspiracy to deprive her of her husband's society. The court has now discontinued the suit and the wife appeals. The suit against Cook will be tried.

Suing Her Husband.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—Mrs. Hannah L. Bailey, of Jamaica, L. I., has brought suit against her husband, William T. Bailey, to recover $50,000, which she advanced to him several years ago to improve the tract of property which he had purchased at Far Rockaway known as Bayswater. The understanding at the time of the loan was that Mr. Bailey was to pay to his wife a just share of all moneys accruing from the sale of any portions of the land. He failed to keep his part of the agreement. The property is now valued at $250,000.

Steamship News.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—Arrived—The Servia, from Liverpool; the Panama, from Havana; the Scheidam, from Amsterdam, via Plymouth.

LONDON, Feb. 19.—Passed—The Switzerland, from New York for Antwerp, passed Lizard Point to-day.

LONDON, Feb. 19.—Passed—The Aurania, from New York for Liverpool, passed Fastnet to-day.

The Death Record.

CHICAGO, Feb. 19.—Rev. James Schofield, father of Major General Schofield, U. S. A., died in this city last evening, in his eighty-seventh year.

LONDON, Feb. 19.—The death is announced of Rev. John Hewett Jellett, provost of Trinity college.

CLEVELAND'S SOUTHERN TRIP.

How Pleasure and Politics Will Probably Be Combined.

SENATOR INGALLS ON BLAINE.

He Would Support Him If Nominated But is Doubtful About His Election—Shadowing Fast Clerks —Washington Gossip.

A Dull Week Promised.

WASHINGTON BUREAU THE OMAHA BEE, 513 FOURTEENTH STREET, WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 19.

President Cleveland's absence in Florida will make a very dull week in Washington. Congress is expected to adjourn on Tuesday, the day the president and Mrs. Cleveland leave, until Thursday, as Wednesday is Washington's birthday and a holiday in the District of Columbia. The only thing of interest will be the meeting of the democratic national committee for the purpose of selecting a date and place for holding the nominating convention. San Francisco, St. Louis, Chicago and New York have already delegations here laying the pipes for the prize. A great deal of talk is heard favorable to San Francisco, but the distance to that city is a serious drawback. There is not near as much interest shown in this meeting as there was in the republican committee's gathering.

MR. CLEVELAND'S TRIP SOUTH.

The president expects a good deal of pleasure from this trip to Florida and not a little political gain. Leaving here on Tuesday evening he will arrive with Colonel Lamont and Secretary Whitney and their wives at Jacksonville the next evening. There are to be no ovations on the way. The special train is to run right through, and at Jacksonville they will be received quietly and shown around the city a couple of days and nights and then they return here ready to attend to business a week from to-morrow.

INGALLS ON BLAINE.

John J. Ingalls, president pro tempore of the senate, says it was a wise and patriotic thing for Mr. Blaine to withdraw; that if Mr. Blaine was president he would be vigorous and American, but that it was a question whether, if a candidate, he could be elected, although the nomination was within his grasp. Senator Inglalls, who is said to be an ardent supporter of Senator Allison, continuing says:

"All I can say for myself is that I could support Mr. Blaine's candidature with great pleasure. I would like very much to see him vindicated. He was cheated in 1884. The election was stolen from him. Ballot boxes were stuffed, and thousands of votes were openly bought in the streets of New York. Then there was that Burchard speech, which was essentially a dishonest and immoral trick devised and played by the enemy just on the eve of election, when there was no time to deny or repudiate the words. The democratic leaders by whom it was concocted openly boast of it. Personally I should have liked to see Mr. Blaine vindicated in a campaign where there would be no such knavish tricks, ballot box stuffing, and no marketing of votes."

GOOD DETECTIVE WORK.

A BEE special some days ago mentioned that detectives from the secret service division of the treasury department were detailed to shadow clerks and watch the billiard and poker rooms of the city for the purpose of ascertaining who were dissipating and becoming dissolute. It is stated that there has been a perceptible falling off in the number of government employes in these places. For a long time it was a source of much trouble in some of the departments as to what could be done to induce the clerks who were afflicted with the mania of "playing the horses" to give it up, for in many instances they were valuable clerks and were ruining themselves and bringing their families to want by sinking their salaries in the coffers of pool room sharps. After mature consideration it was decided to "shadow" all patrons of gambling establishments and note those in government employ. If, after being warned, the clerk does not cease gambling he will be dismissed.

THE RETIRED LIST.

It is stated at the capitol that General Sheridan's proposition to retire the eighty odd army officers now on the sick list and thereby give stimulus to much needed promotion in the several branches of the service has not met with that prompt and unanimous approval by the military committees expected and so much desired by army officials. The fact is, considerable opposition has developed from the officers now on the retired list. They object to further increasing the retired list, for the reason that they do not want to endanger their own pay and emoluments. They say it is all well enough to add to the list while there is a good sized surplus in the treasury, but as soon as this is reduced congress begins to look around for a place to cut, and a lengthy list of high priced pensioners would likely be the first place of attack. This subject has been under discussion during the past two meetings of the senate committee on military affairs. The majority of the members do not object to the effect that would be given to promotion by the retirements proposed, but the debate indicated quite a decided opposition to further extending the retired list. In the house committee no action whatever has been taken on the subject, but some of the members, speaking individually, are not favorable to the pending bills on the subject.

PERSONAL TO MAJOR TERRELL.

To-day's Capitol says: "Sometimes it happens that an officer of the service resorts to a sharp trick in order to gain some advantage over a fellow officer. The senate has just run across a case of this sort, in which the active individual seems to be Major C. M. Terrell, of the pay department of the army, whose station is at Omaha. Some time ago he sent an innocent looking bill to Senator Manderson which was entitled "a bill to secure monthly payments in the army," and which contained in its belly a provision for the promotion of certain officers who had performed continuous service for a certain period. Mr. Manderson introduced the bill and it was duly referred to the committee, and after that came up for consideration. Then it appeared that the innocent looking provision in the bill about promotions, embodied the real purpose of the bill and that it was intended to promote Terrell over another pay officer named Smith, who had served as long as he had, but whose service had not been continuous in the regular army. The bill was thrown out as soon as its true character was known, and the wily Major Terrell will have to try again."

A SMOOTH DIPLOMA.

There is a report in society circles that one of the finest looking members of the diplomatic corps augments his salary by "standing in with some of the leading confectioners and caterers in whose behalf he uses his extensive social influence in obtaining for them the custom of wealthy people with ball-giving propensities. Of all orders so obtained a heavy percentage is exacted by the diplomat, who is a frequenter of one of the leading clubs of the city.

PERRY S. HEATH.

CANON FARRAR ON MILTON.

An Eloquent Tribute to One of England's Noblest Sons.

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LONDON, Feb. 19.—[New York Herald Cable—Special to the BEE.]—Archdeacon Farrar this morning, before a large and distinguished congregation, including the American minister, many judges and barristers, and of peers—peers not only by title, but in literature and art—in connection with the unveiling of the Milton memorial window already described, preached a special sermon from the Lamentations of Jeremiah, 5:7. The text was applied to Milton's purity, his bodily strength, his whiteness of character and the polish of his verse. The preacher began: "It has been my desire, during the twelve years surrounding this ancient and famous church with noble associations, to revive the memories of those great men with which it has been connected and thus to indicate the relation in which it stands to the history of England. To commemorate these events, in recent days the members of the house of commons, whose church it is, have erected the window which recalls the tragic death of Lord Frederick Cavendish and memorials have been placed here to Lord Hatherley, the good lord chancellor, to Lord Farnborough, who spent his life in the service of parliament, and, in token of our gratitude for fifty years of almost unbroken prosperity under the reign of our beloved queen, the Caxton window was given by the painters of London in memory of that great man who lies buried here, and citizens of America, in their large-handed generosity and care for the great traditions which are their heritage no less than ours, have presented us with that brilliant west window which commemorates nothing less than the founding of the new world, and as we have these and other memorials we were yesterday reminded that this church may also claim its special interest in the mighty name of Milton. That name is recorded in our marriage register and here lies buried, with Milton's infant daughter, that beloved wife, "my late espoused saint," whose love flung one brief gleam of happiness over the poet's troubled latter years. Once more we are indebted to an American citizen for the beautiful Milton window which was yesterday unveiled. The well-counselled munificence of Mr. Childs, of Philadelphia, who has already enriched Stratford-on-Avon with a memorial of Shakespeare, and Westminster abbey with the window in memory of Herbert and Cowper, has now erected this abiding memorial to the great Puritan poet. Myself the debtor to American friends for great kindness, I cannot but rejoice that the church of St. Margaret's should furnish yet one more illustration of these bonds of common traditions, blood, language and affection which unite England to the great republic of the west, and I am glad that the public spirit of the church wardens has assigned from henceforth the use of one pew in this church to our friends and visitors from the other side of the Atlantic. There was something specially appropriate in the Milton windows being the gift of an American, for the United States represent much that Milton most deeply loved. The commonwealth, which, happily failing in England, in America gloriously succeeded. The Puritanism which was bruised in England inspired vigor and robleness into our kin beyond the sea. "Paradise Lost" was the one English poem which the sons of the pilgrim fathers loved, until Longfellow inspired New England with a fresh sense of the sacredness of art and song. Some of Milton's most honored friends were closely connected with America. The younger Sir Henry Vane to whom he addressed the sonnet: "Vane, young in years but in sage counsel old." Vane, who has been called one of the greatest and purest men who ever walked the earth, emigrated to New England in 1635, to be chosen its governor in 1636. Milton too, speaks of Roger Williams, the apostle of soul freedom and the founder of Rhode Island, as that extraordinary man and most enlightened legislator.

"The venerable poet Mr. Whittier, who has written lines on yonder window, most justly says:"

The new world honors him
Whose lofty plea for England's freedom
Made her own more pure;
Whose song, immortal as its theme,
Shall be their common freehold
While both worlds endure.

I propose this morning to speak to you about Milton—not, of course, on the political aspect of his life, and still less by way of criticizing his poems—but as a man of nobler personality, who, whatever may have been his other errors, set to the world an example of a godly life which is supremely needed in the present day. "Character," says Emerson, "is higher than intellect," and a great writer has said of Milton that it may be doubted whether any man was altogether so great, taking into our view at once his manly virtue, his superhuman genius, his zeal for truth, for true patriotism, true freedom, his eloquence in displaying it, his contempt for personal power, his glory and exultation in his country. Were I to search the whole range of English history for a type of christian nobleness who might inspire our youths with the glory of a disciplined life and the magnanimity of a lofty character, I know no one in whom was better manifest the indefinable distinction, the life long self-restraint, the intense purpose, the grave self-respect, the lofty disdain for all which was sordid and ignoble, which marks the sincerity of the sons of God.

Archdeacon Farrar then reviewed Milton's young life, referring to him as a student. He also spoke of him as "an athlete who would probably have defeated, in every manly exercise, a dozen of the youths of the present day who have nothing to be proud of save their ignorance and their vices—those dissipated loungers and oglers at refreshment bars who need perpetual glasses of ardent spirit to support their wasted energies. To Milton the sound body was the fair temple of a lovely soul."

Milton's travels in Europe were next followed, his prose writings briefly criticized and his blindness at the age of forty-four pathetically commented upon. Alluding to the restoration, the preacher continued: 'When Charles II. was restored and Milton was barely saved from imminent peril of death to be flung aside as a blind and fated outcast by a country which at once sank to the very lowest depth of vice and corruption, that restoration was a hideous reaction of servility against all freedom and of impurity against all righteousness. Amid that barbarous dissonance of Bacchus the one pure lofty voice was drowned."

Archdeacon Farrar drew many rhetorical pictures of Milton, in retirement, at his organ, at his poetic dictation; pen pictures which all readers of Farrar's "Life of Christ" can well believe to be life-like pictures, of Samson Agonistes, and the preacher remarked: "That great tragedy has been compared to a white marble statue from the hand of Phidias. Yet, like the statue of the dying gladiator, it throbs with a pathos too deep for utterance. It reveals to us, under the agonies of the ignoble Samson, the ways of the poet himself struggling amid the storms of fate."

The sermon concluded with this peroration:

"If there be anything excellent in wholehearted sincerity shown in a chaste and laborious life; if it be heroic to bow with unmurmuring submission to the sternest dispensations of providence; if it be noble to maintain the undauntedness of an upright manhood and to render to thankless generations immortal services amid the roar of unscrupulous execration, then surely we all may learn lessons from Milton's life of intent labor, exalted aims and stainless chastity, of a fortitude which never weakened and a duty which never succumbed."

THE HAWKEYES FOR ALLISON.

Blaine's Withdrawal Clears the Way For Him.

IOWA'S UNANIMOUS CHOICE.

A Sentiment Springs Up in Favor of Making the Inter-State Commerce Act a State Law—The State Guard.

Allison Iowa's Second Choice.

DES MOINES, Ia., Feb. 19.—[Special to the BEE.]—The letter of Mr. Blaine has cleared the way for Iowa republicans, and left them free to go in the direction to which state pride, as well as personal interest and admiration, would lead. There is no doubt that if the letter of declination had not been written, or if there had been any reason to expect that Mr. Blaine's name would be presented to the convention, Iowa republicans would have come up for the fourth time solid for the man from Maine. What a record of devotion and constancy to his banner they have shown! For twelve years they have pinned their affectionate admiration to his cause, and stood a solid phalanx of loyal retainers, to go up and down with their chief. But they accept his letter in the spirit in which it was written, and loving him still more for the magnanimous course he has taken, they turn away to the man who, with Mr. Blaine out of the race, is their first choice. It is not that they value Allison less highly that Blaine was put first, for no man stands higher in the confidence and regard of Iowa than he, but it is simply a case of prior attachment. The state pledged its faith to Mr. Blaine many years ago, before Mr. Allison was to be considered a candidate, and like a loyal lover, it has stood by him till now. But with Mr. Blaine out of the race the state gladly and proudly takes up Mr. Allison and transfers to him its enthusiastic devotion. The early state convention that has been called shows a desire to give him a rousing state endorsement as soon as practicable, so that the nation may know that Iowa is heartily and tremendously for its favorite senator. The news which his friends here receive is very encouraging as to his prospects. He is the choice of a large element of conservative business men, who want above all things a safe and prudent administration. For this reason he is very strong in the east, where capital is so distrustful of the distinctively "brilliant" men. No man in congress is better authority on matters of general legislation than he. No man's advice is more frequently sought by democrats and republicans on all non-partisan questions, and four-fifths of the legislation of congress is of that kind. He is strong in business circles in the east, without being weak in the west. He is for tariff reform, and reduction of taxation, and that is what republicans of the northwest want. He is not a high tariff man like Sherman, and he believes that the tariff should be revised and cut down wherever it can be done without imperiling American interests. He is absolutely free from factional quarrels or entanglements. He enjoys the friendships of stalwart and halfbreed and never loses a friend. He has always been with the people in every great reform, and is entirely unfettered by compromising alliances, or corporate control. Why isn't such a man with twenty-five years' experience in public service, with a personal character so pure and unsullied that no slander can assail it, with ability of the highest order, and a positive genius for statecraft; why isn't such a man the best candidate for the republicans of the northwest to support? That is what the republicans of Iowa are courteously asking their brethren of Nebraska and other adjoining states.

RAILROAD LEGISLATION.

The drift of sentiment on railway matters now before the legislature inclines toward the adoption of the Sweney bill for applying the principles of the inter-state commerce law to state traffic. The business men of Iowa have complained bitterly that they have received comparatively little relief from the national law, because the railroads would violate all of its principles in their local or state business. Jobbers have had to contend against discriminations, against a greater charge for the short than the long haul, and against unjust treatment in many ways, which could not be reached by congressional legislation. But if the legislature will enact a law applying the same principles to state traffic that are now enforced in inter-state traffic, the situation will be greatly relieved. In addition to this, if the railroad commissioners are given authority to fix rates, adopting them to inter-state rates with a flexibility that cannot be obtained by an arbitrary state schedule, the prospect for better times will be very good. There is a strong sentiment in favor of doing this, and it is growing the more the subject is studied. Two bills of this character will about cover the pressing needs on the matter of railway regulation and control.

CHANGING THE SUPREME COURT SITTINGS.

One of the first acts of the general assembly to become a law is that providing for changing the number of terms of the supreme court from four to three. The new law provides that terms of court shall be held only in May, October and January, instead of March, June, September and December as formerly. The impression prevails to some extent that there is a colored individual concealed around the wood pile somewhere. This bill was reported upon in the senate and almost immediately passed. It was then hurried across to the house and passed under suspension of the rules, it promptly received the signatures required from speaker, president of senate and governor, and was made to take effect upon publication, and has already been published, so that it now has become a law. Whether it was to prevent some litigant from having a hearing in the expected March term, or for some other reason, hasn't developed yet. But it looks very much as if there was a job of some sort behind the measure, it was rushed through so rapidly. The people scarcely knew that any such change was even proposed before they wake up and find it a fact.

THE CITIZEN SOLDIERY.

The state of Iowa, which is pretty liberal in its treatment of some interests, is very stingy it its treatment of the national guard. The state has forty-eight military companies, and it is remarkable, under the circumstances, that it has even eight. It allows to every enlisted man the generous sum of four dollars a year to pay for his uniform, and then attaches this string to the appropriation, that after the four dollars has once been paid the uniform shall belong to the state. The guardsman may have paid $50 for it and be compelled by sickness or removal to leave the service aftes a year's or less enlistment. The state bags the uniform and he is out just $46. In pursuance of the same generous policy the state allows $50 a year to each company for armory rent. That sum would not rent a decent barn, and the companies who have some pride in the matter pay out five or six times as much and hire a respectable hall at their own expense. Once a year the boys are ordered into camp for five days. The state allows them for this service the sum of $1.50 per day, while they lose four or five times as much by their absence from business. If they should be ordered out for other occasions, unless there was special provisions for the case, they don't get a cent. And yet, in spite of these drawbacks, in spite of the personal burden of expense which the men have to bear, there are forty-eight companies kept up to the standard of efficiency all the while, and if one company drops out, another town is ready to supply its place. What else but the inborn masculine love of military glory could call out such sacrifice? All the same, it is no credit to a rich state to treat its citizen soldiery so shabbily.

W. W. Corcoran Seriously Ill.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—W. W. Corcoran, the aged millionaire of this city, is again seriously ill.

PETE BARRETT CONVICTED.

Found Guilty of Murder in the First Degree.

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Feb. 19.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—The trial of Peter Barrett, indicted in company with his brother Timothy for the murder of Thomas Tollefson, a street car driver, came to an end at 8:30 last night, when a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree was brought in. Barrett was a member of the notorious McCarthy gang of Omaha and followed in the footsteps of his brother Tim, who was convicted a month and a half ago. Lawyer Erwin, his attorney, had made a very striking peroration, but it had no effect on the jury. Here it is:

Gentlemen of the Jury: To be or not to be is the all-absorbing question with every one of us. No question like that to you, no question like that to me, no question like that to Peter Barrett. To die—to sleep—to sleep! perchance to dream. For in that sleep of death, when we have shuffled off this mortal coil, what dreams must come. And in the light of the dread of that something after death—that bourne whence no traveler returns—what dreams may come to you if you should unwittingly, in haste and by mistake of your duty, send this boy unshriven to meet his God. Will you dare, on the testimony of Henry Barrett, to see before your conscience at that dread time that figure swinging from the scaffold, and to have on your memories forever that you put out the light of life which you cannot give? That is the ultimate question in this case. I invoke upon you, so far as I dare, the commendation of the great God to assist you as you go to the jury soon. And so I confide my client into your hands.

But he confided his client in vain. At 8:27 Judge Lochren entered the court room. Deputy Sheriffs Raun and Johnson followed and between them walked young Peter Barrett as smiling and suave as ever. Apparently he did not feel his position and smiled faintly as he dropped into his old seat. As the twelve men went to their seats each one cast a look of pity at Peter, who smiled sarcastically and turned and whispered to his father, who had just taken the seat beside him.

Foreman Mills handed a folded paper to the clerk, who read: "First degree—We, the jury, do find the prisoner guilty of murder in the first degree, as charged in the indictment."

As the clerk reached the word "guilty," Peter raised his head with a frightened look, turned pale, trembled violently and, dropping his head upon his breast, sobbed audibly. His father leaned toward him and whispered a few words, whereupon Peter straightened up and tried to smile, but it was hard work and he gave it up as his head fell again. One of the prisoner's attorneys asked that a stay be given so that they might put in a plea for clemency on account of extenuating circumstances. Judge Lochren said he would rather wait until Mr. Erwin was present and so set Thursday, March 1, as the time for arguing the matter. After finishing up this business Peter was taken back to the jail again and court was adjourned.

THE CLEARANCE RECORD.

The Financial Transactions of the Past Week.

BOSTON, Mass., Feb. 19.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—The following table compiled from dispatches to the Post from the managers of the leading clearing-houses of the United States, shows the gross exchanges for the week ended February 18, 1888, with the rate per cent of increase or decrease as compared with the amounts for the corresponding week last year:

CITIES.	CLEARINGS	Increase.	Decrease.
New York	$527,354,693		17.3
Boston	82,654,910	0.3	
Philadelphia	56,469,292		2.2
Chicago	51,943,000	7.9	
St. Louis	17,267,577	8.5	
San Francisco	17,068,057	57.3	
Baltimore	10,355,436		12.3
Pittsburg	10,292,258	17.6	
Cincinnati	9,642,357		18.9
*New Orleans	9,405,745	2.2	
Kansas City	6,936,308		11.8
Louisville	5,900,248	10.9	
Providence	5,613,400	6.1	
Milwaukee	3,952,000	14.4	
Detroit	3,889,628	11.5	
St. Paul	3,359,006		1.5
Minneapolis	2,991,258	9.7	
Omaha	2,981,586	32.4	
Galveston	2,785,955		15.7
Denver	2,330,450	31.2	
Cleveland	2,283,721		8.8
Columbus	2,154,619	31.2	
Memphis	2,061,850		11.2
Indianapolis	1,830,467	47.4	
Hartford	1,706,207		0.9
Peoria	1,372,690	41.9	
St. Joseph	1,325,934	13.9	
New Haven	1,067,583		10.8
Springfield	1,068,829	36.5	
†Duluth	1,019,037		
Norfolk	919,272	16.1	
Worcester	915,708	15.7	
Portland	816,770		1.2
Lowell	721,879	36.9	
Wichita	681,078		54.1
Syracuse	611,681	42.0	
Grand Rapids	550,897	40.0	
Total	$851,332,273		10.4
Outside New York	324,067,610	8.8	

*New Orleans five days of the week this year and six days last year.

†Duluth not included in totals.

SMUGGLING OPIUM.

Startling Discoveries Made By New York Customes Officials.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—Of all frauds on the customs, the opium cases now under consideration promise to prove the most widespread and farreaching. For three months Collector Magone had his men at work and the conclusion reached is a startling one. Officially, Collector Magone and his subordinates in the custom house will say nothing definite, but inside information is to the effect that nearly every importing drug house in the city is concerned in the disclosures that will soon be made. These frauds have not been confined to smuggling across the Canadian frontier, but in New York the biggest and cleverest swindles were perpetrated. It is the presumption of the officials at work on the cases that the opium that has been brought in from Canada was landed at Vancouver or Victoria by vessels engaged in the smuggling and then shipped by the Canadian Pacific railroad to points on the New York state line in St. Lawrence and Jefferson counties. Once over the line and started on the way for New York the chance of detection was very slight. Large quantities of opium have been withdrawn from public stores, ostensibly for shipment to Havana. These amounts are said to aggregate at least 100,000 pounds. Collector Magone and the Spanish officials have been in consultation, and there is nothing to show that the opium ever arrived at Havana. This is evidence that it never got any farther than the piers from which it was taken for shipment. Collector Magone knows the disposition of some of this opium and the firms engaged in the sharp dealing. A custom house official estimates that the loss in duties may foot up over $2,000,000.

All the wholesale and importing druggists of the city declare they cannot believe the story.

Killed a Captain.

ANNAPOLIS, Md., Feb. 19.—During an attempt to arrest an illegal dredger to-day, the state oyster police schooner Folly, Captain Clarke, was attacked by three vessels and considerable shooting done on both sides. Captain Whitehouse, of the schooner Albert Nichols, of Baltimore, was killed.

The Childs' Memorial.

LONDON, Feb. 19.—A large congregation flocked to St. Margaret's church, Westminister, to-day, the occasion being a special sermon by Archdeacon Farrar in connection with the unveiling, yesterday, of the Milton memorial, presented to the church by George W. Childs, of Philadelphia.

LITTLE PHIL WILL NOT RUN.

General Sheridan Makes Some Very Positive Statements.

DON'T WANT TO BE PRESIDENT

If Nominated He Would Refuse to Accept—His Boomers Simply Wasting Their Breath—Too Old a Soldier.

Sheridan Not a Candidate.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—The Washington agent of the Associated press sought an interview with General Sheridan this evening for the purpose of ascertaining whether he would consent to make an authoritative statement in regard to his alleged presidential candidacy. The general gave his consent, and it will be seen from the following verbatim report of the conversation that his declarations are thoroughly explicit:

Agent—"Of course, general, you have noticed that there has been considerable mention of you during the past few weeks as a possible, or probable, candidate for the presidency next autumn."

General Sheridan—"Yes, I have noticed it, but have never looked upon these newspaper articles as anything more than the usual shooting around in the woods which has once or twice before in presidential years brought my name up in that connection."

"But, general, the talk is more serious this time, and there appears to be something like a concerted movement to bring about your nomination."

General Sheridan—"Well, I know nothing more about this alleged 'boom' than what I have read in the papers, except that now and then some friend has twitted me about becoming a candidate. But, if the matter is really now discussed seriously, it is time that all parties concerned should be informed that they are wasting their breath. I have never had the presidential bee in my bonnet and I don't intend to have it, for there is nothing that would induce me to leave the profession in which nearly forty years of my life have been spent to enter upon a civil career. So all talk about my being a candidate may as well end."

"But suppose the republican convention should——"

General Sheridan—Nominate me! I would not accept. But there is not the slightest probability of my being nominated and, in any event, I would not accept. No, not under any circumstances. I do not want that or any other civil office.

CLEVELAND AND THE WEST.

Views Expressed By a Prominent Democrat of Colorado.

CHICAGO, Feb. 19.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—C. S. Thomas, the democratic national committeeman from Colorado, was in the city this evening on his way to Washington.

"Mr. Cleveland's policy has not pleased the west," said he to a reporter. "We expected that the territorial officers would be appointed from territorial residents. Mr. Cleveland's letter of acceptance led us to hope that broken down, cranky officeholders in other states would not be sent out to govern the territories as had been the practice under previous administrations. The people of the territories wanted local government. They have been largely disappointed. The platform and Mr. Cleveland's letter were for a gold and silver currency. The west—both republicans and democrats—want silver put back where it was before the demonetization. The administration has not helped us. I like Mr. Cleveland's message. I want revenue reform and would be in favor of his renomination if no other as prominent democrat is found who would represent tariff reform doctrines as well as he. There is a large element of Colorado democrats who are pleased with the president and there is a much larger element that is not. I think Governor Hill would suit Colorado better than President Cleveland."

"Is there an organized effort by Governor Hill's friends to obtain the delegation for him?"

"O no. My feelings toward Cleveland are generally known and if there was any organization I feel sure I would know it. The delegation will probably go uninstructed. If there was a contest a Hill delegation would be chosen."

As to where the national convention