

between the ages of twenty-one and fifty years" was adopted.

Mr. Taylor moved to strike out the enacting clause, and stated that he could, if desired, give his reasons therefor. Some remarks were then made by Messrs. Sharp and Hammond in regard to this motion, when Mr. Taylor stated that his reasons for making it were that the poll tax was not fairly collected. It was an unjust tax; some paid it, and others did not. The poor were always at home, hence they paid poll tax. The farmer was always to be found, and was a regular poll tax payer, as also was the merchant, but there was a class such as miners, capitalists, speculators and transients who escaped payment of the tax. The tax was becoming oppressive to the poor, and he would like to see all the taxes (school tax included) collected by the general tax collector instead of so many persons being engaged in this tax collecting business.

Mr. Sharp stated that before he could support the motion he must be better posted.

Mr. Hammond stated that the present bill was only a slight amendment of the old one, and reduced the time of persons liable to pay this tax ten years. He would vote for the bill.

Mr. Taylor said after these explanations he would withdraw his motion.

The bill passed, by a unanimous vote.

Adjourned till Monday, at 2 p. m.

## BY TELEGRAPH.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH LINE.

### AMERICAN.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., 14.—A horrible story comes from Willingford. Reports say that a colored woman living near Pond Mill, wishing to call her husband, closed her baby up in the oven to keep it warm, the fire being nearly out. While she was away, her husband came home, and being unaware of the whereabouts of the child, built up a hot fire. The woman noticed smoke coming from the chimney and hurried home, but arrived too late, as the child was found literally roasted.

NEW YORK, 14.—A most dreadful accident was narrowly averted by a quick-witted engineer this morning. The north-bound express on the New York and Long Island Railroad was filled with prominent New York business men coming to their offices. Near Matawan, and just before reaching the bridge 500 feet long, the cars were derailed by a broken frog. The cars, after dropping on the ties, ran across the bridge, snapping the steel rails into bits and tearing the wooden structure into splinters. The rear coach lost its truck and was drawn a long distance on its floor beam. George Checkner, engineer, finding it impossible to stop his engine, which was tearing along at a rate of thirty miles an hour, saw that the only hope was to increase the speed. He threw open the throttle and thus prevented the cars from toppling over the bridge. The cars swayed from side to side, but they were safely carried out of danger. The passengers were all more or less shaken up, but nobody was hurt.

LOWELL, 14.—O. H. Vee, the man that confessed to complicity with President McNeil of the Lancaster bank, at Clinton, in robbing the bank, has retracted his confession. He now says Nelson and himself were alarmed about the property left in the Marble Co's office, when they got an inkling of the facts in the case, but fearing arrest for being accessory to McNeil's crime if they took the satchel back to the bank, caused them to hide the property.

HUNTER'S POINT, L. I., 14.—At Port Washington Bay, adjoining this town, the oyster farmers have spent large sums in laying out and planting oyster beds. The town claimed ownership and levied rentals against the farmers, which the latter declined to pay.

RIVERHEAD, L. I., 14.—News has just been received here that most of the Scallop fleet at Promised Land, Gardiner's Bay, were wrecked on Robbins' Island during the late storm. Among the vessels were the schooners *Seven Brothers*, *No Name*, *Crazy June*, *Sapho*, *Hempstead* and *Chief*. The names of a number of sloops, sharpies and schooners have not yet been ascertained. The crews are all safe so far as known, but they suffered greatly from cold.

CHICAGO, 14.—At a meeting of 22 leading barbed wire manufacturers of the country held here to-day, it was decided to form a national association. A temporary organization was effected and a meeting was called in this city for January 29th, when a permanent organization was effected.

The following schedule of prices was adopted: Galvanized wire in fifty-ton lots, 5 cents a pound; in smaller lots, 5½ cents. Painted wire in fifty-ton lots, 4 cents a pound; in smaller lots, 4½ cents. Thick set wire in fifty-ton lots, 4½ cents; in smaller lots, 4½ cents.

ST. LOUIS, 15.—Charles Wilson (colored) was hanged this morning for the murder of a river-steamer mate some time ago. He remained calm to the last protesting his innocence. Wilson killed William A. David second mate of the steamer *Fannie Twatum*, July 31, 1885, by hitting him on the head with a rock. Wilson had been discharged and ordered away from the steamer, returning to get some money he claimed was owing him. After the trap had been sprung the body for a moment remained motionless, and there was enacted a scene of horror which chilled

the blood of all who witnessed it. Two doctors, one on either side, were each holding a wrist, when violent contortions of the hanging figure shook them aside, and before they could regain their hold upon the man, whose actions showed he was in full possession of all that was going on, made frantic struggles to release himself. His right hand shot up, clenched the rope and held it firmly. It seemed as if the man must die by slow degrees from strangulation, but one of the doctors succeeded in disengaging the hand and in a short time the body hung a lifeless corpse.

CLEVELAND, 15.—The situation, so far as the water famine is concerned, remained unchanged until ten o'clock this morning, when it was found that the water was entering the tunnel and an engine was started at the pumping station. This is still working slowly and the indications are more favorable than for many hours. A great majority of the manufacturing establishments which depend upon the city for water have shut down. Nearly all the courts have been adjourned, as the steam heating facilities are frozen up. Hundreds of teams are engaged in hauling water from the lake, with which to supply thirsty families. Should the present favorable condition of affairs continue, another engine will be put in operation at the pumping station as soon as practicable.

SAN FRANCISCO, 15.—The *Japan Gazette* says: Several other hunting vessels are reported to have been captured by the Russian authorities and sent to Kamschatka. The vessels were English and German. The Korean government intend sending some officials to the United States to watch the movements of Kim and other refugees. The officials will be disguised as simple travellers.

CHATHAM, Mass., 15.—A quantity of wreckage has drifted ashore on Monomoy beach marked *Julia A. Brown*. The bark *Julia A. Brown* was of 542 gross tonnage and was built in Boston in 1874. She probably struck on some shoal in Vineyard Sound during the late gale and went to pieces.

WASHINGTON, 15.—The Republican Senators met in caucus at half-past ten this morning and adjourned at half-past one. Their purpose was to compare views with regard to the right of the Senate to information as to the President's reasons for making removals from office. The fact was stated that many of the inquiries addressed to the heads of departments by the chairman of committees remain unanswered but up to this time indicate no purpose to refuse to give this information. No formal proposition was made and no action was taken while a wide variety of opinions found expression with regard to the propriety of raising a formal issue with the administration at the present time upon this question. The majority were of the opinion that should the information sought not ultimately be forthcoming, the Republicans will in justice to the men who have been suspended or removed for supposed cause be required to take some formal action in the Senate to secure information or an avowal by the President that he will not give his reasons for making removals. There was unanimous concurrence in the opinion that the removed officials have a right to know whether they were removed for political reasons or maladministration of their trusts and that it is the Senator's duty to secure the information if possible.

The House committee on rivers and harbors to-day resolved to limit the total amount of appropriation for improving rivers and harbors to eleven million dollars. The sums recommended for appropriation, will in no case be made public in advance of the report of the bill.

The Postoffice Department has received a letter from the German Director-General of Posts, urging the United States government to send an officer of the Postoffice Department to Germany to personally inspect and study the parcel post service of that country, with a view to joining the International Parcel Post.

The meeting of the House naval affairs committee took a sensational turn to-day. The Boutelle resolution inquiring about the dismissal of ex-Union soldiers and sailors from the Norfolk Navy Yard and the appointment of ex-Confederates in their place, and as to the statement that certain inscriptions commemorative of the victories over the Confederates had been defaced, was called up and led to a heated political discussion.

Wise, of Virginia, made a speech denouncing the resolution, and impugning the motives of its mover. He insinuated that the resolution was introduced from a desire to make party capital, and expressed the opinion that it should be amended so as to allow a general investigation into the conduct of the Navy Yards. He urged that the mere newspaper report was the sole foundation for the proposed inquiry, and it was not becoming the dignity of Congress to heed such stories.

Boutelle vigorously defended the resolution. He said he had been assured by a brother member that the publication was substantially correct. He wanted the matter investigated.

Thomas pointed out that the resolution was not for an investigation, it was for a simple inquiry, and if the story was without foundation the Navy Department could easily prick the bubble.

McAdoo contended that the investigation should be general. Republicans had been discharged from other navy yards on the Eastern coast and why not at Norfolk?

Hewitt inquired if it would be contended that the victors were not entitled to the spoils.

Thomas acquiesced in that assumption, but said in the case under consideration it was a question not of politics, not whether a republican had been displaced by a democrat, but whether the statute giving preference to Union soldiers had been violated. He wanted to know whether Union soldiers had been discharged to make way for rebel soldiers and whether the memorial stones commemorating Union victories had been obliterated.

Hewitt inquired if the gentleman would have tolerated a Confederate monument commemorating a victory of Bull Run.

Thomas replied that he would have it pulled down. Fortunately the rebels failed in their object. He was not ashamed of having fought for the Union.

Other members of the committee expressed themselves in strong language, and the session ended without action on the resolution, which will come up for consideration at the next meeting.

The Secretary of the Interior has requested the Attorney-General to institute suits against the Lacombe Cattle Company in the western part of Nebraska to recover \$12,250, the value of timber alleged to have been cut by them from the public lands. Also a similar suit against A. M. and J. H. Wetherbee to recover \$10,240, the value of timber cut from the public lands in Mississippi.

The consul of the United States at Santa de Cuba reports to the Department of State the existence of large quantities of guano on the south coast of the Island of Cuba. The guano is deposited in caves, one of which was visited by the consul, and it is estimated to contain from 25,000 to 30,000 tons. The facilities for working these deposits are reported as being excellent.

The Department of State has been officially advised that the King of the Belgians has proposed an annual prize of 25,000 francs for the purpose of encouraging works of the mind, the competition to be open to all nations and to be decided by a jury appointed by the King of the Belgians, to consist of seven members, of which three will be Belgians and the rest foreigners. The prize forming the object of the third mixed international competition will be adjudged in 1889 to the best work on the progress of electricity as a motive power, as a means of illumination, etc.

SAN FRANCISCO, 15.—The steamer *Galle* arrived this morning with Hong Kong dates of December 18th and Yokohama of the 28th.

It is rumored in Yokohama that owing to the failure of the Japanese government to raise a loan in England, there is a plan under consideration to borrow the money in the United States.

The Shanghai *Mercury* says the new loan to the Chinese government of 4,000,000 taels is being negotiated with a local bank.

Tien-Tsin advises say that the scheme for the introduction of railways into China has been postponed, but the final decision is only deferred until Sir Robert Hart, Chief of the Customs Service, is ready with a scheme for establishing railway administration.

Advices from Yokohama to the Associated Press say that an important change has just been effected in the form and constitution of the Japanese government. Hitherto there have been three principal offices, the Prime Minister, Prime Minister of the Left, and Prime Minister of the Right, which ranked in the order named. The Council of State only existed in name, it had no responsibility, and no power apart from the three Prime Ministers; as a consequence the heads of the executive departments were not personally responsible for the administration of the trusts in their charge. The new reform consists in the abolition of the Council of State and the offices of the three Prime Ministers, and the formation of a responsible cabinet. Several other changes have been made, the principal one being the abolition of the department of public works and the creation of the department of communications, controlling posts, railways and telegraphs.

The Korean government has decided to construct a telegraph line from Seoul to Fusan, a distance of 300 miles, connecting at the latter point with the cable to Nagasaki, Japan.

DENVER, 15.—A report reached here this evening from Benkleman, Nebraska, that two settlers, Fohr and Burns, who left there a week ago Monday on a hunting trip on the Arrickree and Middle Fork of the Republican, were found frozen to death eight miles from the town. Both evidently attempted to return home after a blizzard came up, but became lost in a blinding snow storm. Fohr had stuck the muzzle of his gun in the ground and laid down near it and died. Burns managed to get 200 yards further on before he was overcome. Both were under large drifts of snow, and would not have been found but for the gun-stock sticking up out of the snow.

A teamster and herder were found frozen near the same place yesterday, and were taken to town.

Akron, on the eastern line of Colorado, reports several persons frozen in the same storm. They are supposed to have been homesteaders, living a great ways apart. They settled on land late last fall, and were wholly unprepared for severe weather. Some of the bodies, when found, showed that

they had been attempting to reach a neighboring ranch, when overcome.

Never in the history of the West have so many persons perished from the cold as in this storm.

TOPEKA, Kas., 15.—Reports have been received to-day of the finding of the bodies of three more men in the southwestern portion of the State, the victims of the recent storm. This makes twenty-four bodies in all that have been found.

NEW YORK, 15.—Mail advices from Panama of the 5th inst. contain the following: At 2 o'clock on the morning of December 18th the Spanish city Amatitlan, a town of 5,000 inhabitants, situated twenty-five miles south of Guatemala, was shaken by frequent shocks of earthquake which continued all day until 5:32 p. m., when a very heavy shock was felt, and at 5:36 p. m. the heaviest shock came, throwing down many walls and houses already fissured by the early shocks. People were thrown down and the air was filled with dust from the fallen houses. Shock followed upon shock and the frightened people rushed to the large plaza in front of the church San Juan and dragged the image of their guardian saint outside the building and erected a temporary shrine in the middle of the square before which all prostrated themselves. One hundred and thirty-one shocks were felt the first day, principally from east to west, eighty-one of which occurred between 4 and 5:36 p. m. The second day was nearly as bad and the shocks continued for some days. Amatitlan was destroyed by earthquakes in 1830, which lasted from April 21st to May 3d. In 1846 it was overflowed by the rising waters of the lake, and again in October, 1852, when the waters rushed up in the middle of the streets. Eight days afterward when the waters had subsided dead fish were found everywhere. The water became unfit to drink and many persons died of fevers. Then again it was destroyed by earthquakes in 1882. Lake Amatitlan is supposed to be the crater of an extinct volcano. An adjacent volcano, until recently quiet, seems to be seeking a new outlet through a hill lying back of the inactive volcano Pecayo. The volcano of Fuego in Guatemala and Guazaca in Salvador, not far away, which have long served as safety valves of these restless regions, seem to have become stopped up causing much alarm to the people of Salvador, who say that there was precisely a similar occurrence before the last great earthquake in 1873.

GUAYAQUIL, 15.—Serious volcanic disturbances have occurred within the last few days. There have been at different places showers of earth and ashes accompanied by loud rumblings. The Cotopaxi volcano is supposed to be in eruption. The real state of the disturbances is unknown owing to the interruption to the government telegraph. Slight shocks of earthquake have also been felt.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., 15.—A tenement house on the premises of Captain Bell, at Kings Mountain, was destroyed by fire yesterday, and three colored persons, Gertrude Rendleman, Julia Earl and Julia's child, 18 months old, perished in the flames.

NEW YORK, 15.—Brown & Anderson, bankers, assigned to-day. Preferences, \$78,450; other liabilities, \$50,000. The gradual loss of their commission business is the cause stated.

JERSEY CITY, 15.—Rev. Mr. Bristner, who has been on trial before a jury of his fellow pastors, charged with criminal intimacy with Miss Ida Downes, was to-night found guilty.

NYACK, 15.—Shortly before 11:30 o'clock last night two distinct shocks of earthquake were felt in every part of Rockland County. In New York pictures were shaken from the walls and the ice in the river along the shore was broken. In Suffern, Spring Valley, Piermont, Sparkhill, Haverstraw and Rockland Lake the jar was very heavy.

PITTSBURG, 16.—The National Convention of Journeymen Bakers, adjourned to-day after electing Charles Black, of New York, national secretary, and adopting a resolution to boycott all the proprietors who refuse to reduce the hours of labor to 12 hours per day. The next convention will be held in Chicago January 5th, 1887.

YONKERS, N. Y., 15.—A small wooden building loosely thrown together in which were 350 pounds of dynamite, stored in a frozen state at the Croton Aqueduct was blown up at 11:20 this morning, spreading destruction in all directions. Around the building were the engine and compressor rooms of the shaft, boarding houses and other buildings. All were badly damaged. A peculiar feature of the affair is the fact that nobody was hurt with the exception of Mrs. Fox, who keeps a boarding house near the spot, and she only received slight bruises. The glass in all the houses in the neighborhood was broken and people at a distance thought the shock was caused by an earthquake.

### FOREIGN.

LONDON, 14.—Parliament will adjourn to-morrow until Wednesday. It is stated on good authority that Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues have become reconciled. The Earls Spencer and Granville, the Earl of Derby and the Marquis of Hartington have given their assent to the course of tactics suggested by Gladstone, and he will take the first chance to overthrow the conservative government.

Count Von Hatzfeldt, German ambassador, had an interview to-day

with the Marquis of Salisbury regarding the alleged seizure of Samoa by Germany. The ambassador said he had been instructed by Prince Bismarck to assure Lord Salisbury that Germany would neither annex Samoa nor permanently interfere with the government of the islands.

PARIS, 14.—A train containing a military company was completely wrecked last night at Valdivia. Thirty soldiers, including eleven officers, were killed.

LONDON, 15.—John Magee, who pleaded guilty to the charge of attempting to procure money from the Prince of Wales by writing threatening letters, was to-day sentenced to seven years penal servitude.

LONDON, 15.—The Parnellites have announced that they will join with the English and Scotch Radicals in supporting an amendment to the Address protesting against the evictions in Ireland and in the Highlands.

DUBLIN, 15.—The state of desperation into which many of the Irish laboring people have been thrown by the long continued privations, was illustrated yesterday by an occurrence at Lismore, County Waterford. The Board of Guardians of the Lismore Poor Law Union was holding its weekly meeting when a crowd of laborers burst into the room and in menacing language demanded assistance for themselves and families. They threatened that unless help was soon forthcoming they would plunder the neighboring farms in order to obtain the means of subsistence.

Mr. Michael Davitt approves the proposition to buy out the Irish landlords and suggests an Anglo-Irish arbitration commission to settle the terms of purchase.

PARIS, 15.—Prince Krapotkine and Louise Michel have been liberated from prison.

PARIS, 16.—De Freycinet to-day made a declaration in the Deputies of the policy the new cabinet would follow. He said the colonial policy would be less adventurous than that of its recent predecessor. This statement was received with cheers by the chamber.

### SHOCKING EXPLOSION!

TERRIBLE DISASTER AT ALMY—THIRTEEN MEN KILLED BY A MINE EXPLOSION—SOME OF THEM FROM UTAH.

A disastrous explosion occurred in No. 4 mine at Almy on the night of the 12th, the following details of which we glean from a letter written by James W. Wilson, one of the miners, to his father, who resides in this city:

"An explosion occurred here last night at 11:30 o'clock. It was most awful, and sickens me when I think of it. We are all safe, thank God. There were only thirteen men in the mine, two of whom were blown out of it. One man was thrown half a mile out of the mine. When he was found his body was burned to a crisp, wanting the head and disemboweled. The other was blown to atoms. His head, one leg and the trunk of his body have been found. I picked up part of his skull. The other eleven were buried up in the mine, and we can't get down because of damp. John Cummock's father is in it, and so are George Peterson's boy and Andrew Mason's brother Frank.

"There are no more that you are acquainted with. There is one in by the name of John Hood; not one of the family of that name that you are acquainted with, but an entire stranger to them. That is about all in that respect. Don't be alarmed about us; I won't go near the mine nor let William (his brother) do so.

"The fire and flames issuing from the mouth of the slope continued to come for three minutes, and during that time there was a hissing noise, deafening in the extreme. No one can realize the amount of gas that was in the mine. The flames were in the air as nearly as I can estimate 600 or 800 feet. They extended over half a mile from the mouth of the slope, and during that time the timber, rock, iron, wheels of cars, coal and all manner of debris were flying through the air. Rocks went clear through houses. Women were flying in their night clothes, almost crazy with fear. The whole earth was shaking. I could not stand on my feet, but was knocked from one place to another. My brother William's house was smashed. James Hendry and I slept in the room. The rock flew through the roof of the house, broke the cupboard and smashed a trunk, but we escaped without a scratch. Five or six persons have been hurt in the houses—none seriously. This is about all. I have got satisfied with mines—no more of them for me. I will wait till I get my time and then William and I will go to the city. He says he has had all of the mines that he wants.

"They are trying to take brattice down the slope to see if they cannot get down to the entries where the men are."

Yesterday's Ogden *Herald* announces that J. W. Hunter, of Riverdale, has received a dispatch requesting him to come to Almy immediately, as his son John was seriously injured. John and Joseph Emmett, of North Ogden are also reported to have been taken out of the debris, dead.

An Ohio lady asks what she shall give her minister. Try St. Jacobs Oil. Fifty cents.