

Wade, Stanley and Wilson of Washington, and the academic board were on the platform.

The names of the graduates were called and Gen. Miles delivered the diplomas. All of the graduates were lustily applauded. After the close of the exercises the graduates left for their homes.

LONDON, June 12.—A special from Pretoria says that when the executive council decided to release John Hays Hammond, George Farrer, Colonel Rhodes and J. W. Leonard, the Johannesburg reform committee leaders upon payment of fines amounting to \$125,000 each, was announced, Barney Barnato went to jail with a check for \$250,000 to pay the fines of Hammond and Rhodes. He found, however, that the matter had already been arranged, Hammond, Farrer and Phillips have signed an agreement to abstain hereafter from interference in the politics of the South African republic; consequently the sentence of banishment imposed upon them had been suspended.

SOUTH BEND, Ind., June 13.—Grasshoppers are doing immense damage in portions of this county. Alexander Smith of Center township has eighty acres of wheat from which every blade has been eaten. Another eighty acres is being eaten up entirely as well as fifteen acres of potatoes and a large field of oats.

Niles, Mich., June 13.—Reports from peppermint growers in all parts of southwestern Michigan say that grasshoppers are doing great injury to the crop.

WASHINGTON, June 16.—In reply to a request from the New York Herald for a statement concerning the Democratic situation, President Cleveland tonight sent the following to that newspaper:

"I have made no figures as the probable action of delegates already chosen or to be chosen to the Democratic national convention, but I refuse to believe that when the time arrives for deliberate action there will be ingrafted upon our Democratic creed a demand for free, unlimited and independent coinage of silver. I cannot believe this, because I know that the Democratic party is neither unpatriotic nor foolish, and because it seems so clear to me that such a course will inflict very great injury upon every interest of our country, which it has been the mission of the Democracy to advance, and will result in testing disaster to our party organization. There is little hope that as a means of success this free silver proposition, after its thorough discussion during a political campaign, will attract a majority of the votes of the country.

"It must be that many of the illusions influencing those now relying upon this alleged panacea for their ills, will be dispelled before the time comes for them to cast their ballots, which will express their sober second thought. The adoption by the Democracy of this proposition would, I believe, give to our opponents an advantage both in the present and the future which they do not deserve.

"My attachment to true Democracy is so strong that I consider its success as identical with the promotion of our country's good. This ought sufficiently to account for the anxiety that no

mistake be made at our party convention. In my opinion, no effort should be spared to secure such action of delegates as will avert party demoralization. Those Democrats who believe in the cause of sound money should be heard and be constantly in evidence. A cause worth fighting for is worth fighting for to the end. It sound money Democrats waver in their support, there is danger of mistake being made. Such danger should stimulate their activity in averting it instead of creating discouragement.

"I am very far from arrogating to myself a controlling influence upon the policy of my party, but as an unflinching Democrat who has been honored by his party, and who desires hereafter no greater political privilege than to occupy the place of a private in the ranks, I hope I may not be blamed for saying this much at this time in the interest of the grand old organization, so rich in honorable traditions, so justly proud of its achievements, and also undaunted and brave in its battles for the people's welfare."

DENVER, Colo., June 17.—P. O. Inspector McMechen received a dispatch this afternoon saying the post office at Liberty, N. M., had been robbed, and the deputy postmaster and two other men killed when pursuing the robbers. Liberty is a star route post office twelve miles east of Las Vegas. It is believed the robbers fled to Indian Territory.

YOKOHAMA, June 17. [Copyrighted 1896 by Associated Press].—News of a terrible earthquake involving the loss of over a thousand lives has reached here from the island of Yesso, which contains the northern provinces of Japan, including Shiretshe, Oshima, Furi, Hitaka, Tokachi, Ishikari, Kurobe, Teshiwo, Kilamo and Nemoro. All sections of the island seem to be more or less shaken. The subterranean disturbance lasted about twenty hours and during that period the utmost terror prevailed.

The ground rumblings are described as resembling the roar of distant canons. Shock followed shock in almost uninterrupted succession. In all it is estimated that 150 shocks occurred. It is impossible at present to give accurate details of the disaster as communicated between the main land of Japan and the Island Yesso, from which the former is separated by the strait of Tsugaru-Saagar, is interrupted, or more likely in the hands of the authorities. The whole town Kumalehi, however, is reported destroyed by a tidal wave which accompanied the earthquake.

The Island of Yesso has in the past had several similar visitations and contains a number of active and extinct volcanoes. Rumor has it that the number of lives lost and the damage done is far in excess of the figures contained in the first dispatch. Full official reports have been asked for and are expected shortly. It is feared that disasters to shipping must have resulted from the tidal wave.

LONDON, June 17.—A dispatch from Ushante near Brest, France, at 3:04 p. m. says a steamer supposed to be the Drummond Castle of London, has gone down near Ushante with thirty-five people on board. Two women were picked up by shoremen. Drummond Castle was of about 2,350 tons

register. The owners of the Drummond Castle confirm the report that she has been wrecked.

Drummond Castle was from Capetown, commanded by Captain N. W. Pierce.

BREST, France, June 17.—The British steamer Drummond Castle, Captain N. M. Pierce, from Capetown for London, collided at midnight with an unknown steamer and sank three minutes later with 144 passengers and 103 officers and crew on board. Two men were picked up floating on small wreckage, by a fisherman off Ushante, at which point the steamer went down. It is hoped that some of the passengers and crew escaped in boats. Drummond Castle belonged to the famous Castle Line steamships running between South Africa and London. She was about 2,350 tons register and was last heard of at Las Palmas, Canary Islands, June 12.

Tugs have been sent out from this port to the scene of disaster in the hope of picking up some survivors. The fate of the steamer with which she collided is not known.

PEORIA, Ill., June 17.—John Connors shot Mamie Mulligan three times in the head this morning and then shot himself in the right temple. He is dead. The girl is not expected to live. The deed was committed because the girl would not marry him. Connors is 45 years old and Miss Mulligan 16.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., June 17.—A terrible famine, which threatens to plunge the most prosperous portion of Tonkin, China, into the direst misery for many years, is desolating the country.

From the mail advices received by the steamer Optico it seems that last year the rainfall was meager, and in consequence the harvest has been a failure. The natives throughout the whole of the country are in the most miserable condition. It is reported that mothers are offering their children for sale for a few cents. In Hanoi, the other day, a mother offered to sell her three infants for eight cents, preferring to hand them over to a European rather than see them perish from hunger in her arms. In the towns everywhere the streets are crowded by natives who have come in from the provinces to beg for rice. It is not so bad in the towns but in the country the state of affairs is awful. The inhabitants emigrate from districts en masse. In the provinces of Sontay, in the north, Bao Ninh and Hung Yen this exodus is most marked. Some of the people reach the cities to beg for sustenance, while many others are going about pillaging and perpetrating acts of the grimmest violence. Rice has attained the fabulous price of \$5.20 a picul. Should cholera break out virulently or any similar epidemic, which is not at all improbable, then it will be a veritable calamity. Already several cases of the terrible scourge have been reported from the provinces where the famine has been felt most severely. If the cholera gets a little headway it will have a disastrous effect upon the miserable native population.

Latest reports regarding the plague seem to indicate that while it continues there is no marked increase.