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## AMERICAN.

WASHINGTON, 28.—Senators Kirkwood and Dawes, of the Senate Ponca investigating committee, met in the Interior Department to-day. Tibbles was examined in reference to his attempt, last summer, to induce the Poncas to leave their reservation and go to Dakota. He admitted he had gone to the Ponca Reservation at the request of a committee in Omaha for the purpose of seeing whether the Poncas would leave the Indian Territory and return to Dakota, so that a case might be made up by them in the Supreme Court, and that to aid the Poncas in leaving the Indian Territory money had been furnished to provision them on their way.

Secretary Schurz made a statement contradicting the report that one-third of the Poncas had died in the Indian Territory and only about 440 were left. There are 515 in the Indian Territory now, eight at the Carlisle school and 13 in Dakota, which proved that the mortality among them had not been half what it had been represented; he also showed the charge that the Poncas had been kept in close confinement so as to make it impossible for any of their friends to see them on or about their reservation was untrue.

At the cabinet meeting, all members present but Devens the Whittaker case was discussed, without final action. The cabinet do not believe Whittaker should be given another chance at West Point. Prof. Green's recently submitted argument contains two alternatives; first, that Whittaker have a court martial trial; second, that he be reinstated in the academy. The argument says the cadet was placed at a great disadvantage in the first trial (whose findings were only partial) by being obliged to prove himself innocent. His absence from classes during the trial necessarily put him behind in his duties, and besides his marks, as shown by the records, are not so low as to justify expulsion.

The stories of the coolness between Gen. Sherman and the White House are not altogether groundless. It arose from the known preferences of Sherman in the Ord-McDowell matter, he demanding the retirement of Ord on the retirement of McDowell. The General's views on the subject have supporters, especially when it is learned that McDowell's trip east to vote for Garfield cost the government \$1,200 for mileage and expenses, while Ord's unlucky dispatch congratulating Hancock was prepaid by himself.

The Treasury Department has directed the transfer of \$3,999,500 in gold bullion from the assay office in New York to the Philadelphia mint for coinage into eagles and half eagles. After this transfer there will still remain in the New York assay office about \$63,000,000 in bullion, more than enough to keep the Philadelphia mint employed six months coining gold exclusively.

NEW YORK, 28.—The *Tribune* thinks a financial crisis similar to that of 1873, is impending as a result of railroad speculations. Take for example the several propositions to build roads across that thousand mile belt separating the Mississippi alluvial basin from the narrow fringe of fertile soil and scanty population of the Pacific slope. Besides the original Pacific road, which after 10 years' experience finds it impossible to get return loads for its cars, and which is more than equal to all that can be put on it; another is so nearly completed that the junction of the eastern and western portions at the Rio Grande is expected early in the new year. The census shows the population of California to be \$50,000, and less than a million for the whole Pacific watershed. One would suppose that with a free ocean way, the isthmus route and two railroads in operation, all the traffic would be accommodated to and from the Pacific. The madness born of cheap money proposes to build at least five more railroads—one on Canadian, two on Mexican territory, and two at least on our own. The Northern Pacific, for which there may be some excuse in the next generation, has yet to encounter its most formidable difficulties of long, snowy winters in crossing the backbone ridge of the continent. The thirty-fifth parallel route has even less excuse, as there are the same mountain chains, with scarcely a vestige of population or anything on which to support it. That part which is not mountainous is either deep ravines or dry desert, and it is

so closely flanked throughout by the thirty-second parallel, or Texas route, now approaching completion. What rational inducement could be found for embarking in such colossal schemes, unless it be the facility with which the projectors can borrow from credulous capitalists money enough to build the railroads and leave a balance to pocket as profit?

A reorganization and union mass meeting at the Cooper Institute, under the auspices of the Brunswick Hotel Committee and Young Men's Democratic Club, was well attended last night by those interested in the reorganization of the democratic party in this State. Franklin Edson presided. Among the vice-presidents were: Geo. W. Lane, S. D. Babcock, David M. Stone, Charles Dana, Henry L. Hogst, Allen Campbell, Wm. A. Beach, Wm. H. Appleton, Pierre Lorillard, Abram S. Hewitt, L. N. Stark, James W. Gerard, D. F. Tiernan, Oswald Ottendorfer, Wm. H. Hurlbut, Chas. S. Fairchild, Simeon Sterne, Wm. C. Whitney, Erastus Brooks, Robt. R. Roosevelt and S. L. M. Barlow. Most of them occupied seats on the platform.

BROOKLYN, 28.—In consideration of the report of the license committee providing for a proper schedule of rates of revenue to be paid the city at a meeting of the Brooklyn common council last evening, Alderman Daniel O'Connell moved to amend section 1 of the ordinance providing a license of \$5 for each Chinese laundry in the city. Alderman Davon moved to amend by providing that licenses be granted only to citizens of the United States. Alderman Baird said people might laugh, but the amendment was an important one; it would be a protection to a branch of industry. Alderman Weir favored the amendment, but thought the board should be careful not to vitiate the ordinance generally. Alderman Fritz said that bringing this Chinese business up was bringing a question of nationality into the board. This he was opposed to. Why not have the amendment apply to all laundries? Alderman O'Connell thought that the question of nationality did not come under discussion at all. Alderman Graham said it seemed to him that the aldermen were resolving themselves into a set of idiots. He was called to order by the chair.

The amendment offered by the alderman from the Twelfth ward was, after some discussion, adopted by a strict party vote, thirteen democrats voting in the affirmative and eleven republicans voting in the negative. The effect of the amendment if carried out will be to close Chinese laundries, which are now very numerous in Brooklyn.

The action of the Brooklyn aldermen in refusing to include Chinese laundrymen in the license ordinance has caused a good deal of comment in that city to-day. The proposition that laundrymen should pay \$5 per year even for license was introduced in the board as one means of lessening taxation. It is thought Mayor Howell, who advocated the measure, will withhold his approval of the license ordinance in consequence.

LOS VEGAS, N. M., 28.—The notorious gang of outlaws, composed of about 25 men, who, under the leadership of "Billy, the Kid," have for the past six months overrun eastern New Mexico, murdering and committing other deeds of outlawry, was broken up last Saturday morning, by the killing of two and the capturing of four others, including the leader. The prisoners were lodged in the Los Vegas jail, and threats of lynching were prevalent, but the vigilance of the captors, Deputy Sheriff Garrett, and others prevented it. Yesterday afternoon Garrett and the other captors boarded a train with the prisoners, for the purpose of taking them to Santa Fe. Sheriff Romero remonstrated against the taking of Rudalbaugh, one of the prisoners, who killed a Los Vegas deputy sheriff, to Santa Fe, but to no effect. He went then to the depot with a posse of 35 men, and made a formal demand for the prisoners, but was told if he wanted the prisoners to take them. The sheriff then stationed his men at the engine, to cover the engineer, and the balance of the sheriff's party crowded about the train, the platforms of which were crowded with guards pressed into service by Garrett, and nearly every window of the cars served as a port hole for rifles. Somebody suggested to take the prisoners now. Stewart, of Garrett's party, said: "The instant the first shot is fired we will unloose every man and arm him." For a while a

fight seemed imminent. Chief Engineer Robinson appeared and demanded that the train be allowed to proceed, and the master of transportation said if the train was not allowed to proceed he would arm all the railroad men and take it out. Detective J. F. Morley, of the post-office department, jumped into the cab with a pair of six shooters and told the engineer to let her go. A conference had just concluded, and a compromise was effected by which it was agreed that the sheriff and two men should go to Santa Fe with the party, and if the governor agreed they could bring Rudalbaugh back to Los Vegas. The train then proceeded.

CHICAGO, 28.—The *Inter-Ocean's* Quebec special says: The *Mercury* says orders were issued at the citadel on Saturday to serve out to each man fifty rounds of ball cartridges, to place double sentries on the gates and wall, and pull in the drawbridges. All passes to the men have been cancelled, and no man is allowed out after gun fire. It is reported that an imperial government spy was in the city last week with orders to ascertain the strength and position of the Irish in Canada and the United States, and the movements of Land Leaguers. It is said that he has left for Montreal.

*Inter-Ocean's* Washington: The State Department's statement shows the net balance of trade in favor of the United States against all other countries is \$141,000,000 for the year 1879. The balance against the United States and in favor of China was \$18,000,000; in favor of the Hawaiian Islands, \$1,427,000; Mexico, \$419,000; Central America, \$953,000. In most countries of our own continent the balance is strongly against us, amounting to \$46,000.

Thermometers, this morning, registered as low as 18 degrees below zero in the city, but the government observation was only 9 degrees below. The weather moderated only a trifle from the extreme cold, and at 12 o'clock was at 7 degrees. At Milwaukee, this morning, it was 19 degrees below, at Minneapolis 28 degrees below.

CINCINNATI, 28.—The Chinese have a Sunday school in this city, and last night gave a peculiar entertainment. There are 33 Chinamen in this class, but only 13 took part in the celebration, owing no doubt to this being wash day. The event took place in the Reformed Presbyterian Church, on Clinton Street, which was packed to the door by an interested audience. Chau Pou Tip, one of the most intelligent Chinamen in Cincinnati, now employed as a clerk in a Pearl Street house, made an address in English. It covered four pages of foolscap, and was upon Chinese school life and Chinese marriage. His English is good, but his grammar defective. He spoke of the habit that Chinamen in American cities had of going along the street noticing nobody, but attending their own business, and said they had been brought up that way in China. He declared that Chinese never associate with women in their own districts, and do no courting. Generally parents made matches. Chau declared that there were no divorces in China, and marriages there are always happy ones. The speaker referred but three times to his manuscript, and spoke from memory. Among the attractions offered was singing by the class of "Rock of Ages," in Chinese. They also sung the 100th Psalm in Chinese, and then read it in English.

FORT MONROE, 28.—A disturbance occurred on Friday evening, at Smithville, between a white man, named Dunn, and a party of colored men, who had met to organize a military company. One of the men caught Dunn by the whiskers and slapped his face, whereupon he drew a single-barrelled pistol and killed the negro. Dunn then ran into a store and loaded his pistol, and when the crowd, headed by Dan Cook with a drawn sword, attacked him, he shot Cook dead, after which he seized a butcher knife and cut his way out. One man named Ed. Drew was badly cut in the abdomen, and will probably die, while others are more or less injured. Dunn gave himself up, and is now in jail at Williamsburg. Intense excitement prevails among the colored people.

Twist Hill, N. S., 28.—Mrs. Sutler, a widow, gave birth to a child on Friday night, which she placed in a shed behind the house, allowing it to freeze to death. Returning, she bled to death of hemorrhage in the bed, where she was found on Saturday morning, between her two little children, aged six and four years.

Denver, 28.—On Saturday night, during a drunken row in a dance

hall at Robinson's Camp, a man named Meally was shot through the breast. Policeman McElhany, while attempting to arrest the disturbers, was shot in the foot. Several others had bullet holes in their clothing.

Washington, Ind., 28.—John Woodsmall, aged 17, murdered Marcus Brattan, aged 21, last night. The two quarreled while returning from a singing school 20 miles north of here.

Midway, Ky., 28.—Thed. Lee shot and killed Chris. Lawson, his brother-in-law, on Christmas night, after Lawson had dangerously stabbed him.

Chicago, 28.—The boiler in the shingle mill at Vestaberg, Mich., exploded this morning, instantly killing Frank Wilkins, engineer, Frank Linsley, night watchman, and badly injuring George Wilcox, M. Turk and an unknown man. The mill was blown to atoms. Frozen pipes were the cause.

Allentown, Pa., 28.—District Attorney Anstell issued warrants for all who participated actively in lynching Joseph Snyder. He says he will do his duty fully in the matter, but fears that no jury can be found willing to convict.

DUBLIN, 28.—The Attorney-General asked a postponement because of the short attendance of jurors. Mc. Donough, traversers' counsel, objected. Three jurors were then excused on account of age and infirmity, and McDonough challenged another. After two hours the jury was impanelled. All the traversers answered to their names.

The jury consists of eight Catholics, three Protestants and one Quaker. When the jury had been constituted, the Attorney General opened the case for the Crown in a firm, but moderate tone. He said the object of the conspiracy in which the traversers were engaged was to cause the social excommunication of a number of persons, and to make their lives not worth having. He pointed out the absurdity of the idea of partitioning out Ireland among a population of 5,000,000, which would only add to the misery of the unfortunate country. He severely condemned the policy of the Land League, which, he said, advocated freedom, yet brought all its power to bear in the coercion of private individuals. Government, he said, was bound to undertake the proceedings to put down the agitation. A great crowd cheered the traversers on the adjournment of the court.

Clonmel, 28.—A policeman has been dangerously wounded by a shot from behind a hedge near Cappaghwhite, County Tipperary.

NEW YORK, 29.—The *Times* says: There is something like a panic in English political circles, over the threatened war between Russia and China. The failure to settle the Kuldja dispute, the responsibility for which clearly rests with the government at St. Petersburg, gives color to the suspicion that Russia has sought an occasion to quarrel with China for the purpose of provoking a war of contest, and that the ultimate result of the impending disturbance will be the subjugation of the Chinese and the opening of a Russian highway across the Celestial kingdom to the waters of the Chinese seas. The English newspapers bristle with descriptions of Russian naval vessels now on the way to the coasts of China and Japan. The whole array is said to be "A Powerful Fleet" armed with new rifle guns of force and range as yet unmatched in naval warfare.

The *Commercial Bulletin* is informed by the Captain of the *Escombea*, recently arrived here from Amoy, that the four ocean steamships ordered by the China merchants company for service in the regular line between China and San Francisco, will be finished next July and will commence weekly service from China in August, manned by native crews, commanded by English and American Captains. They are being constructed at Glasgow and will be only 1,500 tons each. The Captain believes there will be ample employment for these vessels.

The *Herald* says: A Russian gentleman, a political exile, lectured last night before the Bullion Club on gold mining in the Ural Mountains. His knowledge of the Ural chain, the deposits of ore scattered through them, and the methods adopted in working them, was very extended and showed the lecturer had personal familiarity with them.

CHICAGO, 29.—The *Tribune* editorially says: Ex-Senator Sumner, of California, has written a remarkable letter in defence of his amendments to the Poland bill for the suppression

of polygamy in the Territories. That bill, as passed by the House, gives plural wives the right to sue for divorce and a division of the property of the husband, and took the franchise from the women of Utah who are now entitled to vote after 90 days' residence in the Territory, without having subscribed to the oath of allegiance or being naturalized. Sargent caused both these provisions to be stricken out in the Senate. The Gentile population in Utah have had a grudge against him ever since. Sargent defends himself by saying polygamy is a religious institution, and that he has never known persecution to be effective against religion. But the very obvious answer to this argument is that plural marriages are not a necessary part of the "Mormon" religion, and if they were, it would be a faith founded upon lust and the violation of the laws of all civilized nations. Sargent has failed to draw the line between the regulation of domestic institutions by law and the attempt to control opinions by the same means.

The *Tribune* says: The fund of \$100,000 raised by Philadelphians for Grant, is completed and awaits the General's order. One gentleman, says the *Philadelphia Record*, of large means, who is a warm friend of the General's, sent his name at once for \$25,000, with a letter stating that if it was necessary, he would give his own check for a hundred thousand, or that he would be willing to pay a life annuity to the ex-President of \$25,000.

NEW YORK, 29.—The snow storm last night and this morning interferes seriously with the travel of the horse cars and stages. Double up trains are running at longer intervals. Telegraph communication with Fire Island is severed. The storm on Sunday was very violent there, the surf broke across the beach between the Surf Hotel and the Lighthouse. The Pavilion on the ocean side was undermined, and one hundred bathing houses washed away. The Hotel narrowly escaped. A large ship's cabin was stove in and much wreckage was washed into the bay. An old hull of a twelve hundred ton steamer was washed on the beach. The vessel has not been recognized. No steamer is remembered to have stranded near where the hull lies.

Danville, Va.—A tremendous snow storm has been raging since last night. It is the third storm within a week. The roads are blocked.

Watertown, N. Y.—Eight inches more snow. Trains are delayed.

Chicago.—The cold weather continues. At dawn this morning the mercury was at 19 to 22 in the city. At eight o'clock it was 15 below here, and at other points in the northwest as follows: Detroit 11, Milwaukee 19, Winona 15, St. Paul 9, Dubuque 22, Peoria 10, Davenport 14, Keokuk 15, Des Moines 12, all below zero. The sky is clear and the wind moderate, and the prospects are now for a gradually rising temperature. Trains are usually impeded somewhat, but there are no accidents to property or life yet reported. A coal famine is possible if the cold weather continues and the railroads fail to bring coal as they have heretofore done.

St. Louis.—Dispatches from Texas say: Reports are in circulation that a terrible railroad accident occurred yesterday on the Texas & Pacific Railroad, somewhere between Dallas and Marshall. No information is obtainable. The rumor is that the train ran through the bridge, was partially burned, and a number of persons killed.

LONDON, 29.—The *Times* says: We cannot question the correctness of Chief Justice May's opinion that under the circumstances the interests of justice would be best served if he did not participate in the trial. His withdrawal is to be regretted, but he has acted wisely, and the scruples which prompted him to take the step deserve to be respected.

The *News* says: With a jury successfully empanelled, and a bench in which both sides can feel confidence, the trial will proceed under the best conditions for arriving at a satisfactory result as the state of Ireland renders possible.

The *Times* Dublin special says: The first day of the state trials has been remarkable only for gloom and dullness. Those who expected the city would be all of excitement, that the streets would assemble in the forenoon and that the court would be besieged by an eager multitude clamoring for admission were sadly disappointed. There has not been the slightest manifestation of public feeling beyond the gathering of about 200 persons of the lowest