

By Telegraph.

AMERICAN

NEW YORK, 23.—The *Tribune*, tomorrow, will publish a second letter from Randolph A. Witthaus, who was a passenger on the ill-fated *Ville de Havre*, to his father in this city. He writes as follows: "In my last I gave you a sketch of my experience in connection with the sinking of the *Ville de Havre*. I will now give you my opinions concerning the cause of the accident, &c. From all that I can gather from the officers and men I conclude that the blame lies entirely with the officers on watch on the steamer, whose duty it was to get out of the *Loch Earn's* way; and it appears that instead of doing this they did the very opposite, altering the course of the steamer so as to run right across the bows of the *Loch Earn*, at least so says the officer who was on watch on the latter boat at the time of the collision. In any case, it is an acknowledged rule of the sea that a steamer is bound to get out of the way of a sailing craft, and as the night was magnificently clear and calm the accident could only have occurred through some inexcusable blunder of those in charge of the steamer. After the accident, if it can be called such, had occurred, and while the ship was sinking, the officers and crew behaved in the most cowardly manner. The latter I know, and therefore I believe that they looked out for themselves, and left the women and children to look out for themselves, the only exception I saw being Doctor Audmont, whom I saw, three or four minutes before the ship went down, going below. I told him he would not have time to get up again, to which he answered that he must look after those who were crushed in their state rooms. He never came up again. A significant fact, and one needing no comment, is that not a single passenger was taken from the sinking ship by the boats, all being picked up in the water, while at least twenty of the officers and crew reached the *Loch Earn* without wetting as much as the soles of their shoes. Of Capt. Surmont's conduct I know nothing. Those who saw him spoke well of him, and I don't think he is directly to blame for the collision, although he is to blame for not having his crew under better discipline, and for not having his boats in a condition to be promptly lowered. In great contrast with the demoralized condition of the crew was the coolness of the passengers, even the women and children. There was no screaming or running about without an object. The women were in knots praying quietly, while the men were looking around for pieces of wood, or were making efforts to get one of the boats, which the crew had abandoned, clear of the ship, so that it might float before the vessel sank. Language fails in expressing my admiration of and gratitude to the gallantry and generosity of the officers and crew of the *Loch Earn* and of the *Trimountain*. The former saved the greater part of us from the water, and both gave us clothing and did all in their power to make us as comfortable as possible under the circumstances. The French crew, on the contrary, were a mob of brutes and cowards."

The *Herald's* London special says an official denial is given to the story of the *New York Times*, that the English government had demanded the punishment of General Burriel.

NEW YORK, 24.—The Cuban agents in this city state that orders have been received that no more rifles are needed by the Cuban forces, as they have captured more than sufficient to arm all they can put at present into the field.

The *Virginian* prisoners are expected on Friday, and the Cuban residents are making every effort to supply their wants, immediately on their arrival.

Edson Bradley, of the firm of Edson Bradley & Co., Broadway, recently in trouble, has disappeared since Sunday; he had with him at the time of his departure a considerable amount of money.

The suspension of Doland & Burrell, glove dealers, Pearl St., was announced yesterday; also the millinery goods house of Wm. A. Carpenter. The amount involved is believed to be about three hundred thousand.

A story is told to-day that Harry Genet, the ring fugitive, is on his way to Rio Janeiro, on board a

yacht provisioned and fitted for a long voyage; ex-Senator Noah Taylor, of Jersey City, is said to be also on board.

Fisk & Hatch have resumed.

The counsel for the defense, in the trial of Ex-Mayor Hall, declined, to-day, to put in evidence, and commenced to sum up by saying that they would ask the court to direct the jury to acquit the defendant.

PITTSBURG, 24.—A dense fog has prevailed all day; gas has been necessary indoors and in some of the streets near the river.

NEW YORK, 24.—At the conclusion of Houghton's argument for the defense in the trial of ex-mayor Hall, Tremaine commenced for the prosecution, and in the course of his argument called the attention of the jury to the fact that the defendant himself, when district attorney, procured the conviction of Judge Bogart for an act similar to that for which he is now on trial. He then argued that the word "corruptly" was mere surplusage, that the word "wilfully" meant intentionally, and with whatever good faith he had, if he intended to do a forbidden act he was doing it wilfully. In that position the court sustained him. Tremaine spoke for three hours, and concluded by saying if the offense was a mere technical one the jury should so find, and he would trust the court to administer a mere technical penalty. He did not ask the jury to find that any money went in to the defendant's pocket, and he ventured to say there was no proof whatever that it did. If they found a general verdict of guilty the defendant could only be punished for one offense, or they could find him guilty on all or any of the counts on the vouchers. Judge Daniels commenced to charge at 4:30. He said the defendant was substantially charged with wilful neglect of duty, and, being a lawyer and a man of culture and ability, he should be held to a strict performance of the duty imposed upon him by the law. If a public officer wilfully neglects the performance of a duty imposed upon him by law he is guilty of a misdemeanor. The duty imposed upon the board of audit was of a personal and judicial character, which required investigation; they had no right to delegate that duty to any one else, it was beyond doubt a personal duty required of the members of the board. Did the defendant decline to perform that duty? If he did so designedly and purposely he committed a misdemeanor, for it is not necessary that there should be any design to defraud, it is enough if a party design to perform an act which creates crime. The judge said an inspection of the bills presented would have revealed frauds of a gross character. He instanced the bill from which was omitted the creditor's name. He said the public had a right to expect an examination of all these bills. He instructed the jury that the defense made, of the duties being too arduous, would not stand as an excuse, for no officer could undertake a duty and wilfully neglect it. If the jury were satisfied that the defendant committed an offense, no matter how painful it might be to the defendant's friends, it was their duty to pronounce him guilty; and unless they had an abiding conviction of his guilt, they must find him not guilty. He instructed them to confine themselves to the indictment charging the defendant with wilfully and intentionally omitting to perform the duties prescribed by law, and also that there was no evidence of a conspiracy between Hall and his associates, and nothing connected him with the fraudulent bills. The jury retired at 6 o'clock, and at 8 o'clock returned and were instructed, in answer to queries from the foreman, that the simple act of neglect of duty, if wilful, would warrant a verdict of guilty, and that the jury were themselves the judges whether the act was or was not wilful. The jury again retired, and at 10:30 they entered the court room, and, in answer to the usual inquiry, replied that they had found a verdict of not guilty. At this announcement the audience broke into a thunder of applause, which the court did not object to, and after a lapse of about ten minutes the court was adjourned until Monday.

BALTIMORE, 24.—Mr. S. Hopkins, reputed to be the wealthiest citizen of Baltimore, died this a.m., aged 79 years. In March last Mr. Hopkins gave property valued at \$4,000,000 to found a free hospital for indigent sick, connected with which is a

training school for nurses; he also made ample provisions for the same for colored orphans, and set apart 15,000 shares in Baltimore and Ohio railroad stock, valued at \$2,000,000, to found a university on his Clifton estate. Mr. Hopkins was unmarried.

BOSTON, 24.—The board of trustees of the Museum of Comparative Zoology adopted resolutions and made addresses in commemoration of the life and labors of Professor Agassiz.

The *Times* makes the following statement in regard to the escape of Genet: After escaping from Deputy Sheriff Shields, Genet, in accordance with a pre-concerted plan, hastened to a close carriage in waiting near by, and was driven to the house of a friend in the lower part of the city, where he remained concealed until Tuesday evening; then, skillfully disguised, he was taken in another close carriage to the foot of Canal St., and hurried on board the steamship *Ontario*, bound to St. Thomas, Acapulco, and Aspinwall. The passage had been previously engaged for him under an assumed name, and he was received by the officers without a question. The *Ontario* sailed at a late hour on Tuesday, and remained in the lower bay until yesterday morning, when she proceeded on her way. The common pleas chamber, yesterday, issued an attachment against the property of Genet; the order was issued at the instance of W. C. Caswell, who holds a small claim against the escaped criminal, the grounds being that Genet was also an absconding creditor.

It has been ascertained that Edson Bradley, the missing Broadway merchant, has fled to Canada, with seventy thousand in gold, to escape being prosecuted by his creditors on a charge of fraudulent bankruptcy. His son, Major Bradley, was last night committed to Ludlow street jail, on a charge of concealing property from the creditors. The complaint was made by his brother-in-law, M. Hoffman. All the parties were members of the firm of Edson Bradley & Co., whose failure was recently announced.

The *Times* says that Judson Jarvis, clerk of the sheriff's office, and two deputy sheriffs have been held for trial in the case of the alleged robbery of B. S. Croft, a wealthy Virginian, of thirty-five thousand dollars in gold certificates, which he claims were taken from him while drinking wine with the above named officers. One of the missing certificates, stopped at the sub-treasury yesterday, with the forged endorsement of Croft, has been traced to one Thomas E. Smith, a saloon keeper, who gave such an unsatisfactory account of how it came into his hands that he was arrested and held to bail in six thousand. Smith, it is understood, has since made a clean breast of the affair. Interesting developments are expected.

BOSTON, 25.—A shocking murder was committed at No. 9 Providence street, this morning. Joseph T. Hegner and Antoine G. Hultel, both young Germans, carried on the trade of locksmithing, and slept together in a shop, where Hultel was found shot, and terribly mutilated with a hatchet; Hegner confessed the murder.

LANCASTER, N. H., 25.—A bloody fracas took place at Groveton last evening, growing out of an attempt by Michael O'Leary and a Frenchman named Blackwell, both intoxicated, to enter a house of questionable repute, owned by a Frenchman named Gouye; the result was a fight, resulting in the death of Gouye and his son, a young man, who was killed by O'Leary with a club, the mortal wounding of Blackwell by old Gouye, and a bad wound on O'Leary's head from a club used by a female inmate of the house.

ST. LOUIS, 25.—Mayor Brown has inaugurated a soup house in a part of the tobacco warehouse situated on the city property adjoining the City Hall, on Twelfth and Chestnut St., it having been fitted up for that purpose. About 200 men and women out of employment were served.

CHICAGO, 25.—Three justices of the Supreme Court of Ills., to-day, granted writs of supersedeas in the case of Chris. Rafferty, who was to have been hanged at Waukegan tomorrow, for the murder of policeman O'Meara. Rafferty has been tried, convicted and sentenced to death three times already, and the chances are now that he will have another trial.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., 25.—Three

suicides lie at the Morgue to-night, one a woman named Louis, from the sixth ward, one a well dressed man who threw himself under an engine on the St. Paul Railroad, unknown, and another unknown, who drowned himself in the river.

CHICAGO, 26.—A Washington special says it is safe to say that upon the reassembling of the Senate the nomination of Williams as Chief Justice will be withdrawn; it is ascertained that if a vote were to be taken on the confirmation in a full Senate, there would be a majority of eight against him on the Republican side, without counting the opposition. It is confidently predicted that Caleb Cushing's name will be sent in next.

In Brooklyn, last night, James Gallagher, drunk, threw his wife down stairs, and supposing he had killed her, he shot himself dead. The woman was only slightly injured.

CINCINNATI, 26.—At a shooting match near Riga, Ohio, yesterday, two brothers, John and Henry Stone, quarrelled about loading a rifle; John called Henry a liar, when Henry drew a revolver and shot and killed John. The spectators, being much excited, caught and hung Henry to a tree, and when he was taken down life was extinct. Too much whisky caused it all.

PHILADELPHIA, 26.—Most of the cotton and woolen factories are in full operation, at reduced wages; the carpet manufactories, with very few exceptions, are all closed.

WASHINGTON, 26.—Secretary Robeson, to complete the investigations in the *Polaris* disaster, is today examining the three last members of the expedition, who recently arrived here.

BALTIMORE, 26.—All the business houses in the principal part of the city are closed, in respect to the memory of John Hopkins, whose funeral takes place to-day.

NASHVILLE, 26.—The wholesale drug house of McCulloch, Hager & Co., was burned last night; loss on the stock and building twenty-six thousand, mostly covered by insurance.

BOSTON, 26.—Joseph Galvin was killed yesterday by John Doherty, in a drunken row at Wakefield.

DORCHESTER, Ont., 26.—During a drunken row yesterday, between a party of colored and white men, one of the latter named Bell was killed.

WASHINGTON, 26.—As there is no absolute necessity for heavy appropriations for the improvement of harbors and rivers and fortifications, under the Engineer's Bureau of the War Department, the estimate for such improvements, amounting to twenty million dollars, will probably be reduced to three millions.

NEW YORK, 26.—The London *Telegraph* of the 18th has a letter from Captain Surmont of the steamer *Ville de Havre*, denying in toto, the accusations against himself and his sailors of cowardice and neglect of the passengers' safety on the occasion of the disaster, and making countercharges as follows: "Captain Robertson states, according to you, that the *Ville de Havre* is alone responsible for the disaster which befell her. When speaking in my report of the respective movements of the two vessels I maintained a guarded reserve, which men of honorable feeling will appreciate; but if Captain Robertson dare to solve, so peremptorily in his favor, this question so grave and to all so obscure, death having snatched away the greatest part of the witnesses, and especially the principal one, the officer of the watch at the moment of the collision, I shall repeat then, without fear of contradiction from any one skilled in such matters, that the Captain of the *Loch Earn*, sailing close hauled, could, by a single turn of the wheel, have gone to windward; and so prevented the catastrophe, that he could have done so up to the very minute of the collision, at the very last moment even, and that he did not do. I should say, above all, that according to the testimony of the survivors of the *Ville de Havre* the lights of the *Loch Earn* were, for some reason or other, not visible from my ship, either because they were not in their places or because, as frequently happens after a long night, the wicks of the lamps may have been allowed to burn down."

The Orange Hotel, at Turner's station, on the Erie R. R., was burned to-night. The building was four hundred feet long and three stories high, and belonged to the Erie company. The loss is not as-

certain. The road is temporarily blocked.

A dispatch from Montreal reports that Henry Genet was there to-day.

A fire, to-night, destroyed the livery stable of Herbert Maxlow in Seventy-eighth street and Madison Avenue, involving a loss of seven thousand dollars. Palmer Roper, a wealthy contractor, is under arrest, charged with having employed two boys to fire the premises, and with aiding them in gaining admission.

The *Herald* Madrid special says the resignation of Gen. Sienes, the U. S. Minister, has been officially accepted.

CHICAGO, 26.—This evening a meeting was held at the City Hall, at which were present Mayor Colvin, the finance committee of the common council, the special committee on relief appointed by the council on Monday evening, a special committee of workingmen, and the executive committee of the Chicago Relief and Aid Society. The object of the meeting was to consider the demands made by the workingmen, through their leaders, that the Relief Society should set apart or place in the hands of the workingmen's relief committee, a portion of the funds in their possession for distribution to their suffering fellow laborers. In connection with this demand, grave charges had been made by some of the leaders of the workingmen, to the effect that the funds of the relief society had been misapplied, and that they would be unable, if called upon, to produce the six hundred thousand which their accounts showed should be on hand. The executive committee of the relief society, while declining, absolutely to place any part of the funds in their possession into those of other parties for distribution, showed that the charges of misapplication of funds were unfounded, and offered to produce the entire six hundred thousand dollars in cash on half an hour's notice, and let it be counted. As the workingmen had demanded, the committee also showed that they were relieving all cases of destitution presented to them, and that the society was doing most efficient work in providing for the worthy poor. The meeting, though long and productive of much earnest talk, was unmarked by any excitement, and the majority of all present signified their entire satisfaction with the showing made by the Relief and Aid Society, and confidence in their disposition and ability to properly distribute the funds in their hands.

The city attorney has brought a suit against the bondsmen of David A. Gage, the defaulting city treasurer, and the State's attorney will bring Gage before the grand jury for indictment on criminal action.

A Washington special, to-night, says that Judge Durrel of Louisiana has made a direct proposal to the authorities here to resign, if the President will appoint him to a second class foreign mission; he is willing to take his chances of being confirmed by the Senate. By this means he would expect to escape an impeachment. His proposition was not accepted.

The estimates in the post-office department have already been so much reduced, that no further extension of the railway postal service can be made during the present fiscal year.

ST. LOUIS, 26.—Judge Goddin, of the seventh judicial district of Kansas, has decided a test case, involving the title to the Osage ceded lands in that State, in favor of the settlers, holding that railroads have no grant through those lands.

Michael Scanlon was found guilty by the coroner's jury to-day, of killing his wife yesterday in a drunken fight.

PITTSBURG, 26.—The officials of the Pennsylvania Central Railroad and branches are making every effort to supply the places of their striking engineers and firemen. The reduction of wages which caused the strike is said by the officials to apply to all the officers and employees, and the engineers are the only ones to rebel.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., 26.—Hon. Shakespeare Caldwell, of this city, formerly a member of Congress, turned over to the poor of Louisville, on Christmas day, a handsome building for hospital purposes, which he has had erected at a cost of eight thousand dollars; the edifice is to be called the hospital of St. Mary and St. Elizabeth, and is to be under the charge of the sisters