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WASHINGTON, 20.—Senator McPherson is preparing a bill in regard to the navy which provides for the abolition of all the navy yards except those at Brooklyn, Pensacola, and Mare Island, on the ground that when we have no navy the other yards are not needed. The bill also provides for a large reduction of the pay corps, and other branches of the establishment, because of the great number of commissioned officers in proportion to the number of seamen.

HAVERHILL, 20.—The city is full of strangers viewing the ruins of the fire. Several safes have been opened and the contents mainly found unharmed. Many however, were broken by falling from upper stories, and in them shone melted gold and silver. The severe beating of one thief by citizens and the police restrained others, and no robbery is reported. Most of the manufacturers have arranged to start business tomorrow. The funeral of the fireman, German, took place to-day.

The loss will be fully up to the first estimate with insurance aggregating \$1,000,000, widely distributed among Eastern and foreign companies. One hundred and two shoe manufactories were burned out and over 200 firms. Three lives were lost certainly, and perhaps more. Following are the heaviest risks held by various insurance companies: Hartford, \$56,000; North British and Mercantile, \$55,000; Active, \$75,000; Queen, \$80,000; Imperial and Northern, \$71,000; Home of New York, \$60,000; Phoenix, of Hartford, \$76,000; Liverpool, London & Globe, \$48,000; Royal, \$30,000; London and Lancashire, \$26,000; Commercial Union, \$27,000; Guardian, London, \$28,000; National Hartford, \$25,000; Lancashire, \$17,000; Phoenix Assurance, London, \$55,000; Union, \$23,000; Orient, \$28,000; Merchants, New Jersey, \$35,000; Western Assurance, Toronto, \$30,000; Springfield Fire and Marine, \$60,000; Phoenix Assurance, Springfield, \$56,000; German American, New York, \$49,000; Connecticut, \$40,000; Insurance Company of North America, \$32,000; Niagara, \$26,000; Fire Association, Philadelphia, \$32,000.

PROVIDENCE, 20.—The divorce petition of Mrs. Sprague comes up for hearing before a full bench of the supreme court in Kingston to-day. It is now certain that the trial will be utterly devoid of anything sensational.

A correspondent of the *Sun* was informed, by one of the counsel in the case, that Gov. Sprague's visit this week was to arrange with his wife's counsel for an amicable adjustment of the divorce. He agreed to allow his wife to have a divorce on the ground of non-support. The only proceedings will be of a formal nature, if no change is made in the programme.

ST. LOUIS, 20.—A terrible tragedy occurred yesterday near Centerville, Texas, in which two negroes named Hall were killed and their wives mortally wounded. It appears that the negroes, who were riding along the road in a wagon, had some trouble with the child of a white man named Lyle. The child ran home and told its father about the affair, and the latter taking a shotgun, concealed himself by the roadside. Shortly after, the negroes drove by, and Lyle fired upon them from his ambush, almost blowing the heads off the men and fatally wounding the women. The murderer fled. Officers started in pursuit.

WAYERLEY, Neb., 20.—Tuesday evening, James Cook and R. D. Raven, the latter from Kentucky, got into a dispute in a bar-room about spelling the word peddler. They got into a fight, when Raven drew a revolver and shot Cook through the heart, killing him instantly. Raven was immediately arrested by the bystanders, lodged in jail, and afterwards taken to Lincoln to prevent lynching by the excited friends of the deceased, who was a much respected young man. Raven is a tramp printer, and was regarded as a dangerous character.

CHICAGO, 20.—J. H. McVicker, the well known theatre manager, in an open letter to Rev. Herrick Johnson, states that if Dr. Johnson will apply to his theatre the recent general statement that no theatre has stood during the past 25 years without producing filth on its boards, he (McVicker) will convict Mr. Johnson of libel, or failing in that, will bestow \$1,000 upon any charitable

institution that Mr. Johnson may designate.

SAN FRANCISCO, 21.—Track-laying commenced yesterday on the Southern Pacific Branch from Mohave to the Colorado.

NEW YORK, 21.—With regard to lapsed land grants, the *Mail and Express'* Washington special says: It is now evident there will soon be a stir in Congress on this subject. The Northern Pacific Railroad people have planted their lobby on the ground and show considerable nervousness about the issue. The judiciary committees of both Houses have the whole subject under consideration and it is intimated by prominent members thereof that they intend to see the government's interest protected at all hazards in this relation. One of the members says they intend to inquire carefully into the question whether the decision of Carl Schurz, when he was Secretary of the Interior, over the ruling decision of the Land Office Commissioner was the result of ignorance of law, or favoritism, or venality. Some pretty rough things are said about Schurz in this connection and they will all be investigated with the general subject, and if any of them are substantiated, the bill will be passed directing the attorney to add all the lapsed railroad grants to the public domain. The Northern Pacific people appeal for mercy on the ground, as they allege, that they have the entire road under contract for construction, and that they will complete it in two years.

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa, 21.—A heavy snow storm prevails here to-day and to-night—the first of the winter. It is expected the running of trains will be interfered with by the drifting snow.

WASHINGTON, 21.—Senator Lamar left for Mississippi to-day. The injuries he recently sustained are more painful than at first supposed. The President nominated Wm. F. Tucker, jr., of Illinois, major and paymaster.

The court martial, to try Sergeant Mason, who shot at Guiteau, adjourned to procure a diagram of the jail and surroundings. The plea of "not guilty" was entered.

Senator Lapham introduced a bill to-day to amend an act establishing the Territorial Government of Utah and change the name to Altamont. The bill vests the executive power over the Territory in a governor appointed for four years, and continues the present governor until the end of his term, and disfranchises all persons guilty of bigamy and polygamy, and makes them ineligible as jurors or to hold any office. The bill requires the legislature to repeal the statute authorizing a plurality of wives and provide for the support of the destitute and homeless wives and children by erecting houses for them and a levy of taxes to pay therefor; also to compel males to support their children born in polygamy.

CHESTER, Penn., 21.—Six victims of the late explosion were buried to-day. All the industrial establishments suspended work and the employees attended the funeral in a body.

LOUISVILLE, 21.—The Newcomb, Buchanan Company, the largest whisky distilling firm in the South, made an assignment to J. M. Atherton—Liabilities, \$1,200,000; assets, \$2,000,000. The suspension is thought to be only temporary.

CINCINNATI, 21.—The river is 47 feet and rising. It has been raining hard all day and is raining to-night, with a prospect of continuing. The river is rising at the rate of an inch per hour. It is already the highest since 1847. Indications give rise to the belief that it will cause a rise that will excel that of 1830—the greatest on record. Navigation is closed.

LOUISVILLE, 21.—A very exciting and probably fatal affair took place this evening on Jefferson Street between 6th and 7th, in which Joe Wyatt an ex-government marshal who bagged more moonshiners than any man in the country, was badly, no doubt fatally, wounded by Joe Cunningham and Thos. Connelly, two deputies of the court. Wyatt is a man of celebrated name and is one who never has known fear. He has had many exciting incidents in his life and has shot several men, but generally was acting in self-defense, or the discharge of his duties as a government officer, but this time he has probably met his man. During the affair 14 shots were fired. The difficulty commenced in the Astor House, a little hotel directly opposite the fire engine house, and ended in the street where Wyatt was shot.

The origin of the difficulty was witnessed by none but the participants, consequently it is somewhat difficult to give the exact particulars. It seems that warrants were out for the arrest of Wyatt, charging him with selling liquor to minors. Hearing of this he swore he would pay no attention to the warrants. He would be damned if he'd pay the fines, and no officer could arrest him. He is said to have threatened to shoot any man who laid hands on him. The officers attempted to arrest him, when he pulled a revolver, the officers did the same, and the battle raged from the hotel to the street. The marshal fired 10 out of 14 shots. Wyatt fired four times with his famous pistol, which he calls trusty. Neither of the marshals were hurt except that Connelly's forehead was grazed by a bullet just over the right eye. Drs. Garvin, Rogers and others called into the jail to attend Wyatt, who was found to be very seriously injured. The probabilities are that he will die. He has three wounds, so far as the doctors can determine, one in the right shoulder, not serious. The other two are in the abdomen. There is one hole on the right side and another on the left. The doctors are unable to say whether the holes are caused by two different balls, or whether the two holes are the entrance and exit of the same. If but one wound he has a chance for recovery. If two wounds the bullets are in the cavity, and the doctors say death will result.

WASHINGTON, 22.—The Post states: The grand jury concluded its session to-night, and brought in additional Star route indictments: M. Irredell, private secretary to ex-Senator Dorsey, brother to the senator, for perjury in connection with a route in Colorado; J. A. Peck, J. R. Miner and J. C. Sinderon for perjury in connection with routes in the Territories. They also indicted A. C. Soteldo for assault with intent to kill Clarence Barton, and manslaughter in killing A. M. Soteldo.

In addition to being presented for indictment for conspiracy in the Star route cases, additional presentments were brought in against the following yesterday afternoon: J. R. Miner, for perjury, in connection with the route from Bismarck to Fort Keogh, and the route from St. Charles to Green Horn; J. L. Sanderson, for perjury in connection with the route from Sagrutch to Lake City; John W. Dorsey, for perjury in connection with the route from Pueblo to Rosita, and the route from Trinidad to Madison City; M. O. Reertell, for subordination of perjury in connection with the route from Rawlins to White River; J. W. Peck, for perjury in connection with the route from Kearney to Kent, and the route from Eugene City to Bridge Creek.

The President and Cabinet have, so it is said, semi-officially, announced, decided in favor of the restoration of Fitzjohn Porter to the army. The only question in connection with the case that is undecided is as to Porter's back pay. When cashiered, he held the rank of Colonel of the regular army and Major-General of volunteers. The question is now whether his back pay as Major-General would accrue to him up to reinstatement, or whether it would terminate in 1866, when other Major-Generals were mustered out of service. This question has been referred to the Attorney-General. The President will nominate Porter as Colonel of Infantry to fill the first vacancy and Porter will probably ask to be retired.

The important decision rendered by Justice Miller in the circuit court for Colorado, which was recently referred to in these dispatches as having nearly reached the point of final review by the United States Supreme Court is in effect that no mineral land patent can legally be issued for more than 168 acres, and that if a number of locations have been consolidated into one claim, each of the locations must be treated as a distinct claim, and advertised and proved up with proof of separate work upon it. This decision, if sustained by the Supreme Court, would, it is said, destroy two-thirds of the patents heretofore issued for mining claims impossible because of the impracticability of making proof of old locations, and because in most instances separate work has not been done on the old locations which have been consolidated into larger claims has been held to be work done on every part of it; but the circuit court judgment overthrows that principle. The appealed case has been twice argued in the Supreme Court, and its forthcoming

decision is awaited with great interest.

Senator Miller in his speech said: The Chinese, as a people, remain here and their number is constantly increasing. They have ultimately conquered every Territory they have invaded. Their invasion of Mongolia, Mantura, Thibet, Turcosa and Philippine Islands, indeed by the overrunning of these countries the exodus from the province of Kwang Tung to the United States had been in progress for many years, and had this begun in the same ratio as if the population had been general in all the provinces of China and facilities of transfer therefrom the same, there would have been already in the United States more than 13,000,000 of able-bodied Chinamen. Millions of half-starved Chinese of the north provinces were eager to come. During the late business depression, while thousands of white men and women were walking the streets of San Francisco begging for work, cargoes of Chinese regularly arrived by the great steamers and were conveyed to the distributing dens of the Six Companies, and within three or four days thereafter every Chinaman was in his place at work, while the white unemployed were still walking the streets. Since business has revived the excess of these arrivals have averaged about 1,000 per month.

A bill was introduced by Representative Pacheco to amend the act to provide for the sale of desert lands in certain States and Territories. It provides that it shall be lawful for any citizen of the United States, upon payment of 25 cents per acre, to file a declaration under oath with the register and receiver of the land district in which any desert land is situated, that he intends to reclaim a tract of desert land not exceeding one section by conducting water upon the same within a period of six years. Section three of the bill provides that persons who have heretofore taken up lands under the desert land act, and have failed to comply with the terms of the law, and thereby forfeited their rights, shall have prior right of re-entry of the same land by again paying 25 cents per acre, provided application for re-entries is made within 90 days after the passage of this act.

MEMPHIS, 22.—The officers of the City of Greenville confirm the report published of the sad condition of affairs now existing throughout the Mississippi Valley. Thousands of men are on constant guard along the levees between here and Vicksburg, using every possible means, to strengthen their power of resistance and elevate their crests, to prevent the water from inundating the whole country. The Greenville brought up several thousand empty sacks to be used, by filling with earth, to aid in strengthening the embankment. The whole shore line between Memphis and Vicksburg on the Mississippi side, and the whole eastern shore of Arkansas, are either under water or threatened with inundation. The inhabitants of a vast area of country are in great distress. Many have been forced from their houses and are subsisting on knolls or parts of old levees. The destruction of live stock is beyond calculation, and the waste of property by the great submersion outside the limits of the present computation. Navigation of the river itself is regarded by steamboat men as dangerous at its present stage on account of the great expanse of water in many localities, and the billowy character of the waves, when the surface is swept by heavy gusts of wind, and also because of the great difficulty of getting to safe ports. The Government lights along the river are maintained with admirable regularity. These lights prove of incalculable benefit to steamboats now, since all the bank land marks have disappeared.

Arkansas City is completely submerged; not a single house in the city is free from the presence of muddy floods. The water there is represented as being eight inches higher than the flood of 1876. The houses were built so as to be above the high flood level of that year, but in all of them there is from seven to eight inches of water.

Between Cairo and Memphis the following points of land only are visible above the surging flood. The bluffs at Columbus Hills; the bank of Hickman; the land on the Tennessee side opposite Island No. 10; New Madrid, Point Pleasant, Tip-tonville, Fulton Bluffs, Randolph, Richardson, Islands 35 and 36, and Dean's Island, above the head of

Centennial cut-off, 40 miles above Memphis.

PADUCAH, Ky., 22.—Yesterday morning, during a storm, a flatboat containing three women and two men, the latter colored, was blown from her moorings and swept into the middle of the river, and all were drowned. A young man went out to the boat, but his skiff was swamped, and he too was drowned.

CLEVELAND, 22.—A committee representing ex-Confederate soldiers of Cincinnati visited Mrs. Garfield at Mentor and presented her with a beautiful memorial tribute to James A. Garfield in the shape of a sympathetic and eulogistic resolutions.

Mrs. Garfield, with great effort, repressed her emotion, while the old mother of the late President wept violently. Both were clad in the deepest mourning. The late President's widow, her voice trembling with emotion, replied to the address of Gen. Withers, as follows:

Gentlemen:—I am very grateful to you and to those from whom this beautiful gift comes, both for your sake and the sentiment you express.

The two Messrs. Garfield then examined the memorial gift and expressed their admiration of the frame, to Knipe, its maker, who said: "My heart went out in sympathy for the President. I volunteered to make that frame and I made it so it may remain a standing testimony of Southern sentiment." Gen. Withers added: "And moreover we want to show these northern politicians that we ex-Confederates are not as black as they try to make us out to be."

The younger Mrs. Garfield responded: "It has always been the General's greatest wish that there be no north or south. His earnest desire was to see a united country, and had he lived"—here her grief overcame her and the sentence was unfinished.

After a brief silence courtesies were exchanged and the visitors withdrew.

NEW ORLEANS, 21.—The weather was favorable for the Mardi Gras festival to-day, and immense crowds of people are on the streets, among them many maskers. During the afternoon pageants of the carnival, the Phunny Party of Phellows and Independent order of the Moon appeared and paraded the streets. There were in all 55 cars, making a procession with cavalades and bands of music over two miles in length. All the subjects illustrated were of a comic character.

CHICAGO, 22.—Reports received to a late hour to-night from points in the Ohio, Mississippi and Missouri valleys show floods in most cases to be on the increase. Serious losses are reported everywhere. At Helena six children were drowned on Col. Ellis' plantation to-day, while being conveyed to a place of safety.

NEW YORK, 23.—A special has the following:

Salt Lake City. The Mormons are greatly excited over the situation, and are doing all they can to prevent further congressional action. Today petitions to Congress are being signed in all parts of the Territory, one by women and a other by men, praying Congress to halt. A petition for business men to sign will be circulated to-morrow, and many Gentile merchants will sign, as they believe that the revolutionizing of the government will unsettle values and prove disastrous to business. In two weeks, petitions with hundreds of thousands of Utah and Idaho signers, will be in Washington. Some leading Mormons have already gone East, and Apostles Smith and Thatcher start to-morrow. Whether they are authorized to make concessions are unknown, but the feeling here is that unless they are, their mission will be in vain.

SAN FRANCISCO, 23.—The Tucson dispatch of yesterday relative to the steamer *Newbern* picking up a famished boat's crew, is understood here to refer to the boat containing Capt. McArthur of the British ship *Milton* his wife and children with a number of seamen. The *Milton* was abandoned on fire last Christmas in latitude 30 north longitude 110° west. Three boats left the ship one of which was picked up by the ship *Cochin* which arrived here January 29th. The mate's boat has not been heard from.

FOREIGN.

LONDON, 20.—The great subject of discussion in private circles is the attitude Gladstone has thought proper to adopt in reference to the Queen. It goes without saying that