

FEMALE RELIEF SOCIETIES AND THEIR LABORS.

The organization of Female Relief Societies in the various Wards of the city has been attended, so far as we have been able to learn, by the best of effects. The ladies have entered upon the duties assigned them in relieving the poor with spirit and alacrity, and they have accomplished an amount of good that must be very gratifying to the Bishops and other leading men in the Wards. The movement has been a most timely one; a class of help has been brought into use that is admirably fitted for the labor, and which only needed the call from the proper quarter to render most efficient service. These Societies, with proper management, and under good guidance, can be made the means of accomplishing an incalculable amount of good. They are auxiliaries which the Bishops can use most effectively in caring for the poor.

We have noticed in several of the Wards that the Bishops have assisted in getting up parties for the benefit of the Female Relief Societies, under their auspices and to furnish them with funds. Last week we attended a party of this character in the 15th Ward Hall. It was an excellent affair, and passed off admirably. Presidents B. Young and D. H. Wells were present. The committee, on the part of the Society of that Ward—Mrs. Sarah M. Kimball and Mrs. Robert T. Burton, assisted by other ladies—deserve great credit for the manner in which everything was arranged. The Hall was so greatly changed inside as to be scarcely recognizable. We understand the young men who acted as committee of arrangements for the party, worked faithfully in assisting their mothers and the other ladies in cleaning and decorating the Hall. The evening was not entirely devoted to dancing. Miss Harriet Jones, daughter of the late N. V. Jones, delivered a very eloquent, original address on behalf of the Society, which was well received. This was followed by an address by Pres. Young, and throughout the evening the company were favored with a few songs and recitations. We admired the manner in which the proceedings were conducted, and concluded that under the supervision of Bishop Burton, who was present, such associations would do good—means would be raised, the ladies be cheered and encouraged, and the people of the Ward be familiarized with the society as an institution that was fully endorsed and that should be sustained.

There is a great field of usefulness opening up before these Societies, and we sincerely hope that they will not fail to avail themselves of the opportunities they now have of doing good. It is not the sustaining alone of the poor that should occupy their attention; but measures should be taken immediately to teach the poor and to provide them with means to sustain themselves. Time is money. The time of the poor should not be allowed to pass away unimproved. To sustain the poor in idleness is to foster vice and to breed a race of paupers that will be a sore burden to the body politic. But let the poor—men, women and children—be provided with work; let them be taught industrious habits; let them be furnished with employment suited to their strength and capacity; and they can nearly, if not entirely, sustain themselves. By this means they will preserve their independence of feeling, and not sink into that condition of abject helplessness that is too much the characteristic of the poor in other countries.

It is very desirable that we should have no poor among us. As a rule those of our poor who are able are willing to work. They feel ambitious to do their part, and would willingly do anything in their power to sustain themselves. By directing their labors in a judicious manner they need not long be dependent. There are many branches of labor that can be carried on here by such persons that can be made remunerative. We alluded to one yesterday—the culture of silk. There are six months in the year when both sexes need coverings for the head made of straw. Yet instead of being manufactured here, they are, in many instances, imported. This is wrong. As good straw can be produced here as any they use elsewhere for such manufactures, and we have as expert and tasteful hands to make these articles in any desirable form as they have in any country in the world. This is an industry that should be fostered, and the money that has heretofore been sent to import these articles should be kept at home and devoted to the production of the home article. We have persons here whose manufacture of hats and bonnets before they came here has sold readily in London and the best markets in England and America. They could, doubtless, be induced to teach others this business, and thus a number of poor people might be employed at a light labor that would be profitable. Lace making, basket making, broom making and a great variety of employments could also be engaged in, and be made remunerative, if the labor of the poor could be properly directed.

Here is a field ample enough to afford scope sufficient to the most ambitious, and we trust that our Female Relief Societies, under the guidance of the Bishops, will avail themselves of the opportunities they now have within their reach. They can materially contribute in this manner to the independence of Zion. If he who causes two blades of grass to grow where one grew before is a benefactor to the human race, how much more is he or she who contributes to elevate a human being from helpless poverty to comparative independence!

(Special to the Deseret Evening News.)

By Telegraph.

CONGRESSIONAL.

SEVERE STORM AND LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY IN SAN FRANCISCO.

GLADSTONE AND DISRAELI ON IRISH REFORM.

RIOT IN THE ISLAND OF MADEIRA.

Chicago, 17.—Washington specials say the Senate foreign affairs committee had under consideration to-day the treaties for the purchase of Samana and St. Thomas, which were discussed at great length; no decision was reached in either case. It is probable that both will be reported upon adversely.

The impeachment managers are in session to-day completing their arrangements for the coming trial. No more witnesses will be examined. The committee feel confident that it will not be necessary to withdraw any of the articles. The President has nominated John Hancock, of Philadelphia, brother of Gen. Hancock, for Collector of Internal Revenue at Orleans, to succeed Gen. Steedman.

The House foreign affairs committee had a long session over the Alaska appropriation, but reached no conclusion, as considerable diversity of opinion exists among the members on the question.

Advices from Texas show 57,000 votes for the convention, being nearly 4,000 majority of the registered voters. Ninety delegates are elected, all Republicans; none colored. The Republicans fear that unless Hancock is removed they will be unable to ratify the constitution, as he has removed the troops from the rampant rebel neighborhoods and sent them to the frontiers, leaving the Union men and freedmen to be overawed. The loyal registration boards appointed

by Sheridan have all been removed. The committee of the Louisiana constitutional convention waited upon Hancock in reference to holding an election for State officers when the new constitution has been voted upon; Hancock distinctly refused to order or protect such an election unless ordered to do so by Grant; the convention has nevertheless ordered such an election to be held, and has appealed to Grant to issue the necessary orders to Hancock.

Senate.—Edmunds rose to make a personal explanation. He said a resolution had been adopted by the joint retrenchment committee, reciting that they had seen with surprise a document in the newspapers, purporting to be a report of that committee on the subject of whisky frauds. He said the report, though made by a member of that committee, was made on his own responsibility and was not authorized by the committee. The subject never having been referred to them, the said committee deemed it necessary to make this explanation.

Morrill introduced a bill to provide a temporary government for the Territory of Alaska.

Ramsay, from the committee on commerce, reported a bill with amendments to establish an assay office in Idaho.

At the expiration of the morning hour Sherman called up the House bill to exempt certain manufactures from a tax. Certain amendments were proposed by the committee and agreed to. Van Winkle offered an amendment reducing the tax on refined petroleum one half, which gave rise to a protracted debate. Morrill and Sherman opposing the motion; the amendment was finally agreed to, 22 yeas, 20 nays.

House.—Jencks offered an explanation in regard to the retrenchment committee's report, similar to that made by Edmunds in the Senate. The House after some miscellaneous business resumed the consideration of the bill relieving certain southerners from political disabilities. Several amendments were offered, inserting other names, but were rejected, and the bill after considerable discussion was finally re-committed with instructions to the committee to report with a brief statement of each case, giving the reasons of the committee for recommending relief. The House then proceeded to the consideration of the bill for continuing the Freedmen's Bureau. Adams spoke against the bill until the morning hour expired when the bill went over. The House then proceeded to consider the bill for the admission of Alabama. Several members addressed the House in opposition to the bill. Stevens, of Pa., rising at the clerk's desk, said "Mr. Speaker, after a full examination of the returns from Alabama, I am satisfied that to force a vote on this bill and admit the state against our own law, while there is a deficiency of twenty odd thousand against it, would not be doing such justice in legislation as would be expected by the people. That being the case I move that the bill be recommitted." The motion was agreed to. Poland introduced a substitute which was also referred. The House soon after adjourned.

Chicago.—Reports are arriving from all directions of the damages by the storm last night. It seems to have been general all over the country. Houses were blown down, and railroad tracks badly damaged. From fifty to fifty-five buildings were blown down, and a number of others more or less damaged in this city. Several lives are reported lost in various places.

Havana.—Mr. Tift is here and reports that minister Romero is straining every nerve to restore the national credit. A passenger from Vera Cruz says some of the Congressmen were discussing the expediency of expelling all Spaniards unless they become naturalized citizens. Nearly all the parties engaged in the recent conspiracy are Spaniards. Troops have been sent to Santiago De Cuba. The captain-General, Lersundi, is there and has given the same banner to the volunteers as to the regular troops.

San Francisco.—Acapulco advices to March 7th, say that General Alvarez, having received arms and ammunition from San Francisco, had taken the field against Jimenez. The town of Chilapa was occupied by Alvarez, contributions having been levied upon the citizens. Jimenez is preparing to meet him in an open battle, and has already occupied Chilil, Paucingo, and the adjacent villages. Several horrible outrages on children have been committed in the vicinity of Acapulco. Two boys hung three little girls, after having committed outrages on their bodies, which were afterwards thrown into a well. The perpetrators of this last deed were arrested.

The Irish citizens of San Francisco

celebrated the anniversary of St. Patrick with a civil and military procession, a public meeting and banquet.

The charter election at Marysville yesterday resulted in the success of the Republicans.

London.—The Commons have resumed the debate on Irish reform. Mr. Gladstone said that Irish tenants were wanting in enterprise and should be encouraged by every possible means in making improvements on their farms. As to the church it was the duty of the Ministers of the Crown to make out and submit a definite plan of treatment on that subject, and that in the meanwhile Parliament itself should lose no time in taking action in favor of religious equality in Ireland. He entertained the hope that the ministry fully realized the gravity of the crisis. It was in vain to rely upon time as a cure for the evil, as seven hundred years have already been wasted. The Irish inhabitants of Canada and Australia were contented, and the great reason of their content was that they possessed the fruits of their own labor and enjoyed civil and religious equality; but in Ireland discontent was wide spread. The alleged material prosperity of Ireland was a proof of this, notwithstanding the condition of the country as described by some of the gentlemen who had preceded him. No one seemed surprised that the people of Ireland should complain of their misery. The crisis was a grave one, not only on account of the rapid depopulation of Ireland by emigration, but on account of the condition of those who remained in the country, and it was the imperative duty of the government to give this question their early attention. Mr. Gladstone then proceeded to review, one by one, the measures of relief which the ministry had proposed, and said the only one he approved of was that for political reform. He said that in 1845 the adoption of the bill for the relief of the Irish tenants was urgently pressed by Sir Robert Peel, but without success, and all efforts made since that time to carry similar measures had failed. He deprecated inquiry into the Irish church establishment. It was well known that the system was generally disliked, and he ridiculed the excuses for delay in this matter given by the government. His speech closed with an eloquent appeal to the House to take immediate action. Disraeli followed. He commenced by saying that he had reason to deplore his fate in attaining to office when a crisis of seven hundred years standing had to be settled. The ministry which preceded that of Lord Derby had neglected the wrongs of ages. He went on to combat the arguments of Mr. Gladstone and denied that the action of the Fenian organization had controlled events, or affected the plans of the ministry. Fenian outrages should prompt no measure, hasten no policy. The members, he hoped, were not alarmed by the speeches of men, who, when in power, did nothing but make speeches, some for Ireland and some for the Irish church establishment. He declared, that if pressed to an issue on the question, government would feel justified in making an appeal to the country. There had already been too many measures of violence, and to much confiscation of property in Ireland and no measure could be called conciliatory which outraged the rights of a million and a half of men. Disraeli concluded by accusing the House that the ministry were disposed to consider all the questions which had arisen in regard to Ireland, all they asked for was time. Mr. Maguire's resolution was withdrawn and the debate ended. Lord Stanley stated that the government could not, at present submit the papers in the Springbok cases, as they were in the hands of the law officers of the Crown.

A serious political riot occurred in the Island of Madeira on the 5th inst. The mob attacked one of the candidates for the Portuguese Cortez. The military were called out and fired upon the people, but the latter persisted, and drove their victim to the sea, where he was compelled to take refuge on board a vessel off shore.

Thompson and Millady have been convicted at Manchester of being accessory to the murder of police Sergeant Brett, they were sentenced to be hanged.

Rome.—The recent ordination of the Bishops of Louisville, Erie and Buffalo was publicly proclaimed by the Pope.

Paris.—The Papal government has rejected the advice of the Emperor for the pacification of Italy.

Chicago, 18.—The storm on Monday night raged throughout Ohio and all the states north of the Ohio River, to the Mississippi, also through Kentucky, Tennessee, Iowa, Missouri etc. Great damage is reported. The draw of the