WASHINGTON LETTER.

From Our Regular Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, June 11, 1893.—There are times when entire communities remain for days in a state of semi-paralysis on account of some stupendous and horrifying public catastrophe. Washington has apparently had more than its share of such periods. For instance, that which followed the first arrival in the city of the dead and wounded from the first battle of Manassas; that which followed the assassination of President Lincoln by J. Wilkes Booth; that which followed the shooting of President Garfield by Gitean, and that through which it is now passing by reason of the falling of the floors of the same building in which President Lincoln was killed, killing twenty-two government employes and wounding sixty-eight more, a number of whom will either die or become helpless cripples or jabbering idiots.

It is now three days since this awful accident occurred and men and women go about their ordinary occupations in the usual way, but the horror is still in their faces and actions and will be for many days to come. It is only a stone-hearted person who can think of those men being compelled to go to their desks in a building known to be unsafe for years past—it was condemned in 1885 and several times since—in order to earn a living for themselves and families, without becoming horror stricken. It was an inexcusable and criminal accident. Generous citizens promptly contributed money to temporarily relieve the families of the dead and wounded, and doubtless Congress will some day make an appropriation for them, but nothing can restore lost lives and lost limbs. An army court of inquiry are now inquiring into the accident, as the building was occupied by a branch of the surgeon general's office, but it is from the coroner's jury, now at work, that the people expect a verdict that will move Congress to put an end to the other death traps still standing in Washington and occupied by government employes.

The terrible disaster has made a most depressing effect upon the employes in the other government buildings that have long been classed as unsafe. In the government printing office, which is probably the worst of the lot, and which has more employes—about 2200—than any of the rest, this feeling amounts almost to a panic. The responsibility of the failure to erect a new government printing office is divided with Congress by a lot of political real estate speculators who have defeated every attempt made to purchase a site, because their ground was not selected; the money was appropriated three years ago, but is still unavailable because of failure to agree upon a site. In the patent office Secretary Smith is doing his best to quiet the excitement by having all the heavy files, etc., that are stored upon the upper floors removed to the basement.

The gold reserve fund of the treasury gained about $1,000,000 during the past week. President Cleveland stated to a gentleman who made an appeal to him to order an issue of bonds that he would not allow a single bond to be issued, no matter what happened, until specially authorized by Congress to do so. The gentleman to whom he so d[illegible] did not understand that Mr. Cleveland doubted his authority to issue bonds, but that he preferred that Congress should assume the responsibility of deciding what shall be done to relieve the financial stringency. While no one in authority has authorized the statement, it seems to be generally believed among those who have carefully studied the situation that Mr. Cleveland is disinclined to do anything that will make the situation less grave when Congress meets, for fear that it would lessen the chances for the repeal of the Sherman silver law, which he now considers good.

Outside of Congress and the cabinet millionaire office-holders are exceedingly rare, but the position of the chief of the bureau of statistics, in the treasury department will be filled during the remainder of this administration by a millionaire, unless Mr. Worthington Ford, of New York, who has been appointed to the place, should die or resign before then. Mr. Ford will have one great advantage over the ordinary office holder, he will have no dread of the ominous yellow envelope and pay days will not seem quite so far apart to him as they do to most of his co-laborers for Uncle Sam.

There is nothing the matter with the Treasury building, but there is almost as much fright among its employes as among those who work in the unsafe buildings, owing to the impression they have that a reorganization of the entire clerical force is soon to be made. The reason for this is an order of Secretary Carlisle for a complete list of the employes, with full particulars as to when and how they came into the service, what they do, etc., also a list of those having relations in office.

Home From New Zealand.

Elder Milton Bennion, of Taylorsville, who left on a mission to New Zealand on November 12th, 1889, returned home yesterday and made a pleasant call at the News office this morning.

On reaching his field of labor, Elder Bennion was appointed traveling Elder [illegible] the Waiangarei district, a position successfully filled for ten months. At the expiration of that time he was made presiding Elder. He filled this office until he was released to return home, December 23rd last. Since that date he has been making a tour around the world, spending most of his time in Egypt and the various European countries. He also visited the World's Fair on the way home. Elder Bennion is in the best of health and spirits, and enjoyed his ministerial experience very much.

A Batch of Them.

The county clerk did not receive one application for a marriage license yesterday morning, but during the afternoon there came a rush of applicants, and before his office closed for the day the following parties were licensed: Chancey L. Evans and Christina Jensen; John Hooper and Isabel Ross; Abraham H. Stevenson and Josephine D. Clawson; Joseph H. Batlow and Cynthia Pagsley, all of Salt Lake; Eliot Nelson and Ellen Drake of West Jordan; John Varley of Salt Lake and Bella Winegar of Bountiful; George Kutchell of Mill Creek and Annie Avaness of Murray; John W. Kyle and Mary E. Sherman of Aspen, Colorado; John Gorman and Kate Lundy of Salt Lake.

Judge Blair married the last named couple last evening.

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[illegible]

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Effective June 8th the following reduced rates will be in effect via the Union Pacific Railway:

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