

By Telegraph.

AMERICAN.

NEW YORK, 8. — Commodore Vanderbilt's will was filed for probate to-day. The Commodore leaves all his property to his son William H. Vanderbilt, who is to pay the following bequests: \$500,000 each to four of his daughters, and \$300,000 to the other four daughters; to Cornelius Vanderbilt, his son, the interest on \$2,000,000; to Cornelius J. Vanderbilt, son of William H., \$2,500,000; to his wife \$250,000, in addition to the \$500,000 settled on her at her marriage, together with his mansion, furniture, plate, horses, &c.; in addition he leaves \$1,000,000 to be divided among a list of names which he left with Wm. H. Vanderbilt. Among the minor legacies are to the family physician, Dr. Laisby, \$10,000; to Capt. James Praested, and former employee, \$4,000; Lambert Wardell, an old and faithful clerk, \$20,000; to his grandson, W. K. Thorne, \$25,000; Rev. Dr. Deems \$20,000. Wm. H. Vanderbilt, his sons, Cornelius and William, and Samuel Barton, nephew of the Commodore, are appointed executors of the will and trustees. The codicil gives his grandson, Cornelius, 22,496 shares of the capital stock of the New York and Harlem Railroad, and 31,650 shares of the N. Y. Central and Hudson Railroad, to Wm. K. Vanderbilt, another grandson, 20,000 shares of the New York Central and Hudson stock, and Frederick W., another grandson, 20,000 shares of the same stock, deliverable at his majority; to George Vanderbilt, another grandson, 20,000 shares of the same stock, under the same restriction. The will is witnessed by Francis P. Freeman, Sidney A. Casey, Joseph Sharkey and Chas. A. Rapello, and the codicil by Edwin B. Worcester, S. Deerickson and Chas. Rapello.

BOSTON, 8. — The steamer *Seminole*, of the Boston and Savannah line, arrived to-night, and reports that on the morning of the 7th, forty miles off Cape May, she collided, in a thick fog, with the steamer *Montgomery*, from New York for Havana, striking her just about the wheelhouse, cutting her down to the water and sinking her in a few minutes. The second officer, eight of the crew and four Spanish passengers, names unknown, went down with the *Montgomery*. The saved were brought to this point on the *Seminole*. The second officer, Mr. Aschen, was pinioned by pieces of the wreck, and went down uttering piteous cries for assistance.

LONDON, 8. — The British foreign office has forwarded to the government of the United States relics of the *Polaris* expedition brought to England by Captain Nares.

A special to the *Daily News*, from Vienna, says the Hungarian General Klapka has inspected arsenals and stores of Turkey, and certifies that the Turkish government has a million breech loaders and accoutrements sufficient for 400,000 men. The Turkish army in Bulgaria is rapidly increasing. It is stated that 83,000 men, from all parts of the empire, arrived in that province within the last eight days.

The *Daily News'* special from Vienna states that Lord Salisbury demanded that Cheket Pasha, the principal actor in the Bulgarian atrocities, be tried again, Baring, the secretary of the British legation having reported that the trial was a farce.

WASHINGTON, 8. — F. S. Winslow, clerk in the cash room of the Treasury Department, has been arrested, charged with the larceny of the \$12,000 package recently stolen.

St. Louis, 8. — Phelps, Governor elect, was inaugurated at Jefferson City this afternoon. The inaugural address dwells at some length upon national affairs. Referring to the alleged corruption which threatens to thwart the will of the people at the presidential election, it says Missouri will be peaceful but is determined in adhering to her constitutional rights.

NEW YORK, 9. — There is talk of a contest over Vanderbilt's will. One legatee said yesterday that the relatives outside of Wm. H. Vanderbilt's family would never let it stand as it is, unless Wm. H. should avoid all causes of dispute by giving his less fortunate co-claimants liberal shares of the immense wealth left by the Commodore, of which, under the will, he controls.

The friends of the Commodore say that Wm. H. Vanderbilt is to

carry out the plan of his for the construction of an hospital or home for the benefit of the employees of Vanderbilt's roads. It is also understood that the Commodore placed a large sum in the hands of his eldest son to distribute among his most valued friends.

The latest concerning the Bennett-May duel is that the principals, seconds and surgeons were in Baltimore the night before last, and at 10 o'clock took the northward bound train. Bennett and party drove into the woods near the place of meeting, at Slaughter Station, in sleighs, and upon reaching the spot where the Rowland-Cowles duel had been fought, Bennett and friends found May and his party on the ground, May walking briskly to keep warm. Bennett stood facing the light and May quickly assumed his position when given the word of preparation by the seconds. At 2.08 the word of command sounded, and the words, "Fire, one, two, three." Mr. May fired at the word one, Mr. Bennett after the word two, and both were apparently uninjured. May was found after a moment to have been hit, and his seconds conveyed him to a sleigh, where it was found his wound would prevent another exchange of shots, which had been demanded by Bennett. Bennett left Philadelphia this morning and is now in the city.

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., 9. — Snow crushed in the roof of the Boston and Albany railway freight house, killing one man and wounding five others. The loss on the building is \$25,000.

WILMINGTON, Del., 9. — May and a friend arrived this morning. Although May is said to be wounded in the body, he does not show it.

The *World* prints, prominently, "We are requested, in behalf of General Hancock, to State that the assertions attributed to Buford in regard to certain orders alleged to have been received by Hancock, transferring him to the command on the Pacific Coast, are entirely unfounded. Hancock received no orders transferring him from the command at the station he now holds, or received any intimation whatever that such orders were even in contemplation; of course, therefore, Hancock has neither refused to be transferred to the Pacific Coast nor tendered his resignation of the high position which he holds in the army."

NEW ORLEANS, 10, nine o'clock. — The members of the White League, which have been mustered in by the Nicholls government as militia, are assembling, with arms, at Lafayette Square, with the avowed purpose of maintaining the superior court abolished by the Kellogg government.

9:50. — The streets are full of armed men hurrying to Lafayette Square, where the scene presents all the phases of an army on the eve of battle. Armed men are reporting to the sheriff, who proposes to take possession of the supreme court room, now in charge of the Metropolitan police, and install Nicholes' newly appointed judges of the supreme court. An attempt will probably be made to capture the police stations also. An advertisement appears this morning ordering the members of the Washington artillery to assemble at the armory at 10 o'clock.

The excitement increases with every new movement, and the situation is exceedingly critical. It is just reported that the first and third police stations have surrendered to the democrats.

At 11.50 Nicholls' militia took possession of the Supreme Court building and installed their judges. All the police stations are in the possession of the Nicholls government. Not a gun was fired.

Later. — The Nicholls government is in possession of everything except the State House. As yet no effort has been made to take possession of that building, around which thousands of unarmed citizens are congregated, blocking up the streets for squares, and rendering it impossible to reach it. A force of about 3,000 of Nicholls' militia are under arms on the levee at the foot of Decatur Street, and it is reported that a demand for the surrender of the State House will be made this afternoon, and as the republicans are in a hopeless minority, it is hardly probable that an armed resistance will be made.

The force under Governor Packard there will not exceed 300.

The commander of the U. S. sloop *Ossipee* has established a signal station in the Custom House in order to communicate with the officials there.

The *Ossipee*, *Monitor* and *Canonius* are lying off the foot of Poydras street.

U. S. Marshal Pitkins is in constant communication with Washington, giving every phase of the situation.

Chief Justice Ludeling, this morning, issued an order removing the civil Sheriff, Handy, and appointed Alfred Bourges to that position. Handy was acting under the orders of Nicholls, and hence this action.

Great crowds are assembled on Canal, Camp and other principal streets.

The republicans report that two regiments from Mississippi and one from Alabama are with Ogden.

Latest. — No change in the situation. Ogden's militia are massed in the square of the State House, which has been reinforced by a hundred colored militia.

Packard asserts that he will resist any attack made upon it.

The signal corps on the top of the State House are constantly signalling the Custom House.

Nicholls, in the supreme court, after spreading their commissions on the record, and appointing Alfred Roman clerk, adjourned till Wednesday.

The democratic leaders now assert that they have no intention of attacking the State House.

The following has just been issued:

PROCLAMATION.
Executive Department, New Orleans, January 9, 1877.

To the People of Louisiana—I would be most profoundly surprised and disappointed should any citizen of Louisiana, at this moment, so far forget himself as to be guilty of any excess whatever. There is danger in collecting together in large bodies. I urge you, therefore, to retire at once and peacefully to your houses. The greater the wrongs to which you have been subjected the greater your credit should you recognize and recollect your own simple and plain duty as citizens. Let no one be injured however obnoxious he may be, and let the people of the whole country see that we are law-abiding, just and moderate.

(Signed) FRANCIS T. NICHOLLS,
Governor of the State of Louisiana.

CINCINNATI, 9. — The Ohio River has been alternately freezing and breaking up lately, and considerable damage is reported along its banks. The Ashland Coal Co. loses barges and coal to the amount of \$60,000.

NEW YORK, 9. — The annual sale of pews in Plymouth Church took place to-night. The total amount realized was \$48,421, which was \$15,000 less than last year.

In the recent duel May was wounded in the right breast near the shoulder joint. The seconds were men residing in other states than New York. Bennett will probably sail for Europe to-morrow, or, at the latest, on Saturday.

May has gone to Washington with his friends, and will remain there until his wound heals.

Bennett arrived this evening and went at once to his home. May's wound is not dangerous, and he was able to telegraph his family: "I am well enough yet, and can write." The May family admitted receiving a dispatch from their boy stating that he was slightly wounded beyond that they vouchsafed no information.

The *Times* special from Maryland, gives the following account by an eye-witness of the Bennett-May duel. A neighboring farmer, who chanced to witness the arrival of the duelling party says the gentlemen walked leisurely along until they reached the stone supposed to mark the boundary line between the two States, then stopped. Two gentlemen stepped apart from the remaining company, and walked about fifteen or twenty paces, when they suddenly halted, and turning about one of them returned to the party. In a few seconds two others of the party were seen to lay off their overcoats, take up position, one where the party remained after walking off with his companion, and the other at the point to which the second gentleman had returned. The seconds proceeded each to load a pistol, standing near one another at the time. This was succeeded by a short parley between the gentlemen, after which they walked to their principals and handed over their pistols, again withdrawing. One of them called out, "Are you ready?" in a tone which was distinctly audible to the countryman;

who says he had by this time become thoroughly frightened. Whether the two principals responded or not he is unable to state, but he distinctly heard the same man who had propounded the interrogation call out in a sullen tone, "One, two, three," and instantly a report, sharp and quick, rang out. He did not notice any smoke issue from the pistols, but accounts for this by the fact that he was watching to see one or both men fall and paid no attention to the firearms. In this, however, he was happily disappointed. This was repeated twice. After the third shot neither of the principals moved from their positions for a minute or two, and then there seemed to be a consultation, which lasted eight or ten minutes, at the conclusion of which the entire party left the ground, and a party of three, Mr. May's, walked back to the sleigh, while Mr. Bennett's party hired a carriage at Slaughter's station, above this, and drove to Clayton. May and his friends drove in the direction of Dover.

Neither of them appeared to be in the least hurt, for each walked without any assistance from the other. The ridiculous termination of the duel forms a fitting climax to the history of the affair. The parties met and exchanged three shots and separated, both more than satisfied with the result, and neither hurt, as to life, or limb, or digestion.

WASHINGTON, 9. — The cabinet session, to-day, lasted nearly three hours. There was much conversation about political affairs, but especially about the condition of New Orleans; as various telegrams had been received from that city expressive of fears of violation of public peace.

The following dispatch was sent to General Auger immediately after the adjournment of the cabinet by direction of the President:

"A dispatch just received from the United States marshal at New Orleans, indicates that unauthorized armed bodies of men are organized and assembling in a manner to threaten the peace and safety of the city. If this be so, notify the leaders of such organization that they must desist on pain of coming in conflict with United States authority, sustained by the military power of the government. Report at once the situation and your action, keeping in mind the fact that this order has no reference to the recognition of either of the claimants for the governorship, or either legislature."

"J. D. CAMERON,
Secretary of War."

The report of Attorney General Taft communicated to Congress, to-day, concludes with a sketch of Southern violence and intimidation, of which the government has reliable information, and says, in the performance of his constitutional duty, he gave instructions to marshals in these districts and States, which instructions he encloses in the report. He was satisfied that the marshals, acting under these orders, materially aided in preserving the free suffrage. The Governor of South Carolina became so alarmed at the violent demonstrations of rifle clubs in that State that he called upon the President shortly before the election for troops to aid in suppressing the domestic violence which was out-breaking and uncontrollable. The evidence was sufficient to show that the troops should, under the federal constitution, be furnished, and the President complied with the demand. The troops were not intended to interfere with the election, and did not, but acted merely as a safeguard to the free ballot.

NEW ORLEANS, 9. — This evening Nicholls' militia, about 5,000 strong, had a review on St. Charles Street, opposite Lafayette Square. They were armed with Springfield rifles, with bayonets, cartridge boxes, shot guns and old muskets, and marched like veterans, being heartily cheered. After review the companies were detailed for duty, and marched off to different points. Some are patrolling the city to-night. Almost all are disbanded for the night. All nations but Africa are represented.

At nine o'clock to-night the agent of the Associated Press attempted to enter the State House to interview Gov. Packard, but was halted by Nicholls' policemen, and refused admission.

Governor Packard and the legislature are in the State House, but the new police have refused to

allow provisions to be carried inside, and Gov. Packard and the legislature are in a state of siege. The republican legislature had no quorum in either branch to-day, as some of the members were outside, and asserted that they were afraid to risk their lives inside, consequently no action was taken towards the election of United States senators.

CHARLESTON, S. C., 9. — Official advices have just been received by the Russian minister here that the orders to the Russian fleet have been changed, so that it will proceed direct to Hampton Roads, where it has been directed to winter. The Russian minister will leave here to-morrow night for Washington.

ASHTABULA, 9. — The new bridge is completed and trains are running regularly.

LOUISVILLE, 9. — Charles J. Brent arrived to-day, in charge of a State officer, who received him in New York. His trial has been set for Tuesday next and the bail fixed at \$7,500. His penitence, and the restoration of all the money procured by his forgery, had rendered the community favorable to him.

PHILADELPHIA, 9. — The meeting between Bennett and May took place one mile from Maryland, Maryland, at one o'clock yesterday afternoon. The party carried blankets, overcoats, two cases of pistols and surgical instruments. They represented themselves as railroad officials, May saying he was director of the Pennsylvania railroad, and Bennett giving his name as Daniel Drew, of New York, and stating that his mission was to purchase the Maryland and Delaware railroad. They had with them also maps of the peninsula, and to several parties they reported themselves hunters, on a gunning expedition, and such was the privacy of the whole affair that these statements were believed in the neighborhood. Bennett's face showed a scar, which was much swollen, probably by the cold.

The scene of the meeting was a short distance from the line of the Maryland and Delaware railroad. Three shots were fired without injury to either of the principals, after which the entire party left the grounds.

The parties returned to Maryland separately.

The Bennett party then secured a conveyance to Clayton, Bennett himself appearing nervous and depressed, and subsequently took special train for Wilmington and Philadelphia.

May went to Slaughter's Station, thence to Philadelphia in the morning's train. Mr. Tilghman was with May, but the names of the others present are not yet ascertained.

The party paid liberally for all the services rendered them, and also for silence. It is believed that both men are satisfied, and there will be no further hostile meeting.

Bennett and his friends will leave for New York at midnight.

NEW YORK, 10. — The *Times* Washington special, in speaking of New Orleans matters, says it is thought the question will be raised in such a form that the President will soon have to decide between the rival State governments, and in that case, Packard would undoubtedly be sustained. There is some private talk of an agreement between the contending parties in New Orleans, by which the necessity of federal interference will be averted, but of this there would seem to be just now an extremely remote possibility.

The *Tribune's* Washington special says 5,000 stand of arms has just been received at the Washington arsenal, and it is reported that an increased amount of military supplies will also be gathered here. This is believed to be part of the preparation referred to by the President, in the interview published this morning, for the protection of public property in the District of Columbia and the preservation of peace.

Morton expressed the opinion, to-day, that the democratic meetings held in this city and the west were for the purpose of arranging a large gathering in Washington at about the time the electoral vote is counted, to overawe the constituted authorities in the exercise of their duties. He announced his attention of seeing whether some means cannot be devised for providing against any threatening demonstrations.

J. A. Van Valkenburg and G. W. West are on trial for conspiracy to defraud the Pennsylvania Railroad