

By Telegraph.

AMERICAN.

HARTFORD, 27.—The disaster at Staffordville is not so destructive as at first reported. Later estimates put the actual present loss at \$350,000. The leak was discovered on Monday, and workmen were busy all day and night filling in about the waste pipe. Their efforts were useless. At 5.30 o'clock this morning the work was abandoned, and the water then gained so rapidly that in a few minutes the dam opened. E. C. Penny, of the Glenville Manufacturing Co., mounted a horse at the head of the flood to warn the inhabitants in the valley. The water, which grew greater by the absorption of successive ponds, as each lower dam was carried off, moved at the rate of five miles an hour, and from the time of Penny's warning up to the arrival of the water, the people were busy in moving their property, but very little was rescued.

The accident is a terrible blow upon the valley. About 1,000 hands are thrown out of work, and industries are sadly crippled.

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio, 27.—Charles M. Sterling, who was sentenced to be hung, to-morrow, for the murder, two years ago, of a young German girl named Lizzie Grumbacher, was, yesterday, respited by Gov. Young till the 21st of April next. The mystery which has surrounded the accused was, to-day, intensified by parties who claim to be his mother and brother, from Maxwell, Ontario, arriving in town and visiting him in jail. He has, since his second trial commenced, claimed that his parents reside there, and gave the names of different members of the family. To-day, when his supposed mother was taken to see him she pressed forward to embrace him, when he coldly drew back, saying, she was not his mother, he never knew her, had never seen her, had never been in Maxwell, and that his name was not Charles M. Sterling; that he was once intimate with the real Charles M. Sterling and has assumed his name. Mrs. Sterling is positive that this is her son, though he left home seven years ago. The mother tried to mention incidents that would make him remember her, and besought him not to add this to his crime of which he is accused, and with tears and sobs, implored one look of recognition, but all to no purpose.

SAN FRANCISCO, 27.

For a long time litigation has been in progress between the Spring Valley Water Co. and the city, relative to the payment of the company's charges for water furnished for municipal purposes. The bills referred to amount to \$169,000, covering a time from early in 1872 up to last month. The lower courts have rendered decisions in favor of the company, but the board of supervisors, at a recent meeting, refused payment pending the result of litigation in the Supreme Court. To-day the president of the Spring Valley Company transmitted a communication to the Board, stating that unless immediate steps be taken toward a fair settlement and payment for water used in the past, and the making of a proper contract for the future, and such steps be prosecuted to as speedy a conclusion as may be done under the law, the corporation will cut off the supply of water from its mains for all ordinary municipal uses of the city, except the extinguishment of fires.

A Chico dispatch states that the parties arrested in connection with the recent outrages there, were, to-day, sent to Oroville, the county seat, for confinement. Five of them, Eugene Roberts, F. E. Conway, Thomas Stainbrook, John and Charles Slaughter, were, to-day, held to answer for murder and arson. John Mahoney, Pleasant Slaughter, Henry C. Wright, Adam Holderbaum, H. T. Jones, and James Fay were held for arson. All waived an examination, having made sworn statements of their guilt, except Mahoney, who is held on the evidence of Wright, and will be brought before the grand jury next Monday. More revelations are expected before the grand jury. A scheme of assassination is reported to have been concocted, whereby some six or seven leading citizens were marked for death. The citizens are determined to go to the bottom of the matter, as it is strongly suspected that there are some influential parties who are

implicated in and accessory to the recent depredations.

CHICAGO, 28.—The excitement over the gold prospects in the Black Hills appears to be exciting more than usual interest just now. A party of seventy-five or a hundred men has been organized in this city, and propose to take the field early in April. A party of twenty from Michigan, and another party of fifty, mostly Bostonians, arrived here this morning. Another company of forty-eight, from Maine, will pass through here on Friday. Five car loads of mill machinery was shipped on the north-western road yesterday, consigned to parties at Deadwood.

WASHINGTON, 28.—The Treasury department recommends vigilance on the part of the customs officers in the matter of the importation of horses, cattle, sheep, and swine, so as to provide against the introduction of the rinderpest, which is pronounced infectious as well as contagious.

The following gentlemen, having accepted, are announced as the commission to visit Louisiana: Judge Charles B. Lawrence, of Illinois, ex-governor J. F. Brow, of Tennessee, General Joseph R. Hawley, of Connecticut, General John M. Harlan, of Kentucky, and Wayne McVeigh, of Pennsylvania. **GOLDSBORO, N. C., 28.**—Hampton and party passed this point at noon. At Timmondsville, Florence and Magnolia, the citizens turned out in great force and cheered enthusiastically for Hampton. Bands of music, handshaking and handkerchief waving accompanied every demonstration. Hampton, briefly addressing the crowds from the platform car, said, having been elected Governor of South Carolina, and being recognized by the people as such, he intends to exercise his rights. His visit to Washington was merely a matter of personal courtesy to the President.

WILMINGTON, N. C., 28.—General Hampton, Attorney-General Connor, and General Butler, reached here this morning. An immense crowd of people, accompanied by a band of music, met them at the depot, when a speech of welcome was made by Hon. A. M. Waddell, governor.

Governor Hampton responded as follows:

"My Friends—I go to Washington simply to state before the President the fact that the people of South Carolina have elected me governor of that State. I go there to say to him that we ask no recognition from any president. We claim recognition from the votes of the people of the State. I go there to assure him that we are not fighting for party, but for the good of the country. I am going there to demand our rights, nothing less, and, so help me God, to take nothing less. I go to tell him the condition that South Carolina has been in for years past; that our people have been under disadvantages never encountered by any other people on this continent; that they carried the election, were successful and propose to enjoy their victory."

General Augur, at New Orleans, telegraphs to the Secretary of War in answer to an inquiry concerning changes in the situation. He says he has no particular change to mention with the exception that the Packard and Nicholls governments have been using strenuous efforts to strengthen their positions. Information has been received that Packard continues to arm his militia, principally colored, but adherents of Nicholls say they have no apprehension of danger, as their armed friends are more numerous and effective than Packard's, while an additional force from the adjoining States can be procured if necessary.

CHICAGO, 28.

A special from the scene of the Staffordville flood says little is left but the shattered walls, wrecked timbers, and here and there a gaunt chimney. Timbers, machinery, and uprooted trees, bristle everywhere, and on the once smiling meadows, now buried deep in the mud, are scattering remnants of some sort. Men are at work repairing. The Converse and Granite mills, although seriously injured, will be preserved.

NEW ORLEANS, 28.—Three members who have heretofore occupied seats in the Packard House, Frank J. Davey, of Saint Landry, Bernard Davies, of Point Coupee, and Ulger Romero, of Iberia, were, to-day, sworn in and took seats in the Nicholls legislature.

NEW YORK, 28.—It is claimed

that a fresh batch of \$800,000 counterfeit Missouri State bonds have been discovered, and money lenders are cautioned against the possible fraud.

RICHMOND, Va., 28.—Wade Hampton and party arrived at 8.38 to-night. Five thousand people, including conservative clubs and a committee of prominent citizens, received him with the firing of cannon and fireworks. An address of welcome was made by Ex-Mayor Kleiy.

After returning thanks for the ovation, Hampton said he interpreted the demonstration as a tribute to the cause he represented: good government, home rule, and reform. The people of South Carolina are in earnest. We have tried compromise in vain, and last fall we planted our feet firmly on the Constitution, and began to battle for our right. We remembered that ours was one of the original thirteen States, and strong men and noble women joined hands in the struggle, declaring by Almighty God that they would sacrifice everything to win. (Cheers; a voice—"You did win.") "Yes, my friend, we did win." You cannot imagine what those people had to bear to win their constitutional victory, but they won, and fully 20,000 colored men co-operated with them, and now thousands, and tens of thousands of colored men are paying taxes to my government. Now we ask, and all I am going to Washington to ask, is that the federal troops be withdrawn from the State House of South Carolina, the only place in the State where my authority is not respected. Send the soldiers to the barracks, where they belong, and leave the government of that State to the men who are strong enough to sustain it. My people tell me to hold on, and so long as they have the right to give me such advice, so help me God, I will hold on." (Prolonged cheering.)

CHICAGO, 28.—It should be understood that Spotted Tail's mission of peace, which was mentioned in these dispatches a few days since, is entirely voluntary on his part. He himself proposed that he should visit the camps of Crazy Horse and other hostile Indians to endeavor to induce them to come into the reservation. The government has in no way aided him in his undertaking, further than allowing him to attempt it. Should Spotted Tail be successful, the military authorities will, of course, be very glad, but General Sheridan says it is not his purpose to parley with the Indians any further or to delay the intended campaign while negotiations between Spotted Tail and the hostiles are pending. Supplies are now being rapidly forwarded, and everything is being put in readiness for this campaign, which will be opened as soon as possible.

SAN FRANCISCO, 28.—A letter received by the Panama steamer from the captain of the schooner *Montana*, detained by the Mexican authorities at Mazatlan, states that the judge of the district court had issued an order by which the goods on the vessel were seized and taken on shore against the captain's protest, and the vessel then allowed to clear.

PHILADELPHIA, 29.—A mutiny occurred on board the ship *James-town*, for San Francisco, lying off the Breakwater. Seven of the crew were placed in confinement, but giving no sufficient reason for the mutiny will be taken to sea on the ship.

CHICAGO, 29.—John Eltzroth, living near Peoria, Ill., shot and killed his wife, and then himself, this morning. They had not lived pleasantly for some years. Eltzroth had just returned from California, where he went some months ago.

NEW YORK, 29.—The *Sun's* editorial says—The eight to seven commission that made Hayes a fraudulent President, is now to be followed by four to one, or three to two in the commission in the Louisiana case. Hayes has got up a Louisiana commission of five members, all of whom, with the exception of Brown, are republicans. It may be inferred, therefore, that the commission will stand four to one on such questions as come before it, but we presume that Lawrence is an independent party man, and so the body may sometimes stand three to two. It is such a commission as a fraudulent President might be expected to get, and nobody can be disappointed with it. We are not surprised to learn from Washington that Hayes desires to

confer with Wheeler before he makes out his instructions.

WASHINGTON, 29.—Wade Hampton and party arrived this morning. They were met at the depot by Senator Gordon and Judge Mackey, who accompanied them to Willard's Hotel.

LETTER TO PRESIDENT HAYES.

The following was addressed to the President by Hampton, this morning:

"Willard's Hotel, Washington, March 29th, 1877.

"To the President—

"Sir—In compliance with your invitation, I am here for the purpose of uniting my efforts with yours and of composing the political differences which now unhappily distract the people of South Carolina. I beg you to believe that my anxiety to bring about the permanent pacification of that State—a pacification on which the rights of all shall be safe and the interests of all shall be protected—is as sincere, as I feel assured is your own, for the accomplishment of the same ends. My position for years past in reference to the political rights of colored citizens, and my solemn pledge, as given during the late canvass in South Carolina, that under my administration all their rights should be absolutely secure, should furnish sufficient guarantee of my sincerity on those points which appear to be the subject of special anxiety. I have the honor to ask at what hour it will be your pleasure to receive me.

"I am, Sir, very truly yours,

(Signed)

"WADE HAMPTON.,

Governor of South Carolina."

The President returned an immediate reply that Hampton would be received at one o'clock.

Wade Hampton, Senator Gordon, and Attorney-General Connor, called upon the President at the appointed time, and lunched with him at two o'clock. The conference is expected to be long.

COHOES, N. Y., 29.—During a fire this morning at 67 Mohawk Street, the walls fell, burying Charles Walker, a fireman, in the ruins and crushing an adjoining residence. Mrs. Henry Luddeke was killed. The loss on the property is \$40,000; insurance partial.

ST. LOUIS, 29.—The board of directors of the Merchants' Exchange, to-day, adopted the following resolutions:

Whereas, The continued delay in settling the political troubles in Louisiana is proving detrimental to the interests of that State, agricultural, commercial and manufacturing; and as this condition of things reacts injuriously on this city and the whole Mississippi valley; be it therefore

Resolved, by the board of directors of the Merchants' Exchange of St. Louis, that the President of the United States be respectfully solicited to withdraw the troops from the vicinity of the State House in New Orleans, leaving to the people of Louisiana, in the adjustment of their strictly local affairs, the same freedom that the people of other States enjoy.

SAN FRANCISCO, 29.—Advices by the last Panama steamer are that at Acapulco, on the 5th of March, and by order of General Zimenez, the United States consul, John O. Sutter, Jr., was seized on the street by twenty soldiers and put into prison, where he still is. It appears that a citizen of the United States, Henry Kastan, at that place was ill-treated at the time the late change of the government took place, and the consul's remonstrances and protests against the proceedings were the cause or pretext for the imprisonment.

DEADWOOD, D. T., 29.—Yesterday Thomas Calder and John Goddard, brothers-in-law, had a quarrel about a piece of property, and meeting in a saloon last evening, Calder drew a revolver and fired, the ball passing through Goddard's hat, struck a bystander by the name of Rudolph Schweiter, producing a serious and probably fatal wound. Calder was arrested. Schweiter is from Wichita, Kansas.

CHEYENNE, WY., 29.—This morning Norman McQuary shot and killed James B. Jackson, aged 60, and his son, aged 21, at a ranch on Horse Creek, 30 miles north of this city. The cause of the shooting was a quarrel about a woman, a cousin of McQuary. The murderer is not yet arrested.

WASHINGTON, 29.—One feature of the civil service reform will be

the entire abolition of all political tests upon making any changes in the public service.

Governor Hampton, accompanied by Senator Gordon, of Florida, and Attorney-General Connor, of South Carolina, had an interview with the President this afternoon. The conversation was of free and general character. It related primarily to the question as to the probable condition of the State in case the troops should be withdrawn. The points urged by Governor Hampton and his friends were as follows:

First, There is an imperative necessity for speedy action, as the planting interests of South Carolina are in absolute danger of destruction by the reason of the unsettled state of affairs, the labor system being now in process of disintegration, and although the season for planting is already at hand, planters are unable, as heretofore, to obtain advances of money from merchants and factories, and this disastrous condition of affairs, they say, will continue until some State system of government shall have been established. Business is paralyzed, and credit almost entirely destroyed throughout the State in consequence of its present unsettled condition.

Another reason for speedy action, urged by this gentleman, was that carpet-baggers and others, interested in the perpetuation of the Chamberlain rule, were constantly inciting riots and disaffection, and the most assiduous care and forbearance had to be exercised to prevent open breaches of public peace, the ever present danger being that they might become general.

Instances and illustrations of this precarious condition of affairs were presented to the President with some particularity and detail. The remainder of the conversation was mainly directed to the question as to the probable condition of affairs should the troops be withdrawn from the State House, and what line of policy Gov. Hampton intended to pursue in that event. On these points the President was assured there would be no effort to seize the capital by mob violence, and that only legal processes would be resorted to by Gov. Hampton to establish the supremacy of his government. No formal pledges were asked or given during the interview, but Gov. Hampton emphatically repeated the statement he has heretofore made, that he possesses both the purpose and power to protect all persons and classes alike in their legal and constitutional rights.

The President, in reply, stated substantially that it was his purpose to carry out in good faith the promises of his inaugural address, as he was deeply anxious to bring peace and quiet to the distracted portion of the country, and he was satisfied this result would be attained in a very short time.

During the entire conversation, which lasted several hours, there was no discussion of Chamberlain's right to the governorship, and nothing was said which contemplated his continuance in office, the conversation being almost altogether based upon the assumption of the withdrawal of the federal troops and the relinquishment of the legal questions at issue to the State courts.

Hampton and friends say they were greatly pleased and encouraged by the interview, and this evening feel confident that the State of South Carolina will soon be relieved of its present political and industrial difficulties.

Hampton dined with Secretary Evarts this evening, and was visited at his hotel by Secretary Schurz, with whom he had a conversation concerning the political situation in South Carolina.

The first object of the Louisiana commission will undoubtedly be to secure a legislature which both parties will acknowledge, and on which everything else will hinge. The President expresses himself entirely confident of success, and the tone of his conversation with southern gentlemen is most cordial and conciliatory. He has requested General Gibson and Colonel Levy, of Louisiana, to repair to New Orleans and assist the commission in carrying out his scheme of pacification. They left to-night.

NEW ORLEANS, 29.

J. Ross Stewart, colored, was to-day expelled from the Packard legislature, charged with endeavoring to induce other members to join the Nicholls legislature. Mr. Stewart made a speech before leaving the State House, declaring that he had only remained there for the purpose of creating dissension, &c. Af-