

## BY TELEGRAPH.

## AMERICAN.

NEW YORK, 17.—A fire broke out at 8 p.m., in the wholesale clothing house of Van Valkenburg & Leavitt, 62 North Street, and rapidly enveloped the entire building. The two adjoining buildings are also on fire. The flames have crossed the street to No. 65, occupied by Joseph Loos, and are spreading rapidly. Before the firemen could get fairly to work the flames had spread to 58 Worth Street, and in a short time the buildings right through to Thomas Street were in a blaze. There was some difficulty at first in getting water, but in a short time a large number of teams were poured on the flames. Second and third alarms were sent out and 10 engines were at work in Worth Street and five on Thomas Street. The fire is said to have originated on the third floor, No. 62 Worth Street, occupied by Walkingshofs & Voight, dealers in woolen goods.

While Fire Commissioner Bonner and a number of firemen were on the floor where the fire originated, the floor began to give way and they were compelled to beat a hasty retreat to the Thomas Street side. They were not a moment too soon, for just as the last man escaped the floor gave way with a crash and the flames burst out on both sides. Police reserves were called out to keep back the great crowds that were attracted to the spot. While President King of the fire department, was standing at 62 Worth Street, a cry was raised that the wall was falling, and a number of firemen rushed to his rescue. They had scarcely got across the street when the second floor fell in with a loud crash. Despite the efforts of the firemen the flames spread with terrible rapidity and soon communicated to No. 64. Here everything seemed to burn like tinder. Stream after stream of water was directed on the buildings, but to no purpose, and floor after floor fell in with a tremendous crash, spreading consternation among the crowds that extended two and three blocks away. The firemen worked hard and willingly but they began to get tired out. An additional force was sent for, and soon a large number of fresh men were drafted from up-town districts and put to work. It was too late, however, to save No. 62, and the whole building was completely gutted. The flames then took hold of 66 and 68 Worth Street, and from that time the firemen seemed to give up all hope of saving any of the adjoining buildings. The flames suddenly burst through to Thomas Street, and the whole vicinity was made as bright as day. The flames still gained headway in spite of the efforts of the firemen. All the buildings were occupied by dry goods merchants and importers. The flames shot up from the cellars to a great distance above the roofs of the building. The wall of No. 62 began to sag and the firemen abandoned that side.

WASHINGTON, 17.—Following are the remarks made by Mrs. E. B. Wells and Mrs. Zina Young Williams, of Salt Lake City, before the House judiciary committee, to-day, in support of the proposition for the enactment of some law to protect the wives and children of the present polygamists in Utah from the anticipated effects of the enforcement of the law against polygamy, as regards plural marriages heretofore contracted. Mrs. Wells said: We have been driven westward from State to State, and at last took refuge on soil not belonging to the United States, but to Mexico. We were thought unfit to live under the free American flag and we took that wilderness in which to build up a civilization of our own, and to worship God according to our consciences. When we took possession of our territory we were again hunted down by the Gentiles, who followed there and who saw that we had comfortable homes, good husbands and were rearing children in our faith—good children owned and blessed by their kind fathers. These men have stirred up the Christian women of the country, who in appealing to you to further afflict us, know not what they do. We have no dram shops, no paupers, no outcast women, no illegitimate children. Enforce this cruel law, let the Gentiles rule that Territory, and you must build prisons for our husbands and almshouses for our children, and we—what will we be under your law?

Mrs. Williams said: My father, Brigham Young, loved his children, owned them and provided for them. Will the government of the United States make these women outcasts, who are now honored wives and mothers, grown grey in rearing sons and good citizens of the United States. We thought the constitution of the United States would protect us in the free exercise of our religion, and that the law would be pronounced unconstitutional. Now that the Supreme Court has decided otherwise, we come to you for protection. We are United States citizens, born on American soil. We are a strength in the nation. Nowhere will you find braver, truer men than the husbands and the sons we are rearing. We ask justice at your hands. We ask deliberation on this subject that you may know every phase of this question before you do us any greater wrong.

Lincoln Hall was crowded, to-night, to hear Chief Joseph and other Indians speak for the rights and liberties of their race.

BOSTON, 17.—Charles Demond, treasurer of the Massachusetts home missionary society, has resigned by request of the executive committee, who published a notice that this action was made necessary on account of recently discovered malfeasance in office. He had made an unauthorized disposal or use of the invested funds of the society. The committee decline to make public further particulars, claiming that they do not know whether the society has lost anything by the operations of Demond. The amount at risk ranges from \$50,000 to \$100,000. It is said Demond had been speculating extensively in western real estate, and has sold the securities of the society and invested the proceeds in western lands for the sake of commissions.

HARTFORD, Conn., 17.—The blasting fuse factory of Beckford & Co., Simsbury, was blown up yesterday, and Lizzie Wall, aged 20, Ann Wall, aged 17, Nellie W. Mitty, 17, were killed. Mrs. Alexander Kerr and Peter Dolar were slightly injured. The accident was caused by the friction of machinery.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., 17.—The senatorial contest, which culminated in the caucus to-night, has been most exciting and personal. Hon. C. B. Farwell, of Chicago, has made a direct issue upon the republicanism of Gen. Logan, charging that he committed the party sin of electing a democrat. Senator Davis, two years ago, when, had he remained steadfast to the republican choice, the republicans would have elected their man. Logan's canvass has been vigilant and increasing. He had used every art to conciliate his enemies and fasten his friends. His assistants have been shrewd and far-seeing politicians. He had, however, an opponent in the shape of Senator Oglesby, whose expiring term will be filled by the man to be elected, and has, by his conduct two years ago, estranged some of the others. The result of the caucus to-night proved that Logan's work had told, and that his popularity is very decided, in spite of the efforts to defeat the caucus. The anti-Logan faction concentrated on Oglesby, and the vote stood—Logan 80, Oglesby 26. Logan was thereupon declared the caucus nominee. It will require 103 votes to elect him.

NEW ORLEANS, 17.—Before the Teller committee Abram Thomas, colored, of Bliss plantation, Texas Parish, testified that during the late election he met a body of armed whites who chased the witness. That night the same men took Charley Bethel, a colored man, out of his house, shot him and cut his throat. The witness did not know the parties. He was frightened away, and is now working on the river.

J. Ross Stewart, a prominent colored politician of Tennessee, and a member of the legislature, testified that threats of violence prevented the republicans from nominating a ticket. At the democratic convention Colonel Reeves made a speech saying they would make no threats, but the white men were determined to carry the ticket, and all opposition would be quietly removed. The ticket was to be carried if they had to go through fire. He made a motion as of one firing a gun. The next day a committee of three came to my house and told Bryant Neely and myself, that any opposition on our parts would be looked on as a declaration of war. In regard to the establishment of the color line by negroes, the witness explained that he had got friends

to support him for the office of sheriff. They signed a paper to that effect, but instead of putting my name on the paper they simply wrote "a colored man." This was the only fact upon which was based the report that I had persuaded the negroes to promise to vote for none but colored men. It was on this report that the whites announced that Stewart and Fairfax drew a color line. On the contrary, we nominated a ticket composed of white and colored people. Afterwards it got so hot that we had to take the negro names off the ticket and nominated a full white ticket. This was the Douglass and Bland ticket. A. B. Barchett told me prior to the attack on Fairfax that Peck and the register had agreed together to regulate the parish. The intention of Peck was to take all the negroes to Catahoula and keep us until after the election. Nothing was to be done to us. We were to be fed high and returned safe after the election was over. I asked protection of Judge Cordell, and he told me that he was unsafe in the parish himself; I believed him. Two days afterwards, and two days prior to the election, I overheard Judge Cordell say that the white men had only to go around with shot guns on their shoulders, and all the ordinary negroes would be sufficiently frightened. Such men as Stuart, however, would have to be killed. I got warning, and my wife heard that on the night before the election I was to be hung. I at once left my house and fled over the levee. I heard my dog barking, and looking over the levee I saw the sheriff and 25 men at my door. My wife says they asked for me. I went over into Mississippi. The witness gave the names of 15 negroes alleged to have been murdered.

NEW YORK, 18.—Washington dispatches say that Butler makes no secret of his determination to oppose the resolution which Potter will present to the House next Monday, authorizing the committee, over which the latter presides, to investigate the cipher conspiracy, and to appropriate money for the expenses of such inquiry. Butler says that it is alleged, in regard to the cipher dispatches that they disclose an attempt to secure the presidency for their principal by means of bribery. He says the bribery was not successful, and the persons implicated hold no positions under government. Therefore it is a matter with which in his opinion, Congress has nothing to do, and in the investigation of which it has no right to spend public money.

A pleasant greeting was given to Anne E. Dickenson, last evening, as she stepped upon the platform at Chickering Hall to deliver her lecture on the "Platform and Stage." There were very few empty seats and the audience was large and liberal in its applause. The speaker at the outside, applied a little irony to the announcements that had been made of her "return to the platform," and declared that she could not return to what she had never abandoned. The first part of the subject was dismissed with a few words, the major portion of the lecture being devoted to an earnest plea for the stage. She dwelt on the universal charm of the theatre; its influence on the deepest feelings of all classes, and ridiculed the statement of the decadence of the drama. She closed with an impassioned plea for genius which finds expression on the stage, and which often suffers from ignorant and puritanical criticism.

Speaking of the great fire, last night, the Times says: A curious incident is that its discovery was caused by the squeaking of terrified rats. An unusually large crowd of spectators was drawn to the scene of the fire, the flames being visible at a great distance. The loss is variously estimated from two to five millions.

Henry Zelter, brewer of this city, has failed; liabilities \$150,000.

The fire, last night, at North and Church streets, will cause, it is said, the suspension of six or eight small insurance companies. The block in which the fire occurred was regarded as valuable in the goods stored there, as any single block in the city.

Twelve engines were all morning throwing streams of water on the ruins of the Worth Street fire.

In insurance offices everybody is at work ascertaining to what extent the company is interested in the fire. One of the presidents remarked: "If we have a few more fires like those of this week, you

must expect a panic among the companies; as it is, I hear that a couple of companies, heavily interested, are in a very lame way.

GREENVILLE, Ala., 18.—Sam Cook was hanged here, yesterday, for the murder of Primus Caldwell, two years ago.

WASHINGTON, 18.—The House committee on claims will report favorably on the bill relieving the late assistant treasurer Chandler, at Boston, from liability for the acts of his disbursing clerk, Hartwell, who, secretly loaned Mellen Ward & Co. \$450,000 of funds. The sub-treasury committee take the ground that Hartwell was appointed by Chandler's superiors, hence Chandler should not be held responsible for misdemeanors of his subordinate.

A very interesting and important contest will soon take place in the Senate concerning the claim of D. T. Corbin to the seat now occupied by Butler, of South Carolina. The latter was seated upon the *prima facie* evidence of his credentials, with the aid of the votes of Patterson and Conover, Sharon being absent and Davis, of Illinois, declining to vote. The republican members of the committee on privileges and elections have postponed pressing a consideration of the merits of the controversy until there should appear to be some chance of securing the adoption of a report in favor of Corbin by a majority vote of the Senate, and that time, they think, has now arrived. They will, accordingly, present a report declaring that Butler was not elected by a constitutional majority of the South Carolina legislature, and that Corbin was duly elected. The Senate now consists of 39 republicans and 36 democrats, and 1 independent, Davis, of Illinois. It is conceded that Patterson will again vote with the democrats in favor of Butler, but Butler cannot vote on his own case, so the certain votes for Butler will number 36. Conover's vote was cast for Butler a year ago, but the republican leaders believe that he was then bidding for democratic support in Florida to re-elect him to the Senate, and that when he finds himself disappointed next week, as they anticipate he will be, they can then secure his vote to return to the republican fold and obtain his vote against Butler. Judge Davis' vote is the remaining uncertain quantity, and it is possible that he may withhold it altogether, as he did a year ago. Corbin has therefore 37 certain votes, and unless both Conover and Davis vote against him, his admission apparently cannot be prevented, for Vice-President Wheeler would decide a tie in favor of the republicans. In this case, however, the question would be raised whether the vice-president has a right to vote upon the admission of a member of a body of which he himself is only a member, ex-officio. On the whole the solution of the problem seems mainly to depend upon the position that will be taken by Conover. The special importance of this matter arises from its bearing on the control of the Senate after the 4th of March, 1881. On the 4th of next March, if Corbin then occupies the seat now held by Butler, the Senate will stand 41 democrats, 34 republicans, and 1 independent. The terms of Kernan, of New York, Eaton, of Connecticut, Wallace, of Pennsylvania, Thurman, of Ohio and Randolph, of New Jersey, will expire on March 4th, 1881, and they will all probably be succeeded by republicans, as those States went republican at the last elections and are likely to remain so in 1880, when legislatures will be chosen to elect their successors. The democrats will gain one Senator in place of Bruce of Mississippi, whose term also expires in 1881, but by this calculation it appears that, conceding Judge Davis to the democrats the party vote in the Senate will thereafter be 38 against 38, and in the event of the election of a republican vice-president, the republicans will resume control of the Senate.

The captive women and children at Fort Robinson will be released at the request of Red Cloud and Ogalalla, earnestly desiring that the widows and orphans, who are their relatives, be turned over to them as their natural protectors to take them to their homes and care for them. It is believed the adoption of this course will serve to allay all the excitement and really attach the Red Cloud Indians to the government.

NEW YORK, 18.—There were 193 deaths from scarlet fever during the past week for 274 the week before.

fore. This decrease is due to the efforts of the health department in isolating the cases and keeping the infection out of schools.

CHEYENNE, 18.—Companies A, B, D, F, I and M, of the Fifth Cavalry, having been ordered to take the field in search of Little Wolf's band of Cheyennes, believed to be depredating ranches in Western Nebraska, will move from Fort Russell to-morrow under the command of Captain Montgomery.

Fort Robinson, Neb., 18.—A conference was held here this morning between Chief Red Cloud and Lieut. Schuyler, of General Crook's staff, regarding the propriety of Lieut. Dodd of the Third Cavalry going to Red Cloud's new location for the purpose of enlisting the services of some Sioux warriors, to be employed as scouts in the expedition against the brave little band of Cheyennes now corralled at Crow Ridge, thirty miles distant. Lieut. Schuyler asked Red Cloud if he thought Lieutenant Dodd could succeed in obtaining the service of fifteen of his warriors. The old chief, in a very grave tone of voice, and without raising his eyes from the ground said: "My people are sad at heart since their brothers were killed here some months ago. They are very angry with the whites, and I am nearly certain they will not assist them."

Lieutenant Schuyler, in as few words as possible, gave him an account of the Cheyenne outbreak; how the Cheyennes fired upon the soldiers in fleeing from their prison room, killing them, and in trying to punish the Cheyenne bucks the squaws were accidentally killed. Lieutenant Schuyler finally got the old chief to say: "Young Chief Lieutenant Dodd you can go to my camp and tell my son-in-law, Young-Man-A-fraid-of-his-Horses, that it is my wish he should try and get some of my warriors to help the government in capturing the Cheyennes." Lieutenant Dodd, who is well known to Red Cloud's braves, started immediately for Pine Ridge Agency on his mission, with what success we shall soon learn. It is believed that Captain Johnson's command joined Wessels at the scene of hostilities some time during the night of the 17th. There has been nothing heard from either commands since yesterday morning. Important news expected hourly.

RICHMOND, 18.—The Senate special committee and House committee on federal relations, acting jointly, to-day, submitted a long report and series of resolutions in regard to that alleged usurpation of state rights by Judge Rivers. The resolutions declare that Virginia, in re-entering the Union after the civil war, resumed all her relations to government on a perfect equality with other states, and is entitled to the same rights and powers; that the United States can no more rightfully interfere with and attempt to execute the powers and perform the functions of states than the states can those of the United States; and any attempt by either to interfere with the rights of the other will be a usurpation, and unconstitutional and void; that, therefore, all acts of Congress, and particularly those known as the civil rights bill and enforcement act, which attempt or profess to provide for the performance by the United States of the duties and obligations belonging to the states are unconstitutional and void; that therefore, the action of the judge of the district court of the United States for the western district of Virginia, in assuming the jurisdiction of the cases of Lee Reynolds and Burwell Reynolds, parties charged with a crime against the laws of this commonwealth and held to answer therefor, is an attempt to execute the laws of this commonwealth and to regulate her internal policy in courts and by the officers of the United States, is unwarranted by the constitution, is destructive of the rights of the people of each state to protect life, liberty and property in their own way, by their own courts and officers, and ought at once to be remedied by proper judicial action, and any recurrence of the same should be prevented by appropriate legislation; that proper provisions by law ought to be made for the prompt and effective supervision by the supreme court of the United States of all proceedings of judges of inferior courts of the United States; that the governor is instructed to direct the attorney general to institute proceedings in the name of this commonwealth before the Supreme Court of the United