

BY TELEGRAPH.

AMERICAN.

WASHINGTON, 9.—The Commission which has been inquiring into the New York Post-office disaster, report to Secretary Sherman that the accident was caused, first, by an imperfect truss, which was not the kind approved or contracted for; second, that the truss was not examined by a competent person before put to the strain.

The Secretary of War, to-day, issued an order directing that 2,500 enlisted men of the army be discharged between this and July 1st, in order that they may be paid out of the appropriation for the current fiscal year.

NEW YORK, 9.—The coroner's verdict in the Post-office accident is death through the incompetency of Treasury officials, and that the United States Government is responsible for the calamity. The roof was over loaded with concrete; Supervising Architect Mullett and his local employees are responsible for this. The Civil Engineers, who alone are competent to supervise such construction, have apparently no authority. Mullett is especially reprobated by name, and the opinion is expressed that intelligence of local superintendents is requisite, and this has not been secured by government in this case.

POTTSVILLE, 9.—The following are additional particulars of the fatal mine explosion:

Thomas Connors, among the last of the men brought out, had his head and both legs blown off. Herbert Moore, another of the victims, presented a frightful appearance, his face and body being dreadfully burned and disfigured. Jno. Durkin was thrown with great violence against the props and walls and instantly killed. Edward Weaklin, who escaped, describes the gas, after igniting, as flying through the mine with lightning rapidity, destroying everything in its path. Weaklin, hearing the first report, quickly lay down, and the gas passed over him. It soon became necessary to fan fresh air into the mine. So foul had the gas become that those sent to rescue the men could only work at short intervals. Jas. Leady was badly burned. It is doubtful if he can recover. Two miners have just come up and report that a large quantity of coal has fallen on Benj. Mosely, and it will be impossible to get at him for some time. No hopes are entertained for his recovery alive. Latest information indicates that seven men have been killed and six seriously injured.

CHICAGO, 9.—The *Tribune's* Springfield, Dakota, special says a council was held, to-day, by 500 Poncha Indians, at their agency near Springfield, and their purpose of resisting the government was abandoned. They finally concluded to go to the new reservation in the Indian Territory, peaceably.

NEW BEDFORD, Mass., 9.—To-night a terrific explosion occurred in the wholesale oil store of W. E. Dunham, on Pocasset Street, arousing the entire city. A vast volume of flames shot up immediately. The building was entirely destroyed; also the adjoining one, occupied by Hendrick Loom & Co., and a French weekly paper *La Protecteur*. The losses are not yet known, but very large. The cause of the explosion is unknown.

NEW YORK, 10.—The *Herald's* London special confesses that the Sultan Abdul Hamid refuses to allow the *Herald* correspondent to accompany the Turkish army.

The *Times* says Conrad Baller, one of the sharers in the old Tammany ring spoils, has been missing for a week. His liabilities are \$65,000. There is a woman in the case.

The *World* says Tweed is said by his friends to be a great sufferer, and to be breaking down fast. It is not thought that he will survive anything like a long imprisonment, or even that he will live long after a speedy release. His intention, should he be released, is to remain in New York until he can do no further service to the city and State as a witness, and then leave the city forever.

Dispatches state that the steamer *Dakota* was ashore on Point Limas, forty-five miles from Liverpool. The passengers and crew were all saved, but the vessel and cargo will probably be a total loss. At Point Limas the coast is steep, rocky and exceedingly dangerous. Point Limas is where the *Royal Charter*, an Australian emigrant

clipper, was wrecked on October 6th, when nearly 400 persons perished, and about a year ago the steamer *Abbotsford*, a splendid ocean steamer, was also wrecked. The *Dakota* was about 3,500 tons burden, and valued at \$750,000; she was commanded by Captain James Price, who has the reputation of being a thoroughly skilled and experienced mariner. The ship and cargo are supposed to be fully insured.

The *Dakota's* passengers will sail on Saturday in the steamer *Wisconsin*.

Counterfeit fifties on the Central National Bank of this city have been discovered.

CLEVELAND, O., 10.—This morning a sharp encounter took place between the striking coopers and the police. About 600 strikers, accompanied by 200 of their women, assembled at the different entrances to the cooper shops of the Standard Oil Company, to prevent the men from going to work. The chief of police ordered them to disperse, and upon their refusal to do so, ordered his men to disperse the mob by force, which was done. A number of the strikers were severely injured. The officials of the Standard Oil Company regard this as the last attempt of the strikers to prevent the men from going to work.

POTTSVILLE, Pa., 10.—The last of the victims of the Wadesville disaster, Benjamin Moseley, was found at midnight. His body was neither burned nor scarred, and it is supposed that he was smothered by choke damp.

The Senator Woodin committee has made a report, concurred in by every member, and adopted unanimously by the Senate, stating that they were unable to find anything to substantiate the testimony of Wm. M. Tweed, and the charges are pronounced utterly without foundation.

PHILADELPHIA, 10.—Public and private buildings are covered with bunting and flags, and banners are everywhere seen. The interest taken by the people in the present and permanent Exposition is not less than was manifested a year ago at the opening of the grander though transient Centennial Exposition.

At ten o'clock the President and his Cabinet Officers, and Boker, United States Minister to Russia, breakfasted with Col. McMichael, the Editor of the *North American*.

At one the President and party drove from the Continental Hotel to the Exhibition Grounds, escorted by the first city troop. The City Council's Committee, having in charge the arrangements for Ex-President Grant's reception, waited on him at the residence of J. W. Paul, West Chestnut Street, and accompanied him to the Union League House, where Governor Hartranft and other State Officers were gathered, and from there the party started for the Exhibition Grounds.

The programme of exercises at the opening was made up of music, prayer, address, and benediction. During the performance of the prelude, Governor Hartranft and staff filed upon the platform, followed by President Hayes, the organ playing "Hail to the Chief."

After the festival overture, the Right Rev. Bishop Stevens offered a prayer, and an address was delivered by Clement M. Biddle, President of the Exhibition, the company introduced the choral "The angel of Peace," when President Hayes made the following proclamation: "I now declare the International Exhibition for the season of 1877 open."

The "Hallelujah Chorus" was followed by an address from John Welsh, and the "March of the Men of Columbia" was sung. Alfred T. Goshorn made an address, when the chorus, orchestra and organ united in giving the "Centennial Hymn." Bishop Simpson bestowed the benediction, which closed the inaugural ceremonies.

NEW ORLEANS, 10.—In response to the proclamation of Nicholls, to-day is celebrated as thanksgiving. Service is held in all the churches, and a general holiday is observed. Flags are displayed throughout the city, and to-night many buildings are illuminated. The visiting companies from Mobile were entertained at the St. Charles and City Hotels. The Grand Reception Ball given them at St. Patrick's Hall, to-night, was largely attended.

Ex-Governor Packard to-night sent the following dispatch to Senator Blaine:

The overthrow of the lawful state

government was appropriately celebrated, to-day. Detachments of the Army and Navy of the United States participated with the White League of Alabama and Louisiana in this celebration of democratic success. Did poetic justice require that the honors of this achievement should be thus equally divided? In the absence of a commission the gray was accorded the post of honor to the blue, and asked no apology. The Custom House and Post-office were closed in admiration of the event. It is probable that United States interference will not be required hereafter.

(Signed) THOMAS PACKARD.

PHILADELPHIA, 10.—Large crowds waited for the opening of the doors to the Exposition Grounds, and from noon until two o'clock poured steadily into the gates, until forty or fifty thousand people had entered the building. Flags of all nations adorned the speaker's platform. The President reached the building at 1.45 p. m., when the Battery on George's Hill fired a salute of twenty-one guns in his honor. Seated about him on the platform were Ex-President Grant, Bishop Simpson, L. J. Randall, Gen. Goshorn, James G. Blaine, and other notabilities, including city organizations.

CHATTANOOGA, 10.—The exercises of laying the corner stone of the monument dedicated to the Confederate dead were conducted by masonic rites. A detachment of United States troops, headed by the Second Infantry Band, participated.

CHICAGO, 10.—In a sale of short horns, to-day, the 22nd Duchess of Airdrie brought the fancy price of \$15,000, E. Lippincott, of Illinois, being the purchaser. The 21st Duke of Airdrie brought \$8,000, the purchaser being Wm. Babcock, of Canton, Ills.

WASHINGTON, 10.—An order by Gen. Sherman announces that the instructions will be followed, in reducing the army to 25,000 men, as directed by the Secretary of War.

NEW YORK, 11.—The *Herald's* Washington special says the lecture of Fred. Douglass, delivered in Baltimore, on "Washington City," is exciting no little amount of local indignation. There is some talk about getting up a petition to the President asking him to remove Douglass. In the lecture he characterized the old residents as indolent and ignorant. He declares the city is filled with duplicity and servility, and occupied by people who endeavor to get something for nothing, who wear their hats pulled down over their eyes like thieves and robbers, and who do this, he mildly added, to give them a congressional look. He charged them further with aiding treason, of standing between impeachment and Andrew Johnson, and of hatching the plot that killed Lincoln. In slandering the people of this district the lecture could hardly be excelled, and it would pass un-molested but for the high official position which the lecturer holds.

NEW YORK, 11.—The *Herald's* Salt Lake special says there is at present more real danger to the tenure and necks of the Mormon chiefs in this Territory than ever impended over them before, and they strive, by all means available, to stimulate their followers to drive the people of the United States. During the last three weeks the counsels of the priesthood throughout Utah have been belligerent, and orders from the Commanders of all the Nauvoo Legion have summoned that body to get ready for action. Brigham Young has indicated to an immense congregation of Mormons at the Tabernacle in a paraphrase, which necessity long ago taught him to use, his willingness that they should be ready to defend him and the church from impending danger, yet he dislikes to have the meaning conveyed to the outside world. While the Mormons are arming he desires the authorities at Washington and the people beyond Utah to believe that they are organizing merely for a holiday, and the newspapers here which are edited in the interest of the Mormon church describe the opposite view as sensational. Gov. Emery, who has had his attention called to the facts, still deliberates whether or not to take action in regard to them. One crucial before him is, that the Nauvoo legion is a military organization utterly dissimilar to any other in the United States, being composed exclusively of Mormons, who were branded for treasonable resistance to the United States troops under General Johnson, and it was

subsequently disbanded or rather forbidden to assemble without his order by Governor Shafer in 1870.

PHILADELPHIA, 11.—A number of citizens here presented to Hon. A. T. Goshorn, director of the General Centennial Exhibition, a valuable library, consisting of 5,000 volumes, in testimony of respect for his valuable services during the four years of the exhibition work in this city. The presentation took place in Independence Hall, to-day, in presence of a large number of ladies and gentlemen.

WASHINGTON, 11.

Petitions are circulating among the people of this city for the removal of Fred. Douglass from the position of marshal for the district, because of his animadversions against the people of Washington, alleged to have been made in a recent lecture delivered by Douglass in Baltimore.

It is reported, to-day, that Columbus Alexander, one of the most prominent bondsmen of Douglass, has asked to be released from the bond.

CHICAGO, 11.—A *Tribune* special from Rockford, Ills., says a pall has fallen over what this morning was a happy community. The Winnebago County Court House, which, this morning, when our citizens commenced the day's labor, was the pride of their hearts, is now a desolate ruin, a monument of criminal incompetency. Some families which bade adieu to their loved this morning, received their corpses to-night, disfigured by the ruins from which they were drawn piecemeal. The building was not yet under roof and the massive stone cornice which preceded the roof was, to-day, being put on. Just as the keystone was being placed in the dome of the main pavilion, the brickwork between the iron and stone gave way, and the entire dome and the interior walls of the structure came tumbling down with a terrible crash that was heard nearly a mile away.

A brief description of the structure will aid in understanding the accident. The style of the building is French Venetian, of the renaissance, designed by Henry S. Gay, of Chicago. The contract for building was let to W. D. Richardson of Springfield, who, in the spring of 1876, began the work. It was two pavilions and a centre dome over the front entrance. The two pavilions on each side rise about thirty feet above the level of the cornice. The dome is 119 feet from the ground and supported by the front walls. On the north side of these are columns from ten to twelve inches in diameter. On the inner side these columns rest upon a brick wall, going up from the ground floor to the floor of the court room. The walls were about thirty feet high, and it appears were entirely inadequate to hold the immense weight of the iron pillars and the massive masonry of the dome, which rested upon the pillars. Upon the top of the iron columns was a wrought iron girder, upon which was laid the veneer and brick of the dome. It appears that the lower brick walls were crushed by the weight of the upper masonry and crumbled like so much rotten mortar, bringing with it the entire interior of the building, taking all the rafters. The corrugated iron ceiling of every room, with its concrete filling, the iron joists and the scaffolding, came down in one terrific mass, and with it nearly all the workmen who were operating upon the top of the building at the time of the accident. There were from twenty to twenty-five men at work.

The accident happened at exactly 11.30 a. m., and the whole massive stone top of the dome fell with a terrific crash towards State Street. A man named Timothy Flanagan, who was just putting in the keystone of the final cornice, jumped for the guy rope of the big derrick in front, but missing his aim, fell a distance of 120 feet, to the earth and was dashed to pieces. At this time but few persons were upon the scene. The mass of human beings, with the exception of four or five who jumped from the windows, fell inside the tottering walls and were buried in the debris.

The whole structure looked as though it would fall, and those assembled were appalled and knew not what to do. To go near enough the structure to rescue those who were mangled and bleeding in the ruins, was hazardous in the extreme, but brave men went fearlessly to work, and before the dust cleared away commenced to extricate the

dead and dying. Indescribable horrors ensued. Men lay terribly mutilated beneath these blocks, shrieking for assistance, that was only rendered at the risk of the bystanders' lives. One unfortunate man, named William Gloss, was extricated, but one of his legs was left beneath a ponderous stone. He soon expired in great agony as he lay upon the green sward in front of the court house.

A negro jumped from a window, sixty feet from the ground, and, though badly injured, will probably recover.

Within ten minutes after the disaster no less than four bodies were recovered by the almost superhuman efforts of the immense crowd that quickly gathered.

The city surgeons were promptly on hand rendering great aid to the wounded, who were carried on stretchers to the nearest hotels.

A Swede, named Andrew Bil-dahl, had his head split open, and the wound was closed and the victim taken home and may live.

The anguish of the living was heartrending. The workmen's wives and mothers were soon on the spot. The air was filled with sobs, wailing and moaning, and the looker on was sickened by the sight on every hand.

Hollenbeck, whose body is in the ruins, leaves a wife and four children, who depend on him for support.

W. D. Richardson, contractor, and F. E. Latham, superintendent, had a narrow and thrilling escape. They were both on the top of the dome of the building before it fell, and were talking of the probability of it falling, when they heard a crash, and rushed at once for the west wall, where they stood when the dome went down. Had they been a moment later, both must have perished. When the dust cleared away both were standing on the wall. A cry of fire was raised, but no fire broke out.

At 8.30 p. m. the excavators have just taken out the dead body of Warren, the negro before mentioned. It is terribly mutilated.

The old Court House is turned into a morgue, and sad scenes are constantly occurring there. Relations and friends stand weeping over the bodies of their dear ones, and children look mournfully at what they formerly knew as their fathers.

Clergymen have arranged for a union meeting on Sunday evening to hold memorial services. A subscription for the relief of the families of the dead will be started. It is believed that at least ten or twelve lives have been lost, and that about fourteen persons are more or less injured.

The loss to the building will be about \$65,000. The entire front must come down to the frieze, and the plans will probably be changed. Captain Latham lays the blame on architect Gay, whose instructions were followed out implicitly. Richardson will not talk about the matter. The papers to-night place the blame upon different shoulders.

NEW YORK, 11.

The *Times'* Washington special says Douglass' lecture on Washington is likely to give him considerable annoyance. Already an earnest movement has been inaugurated against him. To-day a petition was started to secure his removal from the marshalship of this district, and in a short time the signatures of about 100 business men and other residents were obtained. The feeling against him in consequence of his lecture is very strong and unanimous. Men of all parties are uniting in petitioning the President for his removal. All the local papers comment on Douglass' utterances, and advocate his removal. A commission of citizens will call upon the President and present the petition for his removal. Should his present bondsmen retire, Douglass may find it difficult, in the present state of popular feeling, to obtain any one in Washington to take their places.

COLUMBIA, S. C., 11.—The committee appointed to investigate the charges against Associate Justice Wright made a report to the House to-day, recommending that he be impeached for drunkenness and incompetency.

NEW YORK, 12.—Two new suits have been brought against Trenor W. Park and his partners, in connection with the Emma mine. The first is by Warren Hussey, of San Francisco, who came here as principal witness in the English suit. Hussey says the developments at the recent trial opened his eyes,