TELEGRAPHIC.

MOB RULE WITH FIRE

Two Sinners Burned to Death by a Fiendish, Cursing Crowd.

NO MERCY FOR THE VICTIMS.

Their House Set Fire To, and They are Slowly Tortured Until Life is Extinct.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 28.—A special to the Commercial from Lebanon, Ky., says: Within two miles of this city last night a relentless mob burned to death a pregnant woman and riddled with bullets her grey-haired paramour. The blackened and disfigured corpses of the victims, Mrs. Thomas West and William Devere, were found in the ruins of the woman's home today by the 14-year-old daughter of the old man.

The tragedy was one of the most brutal ever enacted under the governing sway of Judge Lynch. Despite the pleadings for her father's life of a helpless, frightened child, and the prayers and tears of the ill and helpless woman, the mob went through with its work with cold-blooded, cruel deliberation, and only left when sure that both man and woman were dead.

The affair was the outgrowth of the old story of a faithless wife and a vengeful husband. Several months ago Devere, a middle-aged widower, was accused by Thomas West, a prosperous farmer, of intimacy with Mrs. West. Quarrel followed quarrel throughout the fall, until West instituted divorce proceedings and declared Devere must die. The men met in Lebanon, and West snapped his revolver, which missed fire, while Devere killed him on the spot. The murderer secured bail, and moved into West's house. The relatives of the murdered husband swore vengeance. Close to 10 o'clock last night a band of men rode up to the West homestead and demanded admittance.

"Tom West is dead. Now it's your turn," the spokesman called, and Devere and the woman awoke to find their house surrounded. Mrs. West rushed to a darkened window and began a wild, hysterical plea for mercy. A dozen bullets answered her cries, and the demand for surrender was repeated. Devere, too, asked for a hearing, but his request was greeted with a shower of shots.

"We'll give you ten minutes to open up, then you burn," said the mob's leader, and his men quietly retired from the door.

A hurried consultation was held inside the house, and then, while and unheeded, the little girl of Devere was thrust out to plead with the mob. Clad in her night robe, barefooted and unprotected, she bravely walked out into the moonlight and sobbed out a prayer for her white-haired father's life.

"Get out. You're liable to get shot yourself," a ruffian said, and thoroughly frightened, the child fled to the home of a negro neighbor.

Mrs. West then appeared at the door and, referring to her condition, made a last appeal for mercy. It was unavailing, and in another moment the house was fired. The shrieks of the imprisoned wretches failed to move their torturers, who, after the flames reached the living-room, could see the man and woman in the agonies of death.

Just before the roof fell the woman was seen to reel across the room and plunge headlong into the fireplace among the burning coals, and there she died. Wild with pain, Devere at the last moment made a dash for liberty, but a score of bullets stopped him half a dozen steps from the door.

This morning the little girl led her negro protector to the scene, and there the bodies, scorched beyond recognition, were found, untouched by the lynchers. There is but little doubt that the members of the mob will be captured, as they were without masks and made no attempt at secrecy.

It is not improbable that the scenes of last night will be re-enacted in the vicinity shortly, as the outrage has aroused the most intense indignation among the people of the country. Because of the fact that West's relatives had threatened vengeance, there is a strong belief that they were responsible for last night's crime. Uncertainty as to just who was implicated has so far prevented further trouble.

The child of Devere, who was a witness to the tragedy, is dangerously ill as a result of the fright and exposure, but upon her recovery she may be able, it is hoped, to identify some of the lynchers.

Devere's body was pierced by at least twenty-five bullets. Before his desperate dash for liberty he had been frightfully burned, and would probably have died without the gunshot wounds. His hair and beard were burned off, his clothes were in charred shreds and his face blistered and blackened.

No arrests have so far been made, but developments are expected tomorrow.

Justice Navels this afternoon held an inquest upon the bodies of the victims. Several witnesses were examined, but nothing tending to incriminate any one was developed. The investigation will be continued tomorrow.

Devere formerly lived at Knoxville, Tenn.

IN HONOR OF CAMPOS.

Demonstration in Havana in Favor of the Spanish Cause.

HAVANA, Dec. 29.—Last night's demonstration of political parties in honor of Gen. Campos proved the grandest popular outburst of sympathy toward the Spanish cause that has ever taken place in Havana. Conservatives, autonomists, reformists, Spaniards, Cubans, men, women and everybody united in a great brotherhood. About 40,000 people in all took part in the demonstration.

The procession started at Central park, and took its course up Obispo to the Plaza de Armas. In front of the palace of Gen. Campos a committee went up to give the general greeting. Senor Santos Guzman, of the Union Constitution spoke on behalf of the conservatives as follows:

"Our party assures you of their unconditional support wherever it is necessary. The entire country is represented here in the palace tonight. We protest against the revolution, backed by many foreigners and by many Cuban bandits, and we are not disposed to be ruined by a tendency toward the rule of barbarism."

General Campos answered as follows:

"What can I reply to the noble words of Senor Guzman in behalf of the three parties? I congratulate myself upon the unity of the political parties, and I entreat you not to forget at this moment what should be the standard of our future doings. The danger that threatens us is more than real, because the genuine Cubans will forever remain under the glorious banner of the civilized discoverer of America."

The address was followed by more shouts for "Viva Espana," and great and prolonged cheering.

INSURGENTS EVERYWHERE.

HAVANA, Dec. 29.—In spite of the reports received here yesterday, that the main body of insurgents had retreated from the province of Matanzas and are once more in Santa Clara, reports still continue to come in of damage done at various parts in Matanzas, and of the threatening movements of bodies of insurgents. Whether these were wandering and isolated bands cannot be said accurately.

An engagement with an insurgent band is also reported today from the province of Pinar del Rio, the westernmost on the island.

Uneasiness is also caused in official circles by reports coming from the province of Santiago de Cuba. The report of Jose Maceo's flight, which was received here, seems to have been without foundation, as there are renewed evidences of his activity in that province, and troops stationed there are finding abundant occupation. The Spanish authorities have reason to suspect that a movement is contemplated in the Oriental province (Santiago de Cuba) to bring about a junction of the insurgent bands there, and troops are actively engaged in trying to prevent the coming together of Jose Maceo and Rabi, whose combined forces would effect a diversion and prevent the withdrawal of Spanish troops to reinforce those acting against Gomez in Matanzas and Santa Clara provinces.

The Transvaal Question.

LONDON, Dec. 30.—The Times this morning publishes long dispatches from Cape Town, Paris and Berlin bearing on the Transvaal question, which seems to be displacing the Venezuelan question in the public interest.

The Paris dispatch quotes the Journal des Debats as saying: "The London Times seems to be avenging itself on the Boers for the moderate tone it was obliged to adopt towards Cleveland."

The Des Debats then proceeds to argue upon the danger to French interests of allowing England to seize the Transvaal.

A dispatch to the Times from The Hague says that Holland's attitude on the question is apparently one of indifference.

The Berlin dispatch says: "The action of the Uitlanders in the Transvaal has given rise to an unusually violent explosion of anti-English feeling in the German Press."

The National Zeitung is quoted as follows:

"Germany, Portugal and possibly France cannot allow the Boer republic to become the exclusive prey of England, especially at such a dangerous personage as Mr. Cecil Rhodes."

The Times dispatch then continues: The Koelnische Zeitung, the Kreuz Zeitung and other papers express similar sentiments. It cannot be denied that while the relations between the English and German governments are in no way cordial, a widespread feeling of animosity against England exists in Germany.

EXPLAINING THE ROW.

The Times has a column article explanatory of the Transvaal trouble, which says: "Equity of representation with taxation, language, law, responsibility of the administration to the legislature and the removal of religious disabilities are among the chief of the Uitlanders' demands, while they desire to maintain republican institutions."

Will Extend to Salt Lake.

DENVER, Col., Dec. 29.—It is learned here that prominent citizens of Helena, Mont., have organized the Rocky Mountain Postal Telegraph company, which has been operating for several years in Montana, and will extend its lines to Ogden, Salt Lake and Denver. A contract has been made with the Postal Telegraph company for connections at Spokane, Denver and Cheyenne. Bonds to the amount of $40,000 will be floated for the work of construction.

Afraid of Cleveland.

LONDON, Dec. 30.—The New York correspondent of the Times, while he affirms his previous convictions that there is no longer any feeling for war with England at present in the United States, says there is a real danger for the future. He attributes this partly to the personal character of the President, or the quality of it "which his friends call firmness and his enemies stubbornness."

The Front-Street Theater Horror.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 29.—An inquest over the victims of the Front-Street theater disaster was held today, and the coroner's jury found that no one is to blame except the people in the audience, who lost their heads and brought on the panic.

Silver Men Unite.

CHICAGO, Dec. 29.—For some time past negotiations have been pending for a complete consolidation of the American Bimetallic league, National Bimetallic union and the National silver committee, the three principal organizations in the United States, representing all sections of the country. Yesterday the negotiations culminated in an agreement by the representatives of the respective organizations by which such consolidation has been substantially perfected. Nothing now remains to be done but a ratification by the executive committee of these organizations, each acting separately, which will speedily follow.

ARMENIANS STILL FIGHTING.

The Zeitoun Insurgents Occupy New Positions.

LONDON, Dec. 30.—A dispatch to the Times from Constantinople says: The latest advices from Zeitoun are that the insurgents have been reinforced by 500 men from Gurn and have occupied new positions. Accordingly the dragomans of the powers went to the Porte and offered to negotiate with a capitulation.

The Daily News's Constantinople correspondent says:

In reply to United States Minister Terrell's request to Consul Jewett at Sivas, that he should go to Marsovan, Jewett has wired that it is impossible to leave, as another outbreak is threatened.

The Graphic publishes a letter from Lord Rosebery to a correspondent, commenting on England's action in Armenia, in which he says:

"I cannot believe it means indifference or incapacity on the part of a powerful government. They must have encountered obstacles of which we are ignorant. Perhaps they had to weigh the hideous alternative of abandoning the Armenians or facing a European war. Therefore I must hear their case before judging them."

A Constantinople letter to the Times summarizes and tabulates from consular and other sources the Armenian massacres in the last two months. There are many places from where there are no details yet, but where known the total is 18,000 killed. British statistics give the killed in towns at 30,000, with 2,500 villages destroyed.

FROM AINTAB.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—The Turkish legation received from the Sublime Porte the following telegram under today's date.

Two Armenians of Aintab having fired pistol shots with the view of again creating a sedition, disorders were about to begin, but thanks to the measures taken, quiet has been restored.

The Petrel Ordered Home.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—An order has been sent to the admiral commanding the Asiatic station, detaching the Petrel from his squadron and directing that she proceed to San Francisco. Arriving there, she will be put out of commission for an overhauling. Her sister, the Bennington, is now at the Mare Island (Cal.) navy yard. She has been put in first-class condition, and will start on her long voyage across the Pacific in a day or two.

Lemuel Lloyd's Justice.

HENNESSY, Okla., Dec. 29.—Three weeks ago Lemuel Lloyd, a colored Baptist preacher and justice of the peace for Cale township, was arrested for stealing a rail of a fence. He escaped from the officers. Yesterday while Charles Dunn, a constable, was ... Lemuel Lloyd's house, with a warrant ... [illegible] ... inside, and articles that have been missing from the neighborhood for over a year were found, among them a suit of clothes for which a negro named Mark Wilde served six months in jail for stealing. He was sentenced by Lloyd.

A MINISTER IN TROUBLE.

Causes the Arrest of a Good Woman for Blackmail.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29.—Mrs. Mary A. Davidson has been arrested on the charge of extortion, preferred by Rev. C. O. Brown, pastor of the First Congregational church. Dr. Brown charges her with blackmail, and says that he pays her $500 to secure her silence in regard to his alleged relations with Miss Overman, a young woman from Tacoma, who visited at his house.

The First Congregational church is the largest and most fashionable one of that denomination in the city. Mrs. Davidson, who is a woman about 60 years of age, came here during the Midwinter fair as a representative of a Boston corset firm and lately conducted a corset store of her own here. She has attended Dr. Brown's church for about a year and has taken a great interest in church matters. Miss Overman came here from Tacoma for her health and visited at the house of Dr. Brown, whose family she knew in Tacoma. After a stay of several months, during which time she became acquainted with Mrs. Davidson, Miss Overman returned to Tacoma, but came back to San Francisco, when Mrs. Davidson promised to secure employment for her.

According to Dr. Brown, Mrs. Davidson came to him last November, at a time when there was intense excitement in the city over the exposure of several old men who had been debauching young girls, and told him she had been commissioned by Mrs. Jane Elizabeth Maddox, a lodging house keeper, to demand $1,000 down and $100 a month for ten years, if he did not want his intimacy with Miss Overman exposed. Mrs. Davidson said that Miss Overman had confided to her and would testify against him.

Mrs. Davidson pointed out to him that, owing to the state of public feeling, almost anything witnesses would swear to would be believed, and advised him to settle at once. Dr. Brown was horrified at the nature of the charges brought against him and saw no means of escape. He succeeded, however, in reducing the figures to $500 down and $25 a month for five years. He paid Mrs. Davidson $500, for which she signed a receipt. After paying over the money Dr. Brown attempted to find Mrs. Maddox, but without success. Finally he met Miss Overman, who was stopping with Mrs. Davidson, and reproached her with her perfidy. She indignantly denied that she had made any such charges, and when confronted with Mrs. Davidson denounced the woman as infamous. Miss Overman immediately left Mrs. Davidson's house and went to the home of Dr. Brown, where she is now under the protection of his wife. Then the minister consulted with the deacons of the church, and the result is the arrest of Mrs. Davidson. Both the minister and Miss Overman deny that there is the slightest foundation for the charges.

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