lever, awaited the shock. It came, and he was partially knocked down by a stick of wood from the tender, but was otherwise unhurt, though almost entirely shut in by the mass of debris which was thrown against the engine. His life was probably saved by the fact that the rear of the tender was thrown to one side, thus diverting the full momentum of the train from the engine to the side of the cut, against which the shattered cars were piled in an inextr'cable mass. What occurred in the cab is obtained from a statement made by Thomas H. Gaither, of this city, who was a passenger, and who miraculously escaped, though seriously injured, having had several of his ribs broken. There were six passengers besides the flagman.

The train which ran into them had caught up with them at Wood station, a few miles back and hence, when its coming was announced, no one felt apprehensive. The flagman had been sent back as an additional precaution and hence no attention was paid to the approaching train. It was upon them before they knew it. Gaither remembers that he and Philip S. Whisnant started to get out, but before he passed the middle of the car he was knocked down. He managed, with the assistance of a colored man, to extricate himself by lifting the top of the car off. The other passengers, Philip S. Whisnant, of this city, Charlie Sellers, whose parents live in Pin Hook, and a negro named Ned Stroud, were all killed. The cars telescoped each other and were piled in the greatest confusion. The mass caught fire and the remnants of the cars, including that in which was the passengers were destroyed. At least one of them, name unknown, was burned alive, his cries being heard. The charred remains were recovered after several hours, but could not be recognized, the head, feet and hands being entirely burned off.

NEW YORK, 28.—The *World's* London special says: Replying to a deputation of the Dublin corporation to-day, Chief Secretary Forster said the Government could not now promise immediate franchise reform, as it was too busy with the more important measure of the land bill. He left it to be understood that the franchise measure would be considered in good time.

This has been indeed a dismal Boxing Night. Rain has descended in torrents, all the streets are almost deserted, but the wet weather has a good effect on the theatres which have had very large audiences.

The State trials were formally opened to-day in the Court of Queen's Bench before Lord Chief Justice May and Justices Fitzgerald and Barry. The court room is densely crowded with spectators. Chief Justice May read an address stating that after the misconception which had arisen as to what he had said on a former occasion he should not take part in the present trials.

The great crowd of people around the approaches to the four courts loudly cheered the traversers upon their arrival. The judges took their seats shortly after 10 o'clock. The body of the court is occupied by council and other members of the bar. The principal gallery is filled with Irish members of Parliament, a few ladies, and a sprinkling of the general public. Chief Justice May, read with considerable composure, a document declaring that he should not take part in the present trial. It contained a vindication of his former speech. The announcement that he would not preside at the trial caused no manifestation. After Chief Justice May had finished reading, Justice Fitzgerald took the chief seat, and trials were proceeded with before him and Justice Barry. Only 18 out of the 24 jurors called, answered their names.

A deputation of the corporation of Dublin has interviewed Forster, chief secretary for Ireland, and urged the government to introduce a bill in Parliament to assimilate the franchises of Ireland with those of England. Forster said that government intended that borough franchise be made alike in the two countries, but that it would be as well not to meddle with the county franchise at present as they were looking forward to a great change in the English and Scotch county franchise, and perhaps the Irish franchise would be dealt with at the same time. The government, he said, were of the opinion that the municipal franchise ought to be similar to that of England, but they could not promise to deal with the matter immediately, as other Irish business was very pressing.

Four laborers have arrived to work for Benze Jones.