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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 1886.

BRADLAUGH, the atheist, takes a seat in Parliament without any opposition this time.

The blizzard afforded prospective colored exodusters a fine specimen of what they may expect to find out West in the way of winter weather.

That was a lucky escape under the circumstances of the snow-bound party near Charleston, West Virginia. The account elsewhere given of the occurrence is of thrilling interest.

GERMANY has seized some more islands—the Samoa islands in the Pacific ocean—protests of the American and British consuls to the contrary notwithstanding. Having determined upon the acquisition of any patches of territory that may be lying around loose about the world, something more than protests will have to be thrown in her way if it is desired to put a stop to her high handed proceedings.

The British Parliament opened yesterday with a very unpromising outlook ahead of it. Recent events indicate that the session will be a stormy one—so stormy as to make it practically useless—and an early dissolution to be followed by a new election is confidently expected. This is Mr. Parnett's view as given recently in an interview. Whatever the outcome may be, however, it will be awaited with interest throughout the world and if a crisis be really at hand, as is reported from some quarters, the fact is of moment to many on this side the water as well as in England itself.

The welcome Raleigh extends the gentlemen who are here in attendance on the annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Masons is of a character exactly the contrary of that the weather bears. It is warm. The elements we have been unable to regulate, else we would have had the breezes all from the South and the temperature as high as that of June—not too high, it is seen, but just high enough—in order that the stay of our visitors might be in all respects as pleasant as we would have it.

In view of their recent appointment, the House committees cannot be expected to accomplish much during the next few days. The presidential succession bill from the Senate is expected to be reported today or tomorrow by the committee charged with its consideration and its discussion will probably consume the remainder of the week. We trust it will be passed and made a law without delay. It is certainly a matter of pressing importance. The committee on coinage, weights and measures will not get to work for several days yet. The Senate has, on hand the judicial salary bill, as unfinished business. The electoral count bill and the bankruptcy bill will be brought up during the week if possible, and the bill for the admission of Dakota will be pressed if any opportunity at all occur for such action. The nominations however may be expected to occupy the attention of the Senate during most of the week.

The case of the Rev. Mr. Jardine, whose melancholy suicide, at St. Louis was reported Monday, was a remarkable one. A year or more ago, while the self-slaughtered clergyman was rector of a church in Kansas City, the Kansas City Times published an item which reflected upon his moral character. He brought a suit for libel against the paper, placing his damages at \$50,000. The Times at once investigated Mr. Jardine's record, and at Buffalo ascertained facts which it claimed were very damaging to him. Among other things it was said that in his youth he had served a term in the penitentiary for burglary. All the information obtained was published, together with charges of improper conduct while rector of the church at Kansas City. The result was three charges preferred against Mr. Jardine, and an ecclesiastical court appointed to try his case. After a protracted trial the charges were sustained and the verdict of the court was sent to the bishop of the diocese. The bishop sustained the verdict and Mr. Jardine was suspended from his church two weeks ago. He went to St. Louis with the expressed determination of securing a new trial. The prospects of success grew fainter and fainter, he became despondent, and finally he put an end to his earthly existence in the manner reported. His death closes a scandal which has been the most lamentable ever known in the Episcopal church in Missouri.

As a rule the subject of the weather is the last resort of the newspaper man as it is the drift of the conversationalist, but such weather as that we have had the last few days is worth writing as well as talking about. The storm and cold wave for the snap was composed of these two elements—were of very remarkable extent and severity. They made miserable the whole country east of the Rocky Mountains and in several

respects, have beaten the record. Throughout the South the disturbance has caused great suffering and much damage as a matter of course to the tender crops of early vegetables. The Florida fruit crops, too, as reported yesterday, have been seriously injured. Cattle and out-of-door laborers have had a hard time of it all over the Union, and the railroad people have caught particular fits. The sufferings of seamen have not yet been generally reported, but in the nature of the case they must have been intense and widespread. At home, fortunately there has been no great distress. Fire and food and clothing have been provided by the charitable among us to all in the city who actually needed these things so far as we have been able to learn, but we should remember that the pinch is not yet over, and those of us who can do so (and who cannot to some extent?) should continue the Heaven-directed efforts so far made to relieve the cold and the hungry.

STORMS AND COLD WAVES.
Now that we are somewhat thawed out from the effects of the recent frigidities, it may be interesting to consider briefly the nature and origin of these cyclonic disturbances and cold waves, specimens of which in such fine, large proportions we have just experienced. The cold wave depends in point of character and duration upon another natural phenomenon known to the meteorologists as the storm centre, and even yet there is but little positive knowledge of the conditions which immediately precede the formation of storm centres. Their first appearance, the signal service people say, is in the shape of an area of low barometer, or low atmospheric pressure, often as much as several hundred miles in diameter, around which the winds are moving in spiral direction and tending toward the centre. In the northern hemisphere the direction of this spiral movement is from right to left, or in the direction opposite to that in which the hands of a watch move. The smaller the area and the more decided the depression of the barometer, the greater will be the velocity of the wind. These storm centres originate very frequently in the southwestern territories, and move in a northeasterly direction across the continent at a rate varying from one to fifty miles per hour, gradually widening and losing their intensity, sometimes disappearing altogether before reaching the Atlantic coast; at other times passing across New Foundland, the Atlantic Ocean and even the British islands. These great storms, which are frequently several thousand miles in extent, are the true cyclones. Their progress over the country from where they originate is altogether independent of the velocity of the wind which accompanies them.

This wind, which may at times have a velocity of a hundred miles or even more per hour (as in the case of the West India cyclones), is due to the spiral movement of the air about the centre. The progress of the storm is due to the general transfer of the whole mass of the air from west to east, and is as independent of the wind velocity as the movement of the machinery of a watch is of the carrying the watch as a whole.

It must be borne in mind that the cyclone is very different from the tornado. In a cyclone the wind very rarely rises to a destructive violence. The velocity is greatest near the centre, diminishing gradually toward the outer limits, and finally dying away altogether, or blending with the ordinary atmosphere. In a tornado, on the contrary, the wind is always extremely violent, and the area around which the winds are circling never exceeds four or five miles in diameter, and usually in the case of those most destructive the diameter is reduced to feet instead of miles. In addition to this it may also be stated that the tornado is merely a secondary feature of the cyclone, the southeastern quadrant of the cyclonic disturbance frequently giving rise to numerous small and destructive tornadoes. The general features of the two are precisely similar, the only distinction being that the cyclone is a very extensive circulation of the atmosphere, and rarely violent; while the tornado is always local in its character and of small diameter, exceedingly destructive in its results, and generally runs its course within the limits of thirty miles. The development of a storm centre, they say, generally operates to protect the South from a cold wave or from the continuance of such a disturbance. A cold wave is a mass of colder, and therefore denser air, which flows from the northwest, such as a mass of water would flow, following the valleys.

When a storm centre develops anywhere between St. Louis and New York, the mass of cold air which constitutes a cold wave is caught in the strong winds circling around the center in the manner we have set forth, deflected from its natural course down the Mississippi and borne eastward on the southern border of the storm across the Middle States and thence to the Atlantic ocean. In some cases a cold wave which promises to give the South a considerable reduction of temperature is caught on the fly, so to speak, by one of these suddenly-developing cyclones and drawn entirely away from our section. An example of this character occurred some weeks ago at the time when the Northern rivers were first frozen over. The cold wave signal was hoisted at Southern stations, but was ordered down before the time at which the cold wave was expected; later developments showed the development of a storm centre in Illinois.

The late blizzard seems to have dealt with us immediately hereabouts much more tenderly than with most sections it visited and much more tenderly than we deserved doubtless. In view of the reports which have reached us of the great suffering caused almost everywhere else, we should congratulate ourselves heartily. It might have been colder—just think of it, still colder!—had it not been for certain chance conditions which favored us. As it is, the minimum temperature has been reached and the weather is gradually relaxing. Let us consider the luck we have had and be thankful accordingly.

THE COLD SNAP.

A General View.
The storm and cold wave of Saturday spread over the entire country from the Gulf of Mexico to the lakes. The places where the thermometer went below zero Saturday were as follows: Memphis, 8; Nashville, 6; Duluth, 12; Cairo, 8; Keokuk, 18; Morehead, 40; St. Louis, 7; St. Paul, 18; Huron, 32; Leavenworth, 20; Omaha, 23; Bismarck, 30; Fort Gary, 35; St. Vincent, 40; Fort Barry, 43; Little Rock, 4. Mobile was only 13 above zero, Montgomery, 8, and New Orleans, 15. This is five degrees lower than ever before recorded in New Orleans. Ice an eighth of an inch thick formed at Jacksonville, Florida. Oranges remaining on the trees were frozen. Advice from the principal orange-growing sections of Florida report great damage to vegetables, oranges and fruit crops generally. The thermometer reached the lowest point since the great freeze of February 8 and 9, 1835, when all the orange trees were killed to the ground throughout the State. Dec. 30, 1880, trees were stripped of their foliage to the ground. In the latter instance 19° above zero was the lowest point reached in the State. At Gainesville Saturday night 17° was touched. The oldest groves are seriously injured, while young groves and nurseries are a total loss. At St. Augustine the thermometer registered 22°. The orange crops on the trees and early vegetables are all ruined and young groves are badly lighted. Ice formed an inch and a half thick. It is estimated that one half of the orange crop of the State has been marketed, that one-quarter is in packing houses and the remaining quarter frozen on the trees, entailing a loss of \$750,000 and possibly \$1,000,000 on the fruit alone. The loss on vegetables alone cannot be approximated. If the groves are killed, as is feared, an additional loss of several million dollars will be entailed.

At Atlanta the thermometer went down to zero Saturday night. At Savannah the first fall of snow in six years occurred. At Mobile the cold, 11 above, was the greatest since 1852.

Galveston bay is frozen over, the first time since 1862, and the ice is nine inches thick. From all parts of the South similar reports come of the coldest weather in years, and great damage to early vegetables.

BLOCKADES ON THE RAILROADS.
The storm at Charleston, W. Va., was the worst ever known there. A south-bound train on the Baltimore & Ohio Valley road got stuck in a drift about half a mile from Charleston Sunday evening, and the passengers were notified that they must make the best arrangements possible. A terrific wind prevailed and snow was flying through the air, making travel hazardous. This information having reached the city, a number of citizens went in search of the passengers. When they reached the train they found a number of ladies, children and gentlemen, and with the aid of two hotel hacks, endeavored to bring them to the city. After proceeding a short distance the guide lost his way, and the hacks were held fast in a drift, with the temperature at freezing point and the passengers badly chilled. It was facing death to venture on foot, but there was no other alternative. The ladies were taken from the back and escorted to the city. All the passengers were well cared for.

The Western Maryland railroad, in the sweep of the Blue Ridge mountains between Mechanistown and Pen-Mar, is blocked by snow to the depth of fifteen feet. Four passenger trains and several loaded freight trains are unable to move, and fourteen engines are working to get them out. The blockade commenced Saturday morning and the large number of passengers are being made as comfortable as possible, but there is believed to be considerable suffering among them.

A Pittsburg dispatch says the snow blockade on the railroads is almost unprecedented. No attention has been paid to schedules and all trains are from 1 to 15 hours late. In many instances trains have been abandoned and on several of the smaller roads traffic has been entirely suspended. On the main line of the Pennsylvania railroad the trains are from 7 to 19 hours late. The limited express west, which was due at Pittsburg at 9 o'clock Saturday night, arrived at 10 o'clock Sunday morning, having been snow-bound at Gist Station. The fast line east, which left Pittsburg Saturday night, stuck near Penn station and did not get away until Sunday morning. All the trains were provided with from three to five engines. On the Wheeling branch of the Baltimore & Ohio the Cincinnati express, which started from Pittsburg Saturday night, returned Sunday evening, having been snow-bound, a few miles out from the city, nearly fifteen hours.

LOSS OF LIFE AT SEA.
A number of marine disasters were caused by the gale. The schooner Mary G. Farr, from Baltimore for Providence, went ashore on the New Jersey coast, and all on board were lost.

The storm made sad havoc among the shipping along the New England coast, many vessels being driven ashore and coasts blown out to sea. The barometric record is the lowest since 1877. Among the disasters reported was the schooner Millie Trim, Capt. Olsen, from South Amboy for Rockland, Me., with a cargo of coal, which went ashore on Cal island Saturday morning at 3 o'clock, during a heavy gale, and became a total wreck. All hands were drowned except the captain. Capt. Olsen recovered all the bodies but one—that of a sailor known as Frederick.

No one can adequately describe the suffering imposed by dyspepsia, but Dr. Bull's Baltimore Pills will cure this disease every time. Price 25 cents.
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Our Regular News Narrative from the National Capital.
Special to the NEWS AND OBSERVER.
WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.
At the time my last letter was written to you, I had my information from second hands. It was correct in the main; but there is room for enlargement. Gen. Cox, for instance, as chairman of the committee on the reform in the civil service, is regarded by the best men in the House as the best man for the place.

Judge Bennett, as chairman of the committee on expenditures in the state department, brings with him a judicial experience whose career as such has no superior in our State, and will ably fill the position and reflect credit on our State.

Col. Wharton Green, as chairman of the committee on agriculture, has more responsibilities devolving on him than "our folks" would imagine unless they had seen the "second wing of the capitol." But as second member of the committee on agriculture his best work will be put in.

As a member of the committee on war claims, Mr. Reid will be in a position to do much valuable service for his country, in seeing that the stealthy hand of the alleged "loyalists" of yore is not shoved too deep into the cash-pocket of your Uncle Samuel. No more alert member of the House could have been picked out for this work, and I am sure a more capable man could not have been found inside the "screens." The committee on war claims is regarded as one of the most important in the House. There were over 4,000 bills referred to it during the last Congress. Mr. Reid is also the second member of the House committee on printing, another leading joint committee, composed of three ex-major generals—Gens. Manderson, Hawley and Barksdale, and Maj. Farquhar.

COX AND HIS CHAIRMANSHIP.
The chairmanship of the committee on reform in the civil service is one that brings Gen. Cox in direct contact with the President. No sensible North Carolinian will fail to appreciate the fact that he will render his State and his constituents much valuable service which he otherwise could not.

Life in the Paris Sewers.
is possible, for a short time to the robust, but the majority of refined persons would prefer immediate death to existence in their reeking atmosphere. How much more revolting to be in one's self a living sewer. But this is actually the case with those in whom the inactivity of the liver drives the refuse matter of the body to escape through the lungs, breath, the pores, kidneys and bladder. It is astonishing that life remains in such a dwelling. Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery" restores normal purity to the system and renews the whole being.

A pretty fashion of old colonial days that has been increasing in favor during recent seasons is to have the polished mahogany tables in dining-rooms uncovered at afternoon receptions and teas.

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