

NEW LEANING TOWER.

A Tall Building in Syracuse That is Out of Plumb.

A rival to the famous leaning tower of Pisa has been developed in America. It is located in Syracuse and is more than 200 feet in height. The structure is 13 inches out of plumb and leans threateningly over the heads of the passersby, apparently ready to fall.

This seeming instability is the cause of a sharp strife now going on in Syracuse. The more or less generally expressed opinion is that the tower in its present condition is a source of imminent danger, and the Syracuse common council has declared its existence a menace to the public. But the owner and the architect, both deny that there is the least danger of the structure's suffering any further departure from the perpendicular and are more than certain that it is still in a condition to resist any strain likely to come upon it. From the present outlook it seems more than likely that the views of the architect will be accepted as correct, and the tower will be left, one of the chief curiosities of the town.

It is only quite recently that the tower has been of the leaning variety. It was thrown out of plumb by the tornado which not long ago visited Syracuse. The wind which demolished less strongly built structures in the neighborhood struck the tower on two faces, but succeeded only in springing the framework sufficiently to tip the tower a little to one side, without, it is claimed, seriously damaging it.—Chicago Tribune.

High Tribute to North Carolinians.

North Carolina may have and doubtless has her full quota of mean people; but somehow or other in our experience and perambulations over this mundane sphere we have never as yet met with a Tar Heeler but we found him a big-hearted, whole-souled clever fellow. They are shrewd business men, keen traders, but honorable and just. They are true friends and open enemies. We have always been partial to North Carolinians, but perhaps it was because we happened to fall in with the cream of the State. We have met and transacted business with thousands of them, and we never knew one to do a mean, dishonorable or underhand act. Among the truest and best friends we ever knew were natives of East Tennessee and the Old North State.—Piedmont Headlight, Spartanburg, S. C.

Very True.

The world knows very little of the sorrows which press down on individual hearts and seems to care very little. There are men and women who walk the streets; who go about their daily duties, who carry pleasant and smiling faces in the glare of the sunlight, but when the shadows fall and darkness wraps the earth, in lone places at their homes tears trickle down their faces and sobs well up from their aching hearts.—Greenville, S. C., News.

A young man in Lowell, Mass., troubled for years with a constant succession of boils on his neck, was completely cured by taking only three bottles of Ayer's Sarsaparilla. Another result of the treatment was greatly improved digestion with increased avoirdupois.

One of the charges against Judge Reese, of Georgia, was that he swore in a manner highly unbecoming a Judge when a waiter at a hotel spilled a plate of hot soup down his back, which caused the Judge to get his back up. But it cannot be denied that putting hot soup down a Judge's back was some provocation to make him forget temporarily his judicial dignity and go outside of the law books for language to render an opinion of the fellow who did it.—W. Star.

FEWER PENSION AGENTS

The Number to be Reduced from Eighteen to Nine.

A LARGE SAVING IN EXPENSES.

Secretary Francis Says That There Will be a Gain to the Government of \$150,000 Annually—The Cost of Paying Pensioners.

Washington, Feb. 8.—The president has signed, on the recommendation of Secretary of the Interior Francis, an important order reducing the number of pension agencies in the United States from eighteen to nine. The object of the order is to effect a very large saving to the government without inconveniencing the pensioners. The secretary demonstrates that by this reduction of the pension agencies the cost of disbursing pensions can be reduced by at least \$150,000 per annum. The change was made possible by an amendment to the law governing the disbursing of pensions, which amendment was approved March 23, 1896. It required that all pensioners should, after that date, be paid by checks remitted by mail. Reports from the pension agencies in reply to inquiries as to the operation of the new law were to the effect that under it the pensioners are paid much more promptly; that the possibility of error is minimized, and that upon the whole it is much more satisfactory to the pensioners than the former law. The agents also advise that the pensioners receive their pensions when remitted by mail at their homes, where, being surrounded by family influences, the pensioner is much more likely to make a judicious disposition of his pension money. Under the previous law many pensioners collected their quarterly payments in person and, under the influence of bad associations, were often induced to apply those payments unwisely and deprive their families of the benefits thereof.

This executive order will go into effect Sept. 1 next, its execution having been postponed until that date in order that no pensioner should suffer inconvenience in consequence of delay in receiving his pension, and to give ample time for the removal of the rolls and records from the agencies discontinued.

The consolidation was made by uniting existing agencies and the entire jurisdiction thereof, in order that no expense should be incurred by the making of new rolls. The agencies at Concord, N. H., and Augusta, Me., are discontinued and payments hitherto made there are ordered made from the agency at Boston, Mass.; the pensioners heretofore paid at Buffalo, N. Y., are to be paid from New York city agency; those at Pittsburg from the Philadelphia agency; those at Louisville and Knoxville from Washington; those at Detroit from Indianapolis; those at Milwaukee from Chicago; those at Des Moines and Topeka from St. Louis, where a new agency is established.

The following are the nine agencies and the number of pensioners paid thereat under the new order: Boston, 94,557; New York, 98,833; Philadelphia, 109,735; Washington, 150,255; Columbus, 104,492; Indianapolis, 116,666; Chicago, 125,123; St. Louis, 131,709; San Francisco, 23,093; total, 970,679.

All pensioners of the United States residing in foreign countries, and now numbering 3,781, will continue to be paid from the Washington agency, and the navy pensioners will be paid, as heretofore, from Boston, Chicago, New York city, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Washington. The estimated saving to the government is as follows: Clerk hire, \$105,675; salaries, (nine agents, \$4,000 per annum), 355,000; contingent expenses of agencies discontinued, \$10,182; rent for agencies discontinued, \$9,550; total, \$161,407.

The total cost for pensions and the disbursement thereof for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1896, was \$142,206,550, made up as follows: Payments to pensioners, \$138,215,176; fees to examining surgeons, \$672,587; maintaining pension bureau at Washington, \$2,753,760; cost of maintaining pension agencies, \$565,027. It is on this last item that the new order is intended to save between \$150,000 and \$160,000.

Death of a Noted Criminal Lawyer.

New York, Feb. 8.—Charles W. Brooke, the noted criminal lawyer, died yesterday at the Smith Infirmary at New Brighton, S. I. Mr. Brooke was taken ill on June 20, while conducting the Freeman trial in this city. An examination by his physicians showed that he was suffering from a cancer in the intestines, and that his case was critical. An operation was performed a few days later, and the patient gave encouraging signs of recovery until Saturday afternoon, when a rapid decline set in. Charles W. Brooke was born in Philadelphia, and was 61 years of age.

Woman Applicant for Diplomat.

Boston, Feb. 6.—Mrs. Marilla M. Ricker, a well known lawyer of Washington and of Dover, N. H., is a candidate for the office of minister to Colombia, which position is now filled by Hon. Luther McKinley, of Manchester, N. H. Mrs. Ricker, who has collected a goodly array of strong recommendations, and her petition has already been sent to the president-elect. Mrs. Ricker, in conversation with a reporter, said: "I ask for this place because I think the time has come when woman should be recognized in the diplomatic service."

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THE NICARAGUA CANAL BILL.

It Will Probably be Abandoned for the Present Session.

Washington, Feb. 8.—Senator Morgan expects to secure a vote on the Nicaragua canal bill which will, he thinks, demonstrate the voting strength of the measure. Whatever the result, he will probably announce his abandonment of the bill for the present session, on account of the determined obstruction to its passage, while at the same time he will declare his purpose to press the measure with more determination than ever at the next session.

The withdrawal of the Nicaragua bill from its present place at the head of the calendar will leave the way open for taking up other measures pressing for consideration. The diplomatic and consular appropriation bill and the Indian and agricultural bills will be pushed, and Senator Morrill has given notice of his intention to advance the bill to prohibit the sale of liquor in the Capitol. There will also be an effort to proceed with the bankruptcy bill.

The feature of the week in the house will be the ceremonies on Wednesday on the occasion of the counting of the electoral vote and the formal promulgation of the election of McKinley and Hobart by the vice president of the United States.

Senator Hill Denounces "Busybodies."

Washington, Feb. 5.—The session of the senate yesterday was one of unusual activity, with sharp colloquies and vigorous speeches, which drew large crowds to the galleries. The ball was set rolling early in the day, when Mr. Morrill endeavored to pass the bill prohibiting the use of intoxicants in the Capitol building. This aroused the opposition of Mr. Hill, of New York, who denounced the busybodies and mischief makers inspiring this class of legislation. The senator spoke for the fullest enjoyment of individual liberty consistent with the common good. No action was taken on the bill. The immigration bill was recommended to conference.

Kenney Seated in the Senate.

Washington, Feb. 6.—The senate yesterday admitted Richard R. Kenney to the Delaware seat vacated many months ago by Mr. Higgins, and which since then has been the subject of continuing controversy. This augmented the Democratic number to 40 and for the first time raised the full membership of the senate to its proper complement of 80. It effected no essential change in party strength, however, the division being: Republicans, including independents, 44; Democrats, 40; Populists, 6. Kenney's seat will be contested by Edward Addicks.

American Released on Demand.

Washington, Feb. 6.—Mr. Neill, the charge d'affaires of the United States legation at Lima, Peru, has cabled the state department that S. G. Treanor, mate of the American bark Uncle John, of San Francisco, has been released. Treanor was arraigned in Lima in the latter part of December as a result of a street row, and failed to secure a trial. For this reason the state department demanded his release.

A Professorship for Secretary Olney.

Washington, Feb. 6.—Secretary Olney has received from President Elliot, of Harvard university, an invitation to fill the chair of international law at that institution after the expiration of his term of office in the state department. The secretary has taken the offer under consideration.

Offered Her Pet Poodle as a Sacrifice.

Wichita, Kan., Feb. 8.—Mrs. J. L. Treadwell, a well known society woman of Emporia, has sacrificed a pet poodle as a burnt offering, declaring that she did so in order to propitiate an offended God, who, she believes, has decreed the death of her two children. Mrs. Treadwell has been an invalid for several years and under the care of a physician, but Christian scientists induced her to dismiss the physician, and it is now feared that she cannot be restored to reason.

A Convict as Bicycle Trainer.

Barnstable, Mass., Feb. 8.—A sensation was caused here when E. C. Knapp, who is supposed to be serving a five years' sentence for stealing the funds of the Springfield National bank, was seen in the street giving the wife of the jailer, G. H. Cash, bicycle lessons. The former bank official was in prison garb. Other convicts are often allowed remarkable liberty. Lewis Rogers, a convict, was allowed by the jailer to take a cow to Yarmouth and back.

Arkansas Sweeping Anti-Trust Bill.

Little Rock, Ark., Feb. 8.—The house, by a unanimous vote passed Parker's trust bill. It prohibits the formation of any trust or combine in the state, and prescribes a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$2,000, and a sentence of one to ten years for violation of the provisions of the act. A similar bill has passed in the senate and is still pending in the house.

Death of a Naval Engineer.

Philadelphia, Feb. 8.—Chief Engineer William S. Smith, U. S. A., died suddenly yesterday in his apartments at the Gladstone. He had been feeling ill for the past few days, but his death was not expected. He was born in Portsmouth, Va., and was aged 60 years. He leaves a daughter. Mr. Smith served through the war, and for about fifteen years was chief engineer of the Asiatic squadron.

Montgomery, Ala., Feb. 8.—A head on collision between freight trains occurred yesterday on the Louisville and Nashville railroad near Myer's Switch, nine miles from this city, caused by the carelessness of the telegraph operator in failing to signal the southbound train. Sid Kirkland, engineer, aged 28, of Montgomery, and brakeman Walker, of Middlesboro, Ky., were killed, and a fireman is believed to be fatally hurt. After the accident the operator took to the woods and has not been seen since.

GENERAL SOUTHERN NEWS

CHARLESTON, W. Va., Feb. 2.—It has been given out that Governor-elect Atkinson has appointed his son, Howard Atkinson, as his private secretary; Isaac Barton, of Marshall county, commissioner of labor, and W. W. Rogers, of Ohio county, his assistant; Guy Scott, of Ohio, son of the national Republican committeeman, librarian, and O. B. Wetzel, of Jackson county, state bank examiner.

Parkersburg, W. Va., Feb. 5.—Thirty thousand dollars of the \$45,000 which Lee B. McFarland surreptitiously used of the money of the Second National bank has been returned, and the bondsmen of McFarland agree to make good the balance. McFarland is prostrated to such an extent that physicians are in hourly attendance. However, he is still under surveillance of the bank officials.

Parkersburg, W. Va., Feb. 8.—A bad freight wreck occurred at Davisville, eight miles east of here, at 4 o'clock in the morning. Two sections of a freight were going east on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad and the second section ran into the first section. Engineer John Richardson was killed and Fireman Hughil fatally injured. Two brakemen were hurt, their names not known. The trains were delayed eight hours.

Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 8.—A deal has been consummated whereby Birmingham is to have a steel plant within six months. President Caldwell, of the Birmingham Rolling Mill company, submitted a proposition to handle steel billets, which can be done with slight alteration of the present machinery. The rolling mill company proposes to issue stock to cover the sum contributed, Birmingham having raised all but \$3,500, and this is assured.

Savannah, Ga., Feb. 8.—The reward offered by Governor Atkins for the capture of Major A. L. Hartridge, the prominent broker indicted for forgery, may be supplemented by an additional reward by the directors of the Southwestern railway at whose instance Hartridge was indicted, he having raised the value of stock certificates of that company. Hartridge is believed to be in England where he has relatives. Descriptions will be sent to the police authorities throughout this country and abroad.

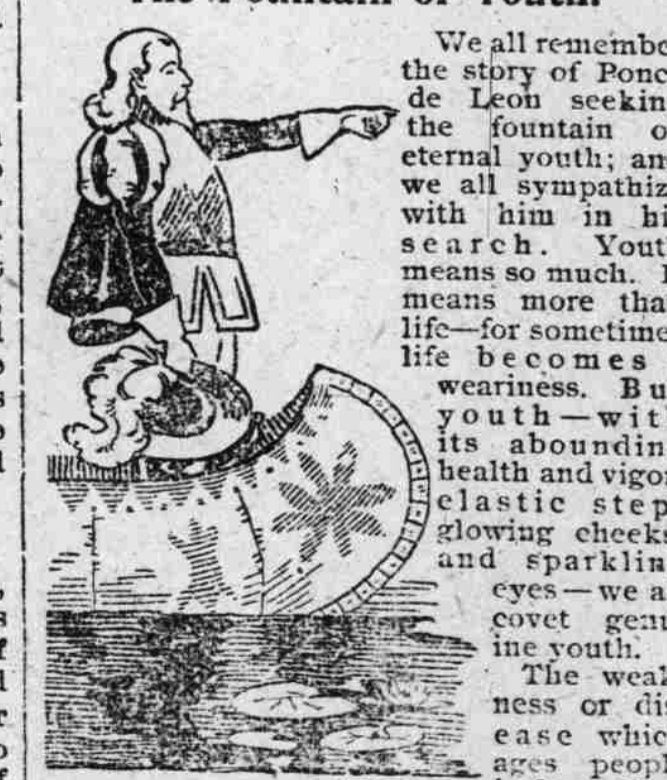
Charlotte, N. C., Feb. 8.—Monroe Johnson, the condemned negro burglar, now in jail in this city awaiting execution, will undoubtedly be hanged next Friday. North Carolina is one of the few states in which burglary is a capital crime, and there has been a disposition in recent years on the part of the governor to commute the sentences of such criminals to life imprisonment at hard labor. But Governor Russell declines to interfere in the matter, and says that as long as the law is on the statute books it will be enforced.

TOANO, Va., Feb. 2.—Mr. Oscar House, a prominent farmer and lumber dealer, living about six miles from Toano, James City county, shot and instantly killed himself Sunday. It seemed that Mr. House went upstairs in his house to get a pistol to shoot at some cattle that were grazing in his yard, and as he was coming down the steps his wife and daughter heard two reports from the pistol. They hastened to him, but were too late. The fatal shot had done its work and he was dead. The ball struck him just in front of the right ear, going on only through the brain and lodging between the skin and skull, about three inches above the left ear.

Pittsburg hotelkeepers are at the head of a movement to so amend the Brooks law as to permit liquor to be sold to their guests on Sundays and election days.

Maximo Gomez, the Cuban insurgent commander-in-chief, has refused absolutely to treat with Captain General Weyler in relation to the plans of reform projected by the Spanish government.

The Fountain of Youth.



We all remember the story of Ponce de Leon seeking the fountain of eternal youth; and we all sympathize with him in his search. Youth means so much. It means more than life—for sometimes life becomes a weariness. But youth—with its abounding health and vigor, elastic step, glowing cheeks, and sparkling eyes—we all covet genuine youth.

The weakness or disease which ages people before their time, is not the result of accumulated years; it is the effect of wrong living and unhealthy blood. When the blood is pure and fresh the body will be full of youth.

Thousands of people who seemed to have lost their youth by disease and suffering have found it again through the use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, the most perfectly natural and scientific rejuvenator of the physical forces ever known to medical science.

It gives the blood-making organs power to make new blood, full of the life-giving red corpuscles which drive out disease, build up fresh tissue, solid muscular flesh and healthy nerve force. It gives constitutional power, deep and full and strong; rounds out hollow cheeks and emaciated forms; gives plumpness, color and animation.

It does not make flabby fat like cod liver oil. On this account, it is a perfect tonic for corpulent people.

It aids digestion and the natural action of the liver, and by feeding the nerves with highly vitalized blood banishes nervousness, neuralgia and insomnia. Where a constipated condition exists, the "Discovery" should be used in conjunction with Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets, which are the most perfect, mild and natural laxative in the world. There is nothing else "just as good." There is nothing that will do the work so thoroughly, surely and comfortably.

Cotton.

With careful rotation of crops and liberal fertilizations, cotton lands will improve. The application of a proper fertilizer containing sufficient Potash often makes the difference between a profitable crop and failure. Use fertilizers containing not less than 3 to 4%.

Actual Potash.

Kainit is a complete specific against "Rust."

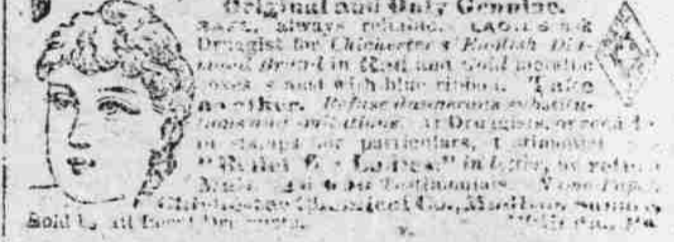
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