

THE CRISIS EXPECTED

THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN TURKEY REMAINS VERY CRITICAL.

THE FIRMAN NOT YET GRANTED

An Assurance of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to the British Ambassador Disregarded by the Sultan, and No Extra Guard Boats Will Be Allowed to Pass the Dardanelles—The Mussulmans Excited and the Britisher Determined.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Nov. 29, via Sofia, Bulgaria, Nov. 29.—The political situation remains critical, and the crisis may be expected within the ensuing twenty-four hours. The Sultan, who is only more thoroughly under the influence of the palace party, led by Izzet Bey, still declines to give the firman applied for by the representatives of Great Britain, Russia, Italy and Austria for the passage of extra guardships through the straits of the Dardanelles. This is the more extraordinary, as on Tuesday Tefik Pasha, the Turkish minister of foreign affairs, personally assured Sir Philip Currie that the Porte had determined to grant immediately the permission required. It would thus seem that while the Turkish ministers are apparently in favor of granting the firman, the "palace party," priests, chamberlains and others, who are the real advisors of Abdul Hamid, are opposed to it as calculated to lower the dignity of the Sultan. Meantime the Mussulmans are growing uneasy, looking upon the threatened advent of the extra guardships as nothing less than a warlike demonstration before Constantinople.

This is a dangerous feature of the affair, and is adding to the anxiety felt on all sides.

In spite of the threatened storm, however, the Sultan persists in his refusal to issue the firman and has again made an evasive reply to the British ambassador's representations on the subject. But, Sir Philip Currie, when assured by Tefik Pasha that the firman would be forthcoming, promptly telegraphed to the admiral in command of the British Mediterranean squadron instructing him to despatch a gunboat in the disposal of the British embassy. As a result the twin screw torpedo boat, 1,070 tons was despatched to the Dardanelles and is expected to pass right on to the Bosphorus. The failure of the Porte to grant permission for the passage to the straits of the Dardanelles thus puts Sir Philip Currie in a somewhat embarrassing position, the only escape from which is to order the Dryad to proceed and insist that she be allowed to pass in, backing up the order by force, if that should be necessary.

The Sultan is known to be in a state of greatest agitation by the news that the extra British gunboat is heading for the Dardanelles, on the strength of the assurance given the British ambassador by the minister of foreign affairs, and, consequently, the position of Tefik Pasha is not a pleasant one. The latter was sent for at midnight and an exciting interview took place between him and the Sultan, during which the latter bitterly and dangerously reproached Tefik Pasha for his action in the matter. The Pasha tried to justify himself by recalling that the granting of the firman had been agreed to in substance by the Sultan and that he, as in duty bound, so informed Sir Philip Currie when the latter sent an urgent message asking for a prompt reply to several communications on the subject.

The Sultan insisted that it was impossible to issue the firman as it would cause rioting in Constantinople and that the powers should be content with the measures taken by the government to maintain order and not hamper the authorities by making a demonstration likely to undo all the good he was endeavoring to do. The Sultan then instructed Tefik Pasha to do everything possible to induce the British Ambassador to countermand his order for the gunboat. Sir Philip, however, refused to do so, saying that he was tired of being trifled with and reminding his visitor that Great Britain was acting entirely within her treaty rights and upon the assurance of a responsible member of the Turkish government that the Porte had decided to grant the permission for the extra guard boat then past the Dardanelles.

Tefik Pasha returned to the palace in a very unenviable frame of mind and announced the failure of his mission to the Sultan. The latter is said to have been frantic with rage and drove the Tefik from his presence with fierce revilings.

The President of the State Council, Said Pasha, who is supposed to have some influence with Sir Philip Currie, was thereupon queried and sent for and reached the apartments of the Sultan after 1:30 a. m. Abdul Hamid eagerly besought him to go immediately to the British Ambassador and spare no effort to induce him to order the recall of the Dryad. The entreaties of Said Pasha seem to have had weight with the Ambassador, for Sir Philip finally consented to place the whole matter at that late hour once more before his government and to await further instructions. Although he is understood to have carte blanche as to what steps he thinks it necessary to take in treating with the Sultan.

The British Ambassador is awaiting a reply from London. The Turkish officials believe the Marquis of Salisbury, acting upon the understanding that nothing is to be done to hinder the efforts of the Sultan in the work

of maintaining order, may instruct Sir Philip to direct the commander of the Dryad not to enter the Dardanelles at present.

Abdul Hamid appears to have completely lost his head and the public service is entirely disorganized.

United States Minister Terrell, has received details confirming the reported massacre of Christians and the destruction of American mission property at Marash, on November 18. It is now established beyond a doubt that the schools of science attached to the American Mission and other buildings were pillaged and set on fire, and that two other buildings belonging to the Americans were ransacked.

Mr. Terrell's advices also confirm the statement that no protection was afforded the Americans or their property, in spite of the promises of the Porte, until eight hours after the rioting. The American missionaries, telegraphing under date of Tuesday last, November 26, from Marash, say they are all safe under the protection of the Turkish authorities. An estimate is being made of the damage done and the Turkish officials say they are doing everything possible to recover the property looted from the American buildings. Every report which reaches Constantinople, not only confirms the stories of reported outrage but adds to the list of horrors recorded and swells the death roll by hundreds daily. Blood, fire and famine have been stalking unchecked if not encouraged throughout the Asiatic dominions of Turkey and the hour, it is again said, cannot long be delayed when Europe must cry "Halt" and the cross be upraised against the green banner of Mahomet.

From Erzeroum some additional news was forthcoming to-day but it only served to paint the picture blacker and redder. More attempts to exterminate the Christian population of that city and vicinity have been made and the Armenians who survive are actually being induced by their priests to embrace Islamism to save their lives.

A despatch from Kharput, dated yesterday, November 27, reports that it has established that the American mission buildings which were recently destroyed by rioters, previous to the massacre of about 800 Christians were set on fire by the Kurds in the presence of the Turkish police, who made absolutely no effort to prevent them from so doing. It is added that the Mussulmans also took part in the incendiaryism, although the American missionaries and the unburned houses were protected by a detachment of about one hundred soldiers. Only slight confidence is felt in the security of the American missionaries who remain at Kharput, and the non-arrival here of letters from them, giving details of the recent disturbances at Kharput, leads to the belief that, in spite of the promises made by the Porte, to Mr. Terrell, they have been interrupted by the Turkish authorities.

Further advices from the provinces establish the fact that the local Turkish officials are continuing their efforts to force the Armenians, under serious threats, to sign addresses of gratitude to the Sultan and to declare that the outbreaks were the work of "a few misguided persons."

WANTED A TASTE OF ROMANCE.

That is why Pretty Lillian Wall Married on the Train.

WINSTON, N. C., Nov. 29.—(Special.)—Miss Lillian Wall, of Lenoir, and Luther Long, of Rural Hill, were married on the Wilkesboro train last evening while it was running between the homes of the bride and groom. Rev. H. A. Trexler performed the ceremony which was witnessed by the conductor and all the passengers in the first-class coach. The bride is pretty and married on the train to get a taste of what people term romance.

The trial of the four Alleghany lynchings, Hiram Cox, Steve Taylor, G. R. and John Woody, will come up in the Superior Court here next Thursday. The case was removed here from Surry county.

A telegram received here announces the arrest of Guy Wooten, white, at Aberdeen, charged with stealing a horse from Mitchell Freeman, of Randolph county.

Winston-Salem Y. M. C. A. has elected the following officers for the ensuing year: President, J. A. McMillan; vice-presidents, W. S. Clary, R. A. Spangh; secretary, C. E. Crist; treasurer, F. B. Eiford.

Resolutions were passed to make an effort to raise three thousand dollars to meet current expenses. A night school for young men is a probability.

FIRE AT ASHEVILLE.

The Handsome Residence of Mrs. M. E. Carter Burned.

ASHEVILLE, N. C., Nov. 29.—(Special.)—The handsome residence of Mrs. M. E. Carter on French Broad avenue was destroyed by fire this morning about three o'clock. Mrs. Carter and her seven children, her brother, C. T. Rawles, and two servants were sleeping in the house when the fire broke out. Mr. Rawles was awakened by the smoke and aroused the other members of the household. Their escape by stairway being cut off, rescue was effected by the aid of ladders. Practically nothing was saved, the members of the family not having time to secure garments other than their night clothes. The house cost about six thousand and was insured for four thousand, with one thousand on the furniture. The latter figure is far short of the value of the furnishings. The origin of the fire is unknown.

HAVING A GOOD TIME

THE METHODISTS ENTERTAINED AT REIDSVILLE IN MOST ROYAL STYLE.

THIRD DAY OF THE CONFERENCE

A Large Number of Preachers Passed the Examination of Character Yesterday—An Enthusiastic Sunday School Mass Meeting—Dr. Barbee's Address on the Publishing House Interest—Dr. Kilgo's Report of Trinity College Work.

REIDSVILLE, N. C., Nov. 29.—(Special.)—The Western North Carolina Conference met in its third day's session this morning at 9 o'clock.

The routine business under the head "Are the preachers blameless in life and official administration?" was taken up and a large number of preachers passed the examination of character. One young preacher in making his report gave 117 baptisms and twelve accessions. Inquiry was raised as to what became of the large number of baptisms. The young preacher replied: "One hundred and sixteen of them were infants." (Laughter.)

When Central church, Asheville, was called, Dr. Creitzberg, the pastor, reported a fine year and everything up in full, whereupon Dr. James Atkins arose and said: "Bishop, Asheville produces good Christianity as well as good climate."

Dr. Kilgo, President of Trinity College, was introduced to the conference and his report of the college was referred to the board of education.

When pastor Jones reported Hendersonville station, he remarked that they had better climate than Asheville, whereupon Dr. James Atkins arose and said, "Bishop, if he says that, we will have to arrest his character."

Rev. George W. Ivey, one of the most honored and best beloved members of the conference, in making his report stated that his collections were not up in full, but that he had the gratification of having made a faithful effort to get them. He said, "Bishop, I rode fifteen miles for fifteen cents."

Dr. Barbee addressed the conference on the publishing house interest. He represented the house as having a very flourishing business. He said that there is no church between the earth and the sky that is so true to herself as the Methodist Episcopal Church South. In speaking of the Nashville Advocate Dr. Barbee said, "There is no editor in all this land in any church or out of it, that is the equal of Dr. Hass. His great editorials are an education in any family. When you pick up that paper you can challenge the whole world to show its peer." The Doctor's counsel to the young preachers was very timely and richly enjoyed by the conference.

In the afternoon many of the committees were in session. A considerable part of the work of a Methodist Conference is done in the committee rooms.

An important meeting of the committee on books and periodicals was held to-day.

Rev. R. B. Johns and Rev. J. N. Cole, members of the North Carolina Conference, were requested to meet with that committee to confer about the editorial management of the North Carolina Christian Advocate.

At 7:30 p. m. a great Sunday-school mass-meeting was held. This is a department of Christian work that the Western North Carolina Methodists are trying to develop into larger power and usefulness. They gave it one of the best hours of the conference, and a great company of earnest workers were present. Rev. J. W. Jones presided.

The meeting opened with a beautiful and fervent song service. Rev. Dr. Barbee offered the prayer. Prof. H. M. Hamill made the address. He stated that he felt very much at home at a Methodist Conference. He said that he was rocked by a good old Methodist mother and that his father was a Methodist preacher for fifty years.

Professor Hamill delivered an address of very great wisdom. It had in it inspiration and power that set the Sunday-school work forward. Every pastor rose up with the purpose of giving more faithful attention to their Sunday-schools. Professor Hamill commended Trumbull's "Teacher and Teaching" to Sunday-school teachers, and Schaeffer's "Ways of Working."

The weather continues fine and the whole of Reidsville and her many happy guests are having a good time.

THE HATTERAS LIGHT HOUSE.

Government Officials Preventing Plans and Specifications.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29.—The engineer secretary of the light house board is busily engaged in preparing plans and specifications for the new light house to be constructed on Diamond Shoals of Cape Hatteras, N. C. It is learned that the steel pilings which, at a cost to the government of \$60,000 were put down on these shoals a year and more ago to test the practicability of building a light house at this point, and which was badly warped and twisted by last winter's gales, have recently been entirely carried away.

A Fatal Shooting at Lenoir

LENOIR, N. C., Nov. 29.—(Special.)—Samuel Newland day before yesterday went to the harness shop of Frank Steelman and shot him. Steelman's condition was thought to be favorable until yesterday, but he died this morning. Newland made his escape.

HIS MESSAGE FINISHED

IT IS A LONG DOCUMENT AND WILL TO-DAY GO TO THE PRINTERS.

CONTAINS ABOUT 15,000 WORDS

But if it is Decided to Leave Out the Parts About Cuba and Venezuela for Special Messages Later it Will Be Cut Down Considerably—Discussed Yesterday in a Full Cabinet Meeting—Caucuses of Senators and Members of the House.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29.—The President came into town to-day and the cabinet gathered for the last meeting before the assembling of Congress. Naturally the annual message of the President was the leading topic for discussion, the reports of members of the cabinet having all been prepared with the exception of those of the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attorney-General. The message itself is nearing completion rapidly and probably will go to the printer to-morrow or Sunday.

At the printing office all preparations have been made for its handling and a force of carefully selected men will soon turn the type-written copy into print. It is understood that the document will be of about the same length of last year's communication, making perhaps fifteen thousand words, although in the event that it is deemed necessary to reserve for treatment in a special and later message the discussion of Cuban and Venezuelan affairs, the principal message may be shortened correspondingly.

THE COMMITTEES MADE UP.

Reed Decided on Nearly all of Them During the recess.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29.—Ex-Speaker and Speaker-to-be Reed is guarding the make-up of the committees with the greatest care. As his selection as Speaker was a foregone conclusion, he has had ample opportunity during the recess to block out the committees and decide upon the various chairmanships. The members themselves generally wrote to him their views and aspirations. It is believed that before he arrived here almost all the important committee places had been decided upon.

It is understood though that a few of the important assignments are yet in controversy. It is probable that Mr. Reed will consult ex-Speaker Crisp and other Democratic leaders as to the minority representation on the committees. From the best information obtainable it seems like Seno E. Payne, of New York, will head the Ways and Means Committee; Mr. Hitt, of Illinois, Foreign Affairs; Henderson, of Iowa, Appropriations; Grosvenor, of Ohio, Rivers and Harbors; Walker, of Massachusetts, Banking and Currency, and Hepburn, of Iowa, Interstate Commerce.

HOUSE DEMOCRAT CAUCUS.

It Will Probably be Held This Afternoon at Three O'clock.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29.—Ex-Speaker Crisp arrived here this morning from his Georgia home and after consultation with some of the Democratic leaders, it was decided to hold the House Democratic caucus to-morrow afternoon at three o'clock.

The caucus probably will be a very brief one as no attempt will be made to outline a policy for the coming session. The line of tactics to be pursued by the Democrats will depend upon the development of the majority. The caucus will select minority candidates for the House offices, undoubtedly re-nominating the officers to the 53rd House of Representatives.

A caucus chairman and an officer to represent the minority as a "Whip" on the floor will be chosen also. Judge Holman, of Indiana, who has been chairman of the Democratic caucus for several congresses is not in the present House and it is generally believed that the caucus will select Amos J. Cummings, of New York for this honor. There are two candidates for caucus officer, Col. Isaac R. Hill, of Ohio, deputy sergeant at arms of the last House, and Henry H. Mohler, of Illinois, who was cashier in the sergeant at arms office in the last Congress.

THE SENATE REORGANIZATION.

The Republicans to Caucus on Monday Evening.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 29.—A caucus of the Republican Senators will be held after the adjournment of the Senate on Monday next. A sufficient number of names have been signed to a call to insure a caucus, which will consider the party policy for the coming session. The reorganization of the Senate may be discussed, and the Northwestern Senators have decided to present the name of ex-Mayor A. J. Shaw, of Spokane Falls, Wash., for sergeant-at-arms.

The test in the Senate over the reorganization is scheduled to take this programme by those Republicans who are anxious to force the issue. The Republicans will move a resolution to elect a President pro tempore, naming, probably, Mr. Frye. The Democrats will move an amendment proposing to substitute the name of Mr. Harris for that of Mr. Frye. The Populists will move an amendment to substitute the name of Mr. Allen or Mr. Peffer for that of Mr. Harris. These several motions are allowable under the Senate rules, and a vote would first come on the Populist amendment to strike out

the name of Mr. Harris and insert the name of Mr. Allen. This amendment to the amendment would receive not more than about six votes. So, the Populist motion having been voted down, the next question would be on the Democratic amendment to strike out the name of Mr. Frye and insert the name of Mr. Harris. That having been voted on and lost, the Senate would soon be brought to the consideration of the original or main question—the Republican resolution to elect Mr. Frye to be President pro tempore of the Senate.

Assuming that Senators would then vote on one side or the other, the Republican resolution would be adopted, unless, as previously suggested, all of the Populists should join the Democrats in voting solidly against the adoption of the resolution. In the latter event the Republican resolution would be lost. But the advocates of reorganization assert that defeat would be only temporary. There is nothing to prevent the Republicans from repeating from time to time their efforts to have their resolution adopted, and members of that party have announced that such further attempts will be made if in the first instance they shall fail to carry their point.

Will Attempt Reorganization.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29.—There is a growing probability that the Republicans at their caucus on next Monday, will decide to attempt to reorganize the Senate on Republican lines, and that a candidate for President pro tem will then be decided upon.

Quite a number of Republican Senators, including three or four members of the steering committee, were at the capital to-day, and an informal exchange of views among them resulted in the general adoption of this conclusion. There is a difference of opinion as to the wisdom of attempting more than the election of a presiding officer in the beginning, but the preponderance of opinion is that action at that time will be confined to this office. If the Republican candidate succeeds in this contest the Republicans then will place candidates in the field for the other elective offices.

So far, Senator Fry's name is the only one heard in connection with the office of President pro tem here, but there are several aspirants for the other offices.

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE.

North Carolina Has a Unique One in Mr. Fortune.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29.—(Special.) J. B. Fortune, of North Carolina, one of the candidates for postmaster of the House, is a State Senator. His father was a prominent judge in North Carolina (he is a son of the late Judge Logan), and is the man who gave the famous definition of what constitutes a fence in the eyes of the judicial power. In charging a jury on one occasion in a case relating to a fence, he was called upon to make plain what the law holds to be a statutory division fence. The definition was brief and to the point. Such a fence, he said, must be "horse high, bull strong, and pig tight." It was a definition such as the intelligent jury in the case could easily grasp in all its bearings.

Mr. Fortune is an entertaining talker of the true Southern stamp. He has the distinction of having been thrice bitten by snakes and surviving the disaster in full possession of his vigorous health.

"The first time," he said to a Post reporter, "a copperhead nipped me in the left ankle. This species of snake is one of the most venomous in existence, and its bite is usually fatal. I was about nine years old. They gave me a quart of genuine old North Carolina whiskey to drink, and in twelve hours I was as well as ever. The second snake got its work in on my little toe, but the same prescription cured me. The third time a water moccasin tried to take a bite out of me and sunk his fangs into my flesh up to the gums, but I knew it to be harmless and never bothered myself about the bite. North Carolina corn whiskey will cure snake bites. Put that down."

The report of the commissioner of education shows that the total number of pupils enrolled in 1894, in public and private schools in the United States was 15,530,298, or 22.88 per cent. of the entire population—14,846,858 in public and private elementary schools, 489,358 in secondary schools, and 200,082 in institutions of higher education. Of the grand total, 15,530,298, the number in the public schools of all grades was 14,012,498 and in private schools of all grades 1,517,770.

LYNCHING IN TENNESSEE.

Train Led Up by the Mob and Two Rapists Hanged.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Nov. 29.—At 8 o'clock to-night Joe Robinson and Ozias McChay were taken from jail at Fayetteville by a mob composed of people from Lincoln and Marshall counties and hanged.

The negroes had been taken from Nashville to Lewisburg, Marshall county, this morning, tried for attempted rape, convicted and sentenced to the full penalty of the law and a train had been held to take them to Tracy City. En route at Fayetteville, in the adjoining county, sympathizers of the Marshall county mob, at the request of the mob, held up the train and forced a side-tracking of the car containing the sheriff, guards and prisoners over the protest of leading citizens. The sheriff then placed the prisoners in jail from which they were taken.

Gold Still Going Out.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29.—The Treasury to-day lost \$1,750,000 in gold for export, which leaves the true amount of the gold reserve \$79,330,855.

NO IMPROVEMENT YET

VOLUME OF GENERAL TRADE FOR THE WEEK SHOWS A FALLING OFF.

ON ACCOUNT OF THANKSGIVING

But the Failure of Business to Improve is Also Partly Due to the Continued Warm Weather and the Inclination of Buyers to Add to their Stocks During Closing Months of the Year—Movement of Crops Small With a Holding Back for Higher Prices.

NEW YORK, Nov. 29.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade, which issues to-morrow, say:

Business has not improved, though there is very little change except in the shrinkage of prices, which a period of inaction naturally causes. After the extraordinary buying of the summer and early fall, a marked decrease was inevitable, and it is yet too early in most branches of business to judge how far the future was anticipated in purchases. Retail stocks are still reported full in nearly all branches, with delayed distribution in many on account of unfavorable weather. The movement of crops is only a little back in the hope of higher prices, and there is a prevalent feeling that foreign imports will fall off.

The iron market is decidedly weaker again, and while Bessemer pig iron has declined to 12 1/2 at Pittsburg, and Grey Forge to 12 1/2, and plates to 16 1/2 at Philadelphia, so that the average of all quotations is about 1/2 of one percent. lower than last week, the markets are really much weaker than the quotations, as concessions are generally given by manufacturers in order to secure business. A sharp decline is noted in barbed wire, attributed to the failure to complete an expected combination. During the past week failures have been 279 in the United States against 289 last year, and 47 in Canada against 36 last year.

Bradstreet's Weekly Review.

NEW YORK, Nov. 29.—Bradstreet's to-morrow will say:

The volume of general trade shows a falling off compared with the preceding week, largely owing to the intervention of the Thanksgiving holiday, but in part to the continued effect of mild weather East and South, storms in the Central West, and the usual disinclination of buyers to add stocks during the closing month of the year.

Western jobbers report activity noticeable in clothing, woolen goods, rubbers, shoes and holiday specialties, with some increased demand for coal and light hardware.

General trade remains unchanged at the South, with mercantile collections in some instances improving, the tendency of cotton to move slowly, and the movement of merchandise smaller than in October.

On the Pacific coast a smaller volume of business is reported from San Francisco, with shipments East of wheat, which strengthen the local grain market. Exports of wheat, (flour included as wheat) from both coasts of the United States and from Montreal amount to 2,460,000 bushels, as compared with 2,916,000 bushels last week, 2,667,000 bushels in the week a year ago, 2,440,000 bushels two years ago, and 4,533,000 bushels in the week three years ago.

Weekly Cotton Statement.

NEW ORLEANS, La., Nov. 29.—Secretary Hester's Weekly New Orleans Exchange statement, issued to-day before the close of business, shows a falling off in the movement into sight, compared with the seven days ending this date last year, in round figures of 230,000 bales, with the same days year before last of 12,000, and with the same days in 1892 of 49,000. For the twenty-nine days of November the total shows a loss from last year of 838,000, from the year before last of 832,000, and from 1892 of 181,000.

For the ninety days of the season that have elapsed, the aggregate is behind the same ninety days of last year 1,380,000, of the same days year before last 265,000, and is ahead of the same time in 1892 by 90,000.

The amount brought into sight during the past week was 275,570 bales against 475,272 for the seven days ending this date last year, 377,921 year before last, 324,501 for the same in 1892, and for the twenty-nine days of November it has been 1,239,176 this year against 2,077,232 last year, 1,621,619 the year before last, and 1,420,375 in 1892.

These make the total movement for the ninety days from September 1 to date, 3,509,223 against 4,808,235 last year, 3,724,237 the year before, and 3,419,454 in 1892.

The movement since September 1 shows receipts at all United States ports, 2,435,125 against 3,713,417 last year, 2,879,235 for the year before last, and 2,606,047 for the same time in 1892.

MANY LIVES WERE LOST.

Laborers in the Tilly Foster Mine Crushed by Falling Earth.

CARMEI, N. Y., Nov. 29.—An accident, resulting in the loss of thirteen or fourteen lives, occurred at the Tilly Foster mines shortly after 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Foreman Patrick was descending into the pit to take the time of two gangs of laborers, numbering about thirty-five men, who were working at the bottom, when a vast weight of earth and rocks slid with the force of an avalanche from the mouth of the pit to the bottom, a distance of three hundred feet. The earth crashed over the men with tremendous force. Out of one gang of eleven only five came out alive, and three of the men employed in another gang were taken out dead.