

RAIN Tomorrow's Weather.
For North Carolina—
"Not received."

RAIN Tomorrow's Weather.
Raleigh and vicinity—
Rain, followed in evening
by fair and colder.

THE PRESS-VISITOR.

State Library

VOL. XXXIV.—NO. 101.

RALEIGH, N. C., FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 20, 1895.

\$3.00 PER YEAR

THIRTY-FIVE DEAD BODIES

Found So Far—Work of Rescue Progressing Rapidly.

IT IS AN AWFUL SIGHT

Superintendent Thinks the Explosion was due to Dynamite—Miners Say it was Gas—Bodies Charred.

(Staff Correspondence.)

The disaster at the Langdon-Hensley Coal mine yesterday is an event, overshadowed only by the Venezuela affair in news circles. The first report which stated that the killed numbered 38 is likely to be increased. The official still held to that number, but 85 bodies have already been recovered and several are still missing. A helplessness and helplessness prevails at the scene of yesterday's catastrophe, which impresses every visitor. The people of the community who are attracted to the spot, through nothing else than morbid curiosity, are a disgrace to the people.

The pitiful supplications of the women, the urgent request of Superintendent Cant and the pleadings of the miners failed to enlist their sympathy to the extent that they would enter the shaft and assist in the search.

"You haven't a heart in you as big as a pea. Won't help raise your own dead? It's cowardly," remarked J. F. Nottall, one of the leading miners and the first to enter the mine and begin the work of rescue.

Superintendent Cant, while appealing to a crowd, asked them as men if they would not undertake the work for a while.

"An old inhabitant blated out, I wouldn't go down in that mine for \$10,000."

"It's a shame that you don't," remarked the superintendent.

Such was some of the conversation engaged in last night in the attempt to get men to enter the shaft and assist in the work of rescue. These are the facts that represent one of the worst features of the entire disaster.

When the explosion occurred yesterday, there were 66 miners in the mines. Seven of these entered the shaft that morning with light hearts, for today they anticipated leaving Cumcock on a visit to their old home in Pennsylvania.

The miners were busy picking coal when the explosion came. Those in division No. 1, enjoyed the greatest mystery that ever puzzled man without a struggle. Every miner in this division was killed and death must have resulted almost instantaneously. In division No. 2, only two men were killed. In the other corridors it is thought the dead number four.

J. F. Budd, who was in division No. 2, tells of the accident this way: "I heard a rumbling sound, a kind of concussion which jarred the drums in my ears. I had been in mine explosions before and I was certain that an accident occurred."

"Our lights had gone out. I called to my partner who was in the rear of me. I told him to go to division No. 1. He was driven back by after damp, but was quite certain that all were killed there. We pressed onward, groping against the coal walls in the darkness. I could hardly realize where we were, for my senses had almost left me. We found others who had escaped and were striving for the shaft. The groans and prayers of the dying were almost horriiying."

"When we were near the shaft we could see our comrades, some lying dead and others in a kneeling posture. I called to John Williams who was kneeling and put my hand on his head, but all he did was to utter a low muttering sound. The mine foreman heard the explosion and met us at the shaft. He hurried us to the surface to escape after damp which was becoming oppressive."

Joe Smith is a courageous man. He has a noble heart, though he is a plain simple miner. Joe was not hurt by the explosion. He had a boy, an only son, in the mine, who was hurt and, that seriously. The father heard his son's voice calling for help. Old Joe Smith rushed forward in the darkness until he reached his boy's side. He found him, put him on his shoulder and carried him to the top, when he fell from exhaustion. Many deeds of bravery will go unrecorded in that noble battle for life.

The news was soon abroad and then there was witnessed a scene which will never be wiped from the memory of those who were eye witnesses. Pictures in your mind the wives, mothers, sisters and children of those so dearly loved who gathered at the surface of the mine awaiting tidings from the body of the earth. Most of the wives were young women and mothers. Their pitiful pleadings and supplications appealed to the innermost chords of men's hearts. Crying for their loved ones whose fate they awaited, the relatives were overcome with anxiety. The scene at the mine beggars description. Searching parties attempted to enter

the mine early yesterday morning, but they were repulsed by after damp. Later in the evening the search began and was continued throughout the night. Searchers would rest three hours and renew labor later.

The fatality occasioned by the explosion is most remarkable. Over fifty per cent of those who entered the mines are dead. Five men lay on their backs, with charred faces and hands and their lives in the balance. Thirty-eight are dead and the number may be more.

Early yesterday morning the fire boss inspected the mine for gas and reported the atmosphere all right. As late as 8 a. m., the same report was made to Superintendent Cant by the mine foreman.

Just what caused the explosion is not definitely known. It seems certain that it was a gas explosion, that is, the miners say so. There was 250 pounds of dynamite in a chest in the mine and the mine officials say that it caused the explosion. The miners think that one of their number carelessly ignited a carb pile with a candle, thus causing the explosion. There are several theories.

Thirty-five Bodies Found.

This morning at 3 o'clock twenty-five bodies which had been gathered together in the shaft were brought to the surface.

The engine room was constructed in an ill-provised manner and the bodies placed there. Common cotton sheets covered the charred and disfigured features of the corpses from view. At 9:30 the day force reported that they had collected 10m bodies, making in all thirty-five found so far.

There was a great contrast between the scenes at the mine yesterday and today. The women were there yesterday, excited and overwhelmed with anxiety, hoping for the best. Today all hope had disappeared; beloved ones were mourned silently and many anxious little widows sat at their cottage windows watching for the approach of a letter bearing their dead.

Not a woman was at the mines today. Such was the difference.

Work of identification progressed slowly. The dead as they lay lined up in the engine room were reviewed by those who had lost dear ones. The horribly mutilated bodies of the dead made the strong turn away. It was an awful picture to see those black, charred, disfigured bodies as they lay cold in death. Their brothers in trying to identify their lost brother thought they had secured the right body; it turned out to be a negro.

After the bodies were identified they were shrouded at the mine. The company will pay burial expenses. But what is this to the widows and orphans who have been made helpless and dependent.

It is a sad day in Cumcock. The following is a list of the dead:

MARRIED MEN.
George Andrews, William Baldwin, John Oline, John Gauer, George Monroe and son Thomas, Harry Morris and son Randolph, Wright Tyson, Lucian Hollings and son Edward (aged 18), Frank McKoy, Iveson Smith, Joseph W. White, Louis White and Arthur White, colored, (three brothers) Joseph Thompson, colored, William Jenkins, colored, Charles Poe, Jerry Lambert and Gaston Lambert, colored, (brothers), John Shumburg, Fisher Hayes, colored, Clay Harris, colored, and a Pole named Unknown. **Unmarried Men.**
Walter Horton, colored, Lewis Sparkle, colored, John Melver, Jim Reeves, colored, John Norwood and four Poles who arrived at the mine only a week ago.

The Injured.
Joseph Miller, John Williams, William Smith, Dempsey Halsey, colored, and Jack Johnson.

The Cumcock Mines.
What is now known as the Cumcock mine was until a few months ago the Egypt mines. The name Cumcock is that of the greatest mine in Scotland. The Egypt mine was opened about 60 years ago. Just before the war an ordinance board made a favorable report on it as a site for a great ordnance foundry. During the war a good deal of the coal was used in the Confederate arsenal at Fayetteville, and some was sent to Wilmington for use on steamers engaged in running the blockade, in case their supplies of English coal ran short. The Egypt coal made a good deal of smoke and as a result two or three vessels using it were captured by the blockading fleet. The new company which owns the mine is composed of Pennsylvanians, and in the past two years has spent nearly a quarter of a million dollars in improving the plant.

The mine is 500 feet deep. There are two shafts. There are four levels or galleries, from which the coal is mined. These "levels" are rarely not level as they follow the coal "seams" or "leads." The mine is operated day and night, there being two gangs, "day shift" and the "night shift." The output of coal recently has been 150 tons daily. There is a contract to furnish 300 tons daily to the S. A. L., and within the past few days some coal has been sent to the new "shutes" at Wilmington from whence it is shipped to vessels. The quality of the coal has greatly improved as the mine has been worked. The length of the longest "level" is about 1,000 feet.

ALL WAIT ON THE SENATE

Appropriation Bill Under Consideration.

ENGLISH SAY, "JINGO,"

White Russia Hopes for Peace—War Fever Still Raging—Says He'll Raise Ten Thousand.

By Telegram to The Press-Visitor.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 20.—All interest in the Venezuelan crisis centered today in the Senate. The probability of some decided action by that body was awaited with the keenest expectation. The Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs held a session in the morning and informally discussed the bill. If a decision is reached, the committee will be ready to make a report this afternoon, when the bill will be formally referred to it.

The House took a recess until two o'clock to await the action of the Senate. When the Senate convened, Allen, Populist, was considering whether to allow the bill to go on third reading. It is thought to be the object to carry the bill over until tomorrow.

Russia Wants Peace.
ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 20.—Russian newspapers generally, which discuss Venezuelan questions, express the belief that it will have a specific issue. "Novoye" considers that the matter has met with interest in the west of Europe; that mediation is certain by the European powers and that a new and peaceful settlement will therefore be opportune.

Endorses Cleveland.
EMPORIA, Kan., Dec. 20.—Major-General Howard, retired, heartily endorses the position of President Cleveland.

Worth Something, This Man.
CHICAGO, Dec. 20.—Richard Powers, President of the National Seaman's Union, says if war is declared, he will recruit ten thousand men in thirty days, the majority bold soldiers.

England Says "Jingo."
LONDON, Dec. 20.—Newspapers continue to spring long editorials on what they call the apparent subsidence of the "jingo" fever in America and upon the coolness displayed in the Senate over the discussion of the matter.

OTHO WILSON ON THE "WAIL."
Says That It is a Political "Bluff." But Would be a Good Thing.

Railroad Commissioner Otho Wilson talked long to a reporter yesterday on the "war" with England and matters of a political nature generally.

"It's all foolishness to talk about war," said the Commissioner. Cleveland is just working a big political stroke. He has the advantage of being the first man to cry war, which is always a popular appeal."

"When the national conventions come along, though, you are going to see both old parties, and possibly the Populist party, too, have this Monroe doctrine in their platforms. The Democrats can't get any distinctive issue out of that."

Mr. Wilson expressed the belief that both the old parties would not declare for gold and stated that if they did the Populists would carry the country with a silver platform. As to State matters, he said that he was not sure but that the Republican State convention would not ignore silver. "In that case the Populists will go it alone, and will win in a walk."

"If we do have war, it will be the very best thing that could happen, because it would enflame the currency."

SUGGESTIVE OF PANIC.

A Big Failure in New York and a Heavy Decline in Stocks.

By Telegram to The Press-Visitor.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—The failure of Sands & Co. is announced on the Stock Exchange. The full force of the war talk is felt in general and there is a marked decline amid heavy selling. There will be an export of five millions of gold tomorrow. Higher rates for money prevail. The selling movement continued this afternoon, carrying prices still lower, the decline in many stocks being suggestive of a panic.

The Strike Drags On.

By Telegram to The Press-Visitor.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 20.—The situation of the conductors and motormen's strike is unchanged. The fourth day opened with the company running a few cars on the principal thoroughfares, under police guard. Mayor Warwick is pleased with the decrease of lawlessness.

Big New York Failure.
By Telegram to The Press-Visitor.
NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—Nichols, Frothingham & Co., old established brokers, have failed.

"VANCO DAY."

Pretty Exercises at Metropolitan Hall Yesterday Afternoon.

BOLD BREAK FOR FREEDOM.

Allen Mitchell Stopped the Race at the Mayor's Court.

The sidewalk and the streets' end on both sides, proceeded slowly with a rapid moving mass of cheering, excited humanity that sprang from nobody knows where; a narrow lane down Fayetteville street between the crush of people; the dark, empy figure of a bow-legged negro man, flying with long strides along the edge of the crowd; two policemen running side by side like tameled beavers, their clubs swinging by their straps.

That was the sight that are often saw at 10:30 this morning, looking up Fayetteville street from the corner of Martin. And that was the spectacular part of Allen Mitchell's break from Mayor Russ court for liberty. At least that was what the general public saw.

Around the National Bank corner went the negro, shooting quickly around the cornering crowd, dashed there. But at Salisbury street he ran into a perfect pocket of humanity. And the pursuing police caught and put the hand cuffs on a man who had been stopped simply because he couldn't push through a crowd, twenty feet deep.

This morning Daniel Brown, a colored lad with wide, staring eyes and plaintive voice was arrested in the charge of stealing a pair of shoes. He stated that he brought them from Allen Mitchell. So the latter and a witness, named by Brown, were summoned.

The trial had not commenced Chief Heart had commenced his examination Mitchell, standing with in the rail heard the questions. He turned slowly around at first. Then his eye traveled from Mayor Russ to the police, from them to the door. Then came the bound; the Mayor's office door slammed in the face of the officer Mitchell, with officers Upchurch and Creighton in pursuit, half rushed, half fell down the nearest house steps. At the door the negro, coming like a cannon ball, struck a bystander. The man went down. Another got in the way of the door of freedom. A topknot hat back could not have gone over opposing man any more nickerly.

But at Salisbury street these were too many to run over. Spanting and limping, so painfully that you would never have thought so much speed was in those legs, Mitchell was marched to jail.

In five minutes Fayetteville street was so quiet that a stiller narrow chip sounded loud and shrill.

To Receive \$12,000 Damaged.

The Supreme Court has rendered its opinion confirming the verdict of the jury in the case of W. R. Daniel, administrator of the Petersburg Railroad Company, in which the plaintiff was awarded \$12,000 damages. The suit was brought by Mr. W. E. Daniel as administrator against the Petersburg Railroad Company for \$26,000 damages for the killing of Charles D. Kee, at Garysburg, by John F. Liffey, December 29th, 1893, while the latter was deputy agent of the defendant company. The case was tried three times in the Superior Court before a verdict could be reached by a jury. The two first trials resulted in hung juries, and at the last trial the jury brought in a verdict for \$12,000. The railroad company appealed to the Supreme Court and that tribunal rendered their opinion as above stated.

The President's Rapid Work.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—The message of President Cleveland on the Venezuelan boundary dispute, which is destined to be one of the most important of our State papers, was prepared with remarkable rapidity, considering the length of the document and the importance of the subjects treated. The President wrote every line of it without having recourse to dictation. Returning to Washington Sunday afternoon, he had a conference with Secretary Olney and Secretary Lamont that night, and then, sitting down to his task, he worked non-stop until nearly 4 o'clock Monday morning. The result was fifty-four pages of manuscript in the President's peculiarly small hand, and it was all in print before 11 o'clock that same morning, and was on its way to Congress shortly after noon.

Mysterious Disappearance.
The Wilmington Star says: A gentleman arriving here from Southport yesterday said that Mr. Sam S. Drew, registrar of deeds of Brunswick county and a member of the firm of E. F. Davis & Drew, merchants, had mysteriously disappeared and his whereabouts were unknown. He conveyed his property to Mr. Fred Harper and Mr. E. F. Davis, but it was found that the property was already mortgaged for full value, to a gentleman in the country. Mr. Drew left home on the 16th inst., to come to Wilmington, and has not been heard from since.

The Sproe, Stuck Fast.

By Cable to The Press-Visitor.

SOUTHAMPTON, Dec. 20.—Six tug made every effort to float the Sproe without avail last night. The boat was running twelve knots when she struck the rocks.

Gossip at Washington

Rumors of an English Money Panic Bluff.

To Unload Securities.

Hill Introduces a Bill to Make Confederate Army Veterans Eligible in the U. S. Army.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Such a wave of anti-war patriotism as has greeted President Cleveland's message notifying Great Britain that the Monroe doctrine is not a historical myth, but a tangible policy that the United States is prepared to maintain by force of arms, has not been seen by the present generation. The White House has been flooded with messages by wire and mail from all sections of the country, containing not only congratulations, but offers of volunteers by thousands from organizations of veterans, both Union and Confederate. Congress forgot its past antagonism towards the President and gave him the authority to appoint a commission to investigate and report the true boundary between Venezuela and British Guiana, and appropriated the money to pay its expenses, and to show Great Britain that no bluff was being made, a bill has been introduced in both houses of Congress appropriate \$400,000, to be immediately available, for strengthening the military armament on our sea coast and the Canadian frontier. Congress, like the President, fully recognizes the tendency of European governments to make light of the Monroe doctrine, and it is determined to let them learn differently, if it takes a war to teach them the lesson.

Secretary Olney is also getting high commendation from all quarters. His masterly communication to Lord Salisbury is justly regarded as the best interpretation of the Monroe doctrine ever printed, one which should be used as a text book in every school in the United States. It has placed him at one bound in the front rank of American statesmen, and was never excelled by anything written by his great predecessor in the office of Secretary of State, Daniel Webster. He has also earned his name to be very frequently mentioned as the Democratic candidate for President next year.

Rumors have already reached Washington of the intention of English financiers to frighten the administration by attempting to bring on a money panic by unloading American securities held by them. Those rumors exist no doubt because such an action would be more costly to the British than a war would be. The silver men in Congress would welcome such a move on the part of the British, as they believe it would result in the United States setting up an independent financial policy of its own. This country has too many resources which its patriotic citizens would place at the disposal of the government to be frightened by such rumors.

Senator Hill has introduced a bill in the Senate to repeal the law which prohibits those who served in the Confederate army and navy from holding commissions in the United States army or navy, and he will push it when Congress reassembles, January 3d, after the holiday recess.

On the Republican side of the House there are some new shows, but honorable of none, easily holds his own at the close of business. He attempted to rescue Cannon, of Illinois from the drawing he was getting at the hands of Eli Spenser Crisp, in connection with three election committees, so as to railroad the contested election cases, and not only failed to help Cannon but got himself jeered at by the entire House. To make his failure to help Cannon more conspicuous Bontelle asked, after having been shut out on the election question by Mr. Crisp, for five minutes to make a speech on the Hawaiian question. He got a laugh instead. The question is often a key after one of Bontelle's exhibitions of himself, "How does he get to Congress from a prohibition State?" By the way, Bontelle made another exhibition of himself by denouncing those Republicans who joined the Democrats in applauding the President's Monroe doctrine message.

Democratic Senators were not greatly surprised when they learned that the Republican caucus had treated the Populist Senators much better than the Democratic Senators in the distribution of the chairmanships of committees which it is customary to allot to the minority in the Senate. They suspected some time ago that the Republicans had made a deal with the Populists; now they know it. The Populists all get chairmanships, either of a standing or a select committee, while the Democrats with a membership of only five less than half of the Senate only get twelve chairmanships, five of standing committees and seven

NEWS GATHERED IN A DAY

Condensed and Put in a Readable Form.

FACTS AND GOSSIP.

Interestingly Told as Picked Up on the Streets and Various Points About Town.

Mr. W. W. Jenkins, a prominent citizen of Wake Forest, was in the city today.

General Smith D. Atherton, of Illinois is here to spend the holidays with his daughter, Mrs. Trydale Cobb.

Mr. T. B. Alderson late yesterday afternoon received a telegram announcing the sad death of his sister-in-law Mrs. Chad A. Alderson, of Baltimore.

Last Thursday at the residence of the brides parents on East Davis street Miss Rose Ellis Smith was married to Mr. Fabian O'Neal, "Squire Barber" officiated, and the newly wedded couple left immediately for their home in the country, twelve miles east of the city.

The new afternoon paper, the Daily Gail, made its appearance yesterday with Mr. R. D. Wicker as editor and Messrs P. D. McGowan, W. A. Jones and E. J. Wicker as proprietors. It is five column folio, independent in politics, and the first issue makes a neat and creditable appearance.

Rev. D. H. Tuttle was last evening given by the members of his congregation a thorough, old-fashioned "pounding." The entire Methodist congregation gathered in the church and then marched in a body to the parsonage, where they soon filled the larder and left much besides to their pastor.

Mr. M. Maxwell, who has for several years held a position with Mr. John U. Smith, will on January 1st take a position with Mr. William McClure, who will conduct the place formerly the "Central Cafe." It will be the "Bonanza" after the New Year. Mr. Maxwell will be glad to see his many friends at the new place of business.

Mr. J. G. Harris, of the Harris Litch Springs, of South Carolina, is in the city. This water is largely used in Raleigh, and is largely appreciated by the drinkers of mineral waters. The analysis shows this water contains about one third more lithia than any other natural lithia water on the market.

The Press-Visitor's special correspondent from the scene of war yesterday quoted Mr. Fellow, of Raleigh, as saying that Lord Salisbury was a "dom'd awse." According to latest advices Lieutenant Decker, of the English volunteers, also made an anti-war statement. The fact that Mr. Decker is a lieutenant in the army makes his remark significant. It is rumored that he will resign, as there is in Raleigh an attraction which would make it exceedingly unpleasant for the gentleman to go to England, and come back at us with fired bayonet.

Xmas at the Schools.

At the Centennial and Murphy schools today some five hundred children were made happy by Christmas feasts given by Superintendent Howell and the teachers.

At Centennial school the children of the six primary grades were gathered together in two charmingly decorated rooms.

At Murphy school the children were in one prettily decorated room. At both schools exercises were held consisting of songs and recitations by the children, singly and collectively. Then the good things were passed around by two teachers.

A reporter, with Superintendent Howell, visited Murphy school. The exercises were nearly over, but he had the pleasure of hearing the children sing several choruses, and also of hearing a song and oration from "Col" Jim Thomas, at once the brightest and most popular of Murphy boys.

School "let out" today for the holidays; the children entered on their vacation with happy hearts.

Keeps the Lead.

As usual the Press-Visitor leads the procession. So far as heard from it was the only paper in the State which printed the news yesterday afternoon of the awful disaster at the Cumcock Mine. The Press-Visitor was from twelve to fifteen hours ahead of all its contemporaries.

Thought It was War.
By Telegram to The Press-Visitor.
JAMES CITY, Dec. 20.—The residents on the heights were awakened early this morning by a terrific explosion. Many rushed to streets, some thought war was already declared. Investigation showed that Charles Gerhard's fire works factory had exploded. Fortunately nobody was present. The loss is considerable, but light.

A Gracious Gift.

It is reported that a millionaire by the name of Palmer, of New York, has given Lion College a donation of \$100,000. It is said Mr. Palmer has been thinking for some time of making the college a present, but his best friends had no idea the gift would be so large.