

WILMINGTON POST.

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THE WILMINGTON WEEKLY POST.

IS PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY. SUBSCRIPTION: One Year \$6.00, Six Months \$3.50, Three Months \$2.00.

The Constitutional Convention.

Several friends have written as making inquiry as to when, in our opinion, the Constitutional Convention will assemble. We know no more in relation to it than others.

A Beautiful Extract.

The following elegant paper on Time, is, we believe, from the pen of Paulding. "I saw a temple reared by the hands of man, standing with its high pinnacles in the distant plain."

Religion in Politics.

However men differ as to introducing religion into politics, none deny that religion should be brought into politics. National questions, especially as managed by professional politicians, need the infusion of Christian principle.

CONGRESS.

Dec. 2.—The Senate met at 11 1/2 o'clock. Prayer by the Chaplain. Letter received from Secretary of the Treasury, in regard to Col. Hibbard's sale of captured and abandoned property.

Petitions presented: From Kansas, for the introduction of impartial suffrage, within the jurisdiction of Congress.

From Alabama, praying for relief from cotton tax.

Mr. Corbett, of Oregon, introduced a bill to substitute gold notes for legal tender notes, and to facilitate the resumption of specie payments.

Mr. Chandler offered a resolution which was adopted, instructing the Attorney General to furnish to the Senate a list of persons pardoned by the President since May 1, 1865, who have been convicted of counterfeiting United States bonds, greenbacks, currency, or coin, with date and recapture, name, and name of person recommending.

Twelve o'clock having arrived, the President pro tem, announced that the present session of the Fortieth Congress stood adjourned without day, and immediately called to order the

SECOND SESSION.

The Secretary was directed to inform the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate was present, and it was ready to proceed to business.

In accordance with a resolution offered by Mr. Anthony, and adopted, Messrs. Anthony and Hendricks were appointed as the usual committee to notify the President thereof, and ask him if he had any communication to make.

On motion, it was ordered that the Senate meet hereafter at 12 M.

The Senate then took a recess until 1 o'clock.

After the recess— A bill was introduced by Mr. Stewart, to establish a national school of marines. Tabled and printed.

Mr. Fowler introduced the following bill, which was laid over and ordered to be printed: Be it enacted, &c., That so much of the internal revenue laws as authorize the collection of a tax on raw cotton, be, and the same is hereby repealed: Provided, however, that the provisions of this act shall not apply to cotton that has been purchased from the original producer, and that this act shall take effect from and after its passage.

RESOLUTIONS OFFERED.

By Mr. Drake, for information, viz: whether any part of the salary of any United States Judge has been withheld on account of the non-payment of taxes.

By Mr. Thayer, inquiring whether Edward Cooper assumed the duties of Assistant Secretary of the Treasury November 30, and by what authority he did so.

By Mr. Cannon, permitting Admiral Thatcher to receive a decoration from the King of the Hawaiian Islands.

It being announced by the proper committee, that the President will communicate in writing next day, Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

Committee on banking and currency instructed to inquire into the expediency of changing the law on taxation of National Bank Stock, so that the stockholder may pay tax in the city or town where he resides.

Mr. Wilson, of Indiana, made a personal explanation with regard to Mr. Churchill. He believed Mr. C. to be an honorable, honest and patriotic man, that he had acted in accordance with his sense of duty.

Mr. Paine offered a resolution instructing the judiciary committee to inquire and report whether under the Constitution of the United States and the law of nations, Congress has the discretionary right to prevent or refuse an appropriation to pay for the Russian purchase.

Resolutions of the Cincinnati Common Council in reference to national finances, and in favor of the repeal of the cotton tax. Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

A resolution directing the Secretary of the Treasury to suspend at once all further action in execution of a contract for the supply of spirit metres for the detection of distillation frauds until the House can inquire into the subject. Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

On motion of Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, the Committee on Accounts, Naval Affairs, Public Lands, Foreign Affairs, Post Offices, District of Columbia, Territories, Commerce, Invalid Pensions, and Indian Affairs, were authorized to employ clerks during the Fortieth Congress, at \$4 per day when actually employed.

The Speaker then proceeded to call the States for resolutions.

By Mr. Brooks: Declaring that in the opinion of the House the contraction of the currency four millions per month, authorized by law, but subject to the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury, ought, during the present emergency of commerce, manufactures, and trade in the country, to cease. He moved the previous question.

The House refused (45 to 16) to second the previous question, and.

Mr. Rogers rising to debate the resolution, it went over until the rule.

thinking on the subject; and the committee proposed to act on it as soon as possible, but not without some little deliberation. One reason why the committee had not hurried to a report on any of those subjects was that it had yet to get the reports of the Secretary of the Treasury and his various subordinates.

Mr. Ela offered a resolution instructing the Committee of Ways and Means to inquire into the expediency of authorizing a new loan, payable after ten years, and redeemable after thirty years in coin, by the issue of five per cent. bonds, interest payable semi-annually in coin, taxable at the rate of one per cent, to be deducted from interest when paid; also, providing for notice to holders of Government obligations now due, or hereafter to become due, that they may receive such bonds in exchange or payment according to the tenor of such obligations. Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Maynard, the Committee on Banking and Currency was directed to inquire into the expediency of requiring national banks, from the 1st of May, 1868, to deposit their circulation in coin.

On motion of Mr. Gravelly, the Committee of Ways and Means was directed to inquire into the expediency of reducing the national revenue on tobacco.

Mr. Ashley, of Ohio, introduced a joint resolution, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States. Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

[It declares all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and who are subject to its jurisdiction, citizens of the United States, and of the State or Territory wherein they reside—makes all such citizens, over twenty-one years of age, except untaxed Indians, electors where they establish and maintain free public schools for the accommodation of all children—renders ineligible to seats in Congress, or any military or civil office under the government, all who were members of any secession convention or Legislature, or who held a commission above the rank of captain in the rebel army, &c., and provides that the validity of the public debt shall not be questioned, and that no part of the rebel debt shall ever be recognized, or payment made for the loss or emancipation of slaves.]

General Sherman at the Capital.

Every soldier of the least distinction, every one who by his patriotism and ability had made a popular record in the field, the Democracy have in turn assiduously courted and attempted to corrupt to their pro-rebel standard with all the arts and agencies at their command. General Sickles was for a while thus assiduously courted. The Democracy labored to corrupt him by the most liberal offers of lucrative positions of honor, but all failed to seduce him from his fealty to the loyal cause in defence of which he had so gallantly fought.

He refused to stain his patriotic record, or his patriotism, by uniting with the rebel enemies of his country. He had bravely fought and conquered them in the field, and he would not lower the standard of the republic before the seditious foe, still striking, although beaten, at the life and liberties of the nation, or be a party, even though it would humiliate the national cause in the dust at the feet. From cajolery, from efforts at bribery, from flattery, from the Democracy very naturally proceeded to proscription and vituperation. Sickles proving steadfast and incorruptible in his faith to the loyal flag, he was upon false pretences, and under circumstances which were intended to be disgraceful, but which redounded to his honor, was removed from his command of the Second Military District. Now, again, with the vindictive littleness so characteristic of the Democracy, Sickles has been mustered out of his brevet rank as a Major General of Volunteers, and ordered to his regiment.

Sickles is but one of a number of similar cases. General Gregory, refusing to be the tool of rebel tyranny in Maryland, and who by the upright, humane, and patriotic administration of his charge in that State has incurred the hatred of the rebel majority, and been mustered out of the United States service as a Major General of Volunteers; and the distinguished, justly honored, and patriotic chief of the Bureau of Freedmen and Refugees—General O. O. Howard—is also to be mustered out of his brevet rank as a Major General of Volunteers; but it is added by the pro-rebel organs, as if it was a concession, Howard is to be retained in his lieut. rank as chief of the bureau. That is democratic justice to the loyal soldier.

Grant, Sherman, and Sheridan—have each in turn been subjected to the arts of the Democracy. They have each been claimed and paraded before the public by the pro-rebel press as Democrats, and in turn been offered the very questionable honor of a Democratic nomination for the Presidency.

Such an honor seems to have been estimated by each of them at its proper value. Grant and Sheridan indignantly spurn it. Both are consequently now experiencing all the malvolence it is possible for the pro-rebel organs to vent in their daily vituperation of them; and Sherman, it is very probable, in consequence of his recent patriotic speech, at St. Louis, which is a plain rejection of their profane offer of a nomination, will soon feel the full weight of their malice. His sentiments and theirs cannot possibly be reconciled.

Not long ago, upon the authority of the executive organs—the *Intelligencer*; the *N. Y. Herald*; the *Boston Post*; and *Data*—stated the particulars of the Presidential programme for a violent resistance to the constitutional authority of Congress in the matter of impeachment, which they pretended was obtained from the mouth of the President himself, and part of which was Sherman would return to Washington between the 10th and 17th of November, to take command of the Department of Washington as generalissimo of his Accidency's forces. Some of their statements have certainly been verified. Troops from every possible quarter have been transferred to this District, all the garrisons of the Department have been doubled, the troops in pretended inspection reviews have been paraded with great flourish of music upon our streets, and every effort made to frighten or intimidate Congress from the exercise of its constitutional functions. But the 10th and 17th of November have passed, and Sherman has not arrived. A telegram, indeed, from him, has been received by Grant, stating that he will not be here before the 1st of December; and the organs now admit that they have been at fault with reference to his movements. But they apparently had no doubt of their statement when it was made. They made it boldly and positively upon the authority of the President himself, and it is not doubted that the original design of the

President, upon appointing Sherman here, was to place him in command of the Department, or in some position in which he might be used in his political and criminal projects against the representatives of the nation. He needed Sherman's name to cover his violent designs. But Sherman evidently refused to be so used, and his Accidency's organs now profess to know nothing of his arrival here, as it is now stated upon other authority that he has been again ordered here by General Grant, with the approval of the President to act as general-in-chief while Grant holds the position of Secretary of War.—*Great Republic*.

Gen. Grant's Annual Report.

As has been announced heretofore the report of General Grant as Secretary of War and General of the Army is completed and has been laid before the President. It will show that one of the first objects to which the General addressed himself on entering the War Office on the 12th of August last was the reduction of expenditures, to which end many officers were required to dispense with various indulgences which they had been enjoying at the expense of the Government. The Bureau of Rebel Archives, and the Bureau for the Exchange of Prisoners, were turned over to the Adjutant General's office, by which a large number of clerks and several officers were dispensed with.

The sale of large quantities of surplus stores relieved the Government of considerable expense for guarding and storage, saving the cost of numerous store-houses, and the salaries of a large number of employees. A considerable reduction has also been effected in the expense of maintaining troops along the routes of travel across the plains, although this is still heavy. The strength of the army, September 30, 1867, was 56,815; number of recruits, 34,191; desertions, 13,608. Recruiting has been very successful. It is recommended that the term of enlistment be changed from three to five years, and a change be recommended in the system of courts martial and punishments. The volunteer force has been reduced to about two hundred commissioned officers, who are retained by special acts for service in the Freedmen's Bureau.

No recommendation is made as to the continuance or discontinuance of the Freedmen's Bureau, but he leaves the matter with Congress.

In the office of the quartermaster General over \$11,000 accounts have been examined during the year, amounting to more than \$300,000,000, and there remain to be examined accounts amounting to nearly \$50,000,000 more.

The report embraces some facts in relation to cemeteries for the interment of Union soldiers, of which there are 308, including eighty-one known as "national cemeteries." About a quarter of a million interments have been made in these cemeteries, and there remain some seventy-odd thousand to be interred. The total cost of these cemeteries when completed will be about three millions and a half.

The indebtedness of Southern railroads to the United States on the 30th of June last was a little less than \$6,000,000, a reduction of \$2,000,000 since the last report.

In the office of the Inspector General there have been received and recorded over four hundred thousand bounty claims under the act of July 28, 1866, about one-fourth of which have been settled, at an expenditure of something over \$9,000,000.

The report of the Chief Engineer will recommend that surveys for river and harbor improvements should be continued, especially upon the Western rivers.

It will appear from the ordinance report that the arms and other ordnance stores which had accumulated at the Southern arsenals have been removed, and are now in charge of the Ordnance Department. An appropriation is recommended for the establishment of an arsenal between the Missouri river and Rocky Mountains for the storage of arms for the use of troops serving on the plains. Some twenty-three thousand Springfield muskets have been converted during the year into breech-loaders, and the troops serving on the plains have been armed with them. These arms have proved very effective weapons in the campaign against the Indians.

The Board of Visitors to the West Point Military Academy speak favorably of the condition of the institution and its usefulness. Sixty three cadets graduated in June, and were commissioned in the army.

As the regular army is now about four times as large as before the war it is thought that the number of cadets now admitted to the military academy is insufficient to supply it with officers, and it is therefore recommended that the present number, which is limited to one for each Representative and Delegate in Congress, and ten at large, be increased by considering a vacancy existing in each Congressional district when its cadets enter the second class.

The total estimates of military appropriations required for the fiscal year, ending June 30, 1868, is \$77,124,708.08.

For office General Army \$30,000 00
For Adjutant General's Office 85,000 00
For Military Academy 149,315 00
For pay of cadets, &c 188,707 00
For Q. M. General's Department 28,180,066 20
For Q. M. deficiency estimates 13,500,000 00
For Q. M. contingencies 100,000 00

Medical Department 41,780,066 20
Pay Department 15,000 00
Engineer Department 22,412,068 00
Ordnance Bureau 10,529,769 88
Bureau Refugees and Freedmen 1,538,084 00
Inspector General No appro'd.
Bureau Military Justice " "
Subsistence Department " "
Signal Service \$27,000 00

This estimate is based upon the expenditures for the current year, and it is thought it may exceed the actual requirements of the service. The establishment of peace with the Indians, if effected, will result in a great reduction of expenditures. Over \$13,000,000 of the present estimate is to cover a deficiency in last year's appropriation.

The continuance for another year of the additional pay allowed to officers by the last Congress is recommended.

In relation to the military districts of the South General Grant says that their commanders are, so far as their military duties are concerned, under subordination to the General of the Army and War Department. Their civil capacity they are entirely independent of both, except in matters of removals, appointments, and detail. It is but fair to the District Commanders to state that while they have been thus independent in their civil capacities there has not been one of them who would not yield to a positively expressed wish in regard to any matter of civil administration from either of the officers placed over them by Constitution or acts of Congress, so long as that wish was in the direction of a proper execution of the law, for the execution of which they alone are responsible. Gen. Grant adds that he is pleased to say that the Commanders of the Southern military districts have executed their difficult trust faithfully, and without bias from any judgment of their own as to the merit or demerit of the law they were executing.

The reports of Gen. Schofield, Canby, and Pope have already been published. That of General Ord represents that the whites generally are opposed to the reconstruction acts, and that the extension of suffrage to the negroes has increased the feeling of hostility to them and to Northern men, and General Ord thinks that a larger military force than now employed will be required to protect the freedmen in their rights. Reports have not yet been received from Generals Sickles, Sheridan, and Mower.

Weston Beats Time.

CHICAGO, November 28.—Weston reached Chicago this morning at 10 o'clock, and has won his wager. The excitement on his arrival was intense. For miles out from the city the roads were thronged all the morning with people anxious to greet the young pedestrian, and the streets through which he passed to reach the Sherman House, where he now is, were packed with people. The police had some difficulty in making a way for him, the crowd were so impatient to give him a welcome, but he was finally escorted to his room at the Sherman House in safety. He says that the attempt to walk one hundred miles, starting from Silver Creek, failed because his feet were badly swollen. He reached Conneaut, 91 miles, in good conditions otherwise, and asserts positively that he could have made the remaining nine miles in the two hours and thirtyseven minutes left, but that his attendants would not allow him to start. They argued that a continuation of the tramp on badly blistered feet would jeopardize the final result, and he thinks were right.

On the second attempt, starting from Toledo, he walked 55 miles in 11 hours 10 minutes. This brought him to Stryker, Ohio, which he had been informed was only 42 miles from Toledo. On making inquiries he became satisfied that still greater discrepancies existed between the figures on his carefully prepared time table and those furnished him by intelligent residents of the places through which he passed. He will publish a full statement in a few days in regard to the last trial, from Waterloo to South Bend, Ind., 16 miles. He says the whole journey, from beginning to end, was made in rain and fog, and over the worst roads he has ever travelled. When he started from Waterloo (at midnight) the rain was falling in torrents, and it was so dark that it was necessary to employ a guide to lead with a lantern, and two men to light the pedestrian. All night long he kept on Kendallville, and Warsaw, to Logansport, a distance of more than 40 miles (the time table says 35) his route was over muddy roads and under a drenching rain. Along the roads, he says, the people from the farms and villages, had collected to see him, and nearly every roadside church and school was occupied by men and women driven from the roads by the storm. These buildings were all lighted and heated, and until he became accustomed to the novel sight he thought the pious residents of the country were holding religious meetings, and that the children attending night school. He made Logansport in nine hours. At Gosben they sent out a brass band to play for him along the road to Elkhart, 12 miles. At Gosben the wagon horses, tired out for the third time since the start from Uica, were shipped by rail to Laporte. At South Bend he was received with the greatest enthusiasm. Outside of the town he was met by a squad of fifty policemen, who had been detailed to protect him and lead him in safety to the town. Here he felt great fatigue, and flatly refused to move an inch further, although he had three hours and seven minutes in which to make but 14 miles. "After the terrible journey I had made," said he, "I felt that the remaining 14 miles would be the longest walk I had ever undertaken." This afternoon he will probably go to the Opera House—this evening certainly. The people are clamorous to see him, and he will speak to them to night from the stage. He has been called upon to-day by a large number of citizens, but at this hour is taking a little rest.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

The Vote for a Convention—Efforts Made to Defeat It—The Particulars of the So-called Riot at Wadmalaw Island. (Special Correspondence of Wash. Chronicle.)

CHARLESTON, S. C., Nov. 27, 1867. Official returns from but three districts have been received at military headquarters. I am satisfied that the State has been carried for a convention, but for the reason given in my last viz: the insufficient number of polling places, the majority will be very small. Many registered colored voters lost their votes by removing out of the precincts in which they were registered the opposition having employed them temporarily as laborers, and then removed them beyond their precincts in order that they might thereby lose their right to vote, and thus be counted against a convention. The reported disturbance on Wadmalaw island, about eight miles from this city, has been very much magnified. The facts are briefly these: Messrs. Chamberlain and Hurley, two noisy individuals, having failed to secure their nominations as delegates to the convention from Charleston, proceeded to John's and Wadmalaw islands, and nominated themselves in that precinct, and having probably been defeated they circulated the report that the regular nominees are rebels; hence the excitement, which manifested itself in high words and firing of a few fowling pieces into the air, literally ending "in smoke," although it was reported at headquarters that fifty white persons had been murdered in cold blood. The fifty were only political "men in buckram."

Algerian Jugglers.

Seven Algerian jugglers and snakes charmers, who first exhibited in Paris, we believe, are now giving their disagreeable performances in London. They are Mahometans of Africa of Aissa Houba, and call themselves African convulsionists. Their tricks would seem well calculated to throw nervous people in the audience into convulsions. The London Morning Post says: "A number of snakes were produced; they were about four feet long and an inch thick. These one of the performers, Kmdia Ben Mustaffa, coiled round his head and allowed to bite his tongue until they hung at full length from his mouth. The next performer was Mahomed Ben Omar, who ate the bowl of a wineglass, and crushed the metal between his teeth with considerable gusto. A number of other feats equally surprising followed; and then came the grand sensation scene. Mahomed Ben Ali Batata balanced himself on a naked sword, and subsequently tied a rope round his naked body, but without occasioning any pain. He next seized an instrument which seemed to act like a centre-bit, and having inserted the point in the left eye, worked the handle round until the eyeball was forced three parts out of its place, presenting a most horrible appearance. The man himself did not, however, seem to suffer inconvenience, though the perspiration stood on his face, and his breath heaved as if considerable difficulty was experienced in breathing. The next feat was to puncture himself with skewers. This was effected by forcing one through the tongue, another through the lip, and a third through the cheek. To prove that the perforation was real he walked among the audience, and allowed any one sufficiently curious or sufficiently sceptical to examine the holes and to touch the skewers. Several persons availed themselves of the privilege, and expressed themselves satisfied. This experiment was attended by a very partial and insignificant hemorrhage. A tall negro, Haradi Ben Ali, then presented himself, having danced frantically to the music of the tom-toms until the necessary amount of excitement was engendered in the system, proceeded to hold a lighted torch to his neck, chin and mouth, without suffering any inconvenience. He subsequently placed a lump of live charcoal in his mouth, at which cigars and lucifer matches were lighted. The charcoal was at first held in its place by the teeth, but was afterwards placed on the tongue, where it remained for several minutes. The convulsionist who was good enough to gouge out his eyes then played with live snakes, and eventually bit off the head and tail of one, which he masticated with Eastern gravity, and threw the decapitated portion to the audience for examination. The snake was similar to one of those which had hung suspended from the tongue of Kmdia Ben Mustaffa. These and other feats equally wonderful and disgusting followed, all of which were performed with apparent ease by the Africans. The effect left upon the spectator by these extraordinary performances was the reverse of grateful."

Mr. Frank Buckland, in his paper *Land and Water*, attempts an explanation of some of his feats. The snakes they handle are not poisonous, but belong to a harmless species common in France and England. The man who thrusts skewers through his tongue and the back of his neck, has permanent holes for their introduction, and does not suffer more pain than when a lady puts on her earrings after leaving them off for some time. Mr. Buckland does not, however, attempt to explain all of the tricks, but says in conclusion: "Altogether, I do not recollect having seen an exhibition which combines so many horrible and truly sensation-fights in so short a space of time."

Starvation.

The English have their own ways of doing things, and nothing can make them believe that their way is not the best way in the world for them. In England, when bread is too dear, a mob of two or three thousand roughs collect and stone the bakers' windows, or break in and rob them of their bread. In Paris the Government fixes the maximum price of the loaf and pays the extra cost to the baker. A physician writes to the *Times* that hundreds of persons in the Isle of Dogs are calmly dying of starvation; if it were one of the South Sea Islands, some place to which missionaries are sent, we should have a subscription, and a ship loaded with provisions despatched forthwith; but the misery is that the Isle of Dogs is only a low-lying region of the Metropolis of Great Britain, on the River Thames, where the failure of aliphuilding has left a large population to starve. Close upon the horror of the hurricane in the West Indies has come an explosion in one of the largest coal mines in Wales, causing the death of two or three hundred miners. The whole mine is a ruin and on fire—perhaps a third of the scorched and mangled bodies are recovered. Whole families, all the males, lie dead together, with the women mourning over them. In one house, on a stone floor covered with old sacks, lie the blackened bodies of a father and three sons. The scene is most distressing, and it is one of a long series of such accidents, which might have been prevented, had the Government or the owners of the mines done their duty. Gas accumulated from lack of ventilation; it is set on fire by defective lamps or open lights. In either case it is manslaughter by negligence. The Government should require every mine, like every place of public resort, either church or theatre, to be thoroughly ventilated. A very small tax would pay for the required respectation. But it is useless to urge such things on people who hold that the less a Government does, the more perfect it is, and who believe that with free trade, and free competition, everything will regulate itself. But coal mines will not regulate themselves; they blow up every few months and destroy the lives of the poor workers; Fenianism does not regulate itself, nor breed riots, nor starvation.

The Mission to Austria.

New York, December 2.—Horace Greeley publishes a card declaring that he has not been officially notified of his appointment to the Austrian mission, and is therefore not a liberty to accept or decline, but that he does not intend leaving his country pending the Presidential election, and suggests that it is a waste of stationery to apply to him for the post of secretary of legation. It is understood that Hon. S. B. Cox, formerly of Ohio, will be nominated by the President for the position declined by Mr. Greeley.

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The English have their own ways of doing things, and nothing can make them believe that their way is not the best way in the world for them. In England, when bread is too dear, a mob of two or three thousand roughs collect and stone the bakers' windows, or break in and rob them of their bread. In Paris the Government fixes the maximum price of the loaf and pays the extra cost to the baker. A physician writes to the *Times* that hundreds of persons in the Isle of Dogs are calmly dying of starvation; if it were one of the South Sea Islands, some place to which missionaries are sent, we should have a subscription, and a ship loaded with provisions despatched forthwith; but the misery is that the Isle of Dogs is only a low-lying region of the Metropolis of Great Britain, on the River Thames, where the failure of aliphuilding has left a large population to starve. Close upon the horror of the hurricane in the West Indies has come an explosion in one of the largest coal mines in Wales, causing the death of two or three hundred miners. The whole mine is a ruin and on fire—perhaps a third of the scorched and mangled bodies are recovered. Whole families, all the males, lie dead together, with the women mourning over them. In one house, on a stone floor covered with old sacks, lie the blackened bodies of a father and three sons. The scene is most distressing, and it is one of a long series of such accidents, which might have been prevented, had the Government or the owners of the mines done their duty. Gas accumulated from lack of ventilation; it is set on fire by defective lamps or open lights. In either case it is manslaughter by negligence. The Government should require every mine, like every place of public resort, either church or theatre, to be thoroughly ventilated. A very small tax would pay for the required respectation. But it is useless to urge such things on people who hold that the less a Government does, the more perfect it is, and who believe that with free trade, and free competition, everything will regulate itself. But coal mines will not regulate themselves; they blow up every few months and destroy the lives of the poor workers; Fenianism does not regulate itself, nor breed riots, nor starvation.

The Mission to Austria.

New York, December 2.—Horace Greeley publishes a card declaring that he has not been officially notified of his appointment to the Austrian mission, and is therefore not a liberty to accept or decline, but that he does not intend leaving his country pending the Presidential election, and suggests that it is a waste of stationery to apply to him for the post of secretary of legation. It is understood that Hon. S. B. Cox, formerly of Ohio, will be nominated by the President for the position declined by Mr. Greeley.

Weston Beats Time.

CHICAGO, November 28.—Weston reached Chicago this morning at 10 o'clock, and has won his wager. The excitement on his arrival was intense. For miles out from the city the roads were thronged all the morning with people anxious to greet the young pedestrian, and the streets through which he passed to reach the Sherman House, where he now is, were packed with people. The police had some difficulty in making a way for him, the crowd were so impatient to give him a welcome, but he was finally escorted to his room at the Sherman House in safety. He says that the attempt to walk one hundred miles, starting from Silver Creek, failed because his feet were badly swollen. He reached Conneaut, 91 miles, in good conditions otherwise, and asserts positively that he could have made the remaining nine miles in the two hours and thirtyseven minutes left, but that his attendants would not allow him to start. They argued that a continuation of the tramp on badly blistered feet would jeopardize the final result, and he thinks were right.

On the second attempt, starting from Toledo, he walked 55 miles in 11 hours 10 minutes. This brought him to Stryker, Ohio, which he had been informed was only 42 miles from Toledo. On making inquiries he became satisfied that still greater discrepancies existed between the figures on his carefully prepared time table and those furnished him by intelligent residents of the places through which he passed. He will publish a full statement in a few days in regard to the last trial, from Waterloo to South Bend, Ind., 16 miles. He says the whole journey, from beginning to end, was made in rain and fog, and over the worst roads he has ever travelled. When he started from Waterloo (at midnight) the rain was falling in torrents, and it was so dark that it was necessary to employ a guide to lead with a lantern, and two men to light the pedestrian. All night long he kept on Kendallville, and Warsaw, to Logansport, a distance of more than 40 miles (the time table says 35) his route was over muddy roads and under a drenching rain. Along the roads, he says, the people from the farms and villages, had collected to see him, and nearly every roadside church and school was occupied by men and women driven from the roads by the storm. These buildings were all lighted and heated, and until he became accustomed to the novel sight he thought the pious residents of the country were holding religious meetings, and that the children attending night school. He made Logansport in nine hours. At Gosben they sent out a brass band to play for him along the road to Elkhart, 12 miles. At Gosben the wagon horses, tired out for the third time since the start from Uica, were shipped by rail to Laporte. At South Bend he was received with the greatest enthusiasm. Outside of the town he was met by a squad of fifty policemen, who had been detailed to protect him and lead him in safety to the town. Here he felt great fatigue, and flatly refused to move an inch further, although he had three hours and seven minutes in which to make but 14 miles. "After the terrible journey I had made," said he, "I felt that the remaining 14 miles would be the longest walk I had ever undertaken." This afternoon he will probably go to the Opera House—this evening certainly. The people are clamorous to see him, and he will speak to them to night from the stage. He has been called upon to-day by a large number of citizens, but at this hour is taking a little rest.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

The Vote for a Convention—Efforts Made to Defeat It—The Particulars of the So-called Riot at Wadmalaw Island. (Special Correspondence of Wash. Chronicle.)

CHARLESTON, S. C., Nov. 27, 1867. Official returns from but three districts have been received at military headquarters. I am satisfied that the State has been carried for a convention