

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

In the event of a European war England will not be caught napping.

The Chinese troops may need drilling badly, but they need courage more.

Wm. M. Evans, recently elected U. S. Senator from New York, is sixty-seven years old, and claims Boston as his birth-place.

A GRAND JURY at Ottumwa, Ia., failed to return indictments against violators of the prohibitory law against persons arrested for lynchings.

Writs civil war raging in five States of Central America we may well postpone considerations looking toward extending our trade in that region.

A BILL has been introduced in the lower House of the Missouri Legislature requiring that telegraph and telephone wires in all cities of the first class shall be laid under ground.

It is reported that General Grant is afflicted with cancer of the tongue, caused by excessive smoking of cigars. The same thing is said to have caused the death of Ben Hill, of Georgia.

MICHIGAN abolished the death penalty several years ago, and since then there has been a marked increase in the number of homicides in the State. It is asserted that in no other civilized section in the world are there so many murders annually as in Michigan.

The recent earthquake in Spain has been as destructive to human life as a hard-fought battle between armies of moderate numbers, while the ruin of property has been very extensive.

MARINE earthquakes have long been known to geologists. To them may probably be attributed the loss of many vessels whose disappearance has never been accounted for.

PHILADELPHIA'S City Hall tower, now in course of construction, and at a great height, has begun to crush the stones on which it rests.

The rarest of the coins called by the Government are of the dates of 1790 and 1804. The former is valued at \$5 to \$25 according to condition.

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The proposition to offer a large reward for the detection of the perpetrators of the dynamite outrages which have been so frequent in England during the past two years doubtless would soon bring a brood of informers to the front who would reveal the springs of the various conspiracies and show what proportion were real and dangerous.

A WRITER in the Physicians' and Surgeons' Investigator declares, on the strength of a year's practical test, that a solution of bi-sulphide of carbon will afford prompt relief in cases of nervous and many kinds of dyspeptic headaches.

There is to be a smooth-face revival everywhere, among statesmen, politicians, parsons and dudes. Beardless men, it is said, are once more to rule the social world.

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TERRIBLE AVANCHES.

Villages in Italy Buried Under a Snow-Slide.

Appalling Destruction of Life and Property.

Rome, January 22.—The appalling destruction of life and property by avalanches continues in the French department of the Hautes Alpes and in Piedmont. A portion of the village of Lamona has been destroyed, and a number of persons entombed.

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ALONE AND DEAD.

An Erying Girl and Her Little Babe Deceased and Buried—A Sad Life History.

BALTIMORE, Md., January 21.—Tillie McPherson, a young lady aged eighteen years, daughter of a well-known Episcopal minister who died recently, was found dead in bed in the garret room of an old dwelling on the outskirts of the city at an early hour this morning.

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A DRUGGIST'S MISTAKE.

A Well-known Southern Detective Dead.

NEW ORLEANS, January 23.—Captain M. J. Farrell, organizer of Farrell's Agency and Protective Police, died suddenly last night aged fifty-nine. Captain Farrell was one of the best known detectives in the United States.

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STATE NEWS ITEMS.

Legislative Proceedings.

COLUMBIA, January 23.—SENATE.—Mr. Crox offered a joint resolution approving the Missouri Canal treaty, and requesting the Senators from Ohio to vote for the ratification of the same.

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BATTLE IN THE DESERT.

The Advance of the English Forces on the Way to Relieve Gordon Attacked.

London, January 21.—A dispatch has been received at the War Office from General Wolsley, dated Khartoum, January 21, 8 p. m., which reads substantially as follows: General Stewart has had a heavy engagement with a portion of the Mahdi's forces near the Abu-Klea wells, about twenty-three miles this side of Metemah.

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COMMERCIAL LAW.

Employer and Employee—Contract to Discharge.

It was employed by a company as a cotton-seed which H. reported he had bought, but from some one's fault it was not delivered to the boats, and the superintendent in the country wrote that he was dissatisfied with H. and recommended that H. should be discharged.

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NEWSPAPER POSTAGE.

The House Committee on Post-offices Considering Bills Relative to the Reduction of Newspaper Postage.

WASHINGTON, January 20.—The House Committee on Post-offices and Post-roads will, next Friday, consider various bills relative to the reduction of newspaper postage. The committee is in receipt of a memorial on the subject, prepared by Messrs. Morrison, Munford, Dr. Locke and William F. Nixon, a committee representing newspaper publishers West and North-west.

A Trapper's Heroic Death.

KANAWHA, Ill., January 23.—A. H. Butts, Secretary of the Chicago Lumber Company, just returned from a logging-camp, near Metropolltan, Mich., a point in the pines, forty miles north of Escanaba, says that on the night before he left the camp the mercury had dropped to forty-three degrees below zero.

Peccoliar Death.

EDWARDSVILLE, Ill., January 23.—A peculiar case of death occurred near here this morning. Robert Jones, a young colored man aged nineteen, recorded about seven miles west of this place, had up to the time mentioned been in perfect health and was of strong physique.

Shaking the Dead.

CINCINNATI, O., January 21.—While the funeral cortege of Wm. Kohlhass was proceeding to the cemetery, the horses attached to the hearse became unmanageable.

U. S. Senators.

WASHINGTON, January 20.—Senator Vance was re-elected for North Carolina.

The Illinois Legislature.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., January 23.—The middle of the Illinois Legislature still continues. Mr. Haines still claims his seat as speaker and refuses to step down and out.

Dynamite Threat.

MONTREAL, January 20.—The Chief of Police has received a letter notifying him that if he does not stop interfering with tavern-keepers, he will blow up the City Hall with dynamite.

Frozen to Death While Sleighbagging.

DECATUR, Ill., January 22.—A number of young people were returning to Iowa this morning in a wagon-bred sled from a suburban dance. Among the party was William Hallett. The thermometer registered 24 degrees below zero, and before the party had reached town it was found that Hallett had frozen to death.

Disastrous Collision.

GRAND CROSSING, Ill., January 20.—Two freight trains on the "Nickel Plate" collided near this place to-day. Four engines were wrecked and one engineer killed. Property loss \$30,000.

Aged Lady Dead From Burns.

ANNAPOLIS, Md., January 23.—Matilda Chas. aged sixty-three, a lineal descendant of Samuel Chase, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, was accidentally taken from her night dress by a candle which had fallen and set her hair on fire, and died this morning.

A Murderous Heist.

RELEVILLE, Ont., January 22.—Alman named Barton, living at Lime Lake, while drunk last night, struck a sick daughter with a chair, killing her. The girl's mother ran to the nearest neighbor. The night was bitterly cold, and the mother died from exposure and excitement.

XLVIII. CONGRESS.

Second Session.

WASHINGTON, January 18.—SENATE.—Senators paid tributes to the memory of Henry B. Anthony, deceased, Senator from Rhode Island, passed resolution of respect, and adjourned.

HOUSE.—Bills were introduced to indemnify California for indebtedness incurred in the war of 1846-47. The bill provides for taxes on distilled spirits in bonded warehouses, immediately on the expiration of the war.

WASHINGTON, January 18.—SENATE.—Several bills of minor importance were introduced. The bill for the relief of the Indians was passed.

HOUSE.—A bill was introduced prohibiting the sale of land to the Indians in the United States. The House sat as a committee of the whole on the Indian Appropriation Bill.

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Disasters in the Desert.

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The recent earthquake in Spain has been as destructive to human life as a hard-fought battle between armies of moderate numbers, while the ruin of property has been very extensive. The convulsion will take rank among the greatest the world has known, although some other earthquakes have been more fatal, because occurring in more densely populated localities.

MARINE earthquakes have long been known to geologists. To them may probably be attributed the loss of many vessels whose disappearance has never been accounted for. The earthquake shock, striking with vast force upon the hull of a ship, would instantly drive the mast through the bottom, and cause foundering so quickly that none on board could escape.

PHILADELPHIA'S City Hall tower, now in course of construction, and at a great height, has begun to crush the stones on which it rests. The edges of great blocks of stone chip off, and the grinding pressure from above plays havoc with the uneven surfaces below. The damage is being repaired as well as may be. This tower was designed to go higher than the Washington monument, and to be the highest structure on earth.

The rarest of the coins called by the Government are of the dates of 1790 and 1804. The former is valued at \$5 to \$25 according to condition, and the latter at \$5 to \$15. A fine cent of 1804 recently sold in New York for \$200. It was an uncirculated cent, which had been found in a box of cotton, and was perfectly bright. The cent of 1809 is another rare coin, good specimens of which are worth \$1.50 to \$5. In the year 1815 no cents were coined.

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The proposition to offer a large reward for the detection of the perpetrators of the dynamite outrages which have been so frequent in England during the past two years doubtless would soon bring a brood of informers to the front who would reveal the springs of the various conspiracies and show what proportion were real and dangerous. It is not creditable that in such a country as England, where law is supreme, the people should be subjected to the unreasonable periodical scares which have been indulged in of late because of the discovery of explosives.

Needs Funds.

WASHINGTON, January 21.—The Garfield Hospital is in need of funds, and unless prompt assistance is afforded, will close.

Philadelphia has not failed to turn to account the experience of New York with its elevated roads. The company which is to construct an elevated railroad in this city starts out with a defined liability for all the damages that may arise from the construction of the road, it is bound to pay five per cent. of the gross receipts to the city, and before it breaks ground for the enterprise it must deposit \$1,000,000 worth of the bonds with the City