

## Current Events.

### The Yellow Fever.

The total number of yellow fever cases at Memphis up to Saturday last was 531; and during the week there were 68 deaths, 22 of which were from other causes than yellow fever. The weather was clear and cool, and the number of cases on Saturday and Sunday showed a considerable decrease from the average of the previous four or five days. Of the twenty-five new cases Sunday, fifteen were colored persons, but all of the four deaths were of whites. A death at Grayson Springs, Ky., and another at Bally Station, Tenn., create some alarm. The Memphis authorities state that there is no method of communicating with the outside world, and that the fever could not have come from that place.

### Storms and Calamities.

Locust Grove Hotel, Long Island, a Summer resort, was burned on Friday night. The fire was caused by the explosion of naphtha in the oil room. The fire was communicated from a burning lamp in the hand of an employé, while the naphtha was being drawn from a barrel. The building burned in twenty minutes. Joseph W. Pierce, the manager of the hotel, William Schulhardt, the watchman, whose carelessness caused the fire, Louisa Crane, a chambermaid, and Katie Rafter, one of the cooks, lost their lives. Ex-Mayor Gunther, who owned the building, and others, had to run for their lives.

A serious accident occurred on the Atlantic City Narrow Gauge railroad, near Philadelphia, on the afternoon of August 14. An excursion train of nine cars and a freight train came into collision. The train orders sent to the freight conductor were so improperly worded that they were misconstrued. The following are the names of the killed: conductor, A. E. Worthington; brakeman, E. Wood; brakeman, Jacob Degenther; news-agent, J. Smith; Charles School, a deaf mute. Two were injured.

The severest rain storm of the season occurred in this city and throughout the Eastern States on Monday. The storm commenced in Florida and reached Baltimore on Friday evening. At Cape May on Monday the streets were flooded, trees torn up, and telegraph poles laid prostrate. This was more or less true in many other places. The Hoboken (N. J.) meadows were swamped, and communication between the houses on the flats and the streets was cut off. It is said that the heaviest storm experienced by the sailors on Lake Erie since 1869, prevailed during the same time, and navigation was much interrupted thereby.

Storms in England have been equally severe and continuous. In the neighborhood of Liverpool last week torrents of rain fell steadily for fourteen hours, causing serious damage. At Sheffield a severe thunderstorm, accompanied by terrific rains, destroyed five houses. The lower portion of the town of Birmingham was flooded, as also were the forests of Dean and Vale, Gloucester. The Irish mail was obliged to return to Chester, where the rain fell for over thirty hours, flooding the whole city and making traveling almost impossible. The Trent and Derwent rivers in Derbyshire have overflowed their banks and flooded all the lowlands. On Sunday the rain was very heavy in the vicinity of London.

The Tremont Temple, one of the most prominent buildings in Boston, was burned Thursday night. It occupied the site of the old Tremont Theatre, in Tremont-street, between School-street and Hamilton Place, directly opposite the Tremont House. It contained two halls, the larger known as the Temple, and the smaller and the lower hall as the Meisonaon. In the Temple have been held many political conventions. Famous lecturers have spoken there; Charles Dickens gave his readings there, on his last visit to America, and there the Rev. Joseph Cook has delivered his Thursday lectures. The loss is about \$200,000, and insurance \$100,000. At one time it was supposed that the Parker House was on fire, causing great alarm.

### Personal and News Items.

The fourth annual Summer gathering of the Mac clans (McCartneys, McCurdys, and McNairs,) at Long Point, Conesus Lake, Livingston county, took place on Wednesday of last week. There was not the usual amount of literary exercises this year, and no formal addresses. Letters were read from about a dozen of the absent; officers were chosen for the coming year, and after the venerable Rev. Thomas Aitken had offered a few fitting remarks, Rev. Samuel Jessup led in prayer. This has become a notable anniversary, greatly enjoyed by old and young. It was announced that a genealogy of the McNairs had been prepared for publication.

The Methodist Protestant Sunday-schools are to devote the last Sunday of the current month to services memorial of the late Rev. Alexander Clark, when a collection will be made in aid of his family.

Professor Geikie, the distinguished Edinburgh geologist, arrived in this city from Scotland on Monday, August 11. He left on Tuesday for the Western States, where he will remain, studying the mountain systems until October next. Then he will deliver a series of lectures in Lowell, Mass.

"The Law and the Law-Breakers," is the title of a speech made "at a mass meeting of citizens of Norwich, held in the Great Tent, Monday evening, August 11th, 1879, the day after the public defiance of the Law of Connecticut securing a weekly Day of Rest." The speech-maker is Leonard Woolsey Bacon, "citizen of Norwich," and the speech was printed "by unanimous vote of the meeting." It seems to us a most timely and cogent utterance.

Hon. R. W. Thompson, the Secretary of the Navy, is deserving of praise for his effort to Americanize that branch of our national service. It does not minister to our complacency to know that the bulk of the seamen in our Navy are foreign mercenaries, more than three-fourths being unnaturalized aliens, many of whom were deserters from the naval and merchant services of other nations, and equally ready to desert from ours. The Secretary rightly considers that such an important service should be intrusted to our own citizens, and having been authorized by Congress to enlist 750 naval apprentices, has succeeded in creating an enthusiasm among the boys of the West as well as the East, which gives promise that our Navy will again be officered and manned by robust, intelligent, and patriotic Americans.

The remains of Mr. John Johnes, a grandson of the Rev. Dr. Timothy Johnes, who administered communion to General Washington in the First Presbyterian church of Morristown, N. J., in the Winter of 1780, were buried on the 13th inst. in the cemetery of that church.

The death is announced of the Rev. Dr. Lorimer, principal of the Presbyterian College of London and the author of several well known works, including a memoir of John Knox.

Mrs. Swing, wife of Rev. Prof. David Swing of Chicago, died Aug. 2d, near her old home at Oxford, Ohio, of consumption. She had been an invalid for years.

Mrs. Chisholm is not to go to Mississippi to prosecute the murderers of her husband, two children, and two friends, without good counsel and advice. General Stewart L. Woodford, with his daughter, will accompany her, and act as her legal counsel and friend.

An instance of extreme matrimonial longevity is recounted in the Rochester Democrat. Recently at Crystal Springs, Yates county, the wife of Francis La Costa died at the age of 94 years. She was a native of Bristol, Ontario county, and was married Jan. 1, 1803, in Ulster county. Their married life extended over a period of 76½ years. They had five children, three of whom are living. They have 19 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren living.

"Way down upon the Swance river," the "plantation" melody so popular everywhere, and which has been set to a Sunday-school hymn and extensively sung in Methodist churches, is by the late Stephen C. Foster.

New wheat is selling at \$1 to \$1.05 in Western New York; new potatoes, 50c.; old corn, 45c.; old oats, 36 to 40c.; beans, 78c. to \$1.

On August 14, lightning struck an iron tank on the United Pipe line, opposite Parker, Pa., containing 18,000 barrels of oil. The tank was torn to pieces, and the burning oil flowed down the hillside, destroying five oil wells, five dwellings, and a tank of 5,000 barrels of oil. The total loss is \$40,000.

The Secretary of War has ordered the contracts for headstones for soldiers' graves to be awarded to D. W. Whitney of Troy, N. Y., and Samuel G. Bridges of Keokuk, Iowa. The price of the headstones, furnished and erected, will, under these awards, average about \$2.28 each.

The library of the late Caleb Cushing has been received at the rooms of Mr. C. F. Libbie, No. 2 Beacon street, in Boston, and is now being catalogued for sale at auction about October 1. It is exceedingly rich in works on International Law and kindred subjects, and there are six cases of Chinese books.

On Wednesday of last week, an engineer on the Lake Shore Railroad observed a huge tie on the opposite track, which he removed just in time to prevent an East-bound train from being wrecked. Harry Look, a tramp, who was arrested, confessed the crime, said he was out of money, tired of life, and desired imprisonment to avert starvation.

Three sons of the Siamese twins Chang and Eng, are now living in Sumner county, Kansas. They recently appeared in the United States land office in Wichita, in a contest in which one of them was a defendant and the other a witness. They are spoken of as intelligent, wide-awake citizens.

Edison's telephone has been placed in operation in the carbonate mine of Leadville, Col., and works well. The mine will henceforth be worked by orders given by telephone, much time being thus saved. This is the first experiment of the kind ever made. It is proposed to introduce Edison's electric light in the mines.

Professor Otto Struve, the eminent astronomer in charge of the Russian Observatory at Pulkowa, near St. Petersburg, has arrived in Washington for the purpose of inspecting the United States Naval Observatory, and testing the power of the great equatorial telescope. The object of his visit to the United States is to make arrangements for the construction of a telescope for the Russian Observatory, the disk of which shall be up to the very limit of vision, and as large as the firm of Alvan Clark & Co., of Cambridge, Mass., can make.

The Adirondack surveying party, consisting of ten persons, made a start, or was expected to, on Saturday week, from Potsdam as the point of beginning. Dr. C. H. F. Peters, of Litchfield Observatory, Hamilton College, is accurately establishing the latitude and longitude of Potsdam, and the longitudinal meridian thus obtained will be used as a base line from which all reckonings will be made. This survey will include the Adirondack region, locating its rivers, lakes, etc., of which a map is to be made.

The Social Science Association, which is to hold its meeting at Saratoga again this year, Sept. 9-12, presents an attractive programme. Papers are to be read by distinguished scientists and educators in the country, among them President Porter, Hon. S. Wells Williams, Prof. Wm. T. Harris, Hon. J. W. Dickinson, Justin Winsor, Esq., Ex-president Woolsey, and others, on topics relating to jurisprudence, social economy, finance, prison discipline, sanitary science, etc.

The Jeannette, which left San Francisco July 9th, on her way to the North, in pursuit of fame and the Pole, arrived at Port Illuluk, Island of Onalaska, on Aug. 2. She was to sail on Aug. 6 for St. Michael's, after taking a supply of fresh water and provisions. Port Illuluk is situated 53 degrees 52 minutes north; longitude 166 degrees 32 minutes west. A report to The Herald states that the vessel made the land in a dense fog. The administration of the ship is admirable, perfect discipline prevails, and the details of duty are strictly and cheerfully carried out. The spirits and health of the crew are high, provisions are abundant, and the scientific work is progressing, the naturalists being busy collecting specimens.

On Friday last a serious riot occurred at Quebec, Canada, in which two men were killed and many wounded. A few weeks ago the French section of the Quebec Ship Laborers' Benevolent Society adopted for themselves a new tariff of wages and rates. Since that time a deadly feud has been in progress between the French section, which numbers some three thousand, and the Irish, who count about two thousand of the original 5,000 of the parent society. The Frenchmen had a procession and were attacked by the Irish with the above results. In Lurgan, Ireland, on Saturday last, another riot broke out, when a force of police numbering 200 charged

on a mob with fixed bayonets. They were, however, beaten back and twenty of their number injured. Rival mobs fired at each other with rifles. One of the leaders had some dynamite in his possession, which exploded, injuring him, it is likely, fatally.

### Advices from Abroad.

The British Parliament was prorogued August 15. The speech from the throne referred to the faithful execution of the principal clauses of the Treaty of Berlin and the near realization of the remainder. On the subject of reforms in Turkey, the Queen spoke of the calamities of the war as explaining the delay, but declared her purpose to insist upon the Porte's compliance with its engagements.

A dispatch to the Times from Calcutta says that affairs in the Rumpa district of the Madras Presidency, growing out of the levying of a tax on palm trees, are so serious that the Duke of Buckingham has decided to proceed in person to the scene of the disturbances.

Sixty-three ladies presented themselves at the midsummer matriculation examination just held at London University. This is nearly six times as many female candidates as applied for the examination last January, at which women for the first time were admitted upon an equality with men.

The New Burials Act does not meet with favor among the English Nonconformists, to satisfy whose demands it was supposed to be framed. The churchyards in England are the property of the Established Church, and the use of the Burial Service of that Church is required, as a rule, at all interments.

According to a Liverpool paper, the Great Eastern, which has been for some time at Milford Haven, is to be fitted up with new boilers and machines, at a cost of £100,000, to carry cattle between Texas and London. She is capable of holding 2,000 head of cattle and 36,000 sheep.

A grandson of Burns has lately died at Dumfries, Scotland. "His father," says The Scotsman of Edinburgh, "was Burns' eldest son, and was at one time employed in Somerset House. The deceased for some years conducted a school at Dumfries; but after the death of his wife, whose maiden name was Mary Campbell, and who assisted him in the work, he had to abandon it, and subsequently he earned a livelihood by posting tradesmen's books, etc. At length he was compelled to seek refuge in the poorhouse, and through the efforts of friends, he was about a year ago, introduced into Moorhead's Hospital, where he died on Saturday morning."

During the first days of next month, on or about the 10th of September, there will assemble in Paris, an international convention of representative Israelites from all parts of the world. The Convention will take in a wide range of discussion, as committees will report on all matters affecting the status of Jews all over the globe.

The death of Louis Favre, the well known Swiss engineer and constructor of the St. Gothard tunnel, is reported. When he left the primary school, he had only a hundred francs. He died worth his millions. His death resulted from an apoplectic stroke after walking seven or eight miles in the tunnel with a French engineer, who had desired to inspect the progress made. So rarely do men live to see their greatest works completed.

Official salaries are very low in Germany compared with those in England. The entire salary of the Imperial Chancellor, Prince Bismarck, from all sources, both as Prussian Minister and Chancellor of the Empire, is only 54,000 marks (\$13,500). The highest salary of a Prussian Cabinet Minister is 36,000 marks. Pensions are on the same moderate scale. They are settled on analogous principles to those which govern the English civil service pension system.

An imperial decree is published at Vienna, August 14, constituting the new Austrian Ministry formed by Count Taaffe, who is President of the Council and Minister of the Interior. Several posts in the new Ministry fall to the Liberals, in addition to the portfolios which they previously held.

Two-thirds of Cyprus is at present "a parched, thistle-covered wilderness"; but Sir Samuel Baker says that there is a supply of water, believed to be inexhaustible, within a few feet of the surface, and in days gone by, when irrigation was practised, the sterile plain was a granary.

### A Thing of Questionable Value.

The efficacy of the new Pope's blessing will now be tested by M. de Lesseps, whose ship canal scheme received the benediction of Leo XIII. M. de Lesseps will need considerable aid from some source, if he cuts a channel across the Isthmus. The blessing of the late Pius IX. had no value on 'change whatever, and was reckoned an untoward incident by many.

### City and Vicinity.

The examination of the twenty-five thousand tenement-houses of this city is going slowly on. It will occupy, probably, three months or more. The inspectors, who are about equally divided between the two professions of medicine and civil engineering, are doing the work with, certainly hopeful, thoroughness.

The New York, Lake Erie & Western Railroad Company are building a new freight depot at the foot of Chambers street, which will extend 600 feet out in the water, making it 163 feet longer than any pier on the North river.