



Great Riot and Loss of Life.

On Thursday evening of last week our City was the scene of a most terrible and afflicting event—an event without a parallel in the history of our republic. No less than 17 persons were shot down in the street and 31 wounded some fatally, for five have died of their wounds since. There may be more wounded, as is generally the case in crowds, than the public is aware of. The news of this event has no doubt pierced the remotest parts of our country by the time we write, but still we believe that many of our readers will be pleased with our account of the catastrophe. Two men known among the play-going people of the world as great tragedians, were the remote cause of it. The name of the one is Edwin Forrest, the name of the other W. C. Macready. The former is an American, the latter a native born Irishman, some say, and some say an Englishman. When Mr. Forrest played in London a few years ago, he was hissed and severely criticised by the papers. To pay back this compliment some evil disposed persons among us determined that Mr. Macready should be driven from the American stage, and on Tuesday evening of last week, when he appeared at the Opera House, he was pelted from the stage by rotten eggs and chairs. Mr. Macready refused to play any more, but some of what are called our most respectable citizens (Washington Irving one of them) published a card requesting him to play out his engagement. At their request he consented. On Thursday he appeared on the stage and the house was beset inside and out by individuals who were determined it seems to drive him away by hooting within and throwing stones without. The military were called upon, and they were assailed, when the infantry, (after the "sour milk cavalry" fled,) fired two volleys and killed and wounded about the number mentioned. We have carefully read the evidence adduced before the Coroner, and we agree with the Jury, that bloodshed might have been avoided, if the business had been well managed. We only wish that the real rowdy characters who were at the root of the disturbance had suffered instead of the unoffending and innocent. There has always been a prejudice against the Opera House, because it is aristocratic. It is too exclusive for the feelings of our working people. It is a civil right no doubt though not a moral one. But what shall we say of

"The Theatre, it was from the very first the favorite haunt of Sin, though honest men maintained it might be turned to good account and so perhaps it might, but never was. From first to last it was an evil place, and now such things were acted there, as made the very devils blush, angels and holy men trembling retire."

The most sad and affecting part of this narrative is, that some papers and parties are endeavoring to make political capital out of the blood of their fellow creatures. No party had any thing to do with the matter and five of Macready's countrymen are among the dead.

In reviewing the evidence before us, we believe that the men who are primarily guilty of the whole evil, are the profligate gambling rowdies, sons of some wealthy families, who pay bullies and braggadocios to fight their quarrels. The working people although appealed to in flaming placards, had nothing to do with the disturbance—they are perhaps the quietest portion of our citizens. The hyenas of the mob are men celebrated for brawling patriotism, drinking and knocking down opponents on election days. These characters generally escape (through venality) the State Prison. We wish to see a return to the good old times, when men's patriotism will be measured by their noble and quiet demeanor to the law, instead of the now disgraceful process of rewarding with office and approbation, many whose conduct is a disgrace to the Republic.

Commissioner of Patents.

Thomas Ewbank Esq., of this city, known by his great work on 'Hydraulics,' and by others, evincing research, has been appointed Commissioner of Patents by the President.

We presume Gen. J. W. Harvey, was the choice of nine-tenths of the inventors of this city, and of the whole country, as far as he is known. At an adjourned meeting of the Inventors of this city, after full discussion, General H. received the unanimous vote of the whole meeting as their first choice.

The undue influence of one individual besieging the capitol has deprived the great majority of those interested in patents of having one of their own choice as Commissioner of Patents.—*Artisan.*

☞ We do not like to be invidious, because it is not the right way to answer a fair and honorable opponent. We believe that the Artisan is wrong and misinformed on the subject. The meetings of certain inventors held in this city who nominated Gen. Harvey, were composed of but a tithe of the inventors in this city, and those interested in patents out of the city know Mr. Ewbank better by reputation than Gen. Harvey. We do not say a word against Gen. Harvey—it is well known that he is an able man and an inventor of the very first order. We venture to make this assertion respecting the meeting of inventors in this city that nominated Gen. Harvey, viz. that it did him more harm than good. Why? Because the most officious members of that meeting were not practical mechanics. Now it is not generally known to many, how much influence our practical mechanics are beginning to exercise and not in any undue way, but just because our right thinking and leading men are now conscientiously, as a matter of justice, beginning to recognise their claims and extend to them the right hand of encouragement.

Pennsylvania Iron Ore.

The Reading Gazette says, the iron beds in the vicinity of our city, and indeed those within our limits have, within its last year or two received a large share of attention from those engaged in the business, and their labors seem to have met with great encouragement from the value of the ore which their excavations have discovered. On Penn's Mount, a mountain known to contain vast quantities of the ore, the most extensive and valuable veins of various kinds of iron have been discovered. For many years these rich deposits were abandoned and the openings had been entirely neglected, either for the want of capital or the absence of a proper spirit of enterprise, until they attracted the attention of our enterprising fellow-townsmen, George W. Oakley, Esq., who appreciated their value, and in the face of most discouraging barriers, sufficient to retard the progress of one less determined, he went to work with his men, and by personal efforts and skill, succeeded in drawing from the bowels of the mountain, ore as rich and as valuable as ever was found in the placers of the Sacramento.

Improvement in Plank Roads.

M. D. Coddling, of Rochester, has made an improvement in the construction of plank roads which appears to be worthy of consideration. It is arranged so that the wheels run lengthwise of the timber, which renders it much easier for the team, while the horse track is crosswise. The horse track will be worn sooner than the wheel track, and can be renewed without disturbing the latter.

Combined Boat and Waggon.

E. H. Howard, late Postmaster at Sheboygan, Wisconsin, has started for California in a boat wagon of his own construction. The box of the wagon is a boat, set on steel springs the whole of which is covered with oil cloth, making a very comfortable house. The establishment is so arranged that, upon reaching a river, the running gears of the wagon can be unshipped in a few minutes, and taken aboard the boat while crossing the stream. This is the true American spirit of enterprise and ingenuity.

Major Whistler died in St. Petersburg, Russia, on the 7th April. He was the well known American Civil Engineer employed by the Emperor to construct the grand Railroad to Moscow.

Manufacture of Gold.

The Liverpool Albion says:—"We have read that Boyle once very nearly succeeded in making gold; that he showed the experiment to Sir Isaac Newton, when both became frightened and threw away the ingredients.—A gentleman communicates to the editor of the Mining Journal, that having experimented some ten years ago on the stratification of the earth and the formation of mineral deposits he believes with truthful results, he turned up one of his old experiments a few days ago, when he found running in a kind of spiral string through one part a small quantity of gold. No gold was used in the experiment, and the conclusion arrived at is that it has been formed from some of the other substances. This, however, is nothing to what is asserted by an iron founder of this town. This gentleman must have discovered the true philosopher's stone, which so many sages of the olden time spent their lives in trying to obtain. He declares that he has found out a process by which he can change any quantity of iron into gold. Before three months are over he says we shall hear more of this marvel. He promises to produce gold in tons in short in any quantity."

[None of our readers we presume will doubt the above. Our mechanics turn out tons of gold every week from their iron castings, and our farmers from their wheat and corn fields. The only gold used in the process, is skill and industry.]

Ancient Musical Instrument.

The Egyptian flute was only a cow's horn, with only three or four holes in it; and their harp or lyre, had only three strings. The Jewish trumpets that made the walls of Jericho fall down, were only ram's horns; the psaltery was a small triangular harp or lyre, with wire strings, and was struck with an iron needle stick; their sacbut resembled the zagg used at Malta in the present day, a species of bagpipe; the timbrel was a tamborine, and the dulcimer a horizontal harp with wire strings, and struck with a stick like the psaltery—such as are seen about the streets of London in the present day. Imagine the discord produced by 200,000 of such instruments while playing at dedication of Solomon's temple.

American Consuls' Fees.

The largest amount of fees received by Consuls abroad, according to a table recently published, is that of the consul at Liverpool, who in 1845, received \$9,963. The consulates at Rio Janeiro and London are worth \$9000.—Havana and Glasgow \$6000. St. Thomas and the Sandwich Islands each yield \$4000. The consul at Alexandria, in Egypt, receives a salary of \$3000. The consuls on the coast of Barbary each receive a salary of \$2000, and five in China receive a salary of \$1000 a year each; six other posts yield \$2000 per annum; eighteen are worth \$1000, and the remaining ninety consulates range from \$900 to \$4 per annum, much the largest proportion of them being worth less than \$500. The expectants of office will be able, from this exposition, to see which are the fattest places and to choose accordingly.

The Chemical Telegraph.

The Baltimore Clipper says we had the pleasure of witnessing the action of Bain's Chemical telegraph, last Saturday, and were much pleased with the facility, rapidity and accuracy with which communications were transmitted to and from Washington. The characters are impressed with great distinctness on the chemically prepared paper; and although a new alphabet has been introduced, it is already so familiar to the operators, that they read it with the same facility that they would plain printing. The line will soon be in operation as far as New York, from whence it will be extended by capitalists in that city to Boston and Halifax.

Death by Chloroform.

The Cincinnati Atlas says that a young man by the name of George, who was suffering from deafness or some other affection of the head, came to this city a few days ago, to submit to an operation for his relief. Chloroform was administered by the surgeon, that he might undergo the operation without suffering, in consequence of which the patient died.

Shoe Pegs.

At Vienna Village, in the county of Kennebec Maine there is a factory that makes 1,000 bushels of shoe pegs per annum. A great number of wooden pegs, are now sent to England where they are used in Cabinet work.

The logs are sawed into blocks of suitable length for the pegs, and the ends are planed smooth. Grooves are then cut on the ends of these blocks, crossing each other at right angles, and these form the points of the pegs. They are then separated by splitting the blocks, a knife being introduced between each row of points, corresponding with the grooving.

The machinery was invented by Thomas Morris of that place.

A Blazing World.

Lieutenant Maury, the Superintendent of the National Observatory, gives in a recent address:

It may be that there is now, at this very time, in the firmament above, a world on fire. Argus, the well-known star in the southern hemisphere, has suddenly blazed forth, and, from a star of the second or third magnitude, now glares with the brilliancy of the first.

A Mean Rich Man Fallen.

George Hudson, the English rail way King, has fallen. He was detected in a mean speculation by which he had pocketed \$70,000 as profit of shares of the Great North of England Line, the shares being sold above the market price.

This is as it should be, but there are many among us who would think that he was only a very cute man and would honor him more for that than if he were honest.

A Georgia Locomotive.

A new locomotive named the Native has been constructed at Augusta, Geo., under the superintendance of the chief machinist of the Georgia Railroad Company, Mr. W. Henderson. It has six driving wheels and weighs twelve tons, and is in every way said to be a beautiful piece of workmanship. The Southern mechanics are exhibiting the right spirit.

Statistics of Forks and Spoons.

A work on the "History of the Precious Metals," recently published in Hartford, Conn. says the value of the silver Tea-spoons in the United States is estimated at \$36,000,000; of Silver Table-spoons \$27,000,000; of silver forks \$4,500,000, and of plate and dining service \$5,500,000.

The Gold Dollar.

This beautiful coin has at last been issued. It is somewhat smaller than a five cent piece, and is very beautiful. It is our opinion that it is the most beautiful coin in the world.

Steamboat Competition.

There is great competition this season on almost all our rivers between rival steamboat companies. On the Hudson, the general fare is 50 cents, too little by half a dollar. On Lake Ontario steamboats have been running for 12½ cents from Toronto, passage that used to be 5 dollars. Well if companies carry passengers for nothing, it is all very well, but nobody thanks them. A fair uniform price is the best policy in the long run.

Calico Printing Machines.

There are cylinder printing machines in Messrs Hoyles print works, Manchester, England, which print a mile of 5 colors of calico in one hour. If fifteen of these machines work uninterruptedly for only ten hours each day, and for six days in the week, they would be able to print cotton dresses in one week for 160,000 ladies! The actual number of miles of calico printed by this eminent firm in a single year exceeds ten thousand more than sufficient to measure the diameter of our planet with.

A beautiful steamer is now on the stocks at Geneva, N. Y., destined for the Lake. Her length is 260 feet keel, beam 30 feet, including guards 58 feet, ho'd 18 feet. Her engine is to be of 500 horse power.

By excavations under the Inquisition rooms at Rome, a most horrid scene has been developed, of skeletons innumerable buried in the walls, and a reservoir where many were consumed by quicklime.