

The Nation.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 1887.

The Week.

THE President supplemented his active exercise of the veto power during the last two years by an application of the "pocket veto" to the River and Harbor Bill in the closing days of the session. This was a great public service. The bill was not only objectionable for the usual faults of log-rolling extravagance, but it was especially offensive because it committed the Government to the outrageous Hennepin Canal scheme. There is enough money left over from last year's bill for most of the work which ought to be done, and the remainder can better wait than to have jobs like the Hennepin Canal saddled upon the Treasury. The failure of the two houses to agree upon any fortification bill is unfortunate, but it is better than would have been their harmony upon some of the wild schemes which have been canvassed. Through such harmony at the very end, after a prolonged squabble, over \$11,000,000 was appropriated for a new naval establishment in a happy-go-lucky fashion which cannot be too severely condemned.

The current discussion as to the possibility of the President's making the River and Harbor Bill a law by affixing his signature days after the expiration of the Congress which passed it, is one which ought to bear fruit. Mr. Willis, the Chairman of the House Committee which prepared the bill, has made a study of the subject, and insists that, should the bill receive the President's signature within ten days from its presentation to him, no doubt could be cast upon its validity as a law by the courts. In support of this, he has called Mr. Cleveland's attention to decisions of the highest courts of Georgia, Louisiana, and some other States, sustaining the validity of laws signed by the Chief Executives of those States after adjournment of the Legislature, and he maintains that in the Constitution of all such States there is a method prescribed by which bills shall become laws substantially like that in the Federal Constitution. He claims that the Supreme Court of the United States has already virtually decided this question, by declaring with one voice a certain law upon the statute-books of the State of Illinois to be valid, though it was signed by the Governor after the Legislature had adjourned, the constitutional method of making laws in Illinois being practically the same as that indicated in article 1, section 7, of the Federal Constitution. A case is also cited where President Lincoln signed a bill after the adjournment of Congress which was held to be a valid law, though this precedent is rendered of little account by the fact that Congress subsequently passed an act specifically legalizing his course in the matter.

It is safe to say that all these pleas will avail nothing with Mr. Cleveland, supposing him to wish the River and Harbor Bill to become a

law, which is not the case. With the single exception of the Lincoln case referred to above, it appears to have been always held that the President's prerogative of participation in the legislation of Congress lapsed with the adjournment of that body, and this is certainly the most natural interpretation to place upon the language used in the Constitution: "If any bill shall not be returned by the President within ten days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the same shall be a law, in like manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their adjournment prevent its return, *in which case it shall not be a law.*" It would be anomalous, if not unjustifiable, for a President at this late day to assume the possession of a power which was not supposed to inhere in his predecessors during a period covering almost a century. But there is a great deal to be said in favor of an amendment to the Constitution which will explicitly confer upon the President the power of signing bills after the adjournment of Congress, not merely for ten days, but for a month. The provision of the New York State Constitution upon this subject, as amended in 1874, adopts the language of the Federal Constitution just quoted almost verbatim, and then adds: "No bill shall become a law after the final adjournment of the Legislature, unless approved by the Governor within thirty days after such adjournment." A similar power was vested in the Governor of Pennsylvania by the new Constitution adopted in 1873. In each case the system has worked greatly to the public advantage in these States, and it is obvious that the extension of a similar power to the President would work equally well in national affairs.

With this should be joined the provision incorporated in the New York State Constitution, that "if any bill presented to the Governor [President] contain several items of appropriation of money, he may object to one or more of such items, while approving of the other portion of the bill." If these two provisions were now a part of the Constitution, Mr. Cleveland might at his leisure go through the River and Harbor Bill, veto the Hennepin Canal job and other objectionable items, and, by approving the remainder, secure all the good of the measure without any of its harm. An amendment covering these two points, of thirty days after a session for the consideration of bills and of power to veto separate items in appropriation bills, ought to be started on its passage by the Fiftieth Congress. Public sentiment would compel its ratification by the Legislatures of the various States.

The fact is not yet appreciated that the President's attitude towards the pension craze did more than simply block the passage of the Pauper Pension Bill. It was Mr. Cleveland's position which also killed the arrears job. It will be remembered that Mr. Ingalls secured the passage, in the Senate, of a motion discharging the Pension Committee from all further consideration of the bill re-

pealing the limitation of time contained in the original Arrears Act of 1879, and everything indicated that the demagogues, who are always bidding for "the soldier vote," would be able to rush the scheme through both branches. But the veto of the Pauper Pension Bill arrested the progress of the arrears job, and it was never more heard of. This was a most indefensible measure. Senator Sherman three years ago properly characterized it when he said: "I deny in toto that there is any obligation in law or in morals or in good faith to our soldiers to remove the restrictions of existing law. It is not right for the soldier to apply for arrears." Mr. Sherman further showed that the repeal would probably mulct the Treasury in the enormous sum of \$246,000,000. And yet there is no doubt that, if Mr. Blaine had been elected President, this bill would have gone through Congress and have been signed, the platform of the Republican National Convention in 1884 having declared that "the Republican party pledges itself to the repeal of the limitation contained in the Arrears Act of 1879." The salvation of the country from this \$246,000,000 arrears job, as well as from the \$70,000,000 or \$75,000,000 annual addition to the pension roll involved in the Pauper Pension Bill, is thus due solely to the defeat of the Republican candidate for the Presidency in 1884.

The repeal of the Tenure-of-Office Act during the last days of the recent Congress solved one question that might have caused perplexity, namely, the President's right to fill, after the adjournment of the Senate and without calling an extra session, an office created by the Congress just adjourned. One section of that act, after giving the President authority to fill vacancies happening during a recess of the Senate, went on to say: "And if no appointment by and with the advice and consent of the Senate is made to an office so vacant or temporarily filled during such next session of the Senate, the office shall remain in abeyance, without any salary, fees, or emoluments," etc. Constitutional lawyers like Senator Edmunds have held very strenuously that under this provision the President could not fill a new office temporarily without the Senate's consent, and fears have been expressed that in this way the new United States Judgeship for this district, just created by Congress, would have to await a nomination until the Senate meets again. The removal of this nice legal point from the realm of discussion is only one of the benefits resulting from the repeal of the out-of-date Tenure-of-Office Act.

If Mr. George Frisbie Hoar possessed any sense of humor, he could hardly have had the assurance requisite for his performance in executive session of the Senate on Friday. During the campaign of 1884 nobody was more sure than the Massachusetts Bourbon that the election of Mr. Cleveland meant the relegation of the colored race to a condition of political if not indeed of physical servitude. On Friday Mr. Hoar rose to urge the confirmation, for the lucrative office of Recorder of Deeds in the District of Columbia, of a negro nominated for

that position by Mr. Cleveland, vouching for his good character, and declaring that he "had received letters from scores of the best people of Massachusetts commending the appointment." The Republican majority of the Senate yielded to the insistence of Mr. Hoar and Mr. Dawes upon Mr. Trotter's confirmation; but their retreat from the original rejection of a negro for the office simply because he was a Democratic negro, comes too late to affect the conclusion of all intelligent negroes in the matter. The Matthews rejection broke down the color-line, and the Trotter confirmation cannot restore it.

The long struggle over the question of retaliatory measures towards Canada because of her course in the fishery matter ended in the acceptance by the House of the Senate bill, which authorizes the President to prohibit Canadian vessels from entering American ports, and to prohibit Canadian fish, fresh or salt, and, if he wishes, all other Canadian products, from coming into this country, but does not authorize the exclusion of Canadian locomotives and cars from the United States, which last would practically amount to declaring absolute non-intercourse between the two countries. It seems doubtful whether occasion will arise for the President to exercise the power vested in him. Congress evidently does not consider that such an exigency exists, or it would itself have employed its prerogative of suspending commercial relations; and it will require a very strong case to compel Mr. Cleveland to use the extraordinary authority thus surrendered to him by Congress.

The Committee of the House which was sent out some months ago to investigate the causes and extent of the railroad strike in the Southwest, has presented its report, which contains nothing very new. It estimates the loss of the strike to the strikers at about \$900,000; the loss to the men who did not strike but were thrown out of employment by the strike, at \$500,000; the loss to the Missouri Pacific Railroad at \$2,800,000. The total ascertainable cost of the strike was thus \$4,200,000. The loss to the public through the stoppage or derangement of business is of course not ascertainable, but the Committee estimate it at "millions of dollars." It must be remembered, too, that the leader and author of all this mischief, Martin Irons, was and is now literally a drunken vagabond. The Committee, while acknowledging fully the lawfulness of strikes and of combinations to strike, condemn in the most unqualified terms the use of violence or of any species of coercion to compel men to strike, or to prevent their taking the place of strikers if so minded.

This is all, however, now a tolerably old story. The report is mainly interesting as furnishing a good illustration of what the effect of the continued or increased discontent of manual laborers on property and industry would be. Many people suppose, and many lecturers and writers talk, as if it were all going to end in some great revolution, or catastrophe, or cataclysm, in

which society would somehow be turned upside down, and the workingmen all ride in carriages; and have boxes at the opera, while the capitalists would go afoot and sit in the upper gallery. There is not the least likelihood of anything of the kind. What we have to expect, if the intelligence of workingmen does not increase, is simply a frequent repetition in various branches of trade or industry of strikes like that on the Southwestern railroads. The effect of this would be simply a considerable diminution in the rate of material progress, increased reluctance on the part of capital to invest in permanent enterprises, and a gradual decline in profits and wages. The United States, in other words, would become a much less prosperous country than they have been during the past fifty years. Their industrial condition would approximate to that of France or Germany or Italy under huge standing armies. The protracted presence of a large discontented, unintelligent, and unreasonable laboring population would produce almost precisely the same effects in trade and industry as large armaments and constant fear of foreign wars produce in those of European countries. Confidence in the future, which is the life of trade, would be greatly lessened, and the hopefulness which breeds the national energy would cease to be a national characteristic. Social cataclysms, in fact, are just as rare as physical ones.

The effort to increase wages by sheer force—and that wages are arbitrarily fixed and can be increased by sheer force, is the fallacy which underlies all the mistakes made by the labor organizations—never led to a more instructive failure than the failure of the workmen in the shoe factories at Haverhill, Mass. Haverhill was the home of a large and prosperous portion of the shoemakers of New England. But within the last two years manufacturers who made a million dollars' worth of shoes a year have moved their factories to other towns, and there is now work for 600 fewer shoemakers in Haverhill than there was two years ago; there is, too, imminent danger of another exodus of "capitalists." The machinery for making shoes is not difficult to transplant, and the business can be carried on at one town as well as at another if the manufacturers are permitted to enjoy "natural advantages." The "natural advantage" in this case is not free land, but free labor. The labor of Haverhill was enslaved by an organization which also took away the freedom of the manufacturers to employ labor, to discharge it, or to fix the price for it as their business demanded. That "capitalists" have gone from a community where they were thus hampered, is not the most significant result of this effort to raise wages by sheer force, for the working people who were denied employment have also gone to smaller towns, and have done the same kind of work for less pay. Every pair of shoes made by them has driven a pair made by the union workmen at Haverhill out of the market. Middle men in the trade are now taking a greater share of the profits than the large manufacturers took; for the small trader, who is neither Labor nor Capital, but a mere handler of the products of both, who has well nigh

been made useless by good commercial organization, is getting what ought to go into the savings banks from the working people, and into dividends for the capitalists. Haverhill is simply going back from the period of savings banks, and good wages, and dividends, and commercial organization to the period of the cobbler in his hut.

A short time since, the Department of State, in reply to a query from our Consul-General at Shanghai, concerning the construction of the Chinese Immigration Acts of 1882 and 1884, decided that Chinese nurses or body-servants were not such "laborers" as to come within the prohibitions of our law. The Treasury Department, having been requested by the Secretary of State to give effect to this decision, by instructing collectors of customs to permit the landing of such persons, referred the matter to the Attorney-General for his opinion. That officer has sustained the decision of the Department of State, and our port officers will be requested, in a circular letter soon to be issued by the Treasury, to let all Chinamen of this class come upon our soil. It seems, however, that body-servants are permitted, under this ruling, only to visit our shores, not to become permanent residents; and in no event are they to cease to be body-servants. They are allowed to come because they are "menials"; they must not dare to aspire to the grade of "laborers." A few years ago it was decided, as may be remembered, that Chinese laborers might be permitted to go through our territory to Canada, provided they secured "through" tickets, but that in no case should they be allowed to "stop over." They were required to be shipped, as one may say, in "sealed cars." Now we have another relaxation. Those of them who do not compete with any American laborers, except that contemptible class which "wears the garb of the serf," may attend their employers who come to the United States, but they must go back to China as soon as they doff this garb. What will happen if Chinese nurses and body-servants should dare to change their occupations, or refuse to depart with their masters who embark again for China, we should not like to say.

The Field Code unexpectedly passed the Assembly on Thursday, after it had been apparently hopelessly lost the day before. In the course of a single hour, its promoter, very young Mr. Ives, rose from the position of a discredited blockhead to that of an able and acute manager. All this was due to his physical energy and activity in hunting up six more votes for the bill in the lobbies and purlieus of the Capitol. These six voters knew and cared no more about the comparative value of the code and of the common law than of the comparative merits of the German and French guns. What they sought was to please the indefatigable Ives, and to do this they were doubtless willing either to make a radical change in the laws of a great commercial community, or go out and take a drink with him. The whole affair is really a dreadful farce. Whether the bill will pass the Senate under these circumstances we do not know.

The successful carrying out of the Republican plan to end the Senatorial contest in New

Jersey would be a subject of congratulation for many reasons, even if the Democrat who was elected by Republican support gave less promise of a satisfactory course at Washington than does Mr. Blodgett. A man of higher character than ex-Gov. Abbett has proved himself to be would have deserved defeat, after lending himself to the consummation of so foul a plot as the theft of the Camden County seat in the Assembly. This offence is concededly so gross an outrage that the condemnation of it in all political circles is likely to prevent another attempt of the kind for many years in New Jersey. Mr. Blodgett is still to be tested as a national lawmaker. But men of sound judgment, who have had business relations with him, say that, while lacking educational advantages and by no means an ideal Senator, he is independent and incorruptible, a man who knows his own mind and will not yield his opinions to the dictation of any "boss." He is in one sense a "railroad man," that is, he has for several years been in the employ of a railroad at a moderate salary. But it is said that he will not be a "railroad Senator," as so many of his predecessors have been. The Republican party in New Jersey will undoubtedly be strengthened by the defeat of Senator Sewell for a reelection, and it will have a better chance to elect a Senator in 1889, when Mr. McPherson's time expires, than if it had put a man of its own politics into the office now, by securing the necessary votes through questionable means.

We must defer till next week any careful estimate of the late Henry Ward Beecher's quality both as a preacher and writer and as a man. In bidding him farewell, the American people take leave, one may safely say, of the last of a grand generation—the most trumpet-tongued of all the orators who wrought the great revolution in politics, and we may add in morals, of which the war was but the outward and visible sign. His faults, like his virtues, were very conspicuous, and everybody heard enough of them in his lifetime. But, take him for all in all the American people will hardly ever look on his like again—will hardly ever see in pulpit or on platform any one who could so easily put an audience into the heroic mood, and who on the whole used his great power for such noble ends. The conditions under which such orators as he were bred are wholly changed, and any one who heard Beecher at his best may feel sure that he has had an experience of which the next generation will know nothing.

The death of such a man afflicts the public not only in what it takes away, but in what it brings, in the rush of little people anxious to attract notice, if but for a moment, by some association of themselves with the great man. There is reason to anticipate on the present occasion a horde of these mortuary speculators unusual in numbers and eagerness, for Mr. Beecher's eminence and singular prominence afford almost unique opportunity and temptation, while the people, as a class, who were nearly associated with him in life are not distinguished for the qualities of

reserve and restraint. Accordingly there are already portentous signs of Personal Reminiscences, Recollections, Impressions, Sayings and Doings, etc., designed chiefly not to throw new light on Mr. Beecher, but to explain that the narrator was honored with his friendship. We hope the newspapers will as far as possible disappoint these lovers of notoriety.

There is an undeniable nervousness on the part of many Mexican politicians over the question of the succession to President Diaz. The experiment of 1880, in choosing a mediocre lieutenant to keep the executive chair warm for his chief for four years, was not satisfactory to either Gen. Diaz or the country. The difficulties in the way of a discreet choice, which will have to be made two years hence unless some way can be devised of getting round the constitutional prohibition of reelection, are already seen to be enormous. They were reflected in last fall's excited talk about making Diaz Dictator. A more sober manifestation of the vague apprehension with which the close of the President's term is anticipated appears in the proposed amendment to the Constitution recently urged by the Legislature of the State of Puebla upon the attention of the Permanent Deputation of the Federal Congress. In Mexico, under section 65 of the Constitution, the right to introduce bills in Congress is accorded to the legislatures of the States, and in pursuance of that privilege the Puebla Legislature now asks that article 78 of the Constitution, fixing the Presidential term, be so amended that the term of office of any incumbent can be prolonged to six years if Congress so votes. This proposition passed the Legislature of Puebla nearly a year ago, but, owing to private assurances from Gen. Diaz that he did not favor the movement, and to the open opposition of the Government organ at that time, the matter was dropped and was supposed to be killed. Its revival now and presentation in Congress, with the silence thus far of the *Diario Oficial*, are giving rise to much speculation. President Diaz would doubtless find no difficulty in getting Congress to vote him two years more of power, or anything else he might ask; but what would he do with article 14 of the Constitution, which forbids the enactment of a retroactive law?

The signs of war in the East between Austria and Russia appear now to be as strong as the signs of war between France and Germany were three weeks ago. The military revolt at Silistria and Rustchuk was undoubtedly set on foot by Russian agents, and if it be true that similar outbreaks are occurring elsewhere, the remarks of the *Journal de St. Pétersbourg*, that "the riot" was not unexpected, and that it is to be hoped the people will be spared the horrors of civil war, point clearly enough to the conclusion that there is shortly to be "anarchy" enough in Bulgaria to make it seem to the Czar his imperative duty to occupy the country he has rescued from the Turks. That the Rumanians, Servians, and Bulgarians will make common cause with the Austrians in preventing his doing anything of the sort, there appears to be little doubt. If he makes the attempt, it will probably be the result of an assurance

that Germany will not interfere with him or allow France to do so. Bismarck's "What do we care about Bulgaria?" was probably a most pregnant observation; anyhow, the materials for a tremendous blaze are all ready for the match. The Hungarian Parliament has voted all the credits asked for by the War Minister.

The last number of the *Nouvelle Revue* contains an interesting speculation by M. Henri des Houx, under the signature of "Paul Vassili," in answer to the question, Who will be the next Pope?—a question of daily increasing importance in view of the condition of the present Pope's health. He says there are three elements to be considered in the College of Cardinals: (1) the purely Roman element which surrounds the Papal throne, does the work of the Congregations, and depends entirely on the Pope; (2) the Italian element formed by the archbishops and bishops of Italy, who are subject to the exequatur of the Italian Government, and as much dependent on the King as on the Pope; (3) the foreign element, composed of the foreign cardinals—that is, of archbishops and bishops either in Catholic or non-Catholic States. The Romans make up a little more than half of the Sacred College—that is, about forty out of the seventy cardinals. All are not Italians. There are ten of them resident in Rome, of whom four are Germans, one Russian, one Austrian, one English, one Pole, two French; the German element thus predominates. The Italian cardinals are nine in number. All of them, except the Archbishop of Palermo, who is wholly independent of the Italian Government, naturally feel kindly towards the Power which supports them. Seven of these are known to be in favor of a reconciliation between the Vatican and the Quirinal, and it is from these, of course, that the Italian Government will select the candidate which it will support.

The non-resident cardinals number twenty-five, of whom five are Austrians, four English, and sixteen belong to Latin nations other than Italy. These could exert a very powerful influence on the election if they would act together, but of this there is no chance. They are sure to be divided; so that the Romans and Italians will hold the balance of power, which is another way of saying that the contest will be between Italy and Germany, for Germany dominates among the Romans as Italy does among the Italians. There has been a very widespread disposition in Europe, since the capture of Rome by the Italians, to treat the political importance of the Pope to foreign nations as a thing of the past; but the recent Papal meddling in the German elections shows that Popes may still take a hand in electioneering with more or less effect, and that it is still worth the while of States containing a considerable Catholic population to bring influence to bear on the Conclave. If Bismarck feels that he has really owed something to the Pope's support in the recent canvass, there is little doubt that he or his successor will try to have a German candidate for the place of Leo XIII., and push him by any of the means which have hitherto been successful in helping the cardinals to a choice.

SUMMARY OF THE WEEK'S NEWS.

[WEDNESDAY, March 2, to TUESDAY, March 8, 1887, inclusive.]

DOMESTIC.

THE Forty-ninth Congress adjourned on March 4, as required by law. There was as usual an all-night session preceding the day of adjournment, and much important business was transacted during the closing hours. The most important measure among the last that were enacted was the repeal of the Tenure-of-Office acts, whereby the power is restored to the President of making removals from office at all times without the consent of the Senate, a power which the Presidents before Andrew Johnson had. The bill for the redemption of trade dollars and the Anti-Polygamy Bill became laws without the President's signature. The River and Harbor Bill failed to become a law, because it was not signed by the President within the required time, and neither the Fortification Bill of the House nor that of the Senate was passed, because of a disagreement in the Conference Committee. After an unfavorable report by the Committee on the District of Columbia, the Senate confirmed the nomination of James M. Trotter, of Massachusetts, the second colored man selected by the President to be Recorder of Deeds of the District.

The bill authorizing the President to take severe retaliatory measures against Canada, which is a product of the fisheries dispute, was signed by the President before Congress adjourned. The *Montreal Gazette*, commenting on it, says that it does "not know whether the solution of the fisheries trouble will be made more difficult or rendered easier" by this action; and it adds: "Canada feels that she is right. She cannot agree to yield to coercion, in whatever form it may be presented, the advantages that by her construction of the treaty pertain exclusively to her own people." The British press has made no comment.

The Committee of the House of Representatives which made an investigation of the strike last year of railway employees in the Southwest, has reported that the loss to the 9,000 strikers was \$900,000; to the non-striking employees, who were deprived of work, not less than \$500,000; and to the Missouri Pacific Railroad Company, \$2,800,000.

Gen. J. J. Finley has been appointed by Gov. Perry of Florida United States Senator to succeed Charles W. Jones, whose term expired on March 4. Gen. Finley has been a judge of the Supreme Court of Florida and a member of Congress.

The long deadlock in the New Jersey Legislature caused by the effort to elect a United States Senator to succeed Senator Sewell was ended March 2 by the selection of Rufus Blodgett, Democrat, who is Superintendent of the New York and Long Branch Railroad.

The Democratic State Convention of Rhode Island on March 8 nominated John W. Davis, of Pawtucket, for Governor.

An investigation of the conduct of the municipal government of Brooklyn by a special committee of the New York Assembly was begun on March 4.

The Supreme Court of the United States on March 7 handed down a decision in a case brought from Tennessee, which involved the right of one State or municipality to impose a license tax on travelling salesmen from another State seeking to sell goods by sample or otherwise. The decision is that such taxation is an interference with inter-State commerce, and is, therefore, unconstitutional.

There is a threatening strike by employees of the railroad companies at Youngstown, O., which was begun by the brakemen on the freight trains of one road, who insisted that an extra man should be employed on all freight and yard "crews." The conductors and brakemen on other roads joined the strikers on Mon-

day and demanded higher wages. A blockade of freight was caused, and fears are entertained of a general strike of railway employees on the great through-lines west of Pittsburgh.

The printers belonging to the Typographical Union in all the newspaper and job-printing offices in Milwaukee struck on March 2, and their places were soon filled by non-union printers.

Quiet has not yet been permanently restored in Cambridge, Mass., where the street-car drivers have so long been on a strike. On Sunday one horse-car was almost wrecked, and the driver was badly hurt.

Several hundred plasterers of Pittsburgh have seceded from the Knights of Labor because of the expensiveness of membership therein.

During the winter hog-packing season, which recently closed in Chicago, 700,000 fewer hogs were killed than during the last season. The cause of this decrease was the great strike at the stock yards and its effect upon the Chicago market. The loss in wages is computed at \$700,000, and at least 5,000 men, skilled and unskilled, who were employed last season, failed to find work.

A large meeting of Socialists was held in Chicago on Sunday, to discuss a measure pending in the Illinois Legislature to punish the authors of inflammatory speeches or writings. Very radical addresses were delivered in English, German, and Bohemian. Currlin, editor of the *Arbeiter Zeitung*, advised his hearers to procure arms and carry them. Another speaker, an Englishman, declared that the Socialists had a right to preach treason and the overthrow of society and the constituted authorities. Sooner than see the bill pass, he would take arms in hand and preach revolution.

Three unsuccessful efforts to destroy the property of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company at Jersey City were made on March 4 and 5. On one of the ferry-boats that run between Jersey City and Courtlandt Street, New York, a bottle was found which contained a combustible substance, and two appliances for setting fire to the Jersey City depot were discovered.

The total snowfall at Minneapolis this winter has been 68½ inches, and there have been 104 days of continuous sleighing. Between Mankato and Tracy, Minn., the snow drifts are in many cases six feet above the tops of the telegraph poles. In Newcastle and Chatham, New Brunswick, the snow is piled up to the second-story windows of houses, and communication with outlying points has been almost entirely cut off.

The overflow of the Mississippi River has inundated many miles of railroad between Memphis and Madison, Ark. The west bank of the river, from its confluence with the Missouri to Memphis, is almost wholly under water.

The Texas express on the Iron Mountain Railroad, which left St. Louis on Saturday night, plunged through a bridge over Joachim Creek, drowning two persons and wounding twenty-five. A freshet had undermined the supports of the bridge.

There is alarm over the attitude of the Indians in Rolette County, Dak., where the half-breeds have refused to pay their taxes, and the militia has been ordered to be ready for service.

Harvard College has received a large sum of money, known as the Boyden bequest, which will be devoted to astronomical research in the southern hemisphere. The suggestion in the will, that the expenditure of the income shall be for investigations in high altitudes as free as possible from adverse atmospheric influences, leaves the trustees perfectly free to select a site anywhere in the world that may be deemed most desirable. It is probable that some elevation of the Andes range in Peru will be chosen. Prof. Edward C. Pickering will have charge of the new observatory.

Prof. E. R. Sill, who was an occasional contributor to the *Nation*, both as a reviewer and as a correspondent, died at Cleveland, O., on February 27. He was graduated at Yale in 1861, in a class that has perhaps contributed more professors to the colleges of the country than any other college class that ever graduated. He was for several years Professor of English Literature in the University of California, but resigned not long after President Gilman left it for Johns Hopkins University. After the resignation of his professorship he retired to Cuyahoga Falls, O., and led the life of a close student. Some of those best qualified to judge believe that in his premature death American thought as well as American letters has sustained a grievous loss.

The wife of Senator Beck, of Kentucky, died in Washington on Sunday. She was the grand-niece and nearest living descendant of George Washington. Mrs. Ruth Harmon, maternal grandmother of Mrs. Grover Cleveland, died at her home in Jackson, Mich., on the same day. Charles J. Peterson, the Philadelphia publisher, died on March 4.

Commodore Edward P. Lull, United States Navy, who died at Pensacola, Fla., on March 5, was born in Vermont in 1836, and had spent his life in the naval service. He served on board the *Brooklyn* at the battle of Mobile Bay, August 5, 1864. In 1872-'74 he commanded the expedition which surveyed a route for a ship canal across the Isthmus of Nicaragua.

The Rev. Henry Ward Beecher died at his residence in Brooklyn on March 8, of apoplexy. He was born June 24, 1813.

FOREIGN.

After many months of quiet in the East, the condition of Bulgaria has again threatened the peace of Europe. There have been revolts against the Government of the Regency which it is suspected were instigated by Russia. The telegraphic reports are conflicting in details, but the following facts have been reported directly from Sofia as well as from most of the European capitals. On February 28 there was an insurrection at Silistria. The Government of the town was seized by the insurgents. Loyalist troops from adjacent towns, most of them from Rustchuk, suppressed the revolt. The commander of the garrison was killed, and perhaps others. While the troops were absent from Rustchuk a more formidable revolt was made there. The barracks were seized, the officers were arrested, but the people took arms against the insurgents, and the fighting continued throughout Wednesday, March 2. Then the insurgents, who were attempting to retreat across the Danube, were compelled by the heavy firing from the shore to desert their boats and take refuge on an island. Most of them were wounded and all were captured, and the authority of the Regents was restored. The killed and wounded at Rustchuk numbered 100. Rumors have come of insurrections at other garrisons. These revolts have caused fresh preparations for war to be made by all the Governments most directly interested. The Emperor of Austria has held a military council, and decided to appoint several officers for the superior commands in the event of war. Wooden huts for troops have been erected in Galicia. Servia has sent troops to the frontier. From St. Petersburg, military movements towards the Galician frontier are reported to be continuous. Significance is attached to the statement by the *Journal de St.-Petersbourg* that "Russia considers the occurrences at Silistria a fresh proof of Bulgaria's abnormal condition."

Nine officers and civilians concerned in the revolt at Rustchuk were shot on Sunday. The news comes by way of Paris that the political prisoners arrested in Sofia for participation in the revolt, were whipped with knouts during the entire night following their arrest, and that five officers died from the effects of this torture.

The Bulgarian revolt and the universal sus-