

CURRENT COMMENT.

It is asserted that thirty languages are spoken by the learned residents of Boston.

In Leary, Ga., there is living a full blooded negro who has a skin as white as that of the most immaculate Caucasian.

THEY are enlarging the Chinese public school in San Francisco to accommodate the large increase in the number of pupils.

GOLDWIN SMITH is about to sell his interest in the Toronto Week. This is caused by increasing ill-health, which renders compulsory work irksome.

THE Czar of Russia will soon visit the scene of the famine in the Don Cossack country, provided his courage does not fail him before the hour of starting arrives.

LORD SALISBURY'S health excites continued uneasiness among his friends, who say he is rather going down hill than up, and complain that he continues to work twice as much as he should.

THE REV. MR. HALLIDAY, assistant pastor of Plymouth Church, says that the church has taken no action in regard to finding an occupant for its pulpit, and probably nothing will be done for several months.

WALTON DWIGHT, who died in 1878 at Binghamton, N. Y., had insurance policies on his life amounting to \$250,000. The companies contested the payment of these policies, alleging fraud. Claims amounting to \$105,000 have now been settled by the payment of \$18,000.

PROF. RICHARD A. PROCTOR, the eminent scientist and astronomer, is hereafter to be a citizen of Florida, having purchased a tract of land on Orange Lake. He says the lower atmosphere of Florida is so clear that constellations stand out in wonderful brilliancy.

THE electric railroads in Los Angeles, Cal., where the climate is considered to be the most suitable for them, are decided failures. One electric road about one and a half miles in length, requires an engine of about fifty horsepower to supply the electricity of two cars, and, at this rate, is considered not profitable.

A DEALER tells The Boston Post that there is a custom among certain "cheap swells" of clubbing together and buying a supply of highly-colored neckwear the various articles of which are worn alternately by different individuals, who thus get the credit among their acquaintances of being bountifully provided with such attire.

In renting houses at San Francisco, Cal., the rent charged is according to the number of rooms. Brokers say that a room should rent at \$5 and \$6 per month. Thus a five-room house should be \$25 or \$30, besides the value of bath-room and closet. Architects figure in the same way. They will contract to build a house for \$400 a room. This, of course, is for cheap houses. The rage for French flats in the city is abating.

PRINCE LEOPOLD of Prussia, who is making a tour of the world, designs visiting this country after leaving China and Japan. He will be landed at San Francisco and a special car of the Pennsylvania Railroad will await him there and transport him from the Pacific coast. He is accompanied by Count Kamptz and Baron von Nickisch.

HENRY WARD BEECHER had a curious love for finger-rings and gave a great many away. He took a great delight in playing with gems and precious stones, and always carried in his pocket a choice variety. His taste was exquisite and his judgement of values extremely accurate. He often presented a ring to a friend. He would take a ring from his finger and slip it on the recipients finger, and say nothing. He greatly enjoyed the surprise occasioned by such gifts and it as to him all the response he desired.

EVENTS OF THE WEEK.

Domestic News

The Grant monument fund now amounts to \$190,840.

The Bell Telephone company cleared \$2,000,000, last year.

Dry goods imports for the week at the port of New York amounted to \$2,221,077.

A cold snap is reported from Danville, Va., and it is feared fruit has been injured.

A number of laborers on a New York building struck because two non-union men were employed.

The steamer Eagle has been lost on Buena Vista bay, Newfoundland, with 370 men on board, all of whom perished.

A movement is on foot in Chicago, headed by the carpenters, to establish eight hours a day's work and 35 cents an hour.

Since March 1 Chicago packers have slaughtered 218,000 hogs, against 226,000 for the corresponding period a year ago.

The Illinois, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin legislatures have adopted resolutions strongly condemning the Irish coercion bill.

Herr Most was released from Blackwell's Island, New York April 1, and as soon as he landed took refuge with friends in a beer saloon.

Cattle on the ranges of New Mexico, Indian Territory and Colorado have come through the winter in excellent shape and with but slight losses.

The New York court of appeals has affirmed the judgment of the general term convicting a party selling oleomargarine in violation of the statute.

At St. Joseph's convent, Hannibal, Mo., Eddie Burnes, aged 13 years, accidentally killed a play-mate named Holman Turner, aged 10 years, by shooting.

The United States district courts of western Pennsylvania have suspended operation until the October term, because of the failure of congress to pass the deficiency bill.

The State Department calls the attention of American manufacturers to the coming display in Milan, Italy of flour mill machinery and apparatus connected with bread making.

A special to the Boston, Mass., Journal, on the 30th, from St. Johns, N. F., says the steamer Eagle, from the sealing grounds, is reported lost, with 200 men. No particulars have been received.

Gov. Hill of New York, sent a message to the legislature on special legislation. It is aimed at the high license bill passed for New York and Brooklyn. Hill will veto the bill if the senate passes it.

The Stone Cutters' Association of Cincinnati, Covington and Newport, has decided to close business until a settlement can be made as to wages. About 700 workmen are thus deprived of work.

Commissioner Coleman has returned from Louisiana, whither he went, three weeks ago, to prepare the way for experiments in cane sugar making by the diffusion process. "I have selected the Gov. Yarmouth plantation, as you already know," he said to an Associated Press reporter, "as the place where we shall make the trial. The outlook is very promising, though I have made and shall make no promises as to results. The result of our work with cane in Kansas was far beyond expectations, though we labored under many difficulties. Experts who examined our cane before it was shipped said that its yield would be only about 80 pounds per ton, yet we got about 140 pounds. If our experiments in Louisiana prove as successful as we hope, the planters will be enabled to compete successfully with the best sugar interests beyond a doubt."

The first action under the Indian land severalty bill which passed the last Congress was taken on the 1st, by President Cleveland directing the allotment to the Indians on the Warm Spring reservation in Oregon. Under its provisions, the surveyor-general of Oregon will have surveyed a sufficient quantity of land to give each head of a family 160 acres; each single person over 18 years of age 80 acres; to each orphan under 18 years of age, 81 acres; and to each other single person under 18 years of age, 40 acres. This distribution is made to males and females alike. By the last census there were 359 Indians on this reservation, each of whom will receive a patent to his land declaring that the United States will hold the lands thus allotted for 25 years, in trust for the benefit of the Indians or their heirs. At the expiration of this period the United States will convey the lands in fee.

Fires and Casualties.

Two men, engineer and firemen, were killed in a railway collision Sunday, near Corinth, Miss.

A frightful scalding accident occurred in Nagle's boiler works, at Erie, Pa., where three men were fatally burned March 31.

On the 3rd two Michigan Central railroad freight trains—26 cars—were demolished by a collision, near St. Thomas, Canada. Two brakemen were killed.

A fire in the great cedar forest on the Brazos river, near Morgan, Tex., had, at last accounts, laid waste over 20,000 acres of timber and was still burning.

At Chicopee, Mass., on the 30th, fire destroyed the freight house of the Connecticut River railroad about noon. The loss on the house and contents is \$160,000; insured.

On the 29th the dwelling house occupied by Mathew Massick, at Ludlowville, Ithaca, Co., N. Y., was burned down. W. N. Massick and three children perished in the flames.

On the 31st ult., the Vance House, a large frame hotel, and two buildings adjoining the hotel were burned at Everson, Pa. All the occupants of the hotel escaped injury. Loss \$12,000, fully insured.

March 31, fire broke out at noon in the auctioneering establishment of H. E. & E. Block & Co., St. Louis, and in a short time, with the assistance of water destroyed about \$25,000 worth of furniture.

Near Brookhaven, Miss., March 30, Betsy Cook, colored, went to a field to work, leaving her three small children to take care of the house. On her return she found the house in ashes and her three children burned to death.

The palace Hotel Del Monte, at Monterey California, burned from incendiary fire on the morning of April 3, with a loss of over \$1,500,000, including the property of guests. The water works had been tampered with and though supplied with abundance of hose and a hook and ladder company belonging to the hotel nothing could be done to stop the fire. The guests, though in a panic, all got out without injury, save one who nearly burned his hands off sliding down a rope. Not a vestige of the great building remained except the chimneys and a heap of ashes.

The startling news was received Sunday morning that Cunard steamship Scythia had been wrecked about dusk Saturday

evening 6 miles from Minot Light, in the breakers off Belmont, Mass. The sea was running so high that no vessel could live in it, and up to three o'clock Sunday morning nothing had been done for the relief of the Standard steamer, and the 800 people, passengers and crew on board. The telegraph wires prostrated by the storm cutting off that avenue of information. Several endeavors were made to send out wrecking vessels, but had to be abandoned. A violent snow storm, with wind blowing from 4 to 10 miles an hour, prevailed during the prevailed during the night, with an average fall of snow of one foot. A large amount of damage was done at Block Island and other points.

It happily turned out that the report regarding the Scythia being wrecked was erroneous, the gallant Cunarder having out-riden the storm, the only damage being 48 hours delay and the great anxiety awakened for her safety. She landed at 5 p. m., Sunday, at Boston harbor.

The Caswell building was totally destroyed and the Boardman building partially so, by fire at Troy, N. Y., on the 29th. The Caswell building was principally occupied by Fessenden, Lambert & Tower, dry goods, whose stock was a total loss. E. J. Barnes, woolen goods, Max Binchelmier, milliner, and Kate A. Murphy, milliner lost all their stock, which was partly insured. M. Simpson, jeweler, and other occupants of the Boardman building, sustained slight losses. Several occupants of the Boardman building had narrow escapes. M. A. Morrissy, a sick man, was carried out on a bed, and Mrs. E. L. Sheldon's bed was on fire as she slept in the room. One Conrad, a watchman, was arrested and questioned. There was something mysterious about the rapid spread of the flames. Total loss, \$300,000; partly covered by insurance.

Crimes.

John Sharp will be the next man brought up for trial in connection with the "boodle" aldermen steal in New York.

A notorious burglar named Talbot has been arrested in New York, and \$300,000 in stolen bonds and securities were found in his trunk hidden under a bed.

Mrs. Dora Bennet, a young married woman, living at Columbiana, O., was abducted by three men and carried away. When found she was almost naked and partially deranged.

A Nova Scotia burglar named Stanley Steele tried to rob a bank at Antigonish, but Teller Currier grappled with him, and though shot twice dangerously, succeeded in preventing the robber's escape.

A clerk in the New York city post office has stolen sixty money packages in the last three years, to get money to pay his drinking and gambling bills amounting to four or five thousand dollars. March 31, he took a \$10,000 package and was caught.

Jos. G. Farr, traveling auditor of the Long Island Railroad Company, who made a practice of robbing station agents and then reporting them short in their accounts, causing their dismissal, has been sentenced to serve eight years in the penitentiary.

A special from Greenville, Miss., to the New Orleans Picayune says that March 30th near Buelah, Miss., W. L. Lane, member of the legislature from Bolivar county, shot Charles Yaman several times, from the effects of which he died three hours later. The shooting was the result of domestic troubles.

At Taunton, Mass., Stephen Little, aged 19, and John J. Cahill, aged 20, are now lying at the Central police station in a dangerous condition from the effects of hatchet and bullet wounds. Littleton has a bullet lodged in his left breast, under the armpit, and the top of Cahill's head is in a terrible condition from hatchet and bullet wounds. It is charged that this cruel assault was made by one Blakely who had quarrelled with the others, and came upon them while they were asleep in the lively stable where they were employed.

Express Messenger Lake, was shot and robbed between Clark's Mills and Frankfort near Utica, New York, just after midnight on the 31st ult., by a masked robber, the shot taking effect in the upper part of the right arm, the ball passing around the shoulder, causing an ugly wound. The doctors probed for the ball, but were unable to locate it. The amount secured by the robber is stated all the way from \$700 to \$8,000. The messenger says his assailant was a large, strong man, wearing a mask that hung down over his chest. His hair was cut short at the back and his hands were calloused, hard and dirty. His description tallies perfectly with that given by Night Agent Barger of Utica, of the masked man who robbed his drawer of about \$18 March 31, walked him down the track and gave him back a watch and a revolver that had been taken with the money. A man has been arrested at Memphis, near Syracuse, in a freight car, on suspicion of being the robber.

Political and Personal.

Mr. Blaine was in St. Louis, March 31 and had a reception by the Chamber of Commerce.

Senator Frye has gone from London to Rome. He will fish in Scotland for a month before returning home.

The New York Sun announces that Mr. Blaine and family will sail for Europe in May, to be absent a year.

Mr. R. T. Bush, owner of the yacht Coronet, sent his check for \$50 for the Beecher memorial fund to the Rev. C. H. Hall.

Gilbert & Sullivan's "Ruddygore" has proved a failure in New York and the English company has gone back to England.

Lieut.-Gen. Sheridan has returned to Washington from the West. While absent he selected a site for the new military post, choosing a tract of land seven miles out of Denver.

Frank James has left Nevada, Mo., with his wife and little boy for Denison, Tex., where he has offers from three different business houses. He was a good citizen while living there for nearly two years.

Carter H. Harrison has finally become a socialistic candidate for Mayor of Chicago, leaving the Democrats without a candidate, making the issue in that afflicted city between the friends of good government and socialistic rule.

Col. E. P. Cunningham, agent of the bureau of animal industry, recently visited southwest Kansas, New Mexico and Colorado. He reports cattle on the ranges of New Mexico, Indian Territory and Colorado to have come through the winter in excellent shape and with but slight losses.

The American club, the foremost Republican organization of Pittsburg, will celebrate Gen. Grant's birthday, April 27, with a banquet. A large number of prominent Republicans have been invited.

Among those who have promised to be present are Hon. Roscoe Conkling of New York, and Gov. Foraker of Ohio.

It is announced that Isaac H. Maynard will succeed Assistant Treasurer Jordan Mr. Maynard is the second controller of the treasury, having been appointed June 1, 1885. At the time of his appointment Maynard was first deputy attorney general of New York. Two years previous he was the Democratic candidate for secretary of state of New York, but was defeated, owing to his prohibition record.

A Washington gentleman who has had especial reason to interest himself in the condition of ex-Secretary Manning's health, has received personal advices from England confirming the worst reports yet published. His informant asserts that the ex-secretary was not only not improved by his voyage but is decidedly worse than he was before he sailed—worse than when he landed in England. His friends have little hope of his recovery.

John Godfrey Saxe, the once brilliant poet, died March 31, at the residence of his son Charles Saxe, at Albany, N. Y. He was born in Highgate, Frankfort county, Vt. June 2, 1816, and was graduated at Middleburg college in 1839. He was admitted to the bar at St. Albans in 1843, and practiced in his native country until 1850. From 1850 to 1854 he was editor of the Burlington Sentinel. His poetical works ran through many editions and were very popular. For ten years or more he had been a recluse, and his mind was clouded by family bereavements and in his last days he was little more than a wreck of his former self.

Ex-commissioner of Patents Max V. Montgomery, was on the 1st, appointed associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, to succeed Judge McArthur, retired. The position is a life one, with the privilege of retiring after fifteen years. The lawyers of the district are exceedingly well pleased with the selection. Mr. Montgomery is a resident of Lansing, Mich., and entered political life in 1870, being elected to the state legislature as a Democrat. He was a delegate to the St. Louis national convention in 1876, and his appointment as commissioner of patents was one of the first of importance made by President Cleveland.

It is announced by apparently trust worthy authority that there will soon be published a novel on Washington society from the pen of Mrs. Gen. Logan. So far as can be learned the publishers have not yet been selected, but the manuscript is complete and ready for the printer. Mrs. Logan is now in Washington, having recovered her health, and she is receiving a considerable income from the General's book every month. It was learned that it is not true that she has refused to allow her friends to press the Logan pension bill next year, as has been requested that this should not be done. She has taken no action whatever in the matter. An unexpectedly large demand has been made the last few weeks for "The Great Conspiracy" and it is said a new edition of 10,000 was put to press Monday.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

A Vienna, Germany, dispatch of the 1st to the London Chronicle says: While the czar was walking on a terrace overlooking the lawn at Gatchina palace, a shot was fired from behind the bush. The bullet whistled close to the czar's ear. A second shot was fired from behind another bush, but without effect. A sentinel near immediately fired upon the first assassin and it is reported killed him on the spot. The second assassin tried to escape, but was arrested. He proved to be an officer of the army.

At Madrid, Spain, on the 2nd, during the sitting of the chamber of deputies a parchment case containing gunpowder, within which was a metallic cartridge with fuse attached, was found in the doorway of the press bureau. Later in the evening a petard was exploded in the vestibule adjoining the offices of the ministry of finance, and the windows were broken by the concussion. Nothing was damaged, but the two events have caused much alarm.

The attack by Mr. Gladstone, Tuesday night, upon the Irish coercion bill proposed the Torie called a halt in the progress of that measure and rendered it extremely doubtful if an extreme bill can be passed. Mr. Gladstone's exhibit of the infinite injustice and inhumanity of the bill was startling, even to its authors, and their courage was hardly equal to its defense.

The duke and duchess of Cumberland dined at the British embassy in Vienna on the 10th inst. The duchess was then in her usual spirits, except that she confessed herself homesick. It is now stated that her malady is only severe melancholia.

It is stated that all of the Nihilist arrested for complicity in the recent unsuccessful plot on the Czar's life, when taken in custody wore small bottles of poison on their bosoms.

From London, Eng., the death is announced of Baron Hindlip formerly Sir Henry Alsop, a member of the famous brewing firm of Burton of Trent. He was 76 years of age.

The roof of a church at Lingnaglossa, Sicily, fell without warning during the services on Sunday, April 3, burying beneath it 10 persons 40 of whom were killed and injured.

The French minister of foreign affairs states that the key of the situation is in St. Petersburg, and that while Russia and France are at peace war with Germany is impossible.

Father Bogen, of the Herbertstown branch of the National League, has been arrested and jailed in Dublin.

IOWA.

Snow fell all over Iowa, on the 26th and 27th, interfering with railway travel; and some fears are expressed regarding spring wheat which had been nearly all sown.

It appears to be settled that Benton J. Hall, ex-congressman of Iowa, will succeed Mr. Montgomery as Commissioner of Patents. The salary is \$5,000 a year and the office contains nearly 700 clerks. Mr. Hall was born in 1835 at Knox county, Ohio, and has served several terms in the Iowa legislature and one term of congress.

In the Haddock murder trial at Sioux City, the State made a strategic move by closing its testimony Thursday morning to oblige the defense to show its hand and outline its plan of action, holding in reserve a number of witnesses for rebuttal uses. The testimony put in by the State goes to show that Arendorf was present when the murder occurred, and he was even a leader of the mob and a principal conspirator. In addition to Leavitt, the witness "Bismarck" says positively that Arendorf fired the fatal shot. The State has aimed to turn the circum-