

to establishing an association for the purpose of promoting the study of modern languages.

At Pittsburg, last week, while the steamer B. D. Wood was waiting to pass through a lock on the Monongahela river she was caught in a strong undercurrent. She had several barges in tow, which were swept over the dam and sunk, but the steamer was saved. In the evening the steamer Reindeer was swept away. While attempting to make the landing she caught the guard of the steamer Ben Wood, and carried that vessel along with her. The velocity of the boats was frightful. The steamers Venture, Little Dick and John Case were badly damaged, and other vessels received slight damages. At the dam the Reindeer parted in the middle and caught fire. She is a total loss. The crew was saved.

General Grant met with an accident last week by which his thigh was badly injured. He is now able to move about with the aid of crutches.

A snow slide occurred near Montezuma, Col., and carried John Head-sirom and John Ling, miners, down the mountain. They were found badly frozen and will probably die.

Diphtheria is prevailing to an alarming extent in the north part of Kennebunkport, Maine, whole families being stricken down. Many deaths have occurred.

At Brooklyn, N.Y., last Friday, a gale blew down the walls of five new brick dwellings and also demolished a new frame house. A lighter was capsized in the river and a thousand bags of sugar lost.

A gale also prevailed at Pittsfield, Mass., chimneys and trees were levelled all over the town. A number of people were lifted from their feet and thrown down. A business block and a high school building were unroofed.

At Steubenville, Ohio, December 29, Willie Schaffer, a boy nine years old, died of lockjaw, the result of an injury received a few days ago from being struck in the right eye with a stone thrown by a boy named Pittner.

The ship Edward, from Havre to New York, reports passing a burning vessel. They distinguished her name, the Flolia Feledo, of Genoa. No living being was visible on board.

London intelligence has just been received of the arrival at Oporto of 53 men who were on board the Belgian steamship Plantyam, which sailed from New York, Nov. 11, for Antwerp, and had not since been heard from. The men were rescued from the steamer by the brig G. D. T., which sailed from a Canadian port for Oporto.

James McCann, a junkman, and a woman with whom he lived, were found frozen to death in Jersey City last Friday. They had been riding in a waggon which had gone over an embankment. The waggon turned over, and they were found underneath. It is supposed they had been drinking.

At Beverley, W. Va., John Flannigan has been gaoled on the charge of murdering Mrs. Summerfield and her children. He is a married man, but was a frequent visitor at Mrs. Summerfield's house, and the night before the butchery threatened to kill the woman.

In New York, on Monday, Mr. Church, cashier and superintendent of John Dwight & Co.'s soda factory, was assailed by two masked men as he was leaving the depot of the Second Avenue elevated station at 111th street. After being knocked down and stunned, he was robbed of a satchel containing \$2,200 in bank notes.

William Behrman, aged 18, and John Palmer, a negro, have been arrested at Cincinnati for the murder of Wm. Kirk, horse dealer. Both have confessed. The murder was committed in Kirk's stable, and the body then hauled to the banks of the stream where it was found.

At Brooksville, Fla., a quarrel occurred between Esten Hope and a negro named Fagan, in which blows were struck by Hope. The negro fled, pursued by his adversary, and was joined by his brother, while a white man named Steele joined Hope. Fagan fired a pistol twice in the *melee*, wounding both the whites. The negroes were arrested and gaoled. Christmas night masked white men captured the gaoled and shot both the negroes dead.

At a dance at Brangler's tavern, twenty-four miles from Catawissa, a free fight occurred, during which Elwood Strausser was fatally stabbed by Matt Cope. Henry Snyder also received a fatal knife wound. Benson Irwin was shot through the thigh, and Mary Anman received a gunshot wound. Cope and four others have been arrested.

A Christmas turkey-shooting in Clayville, a negro suburb of Paris, Ky., led to a general fight, in which "Andy" Mucker, John Henry Downing, and Cash Clay, all negroes, participated. Downing was shot in the stomach and is dead. Mucker was shot in the head and neck and will die. Pistols were the weapons. Clay is in jail. Later, Clay Jackson, colored, resisted arrest and fired on Deputy Marshal Henry, who returned the fire. Four shots were interchanged, and two bystanders, "Tom" Cane and "Bob" Thomas, were struck by stray bullets, both in the leg below the knee. Jackson escaped.

Last Thursday afternoon a terrific gas explosion occurred at Gerot's restaurant, Buffalo. The gas concentrated under the Washington street sidewalk and became ignited. About twenty persons were in the building at the time, but all miraculously escaped. Four or five were slightly injured, but none seriously. One man was blown up five feet. The interior of the dining-room was badly wrecked.

Several young people were severely injured, and at least one killed, on Sunday night, near Morrowville, Pa. They were coasting and their sleigh ran over a steep bank into a river.

A large strike of the ironworkers at Pittsburgh, Pa., and surrounding towns is anticipated, but it has not yet taken place.

FIRES.—Last week a large number of business houses were burned at Sarnac, Mich., loss, \$60,000.—On Saturday night fire destroyed the wire manufactory of the Lambert and Bishop Wire Fence Company, at Joliet, Ill. It was one of the largest plants in the State, employing 220 men. Loss, \$225,000.—The same night, at Atchison, Kan., Chas. E. Styles' residence was burned. Mr. Styles was badly injured. On Sunday a great fire occurred at Chicago, in Nos. 119 and 121 Monroe street, a building occupied by several printing companies. Loss, \$200,000. The same day in Jamestown, Dakota, a fire destroyed the entire block facing the railroad, including the Dakota House, McGinnis Block, the North-Western hotel, the North Dakota Bank building, and several small office buildings. Total loss, about \$100,000. The girls in the North-Western hotel had barely time to escape in their night-dresses and bare feet. The thermometer at the time was 20 below zero.—In Howard City, Mich., twenty-five buildings, comprising two-thirds of the business part of the town, were burned. Loss \$75,000.

On Wednesday morning a passenger train on the Illinois Central struck a broken rail between Manson and Barnum. A sleeper and two passenger coaches were thrown down a fifteen foot embankment. Mrs. J. H. Smith of Ohio, Ill., was instantly killed, and seven persons more or less seriously injured. The same day, near Napoleon, O., the west bound express on the Wabash railroad struck a wagon containing five young men, killing two and badly injuring three.

At Greenville, S. C., Pinckney Green accidentally shot and killed his brother while hunting. A similar tragedy occurred in the same place a few days ago.

At Huron, Mich., on Wednesday, a dam gave way and several houses were destroyed, including that of C. E. Raymond, teller of the First National Bank. Raymond, his wife, son and servant, and a son of Mr. Alton were drowned.

On the night of the 2nd inst. the tow boats Bunton and Case left Pittsburg with tows for lower ports. When Davis Island dam was reached the boats lost control of their tows and swung against the pier. The coal boats sank. The shock of the collision threw the fire from under the boilers of the Bunton, and in two minutes she was all afire. A boat picked up sixteen of the crew, but the other four are missing. The body of Engineer Underwood was picked up. The steamer is a total loss. She was valued at \$25,000.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

During the Conference of the National School Teachers at Dublin, two stones were thrown through the windows of the lecture hall where the Conference was held, stunning one delegate.

There appears to be a revival of attempts to destroy life and property by explosives. A dynamite cartridge was exploded in Strabane, Ireland, on Wednesday, destroying the roof of a house. A box of explosives, with a fuse attached, has been found on the track of the Great Western railway near Axminster. Had a train passed over the box a serious explosion would have ensued.

The rival meetings of Orangemen and Nationalists at Dromore caused trouble as was anticipated. The Orange meeting was held within sight of the Nationalist gathering. The Nationalists marched from the Catholic chapel in military order. The rival parties were kept apart by large bodies of cavalry, infantry and police. Even this force was hardly able to prevent a collision. The Orangemen far outnumbered their opponents. When the meetings were breaking up in the evening several attempts were made to attack each other, but the lancers, hussars, infantry and police prevented serious disorder. In the attempts of the troops to disperse the crowds a young man named McGivan was wounded, and it is feared that he will die. After the close of the meeting, despite the efforts of the magistrates, a serious fight waged between the two parties for some time, during which the cavalry and infantry charged several times. The fight ended only after the hussars and lancers had charged across the field and wounded a number of Orangemen. The infantry, with fixed bayonets, escorted the Nationalists beyond the reach of the Orangemen.

The Franco-Chinese situation is unchanged. Reinforcements for the French troops in Tonquin are being hastened off. Chinese forces are also being strengthened. It is rumoured Bachinh is besieged by the French, and that occupation of the town is imminent.

Leit.-Colonel Ludskin of the Russian gendarmerie was murdered at St. Petersburg by Jablousky, a Nihilist.

A dispatch to the *Daily News* from Suakim, says that El Mahdi intends to descend upon Egypt proper. The insurrectionary movement is spreading along the coast, and Baker Pasha is convinced that it has a most formidable religio-political character. A general order was issued on Monday announcing the appointment of Baker Pasha as Governor-General of Eastern Soudan. Major Holroyd, a British officer, has been dismissed from the Egyptian service for striking a native officer.