Victoria Weekly Times.

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SHOT AND SHELL

Forts das Cobras and Villegagnon Belch Forth

GREAT SHOWERS OF LEAD AND IRON

Upon the Hapless City and the Loyal Fortress.

Wild Consternation on the Main Streets—Maddened Carriage Horses Dash Into the Crowds—Screaming Shot and Bursting Shells Add to the Horror of the Scene.

Buenos Ayres, ec. 16.—News from Rio de Janeiro is to the effect that on December 10th the city was thrown into a panic by a storm of shot and shell which lasted 50 minutes. The missiles came from the rifles and rapid firing guns of Ilha das Cobras (Snake island), and fell all over the city, but especially in Canoca, Tavilla and Travessa streets, and other points where the theatres are situated. The playhouses were just being emptied of their throngs of patrons, and the effect was tremendous. Frightened women fled shrieking along the street, many carriage horses dashed among the pedestrians, and above all the screaming of shells, the whizzing of bullets and the rattling of rifles, caused great confusion. This was the result of an attack made from the shore upon the Snake island fort by Peixoto's troops, to which Da Gama's island batteries were not slow in responding. Houses on the water front were much damaged by the iron shower, but the number of casualties is unknown. Peixoto's men suffered heavy loss, as did also the island garrison, but accurate figures could not be procured.

Montevideo, Dec. 16.—The British minister in Rio has informed all persons of his nationality in Rio that in his opinion it is dangerous for them to remain in the city, and has ordered all British merchant ships in the harbor to be towed higher up the bay. Excitement in Rio in view of the preparations for bombardment is intense. In an abortive attempt made by Peixoto's men to capture Fort Villegagnon, formerly reported, about 200 men were killed.

The Chilean steamer Napoli has just been reported a total wreck near Victoria, a maritime town of Brazil, capital of the province of Espirito Santo, 270 miles northeast of Rio. The steamer de Gali, has gone to the aid of her crew, none of whom were reported lost.

Rumor Not Confirmed.

London, Dec. 16.—Enquiries in official circles fail to confirm the rumors of a large shipment of steel rails around Cape Horn to British Columbia. There is no official record of an insurance policy yet having been opened. These rails were said to have been purchased for the British Pacific railway by Chicago capitalists.

Whiting's Chinese Bride.

San Francisco, Dec. 16.—Commander Wm. Whiting, of the U. S. steamer Alliance, arrived on the Australia from Honolulu this morning with his bride (nee Ah Fong), daughter of a wealthy Chinese resident of the islands. They will remain at the Occidental hotel during their stay in the city. On Monday they will go direct to New York.

The Olympia's Speed.

San Francisco, Dec. 16.—The U. S. cruiser Olympia returned to port this morning from Santa Barbara channel, where she made a successful trip yesterday afternoon, making nearly 22 knots an hour.

The Puebla's Passengers

San Francisco, Dec. 16.—Passengers by the steamer City of Puebla for Victoria are: Herbert Clark, J. Graham, J. S. Angus, Madame Lecuyer, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. F. Dixon, Wm. A. Stafford, Mrs. J. Stevens.

DISTRIBUTION OF OFFICES.

The Government Afraid to Open Any Constituencies at Present.

Ottawa, Dec. 16.—At a meeting of the cabinet yesterday it was decided not to open any more constituencies until after next session of parliament. R. S. White, M. P., Cardwell, is here, and he was told he would get the Montreal collectorship after next session. In the meantime the position would be kept open. Opening Cardwell meant giving it to McCarthy. It was also decided to leave Dr. Schultz lieutenant-governor of Manitoba, as at the present the Liberals would be sure to carry the constituency of Lisgar if opened. If anybody but Ross were appointed Ross would resign, and the government has therefore decided to promise the position to Ross after next session. If they do not change their minds he will be Manitoba's next governor.

It Made Alexander Quake.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 16.—The bomb explosion in the French chamber of deputies made a painful impression on the Czar and his ministers. It is believed here that France is powerless against anarchist outrages. The Franco-Russian party at St. Petersburg is depressed. The members think the explosion will affect the relations between the two countries.

Blount's Explanation.

Macon, Ga., Dec. 16.—Mr. Blount is very much annoyed over reports that President Cleveland intends to throw the onus of his treatment of the Hawaii an question upon him (Blount). Said he. "It is untrue that I have had any dispute with the President because I was not continued in diplomatic circles. I went to Hawaii as commissioner representing the President. When I was appointed minister I immediately resigned it, and my work being done I returned home. The statement that Minister Willis found the Dole government much stronger than I reported it, is nothing strange when you recollect that I left Honolulu in August and that Willis did not reach there until November. Dole thus had over three months in which to strengthen himself, and it is only reasonable to suppose that he has made good use of the time. I parted with President Cleveland on the best of terms, and am now completely out of public life."

UP IN SMOKE.

Destructive Fire in New York Yesterday Afternoon.

New York, Dec. 15.—A fire which in half an hour wiped out $250,000 worth of property, ate a big hole in a block between Forty-ninth and Fiftieth streets on Third avenue this afternoon. When the flames had leaped skyward 100 feet or more, within ten minutes of the outbreak, they suddenly died down and left a smoking heap of ruins where there had just stood one of the highest blocks on the avenue and a dozen home buildings. The track on the elevated road was warped and the ties ablaze. The whole neighborhood was stirred to a tremendous pitch of excitement. Across Forty-ninth street a row of private dwellings were cleaned of their tenants by police. Every pane of glass cracked with the heat and fell in fragments to the sidewalk. Across the west side of Third avenue the occupants of houses were similarly treated. Not a sheet of glass was left. Even the pavements yielded to the extraordinary heat, and the street in places was raised up as much as two feet. There was an endless chain of elevated railroad trains reaching from the scene of the fire down to Twenty-eighth street on the north-bound track. Almost the same condition of affairs existed with the surface roads. The block was complete on the latter until finally the fire department hose was raised up on the elevated pillars to allow the cars to pass. The big seven-story building in which the fire originated was occupied as a furniture store by Henry P. Thoeson & Bro., who recently failed. A man named Solomon, the receiver, was out. The building was known as No. 793, 795 and 7[illegible] Third avenue. It was in the basement, under the freight elevator, that the fire first started.

There were at the time twenty employees at work, most of them women, and when the dense volume of smoke began to pour into the salesroom their screams could be heard a block away. It is believed, however, that all got out in safety save one, a young man employed as varnisher in the building. The only other person with him so far as is known is a boy, William Katchan, aged 12, who is yet unaccounted for. Nearly a hundred families were hurried to the street without waiting to take as much as a tack with them. Many were injured, but not seriously. Half the engines were permitted to go home at 2 o'clock. At 4 o'clock the excitement broke out afresh when it was discovered that some firemen were on the fire escape of a shaky wall. All the firemen on the ground went to work to rescue their comrades, and after twenty minutes' hard work succeeded. Most of the burned property is owned by Peter Cassidy, but he was too dazed to tell what he had lost. He looked at the buildings going up in smoke and then simply told the reporter that it was "awful." "Nearly all I had is gone," he said, "and I was only partly insured." Mr. Thoeson, who was also excited, viewed the scene. He said his loss would be about $75,000. The police to-night place the total loss at $275,000. The two missing persons were not accounted for up to a late hour, and many believe that they were burned to death.

The Brazilian Revolt.

Rio de Janeiro, Dec. 14.—T. L. Thomson, United States minister to Brazil, announces that whatever other nations may do, the United States will protect their commerce from all the encroachments of the insurgents' naval vessels. The action of the other nations in withdrawing the protection formerly afforded to merchantmen by war vessels at this port is construed as an attempt covertly to aid the insurgents in their effort to restore the monarchy.

The United Press correspondent has not found a trace of many of the hard ships which have been reported by persons in Rio since the insurgent fleet anchored in the harbor. Provisions are abundant; the streets are kept clean and order is maintained without any effort. The government has designated a new landing for the launches of foreign warships. It is in the Lande district on the north side of the city and near Morro do Gamboa.

London, Dec. 14.—The Lisbon correspondent of the United Press obtained today a few additional facts as to the state of affairs in Brazil on Dec. 5th, when the steamship Nile sailed. General Gomercin de Saraiva, the insurgent general, was reported to be marching northward from Rio Grande do Sul with 5,000 men whom he had gathered from the cattle ranches. His objective point is Rio de Janeiro. He was expected to arrive in the neighborhood of the city about the middle of the month. Along the coast most persons thought that an important engagement would take place by Dec. 15th. All the cities on the sea board are infested with spies. Everybody fears to speak openly against the government. Two of Peixoto's steam launches from the military school, say the officers of the Nile, stop all vessels entering Rio harbor, that the president's men may examine the passengers and crews. A general revolt of the troops against the government was expected to take place on Dec. 15th.

What Spiritualism Taught Him.

Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 18.—Curtis Tweed, a Dayton boiler maker and recent convert to spiritualism, applied to the city last night for charity. He explained the spirits told him he would succeed in gambling and become rich, so he came here with $500, the savings of several years, and met the tiger. In one day he lost it all.

A YANKEE HOTSPUR

President Cleveland's Special Message to Congress.

RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN FAUX PAS

A Clear and Explicit Statement of the Whole Case.

Minister Stevens Shown to Have Been More Than Indiscreet—A Rabid Foe of Monarchy—He Alone Responsible for the Landing of the Troops.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The President's response to resolutions passed by both houses requesting information on Hawaiian affairs was sent to Congress today. In the message the President says:

"In a recent annual message to Congress I briefly referred to our relations with Hawaii and expressed the intention of transmitting further information on the subject when additional advices permitted. Though not able now to report any definite change in the situation I am convinced that the difficulties lately created, both here and in Hawaii, and now standing in the way of a solution through executive action of the problem presented, render it proper and expedient that the matter should now be referred to the broader authority and discretion of Congress, with a full explanation of the endeavors thus far made to deal with the emergency and effect a settlement of the difficulty with a statement of the considerations which governed my action. I suppose right and justice should determine the path to be followed in treating this subject. When the present administration entered upon its duties the Senate had under consideration the treaty providing for the annexation of the Hawaiian islands territory to the United States. Surely under our constitution and laws the enlargement of our limits is a manifestation of the highest attribute of sovereignty, and should be entered upon with extreme caution, and all things relating to the transaction should be free from suspicion. Additional importance attaches to this particular treaty of annexation because of the contemplated departure from the unbroken American tradition respecting the providing of additional territory.

"These islands of the sea are more than two thousand miles removed from our nearest coast. These considerations might not of themselves call for interference with the completion of the treaty entered upon by the previous administration, but it appeared from documents accompanying the treaty when submitted to the senate that the ownership of Hawaii tendered to us by the provisional government set up to succeed the constitutional ruler of the islands, who had been dethroned, that the provisional government had not the sanction of either popular or revolutionary suffrage. It appeared that the so-called committee of safety, ostensibly the source of revolt against the constitutional government of Hawaii, was organized on Saturday, the 14th day of January, that on Monday, the 16th, the United States naval forces landed at Honolulu from a vessel lying in the harbor, that on the 17th the scheme of a provisional government was perfected, and a proclamation naming its officers was on the same date prepared and read in the government building, that thereupon the United States minister recognized the provisional government thus created; that two days afterwards, the 19th day of January, the commissioners representing such government sailed for the United States in a steamer specially chartered for the occasion, arriving at San Francisco on the 18th day of January and in Washington on the third day of February; that on the next day they had their first interview with the secretary of state, and another on the 11th, when the treaty of annexation was practically agreed upon; on the 14th it was formally concluded and on the 15th transmitted to the senate. Thus between the initiation of the scheme for a provisional government of Hawaii on the 14th day of January and the transmission to the senate of the treaty of annexation concluded with such government, the entire interval was thirty-two days, fifteen of which was spent by the Hawaiian commissioners in their journey to Washington. In the next place, upon the face of the papers submitted in the treaty, it clearly appeared there was an open and undetermined issue of the most vital importance. The message of the president accompanying the treaty declares: "The overthrow of the monarchy was not in any way prompted by this government," and in the letter from the president to the secretary of state, also submitted to the senate with the treaty, the following passage occurs: "At the time the provisional government took possession of the government buildings no troops or officers of the United States were present or took any part whatever in the proceedings, no public recognition was accredited to the provisional government by the United States minister until after the queen's abdication, and when they were in effective possession of the government buildings, the archives, treasury, barracks, police station, and all potential machinery of government."

"But a protest also accompanied it which said the treaty was signed by the queen and her ministers at the time she made way for the provisional government, which explicity stated she yielded to the superior force of the United States, whose ministers had caused United States troops to be landed at Honolulu, he declaring that he would support such provisional government. The truth or falsity of this report is surely of the first importance; the truth or falsity of the report has not been investigated. I conceived it my duty, therefore, to with-draw the treaty from the senate for investigation to be made. I suggested for the work of investigation Hon. James H. Blount of Georgia, his report detailing his action under the instructions given him and the conclusions derived from this investigation to accompany this message. These conclusions, accompanied by the evidence upon which they are based, which evidence also is herewith transmitted, and, from which it seems no other deductions could possibly be reached than those arrived at by the commissiiner."

The president says that when he was led to submit the treaty to the senate with the declaration "the overthrow of the monarchy was not in any way promoted by this government," he and the senate were misled.

"An attempt will not be made in this communication," he says, "to touch upon all the facts which throw light upon the progress of this scheme of annexation." It is unnecessary to set forth the reasons which in January, 1893, led a considerable portion of the American and other foreign merchants and traders residing in Honolulu to favor the annexation of Hawaii to the United States. It is sufficient to note the fact and to observe that the project was one which was zealously promoted by the minister representing the United States. He evidently had an ardent desire that it should become a fact accomplished by his agency during his ministry and was not inconveniently scrupulous as to the methods employed to that end. On the 19th day of November, 1892, he addressed a long letter to the secretary of state, in which the case for annexation was elaborated and argued on moral, political and economical grounds. He says: 'In truth monarchy here is an absurd anachronism, and has nothing on which it logically or legitimately stands. The feudal basis on which it once stood no longer existing, monarchy now is only an impediment to good government, an obstruction to the prosperity and progress of the islands." He further says: "The destiny and future interest of the United States in the Pacific ocean clearly indicate who at no distant day must be responsible for the government of these islands." One of two courses seems absolutely necessary to be followed, either bold and vigorous measures for annexation or customs union, an ocean cable from the California coast to Honolulu, Karl harbor perpetually ceded to the United States, with implied, but not expressly stipulated, American protectorate over the islands."

"These declarations certainly show his disposition and condition of mind, which may be useful to recall when interpreting the significance of the minister's conceded acts or when considering the probabilities that such conduct on his part may not be admitted."

The president quotes from a letter written by Minister Stevens to the secretary of state on March 8th, 1892, nearly a year prior to the first steps taken toward annexation. After stating the possibility that the existing government of Hawaii might be overturned by an orderly and peaceful revolution, Minister Stevens writes as follows: "Ordinarily the 'like circumstances rule' seems to be the limit of a landing movement of the United States forces in foreign waters and dominion, exclusively to protect the property of American citizens. But as relating to the United States officials here, who took a somewhat exceptional action in the circumstances referred to, I desire to know how far the present minister and naval commander may deviate from established international rules and precedents in contingencies indicated in the first part of this dispatch."

The president continues: "To a minister of this temper, full of zeal for annexation, there seemed to arise in January, 1893, the precise opportunity for which he had been watchfully waiting, an opportunity which by the timely deviation from established international rules and precendents, might be proved successful in accomplishing the great object in view, and we are quite prepared for the exultant enthusiasm with which in the letter to the state department, dated February, 1893, he declares that the "Hawaiian pear is now fully ripe, and this is the golden hour for the United States to pluck it."

"As a further illustration of the activity of this diplomatic representative, attention is called to the fact that on the day in which the foregoing letter was written, whereby 'In the name of the United States," he assumed protection of the Hawaiian islands and declared that said action was 'taken pending negotiations at Washington.' Of course this assumption of protectorate was promptly disavowed by the government, but the American flag remained over the government buildings at Honolulu, and our forces remained on guard until April and after Mr. Blount's arrival on the scene, when both were removed. A brief statement of the occurrences that led to the subversion of the constitutional government of Hawaii in the interest of annexation to the United States will exhibit the true complexion of the transaction. On Saturday, January 14, 1893, the queen of Hawaii, who had been contemplating the proclamation of a new constitution, had, in defiance of the wishes and remonstrances of her cabinet, renounced the project for the present at least. Taking this relinquished purpose as a basis of action, the citizens of Honolulu, numbering from 50 to 100, mostly aliens, met in a private office and selected a so-called committee of safety, composed of thirteen persons, seven of whom were foreign subjects, five Americans, one Englishman and one German. This committee, though its designs were not revealed, had in view nothing less than annexation to the United States, and were certainly communicating with the United States minister. At a call under the auspices of the committee of safety, a mass meeting of citizens was held that day to protest against the queen's alleged unlawful proceedings and purposes. At this meeting the committee contented themselves with procuring the passage of a resolution denouncing the queen. On the same day the committee, unwilling to take further steps without the cooperation of the United States minister, addressed him representing that the committee of public safety was menaced, and concluded as follows: "We are unable to protect ourselves without aid, and therefore pray for the protection of the United States forces." On the 4th day of January, 1893, between four and five o'clock in the afternoon, a detachment of marines from the steamer Boston and two pieces of artillery were landed at Honolulu. This military demonstration upon the soil of Honolulu was in itself an act of war, unless made either by the consent of the government of Hawaii or for the bona fide purpose of protecting the imperilled lives and property of citizens of the United States. But there is no pretence that there was any such consent upon the part of the government of the queen. There was as little basis for the pretence that such forces were landed for the security of American life and property; if so they would have been stationed in the vicinity of such property instead of at a distance and so as to command the Hawaiian government buildings or palace. Thus it appears that Hawaii was taken possession of by the United States without the consent of the government of the islands or anybody else, so far as shown, except the United States minister. Therefore the military occupation of Honolulu by the United States was without justification."

The president then goes on to say: "Next day, Tuseday, 17th, the committee of safety met and proclaimed a temporary provisional government. By the terms of the proclamation it was to exist until terms of union with the United States had been negotiated and agreed upon.' The United States minister, pursuant to agreement, recognized this government, and before 5 o'clock, in answer to an inquiry on behalf of the queen and cabinet, announced that it had done so. When our minister recognized the provisional government it was neither a government de facto nor de jure. This wrongful recognition by the American minister placed the queen in a position of most perilous perplexity. She knew she could not withstand the power of the United States, but she might safely trust to its justice. According, some hours after the recognition of the provisional government by the United States minister, the palace, barracks and police station, with all the military resources of the country, were delivered up by the queen, upon representation made to her that her cause would thereafter be reviewed at Washington, and, while protesting, she surrendered to the superior forces of the United States, saying that she yielded her authority to prevent a collision of armed forces and loss of life, and only until such time as the government of the United States, upon the facts being presented to it, should undo its action and reinstate her. The provisional government, with this unanswered protest in hand, proceeded to negotiate with the United States for the permanent banishment of the queen from power and for the sale of her kingdom. I believe that candid and thorough examination of the facts will force the conviction that the provisional government owes its existence to armed invasion by the United States. As I apprehend the situation, we are brought face to face with the following conditions: The lawful government of Hawaii was overthrown without drawing a sword or firing a shot, by a process every step of which it may safely be asserted, is directly traceable and dependent for its success upon the agency of the United States, acting through official repremfwy States, acting through our representatives but for the notorious predilections of the annexation committee the idea of annexation would never have existed. But for the landing of United States forces the committee would never have exposed themselves to the pains and penalties of treason by undertaking the subversion of the queen's government. But for the presence of United States forces the committee would not have proclaimed the provisional government from the steps of the government buildings, and, finally, but for the lawless occupation of Honolulu under false pretexts by United States forces, and but for Minister Stevens' recognition of the provisional government when the United States forces were the sole support of the queen, her government would never have yielded to the provisional government. Believing, therefore, that the United States could not, under the circumstances disclosed, annex the islands without justly incurring the imputation of acquiring them by unjustifiable methods, I shall not again submit the treaty of annexation to the senate for its consideration and the instructions of Minister Willis, a copy of which accompanies this message. I have instructed him to so inform the provisional government, but in the present instance our duty does not, in my opinion, end with refusing to consummate this questionable transaction. It has been the boast of our government that it seeks to do justice in all things, without regard to the strength or weakness of those with whom it deals. By an act of war, committed with the participation of the diplomatic representative of the United States, without the authority of congress, the government of a friendly and confiding population has been overthrown, and a substantial wrong has thus been done, which due regard for our national character, as well as the rights of the injured people, require we should endeavor to repair.

"The provisional government has not assumed a republican or other constitutional form, but has remained a mere executive council or oligarchy. It has not sought to find a permanent basis of support; indeed, the representatives of that government assert that the people of Hawaii are unfit for popular government, and frankly avow that they can best be ruled by an arbitrary and despotic power. The United States cannot properly be put in the position of countenancing the wrong after its commission any more than it can of consenting that it shall advance on that ground. It cannot allow itself to refuse to redress the injury inflicted through abuse of power by officers clothed with its authority and wearing its uniform, and on the same ground if a feeble but friendly state is in danger of being robbed of its independence or its sovereignty by misuse of the name and power of the United States, the United States cannot fail to vindicate its honor and its sense of justice by an earnest effort to make all possible reparation."

The message was still "coming" when the Times went to press.

BRAZIL'S TARDY WAR

General Martine Marching After General Hippolite

WITH TWICE FIVE HUNDRED WARRIORS

To Give Him Battle Near the Uruguayan Boundary.

The Nitherohi Taking on a Native Brazilian Crew at Pernambuco—Peixoto Revokes the Decree Expelling Foreigners.

Montevideo, Dec. 18.—Word has just been received here that Gen. Hippolyte with his division of troops from Uruguay and Brazil encamped last Friday night in the desert four miles from San Eujenio on his way to Santa Ana. Gen. Daniel Marline has more than 1,000 men in his division, it has ben ascertained, and is marching against Hippolyte to give him battle.

The steamer Santos, which is being used in the service of Minister Menteiro, Brazil's representative here, arrived today with more ammunition for Peixoto's forces.

The government of Rio Grande do Sul has contributed the steamer Solio to the loyal fleet gathering here, and that vessel has reached the bar of the Rio Grande with 4,000 rifles and cartridges.

The Nitherohi, now at Pernambuco, which was purchased at New York by Peixoto, is changing her crew which she enlisted in that city for a crew of native Brazilians.

McKinley's Inauguration.

Columbus, O., Dec. 18.—What may be termed "Quaker solemnity" will mark the forthcoming inauguration of William McKinley when he enters upon the second successive term of his gubernatorial control of the commonwealth. Heretofore the inaugurations of a state chief magistrate have been the occasion of considerable pomp and ceremony, including a general suspension of business in the part of the commercial and store-keeping community, a procession of political clubs affiliated with the faith of the governor-elect, and a great demonstration within the state house grounds, patterned very much after the inauguration of a president at Washington. Gov. McKinley, however, has very different views concerning the forthcoming function. He takes the ground that the prevailing financial conditions will not warrant a political or partisan display and that the more Jeffersonian the inauguration the more it will be in consonance with existing conditions. No parade, no demonstration, no taking of the oath in the presence of a multitude, is the ultimatum of the young Napoleon. According to the plans laid out he will simply walk into the chamber of the senate, take the oath of office and return to the chambers which he has occupied for two years. It will be something unique in the history of Ohio that the inauguration of a governor has taken place without a single dollar of expenditure being attached thereto and saddled upon the public purse.

A Price on His Head.

San Antonio, Tex., Dec. 18.—J. M. Morrow, an official of the Costa Rica railroad and an old acquaintance of Calarino Garza, the border revolutionist in Texas, is here visiting friends. He says Garza is in Costa Rica, where he is the chief official of the navy department of that country. Garza's wife will soon join her husband. She is with her father in Nueces county, Texas. Garza is known to only a few people in Costa Rica. There is a standing reward of $30,000 for his capture and delivery to the Mexican authorities.

Massacre of the Matabele.

Cape Town, Dec. 15.—Official dispatches dated Buluwayo, Dec. 8th, say: "Major Forbes' messengers, who left him at sundown on Dec. 4th, have arrived. Major Forbes left Sheloh on Nov. 25th and followed Lobenguela twenty miles. The rains rendered progress with wagone slow, and Major Forbes, with 170 men, proceeded, carrying the food on the spare horses. On the evening of Dec. 3rd Forbes reached the Shangani river. Capt. Wilson with 15 men crossed and captured a Matabele, who informed them that the King's wagon was stuck hard by. Wilson sent the information to Forbes, who sent forward Capt. Barrow with 20 men. Barrow overtook Wilson before daylight. Upon reaching the wagon they called for somebody to come out. The natives at once began the attack and Wilson retreated 600 yards, losing four horses. Messengers who were sent to Forbes escaped with difficulty. They left Wilson fighting. Upon nearing the river they heard firing in Major Forbes' camp. They swam the river, and when they joined Forbes at 8 o'clock in the morning they found he had been atacked at dawn by the Matabele, whom he had repulsed after a loss of four wounded. Food and ammunition have been sent from Buluwayo. Jameson and Wiloughby also are proceeding to confer with Forbes. The whole of Major Grey's column has been ordered forward. The natives continue to surrender, amongst them Marswie, lately in charge of Gambo's regiment."

American Federation of Labor.

Chicago, Dec. 18.—So much progress has been made with the business of the National Convention of the American Federation of Labor that it is thought a permanent adjournment can be had this afternoon. The financial report for the past year, submitted this morning, shows that the federation is one of the most economically managed trade combinations in the world. The total receipts of the year, including a balance of nearly $8,000 in hand at the last convention, were $21,500, and of this nearly $4,000 still remains in the treasury, while $5,000 more is represented in loans to various trades unions.