

The eleventh biennial National Conference of Unitarian churches opened Monday evening in Saratoga. About 1,500 delegates and many prominent clergymen were present.

While eight men were being drawn up a shaft of the colliery, at Mahanoy Plane, Pa., on Friday, a piece of timber fell from the top and struck the cage, killing Thomas Ratsey and James Williams and seriously injuring two others. The remainder of the party were stunned, and narrowly escaped. Ratsey and Williams fell 1,000 feet to the bottom of the shaft.

Two freight trains on the Hannibal road collided and were wrecked near New Cambria, Monday morning. Three men including the engineer, were killed, and the conductor and one other fatally injured.

Jno. F. Kealing, medical student, of Charlestown, Mass., shot and killed himself while riding in a cab in New York. He had been drinking, and was despondent on account of the death of his mother.

While a train on the Battleboro' and Whitehall railroad was approaching West Dummerston, on the 23rd inst., a freight car left the track, dragging four other cars, including a passenger coach, which was precipitated down a twenty-foot embankment. Geo. F. Richmond, of Jamaica, was killed. About fifteen other passengers received injuries.

A riot occurred on Saturday night between Italian and colored workmen at Brady's tunnels, Pa. They robbed, shot, and stabbed each other. Twenty-five were injured and the rest gaoled.

**FIRES.**—At Dedham, Mass., the Merchants' woollen mills were burned Saturday. Loss, \$75,000. —James N. and Joseph Rushing's cotton, seed, and oil mill, at Terrell, Texas, was burned Saturday. Loss, \$50,000; injured. —The Golden Eagle clothing store, at St. Louis, owned by Browning, King & Co., New York, was burned Saturday. Loss over \$150,000. —The Catholic church of the Holy Ghost and the school-house at Jerseyville, Ill., were burned Saturday. Supposed incendiary. —The steamers *Morning Mail* and *Bonanza* were burned to the water's edge while lying at the dock at Cincinnati, Saturday morning. The United States lighthouse tender *Lily* was damaged \$10,000. The *Morning Mail* was valued at \$30,000, the *Bonanza* at \$24,000. No lives were lost.

#### BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

The Social Science Congress met last week at Birmingham.

The British gunboat *Wasp* was wrecked off Tory Island, on the north-west coast of Ireland, on Tuesday. Fifty persons were drowned. Six of the crew escaped by clinging to the wreckage from which they were picked up by fishing boats. The *Wasp* foundered about forty feet from the light-house.

Sir Evelyn Baring telegraphs that the Mudir of Dongola has received advices from several sources that Gordon has gained two great victories, and that the siege of Khartoum was raised August 30, four days after Gordon's last message. The report which, if true, would save the bulk of the new operations, is not credited in Government quarters. No doubt, however, is entertained that Gen. Gordon obtains advantages in sallies. Gen. Wolseley starts up the Nile on Saturday without waiting for further reinforcements. A merchant from El Obeid reports that Mahdi has 20 Krupp cannon, and that 10,000 of his 25,000 followers are armed with Remington rifles. Twenty Europeans are still at El Obeid. Gen. Gordon has sent four steamers with troops to relieve the garrison at Sennaar, and upon their return will despatch a force to Berber to meet Wolseley and troops.

A passenger train collided near Locle, a town of Neuchâtel, Switzerland, on the 22nd. One lady was killed and sixteen persons were injured.

The German Government is negotiating with the Spanish Government for the purchase of the island of Fernando Po.

Delegates to the International Copyright Congress, at Berne, to-day signed a draft of a treaty for the protection of literary and artistic copyright for adoption, which will be submitted to the various powers.

A Russian corvette at Vladivostok has seized the American schooner *Eliza*, for having contraband goods aboard, and the English schooner *Helena* for illegal hunting.

A mob on Friday brutally attacked the convoy of a party of Nihilists en route to St. Petersburg. The Gendarms were obliged to use their bayonets.

The French have added to their previous complications in China by destroying the police junks in the Min River, which acted for the suppression of piracy. The Catholic missionary authorities of Paris have received advices from Hong Kong stating that the Chinese have destroyed the Catholic chapels in the province of Canton, and that 6,000 Christians in that province are homeless.

Admiral Courbet, commanding the French forces in Chinese waters, finds his position in regard to the rights of neutrals so embarrassing that he has telegraphed to Admiral Peyron, Minister of Marine, for advice as to what course he shall adopt.

#### Facts and Opinions.

**BEER.**—Bass's great brewery in England includes six acres of beer barrels; and it is estimated that the beer from it fills up, each year, about six acres of grave-yard.—*Monitor Journal*.

**TRUTH.**—The truth cannot be burned, beheaded or crucified. A lie on a throne is a lie still, and the truth in a dungeon is truth still; and the lie on the throne is on the way to defeat, and the truth in the dungeon is on the way to victory. No accidents of position can change the eternal laws which determine their destinies.

**AN INCIDENT.**—Here is an incident that some may regard as funny, while others will see in it the germ of a sermon:—

Enter into the sanctum a man, evidently a laborer:

"I want you," said he, "to do me a favor."

"Well?"

"I was arrested for being drunk last night, and the police run me in. If my name goes in the paper I will lose my job?"

"What is your job?"

"I work in ———'s brewery."—*London Advertiser*.

**BARLEY.**—The Earl of Shaftesbury, speaking on the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone of a new coffee tavern quite lately, said that coffee taverns, rightly conducted, were calculated to incite workingmen to temperate lives and to further the temperance movement, which had produced a marked effect even on the excise. Two of his farmers had lately alluded to this change. One said:—"I do not know how it is, but I cannot sell my barley; people do not malt so much now as they did formerly." The other complained, "I cannot sell my apples if nobody will make cider." His own advice to them both was, "Have patience; people will drink less beer and less cider, but they will want a great deal more of your wool and consume a great deal more of your beef, as well as a great deal more of your corn." These changes were leading to important issues for the benefit of working people at large.—*Globe*.

**NOT AN INDUCEMENT.**—When advertising a piece of property for sale, a shrewd real estate agent will mention among other advantages of location, good schools are within easy reach, that churches of different denominations are within easy reach, and that though in a quiet and retired place, two minutes' walk takes you to a street car line leading into the heart of the city, etc. Did you ever notice in this enumeration of inducements to buy, the fact that a first-class saloon was located on the opposite corner, or that on the next block was a free lunch counter, where the best beer in the city was always on draught, or a pool-room which would be so pleasant and handy for the boys? No, indeed. While the church and the school and the easy access to business are essential to the well-being and maintenance of the home, the others are in every sense antagonistic and inimical to everything that is reckoned dearest and most valued in that sacred place.—*Am. Reformer*.

**A LEGAL CLUB.**—Judge Martin, of Topeka, is still worrying the law-breakers as will be seen by the following from the *Topeka Critic*:—

Judge Martin has made another new ruling to a whiskey case jury. He said that any man who carries a key, and with it gains admission to rooms where whiskey is kept, and violates the law by drinking and putting his money, as pay for drinks in a tin box, or any man who makes keys, knowing that they are to be used for this purpose, and puts locks for such keys on doors leading into rooms where liquor is kept, or any man who in any way connects himself with a key that unlocks doors into rooms where he can get liquor to drink, is just as much a violator of the prohibitory law, and just as liable for prosecution as is the man who furnishes the liquor to be drunk.—*Morning and Day of Reform*.

**ALCOHOL.**—Alcohol is the product of fermentation, and is obtained from fruits, vegetables and grains, while they are in process of decay.

It is not a necessity for a healthy condition of life, nor does it permanently give strength or endurance. Persons who seek to be