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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

On Tuesday morning, the 28th, a destructive fire broke out, between Clarence and York Streets, Ottawa, destroying property to the amount of \$100,000. It is supposed to be the work of an incendiary. And on Thursday 30th another fire occurred on Biddy Street which destroyed three tenants valued at \$4,000. The wind was very high at the time, but fortunately the building was a detached one, for had it occurred in a thickly inhabited portion of the city, it would have been impossible to have stopped its progress.

The 6th Brigade Division, Rifle Association, at their annual meeting, held in Port Hope, on Wednesday, April 22nd, passed a resolution offering a prize of \$50 to any member of the Active Militia of the Division who will qualify himself for the Wimbledon Team of 1874, and compete with the team at Wimbledon. In the event of more than one being selected the prize will be divided between them.

The U.S. Congress has appropriated \$75,000 for Harbour of Refuge at Oswego. And has also appropriated \$360,000 and \$500,000 for the enlargement of the Erie and Champlain canals, respectively.

The inflationists yesterday tried to carry the Currency Bill over the President's veto, but failed.

Recorder Hackett, of New York, lately thus replied to a jury which had rendered a verdict of not guilty. "The court instructs you as to the law, not to your mere private opinion. I have the pleasure of informing you that this boy is a thief; that you have made a mistake in choosing to find him not guilty. Your sympathies are misplaced.

The New York *Manufacturer and Builder* says that a wealthy gentleman in New York has added a codicil to his will ordering that after his death his body shall be injected with petroleum, placed in a metallic coffin and then be deposited in one of the retorts of the Manhattan Gas Company's works. If afterwards no one wishes to inter his ashes they are to be delivered to the Central Park commissioners, to be used as fertilizing material on one of the flower beds near the music stand.

A despatch from Philadelphia, April 29th, says: This morning near Cresson, twelve miles west of Altoona, five raftsmen walking on the track towards Cresson were met by a freight train going east. They stepped on the other track, when the Pacific express, going west, struck them, killing four instantly and seriously injuring the fifth.

The Philadelphia *Poess* has heard of an enterprising citizen who has promised to build a ship capable of carrying ten thousand passengers in time for use at the international celebration, which is to combine a steam railway, a race course, theatre, shooting gallery, circus, and every imaginable modern attraction. He claims that his plan is complete, and has been approved by some of the ablest engineers. He proposes to moor it in the Delaware, and convey it at intervals to the different cities, ports and watering places of the continent. This monster machine will make about six miles an hour, and will be three or four times longer than the Great Eastern.

The west is noted for its admiration of the fair sex. An Iowa Justice of the Peace refused last week to fine a man arraigned before him for kissing a girl against her will. "Because," as he remarked, "the plaintiff is so temptingly pretty that nothing but the overwhelming sense of dignity, and the responsibility of its oath, has prevented the Court from kissing her itself.

Vasquez, the California bandit, whose head is worth fifteen thousand dollars in gold, recently paid poll tax on the precious article. He met the Assessor, Mike Madigan, on the highway in Los Angeles county, and rode along with him for a whole day, chatting good humouredly. On parting he handed over his poll tax, which has been officially returned as that of Tiburcio Vasquez.

At a great battle between the Dutch and Achenese on the 11th inst., the latter were defeated with great slaughter.

A Horse Guards order will shortly be issued expressing her Majesty's approval of the word "Ashantee" being borne on the colours and appointments of the 23rd Fusiliers, 42nd Highlanders, Rifle Brigade, and 1st and 2nd West India Regiments, in recognition of the services rendered by the corps during the late campaign.

The leaders of the Oxford Circuit have resolved to exclude Dr. Kenealy, of Tichborne fame, from the bar mess. As the Doctor did not go on circuit, this ostracism is more nominal than real.

Dr. Viale, the Pope's physician and one of his most intimate friends, has just died at Rome at the age of eighty nine.

The Irish public, says a Dublin correspondent, have acquiesced very readily in the decision of the Government against releasing the military Fenians. The journals which disapprove of the course the Government have taken to do so in rather a faint and insincere manner. Among the higher professional and mercantile community the

vigour which the refusal to comply with a memorial of so many members of Parliament displays, seems to be considered, a good omen in regard to Irish affairs.

The project of laying the dry Zuyderzee is coming into notice again. The cost is estimated at 150,000 florins, which will be amply recovered by the value of the land reclaimed. Twenty four gigantic machines will be required to accomplish the work.

The following "Memorandum" has appeared in the *London Gazette*: "Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to permit the 17th Hussars to bear on its standard The Elephant, with the word Assaye, as well as the word Niagara, as granted to the old 19th Light Dragoons."

Major General the Hon St. George Foley, C. B., has been appointed Governor of Guernsey *vice* Lieutenant General Frome whose period of staff service has expired. The appointment carries with it a salary of £1,500 a year, and is anything but a sinecure socially, as much entertainment is expected.

Official despatches this morning (Madrid, May 2.) announce that the Republican troops entered Bilbao. The Carlists retreated in great disorder. The news creates great excitement.

The latest news from the seat of war state that General Concha, with 20,000 men, has moved from the sea coast in the direction of Valmaseda, 22 miles south west of Bilbao, to strike the Carlists in the rear. Marshal Serrano, with an equal force, is to make a simultaneous attack on the insurgents from the front. The Carlists are reported strongly entrenched.

A Yokohama letter, of March 26th, confirms the previously reported loss of the French Steamship Company's Steamer *Nile*. She left Hong Kong on March 12th, and on the 20th became disabled, and was blown ashore on the coast of Idsa. It is believed she had about 150 persons on board, of whom only 4 were known to be saved. The vessel is a complete loss.

Information was received at Madrid on the 1st inst. of the defeat, in the Province of Tarragona, of a body of Carlists, 2,000 strong, by a force of national troops numbering only 900 men. The Republicans have lately defeated and dispersed several bands of Carlists in Arronga and Albacek.

A London despatch says the mails of the steamship *Amerique* have arrived, damaged by water. They were found in an abandoned boat, picked up in latitude 47° north longitude 7° west, by the bark *Assyria*, which arrived at Havre on the 27th April, from New Orleans.