

Union Block, with five frame buildings, at Jackson, Mich., was totally destroyed by fire Sunday morning. Loss, \$200,000, with an insurance of about \$60,000. Several lives are reported lost, but as yet but one body has been recovered. Four others are injured so that they will die.

Congress has passed a joint resolution authorizing the Secretary of War to furnish tents for the fifth annual reunion of the soldiers and sailors of the northwest to be held at Chicago in August next.

The boiler of the stationary engine of a piledriver on the Central Railway, at Blakely, Ga., exploded last week, killing engineer Wm. Sloan and fatally wounding his little son, the fireman and two negroes.

A fire in the Pittsburgh & Allegheny Passenger Railway stables caused a loss of \$15,000. Two firemen were injured by a falling roof.

Allen Womack, aged 15, insulted the pupils in a negro school at Danville, Va., Friday, whereupon they attacked him. Womack fired five shots, wounding two blacks, but four fired by the latter were harmless. Womack was later arrested.

### BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

Mr. Bradlaugh has been again expelled from the House of Commons by a vote of 266 to 173.

The steamer Great Eastern has been purchased by the Government for a coal hulk, to be stationed at Gibraltar.

A convention of farmers at Carlow has denounced the action of Lord Rossmore and the Orangemen. It was resolved to prohibit hunting on the lands of farmers, and if necessary to prevent it, the farmers declare they will poison their grounds.

Foot, the Editor of the Free Thinker, has completed his year's imprisonment for blasphemy. Bradlaugh, with 2,000 sympathisers, met him at the gate of the prison.

Last week an explosion took place in the cloak-room of Victoria Railway Station at London. The explosive agent was undoubtedly dynamite. A large portion of the roof was blown off, and nearly all the glass-work in the station destroyed. Seven men have been sent to the hospital with severe injuries. Extensive damage was done to the surrounding property.

Four thousand miners have struck at Auzon, France.

At a carnival and festival at Vallaral, a town of Portugal, an affray occurred between the military and people. Fifteen persons were wounded.

MM. Francis Coppée and De Lesseps have been elected members of the French Academy.

The boiler of the steamer Katsoi, from Hong Kong to Macao, exploded. Seventeen passengers were killed, eight of whom were Europeans.

Photiades Pacha has resigned the Governorship of Crete. It is believed that preparations are being made for a great Cretan revolt.

At Trikitat, a battle took place between Graham's forces and the rebels. The latter were defeated.

Fresh directions have been sent to Gen. Graham repeating previous orders to restrict operations to the defence of Suakin.

There is a report that the Annamites recently made an attack upon the French near Hanoi. The result of the engagement is unknown. The Chinese legation here has received no information regarding it.

Thousands of people are dying of fever in the south of Java.

Yellow fever has broken out at Lazallan and Manzanillo, Mexico. The disease is said to be of a malignant type.

### Intemperance News.

CHICAGO.—The Chicago *Tribune* gives these figures: Chicago has 300 churches against 5,242 liquor saloons; 400 clergymen, evangelists and lay readers; 5,550 bar tenders; only a half-a-dozen art

galleries and 358 variety theatres. Out of 100,000 buildings, 7,000 are used for immoral purposes; \$1,560,000 are spent for schools, \$15,000,000 for liquor, \$800,000 for police, perhaps \$100,000 for religious worship and charity.

NEW YORK.—From the annual report of the statistics of the poor, recently submitted by the Secretary of State to the Legislature of this State, it appears that there were 75,543 persons relieved during the year as paupers, that of this number 42,082 were country and 33,461 were town paupers. Besides these the number of persons temporarily relieved was 48,366. The expenses of support of county and town paupers amounted to \$1,633,566, expenses connected with the county poor-houses, \$1,027,853, and expenses of administering temporary relief, \$605,745. The whole amount saved by the labor of paupers was \$75,122. These statistics, it is understood, are exclusive of the city and county of New York, the Commissioners of charity of this city not having made any return for the institutions under their charge. It would undoubtedly be an underestimate to assume that fifty thousand of these paupers, who cost the taxpayers of this State the last year an aggregate of over a million and a half, became such either directly or indirectly through strong drink. The direct money loss is large; the indirect loss of labor and capacity for wealth production is larger still; and the loss of happiness and health, bodily and spiritual, to thousands of homes is beyond computation. Total abstinence would be an effective remedy and safeguard.—*Advocate*.

The brewers and liquor dealers of New York City, at a large meeting, unanimously voted not to employ any man who was not a voter, and not to vote for any man on their party ticket who favored prohibition in the slightest degree. Whisky you see is in politics.

The *Retailer*, the organ of the liquor and tobacco interests, makes the statement that "the tobacco factories and importers supply for every male person in this country is ten pounds of chewing tobacco, three and a half pounds of smoking tobacco, two hundred and fifty cigars, and half a pound of snuff per annum." It adds: "For the six million youths, between the ages of ten and twenty-one, there were manufactured six hundred million cigarettes, or one hundred apiece." These figures, if even approximately correct, reveal an enormous consumption of tobacco. That they are not extravagant may be reasonably inferred from the many millions of dollars paid annually to the Government as a revenue tobacco tax, and from the universality of the tobacco nuisance. As a material waste it is a great evil, and a destructive agency to health—especially to the young, so extensively given to cigarette smoking.—*Christian Home*.

ALASKA.—A dark picture of intemperance among the natives is drawn by Rev. R. W. Hill, who had recently been to Alaska. "The Indians will give away wife and children," he says, "to obtain liquor, and their carousals are so fierce and reckless that murders and suicides are frequent results." He also believes that unless the progress of ruin is stayed, the end of the Alaska Indians is not far off. Who can remain indifferent in learning such facts, and in watching with these the fearful work going on over the whole world, as the outgrowth of this deadly business? Our whole being cries out, What shall we call thee, thou enemy of mankind? The great master poet of human nature answers, "Let us call thee—devil!"—*Western Wave*.

PARIS.—As some answer to the protests which have been made against his peremptory prohibition of beer for the patients of the hospitals, the Director of the Assistance Publique publishes some of the figures, which have justified, as he thinks, his too indiscriminate resolution. It seems that the quantity of beer consumed at the Hotel Dieu rose from 37 litres in 1875 to 13,516 in 1882; at the Pitié from 700 to 8,995; at the Charité from 1,876 to 13,473; and at the St. Antoine from 3,768 to 14,546. The whole of the hospital establishments consumed 28,695 litres in 1875 and 151,174 in 1882. The consumption of *vin ordinaire* (which has the reputation of being very good in the Paris hospitals) rose from 1,893,128 litres in 1875 to 2,686,728 in 1882; that of Banyuls wine rose from 56,881 litres to 128,584, and Bordeaux from 78,814 litres to 103,988. There were also 1,130,531 litres of milk consumed in 1875, and 2,675,699 in 1882. The increase in the consumption in beer, therefore, has not been caused by its substitution for wine or milk, the beer being an absolute addition. "But who drank all this beer?" asked one of the municipal councillors. "That I cannot tell," replied M. Quentin, "though it is certain that all these supplementary quantities did not profit the patients."—*Medical Times and Gazette*.

BELGIUM.—The retail liquor trade in Belgium is absolutely free; anybody can open a public house who chooses. The result