

The Daily Tribune.

ST. JOHN, N. B., FEBRUARY 12, 1872.

American Insurance Companies.

No. 2.

On Wednesday the investigation by the State Legislature's Committee was resumed. The facts elicited for reference to the management of the insurance Department were equal in importance to the first day's developments. Mr. E. W. White, one of the Board of Managers of the "North British and Mercantile" Company, testified to having received from Mr. Superintendent Miller, a bill for one-fifth of one per cent for the transfer of certain securities. Correspondence having ensued between the Superintendent and the Superintendent, Mr. Miller withdrew the bill for correction. It was not stated how much the Company finally paid Mr. Miller. This charge on the occasion of transfers of securities is the subject of a bill introduced into the Legislature, which was referred to the State Treasury, but Mr. Miller has been appropriating the large sums thus realized, to his own use. Mr. Hodges, President of the "Hoffman" Fire Company, said he had paid his Miller's, \$150 for a day's work in investigating the Company. He had also paid a second \$150 for an examination of the "Eclectic" Fire Company with which he was connected. Mr. Hodgman, Vice President of the "Metropolitan" Life Company, had paid \$1,000 for an examination of the Company's affairs, besides \$100 for "extra night work." The Company's capital was only \$300,000. Mr. Snider, secretary to the "Knickerbocker" Life Office, said his Company had paid \$9,500 for similar services, besides an extra \$250 to one of the examiners. Mr. Reese, President of the "Hope" Fire Company, had sent Mr. Miller a check for \$80 for about a day's work in examining. The evidence of Mr. English, Editor of the Journal Times, was very important. He had repeatedly directed Mr. Miller's attention to the rotten condition of the "Home" Insurance Company, of New Haven, and urged him to examine it, but to some time indifferently. Finally Mr. Miller went to New Haven, accompanied by Senator Piesche, who was retained by the Company. This was on the 9th. On June 10 he gave a certificate showing that the Company would be perfectly solvent when the capital was reduced (from a million) to half a million. On the 9th, the day, Messrs. Miller and Pierce arrived at New Haven and examined the Home Company's books for \$5,000. They were by the Company's officers, the only one that day. We quote from Mr. English's evidence:—

The entry on the ledger June 14 was "Expenses Sewall and Piesche, \$5,000." [Witness produced the original check, and a copy of the ledger entry for that day, which certifies that the capital of the Company to be \$1,000,000, it was insolvent and owed \$500,000; that he told him of at the time, and said it was a hardship to poor people; that \$5,000 check was paid to a large firm in the same building, and I believe Miller got the money. I have got money that way through other checks.]

The witness said that in January, 1871, he complained to Mr. Miller of the case given to the Home Company of New Haven, which was rotten to the core. Mr. Miller replied that he would examine it, and also explained to Mr. Miller of the exorbitant charges made by the state department, and Mr. Miller said he would stop it; the Home Company subsequently failed for \$1,000,000; the examination of the company by Mr. Miller occupied about two hours.

In May, 1871, a statement appeared in the daily papers about the Commonwealth Fire Insurance Company. Mr. Miller examined the Company previously and knew it was in an unsound condition, but he was paid \$1,000, and his assistant \$500, for an examination and certificate, in consideration of which Mr. Miller permitted it to continue in business from November, 1870, until April, 1871.

The witness claimed that the talk [against Miller] was examined, when the Mutual Life Company was examined, that \$5,000 was then paid to the witness, Messrs. Pierce and Jewell to Mr. Miller, and that those who could dare not complain to Mr. Miller had threatened, and made good his threat in other instances, where companies were "wound up." All over the country this was the feeling, and Mr. Miller had always received large sums through third parties. Mr. E. W. White, of New York, had charged that Mr. Miller received a large fee from the Metropolitan Life Company, (\$30,000). We shall inform our readers, many of whom are interested in American Life Insurance Companies, of the further progress of the investigation from day to day.

A Halifax Editor on the American claimants—What Statesmen have done for Peace. The Diplomats have been as audacious with these "claims" as ever Carlyle's old horseman, Seekendorff, with his 25,000 miles to ride, was with his project. Miles upon miles by the thousand—travels innumerable between London and Washington—Reverly Johnson's dining and wining and spouting all round the Island of Great Britain—Adams' diplomatic journeyings; Motley's literary assaids; Schenck's good spirits; Thornton's oft repeated volleys; Joint High Commissioners' solemn processions; grand gatherings of Tribunes of Arbitration at Geneva. Seekendorff's 25,000 miles rides are nothing to these latter day journeyings; then the protocols; diplomatic notes; huge "cases" in huge books; writings by the square acre; hosts of pens of ready writers taking up altogether about as much time as if a man should write incessantly for a century. Then the rivers of champagne that have been drawn up or drawn into men's stomachs; the "Healths to America and prosperity to Old England"—the speeches, the solemn parliamentary discussions—the yards upon yards of editorial that have been measured off in the newspapers, the enormous time spent in reading these speeches, discussions, editorials, blue books and what not, the anxieties—"mental anxieties" you know. Put all these things together, and this big-bellied phantom of "Alabama Claims" has cost 70 millions of people vastly more than they will ever get out of them.—Halifax Reporter.

In Memoriam.

Yesterday morning Rev. James Bennet, in the course of a very able sermon, delivered in his best style, made appropriate allusion to the recent death of Mr. Robert Ketchum, an esteemed citizen, and for many years an active member and leader in the St. John Presbyterian Church. Mr. Bennet said:—

I wish to-day to present you with a view of the character and work of another good man full of the Holy Spirit, and faith who has just passed away from us. Coming from the same land of nativity with most of us he was associated with the people of this church in various ways since his emigration, and especially with its various fortunes. At the age of 31 years he landed on these shores, and soon became noted for his industry, probity, and piety. For many years, prior to the erection of this Church, he was regular attendant at St. Andrew's Church. Upon the purchase of this Church, he threw in his lot with the people composing this congregation, and since then has ever remained faithful to its interests.

In company with Messrs. W. Parks, R. Richey, and Geo. Hutchinson, he was ordained an Elder of this Church, and presently he had been elected Superintendent of the Sabbath School. The office of Elder he held till the day of his death, and that of Superintendent of the Sabbath School for a period of twenty years—indeed till the coming infirmities of old age diminished his capacity. His work was not confined to the Sabbath School, as his life was thus intimately associated with the beginning and history of this Church. It owes to him much of its prosperity, and nothing of its adversity. The Company of his name always followed, this house would not hold the congregation assembling here. Peace was his motto, and mutual love his dominion. He worked with a will, and he gave with all his heart. In proportion to his labors, he yet more abounded in liberality. Nearer absent from his post in the Sabbath School, frequent in his visits to the sick and afflicted, he upheld the name of the Church, raised the standard of the Church to which he belonged. He was a man of labor and industry, and God prospered him, and as he prospered he gave to the cause of God. His liberality was largest, freest, most spontaneous. I never yet saw a cause which had a show of worth to which he did not liberally give. I do not believe that there is one in this City who has given more largely in proportion to his means. And then, how kindly with it all! How often does one who has occasion to ask of wealth for the cause of God feel the almost degradation of asking—of the generosity of private citizens, that you under an external obligation because of a miserable subscription given more as a sop to quiet the asker than as a duty owing to God? But not of this ever with Ketchum. Knowing his spontaneous liberality I have sometimes done him the injury of keeping away applications to which he would so readily respond. And what he scarcely left his left hand knowing that his right hand was doing. Especially was this the case with the sick and poor whom he visited. Hundreds of them will remember him in life, and will be his evidence before Christ at the Judgment.

What slow steps Americans call "Planting the Treasury." The Radical project to plunder the Treasury are increasing daily in number. The latest one—submitted by Péro, a noted foreign lawyer from Montreal, and by far the most audacious—advises the placing of the kind yet heard of. In the first place it is proposed to take two hundred millions out of the Treasury to give to laudible citizens—meaning, of course, the supporters of the party in power. These destined to settle on the public lands shall be transported there at the public expense, and on proof that they have no means to open the lands, shall be furnished with the following:—Last, 1 barrel, 100 pounds of milled material, lumber, canvas, or other building material; 1 plough, 1 pickaxe, 1 hoe, 1 shovel, 1 axe, 100 pounds of iron, 500 pounds of bacon, 100 pounds of coffee, 100 pounds of salt, 15 bushels of seed wheat, 2 bushels of seed corn, 1 bushel of seed oats, and \$1 worth of assorted garden seeds. The third section declares that the land to be granted shall be free of all tax upon an equitable assessment of all the money and other property of the people ordinarily in the States; this Boston ordinary measure is now before the Committee on Public Lands.

Masks and Faces.—Boston more severely than elsewhere has been afflicted with the Boston virtue of getting started on the subject of masked balls. The Germans, who are famous for getting up all sorts of jolly entertainments, set out to have one of their fenny masquerades in that sedate metropolis on Monday evening, and had all their preparations well under way when, on Saturday last, the almighty authorities aroused themselves and behought them that there was somewhere in the volumes of the General Statutes a provision which forbids "any masked ball or other public assembly at which the company to be made or other disguise." Boston officials are very sensitive on the subject of enforcing laws, and they determined at once to suppress the hilarity of the jolly Germans by forcing them to have their ball in the bare-faced manner or not at all. Evidently the morals of Boston would be endangered by the appearance of a domino in Music Hall. The upshot was that when the gay masqueraders entered the hall, a detective handed each a paper, which being a programme of the performance, proved to be a respectful request to the ladies and gentlemen to "dispense with the face masks they have brought this evening." Imagine the feelings of the proud cavaliers and fair ladies, who were to be bringing out for the German viceroy, and the political parties will no doubt, make an issue on masks or no masks.—Halifax Post.

The Good in James Fisk, Jr.—Something to be said for the late financier. Steinway Hall, New York, was crowded on Tuesday evening by a large number of people who assembled to hear a lecture on the "Good in James Fisk, Jr.," by Mr. Charles G. Rosenberg, of the well-known artist. A large portion of those present were ladies, many of whom were attired in elegant toilettes and nearly all were enthusiastic in applauding all the good points made in favor of the late Prince of Erie.

MATERS IN GENERAL.

SOCIETY NEWS.

THEATRICALS AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

[From the Halifax Express.] Last night the second theatrical entertainment at Government House came off with even more eclat than the first, and we must congratulate the ladies and gentlemen of the troupe on the clever manner in which all their roles were performed. We had the pleasure of being present ourselves, we can speak authoritatively on the subject, and when we say that we have never seen a better amateur performance in Halifax, we do not go beyond bounds. The "Post of Honor" was the first piece on the programme, and a charming little comedy it is. The actors were all well up in their parts, and we can honestly endorse the comments of our contemporaries made last week. The acting of Oubas Yerk, (Mr. W. Hill) who played the principal character, was admirable. Toby Skippers (Mr. Mitchell Jones, 60th Street), was perfect and funnier than ever. Trochee, (Miss Kenney), sustained her well earned reputation as a first-class amateur actress; Adela, (Miss Sophie Cogswell) had a difficult part to perform, but did it well and looked charming; Vandaleur, (Hon. Mr. Chetwynd, 61st Regt.), and Botherwerk, (Mr. Anson, Control Department) were also capital and added to their own happy style. The second piece on the programme was a very amusing farce called "The Merry Wives of Windsor." It was acted by Mr. A. D. C., as "Jack Buns," won for himself golden opinions for the clever manner in which he handled his part. Mr. Mitchell Jones, who played the old man to the life and constantly brought down the house with all his hearty "Ho! Ho!" played very different parts in a charming manner. We must not forget to mention the "Post of Honor," painted by Capt. A. D. C. The old windmill with its dilapidated sails, looking out grimly on the moonlight, the vessel riding at anchor in the quiet bay, London bridge in the foreground, which Toby Skippers follows his master, Vandaleur, so reluctantly, formed a most beautiful picture. We congratulate Mr. Excellence on the success of his entertainment, and we say the actors and actresses, one and all, "Well done."

SENIATOR GERRICH'S DINNER.

[From the Windsor Mail.]

Senator Gerrich's dinner, which we understand a large number of guests from Hants and King's County at his residence, "Cliffside," was given last evening. It was attended by many of the good citizens of Windsor assembled in a private house for social purposes. The dinner was a most agreeable and enjoyable one to all concerned. The singing of the Magnificat by Mrs. D. E. Ketchum, and the singing of the "Hallelujahs" by the ladies of the host, who possess a voice of extraordinary sweetness and purity, were especially noteworthy. Mr. W. H. Wiley and Miss Barrett with the Violin accompaniment by Mr. J. E. Newcomb and Mr. J. E. Newcomb, who were present, were largely to the enjoyment of the occasion.

Beneficial for Settling Government Lands.

What slow steps Americans call "Planting the Treasury."

The Radical project to plunder the Treasury are increasing daily in number. The latest one—submitted by Péro, a noted foreign lawyer from Montreal, and by far the most audacious—advises the placing of the kind yet heard of. In the first place it is proposed to take two hundred millions out of the Treasury to give to laudible citizens—meaning, of course, the supporters of the party in power. These destined to settle on the public lands shall be transported there at the public expense, and on proof that they have no means to open the lands, shall be furnished with the following:—Last, 1 barrel, 100 pounds of milled material, lumber, canvas, or other building material; 1 plough, 1 pickaxe, 1 hoe, 1 shovel, 1 axe, 100 pounds of iron, 500 pounds of bacon, 100 pounds of coffee, 100 pounds of salt, 15 bushels of seed wheat, 2 bushels of seed corn, 1 bushel of seed oats, and \$1 worth of assorted garden seeds. The third section declares that the land to be granted shall be free of all tax upon an equitable assessment of all the money and other property of the people ordinarily in the States; this Boston ordinary measure is now before the Committee on Public Lands.

Eight Persons Frozen to Death.—Great Loss of Live Stock.

STOIX CITY, IOWA, Feb. 8.—A. M. Wilcox, who has returned from Plymouth County, Iowa, says that three residents on homesteads in that county last Friday night, were frozen to death, and two other men proceeded on his way with the team. The men in the drift remained there a day and a half before they were rescued. The horses and stock were frozen to death, and the loss of material injury by their long confinement. The man who kept on the way, together with the team, was found, about two miles, frozen to death, near Sattlin's Home, fifteen miles above this city. A number of lady and gentlemen persons were frozen to death by this storm, within a radius of fifteen miles of this place. The loss of stock will probably reach four to six hundred horses and cattle.

LOCALS.

THE TRIBUNE COUNTING ROOM IS THE SOUTHERN HALL OF THE OFFICE OF MR. GEORGE PHILIP, PRINCE OF WILIAN STREETS. IT IS CENTRALLY SITUATED, BEING NEAR THE CITY HALL, THE BANKS, NEWS ROOM, EXCHANGE, CHURCH CORNER, AND THE FERRY LANDING. ADVERTISEMENTS FOR THE TRIBUNE SHOULD BE LEFT AT THE COUNTING ROOM BEFORE 11 A. M.

Four by Western Extension.

A large quantity of flour is taken up by the Western Extension Railway Company at the present time for lumbering parties.

The Weather Yesterday.

Sunday was one of the finest days of the season. The sun was warm and thawed the snow considerably. The March Road was rampant with all the horse flesh the lively stables could turn out.

3 o'clock.

The new steamer for the route between St. John and Annapolis should be here some time this week. She left London for St. John the 22nd of January.

The Boat Race.

Brown's friends are to meet in Halifax this evening to consider the last St. John proposition.

Shipping Intelligence.

The keel for a barque of five hundred tons has been laid in the yard of Mr. Wellington King, Sand Point. She is to be built for Mr. Henry Emery. It is some years since Sand Point has witnessed any shipbuilding of consequence going on.

Messrs. Seaman's Circular.

From this Circular, issued on Saturday, we learn that the shipments of shooks from last September to the 10th Feb., inclusive, were as follows for each of the last three seasons:—1870: 807,400; 1871: 693,534; 1872: 669,460. Ninety-seven vessels had cleared for Cuba with shooks and other lumber in the fortnight ending Saturday. These were in port "undecided" on Saturday:—4 ships, 9 barks, 1 brig, 11 brigantines, and 65 schooners. Of the latter 2 are being repaired.

"At the time of his death it was difficult," said the lecturer, to estimate how much he had accomplished in his short life. He was at the starting point a poor peddler by; he died one of our most influential money kings. Those who gauge the man, looking only at his momentary leisure, his boyish ball-playing, his outward enjoyment of display, his apparent passion for physical splendor and his seemingly reckless profession, were comparatively ignorant of the vigorous brain which was the principal motive power in all his actions. Underlying this motive power was a yet much deeper quality. This seemed an instinct of his heart, and was his singularly large heart, which were heartily applauded by the audience.

A Feminine spirit sets the gentlemen, but treats the ladies rudely.—Latest from Spirituality.

Among the number of marvellous stories that have just appeared, there is one about a "haunted house" at Allegheny, Penn., which, while not being entirely new, has in it many points of similarity to a "prominent public official" who went to reside some five months ago in an elegant house, situated in one of the thoroughfares of the city referred to. He had not been in possession of the house long, when he was startled by a loud knocking at the door leading from the hall into the kitchen. In reply to the question, "Who's there?" "What do you want?" a mellow voice replied, "I want tea." At this the gentleman opened the door but could see no one, although he plainly heard "soft footsteps" ascending the stairs. His next "text" as the medium expressed, came in the shape of a hand, as cold as death, which was placed upon his face, while in bed. To avoid a repetition he jumped to the floor, and remained there for the remainder of the night. But here he was not permitted to remain long before "unseen influences" began to visit him "like a baby." Other experiences followed, such as undressing the children, who were in bed, and he is now engaged in telling all he knows about the spirits of the kitchen, the temple in the attic, and the "haunted house" of the kind that has come from the iron regions of the Keystone State.

Katkins Pleasantry.—A Cheerful Funeral.

As if the perils of railroad travel were not already sufficient, the Tennessee Katkix have added a new and exciting variety to the usual dangers in that section. On Friday, the 10th inst., a train, having just enjoyed the familiar recreation of hanging a negro, took possession of a train on which the dead body was placed in company with some friends of the deceased. They renewed their derisive remarks by playfully firing at everybody in the car. One sportive gentleman climbed up on the tender, and put a ball through the engineer's hat, the latter, not understanding the joke, threw the joker down an embankment, the brakeman firing two shots after him. The train, however, did not stop, and departed without molestation. The engineer's hat, however, became a railway business in Tennessee was now confined to local travel strictly.

St. John's Literary Club, of the City, give an entertainment in St. Malachi's Hall this evening, to consist of Readings, Dialogues and a little of the Drama. We understand the entertainment is in aid of the school connected with the church. To-morrow, Tuesday evening, the members of the choir of St. Peter's Church, Portland, will give an entertainment in St. Peter's Hall, consisting of solos, duets, &c. A number of lady and gentlemen volunteers have tendered their assistance for the occasion. The concert is in aid of the funds of the New Hall.

Five Lights.

The "Five Lights" at Red's Point have been eclipsed by the three new lights erected on the "Empress" wharf by the Corporation. On three posts are placed three red, white and blue shades, with kerene lamps inside of them. The blue light shows so badly that it takes a man with a lantern to find it after dark.

Temperance Lecture.

Rev. Mr. Cormier lectured last night before a large audience in St. Malachi's Hall, Sydney Street. The Rev. lecturer dwelt forcibly on the terrible evils of intemperance. These monthly lectures in the city and Portland are understood to be proving sources of great good among the laboring classes.

Personal.

Superintendent Carrell went up in the five o'clock train, on Saturday, to Sussex, and took a special train from there to Sackville, to the scene of the accident to the bridge over the Trurostram. This important and costly structure will be a source of great trouble and inconvenience for some time to come.

F. X. Perier, Esq., Inspector of Penitentiaries for the Province of Quebec, is at the International Hotel, generally known as King, of Nova Scotia, and O'Neil, of Ontario, are expected here for the annual tour of inspection. Probably the bounds will be defined within which prisoners will be kept.

Young men contemplating matrimony, and other men who have been married some time, have found it a difficult task hunting up houses, which are scarce and poor. Those living in good houses are staying in them. Consequently, with few exceptions, only inferior ones are in the market. A number of blocks of handsome dwellings, like the one the Building Society proposes to erect, would rent quite these times.

The "Empress" did not get up as far as Annapolis on Saturday, and the small steamer at Annapolis, which generally comes down to Digby when the "Empress" can't ascend, being out of order just now, the Halifax passengers had to take it down to Digby, and the St. John passengers staged up. The "Empress" arrived from Digby yesterday afternoon at half past four o'clock. The "Flora Myers" troupe came over in her.

The Bishop of Fredericton—Lenten Services.

Bishop Metley will remain in town for a month, at the special invitation of some of his friends. He has, we understand, come for the purpose of giving his friends the privilege of more frequent association with him, and also to hold some special services for the members of the Church generally.

The Bishop preached yesterday morning in Trinity Church. Prayers were read by the Rector, and His Lordship the Bishop preached to a congregation of about 100 persons.

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