

Editor's Historical Record.

POLITICAL.

OUR Record is closed on the 22d of April.—The Senate, on the 29th of March, passed the Consular and Diplomatic Bill, as amended by its committee, restoring what the House had stricken out.—The River and Harbor Appropriation Bill, reported in the House April 4, cuts down the estimates from \$14,000,000 to less than \$6,000,000.—The annual Deficiency Appropriation Bill was passed by the House, April 12. The amount appropriated is about \$670,000, and over \$2,000,000 is re-appropriated and rendered available from unexpended balances.

The House, March 22, passed a bill prohibiting contributions to election funds by officers of the United States government and by Senators and Representatives in Congress. The second section of the bill makes punishable by fine and imprisonment any bribery or intimidation with a view to influence elections of United States officers or Congressmen.

Two attempts to repeal the Resumption Act of 1875 have failed in the House. The Senate, April 10, passed the House bill providing for the substitution of silver coin for fractional currency. The bill was signed by the President on the 13th.

The new postal bill, relating to third-class matter, was passed by the Senate, April 12. The new rate will be one cent an ounce for all packages weighing four pounds or under, without regard to the distance to which they are sent. The rate for transient newspapers and magazines, without regard to distance, is to be one cent for three ounces or fractional part thereof, and one cent for each two additional ounces or fractional part thereof. The law is to take effect, should it be accepted by the House, on the 1st of July next.

President Grant, April 18, vetoed the bill passed by Congress reducing his successor's salary to \$25,000 per annum.

The formal presentation to the Senate of the articles of impeachment against General Belknap took place April 4. On the 17th, the day fixed on which the process against the late Secretary was made returnable, General Belknap's counsel interposed the plea of non-jurisdiction.

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, March 21, reported adversely to Mr. Dana's nomination as minister to England. This report was sustained by the Senate, April 4.

Governor Ames, of Mississippi, resigned his office, March 29, and Colonel J. M. Stone was inaugurated as his successor.

In the House, April 21, the bill to transfer the Indian Bureau to the War Department was passed, 139 to 94.

The New York State Convention of Republican delegates to select delegates to the Presidential Convention at Cincinnati met at Syracuse, March 22. Senator Conkling's name was presented as the favored Presidential candidate, but his friends were unable to secure for him a pledged delegation.—The Pennsylvania Democratic Convention met at Lancaster, March 22, and appointed an unpledged delegation to the St. Louis Convention. In its platform it declared it impossible to execute the Congressional act of 1875 for the resumption of specie payment.—The Rhode Island Republican Convention met at Providence, March

23, appointed an unpledged delegation to Cincinnati, and renominated the present State officers.—The Pennsylvania Republican Convention, at Harrisburg, March 29, appointed a delegation to Cincinnati instructed to vote for Governor Hartranft.—The Vermont Republican Convention, at Burlington, March 29, appointed an unpledged delegation.—The Ohio Republican Convention, at Columbus, March 29, appointed a delegation pledged to Rutherford B. Hayes. It adopted a moderate specie platform.—The South Carolina Republican Convention, at Columbia, April 11–13, appointed an unpledged delegation.—The Virginia Republican Convention, at Lynchburg, April 13, appointed an unpledged delegation, but declared its preference for James G. Blaine.

The Connecticut State election, April 3, resulted in the re-election of Governor Ingersoll (Democrat) by a majority of 3672, and an increased Democratic majority in the Legislature.

The Rhode Island State election, April 5, resulted in no choice by the people.

The revolution going on in Mexico seemed, early in April, to threaten the overthrow of the Lerdo administration. General Porfirio Diaz had gained control of the States of Jalisco and Oaxaca, and of the towns of Jalapa and Matamoras. General Diaz advanced on Monterey, but suffered defeat in a conflict near that city.

Advices received from Captain Semmes, of the United States navy, dated March 2, announce that through his intervention, and without resort to force, a treaty of peace has been ratified between the native tribes and the Liberian government, against which they had revolted.

The British House of Commons, March 23, passed the Royal Titles Bill, styling Queen Victoria Empress of India. The bill was passed by the House of Lords, April 3.

DISASTERS.

March 30.—The dam of the Great Lynde Brook Reservoir, near Worcester, Massachusetts, gave way. Few lives were lost, but the damage to property was immense.

March 25.—The *Telegraph's* Paris dispatch reports that the dikes protecting Hertogenbosch, Holland, have been swept away, and that 6000 persons have been rendered homeless.

April 4.—Off Cape Malea, on the south coast of the Morea, the steamer *Agrianti*, from Piræus for Italian ports, colliding with the English steamer *Hylton Castle*, sank, and twenty-nine persons were drowned.

April 5.—A ferry-boat capsized on the Dee, at Aberdeen, Scotland. Thirty-two persons drowned.

OBITUARY.

March 22.—In South Manchester, Connecticut, Ward Cheney, president of the Silk Association of America, aged sixty-three years.

April 8.—At Lowell, Massachusetts, Mrs. Benjamin F. Butler, aged fifty-five years.

April 10.—In New York city, Alexander T. Stewart, aged seventy-three years.

March 21.—In England, Colonel Charles C. Chesney, author of "The Battle of Dorking."

April 20.—In England, the Right Hon. George William Lyttleton, aged fifty-nine years.

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POLITICAL.

OUR Record is closed on the 23d of May.—The Legislative Appropriation Bill was passed by the House, April 28.—The Post-office Appropriation Bill was passed by the House, May 7.

The Hawaiian Treaty Bill was passed by the House, May 8. On the same day, in the Senate, a resolution was adopted setting forth the injury resulting from Chinese immigration, and instructing the Committee on Commerce to consider the subject, and report a bill placing adequate restrictions upon the immigration. On the 16th, the matter was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Senator Jones, April 24–25, made a long speech in the Senate, advocating the maintenance of the silver as well as the gold standard of values.

A bill to extend the time to pre-emptors on public lands has been passed by both Houses.

President Grant, May 4, in response to a resolution passed by the House requesting him to inform the House whether any executive duties have within a specified period been performed at a distance from the seat of government, replied that he failed to find in the Constitution the authority given to the House to require of the Executive, an independent branch of the government, an account of his discharge of his duties, either as to when, where, or how they were performed.

President Grant has nominated the Hon. Edwards Pierpont as minister to England, the Hon. Alphonso Taft to succeed the latter as Attorney-General, and J. Donald Cameron to be Secretary of War. The Senate has confirmed these nominations.

The Indiana Democratic State Convention, at Indianapolis, April 19, nominated Congressman James D. Williams for Governor, and adopted a platform opposed to specie resumption in 1879.

State Conventions to select delegates to the National Conventions have been held as follows: Massachusetts Republican, in Boston, April 26, selecting unpledged delegates; New York Democratic, at Utica, April 26, preferring Governor Tilden; Arkansas Republican, at Little Rock, April 27; California Republican, at San Francisco, April 27, preferring Mr. Blaine; Oregon Republican, May 4, preferring Mr. Blaine; Maryland Republican, May 4, preferring Mr. Blaine; Michigan Republican, at Grand Rapids, May 10, selecting unpledged delegates; Tennessee Democratic, at Maryville, May 10, preferring Governor Tilden; Ohio Democratic, at Cincinnati, May 17, preferring Governor Allen; Iowa Democratic, at Des Moines, May 17, selecting unpledged delegates; New Jersey Republican, at Trenton, May 17, selecting unpledged delegates; Alabama Republican, at Montgomery, May 17, no instructions; Kentucky Republican, at Louisville, May 18, preferring Mr. Bristow; Delaware Republican, at Dover, May 18, preferring Mr. Blaine.

The Greenback National Convention at Indianapolis, Indiana, May 18, nominated Peter Cooper, of New York, for President, and Senator Booth, of California, for Vice-President.

William H. Barnum has been elected United States Senator from Connecticut for the unexpired term of the late Senator Ferry.

Governor Tilden, of New York, has signed the bill passed by the last Legislature allowing a wife to testify in favor of her husband in criminal cases. The law does not compel the wife to be a witness.

The Centennial Exposition was opened at Philadelphia, May 10, by an address from President Grant. The Emperor Dom Pedro assisted the President in setting the machinery in motion by starting the Corliss engine.

In Mexico the government forces have gained important advantages over the revolutionists, and have recaptured Matamoras.

The Spanish Cortes, May 3, by a vote of 226 to 39, rejected the amendments against the religious toleration clause of the constitution. The clause was adopted, May 12, by a vote of 220 to 84.

The British House of Commons, May 11, by a vote of 334 to 226, rejected the motion of Sir Henry James for a vote of censure on the course of the government in regard to the Royal Titles Act. The vote had been made by the ministry a test of confidence.—The bill for woman suffrage was lost—152 yeas and 239 nays.—The Elementary Educational Bill was introduced in the British House of Commons, on the 18th, and read a first time. It provides that no child shall be employed in agricultural or other labor before the age of ten years, or between ten and fourteen, unless it has a certificate that it has attended school 250 days of the year for five years, or has passed an examination showing a certain degree of education. Local authorities are empowered to enforce penalties on parents for neglecting to send their children to school. The application of the bill is to be gradual, the number of times which children must have attended school before their employment is permitted being gradually increased until 1881, when the bill attains full force.

M. Ricard, the French Minister of the Interior, died suddenly, May 12. He was succeeded by M. De Marcere.

The French Chamber of Deputies, May 18, rejected the motion for complete amnesty—yeas, 52; nays, 394.

The Prussian Chamber of Deputies, May 2, passed the bill providing for an imperial direction of railways. The House of Peers passed the bill on the 18th.

At Salonica, in European Turkey, May 6, there occurred a sanguinary riot, in which the German and French consuls were killed.

DISASTERS.

May 17.—Boiler explosion on the steamer *Pat Cleburne*, six miles below Shawneetown, on the Mississippi River. Nine persons killed, including the captain.

April 20.—Fifteen pilgrims drowned while crossing the river Vienne, near Parsac, in France.

April 30.—Boiler explosion on a ferry-boat between Rudesheim and Bingen, on the Rhine. Thirty persons killed.

OBITUARY.

April 25.—In New York, Barney Williams, a prominent actor, aged fifty-three years.

April 28.—In England, Thomas Aird, the poet, aged seventy-four years.

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POLITICAL.

OUR Record is closed on the 21st of June.—The United States Senate, May 29, by a majority of eight, decided that it has jurisdiction in the Belknap impeachment case; it has since been determined to prosecute the case during the present session.

In the House, May 28, the bill for the payment of the judgments of the Court of Alabama Claims was passed.

In the House, June 3, Mr. Wood, from the Committee on Ways and Means, reported in regard to the Alaska fur-seal fishery lease, exonerating officers of the government and of the company from all allegations of fraud.

The Naval Appropriation Bill, appropriating \$12,432,855, was passed by the House, May 23.—The Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Appropriation Bill was passed by the Senate, June 7. The House bill appropriated \$12,998,815, but the Senate bill contains a large number of amendments nullifying reductions made by the House.—The Fortification Bill (§315,000) passed the Senate, June 7, without amendment.—The Indian Appropriation Bill (§3,905,771) was passed by the House, June 6.—The Senate passed the Post-office Appropriation Bill, with important amendments, June 9.—The Army Appropriation Bill (§23,155,077) was reported in the House, June 9.

The President sent a special message to Congress, June 17, urging prompt action on the pending appropriation bills, and suggesting a joint resolution to meet the embarrassing contingency of a failure to pass the bills during the current fiscal year. This proposed joint resolution provides for "extending the provisions of all appropriations for the present fiscal year to the next, in all cases where there is a failure on the 1st of July to supply such appropriation," until Congress shall make the regular appropriation.

A joint resolution, proposing to modify the treaty with China so as to reserve to each government reciprocally the right to regulate, restrict or prevent immigration, except for commercial pursuits, was passed by the House, June 12.

In the House, June 10, a bill was passed providing for the issue of \$10,000,000, silver coin, in redemption of an equal amount of legal tenders; also a bill providing for the additional issue of \$20,000,000 in silver coin.

In the Senate, June 3, a bill was passed authorizing the President to appoint five Commissioners to treat with the Sioux Indians for the cession of the Black Hills region.

The bill providing for the return to Japan of the Japanese Indemnity Fund, without interest, was passed in the Senate, May 31.

The President sent a special message to Congress, June 20, on the subject of extradition, announcing the release of Winslow and Brent by the British government, and the abrogation of the treaty by that act, unless its operation should be differently regarded by Congress.

B. H. Bristow, June 17, resigned his seat in the cabinet as Secretary of the Treasury.

Henry B. Anthony was re-elected United States Senator from Rhode Island, June 13.—E. H. Rollins, June 20, was elected United States Senator from New Hampshire.

The Illinois Republican State Convention, May 23, nominated Shelby M. Cullom for Governor.—May 31, the Alabama Democratic State Convention renominated G. S. Houston for Governor.—June 1, the Vermont Democratic State Convention nominated William H. Bingham for Governor.—The Arkansas Democratic State Convention, June 14, nominated W. R. Miller for Governor.—The North Carolina Democratic State Convention, June 15, nominated Z. B. Vance for Governor.

The National Republican Convention, at Cincinnati, Ohio, June 16, nominated Governor Rutherford B. Hayes, of Ohio, for President of the United States, and the Hon. William A. Wheeler, of New York, for Vice-President.

The Spanish Cortes has passed the new constitution, including the religious toleration clause, by a vote of 285 to 40.

The result of the Parliamentary elections in Belgium, June 13, giving the clerical party a majority in the Chamber of Deputies, caused unusual popular excitement and some violence.

Abdul-Aziz, the Sultan of Turkey, was de-throned, May 31. His nephew, Murad Effendi, was proclaimed Sultan. The deposed Sultan committed suicide on the 4th of June.

In the Court of Queen's Bench, June 15, Justice Sir John Mellor granted an order for the release of the Boston forger, E. D. Winslow.

The French Chamber of Deputies, June 7, passed the University Education Bill giving the state the exclusive right to confer degrees. M. Buffet was elected Senator, June 16, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of M. Ricard. M. Waddington, Minister of Public Instruction, has informed the Budget Committee that the government has decided to accept the principle of obligatory primary instruction. The minister proposes to organize a great university at each of the following cities, Paris, Lyons, Bordeaux, and Nancy, each university having an independent status.

DISASTERS.

May 30.—Great fire in Quebec. Nearly five hundred houses destroyed.

June 16.—Fire in a carpet manufactory in Ayr, Scotland. Twenty-four women buried in the ruins.

June 10.—At Vallon, France, three soldiers of a regiment there encamped killed by lightning, and eleven others paralyzed.

OBITUARY.

May 28.—Near Cincinnati, Ohio, G. M. D. Bloss, one of the editors of the Cincinnati *Enquirer*, killed while walking on the railroad track, in his fiftieth year.

June 8.—At Amherst, Massachusetts, Dr. William A. Stearns, president of Amherst College, aged seventy-one years.

June 20.—At Portland, Maine, John Neal, a well-known author, aged eighty-three years.

May 25.—In England, Henry Kingsley, the author, and brother of the late Canon Kingsley.

June 8.—At Paris, France, George Sand, the celebrated novelist, aged seventy-two years.

June 15.—Intelligence by cable from London of the death of Dr. Julius H. Petermann, the well-known Orientalist, aged seventy years.

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POLITICAL.

OUR Record is closed on the 19th of July. In a debate on the Indian Appropriation, June 21, the Senate, 24 to 22, struck out the section transferring the bureau to the War Department. The bill was thrown into a conference committee, and finally passed, June 29. The Naval Appropriation Bill was passed by the Senate, June 22, increasing the appropriations made by the House to the extent of \$3,685,000. The Army Appropriation Bill was passed by the Senate, June 26. All the sections contemplating reorganization of the army were stricken out.

On the 30th of June, the last day of the fiscal year, most of the appropriation bills being in conference committees that could not agree, a resolution was passed continuing the appropriations of 1875 during the next ten days, in all cases not covered by appropriation bills already passed. The same provisional measure was re-passed July 10.

On July 5, both Houses agreed to the report of the conference committee on the Post-office Appropriation Bill. The House consented to an addition of \$826,000. All third-class mail matter, except unsealed circulars, is to be transmitted at the rate of one cent for every two ounces or fractional part thereof, and one cent for each additional two ounces. The present rate of one cent per ounce for all merchandise remains unchanged.

The conference committees' reports on the Army and the Sundry Civil Appropriation bills were agreed to by the Senate, July 19. The report on the Army Appropriation was agreed to by the House on the same day.

The Senate, July 13, passed the House bill providing for the construction of military posts on the Yellowstone and Mussel rivers.

The House joint resolution providing for the issue of \$10,000,000 in silver coin, in exchange for legal tenders, was passed by the Senate, June 21.

The conference committee's report on the Silver Bill was adopted by the House, July 13. The bill provides for the issue at once, if required, of \$10,000,000 of silver for \$10,000,000 of greenbacks, the latter to be used again only as fast as an equivalent of fractional currency is canceled. It then provides that the Treasury may buy \$20,000,000 of bullion at the rate of, not exceeding, \$200,000 per month, to be issued in coin at the same rate if wanted. All propositions making silver a legal tender for more than five dollars in any one payment were stricken out.

The House, July 16, unanimously passed the Senate joint resolution for the completion of the Washington Monument.

Senator Lot M. Morrill, of Maine, has been appointed Secretary of the Treasury, to succeed Mr. Bristow, resigned.

James N. Tyner has been appointed Postmaster-General, to succeed Marshall Jewell, resigned.

The Hon. James G. Blaine, July 11, accepted the office of United States Senator, tendered him by the Governor of Maine.

The Democratic National Convention met at St. Louis, June 27. On the 28th, Governor Samuel J. Tilden, of New York, was, on the second

ballot, nominated for President. On the 29th, the Hon. Thomas A. Hendricks, of Indiana, was nominated for Vice-President.

Judge Thomas Settle has been nominated by the Republicans for Governor of North Carolina.

Our troops in Montana suffered a serious check in their operations against the Indians, June 25. General Custer had been detached from General Terry's command, with orders to follow the trail of the hostile Sioux in the direction of the Big Horn, while General Terry should ascend the Big Horn and attack the enemy in the rear. On the 25th, General Custer came suddenly upon a large force of the enemy. Without waiting for support, he attacked the Indians. He had twelve companies of cavalry. Four of these companies had been detached under Colonel Reno to make an attack from the other side upon the enemy. General Custer's force was overpowered and annihilated. General Custer, his two brothers, and nephew were killed. Not one of the command escaped. Colonel Reno's force was surrounded, and sustained severe losses, but was finally rescued by General Gibbon's command. The entire loss was two hundred and sixty-one killed and fifty-one wounded.

The Archbishop of Cologne was, June 28, deposed from his see by the secular law court.

On the 2d of July the Servian forces invaded the Turkish territory at three points, and on the same day the Prince of Montenegro entered Herzegovina at the head of an army. Several battles have been fought; but the reports of these actions are so contradictory that we are unable to judge as yet of the result.

DISASTERS.

July 4.—Terrific storm in Iowa. Forty-two persons drowned in the village of Rockdale.

July 9.—Castle Garden, New York city, destroyed by fire.

July 10.—Burning of the propeller *St. Clair*, on Lake Superior. Seventeen passengers and ten of the crew drowned.

June 25.—A Lloyd's dispatch announces the wreck of a Dutch steamer in the Straits of Sunda. Two hundred and thirty lives lost.

July 9.—Explosion of fire-damp in L'Hôpital Colliery, near St. Avold, France. Forty-two persons killed, and forty-seven seriously injured.

July 14.—Explosion on the English war ship *Thunderer*. Thirty lives lost.

OBITUARY.

July 3.—Colonel Marshall Lefferts, of the Seventh (New York) Regiment, on his way to Philadelphia, aged fifty-six years.

July 8.—In Louisville, Kentucky, the Hon. Edward Young Parsons, member of Congress, aged thirty-four years.

July 19.—In Cincinnati, Ohio, the Hon. George E. Pugh, aged fifty-four years.

June 20.—In Mexico, the famous Mexican general, Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, aged seventy-eight years.

June 27.—In England, Miss Harriet Martineau, the authoress, aged seventy-five years.

July 6.—In Paris, France, M. Casimir-Périer, the well-known statesman, aged sixty-five years.

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POLITICAL.

OUR Record is closed on the 22d of August.—The United States Senate passed the River and Harbor Bill, appropriating \$5,000,000, August 3. Both Houses agreed upon the bill August 10. The President, on the 14th, sent a message to the House, objecting to certain items in the bill on the ground that money was appropriated for work not of national interest, and declaring that he should not allow expenditures for such work.

The bill repealing that clause of the Resumption Act fixing a date for resumption was passed by the House August 5—yeas, 106; nays, 86.

The arguments of counsel in the Belknap impeachment case were closed July 26. The Senate, on August 1, voted on the verdict. The result was a failure to convict for want of a two-thirds majority.

Senator Frelinghuysen moved, August 7, that the joint resolution of the House, proposing a sixteenth amendment to the Constitution, prohibiting the appropriation of any school fund for the support of sectarian schools, etc., be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. He submitted a substitute for the House amendment. Mr. Christiancy, of Michigan, also submitted a substitute for reference, and the whole matter was referred. On the 10th, the Judiciary Committee reported the following substitute:

"ARTICLE 16. No State shall make any law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, and no religious test shall be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under any State. No public property and no public revenue of, nor any loan of credit by or under the authority of, the United States or any State, Territory, District, or municipal corporation, shall be appropriated to, or made or used for the support of, any school, educational or other institution, under the control of any religious or anti-religious sect, organization, or denomination, or wherein the particular creed or tenets shall be read or taught in any school or institution supported in whole or in part by such revenue or loan of credit, and no such appropriation or loan of credit shall be made to any religious or anti-religious sect, organization, or denomination, or to promote its interests or tenets.

"This article shall not be construed to prohibit the reading of the Bible in any school or institution, and it shall not have the effect to impair the rights of property already vested.

"SECTION 2. Congress shall have power by appropriate legislation to provide for the prevention and punishment of violations of this article."

The amendment was defeated by a strict party vote—28 to 16—failing of a two-thirds vote.

The Senate, August 14, passed the bill to carry into effect the Hawaiian treaty.

Both Houses passed a bill, August 15, increasing the regular cavalry force by 2500 men for operations against the Indians.

Congress adjourned *sine die* August 15. Among the important bills passed by the House, but which go over to the next session on the Senate's calendar, are, The Bounty Bill; the Steamboat Bill; the bill to reorganize the United States judiciary; to repeal the bankrupt law; for the further distribution of the Geneva award; to compel the Pacific Railroad Company to create sinking funds for the repayment of their indebtedness to the government; declaring railroad land grants subject to State taxation; and the joint resolution for the protection of the Texas frontier.

Political State Conventions for gubernatorial nominations have been held as follows: July 27, the Illinois Democratic, nominating Lewis Stewart; Louisiana Democratic, nominating T. Nicholls. August 3, Michigan Republican, nominating C. S. Crosswell. August 9, Michigan Democratic, nominating W. L. Weber; Missouri Republican, nominating the Hon. G. A. Finkelnburg (declined); Tennessee Democratic, renominating Governor Porter. August 16, South Carolina Democratic, nominating General Wade Hampton; Georgia Republican, nominating Jonathan Norcross; Arkansas Republican, nominating General A. W. Bishop. August 17, Kansas Republican, nominating Colonel G. T. Anthony.

The State election in Alabama, August 7, resulted in the success of the Democratic ticket by a majority of over 40,000.

President Grant, August 1, issued a proclamation declaring Colorado to be a State of the Union.

During the year ending June 30, 1876, there arrived in the United States 22,572 Chinese, of whom only 259 were females. The number of immigrants during the previous year was 16,437.

The French Senate, July 21, rejected by a vote of 144 to 139 the government bill restoring to the State the sole right of conferring university degrees.

General Berthaut has been appointed French Minister of War, to succeed General De Cissey.

The Scottish National Memorial to the late Prince Consort was unveiled in Edinburgh August 17. The Queen performed the ceremony of inauguration.

The British Parliament was prorogued on the 15th. The Queen in her speech declared that her relations with all foreign powers are of a friendly character.

The Servians appear to have been unsuccessful in their war against Turkey.—The Porte's manifesto, issued August 19, proposes to subordinate Servia first and reform her afterward.

DISASTERS.

July 20.—Commodore Garner's yacht *Mohawk* was capsized in front of the club-house of the New York Yacht Club, off Stapleton. Commodore and Mrs. Garner, Mr. Frost Thorne, Miss Adele Hunter, and a cabin-boy were drowned.

August 1.—Sinking of a flat-boat on Bawbee's Lake, Michigan. Nine members of a picnic party drowned.

August 15.—Entire business portion of Westport, New York, destroyed by fire.

July 20.—The town of Albeuve, Switzerland, entirely destroyed by fire.

August 12.—A London *Times* dispatch announces the death of forty laborers from the severity of the heat near Seville, Spain.

OBITUARY.

July 26.—The Hon. Allen T. Caperton, United States Senator from West Virginia, aged sixty-six years.

August 19.—The Hon. Michael C. Kerr, Speaker of the House of Representatives, in his fiftieth year.

August 15.—Henry Lowther, Earl of Lonsdale, aged fifty-eight years.

on the formation of starch in the chlorophyll granules, in leaves of scarlet-runner beans, and cotyledons of cress, radish, and flax. He concludes that the view commonly held—that all starch which appears in the chlorophyll grains free from starch when they are exposed to light is a product of direct assimilation of carbonic acid—is wrong; that it may come from transfer of starch from other regions, or from transformation of pre-existent nutritious matter.

Boehm concludes further that young plants do not take up from the soil either organic compounds or carbonic acid. He considers it not improbable that the carbon of the carbonic acid decomposed by plants unites directly with water to form starch.

Fremy and Deherain have made in the experiments alluded to above some interesting observations on the growth of beets in solutions of the ingredients of plant food. A solution containing one grain each of chloride of ammonium, superphosphate of lime, and chloride of potassium in 1000 c. c. of water was applied in varying quantities to fifty liters of sand (in earthen pots) in which a single beet was grown; 100 c. c. of the solution daily proved insufficient, 500 c. c. gave satisfactory results, while 1000 c. c. proved too much. Beets grown in saline solutions, instead of sand moistened with the same, lived, but instead of producing one large central sugar-forming root, they simply formed a mass of nearly equal rootlets.

Engineering, etc.—The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company has completed its new outlet locks from the canal to the Potomac. The method of operating this outlet is quite novel. The elevation to be overcome is forty feet, which, under the old system, would require eight locks and about fifty minutes to pass a boat through. With the present arrangement, the boat is passed directly from the canal into a large caisson filled with water; the caisson, resting on trucks, is run down an inclined plane to the river in less than six minutes. The weight of caisson and boat is about 350 tons.

A company has been formed to construct a pontoon railway and wagon bridge across the Mississippi at Clinton, Iowa.

Appropos of the question of under-ground telegraph lines, which is now being agitated in this country, it may be of interest to record, on the authority of C. Bontemps, that the total length of under-ground lines in Paris is 116 miles. Of this total, 35½ miles are laid in trenches, and 80½ in the sewers.

The Colombian government has made a contract with M. Gogorza for the survey of a route for an interoceanic canal by way of the rivers Atrato and Tuysa. The work of survey will be shortly undertaken. Commenting upon this statement, Mr. John C. Trautwine, the engineer of the Panama Railroad, and an eminent authority upon all engineering matters pertaining to the American isthmus, has no hesitation in predicting that the survey will result in disappointment. In a recent article on the Darien interoceanic ship-canal the same authority estimates the cost of a canal upon this route, with two tide locks, at about \$300,000,000, or about three times the cost of the Suez Canal.

Measures have been taken for the laying down of a second telegraphic cable between Australia and Europe.

The electric light has been introduced into several Belgian collieries.

Pieper's method of hardening glass, by submitting it, while at a red heat, to the action of superheated steam, is very favorably spoken of.

Reichardtite, a new mineral, having the same constitution as Epsom salt, has been found in the Stassfurt potash mines.

It is estimated that the value of the diamonds found at the Cape, from the opening of the mines to December 31, 1875, exceeds twelve millions of pounds sterling.

A new coal-cutting machine has lately been put to work in a mine at New Straitsville, Ohio. The machine is the invention of Mr. Litchner. It is claimed for this machine that three men can "bear in" and drill the holes for a blast that would require the work of four men for a whole day; or, to put it differently, three men and the machine can do as much as thirty miners can in a given time.

The number of tanks in the oil region employed for the storage of crude petroleum is placed by Mr. Henry E. Ungley, of Titusville, at 370, and their aggregate capacity 6,077,225 barrels. The largest tank is owned by Lockhart and Frew, at Pittsburg, the capacity of which is 43,000 barrels. There are no less than 133 tanks, holding from 20,000 barrels upward, and the average capacity of the whole tankage is 16,425 barrels.

The Lowe water-gas process has been introduced during the past month at Manayunk, a suburb of Philadelphia, and the town in question, as well as a number of surrounding villages, is lighted from the new works exclusively. The operation of the Manayunk plant has thus far been quite satisfactory.

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POLITICAL.

OUR Record is closed on the 25th of September.

The September elections in Vermont (on the 5th) and in Maine (on the 11th) resulted in the choice of the Republican candidates by majorities nearly equal to those of 1872, the last Presidential year. In Vermont, Mr. Fairbanks received a majority of nearly 24,000, in a total vote of over 65,000. In 1872 the Republican majority in that State was 25,333, in a total vote of 58,559. In

Maine, Mr. Connor's plurality over Mr. Talbot was 15,459, in a total vote of 136,490. In 1872 the Republican majority in that State was 17,216, in a total vote of 126,618.

The State election in Arkansas resulted in an overwhelming Democratic majority.

Arkansas, New Jersey, Connecticut, Missouri, and Indiana have already in the field an electoral ticket for the Greenback Presidential candidate.

The Colorado Republican State Convention, at

Pueblo, August 27, nominated John L. Rountt for Governor, and adopted a hard-money platform.

The Connecticut Democratic State Convention, at Hartford, September 6, nominated Richard D. Hubbard for Governor.

The Delaware Democratic State Convention, at Dover, September 7, nominated Presidential electors. In the platform of resolutions adopted was the following:

"Resolved, That we are and always have been in favor of the white men of the country controlling this government, and therefore we appeal with confidence to the white voters only for the success of the principles in the foregoing resolutions."

The Delaware Republican State Convention, at Dover, September 13, nominated Presidential electors.

The Massachusetts Republican State Convention, at Worcester, September 5, renominated Governor Rice and all the other present State officers. The Democratic Convention, at the same place, September 6, nominated Charles Francis Adams for Governor.

The Nebraska Democratic State Convention, at Omaha, September 6, nominated Paren England for Governor, and adopted resolutions indorsing the St. Louis platform and arraigning the Republican party for furnishing arms to the Indians.

The New York Republican State Convention, at Saratoga, August 23, nominated ex-Governor Edwin D. Morgan for Governor. The Democratic Convention, at Saratoga, August 30, nominated ex-Governor Horatio Seymour for Governor. Owing to the declination of its candidate, the Convention re-assembled, September 13, and nominated Lucius Robinson.

The South Carolina Republican State Convention, at Columbia, September 13, renominated Governor Chamberlain and the other State officers.

Murad Effendi, Sultan of Turkey, was deposed August 31, and his brother, Abdul-Hamid, proclaimed his successor. Early in September the Servian army sustained a severe defeat, and was compelled to fall back on Deligrad. The great powers urged the Porte to grant a month's armistice. The Porte, while refusing the armistice, expressed a willingness to treat for peace. The Sultan's cabinet demanded as a basis for settlement the disarmament of the Servian army, the Turkish occupation of Alexinatz, Tsatsak, and Tosnizza, an indemnity of 500,000 ducats, and the homage of Prince Milan at Constantinople. These terms were subsequently confirmed by the Great Council. The conditions, as finally reported by the Sultan to the ambassadors of the great powers, were the following: 1. The re-occupation of the fortresses which were held by Turkey previous to 1857. 2. The destruction of the fortresses constructed by the Servians since 1857. 3. The investiture of Prince Milan at Constantinople. 4. The reduction of the effective Servian army to 10,000 men and three batteries. 5. The construction of a railway across Servia. 6. The payment of a war indemnity by Servia.

On the 17th of September the Turkish government ordered all its commanders to discontinue hostilities until further orders. The object of the armistice was to give the great powers time for deliberation upon terms of peace.

In the mean time great indignation had been aroused in England by the reports of Turkish outrages in Bulgaria. Meetings were held to pro-

test against the policy of the British government. At Blackheath, September 9, Mr. Gladstone addressed an assembly of about 12,000. Since his Blackheath speech Mr. Gladstone, who on this question represents the popular sentiment of England as against the traditional policy of the government, has issued a pamphlet on the Eastern question, showing that Servia and Montenegro commenced the war only when the hope of redress for their brethren was finally withdrawn, and that, therefore, in a settlement with Turkey, the five cases of Servia, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Bulgaria should not be considered otherwise than as the connected limbs of one and the same transaction, and claiming that the British government should interpose to put a stop to outrages like those which have desolated Bulgaria, and to exclude the administrative action of the Ottoman government from the provinces.

William M. Tweed was arrested, September 7, at Vigo, in Spain, where he had just arrived from Cuba.

Mr. Disraeli, having been elevated to the peerage as Earl of Beaconsfield, has issued a farewell address to his constituents, the electors of Buckinghamshire, by whom he has been returned to Parliament continuously since 1847.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The international rifle-match at Creedmoor, September 14, resulted in a victory for the American team by twenty-two points. In the contest were teams from America, Scotland, Ireland, Australia, and Canada. The Irish team came out second, and the Scotch third. In a subsequent match, September 21, between the Irish and American teams, the latter won by eleven points.

The Lafayette statue was unveiled in Union Square, New York city, September 6.

The mine under Hallett's Point Reef, Astoria, Long Island, was exploded by General Newton, September 24.

DISASTERS.

September 5.—Explosion of nitro-glycerine at Hell Gate, New York city. Three men killed and seven seriously injured.

September 22.—At Black Lick Station, near Columbus, Ohio, on the Pan-Handle Railroad, four cars of an express train jumped the track, rolling down an embankment. Over thirty people were injured, four of whom were instantly killed.

September 4.—The town of St. Hyacinthe, Canada, destroyed by fire. Six hundred houses burned, and four thousand people rendered homeless.

OBITUARY.

September 12.—In Richmond, Virginia, General Henry A. Wise, aged seventy years.

September 14.—In St. James Parish, Louisiana, Robert Barnwell Rhett, Sen., aged seventy-five years.

September 18.—In New York city, the Rev. Edmund Stover Janes, senior bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States, aged sixty-nine years.—At Fishkill, New York, Professor Charles Davies, the mathematician, aged seventy-eight years.

August 30.—Intelligence received in London of the death of Felicien David, the celebrated French musical composer, aged sixty-six years.