

CURRENT EVENTS.

McKenna has been appointed associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

The National Federation of Labor met in its 17th annual Congress in Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 13th.

Nancy Allison McKinley, mother of the President, is dead. The funeral took place on the 13th.

H. W. Corbett, Oregon's appointed Senator, will have to wait till after the holidays for a decision as to his title to a seat.

Secretary Alger, in reply to the Senate resolution asking for information as to conditions in the Klondike gold fields, submits reports of a special agent sent out, fully confirming the reports of destitution and want.

Reports from Cuba indicate that the insurgents will not accept the offer of autonomy. They are concentrating around Havana, but have no intention of surrendering. The business men of the city have lost hope of a speedy return to peace.

At Baughman, Kan., a ten-year-old boy has been convicted of repeatedly robbing a Sunday school contribution box, having secured during a period of six months about \$100. The boy testified that he was compelled, by threats of punishment, to commit the theft, by his father who is a church deacon.

The Canadian government and the Alaska Commercial Company have offered free food to the needy at Fort Yukon, and thousands are making desperate efforts to make their way out from Dawson City to accept it. The trip is attended with great danger and hardship. The cold is reported at 50 to 70 degrees below zero. The police have stopped all passage in.

Senator McBride's bill for the relief of starving Klondike miners has passed the senate, appropriating \$250,000, to be expended by the secretary of war. Supplies will be taken in by reindeer via Dyea. The house has also passed a bill appropriating \$175,000 to be expended by the war department for the same purpose. Probably no time will be lost in reaching an agreement between the two bodies.

"Impartial", the Spanish government organ, continues to publish strong articles in which it declares that Spain will not accept the right of President McKinley to intervene in Cuba in case the war is prolonged, and demands that the government adopt "the same energetic attitude toward the United States as Germany adopted toward Hayti, because McKinley's message is equivalent to questioning the right of Spain's sovereignty in Cuba."

The American Cotton Growers' Association met at Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 20th.

Filibustering operations are suspected at Pensacola, Fla., and the government vessels are on the quiver.

There has been a decided change in the situation in regard to the Hawaiian annexation treaty and members of the committee on foreign affairs are now confident of its ratification.

The conference on the Klondike relief bills in congress resulted in a compromise on \$200,000, which amount has been appropriated, and preliminary operation has already begun for carrying out the provisions of the measure. Capt. Brainerd, of the subsistence department of the army, who was with Greely's arctic expedition, has been ordered to report to General Merriam at Portland, Oregon, and will have charge of the commissary department of the relief expedition. Maj. Rucker, stationed at Fort Walla Walla, has been ordered north to gather data for the information of the department. General Merriam has orders to select two officers and fifty of his best men to act as guards to the expedition. It is estimated that 1000 reindeer will be required to transport the supplies over the trails.

Giordano Bruno.

Mr. J. P. Guild is doing some splendid work for Secularism and we hope our readers will help him to do more. Below we print a few lines from him which are self explanatory.

"The discourse on 'Giordano Bruno', which I gave in Lowell and in Boston, and which appeared in the Investigator Nov. 9th. I have enlarged into a little book, which I will print March next with pictures of Bruno, his burning, his monument, and also a picture of myself, providing I can get enough pledges and payments for the book in a month at 25 and 50 cents a copy, according to binding, to guarantee the cost of printing. Those paying for 4 copies will receive 5. Any money received will be returned in March if the book is not issued.

"JOHN P. GUILD".

30 Elliot St., Lowell, Mass.

"The board of directors of the chief public library in Chicago have voted that the library shall hereafter be open on Sundays. The Methodist ministers' association has decided that this action is wrong." And that settles it!

Remember we give fifty visiting cards to each person getting up a club of five for the Torch before January 1st.

***** WESTERN *****

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