

HALF A MILLION IN ASHES.

Destructive Fire in Philadelphia—Two Hotels Burned.

Philadelphia dispatch: A five-story brick building... on 715 to 719 Arch streets, was discovered on fire at 1:35 o'clock this morning.

REPEAL OF THE PRE-EMPTION LAW

To the Consideration of Which a Good Deal of Time is Being Given.

Washington special: The senate committee on public lands has given a good deal of time this session to the consideration of the repeal of the pre-emption law, and is perfecting an excellent bill on that measure.

GENERAL NEWS AND NOTES.

Henry Parcell, traveling salesman for Watson, Goodward & Co., of New York, committed suicide in his room at the Colosseum hotel, Philadelphia, by taking morphine.

The distress among the Chinese at Victoria, is appalling. Many are begging, but the most are stealing and house breaking.

Miss Clara Barton, president of the American Association of the Red Cross, has received \$200 from the St. Louis branch of the Red Cross.

M. DeLesseps stated at a meeting of the promoters of a North Africa inland sea that Capt. Landis has gone to survey the Tunisian coast.

Mr. Joseph Mayor, the well known author of a number of scientific works, is leader.

It is rumored that a revolutionary expedition against Spain is being prepared in France, and that it will depart from Marseilles.

The recent murder of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse C. Wickersham, near Cloverdale, Panama county, Cal., by their Chinese cook, has again thoroughly aroused anti-Chinese sentiment throughout the Pacific coast.

Major General Pope states that he feels certain the Mexicans who attacked Captain Crawford were not regular troops, but rozzies and attacked them in hope of obtaining the scalp money offered by the state of Sonora for the hostiles.

While a party of men were clearing snow from the track of the Denver & South Park high line, six miles above Frisco, a snow slide 500 feet wide and twenty-five feet deep came down the mountain.

T. J. Water, postmaster at Quincy, Arkansas, has been driven away by his neighbors on account of grievances of a personal nature growing out of a dispute for which he was suing persons having business in that office.

The coroner's jury which has been inquiring into the cause of the death of the thirty-nine miners killed by an explosion of fire damp in the Oriel Coal company's shaft in West Virginia, find that the accident was a preventable one.

It is stated at the U. S. treasury department that eighty-nine national banks hold about \$6,410,000 of the \$10,000,000 3 per cent bonds which are included in the 133rd call issued on Friday.

A Washington special says: Interesting rumors of lawsuits to be begun by the government against the Pacific railroads have been circulated with new avidity within the last week or two.

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Middleborough (Mass.) dispatch: The residence of H. Wood and his sister Helen, near Waterman's Landing, an isolated place, was broken into by two masked men Saturday night.

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FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

The Greek minister has been interviewed in reference to the possibility of war between Greece and Turkey. He denied that the government of Greece had any intention of issuing orders of war.

The people of Athens, through a committee, have telegraphed Gladstone the Hellespont cause with a firm hope that it will find in you a firm champion.

Sir Michael Hicks Beach, conservative leader, gave notice in the house of commons that the government would introduce a bill to suppress the Irish national league and other dangerous societies.

The text of the treaty between France and Madagascar has been submitted to the chamber of deputies. The document consists of nineteen articles of agreement.

Gladstone has drafted a cabinet but several of the gentlemen he has named are not pleased with the positions assigned to them and it is therefore probable that modifications will be made.

Advocates of coinage confident of their ability to prevent any change in the laws.

Washington special: The advocates of silver are so confident of their ability to prevent any modification of the coinage laws touching their favorite metal that they are contemplating a movement to force the fighting by bringing forward a measure to give further freedom to silver coins.

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REDUCED TO WHITE DUST.

A Graphic Description of the Process of Cremation.

Philadelphia Commercial Gazette. The body of Orson S. Murray was taken from this city to the crematorium at Lancaster, Pa., by the son and immediate friends of the deceased.

Mr. Platt, one of the officers of the Lancaster Cremation society took charge of the body on its arrival. It was immediately conveyed to the crematorium, where a large number of people of all ages and sexes had congregated to witness the operation.

The officers of both societies formed a semi-circle in front of the furnace, with the son of the deceased in the center. The view presented was novel and striking. The small building, resembling in many respects a country meeting house, built of pressed brick, was too little for the purpose, and the heat from the furnace was intense.

A knock at the preparing room door was the signal to begin. The preparing table moved noiselessly into the auditorium bearing its sacred burden, covered with a heavy dark cloth, and was wheeled into position in front of the retort.

The auditorium was gradually vacated, and no one remained but the son of the deceased and the officers of the two societies before mentioned. A view of the process going on behind that large iron door was to be taken.

The process was nearly ended, but not entirely. The opening was closed, and the little party returned to town to return after dark. Leaving a view of the building was again had, and one could hardly suppose that so important an act had taken place in so modest a structure.

At 9 o'clock that night the party returned to the crematorium, and a complete inspection of the building was made. Another view was had of the interior of the retort, and now all was passive light.

The light of the full moon could not have been milder or more beautiful. The cradle with its apparatus was completely visible, and the body seemed to rest there unharmed by the heat or the fire that had raged beneath the retort nearly 24 hours.

There were found to weigh four pounds and one ounce. Small fragments were found among the ashes, which were the remnants of the larger bones of the body, but no organic matter was there. The work was complete.

There seems to be a great rivalry among Southern cities in regard to the erection of expensive buildings for young men's Christian associations. Atlanta leads off with a hall costing \$100,000.

Cardinal McClosky's Successor. The Catholic Union says: "From reliable information received from Rome, we feel justified in saying that the holy father has determined in the near future to create the Most Rev. James Gibbon, archbishop of Baltimore, a cardinal."

The Eight Hour Question. The Ohio state trades assembly before adjourning adopted a resolution favoring the enactment of an eight hour law to be observed by corporate companies.

A FRENCH STATESMAN DEAD. Hippolyte Mellon Victor Charanaals, the French lawyer and statesman, is dead.

LOVELY WOMAN OF LIMA.

Peculiar Manners and Dress—Their Amusements and Families.

Lima Letter to New York Sun. The ladies of Lima are all eyes. They have the reputation of being, as a class, the most beautiful in the world, and meeting them on the way to mass in the morning or shopping later in the day, one can easily see how they obtained it.

On the street the women look like a procession of nuns, but in their homes when they are dressed, like the queen of Sheba. Indoors she is bright, vivacious and winning. With more passion than intellect, with very little knowledge of the world outside of her own orbit, she never reads a newspaper and never looks at a book, but she is up in art and opera, plays the piano brilliantly and with exquisite taste.

A Peruvian soldier is usually accompanied by a woman called a rabona, who sometimes is his wife. They receive rations like the soldiers, but no pay. They are faithful and enduring, but degraded creatures, who follow the army in its long, weary marches, assisting their husbands by carrying part of their load, and about half of them have babies slung over their shoulders in blankets.

The fashionable entertainment in Peru is bull-baiting. The bull is not killed, as in Spain and Mexico and other countries, and no horses are slaughtered in the ring. The animal is simply teased and tortured to make a Lima holiday. The young men of the city do the baiting, and it is regarded as a very high-toned sort of athletic sport, like polo at Newport.

The young ladies take darts made of tin decorated them with ribbons, lace and rosettes, and give them to their lovers to stick into the hide of the bull. The great thing is to cast those darts so as to strike the bull in the fore shoulders or in the face, and in order to do it he who throws them must stand before the animal's horns. Active young fellows do the trick very dexterously, but it takes nerve and agility, and at times fair senoritas have seen their lovers ripped open.

Tiles in Place of Carpets. The wonderful strides made by the tile-makers in their manufacture during the past ten years has become a serious thing for the manufacturers and dealers in carpets. "There is no doubt," said a Broadway carpet dealer, "that the substitution of tiles for carpets and wood flooring will in time become universal. Even now these exquisite tile blocks from the ovens of the tile manufacturers are used at the expense of less costly floorings. Some of them are much more beautiful than those found in the old Italian and Greek churches. The labors of the tile-makers are no longer confined to the manufacture of the plain ugly-colored blocks of concrete. Copies of the most celebrated art works, embodying all the delicate shades, are reproduced in the squares of clay. Sometimes each tile is a gem in itself; then, again, each tile represents only a portion one immense design. When the public becomes educated up to the worth of the tile, I am afraid the carpet and wood companies must go."

That the fears of the carpet men are not unfounded is proven by the fact that in some of the mansions uptown the entire house is tiled from garret to cellar. Not only is this the case in floorings, but in decorations formerly wrought in wood, plush and velvets.

Thomas Nast, the caricaturist, has in his residence at Morristown, New Jersey, a mantle and fire place built entirely of exquisitely wrought tiles, representing scenes from Shakespeare's Midsummer Night's Dream. Edwin Booth has in his Newport home a cabinet wrought in a similar manner, while in many of the homes of the wealthy New Yorkers the wall coverings and ceilings are made of chaste and curiously designed clay squares. There is hardly a house among the upper ten that has not one or more "hardy" made of tile. So also in ship architecture have these pretty little squares been utilized. The saloon and music room of the Red Star steamer Nordland are resplendent in tile work.

Florida has entered the list of competitors for the Northern flower market. A horticulturist of that state has recently shipped 30,000 tuberose bulbs to dealers in the North.