

SUMMARY OF THE WEEK'S NEWS.

[WEDNESDAY, July 6, to TUESDAY, July 12, 1887, inclusive.]

DOMESTIC.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND had accepted an invitation to visit St. Louis during the forthcoming National Commandment of the Grand Army of the Republic; but on July 4 he wrote Mayor Francis a letter withdrawing his acceptance, wherein he said: "I should bear with me there the people's highest office, the dignity of which I must protect, and I believe that neither the Grand Army of the Republic as an organization, nor anything like a majority of its members, would ever encourage any scandalous attack upon it. If, however, among the membership of this body there are some, as certainly seems to be the case, determined to denounce me and my official acts at the National Encampment, I believe they should be permitted to do so unrestrained by my presence as a guest of their organization, or as a guest of the hospitable city in which their meeting is held." On July 8 a mass-meeting of citizens of St. Louis was held whereat an invitation was extended to the President and Mrs. Cleveland to visit the city at another time—during the Fair there. The approval of the President's letter has been almost universal.

The President and Mrs. Cleveland went from Washington July 11 to Clinton, N. Y., to attend a celebration of the founding of the town.

The Governors of New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, and Pennsylvania have requested the Governors of other States and of the Territories to send representatives to a conference, to be held at the Murray Hill Hotel, in this city, at noon on August 23, to devise and propose a uniform system of rules and practice in the matter of the inter-State extradition of fugitives from justice.

The Governor of Massachusetts July 8, in accordance with a resolution of the last Legislature, issued a proclamation asking the social, trade, and labor organizations to accept the invitation of the citizens of Philadelphia to send representatives to the centennial celebration of the signing of the Constitution of the United States September 17.

The Mormon Convention at Salt Lake City to draft a Constitution of the proposed State of Utah adjourned July 7. The Constitution that they drew up provides for the entire separation of Church and State, and for non-sectarian education, and forbids polygamy, providing penalties therefor. The Utah Commission will permit the votes for the ratification or rejection of the Constitution to be counted by the election judges at the general election on August 1. The non-Mormon population of the Territory regard this anti-polygamy Constitution as insincere.

Atlanta, Ga., has been selected as the place for holding a national exposition of the artistic and mechanical products of the skill of the colored race throughout the United States, beginning in November and continuing three months.

A bill has been introduced in the Georgia Legislature "to protect the rights of white and colored people alike," by making it an indictable offence for teachers and directors of the public educational institutions of the State to admit white pupils into colored schools, or colored pupils into white schools.

Logan E. Bleckley was elected by the Georgia Legislature as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State July 11.

Dr. Edward M. McGlynn, the priest who had been deposed for his advocacy of the George theory of land-holding, was excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church July 8, by Archbishop Corrigan of New York. The Archbishop's letter to the clergy and laity of the Archdiocese explains his "excommunication by name" by saying that "he is cut off from the communion of the Church, from its sacraments and participation in its prayers,

and, should he persevere in his contumacy, deprived of the right after death to Christian burial."

On Sunday, July 10, Dr. McGlynn made a defiant speech in the Academy of Music in this city, in which he said: "So long as Catholic people give the Pope to understand that he can do what he pleases with them, and allow an Archbishop in New York to forbid an American priest to make a political speech or attend a political meeting without first obtaining the consent of the Sacred Congregation of the Propaganda, who don't know but what Florida is a suburb of New York and Mobile a street in San Francisco—so long as Catholics let the Roman machine, of which the Pope is the mere puppet, do this, that machine will use Paddy in Ireland and German Paddy and American Paddy as pawns on the political chess-board, to be sold out at any time for what it can get in return. This policy arises from an insane and foolish lust for the restoration of the Pope's rotten old temporal power, that everybody but a fool and the Italian diplomatists at Rome knows is as dead as Julius Caesar."

The counsel for the Andover professors have served notice on the Visitors of an appeal to the Supreme Court of Massachusetts from the recent decision in regard to Prof. Egbert Smyth. The court will meet in November.

Queen Kapiolani arrived in this city from London July 11, and here first learned of the Hawaiian revolution.

Near Nacogdoches, Texas, where six wells have been bored, one 600 and another 300 feet deep, oil was found at a depth of eighty-five feet, and is reported to flow in great abundance.

The discovery of an eight-inch vein of quartz carrying free gold in large quantities is reported from a place near Ishpeming, Mich.

Oscar J. Harvey, recently chief of the "horse claims" division of the Auditor's office in the Treasury Department at Washington, was arrested July 8 at Wilkesbarre, Pa., and imprisoned at Washington for forging applications for payment for horses to the amount of more than \$11,000.

A sloop with a pleasure party on board was capsized in a squall in Jamaica Bay, just outside New York Harbor, on Sunday, July 10, and twenty-four persons were drowned.

Fire broke out on the stage of the Alcazar Theatre at Hurley, Wis., on the night of July 9, and within an hour the business part of the town was in flames. Seventeen persons perished.

FOREIGN.

At the election for member of Parliament for the North Division of Paddington, July 8, Mr. Aird (Conservative) received 2,230 votes, against 1,811 votes for Mr. Routledge (Gladstonian). At the general election of 1885 Mr. Cohen, the deceased Conservative member, carried the district by a majority of 911 votes. The significance of the election is that the Liberals polled more, while the Conservatives polled fewer votes, not merely than in 1886, but even than in 1885; that is, there was a larger Liberal vote than there had been before home rule entered British politics. The moral effect is a defeat for the Conservatives.

At the Coventry election of a member of Parliament on July 9, a Liberal was returned by sixteen majority. At the last election the Conservative candidate had a majority of 405. The comment on this election is on the one side congratulatory, and on the other a confession of an ominous defeat for the Tories.

At an election for the seat for Dublin University, made vacant by the elevation of Attorney-General Holmes to the Irish bench July 12, there were two candidates, Mr. Madden and the Hon. Richard Clere Parsons, both Conservatives. Mr. Madden was elected, receiving 1,376 votes against 710 for his opponent.

The rebuke by the House of Commons of

Mr. Matthews, the Home Secretary of the Salisbury Cabinet, for his conduct in defending the police who improperly arrested a young woman named Cass on Regent Street as a person of ill repute, has been the occasion of severe comment on the Ministry even by its supporters. On June 6 Mr. Smith announced in the House of Commons that the Lord High Chancellor would institute a thorough inquiry into the matter. Mr. Matthews on the same day offered to resign, but he was requested to remain in office until the close of the present session of Parliament. Forty-nine Conservative members of the House of Commons signed a letter to Lord Salisbury asking him to accept the resignation at once.

The Crimes Bill passed its third reading in the House of Commons July 8 by a vote of 349 to 262. On the preceding evening Mr. Gladstone, in a speech against the passage of the bill, said that former coercion measures had been aimed at crime only, but this new one, passing beyond crime, aimed at societies. If Parliament retained any regard for the traditions of liberty or of party usages, the measure would be abandoned. While resenting the imputation that the Liberals had done the same thing, he would admit that past measures had been failures. As the bill stood, if an Irishman joined an association, it was for Mr. Balfour to say whether or not he became a criminal by the act. In the whole British Empire there was not a square yard of land which England held by force alone, excepting in Ireland, where force was employed. Ireland was held by mastery, but the Government refused to learn that mastery involved responsibility. They knew that the literature of the whole world was against them.

Mr. Balfour, Chief Secretary for Ireland, moved the second reading of the Irish Land Bill in the House of Commons July 11, and provoked a long debate. A Liberal motion that the bill be rejected was pending July 12.

The House of Lords on July 7, by a majority of 11, abolished primogeniture in cases of intestacy.

The American testimonial to Mr. Gladstone was presented to him July 9, in the presence of a number of Mrs. Gladstone's guests at a garden party. The presentation speech was made by Mr. Joseph Pulitzer. Mr. Gladstone, in reply, spoke in praise of the American interest in home rule for Ireland.

A deputation of English women presented an address to Mrs. Sullivan, wife of the Lord Mayor of Dublin, July 11, asking her to assist in an agitation for the repeal of the Coercion Law.

Mgr. Persico and Mgr. Gualdè, who have been sent by the Pope to inquire into the situation in Ireland, arrived in Dublin July 8.

More evictions have been made in Ireland. At Coolgraney, in Wexford, seventy families have been evicted with great hardship, and five at Woodford. The members of Parliament from the city and county of Cork, all Home-Rulers, have joined in a summons calling a convention of the Irish National League to meet July 17 to devise means to enable the tenants of Ireland to resist eviction. The tenants on Sir Alexander Jardine's estates in Dumfriesshire, Scotland, have resolved to adopt the Irish plan of campaign. They demand either a reduction of rents, a revaluation, or a release from their farms at Whitsuntide. William O'Brien, on his speech-making tour through Scotland, provoked many expressions of approval of his Bodyke policy, and large subscriptions for the Bodyke fund were made.

Mr. John Bright, in a speech before the East Indian Association July 8, advocated the admission of the natives of India to the highest positions in the civil service. This extension of the civil service, he thought, was a part of the principles contained in the proclamation issued by her Majesty at the end of the Mutiny; and it would be better if England tried whether a moral sentiment and a Christian

principle would not prove to be a greater permanent influence than continued aggrandizement.

England has obtained for her imports into Cuba and Porto Rico the same treatment till the end of the year as is accorded American imports by the Spanish-American Convention.

The report made by Sir Edward Thornton and Mr. Braithwaite respecting their efforts to obtain some adjustment of the Virginia debt satisfactory to the English bondholders, is that there was no sincere desire on the part of the Virginian representatives to arrive at any settlement on terms other than such as the State might dictate.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie, the Pittsburgh iron manufacturer, on July 9 laid the foundation stone of a new free library building in Edinburgh, his birthplace, for the endowment of which he gave \$250,000. Mr. J. G. Blaine was present and made an address.

The French Cabinet on July 7 decided to dismiss from office all French mayors who were in any way concerned in the royalist manifestations in honor of the Count of Paris during his visit to the Isle of Jersey. The Count returned to England on the 6th. The *Gaulois* reported that in bidding farewell to his friends, after advocating silence, the Count said: "You may be sure we shall win before long. Monarchy will come without violent effort and by a gentle transition, for our organization is in training and everything is ready. The new Government will get into immediate working order, and on the eventful day I, helped by all good Frenchmen, shall be King."

When Gen. Boulanger went from Paris, July 8, to take charge of his command at Clermont-Ferrand, a great popular demonstration was made in his honor. Many houses and newspaper offices were illuminated, and his departure was delayed for an hour by a vast crowd. They carried him to the railway station, and he was surrounded by so many persons that he was obliged to ride on a locomotive to Bercy, where he took a train. He was even much bruised by the enthusiastic attentions of his admirers. The demonstration made a sensation, and was regarded as a possible forerunner of further manifestations during the coming July national fête and review. The Government organs condemn Gen. Boulanger for permitting it, and warn the Republicans of France to beware of such a dictator as he would be. When he arrived at Clermont-Ferrand the houses were gayly decorated in his honor, and the streets were lined with troops. He was greeted with shouts of "Vive Boulanger!" In replying to an address of welcome by the municipal authorities, he said: "Yes, I am a Frenchman and a Republican, and I am deeply interested in the welfare of the army and the greatness of the country."

These demonstrations provoked a stormy discussion in the Chamber of Deputies July 11. The Premier, M. Rouvier, declared that Gen. Boulanger was concerned in the illegal manifestation on the occasion of the recent election of the Deputy for the Department of the Seine. It became necessary, therefore, to remove him from his political surroundings and to return him to his proper station. If the civil power had hesitated, M. Rouvier declared, it would have been all over with it. M. Clémenceau condemned the demonstrations, but maintained that Gen. Boulanger's popularity was that which the Chamber would have had it resolutely entered upon the work of reform.

The Committee of the French Chamber of Deputies having in charge the measure imposing a tax on foreigners residing in France, notwithstanding the objections of the Minister of the Interior, decided in favor of the measure on July 6. The *North German Gazette* (Berlin), referring to this tax bill, declared on the same day that the moment seems to have arrived for Germany to consider whether all the anti-German measures which are being

carried out in France should not, in a fully reciprocal manner, be enforced in Germany, especially in Alsace-Lorraine.

At a meeting July 8 of the Board of Directors of the Panama Canal Company at Paris it was decided to issue 500,000 new shares at 440 francs, bearing 30 francs interest, and reimbursable at 1,000 francs in forty-eight years, by bi-monthly drawings. The subscription will open on July 26, for one day only, in Europe and America, 30 francs being payable on application, 70 francs in August, and 75 francs every quarter afterwards until the full payment is completed. M. de Lesseps said in a letter to the shareholders that 100,000,000 francs of the last emission still remain in the company's coffers, but that prudence demands a new emission in order that the company may not want money suddenly at a later moment. He maintains that with the sum of 600,000,000 francs authorized by the Government the canal will be finished.

The total amount received for the benefit of the sufferers by the recent Opéra Comique fire in Paris, up to July 7, was 673,000 francs.

Prof. Virchow's latest report on the condition of the throat of the Crown Prince of Germany is that the growth last removed proves to be, more clearly than previous pieces, a hard compound wart, issuing from a moderately irritated and compressed surface. Its basis does not give the slightest ground for the belief in the existence of a new formation of the invading tissue.

Two of the men tried at Leipsic for treason to the German Government in betraying military secrets to the French were found guilty, and sentence was pronounced, July 7, of nine years of hard labor on one, named Klein, and five years on another named Grebert. Klein protested that he had committed no base crime, but that his chief offence consisted in being caught. "Punish me," he exclaimed, "as a French spy. I was born a Frenchman and am no German traitor." A witness who was suspected of aiding one of Grebert's witnesses to escape, committed suicide. The Procurator declared that the trials had shown that the frontier police not only countenance treason, but incite it. The Frenchman Schnaebelé, whose arrest by German police came very near being a *casus belli* between France and Germany, has been appointed to a higher position at Laon.

A measure that has already been much discussed for the insurance of workmen against want in their old age is ready for the German Reichstag. It proposes a minimum annuity of 120 marks, which may be claimed by workmen when they reach the age of seventy years or when they are hopelessly invalided. The Imperial Exchequer is to pay one-third of it, and the other two-thirds are to be paid in equal amounts by employers and employees, associations paying for their members.

The issue of the first 100,000,000 marks of the new German loan was subscribed for seven times over July 7. The applications of Berlin subscribers alone amount to 400,000,000 marks.

Two unpublished letters from Luther to Brentz, and five from Melancthon to the Swabian reformer Lachmann, have been found in an old desk in a school at Heilbronn.

Prince Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha was elected Prince of Bulgaria by the Sobranie July 7; and it was reported that if the Powers refuse to recognize his election, the Sobranie intend to abrogate article 3 of the Berlin Treaty and proclaim the independence of the country. On the 9th the Sobranie adjourned. All the leading Russian newspapers express disapproval of the election and pronounce it the result of Austro-German intrigue, and urge the Porte to intervene and the Powers to withdraw their representatives from Sofia; and the Coburg *Zeitung* (semi-official) said: "In view of the attempts of the Bulgarian party of independence to draw Prince Ferdinand into its confused affairs, we must point out the fact that a

German prince such as Prince Ferdinand cannot accept a crown without the permission of the head of the house to which he belongs, nor without the consent of Emperor William; and until their consent is obtained nothing can be settled." The Austrian press is a unit in congratulating the people of Bulgaria upon the election.

It was announced July 12 that the Emperor William on July 24 will meet the Emperor Francis Joseph at Gastein. Until this meeting the policy to be adopted about the election of Prince Ferdinand will not be determined. It was reported from St. Petersburg July 12 that Turkey had approved the election of Prince Ferdinand.

The Bulgarian Regents have tendered their resignations, regarding their task as finished by the election of Prince Ferdinand. The Sobranie refused to accept the resignations, desiring to await the return of the delegates who went to visit the Prince. All the Ministers have resigned, and a new Cabinet has not yet been formed.

A new Bulgarian Cabinet was announced July 11, of which M. Stoiloff is President of the Council and ad interim Minister of Finance. He telegraphed to the prefects of the departments ordering them to release all political prisoners.

A great fire was reported from Vitebsk, Russia, July 11, whereby 413 dwellings, the police offices, six school-houses, and a bank were destroyed, many people were made homeless, and property to the value of 2,000,000 rubles was lost.

It was reported on July 12 that there had then been 200 cases of cholera at Catania, of which 140 proved fatal. The disease has broken out also in Sardinia.

A land slide at Zug, Switzerland, July 6, precipitated a part of the town into the lake. Many houses were engulfed and as many as 100 persons, among them the President of the Canton, perished.

The latest news from Stanley, the African explorer, is that on the journey beyond Leopoldville he found great difficulty in replenishing his commissary. The threatened scarcity of provisions made a number of his men insubordinate, and it became necessary to punish them with much severity. Stanley himself was ill from the excessive heat.

A fire in the Citadel at Quebec on the night of July 6, spread rapidly and burned ammunition wagons, guns, and many stores, and made its way towards the magazine where a large quantity of powder was stored. A number of bombs were exploded, and there was great consternation because of the imminent danger of the fire's reaching the magazine. After a hard night's work it was checked.

On the night of July 9 the steamer *Merri-mac*, from Halifax to Boston, was wrecked at little Hope Island, off the Nova Scotian coast. The passengers lost all their personal effects, and suffered from cold and hunger, but none perished.

The dissatisfaction with King Kalakaua's government of the Hawaiian Kingdom culminated on June 30. A mass meeting of citizens of Honolulu, in which residents of American birth took the most prominent part, having organized a military company and practically seized the Government, demanded of the King the dismissal of his Cabinet and the appointment of another, to consist of persons whom the meeting named, the restitution of \$71,000 bribe-money which the King had taken, and a pledge "not in future to interfere, either directly or indirectly, with the election of representatives, and not to interfere with or attempt to unduly influence legislation or legislators." Kalakaua in great trepidation acceded to all these demands and was allowed to retain the crown. No violence had been used when the last boat, which arrived at San Francisco July 9, sailed. Along with the fear of violence, there was a hope that the scheme of a constitutional monarchy would prove successful.

THE GRAND ARMY MACHINE.

THE Grand Army of the Republic came into existence not long after the close of the war. The organization was established with good motives and for excellent purposes. It was intended to bind together in the bonds of friendship the survivors of the Union Army, and to furnish a convenient medium for relieving members who fell into distress, and for preserving from suffering the families of those who died in war. It appealed forcibly to the sympathy of the public, and enjoyed its respect.

It was not long, however, before ambitious politicians perceived that such an organization might easily be prostituted to partisan and personal ends. The majority of the members were Republicans, and it was plain that if the leaders of the order in any State could secure its backing for their ambition, they could establish strong claims to the favorable regard of Republican conventions. The rank and file of the order also came to see that if they should present a "solid front," they could make demands upon legislators and Congressmen which time-serving officials would readily honor. If the Grand Army endorsed a particular pension scheme, for example, the vengeance of the whole body could be invoked upon any man in public life who interposed any objection to its becoming a law. Both the officials and the privates of the Grand Army thus came to see that the organization offered excellent opportunities for promoting selfish purposes.

The good-natured public, busily occupied with its own affairs, was slow to realize the possible dangers which lurked in such an organization so conducted. There was need of some pointed action by the Grand Army, as a body, to open the eyes of the country to its real character. The President's vetoes of sundry private pension bills for unworthy claimants, and of the Dependent Pension Bill for an immense army of such claimants, served this purpose. The latter veto was no sooner announced than Gen. Fairchild, the head of the Grand Army, issued orders to have all posts express their views upon it, with the evident purpose of bringing such a pressure to bear upon Congressmen who at heart opposed the bill, as would force them to vote to pass it over the veto, against their convictions. The veto having been sustained by Congress, as it was by the country, the leaders of the Grand Army set at work to frame a new bill of the same sort, and to have this measure endorsed by the organization, so that Congress might be frightened into passing it and the President into signing it. As a means of "showing their power," the managers next began abusing the President for having done what he conceived to be his duty, and threatening him with insult and even personal violence if he should accept his invitation to the St. Louis encampment. Gen. Tuttle, who is the commander of the posts in Iowa—the State that will probably be most largely represented—at St. Louis—declared a month ago that he knew the feeling of the Grand Army, and that they would "snub and insult him," and hinted that there was "a good prospect of there being trouble" if Mr. Cleveland should attend the encampment. A fortnight later, Gen. Fair-

child seized the excuse of the battle-flag order to break forth with his invocation of "three kinds of palsy." That no doubt might be left that such blatherskites as Tuttle were entitled to speak for the order, the posts in Iowa have been passing resolutions heartily endorsing his utterances.

The result of all this is, that the public is coming to understand the real character of the organization. It is no longer a benevolent institution working for unselfish ends; it has become a machine for the procuring of pensions and offices. It is easy to see how this has come about. The whole membership of the organization, which is now placed at 350,000, is not much more than one-fourth of the whole number of surviving Union soldiers. This one-fourth includes almost all the self-seekers, the men who were only tempted into the army by high bounties, and the men who are always trying to trade upon their services in the war. Any one who investigates the matter will find that a large proportion of the better sort of veterans either do not belong to the Grand Army, or hold aloof from an active share in its proceedings since they have found what influences dominate it. The best proof of this is the support of Tuttle by the Iowa posts. Soldiers who deserved the respect of their fellow-citizens would be quick to repudiate such talk as Tuttle's, instead of commending it.

Fortunately, the danger of serious harm from the Grand Army has been removed by the exposure which it has thus made of its character. If it were universally supposed to be an association of old soldiers devoted unselfishly to the public interests, its weight might be thrown with tremendous force for or against any measure or any man. But when it is seen to be an organization chiefly concerned in extorting undeserved offices and pensions for unworthy members, its endorsement or its condemnation is of little moment. No body of men can present a Tuttle and a Fairchild as its perfect flower, and long retain the confidence of the American people.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND AND THE SOLDIERS.

THE course of a few demagogic leaders of the Grand Army towards the President has already put that organization on the defensive, as is shown by the excuses which representative partisan Republican newspapers are already making for the course of its leaders. The *Tribune*, with characteristically vulgar mendacity, says that the President has "displayed on every occasion his cynical contempt and utter lack of sympathy for the loyal defenders of the Union cause," and "has repeatedly sneered at the Union veterans in his veto messages, and never manifested sympathy or respect for them." The *Philadelphia Press*, to excuse the Grand Army, says that it "does not object to his pension vetoes because of their number, or because of the specific cases he selected to veto"; but "the objection rests wholly on the spirit of these vetoes, their implied attack on the pension system, their grudging recognition of patriotic service."

To show definitely how false is any charge

that the President has been actuated by any unfriendly feeling towards the veterans in writing his veto messages, it is only necessary to read the messages themselves, whose text papers like the *Press* and the *Tribune* take it for granted that the people have forgotten. It should be remembered that the great majority of the private pension bills which the President vetoed, covered claims which had undergone the most careful scrutiny of the Pension Bureau—a department specially organized for making such investigations—and had been rejected as dishonest or out of the list of assistable cases. A would-be pensioner, defeated in this way, then (generally at the instigation of the agent with whom he is to divide his money) throws himself on the member of Congress from his district, and induces the latter to introduce a private bill in his behalf. Hundreds of these bills come before every Congress and are passed, not in a regular session of the day and after full discussion, but at some evening meeting, when only the members interested in such bills are present, and these to the number of perhaps a few dozen; for there is nothing in the Federal Constitution requiring at least a majority of the whole House to pass a bill. In vetoing a bill increasing the pension of A. J. Hill, the President, on May 8, 1886, used this language:

"The policy of frequently reversing, by special enactment, the decisions of the bureau invested by law with the examination of pension claims, fully equipped for such examination, and which ought not to be suspected of any lack of liberality to our veteran soldiers, is exceedingly questionable. It may well be doubted if a committee of Congress has a better opportunity than such an agency to judge of the merits of these claims. If, however, there is any lack of power in the Pension Bureau for a full investigation, it should be supplied; if the system adopted is inadequate to do full justice to claimants, it should be corrected; and if there is a want of sympathy and consideration for the defenders of our Government, the Bureau should be reorganized. The disposition to concede the most generous treatment to the disabled, aged, and needy among our veterans ought not to be restrained; and it must be admitted that in some cases justice and equity cannot be done, nor the charitable tendencies of the Government in favor of worthy objects of its care indulged, under fixed rules. These conditions sometimes justify a resort to special legislation; but I am convinced that the interposition by special enactment in the granting of pensions should be rare and exceptional."

Certainly no one can dispute the soundness of this view, nor can the warmest friend of the soldier find fault with its form of expression. It is easy to discover in the special veto messages constant repetitions of similar expressions of the President's feeling towards the deserving soldiers. In refusing to assent to a pension for Rebecca Eldridge, whose husband was killed in 1881 by a fall from a ladder, the President said: "It is not a pleasant thing to interfere in such a case. But we are dealing with pensioners, not with gratuities." In vetoing a bill granting a pension to Harriet Welsh, whose husband was killed by a fall from the cars in 1877, the President wrote: "I believe her case to be a pitiable one, and wish I could join in her relief. But unfortunately official duty cannot always be well done when directed solely by sympathy and charity." In declining to sign a bill granting a pension to Mary Anderson, whose husband was killed by the cars in 1882, the President wrote: