

The Nation.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1887.

The Week.

A DESPATCH from Washington gives a list of thirty-six Presidential post-offices in various States and Territories at which the commissions of the postmasters will expire during December, and adds that the commissions of fifty-one Presidential postmasters will expire during January. When one considers that these are among the most desirable Federal offices, and that under the spoils system they would have been turned over to the Democrats as soon as that party came into power, the fact that there are scores of Republican incumbents serving out their terms as the third year of a Democratic President approaches its close, is a sufficient answer to the question whether civil-service reform is making any progress in this country.

The American farmer has a new grievance against the steel ring of the United States. It appears from experiments made in Germany during the last three years by Prof. Wagner, that one of the best fertilizers available is made by pulverizing the refuse slag formed by the basic process of making steel, better known as the Thomas-Gilchrist process. Ores high in phosphorus can be directly treated by this process, and as its object is to eliminate the phosphorus, that ingredient must be taken up and retained by the slag. Hence a very good phosphoric lime results, containing about 16 per cent. of phosphoric acid, 50 per cent. of lime, 12 per cent. of iron, and 7 per cent. of silicic acid. This phosphoric acid is, moreover, in a good form for use in the fields, for experiment has shown that finely ground Thomas slag operates twice as well as Peruvian guano, six times as well as bone-dust, and somewhat more than one-half as well as the superphosphate. As two tons of the powdered slag can be purchased at a lower price than one ton of superphosphate, and is quite as efficacious, this slag is the cheaper material in the end, and, being a worthless material as slag, and a burden to the iron works, both the iron-masters and the farmers gain through its utilization. Upwards of 400,000 tons of slag is made up into fertilizers each year in Germany, and experiments conducted on English soil have demonstrated its usefulness.

In the United States it has been charged, and the charge has never been denied, that the syndicate which purchased the right to use the Bessemer process also controls the right to use the Thomas-Gilchrist invention, for which many of our domestic ores are peculiarly fitted. But, having secured the right against all comers, it refuses to sell privileges, on the ground that such action would cause what Marx happily describes as a "moral depreciation" of the values of their Bessemer plants. It is like a telegraph company which should acquire and hold unused all improve-

ments of the telephone, because more convenient and agreeable telephonic communication would unfavorably affect the business of telegraphing. There is only one steel works in the United States which employs the basic process, and so the American farmer is hardly in a position at present to avail himself of this newly discovered cheap and efficient fertilizer, which much of the soil of the Eastern States, exhausted by long-continued culture on narrow lines, needs in order to be restored to heart. The tariff on steel, which has built up the steel monopoly, is, of course, indirectly responsible for this abuse of power and injury to the farmer.

The growth of material prosperity in the South continues steady and healthful, as is shown by the fact that it is as marked in purely agricultural districts as in those localities where mining or manufacturing has started "booms." The *Raleigh News and Observer* calls attention to the considerable increase in the assessed valuation of property in North Carolina, recently reported, as "a further gratifying evidence of the advance of the State on all lines of prosperity," and adds: "There has been marked growth in material welfare in every section. There has been improvement in every department of industry. There has been advance in agricultural methods. There has been development everywhere of the wonderful resources of the State. Throughout the State the watchword has for some time been 'Forward,' and the result is a status with respect to material progress second to that of no State in the South." The progress of Florida is best shown by the fact that the assessment of the State has risen within the past seven years from \$29,471,618 to \$76,611,409. Texas is accumulating a surplus in her State Treasury. The revenue for the last fiscal year was \$325,000 above the estimates, and before the next biennial meeting of the Legislature there promises to be a balance on hand of \$800,000.

Such facts as these show how absurd it is to talk about the South being still so "impo- verished by the war" that she needs national aid to educate her children, and how demoralizing it would be to swell the surplus of a State like Texas by the gift of \$4,000,000 from the Federal Treasury, as proposed by the Blair bill. The truth is, that the honest people in the South no longer pretend that they need any assistance. For example, the subsidy scheme proposed to give North Carolina about as much money for schools as she now raises, but it is confessed that the people of the State can easily raise this extra amount themselves, the *Raleigh Chronicle* declaring its belief that "the taxes for the public schools ought to be doubled," and that the people can afford to double them. That Florida, a State with almost as many negroes as whites, needs no help, could not be better shown than by this recent statement of the Jacksonville *Southern Leader*, the organ of

the colored people, in whose special behalf the subsidy scheme has always been advocated: "The educational outlook for this State was never better. New schools are being opened in all directions, and new and more competent teachers are coming here and placed in charge of schools. Our common-school system has reached a stage of perfection which is highly gratifying to all classes of citizens."

Proofs of a growing rainfall in the far West are thickening. A valuable testimony in this direction just now comes from Gen. Morrow, United States Army, in command at Fort Sidney. In an address delivered last month at the first annual fair in Cheyenne County, on the western frontier of Nebraska, he gave a leaf from his own experience. Twenty years before, he had led soldiers through that identical region when there was no settlement for 500 miles east of Julesburg. Then he had observed that men slept in the open air from May to November without having their blankets dampened; but in August, 1887, he saw on the same ground dews as heavy as ever at the same season in Michigan or Arkansas. During the first three-fourths of the present year he reports the rainfall at his post to have been fourteen inches, while the annual fall in fertile Malta does not exceed fourteen, and that about Spanish Madrid is only nine. The annual amount of rain registered at Camp Douglas in its first year, 1861, was eleven inches; but in 1874, the last of five years during which Gen. Morrow held command at that post, the rainfall had more than doubled, the rain-gauge showing twenty-seven inches. The speaker emphasized these facts, because in portions of the Cheyenne region the last two seasons have been exceptionally dry. He also showed that within the last three months 83,000 acres of Government land had been taken up in that county, largely by homesteaders. The fair exhibits, also, already showed every variety of farm produce. These facts are the more noteworthy because Cheyenne County stretches four degrees west of the famous meridian of 100°, which in Government publications figures as a line that agriculture cannot cross. They are still more striking if we note how they refute the doctrine laid down by the *North American Review* in 1858. At that date, when there was scarcely one Nebraska hamlet forty miles west of the Missouri, the *North American* described our people as having "already reached their western inland frontier," and the westward stream of emigration as there "dammed up so that it must fork northward or southward." The Missouri bluffs, accordingly, were described as "a shore at the termination of a vast ocean desert nearly one thousand miles in breadth, which it was proposed to traverse, if at all, with caravans of camels, and which interposed a final barrier to the establishment of large communities—agricultural, mercantile, or even pastoral." Yet before the close of 1880 Nebraska numbered half-a-million inhabitants.

Mr. J. W. Longley, a writer of considerable ability, defends in the *Toronto Week* the policy of commercial union between Canada and the United States. In answer to the objection that such commercial union will lead to annexation, he says that it will not have that result until a majority of the people of Canada desire it and vote for it, and that when they do desire it and vote for it, they ought to have it. It will be hard for anybody to gainsay that proposition, but there is one other element that might have had a place in Mr. Longley's argument, and that would have strengthened it not a little. Since annexation is nothing else than a political marriage, in which the parties have equal and perfectly defined rights, it is not to be expected that we shall make an offer of marriage or accept one without examining the reasons and grounds for union just as critically and prudishly as Canada herself. There was a time when annexation meant to the United States aggrandizement, the lust of conquest, and the pride of dominion. That was the era of slavery. The Mexican war and the Ostend manifesto were the signs and outgrowths of it. If there be any lingering remains of that spirit of aggressiveness, they are now seldom seen or heard. Mr. Goldwin Smith said very truly, in one of his magazine articles, that the United States was the only considerable Power on the globe that looked at a mouthful before swallowing it. The reason why they look before swallowing is that the mouthful is something that has to be digested and assimilated. Anything that belongs to the American Union must be good enough to help govern it. In a closely contested national election, the vote of Canada might and probably would turn the scale. It might do so regularly for the next twenty years. This fact alone would compel us to take heed to our steps. It does not follow that we should reject Canada, but equally it does not follow that we should accept her as a matter of course. It has always been the idea of Canada that we were greedy to swallow her, and that we were only prevented from doing so by a wholesome respect for the British Navy. Under the incitements of the war of 1812 there was such a feeling. Under the stimulus of any war with the mother country that feeling would revive. But under the régime of peace and common sense the people of the United States will be just as particular in choosing their partners for life as their neighbors on the north or on the south can possibly desire.

Nobody can fail to admire the consistency of the Union Square Anarchist meeting on Saturday evening, in its treatment of the grave questions of law applicable to the condemned men at Chicago. The preamble recites that the condemned men were performing a patriotic duty at the Haymarket meeting, and that the public officials of Chicago were engaged in an unlawful conspiracy against them. They (the meeting) accordingly demand "from the courts of the nation their immediate release," the question pending before the courts of the nation being simply whether the condemned men are entitled to a new trial or not. They

demand also "the prosecution of the real criminals, the Police Department of Chicago." This they demand also from the courts of the nation. Seeing that the police of Chicago left forty or more dead and wounded on the field of the encounter, in strict conformity to Anarchist ideas, their further prosecution by the Supreme Court of the United States might be justly intermitted. If these demands are not acceded to, a committee is to be appointed "to proceed to the Governor of Illinois and request that the demands of this meeting be complied with"; that is, that the Governor decide that the laws of Illinois on the subject of murder and conspiracy to commit murder are wrong, and that the real criminals are the surviving policemen. If the Governor should not take this view of his duty, the consequences are left wholly to the imagination, since the resolutions leave a painful gap at this point, and even the speakers could suggest nothing except that such high-handed proceedings would produce a revolution in any country in Europe. The orator who hazarded this valuable conjecture added with bitter sarcasm that this was a republican government. What a pity that Lingg, Schwab, Spies, Fischer, Engel, and Fielden had not reflected upon the republican hindrances to revolution before they abandoned the easy paths of the Old World to tread the thorny ways of the New.

But we must again remind the Anarchists and their friends, who are complaining that they have not had a fair trial, that if their complaints are well founded, the day of the execution will be a great day for their cause, because it will witness the triumph of Anarchy. Nothing can be more Anarchical than hanging people without a fair trial; nothing more absurd from the Anarchical point of view than "due process of law." A good Anarchist ought to be ashamed of claiming "due process of law." It is a virtual abandonment of his principles. When Anarchy comes, there will be lots of people hanged, but none of them will have a fair trial. The majority will hang the minority, and the big men the little men, simply because they have the power. What has happened in Chicago is, according to the Anarchist story, simply a foretaste of this good time coming. The majority have seized on seven harmless men, and have put them through a mock trial, and are going to kill them because they do not like them. But, why not? Where is the wrong of this from the Anarchical point of view? Why should not the man with the halter strangle the man with the bomb, if he can get hold of him and master him? Is it not simply a question of comparative strength? Is it not, in short, very ridiculous for Anarchists to hire lawyers to rant about justice and legality?

Mr. Patrick Ford writes a long letter to his own newspaper, the *Irish World*, to upset the land doctrines of Henry George and the theology of Dr. McGlynn. While wishing Mr. Ford every success in his endeavor, we must caution him to submit his dissertations on no-

litical economy to some instructed person before printing them. When he says, for example, that "in the coins issued from the United States mint there is at once a national property and a private property," we naturally desire to know which part of the coin is national and which part private. What Mr. Ford means is, that the inside of a gold eagle, containing all the metal, is private property, and the outside, the image and superscription, national property. But this leads to confusion worse confounded, for he says immediately, "The individual has a property right in the exchangeable and purchasing power of the dollar, but the property right in the dollar itself, as absolute money, is vested in the nation." After a man has spent the dollar and got its exchangeable and purchasing power in the form of mutton, for instance, the property right vested in the nation will necessarily be held in trust by the seller of the mutton, even though he depart immediately to England and deposit it in the bank of that country. The question how the nation is to recover its share of the property is one which we hope that Mr. Ford will not present to Mr. Blaine when he becomes President of the United States, because the consequences might be serious. If the banks of the Old World were asked to surrender the nation's share in the gold eagles held by them, and the demand were backed by force, they might melt those coins and utterly destroy what Mr. Ford calls the "special value over and above its intrinsic worth and commercial value as a commodity," which "added special value," he says for the humiliation of Mr. George, "is an unearned increment." But the unearned increment becomes, in the next sentence, the equivalent of "interest," which Mr. George contends that the individual has the right to draw. Herein, says Mr. Ford, "Baron Rothschild agrees with Mr. George." This *reductio ad absurdum* ought to prevent any Blaine Irishman from voting the Henry George ticket.

The assessment imposed on Judge Lawrence as the price of his renomination, which he refuses to pay, is, we understand, \$25,000, an enormous sum — considerably more, in fact, than a year's salary. It is imposed on him, too, not for the expenses of his election, but for the privilege of being a candidate for continuance in an office to which his claim ought not to be questioned. We have always maintained that the highest interests of the community demand that a judge who has rendered faithful service on the bench during one term ought to be retained. He has the immense advantage of having been found fit by actual trial. One may say this, as we say it, in Judge Lawrence's favor, without reflecting in the smallest degree on any of his rivals at the coming election. They are all worthy, but the actual incumbent is, if worthy, the worthiest. Our allowing a judge who has discharged the duties of his office as Judge Lawrence has discharged them, to be taxed in this frightful way as a condition of his continuance in the public service, is surely one of the worst political scandals to which a civilized free community has ever sub-

mitted. It would be a disgraceful thing even if the money went into the public treasury, or if a judge's legitimate election expenses reached such an amount. But the money does not go into the public treasury, nor does it cost \$500 to elect a judge. Nearly the whole of the money goes into the pockets of a class whom it is no exaggeration to call scoundrels, and the chiefs of whom actually grow rich out of their thefts from these election funds. If we took the distribution of the ballots out of their hands—that is, deprived them of the power of cheating at the polls as we have deprived them of their power of cheating in the count—there is no department of our administrative system which would not feel the purifying effects.

Omaha, Neb., is having very much the same sort of a fight for non-partisanship in the courts as New York city. Four judges are to be elected from the district. The Bar Association unanimously recommended the reelection of two Republicans and one Democrat who have served with distinction. The Democratic Convention followed the recommendation, and associated with them an excellent lawyer for the fourth place; but the Republican politicians not only refused to accept either of the Democrats, but rejected one of the Republican judges who was not satisfactory to the bosses, and made a thoroughly partisan ticket. The result was a prompt revolt of the better sort of Republicans, and the organization of a citizens' movement for the reelection of the three judges now on the bench, which has every promise of success.

Month by month the Grand Army of the Republic is steadily losing its ostensible character as a non-partisan organization, and sinking into a mere attachment of the Republican Machine. In Ohio the Republican managers have gone so far as to request members to turn out and parade in honor of the Republican candidate for Governor on his stumping tour through the State. In Peoria, Ill., the Republican members of a most flourishing post have made themselves so offensive to their Democratic associates that the latter have been forced, in self-respect, to withdraw from the body. Unfortunate as this degeneration of the organization is, there is happily this compensation, that the order loses its threatening influence in politics as soon as it becomes clear that it is only part of the Republican Machine.

M. Wilson, President Grévy's son-in-law, evidently hoped he had disposed of the Caffarel scandal, as far as he was concerned, by printing the correspondence he had with Mme. Limousin, the go-between. The correspondence, as printed, was a plain attempt at blackmail on her part, but he declared, in a letter to the *Temps*, that he took no notice of an invitation, with which it concluded, to visit her at her house. He went down to Tours shortly afterwards to meet and explain to his constituents, but the meeting was stormy and hostile, which he accounts for by saying that it was packed by Monarchists and Radicals.

When the Chambers met on Tuesday week, an investigation into the scandal was moved by Cuneo d'Ornano, a Bonapartist, and carried, with "urgency" tacked on to it, by a vote of 379 to 155, in spite of the opposition of M. Rouvier, the Minister. The committee, appointed to conduct the investigation is to consist of one Moderate Republican, six Radicals, and three Conservatives—the majority probably hostile to Wilson, and the Radicals certainly eager to strike at President Grévy through him.

President Grévy has, it is now said, reconsidered his threat of resigning, and is going to await the result of the investigation. But the furious pursuit of Wilson by the Radical and Monarchist papers is not in the least relaxed, and he has in some degree played into their hands by paying \$8,000 into the Treasury to cover his use of the President's postal frank. This was one of their original charges against him, and he has apparently confessed it. So they say he will have to confess the others by and by. The whole scandal is a curious mixture of politics and personality. When the sale of the decorations by Caffarel was originally discovered, and the accusation pushed home, Gen. Boulanger told the newspaper reporters that the affair was got up by the Minister of War, Gen. Ferron, to damage him. On his acknowledging this, Gen. Ferron put him under close arrest for thirty days, and converted him, in the eyes of the Radicals, into a martyr. These latter then determined to carry the war into Africa by attacking Wilson, the President's son-in-law, and the Monarchists joined them in the hope of forcing M. Grévy's resignation and then discrediting the Republic, and possibly overturning it in the resulting confusion. His resignation is still looked for confidently, and his successor, it is said, will be either M. Ferry, M. de Freycinet, or the Duc d'Aumale; but if it comes to this, Boulanger will probably appear as "the man on horseback." The scene, it is hardly necessary to say, is witnessed with great gusto in Germany.

The *Univers*, the French Clerical organ, extracts from a religious paper less known to fame, the *Propriétaire Chrétien*, an article describing a new and absolutely efficacious remedy for the phylloxera, which has been desolating French vineyards so terribly. The *Univers* intimates that it is equally efficacious for the diseases of other plants—potatoes, corn, and wheat. It has been tried by a friend of the writer, whose name and residence, however, he does not give, and has proved, he says, a complete success. The friend some years ago bought a vineyard in which the vines were diseased, and he began by pulling them up by the roots. He then had the whole property carefully blessed by a Dominican monk, and erected in the centre of the vineyard on a suitable pedestal a large statue of the Sacred Heart. All work on Sunday was strictly forbidden. The laborers were forbidden even to touch their tools on that day, and were warned that they would be dismissed for cursing or swearing. When these

arrangements were completed, the replanting of the vineyard began; but, in doing so, purely human precautions were not wholly disregarded. One-third of the new cuttings were American, one-third ordinary French, and one-third French from American grafts. Cultivation was then resumed in the ordinary way, with scrupulous abstinence from any of the dressings recommended by science, falsely so called. The result has been that, "fortified by the priests' prayers, the vines are growing magnificently."

A most extraordinary and most gratifying illustration of the harmonious relations which it is possible to establish between employers and employed has just been furnished in England. The Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railroad recently met with a serious disaster at Doncaster, which must result in heavy losses to the corporation. As soon as the situation came to be known, the employees in the various departments of their own accord held meetings to consider what they could do to relieve the company, and in every case a unanimous disposition was shown to contribute their wages for several days, varying according to their pay, but averaging about a week for all. A delegation, representing all classes of the men, was appointed to present this offer to the directors, and the report of the meeting is most interesting reading. The employees told the story of the various meetings which had been held, and the directors expressed their hearty appreciation of the generous disposition which had been displayed, although they declined the offer, on the ground that the shareholders were, on the whole, better able to bear the loss.

The Earl of Wharcliffe characterized the action of the railroad's employees as an unprecedented thing, and said that it marked an epoch in the history of capital and labor. This was hardly an exaggeration of the fact, and yet it is probable that such relations might be the rule rather than the exception if only both sides always treated each other as has been the rule in the case of the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railroad. For it was made evident in the speeches that this action of the employees was only the natural outgrowth of the policy pursued by the employers. Sir Edward Watkin said that the directors had always thought it was their duty to assist the men in providing against accident and for a rainy day, and when any proposal in that direction had been brought before them, they had not only welcomed it, but done all they could to assist it. Their Mutual Provident Society has 5,203 members and a reserve fund of £10,628; and the savings bank, which has been in existence nearly twenty-eight years, has 2,701 depositors, has received deposits of £583,413, and has £313,714 in accumulated funds. The directors have also established a fund which, partly by their contributions and partly by those of the men, provides a superannuation allowance for salaried officers, and they propose ultimately to establish a similar pension system for all classes of their employees.

SUMMARY OF THE WEEK'S NEWS.

[WEDNESDAY, October 26, to TUESDAY, November 1, 1887, inclusive.]

DOMESTIC.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND, on October 31, received a deputation from Great Britain who desired his cooperation in securing a treaty between that country and the United States which shall provide for the amicable settlement of disputes by arbitration. Short addresses were made by Sir Lyon Playfair and others, and in reply the President said: "I promise you a faithful and careful consideration of the matter, and I believe I may speak for the American people in giving the assurance that they desire to see the killing of men for the accomplishment of national ambition abolished, and that they will gladly hail the advent of peaceful methods in the settlement of national disputes, so far as this is consistent with the defence and protection of our country's territory, and with the maintenance of our national honor when it affords a shelter and repose for national integrity, and personifies the safety and protection of our citizens."

President Cleveland has issued the usual proclamation appointing Thursday, November 24, Thanksgiving Day.

Secretary of the Navy Whitney is so ill that he has been obliged to go away from Washington for several weeks.

Admiral Porter, in his annual report to the Secretary of the Navy, says that the following harbors are entirely defenceless against a single ironclad: New York, Boston, San Francisco, lake ports, Hampton Roads and Norfolk, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Washington, Baltimore, Portland, Me., Rhode Island ports, Key West, Charleston, Mobile, Savannah, Galveston, Pensacola, Wilmington, N. C., San Diego, Cal., Portsmouth, N. H., to say nothing of many other places of greater or less importance. Two heavy ironclads could begin at the easternmost point and proceed along the coast to Texas, laying them all under contribution. He recommends the construction of a squadron of heavy ironclads.

Gov. A. P. Swineford of Alaska, in his annual report, says that wonderful mineral deposits are being worked. The mine and mill on Douglas Island have been in steady operation during the year, turning out gold bullion at the rate of \$100,000 per month. The total value of the Alaskan fisheries for the year is estimated at \$3,000,000. "The fur trade of Alaska," the report goes on, "is practically monopolized by the Alaskan Commercial Company, which does not confine its operations to the seal islands leased to it by the Government, but holds and possesses most of the Aleutian chain and the greater part of the mainland as a principality of its own, over which it exercises undisputed sway." The Governor says that if the contract with this company cannot be legally rescinded, it ought not to be renewed, and he repeats his recommendation that a local government be provided for Alaska, with representation in the lower house of Congress.

The Chinese Minister has returned by direction of his Government a portion of the Rock Springs indemnity, appropriated by Congress, which represents the amount of six claims that were ascertained to be duplicates of other claims.

Up to October 26 there had been more than 225 cases of yellow fever and 34 deaths at Tampa, Fla., and there were then 80 patients, but fear of its spreading has subsided. Some excitement has been caused in New York and in several Western cities by the arrival of a number of immigrants from the country near Palermo, Italy, who may have brought the germs of cholera with them. The clothing of most of them has been burned or fumigated.

The chief engineer of a railway company has asked the New York State Civil-Service Commission for the names of the applicants for work as engineers in the department of the State Engineer. The railway company desires to fill a vacancy in its engineering force. This is the first formal application of the kind ever made to the Civil-Service Commissioners of this State.

Mr. Carl Schurz delivered an address to the Commonwealth Club (Independent in politics) at its first meeting this fall, October 26, in favor of the election of De Lancey Nicoll, the Democrat who has been nominated by the Republicans for District Attorney of this county; and on October 29 there was a largely attended meeting of Republicans, Independents, and Independent Democrats to further the same purpose.

Arguments were heard by the Court of Appeals of this State on the appeal of Jacob Sharp for a new trial, October 27-28. The leading argument for the people was made by Assistant District-Attorney De Lancey Nicoll. The court's decision has not yet been rendered. On the same days the Supreme Court of the United States heard arguments on the motion to grant a writ of error in the case of the condemned Anarchists of Chicago. No petition for their pardon made in the form required by law has been received by the Governor of Illinois.

The Republicans of Missouri are making an effort to have St. Louis chosen as the place for holding the National Convention of the party next year, and a committee has been appointed to make an argument before the National Committee when it meets in Washington.

Mayor Latrobe (Democrat) of Baltimore was reelected October 26 by 4,495 majority—a gain of 2,265 over the Democratic vote for Mayor two years ago. The new City Council will consist of twelve Democrats and eight Republicans in the first branch, and seven Democrats and three Republicans in the second branch.

The Boston Chamber of Commerce and others made complaint to the Inter-State Commerce Commission, October 27, that the freight rates upon grain and produce from Chicago to Boston constitute an unjust discrimination in favor of New York, and an unjust discrimination in favor of Boston exporters as against local dealers.

Natural gas has been discovered in quantities large enough to be profitable near Detroit.

The corner-stone of a monument to Gen. R. E. Lee was laid with appropriate ceremony at Richmond, Va., October 27, in the presence of many ex-Confederates and a great crowd of people. In the evening Mr. Charles Marshall delivered an oration on Gen. Lee's career, and a poem was read which was written for the occasion by the late Mr. James Barron Hope. A bronze statue 8½ feet in height of Leif Erikson, the Icelandic explorer who is supposed to have discovered America about the year 1000, was unveiled in Boston October 29. It is the gift of the Scandinavian societies of the city.

An appeal by Prof. Egbert C. Smyth of Andover Theological Seminary from the decision of the Board of Visitors removing him from his professorship was filed in the Supreme Court for Essex County, Mass., November 1. He asks for a writ of *certiorari* that the Visitors be commanded to produce in court all matters relating to the case.

George Engel, Louis Lingg, and Adolph Fischer, three of the condemned Anarchists at Chicago, have written an open letter to Gov. Oglesby of Illinois refusing any commutation of sentence short of liberty, and declaring unabated faith in the principles of Anarchism.

The wife and child of Mr. Wechsler, a merchant of Brooklyn, were severely hurt by the explosion of a package brought to their residence by a messenger, October 29. The sender of the package is unknown.

Henry M. Jackson, who was the paying teller of the United States Sub-Treasury in this city, stole \$10,000 and ran away, it is supposed, to Canada, where he was reported to have been seen.

The propeller *Vernon* foundered during a severe gale on Lake Michigan October 29, and her crew and passengers, about thirty persons in all, perished. Some of them were seen clinging to rafts, but only one man could be rescued.

Rear-Admiral J. W. A. Nicholson died in this city October 28 in his sixty-seventh year. He entered the navy as a midshipman February 10, 1838, and was retired from active service in 1883.

FOREIGN.

The scandal about the sale of decorations of the Legion of Honor has threatened a serious crisis in the French Government. A very turbulent meeting was held at Tours, which is represented in the Chamber of Deputies by M. Wilson, the son-in-law of President Grévy, on October 25, whereat by a small majority a resolution was adopted declaring that M. Wilson had betrayed his trust and must resign. He announced that he was not willing to do this, as the vote was the result of a coalition of the Monarchists and the Intransigents. On the next day at Paris, two men, Coeller and Martin, were sentenced, the first to eighteen months' and the other to six months' imprisonment, for being concerned in the sale of decorations. An accomplice has been arrested at Vienna, and it is reported that Gen. d'Andlau, who fled from Paris to escape arrest, has been seen in London, and that he intends to come to America. M. Wilson has made restitution of 40,000 francs to cover the postage on matter he franked with President Grévy's stamp during the time he resided at the Palace of the Elysée. October 28, President Grévy declared that while he did not object to M. Wilson being tried in the regular way for any offence provable, he did object to a system of blackening his son-in-law's character through the press, and through a committee of the Chamber embracing numerous personal enemies and representing party hatreds. He (the President) was unable to remain in the Elysée with a broken-up family and diminished dignity, and he declared his intention to resign, but was persuaded to reconsider the subject.

Gen. Ferron, the French Minister of War, has prohibited military music at Clermont-Ferrand because it promoted demonstrations in favor of Gen. Boulanger.

A dinner was given in Paris October 28 in celebration of the anniversary of the dedication of the statue of "Liberty Enlightening the World." M. Bartholdi delivered to United States Minister McLane a medal which had been struck in honor of President Cleveland, and requested him to forward it to the President. Mr. J. G. Blaine was one of the American guests.

Count de Lesseps announced to the French Academy of Sciences November 1 that the Panama Canal will be opened on February 8, 1890. The work, he predicted, will not then be entirely completed, but the passage will be free for twenty ships a day. It is estimated that this traffic will produce an annual revenue of from 90,000,000 to 100,000,000 francs.

Mr. Wilfrid Blunt, the Englishman who was arrested at Woodford on Sunday, October 23, for speaking at a proclaimed meeting, was found guilty October 27 of violating the Irish Crimes Act and sentenced to two months' imprisonment. On his way to