

## SUMMARY OF THE WEEK'S NEWS.

[WEDNESDAY, November 16, to TUESDAY, November 22, 1887, inclusive.]

## DOMESTIC.

At noon on November 19 the members of the British Fisheries Commission were formally presented to the President. Mr. Joseph Chamberlain and Sir Charles Tupper were introduced by Secretary Bayard, and Sir Lionel S. West performed the same duty for the other members of the party. No addresses were made, and the occasion was devoid of all formality.

The Fisheries Commissioners held their first meeting in Washington on November 21.

On November 17 the President gave to the press his letter accepting the resignation of Land-Commissioner Sparks. The Commissioner resigned in consequence of a disagreement between himself and the Secretary of the Interior.

Col. Glover Perin, Assistant Surgeon-General, has been placed upon the retired list.

On November 18 George L. Rives of this city was appointed First Assistant Secretary of State. He was born in New York in 1849, and was graduated at Columbia College and the University of Cambridge, England.

The Treasury Department has again had occasion to decide that a plaster cast intended to be used as a model for the construction of a monument is entitled to free entry.

The Secretary of the Treasury has awarded a gold life-saving medal to Capt. William Babb, and a silver one to each of his crew of six men, of Goderich, Ontario, for services rendered in saving the crew of the American schooner *A. C. Maxwell*, December 9, 1885.

Captain Bunce, of the new United States ship *Atlanta*, made a report to the Navy Department on the 18th in which he condemns the vessel as unseaworthy and worthless in its present condition.

At a special meeting of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution on November 18, Prof. S. P. Langley was elected Secretary of the Institution to succeed the late Prof. S. F. Baird. Prof. Langley was born in Roxbury, Mass., on August 22, 1834. In 1865 he entered the Harvard College Observatory as assistant, and was subsequently appointed assistant professor of mathematics in the United States Navy. In 1867 he took charge of the Allegheny Observatory near Pittsburgh. The uniform time service in the United States was instituted by him at the Allegheny Observatory in 1869. Prof. Langley has made a series of valuable researches in solar physics, the results of which have been published from time to time. In October, 1878, he announced his discovery of the "great A" group of the solar spectrum. He participated in the expedition sent out by the United States Coast Survey to observe the total eclipse of 1869.

The National Republican Committee will meet in Washington soon after the meeting of Congress to issue a call for the National Convention of that party next year.

Ex-Secretary Boutwell is quoted as saying that if the Republicans of New York would settle their differences and unite upon Mr. Conkling for their candidate for President, no candidate could be named who would be as likely to carry the Empire State as he.

An official list of the members of the next Federal House of Representatives shows that it will consist of 168 Democrats, 153 Republicans, and 4 Independents. The Independents are Anderson of Iowa, Nichols of North Carolina, Hopkins of Virginia, and Smith of Wisconsin.

United States Marshal Dyer, recently appointed receiver of a certain property belonging to the Mormon Church, on November 16 made a demand for the Temple Block in

Salt Lake City, on which stand the Mormon Temple, Assembly Hall, and the Tabernacle. He also took possession of the parsonage, known as the Guard House, and the Church Historian's office, leaving men in charge.

Gen. F. M. Armstrong, Indian Inspector, who has been on the Crow Reservation since the trouble began which culminated in the death of Sword-Bearer, says that most of the mischief which led to the outbreak was done last spring, when Sitting Bull, with a party of Sioux warriors numbering about one hundred, went to the Crow Reservation, and, pitching his camp within almost a stone's throw of the Custer monument, began to harangue the Crows. He made a strong impression on the young men of the latter tribe, especially when he began to recount his exploits in his contests with the whites.

A résumé of the fisheries business for the year ending October, 1887, shows that the total number of vessels owned in the Gloucester District is 474, with a tonnage of 30,624, against 487 vessels last year, with a tonnage of 30,583. Seventeen vessels of an aggregate tonnage of 1,137 have been lost, with 127 men, who leave 60 widows and 61 fatherless children.

At the close of the meeting of the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union, in Nashville, this week, banners were presented to State Unions which showed the largest increase of numbers during the year. The States which carried off the prizes are Indiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Delaware, Maryland, Tennessee, Minnesota, Michigan, and New Mexico.

On November 18, Gov. Hill appointed two women, Mrs. Charlotte S. Williams of Buffalo and Mrs. Caroline B. Stoddard of Rochester, to the Board of Managers of the State Insane Asylum in Buffalo.

On November 18, Gov. Hill appointed Michael Rickard of Utica Railroad Commissioner in place of John D. Kernan, resigned. Mr. Rickard is and has been for over thirty years in the employ of the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad, in the mechanical department. On the day he was appointed he left his locomotive and went to the Capitol to take the oath of office.

On November 16 Mayor Hewitt appointed the following School Commissioners for the terms of three years, beginning on January 1, 1888: Jacob D. Vermilye, J. Edward Simmons, W. J. Welch, De Witt J. Seligman, Robert M. Galloway, Charles L. Holt, and Frederick W. Devoe.

On November 19 Mayor Hewitt appointed a committee of citizens to cooperate with the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce and the New York Historical Society in preparing for the celebration of the centennial of the inauguration of George Washington as first President of the United States. The Mayor's committee consists of Daniel F. Tiemann, Smith Ely, jr., Edward Cooper, William H. Wickham, Franklin Edson, William R. Grace, Allan Campbell, Charles P. Daly, Stuyvesant Fish, Elbridge T. Gerry, William G. Hamilton, Gouverneur Morris, and Philip Schuyler.

The New Brunswick Historical Society has decided to celebrate the centenary of the adoption of the Constitution by New Jersey with a public meeting, at which Dr. Austin Scott and Dr. Hammond, President of the State Historical Society, will deliver addresses.

Mayor Cleveland of Jersey City has vetoed a resolution of the Board of Public Works of that city giving the Pennsylvania Railroad Company authority to elevate its tracks within the city limits.

The managers of the Northern Pacific Railroad have refused to recognize the authority of the Railroad Commission of Minnesota, on the ground that, having its charters from Congress, it is not amenable to State control.

The round-house and other buildings of the Cincinnati Southern Railroad at Ludlow, opposite Cincinnati, were destroyed by fire on November 17. Eight locomotives and 150 cars were ruined.

It is authoritatively said that at a recent conference of the Bessemer steel-rail manufacturers it was decided to suspend operations for an indefinite period, the suspension to take place probably about the first of December. The low price for rails is assigned as the cause for the shut-down.

A boycott was instituted on November 18 against the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company by all the local assemblies of the Knights of Labor in the Lehigh and Schuylkill anthracite regions, because of its connection with coal-producing corporations against which a strike is in operation.

At a convention of the Union Labor party of Wisconsin, held in Fond du Lac on November 18, a resolution sympathizing with the late Chicago Anarchists was nearly unanimously rejected.

Herr Most, the leader of the Anarchists in New York, was arrested on November 17 for uttering incendiary language in a speech a day or two before, an indictment having been found against him.

The library of the New York Law Institute in the Post-office building was reopened on November 19, after having been closed since July.

The anonymous offer of \$100,000 to go towards enlarging the scope of the New York Historical Society, on condition that a further sum of \$300,000 be obtained not later than the close of the current year, has been modified by reducing the sum to be raised to \$150,000 and extending the time one year.

Robert Bonnier announces in this week's *New York Ledger* that he has retired from the management of that paper. The property and business he turns over absolutely to his three sons.

All the members of the Sophomore Class of Williams College who were engaged in the alleged hazing of George Choate have made a statement that no violence was used upon the young man, and that he was subjected to no treatment that could cause him physical injury. They invite Mr. Joseph H. Choate, the young man's father, to meet them and cross-question them upon their statement of the facts in the case.

The annual exhibition of the National Academy of Design opened on November 21. There are 412 pictures on exhibition this year.

The bronze statue to the memory of John C. Breckinridge was unveiled at Lexington, Ky., on November 16, with elaborate ceremonies.

Mr. Edison says he will have 500 of his perfected phonographs ready for the market by the last of January. Those who have seen the instrument pronounce it practicable for the taking, retaining and reproducing of articulate speech.

The contractor who is building the new State-house in Austin, Texas, has entered a formal protest against going on with the work of erecting the tower, on the ground that the architect's design calls for a superstructure too heavy for the foundation.

The coroner's jury in the case of the falling of the school building in East One Hundred and Fifteenth Street in New York on October 17, whereby seven persons were killed, rendered a verdict on November 19 attributing the disaster to faulty construction of the house. The verdict held Rev. Father Kirner, who was one of the victims, primarily responsible.

On the night of November 16 the Hotel Saratoga, in Chicago, was burned. The guests escaped in their night clothing.

At ten o'clock on Sunday night, November 20, the buildings at Bridgeport, Conn., in which P. T. Barnum had for many years kept his exhibition animals and the other accessories of his show, were totally destroyed by fire. A few of the animals escaped, but those in the central part of the main building all perished. They were zebras, ibexes, tapers, wolves, hyenas, panthers, great serpents, and the like. Only four of the elephants were lost. One of them was known as the former consort of the famous Jumbo, who was killed in a railroad accident a few years ago. One of the elephants that escaped the fire wandered off into deep water and was drowned. The largest of the lions was rescued from the fire only to be shot and killed. The loss is estimated to be about \$150,000.

The passengers of the ship *Alesia*, who had been detained at Quarantine for nearly two months on account of cholera, were landed in New York on November 17.

The shooting of William Shilling by Robert McCreary, son of ex-Gov. McCreary, at Richmond, Ky., last week, has been officially declared to have been done in self-defence.

John Chandler died in Concord, N. H., on November 16, at the age of 103.

Alfred A. Cohen, the attorney for the Central Pacific Railroad Company, died on a Union Pacific train between Sidney and Cheyenne on November 16. He was ill when he left New York.

George M. Gill, aged eighty-five, the oldest and for years one of the most prominent lawyers of Baltimore, died suddenly in his office on November 18.

The Rev. Dr. Lucius H. King, pastor of the Forty-fourth Street Methodist Episcopal Church of this city, died on November 18.

Emma Lazarus, the well-known poetess, translator, and general writer for the magazines, died in this city on November 19, after a long illness.

#### FOREIGN.

Soon after the French Chamber met on November 19, the Extreme Left moved an interpellation of the Government on the question of its domestic policy. A motion was made by the Ministry to postpone the debate. This motion was rejected by a vote of 328 to 242. Prime Minister Rouvier immediately announced the resignation of the Cabinet.

The Czar and Czarina of Russia arrived in Berlin at 11 o'clock on November 18. The Czar, clad in an elegant Russian uniform, drove with Prince William of Prussia through the streets from the railway station in an open carriage drawn by four horses. The Czarina followed in a closed carriage, accompanied by the Princess Victoria. The popular welcome to the distinguished guests was hearty, but there were no decorations on the buildings along their route through the city. Emperor William received them at the residence of the Russian Ambassador, and at a later hour the Czar returned his visit at the imperial palace. At noon a banquet was given in honor of the Czar. The gala performance, which originally formed a part of the programme of festivities, was dispensed with.

There is no permanent improvement in the health of the Crown Prince of Germany. The throat difficulty from which he has for some time suffered does not yield to treatment except to give the patient occasional relief.

A statistical publication issued by the German Government deals with the time of year at which crimes are committed. The year taken is 1883, and of the 390,760 crimes of all kinds committed then, it is possible to fix the month of their occurrence in 317,404 cases. Dividing the year into four seasons—winter comprising December, January, and February; spring comprising March, April, and May; summer, June, July and Au-

gust; and autumn, September, October, and November—it is found that 80,073 crimes fall to winter, 73,799 to spring, 81,262 to summer, and 82,270 to autumn. Thus spring is the most favorable season for public morality, and autumn the most unfavorable. As to the character of the crimes committed, it is found that in 1883 the offences against State, religion, and public order numbered 98 daily in winter, 93 in spring, 103 in summer, and 106 in autumn. Here summer far exceeded winter, as it did also in crimes with which violence and threats against officials, etc., were connected, the number for winter being 95 daily, and for summer 107. Of crimes against the person 82 fell to winter daily, 90 to spring, 102 to summer, and 108 to autumn; of crimes against morality 60 fell to winter and 146 to summer; of offences taking the character of slander 60 fell to winter and 119 to summer; and of assaults 158 fell to winter and 243 to summer. It would therefore appear that temperature has a great deal to do with inclination to crime. The daily number of petty robberies was 84 in summer and 122 in winter; of serious robberies 92 in summer and 115 in winter; while the cases of receiving stolen goods numbered 77 daily in summer and 132 in winter. The relation borne by offences against property was as follows: Summer 101 daily, autumn 102, winter 96.

Joseph Chamberlain's speech at the Chamber of Commerce dinner in New York was the subject of much favorable comment from the Gladstonian as well as the Unionist press in London.

Mr. Gladstone, in a letter, says that the Mitchelstown shooting and the arrest of Mr. Wilfrid Blunt had no connection with the crimes contemplated under the Coercion Act, and therefore the Government's action was illegal.

Mr. Gladstone is expected to spend the winter in the southern part of France.

Mr. Parnell has written a letter to a news agency stating that his health is slowly but steadily improving.

While the popular vote, so to call it, for the Lord Rectorship of the University of Glasgow stood 867 for Lord Rosebery and 845 for Lord Lytton, there was a tie of the national vote, two to two. The Chancellor of the University, the Earl of Stair, having the casting vote, gave Lord Lytton the preference and elected him.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff has accepted the Persian Embassy.

Maj.-Gen. Sir Frederick Middleton has retired from the British Army with the rank of Lieutenant-General. He has received a private letter from the Duke of Cambridge, Commander-in-Chief, complimenting him upon his able direction of the Canadian militia.

The Princess of Wales and her children returned to England on November 19, after a long visit to Denmark.

Lord Wolverton died on November 18.

Gen. Valentine Baker, who, in 1875, while holding the appointment of Assistant Quarter-master-General at Aldershot, was compelled to leave the service on account of a misdemeanor, is dead. He was fifty-seven years old. His disease was fever, contracted at Port Said, while proceeding by steamer to Cairo.

Lord Tennyson has written a letter to Walt Whitman in which he says: "I thank you for your kind thought of me. I value your photograph, and much wish I could see not only the sun picture, but also the living original. May you still live and flourish for many years. The coming year should give new life to every American who has breathed the breath of that soul which inspired the great founders of the American Constitution, whose work you are to celebrate. Truly the mother country, pondering this, may feel that, how much sower the daughter owes her, she, the

mother, has nevertheless something to learn from the daughter. Especially I would note the care taken to guard the noble Constitution from rash and unwise innovators."

London *Truth* says: "Mr. Pearsall Smith's suggestion for a copyright treaty with the United States is a most sensible one. Heretofore we have negotiated not so much for our authors as for our publishers. Mr. Smith proposes that we should ask the United States to assent to English authors being allowed a royalty on their works when published in America, with the same reciprocal advantage to American authors here. If agreed to, there would be no monopoly. Fifty American publishers might issue a work, and compete with each other in cheap editions, but the English author would get 10 per cent. upon the retail price of every copy sold. This would be paying by results in its most reasonable form. Mr. Smith's plan for insuring that the author would get his royalty is an exceedingly clever one."

The Royal Clyde Yacht Club has withdrawn its challenge for the *America's* cup, on the ground that the conditions of the new deed of gift are unjust and unsportsmanlike.

The Glasgow yachtsmen have united to give a prize, value £1,000, to be sailed for by yachts of all nations on the Clyde on the occasion of their annual regatta in July.

On November 19 the steamer *W. A. Scholten* left Rotterdam for New York, having on board very few saloon passengers, but about 180 in the steerage, and steamed towards the Straits of Dover in a fog. At ten o'clock that night, a few miles from the Admiralty pier at Dover, the *Rosa Mary*, a small screw steamer of Hartlepool, was at anchor, when the *Scholten*, running at low speed, ran into her, striking her on the port bow. The *Scholten* sank within twenty minutes after the collision, and it is estimated that about 130 lives were lost.

News received in Brussels on November 16 from the Congo was to the effect that Tippu Tib had failed to keep his promise to reinforce Stanley at Yambuya. It was also rumored that there had been fighting between the natives and the explorer, and that the rear guard of the latter had been cut off.

The Royal Labor Commission of Canada has decided to commence taking evidence in Toronto this week. From there the Commission will proceed to Hamilton, St. Catharines, Windsor, London, and Stratford. The following subjects will be inquired into: The effects of organized labor upon the working classes, strikes and their results, industrial schools, tenement-houses and workmen's dwellings, factory laws, the proportionate profits of capital and labor, the cheapening of production by the use of machinery, Has the use of machinery lowered wages? the apprentice system, profit-sharing, iron-clad contracts, conspiracy laws and black-lists, convict labor, child and female labor, immigration, hours of labor and rates of wages, employers' liability, coöperation in manufacturing and distributing, arbitration, foreign contract labor, land and other rents, wages in Canada compared with those in Great Britain and the United States, and Sunday labor.

The Central Bank of Toronto suspended on November 16.

A division took place in the annual meeting of the International Base-Ball League in Toronto on November 16. The delegates from Toronto, Syracuse, Rochester and Hamilton seceded and organized a new league.

The contract between the Manitoba Government and the contractor for the completion of the Red River Valley Railroad has been ratified. The province is to endorse bonds to the amount of \$550,000 for the company until the road is completed and has been in operation for six months.

All export duties imposed by the Argentine Republic will be abolished on January 1, 1888.



### THE RIGHT OF MEETING IN PUBLIC SQUARES.

WE have received from Mr. L. F. Austin, an English Liberal, a remonstrance against our comments on the suppression of the Trafalgar Square meeting on Sunday week. The general propositions laid down by Mr. Austin are sound, but it is true also that the public authorities must in every case take into consideration the surroundings and accompaniments of a public parade and a public meeting. They must see to it that the public peace is not disturbed. In order to judge whether it is likely to be disturbed, they must give heed to the teachings of recent experience as well as to particular present information. They may make mistakes, but in a free government they do so at the peril of being ousted. In other words, they must have discretion to prevent what appears to them likely to bring on tumult and disorder, using this discretion subject to the corrective power of public opinion. All this is in entire accord with Anglo-Saxon ideas and institutions. Discretion must be lodged somewhere, else there would be no power to stop another Hyndman procession and to prevent a new raid of the shop-windows in Piccadilly. If the London authorities exercised this discretion wrongly, it is for the Radical clubs and party to show this fact in Parliament, in the press, and on the platform, and to enforce their conclusions at the ballot-box. There is not the least danger that the British public will side with functionaries who cannot show good reasons for what they have done. If British public opinion is not to be depended upon, then indeed there is no help for this alleged wrong, or for any other.

Everything depends upon the facts in the case. An Orange procession might march through the streets of an American city without causing any disturbance, but it might also lead to riot, bloodshed, and conflagration. If the public authorities had reason to believe that the latter result would follow, it would be their duty (if they had the legal power) to prevent the procession from marching at all, since public thoroughfares are not maintained to vindicate freedom of opinion, but to promote convenience of movement and traffic. Mr. Gladstone evidently considers that the London police authorities were moved by other than partisan motives when they prevented the assembling in Trafalgar Square. If, as appears, he took into consideration not only the "sinews of Sunday's assemblage," the members of Radical clubs, but also the moppings of the street, the authorities were justified in doing so, and would have been recreant to their trust if they had not. If sincere considerations of the public safety entered into their dispositions, then, although they may have erred in judgment, they cannot be accused of a purpose to infringe the rights of political discussion.

The question whether the Crown can or ought to have any such "property" in a public square as to be able to forbid its use as a public meeting-ground is certainly, it seems to us, one to be settled in Parliament or in the courts. We sympathize thoroughly

with those Englishmen who think there ought to be no such "property" either in the Crown or anybody else, that it ought not to be in anybody's power to deny arbitrarily, and out of his own head, on the ground that he may do what he likes with his own, the use of a public square or street in a large city to any body of citizens. But surely no civilized man ought to say that this is a matter to be settled by fighting with sticks and stones. Nothing can be easier than to bring up in the courts the validity of the Crown's title to Trafalgar Square. If the decision is adverse to the Radical claim, certainly the remedy is to be sought by legislation, and not by rioting.

Moreover, during the past few months the square has apparently been given up to frequent meetings and processions, all of them calculated to alarm people living or carrying on business in the immediate neighborhood. Is it fair to allow any square or public place to be used in this way, causing a marked depreciation in the value of surrounding property, without giving the owners compensation? We think not. Everybody who lives around Union Square in this city, for instance, is prepared for occasional orderly meetings in that open space. But suppose there were to be one every week ending in free fights and the issuing forth of marauding parties, and the police were to declare that there was no remedy for this—that it was an inevitable concomitant of free government, should we not be bound to indemnify the unfortunate property-owners who found their business ruined and their lives filled with terror?

Let us add that one has only to glance at the Tory journals in London to see how useful to them all disturbances all over the world are. Every row or riot that occurs, no matter where, is grist to their mill, and is made to bear in some manner or other on the Irish question. They made even the execution of the Anarchists in Chicago the other day a warning to the Gladstonians. Every mob in the London streets they treat as a justification of their Irish policy, as showing that the times call everywhere for the tightening of the bonds of authority and law. They are perfectly enchanted now whenever they hear of any shooting or hanging on a considerable scale. Consequently every Radical, as it seems to us, who fights with the police in the public streets about anything, strengthens their hands.

### DECORATIONS.

THE Paris scandal will probably do much towards sickening the French public with the "Legion of Honor," as something which, however well adapted to satisfy the cravings of French human nature, cannot be properly managed by a republican government. The "decoration" as a mark of distinction is a monarchical device. What it signified in the beginning, and in monarchical countries signifies to this day, is that the wearer has in some manner merited the special favor of the sovereign. It may

mean more than this: it may mean that he has attained marked eminence in some field of human activity; but it means first and foremost, and may mean only, that the King or Emperor likes him, or at some time wished to gratify him. There are only three decorations in the world, we believe, which have to be won by actual achievement in war, the Victoria Cross in England, the Iron Cross in Germany, and the Cross of St. George in Russia. The man who wears one of these is sure to be a man who has performed some feat of skill or valor in the face of the enemy. It may be said of every one of them what *Punch* said of the Victoria Cross when it was first instituted:

"Not in the toys themselves lies their ennobling power,  
But in the tales they tell of many a glorious hour,  
Of deeds in field or trench, of crumbling fortress held,  
When stoutest heart might blench and bravest hope be quell'd."

All other decorations are simply signs of the royal favor. The wearer may be a really illustrious man, but he may be utterly base or commonplace. The Order of the Garter in England has long been little else than a sign of high rank in the peerage, and is given as a compliment to nearly all foreign sovereigns. The Order of the Bath goes to nearly every military man who has seen any service or attained a certain grade, and is distributed more or less freely among civilians who have in some manner won the esteem of the court or distinguished themselves even slightly in connection with some public work or fête. The same thing may be said of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, which is reserved for thriving or useful people from the colonies.

The Legion of Honor was founded by the first Napoleon, and took the place of the old Order of the Holy Ghost, which was the chief reward of military merit under the Bourbon monarchy. The new order, although it was, under the First Empire, mainly a military distinction, was intended to be, and always has been, also a reward of civil merit. During the Napoleonic wars, however, when the whole force of France, both physical and mental, was given to preparation for the battlefield, it rewarded little else than martial prowess. It was the

"— radiant and adored deceit  
Which millions rushed in arms to greet."

Afterwards, as the times grew more peaceful, and French society became more industrial, it was distributed with increasing lavishness among civilians of nearly every calling. Even under the Second Empire it was so widely diffused that it was beginning to be said that in almost any company of Frenchmen it was a distinction not to have it. It was given for all sorts of reasons, and for no reason at all, except that the Emperor chose to honor somebody. It has been increasingly sought after ever since Louis Philippe's day by manufacturers, as an advertisement for their wares, by doctors, dentists, inventors, and, in fact, everybody who had the smallest reason for thinking himself in any way off the common. The red rosette in his button-hole marked him as something in some degree different from his neighbors. Even if he was not known to have earned it by some