

# The Democratic Sentinel

RENSSELAER, INDIANA.

J. W. MC EWEN, PUBLISHER

THE man who receives the most letters a day in Washington is not the President nor any member of his Cabinet, but a pension attorney, whose daily mail frequently numbers 500 letters.

THE physicians of Sanford, Fla., have signed an agreement not to visit any patients who will not pay their bills on the first of each month. Those failing will not be attended until the former bill is settled.

VANDERBILT probably had in mind the scriptural idea that who provideth not for his own hath denied the faith and is worse than an infidel. The man who leaves each of his children not less than \$10,000,000 may be regarded as a kind if not indulgent father.

SENATOR EDMUNDS keeps four horses in his stable. He lives quietly but expensively. When he first entered the chamber it is said he was worth less than \$50,000, but his wealth now is placed at \$500,000. He has a fashion of leaving his seat in the Senate and going over to argue a case before the Supreme Court that pays him very well.

JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY, the Hoosier poet, is a man of 37 years, of slight build, not tall, with long, thin hands, a pale complexion, large and brilliant gray eyes, a prominent nose, thin lips and blonde hair. He is a fluent and interesting talker, and like queer people; was taught sign painting as a trade, but didn't encourage his parents by special proficiency therein.

CITIES sometimes possess as much individuality as men. In Boston they ask "How much does he know?" In Philadelphia, "Who are his family?" In Baltimore, "Can he get away with oysters and terrapin?" In Charlestown, "Where did he come from?" In Mobile, "Does he eat gumbo?" In New Orleans, "How much cotton is he worth?" And in New York, "What is his bank account?"

THE business of painting the huge signs upon fences and barns which assault the eye in all parts of the country is in the hands of a few contractors in New York and Chicago. One firm in New York spends from \$10,000 to \$20,000 a year in this way, paying from 1½ to 2 cents a square foot for the work. The bigger the sign the better. Many can be found reaching three hundred feet in length, and the biggest of all (at Newark, Ohio) is more than eight hundred feet long and contains only one word.

ABOUT this time of year readers of daily newspapers may without fear of disappointment, scan their sheets over their breakfast sausage or bacon in search of appetizing bits of family history like this. "They ate raw pork and died." The same form of obituary, varying only with the names of the deceased, will appear with annual regularity, until the populace becomes convinced that the flesh of the hog is a more toothsome as well as safer article of diet when well cooked.

TO THE day of Commodore Vanderbilt's death his word was law to William H. An illustration of this is furnished by a little scene on a European tour that the two made in 1853. They were on board the steam yacht Northern Star on their way to St. Petersburg. William, who was an habitual smoker, was puffing his favorite cigar. "Bill," said the Commodore, "I wish you'd give up that smoking habit of yours. I'll give you \$10,000 if you will." "You needn't pay me anything," was the son's answer, as he flung the cigar overboard. "Your wish is sufficient." He never smoked afterward.

THE Louisville Courier-Journal tells the following incident of the late Mr. Hendricks' boyhood: "A boy, the son of a poor widow, attended the seminary. One cold November morning the boy came to the school barefoot, as he had no shoes. During the forenoon there was a heavy snowstorm. At noon the barefoot boy went to the front-door when school was dismissed, but turned back to re-enter the schoolroom as he could not go out into such a storm in his naked feet. Young Hendricks knew all about his poverty, and, following him into the schoolroom, insisted on taking off his shoes and lending them to the poor boy to wear home. 'You can send them back by sister Nannie, whom I will get to go home

with you. The boy accepted the proffered kindness, and Hendricks sat in the school-room in his stocking feet till his sister returned with his shoes."

WILLIAM J. SMYTHE, an old attache of the New York *Herald*, died recently. A few years ago, when Bennett contemplated starting a newspaper in London which should smash the British "Thunderer," he telegraphed Smythe to meet him in London at the Langham. Smythe started at once, but failed to find his employer there. After waiting a month he wrote to Bennett, who was roving around the Continent, asking him for orders and mildly suggesting at the close of the letter that staying at the Langham was expensive business. Bennett telegraphed back from Dresden: "Who in hell is paying for this? Wait." And Smythe waited. Bennett gave up his plan and Smythe returned to America.

A RECENT traveler in Spain tells how the children in Grenada played at bull fighting. One boy, holding a pair of wooden horns on his head, represented the bull. Other boys, mounted on each other's backs, were picadors, while others again, with their jackets in their hands were supposed to be matadors and chulos. The bull would stamp his feet and roar, then make a rush at one of the chulos, whose jacket was thrown up by the wooden horns, but whose body was never touched. Then the bull would charge one of the picadors, whereupon the boy playing horse would throw himself to the ground and allow himself to be properly gored.

A WASHINGTON letter tells this story of Hannibal Hamlin: "Some legislation was being considered in the halls of Congress in regard to one of the railroads. The bill came up in the Senate, and it needed but a vote or two to pass it. At this moment a brother Senator came to Hamlin's desk and said: 'Senator Hamlin, if this bill passes the Blank Blank railroad's bonds will be worth a hundred cents on the dollar, I can take you or let you send to a place where you can get any amount of these bonds at this moment for six cents on the dollar. What say you to the chance?' I say — your chance and — your bonds, sir, was Hamlin's emphatic reply, and with that he turned his back square upon his brother Senator, and the story is that he never treated him decently afterward."

A NASHVILLE newspaper the other day published a statement which illustrates how the race problem at the South is working out its own solution. The grand jury impaneled at the recent term of the Criminal Court included one negro, and after their own work was completed, the white members of the body concluded to "make a public expression of their appreciation and admiration of the course pursued by this colored gentleman during the session." They accordingly asked a publication of the fact that this was the first instance in which most of them had ever been associated with a negro in a responsible position, and that the relation was thus inevitably strained, but that his firmness, justice and conscientiousness "eradicated every prejudice," while, to cap the climax, "his demeanor in every social aspect was everything that the most exacting Southern gentleman could require."

NEW YORK *Mail*: Recently Mrs. Wilbur F. Storey, widow of the deceased Chicago editor, was in the city. She is very stylish, and presents a fine appearance. She was attired in deep mourning, and wore magnificent diamonds in her ears and on her fingers, and a cluster of gems of matchless brilliancy on her corsage. These gems were hemmed around by crape, but they sparkled all the same like the star Sirius when it greets the Pleiades in the early evening. Mrs. Storey related the trouble that had come to her since her husband's death: "Many people, that once were professed friends, in the great legal combat that is now going on to probate Mr. Storey's will arrayed themselves against me. Of course, I am aware of the influences that were brought to bear upon them by those who do not wish the will probated. One of the so-called friends was in the habit of dining at my home. President Cleveland appointed him Minister to Belgium, and for that I owe thanks. Mr. Storey left two wills. Both are valid and made when he was in sound mind. It is only a question of a short time when I shall come into possession of the *Times* newspaper. I think that I will sell it, because I do not care to have such a great responsibility on my hands. I am not a journalist."

The Vale of Cashmere, in India, was visited by a disastrous earthquake, Serinagar, one of the capitals, being nearly destroyed, and the soldiers' barracks razed to the ground; 50 soldiers were killed and over 100 wounded; the Mohammedan mosque at Sapur, 20 miles north of Serinagar, was demolished and 400 persons were killed. The town of Naini, in North Hungary was destroyed by an incendiary fire, rendering 1,000 persons destitute; the enraged populace discovered the culprit and roasted him to death over a bonfire. An explosion in the Philadelphia Colliery, near Durham, England, caused the death of 22 men and boys. The French war-ship

## DISASTERS OF THE YEAR.

### JANUARY.

Stock by the thousands reported dying of hunger in the Andes. Shocks of earthquake in Spain created widespread desolation; a number of towns and villages were completely destroyed, and the surviving inhabitants deserted them. Losses from fires in the United States and Canada during 1884 were placed at \$12,000,000—over \$15,000,000 in excess of the annual average for nine years; loss during December, 1884, \$11,000,000. The bodies of fourteen men were found along a railroad grade between Valentine and Gordon City, Neb., who perished in a blizzard. Many lives were lost at sea; 1,000 were lost in a great storm which swept the British coast. A cyclone whose roar could be heard for miles swept through Georgia and Alabama, carrying away buildings and fences. Twenty-eight men buried alive by an explosion of fire-damp in the great coal mine at Lievin an Pas de Calais, France; all killed. Burning of the infirmary for male patients of the lunatic asylum at Kankakee, Ill.; seventeen of the inmates, including a crew of 12, were buried by the sinking of the British mail steamer *Moorscrown*, which collided with the ship *Saint Anna* near Holyhead, Wales. Enormous snow-slide in the Alpine foothills of Switzerland and Piedmont, crushing two villages, with a loss of over forty lives and the injury of nearly one hundred persons. The Bay State Sugar Refinery burned at Boston; loss, \$1,000,000. Burning of the steamer *John*—very large and fine vessel, which sank in the Bay of Fundy, with Capt. Holmes and eight men. Forty passengers and crew were lost. The wreck of a train at a bridge near Sydney, N. S. W. Total loss by fire in the United States and Canada during January, \$8,500,000—more than \$1,000,000 above average January loss in nine years.

### FEBRUARY.

Fire at Marquette, Mich., destroyed \$250,000 worth of property. Loss of over \$10,000,000 incurred by the burning of a number of buildings in Clay street, New York. The village of Birch Lake, Minn., almost swept out of existence by a conflagration. Fire in Gold and Spruce streets, New York, destroyed property valued at \$230,000. Steel works at Nashua, N. H., suffered a loss of \$100,000 by the burning of plates and bar mills. By a collision of freight trains on a bridge at New Brunswick, N. J., an engine and two cars were thrown into the river, two to manufacturers, several drivers were killed, a stable full of horses; four persons perished in the flames, and the money loss reached \$1,000,000. Powder works near Canton, China, exploded, killing 250 employees. By the fall of a scaffold on the Susquehanna bridge at Havre de Grace, five workmen fell through the ice into the river, fifty feet below, and two drowned. Thirteen miners killed by a colliery explosion at New Usgowana, N. S. Twenty-eight insane inmates of the county alms-house at West Philadelphia cremated in the destruction of the institution. The town of Alta, Utah, swept by a heavy avalanche of snow, and three-fourths of the buildings destroyed; eighteen lives lost. Seventeen lives (nine of them civilians) lost and much damage done at Gibraltar, Spain, by the explosion of a powder magazine. Pottsville, Pa., had a \$100,000 conflagration. The entire business portion of Bisbee, Arizona, was reduced to ashes; loss, \$100,000. Sixty-four contractors at Lynn, Mass., were swept away, causing a loss of \$100,000. Explosion of gas in a Wilkesboro mine caused death of twelve men and serious burning of ten others. Of the Canadian voyageurs who took Gen. Wolseley's boat up the Nile ten were drowned, two died from fever, and two were killed on the railway in Egypt. Fire destroyed the Grannis Block, Chicago, in which were three banks, a loss of \$300,000 being incurred; the large business structures corner of Second and Dearborn streets, Chicago, valued at \$250,000. Joe H. Brown's grocery house at Fort Worth, Texas—loss \$100,000; the Le Roy Wine Company at Troy, N. Y.—loss \$90,000. Five passengers lost their lives in a collision on the Virginia Midland Railroad at Four Mile, Va.; the contents of the express safe, \$250,000, were destroyed, also more valuable mail matter than was ever before known; the fire was so intense as to melt the gold and silver in transit. Fire destroyed the Silver State Company's factory at New York, valued at \$200,000. John A. Ring's residence in Philadelphia took fire, but the occupants had risen from their conches, and out of the family of eight persons but three escaped alive. Ten business buildings at New Britain, Conn., valued with contents at \$200,000, were burned; one man lost his life. Citizens and live stock were reported starving in McDowell County, W. Va., a region 100 miles from any railroad, on account of failure of crops last summer. An English steamship, the "Crown," en route in making the trip from Bloomsbury to Kinsale, Ireland—86 miles—owing to the snow blockade. The steamer Allegheny, from Cardiff for Ceylon, was lost with her crew of thirty persons. Flames swept away the National Theater at Washington; loss \$200,000. During February the fire reached \$10,000,000. A terrific hurricane on the east coast of Madagascar sunk an American bark and two French steamers; seventeen persons perished.

### MARCH.

Fire-damp in the Usworth Colliery, at Usworth, England, caused an explosion and the loss of forty-eight lives. From a coal mine in Austrian Silesia in which an explosion occurred, 123 persons were taken. Of 220 miners employed in the coal mine of Oberwiesenthal, Prussia, all were either crushed to death or asphyxiated by an explosion of fire-damp except three. The Langham Hotel at Chicago was destroyed by fire, causing the loss of five lives. Twelve miners lost their lives by a terrible explosion in a coal mine at McAllister, Indian Territory.

### APRIL.

While workmen were breaking up the yielding foundations of eight five-story tenements in New York City the entire structure fell, burying about fifty workmen in the ruins; the contractor fled to escape lynching. Tramps who had been driven away from Senator Stanford's Vina (Cal.) ranch returned and fired his stables, 111 horses and mules being burned to death. A volcanic eruption causing the death of 100 persons in the town of Janitzio, Mexico. A steamer, the "Prinzess," was visited by a destructive wave which caused the loss of forty lives; thirty-two of the victims were buried one day; the telegraph gave only the briefest mention of the disaster. An avalanche in Iceland swept fifteen dwellings, with their inhabitants into the sea, and twenty-four persons drowned. Aggregate losses by fire in the United States and Canada in April, \$7,750,000; for the first four months of 1885, \$3,250,000—at the rate of over \$105,000,000 for the year.

### MAY.

A Portsmouth (Pa.) dispatch dated the 1st inst. announced: "The plague here is increasing in horror daily; fourteen funerals yesterday; 1,700 persons now under medical treatment, and physicians exhausted with their labors." An attempt to raise a five-story factory in Brooklyn, N. Y., resulted in the collapse of the building; hundreds of men, women, and girls were employed therein, some thirty of whom lost their lives; pecuniary damage, \$300,000. Five children of Henry Lewiston, a farmer near Owego, Minn., were burned to death. A terrible snowstorm prevailed throughout Austria and Hungary on the 17th and 18th of May; many persons were frozen to death and crops generally were destroyed. Eight women and girls employed in a Cincinnati printing-house, during a fire, leaped from the fifth-story windows, and all were killed; nine corpses were found on the upper floor; escape by stairways was cut off, and telegraph wires prevented the placing of ladders by the firemen. The steamer "John" sank in the harbor of New York, killing 32 persons, among them several Europeans. Through the failure of a grip on a cable train on the East River Bridge, at New York, two cars slipped back down the curve at Brooklyn, and one car ran into the steamer "John." Five persons received serious injuries; the bridge officials report that the cable road has carried 38,500,000 passengers without losing a life; Brooklyn people to the number of 16,000 an hour are transported to New York during the morning hours on week days. The Pennsylvania Company paid \$29,393 to William Fitz Simons, one of its former engineers, who was crippled for life in a coal car caused by a train-dispatcher's blunder. Two men engaged in coal-breaking at the new Croton aqueduct, at Merton's Corners, N. Y., were killed, making thirty-eight who have lost their lives in connection with this work. Near Atlanta, Ga., a collision occurred between trains of the Georgia Pacific and East Tennessee see Roads, on a high trestle; twelve persons were killed and three others received fatal injuries. Flames originating on the dock at Jacksonville, Fla., destroyed a number of business houses, valued at \$400,000, and a vessel at Apalachicola, Fla., sank with all hands, with their crews. Thirty Hungarians were drowned in a mine at Nanticoke, Pa., by a rise in the Susquehanna River. A dynamite explosion in a Siberian mine caused the loss of from 400 to 1,000 lives.

### JUNE.

The Vale of Cashmere, in India, was visited by a disastrous earthquake, Serinagar, one of the capitals, being nearly destroyed, and the soldiers' barracks razed to the ground; 50 soldiers were killed and over 100 wounded; the Mohammedan mosque at Sapur, 20 miles north of Serinagar, was demolished and 400 persons were killed. The town of Naini, in North Hungary was destroyed by an incendiary fire, rendering 1,000 persons destitute; the enraged populace discovered the culprit and roasted him to death over a bonfire. An explosion in the Philadelphia Colliery, near Durham, England, caused the death of 22 men and boys. The French war-ship

Reward, with a crew of 127, founded in the Red Sea. Nearly 200 lives were lost by the bursting of a waterspout in the mountains near the dividing line between the Mexican States of Guanajuato and Jalisco. By the fall of a crowded stairway in the Court House in Thiers, France, 25 persons were killed and 163 injured. Twenty lives were lost and over 50 persons were severely injured by a destructive storm which visited the western and northern portions of Iowa; the loss to property was \$700,000. As a result of the earthquake in Cashmere, India, 1,031 persons were killed and 1,000 more were laid in ruins, and 73,000 animals perished. In a single day, 238 deaths from cholera were reported in Spain, with 491 new cases. A terrible explosion occurred at the Pendlebury colliery, near Manchester, England, and of the 349 miners employed therein 160 perished. Cholera reports from Spain for one day show 316 deaths and 719 new cases. The fire losses in this country during the first six months of 1885 amounted to \$5,750,000.

### JULY.

Floods in China caused great loss of life and enormous destruction of property. Toyama, Japan, was visited by a conflagration which destroyed 5,917 houses. Stoughton, Wis., suffered a loss of \$650,000 by fire; about one-third of the town was destroyed. The steamer *Winnipeg* and steam-yacht *Minnie Cook* was capsized on Lake Minnetonka during a storm, and ten persons, including ex-Mayor Rand of Minneapolis, his wife and two sons, were drowned. Fire at Washington, D. C., destroyed the presses and composing and editorial rooms of the *Post*, *National Republican Critic*, and *Sunday Gazette*; loss \$15,000. A lifeboat which started from Yarmouth, Maine, to rescue 120 persons from a steamer which had gone down, sank before reaching its destination, and eight of its crew were drowned. Thirteen persons were killed and 22 injured by lightning during a storm at Torre Cajetani, Italy. Total losses by fire in this country during the month of July estimated at \$9,000,000.

### AUGUST.

Half a mile along the water-front of Toronto, occupied by boat houses, lumber yards, elevators, etc., was destroyed by fire; the property valued at \$1,000,000. A great earthquake in Asia Minor, killing many people. An explosion of gas at the *Macanagua* (Pa.) coal mines caused the death of 20 men and boys. The little town of Noreddy, S. C., Lawrence county, was almost wiped out of existence. The American banks Napoleon and Gazette were lost in the ice in the Northern Pacific, and twenty-two persons perished. The British ship *Haddingtonshire* was wrecked in the Pacific Ocean, in the vicinity of San Francisco; eighteen of the crew perished. The German corvette *Augusta* and *Scorpion* were lost in a tempestuous cyclone in the Red Sea. The Scotch steam-dredge *Beaumont*, with a crew of twelve persons, was lost in a hurricane off the Bermudas; officers and men are said to have been drunk. A steamer carrying pilgrims was wrecked in the Gulf of Aden; 100 lives lost. A month of cholera cost Spain greater loss in money and life than a war of a year's duration calling all her able-bodied men into the field; over 70,000 people died in August. Charleston, S. C., was visited by a cyclone which measured one-half of the distance in the city and destroyed a great amount of property, the aggregate loss being estimated at \$1,000,000. Great havoc was also caused along the entire South Atlantic coast. Three pilot boats hailing from Beaufort, S. C., were wrecked in a hurricane, fourteen lives being lost. The losses by fire in the United States and Canada during August reached \$5,500,000, the average for the month named for ten years being \$7,000,000; for eight months of 1885 the fire was footed up \$65,500,000.

### SEPTEMBER.

Ship-yards at Barrow-in-Furness, England, burned, causing a loss of \$1,000,000, and depriving two thousand men of employment. Near Copenhagen the British steamer *Auckland* came in collision with the German gunboat *Piltz* and was sent to the bottom, only two of the *Auckland's* crew of seventeen being rescued. The steamer *Scorpion* and *Scorpion*, off the southeast coast of England, were lost; seventeen of the crew and passengers of the latter were lost. Prairie fires destroyed over a million dollars' worth of crops and other property in Dakota; a solid stretch of over 100 miles along the line of the Northern Pacific was burned. People to the number of 30,000 assembled at Stockholm, Sweden, to hear her sing from the balcony, while the crowd included seventeen persons, seriously injured. Disastrous floods covering an area of 3,500 square miles, occurred in the presidency of Bengal, British India, causing immense damage to property and loss of life; 300 persons were drowned. A great fire visited Pernambuco, in June, in the month of Deaths in Manchuria for five days, from cholera, were reported as 1,370; on one street in St. Chongdejere there was a case to every house. The Chongdejere quarries fell in, destroying a village, and killing many people. During a storm on the Labrador coast, 70 vessels were wrecked and 300 lives lost; 2,000 shipwrecked persons on the shore were rendered destitute. A rainstorm of eighteen hours' duration caused a great loss of life in the two previous years. The losses by fire during October, in the United States and Canada, reached \$5,750,000, about \$2,250,000 less than the average for October in the past ten years. The U. S. Consul at Palermo reported 2,000 deaths in that city from cholera up to October 12, and stated that over 60,000 persons died from the epidemic.

### OCTOBER.

A railway accident in Greece caused the death or injury of between forty and sixty persons. London had a \$15,000,000 conflagration; a block of thirteen eight-story business buildings was consumed in Aldersgate. Floods in the valleys of Switzerland destroyed a large amount of property, and caused the loss of a number of lives. Cholera in the town of Tonquin carried off 3,000 Frenchmen in nine months. Deaths in Manchuria for five days, from cholera, were reported as 1,370; on one street in St. Chongdejere there was a case to every house. The Chongdejere quarries fell in, destroying a village, and killing many people. During a storm on the Labrador coast, 70 vessels were wrecked and 300 lives lost; 2,000 shipwrecked persons on the shore were rendered destitute. A rainstorm of eighteen hours' duration caused a great loss of life in the two previous years. The losses by fire during October, in the United States and Canada, reached \$5,750,000, about \$2,250,000 less than the average for October in the past ten years. The U. S. Consul at Palermo reported 2,000 deaths in that city from cholera up to October 12, and stated that over 60,000 persons died from the epidemic.

### NOVEMBER.