

DAILY NEWS

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER, 2, 1880.

The brigadiers will begin another temporary reign on Monday.

MOREY has the advantage of Barnum and Hewett; he never was born.

The Republican majority on joint ballot in the Indiana Legislature is eighteen. In the Senate the vote will stand 25 to 25.

We fail to hear any great demand for the continuance of Carl Schurz in office. Equally so is it with some other grades of cheaply acquired cabinet fame.

A REWARD of £1,000 has been offered for the detection of the murderers of Wheeler, the late Irish landlord, whose cruel exaction made his name a synonym among the tenantry for all that was atrocious.

The anti-Jesuit movement continues in Germany, surpassing in bitterness and intolerance any political movement of the last half century. What renders it the more melancholy spectacle is that it seems to receive official encouragement.

HANLAN and Lacock have signed the articles of agreement for that long-talked-about sculling match. It is to come off on the 17th of January, for \$500 a side, the *Sportsman* challenge cup, and the championship. The parties each put up half the stake-money yesterday.

At last the full official returns are received from California. The total vote for Hancock was 80,332, Garfield, 80,257; Weaver, 3,881. Hancock's plurality, 75. The electoral vote will stand five for Hancock and one for Garfield. Judge Terry, whose killing of Broderick in the murderously contrived duel could not be forgotten, is the defeated Democratic electoral candidate.

THE PUBLIC LEDGER says that it would be a good thing, doubtless, to prosecute the people engaged in swindling life insurance companies in the interior of this State, or those who make speculation in life insurance policies a matter of business; but no one will have much sympathy for companies so careless in their business operations as to insure for \$26,000 the life of a woman in the last stage of consumption.

COLORED REFUGEES. Letters have been written by Governor St. John, Mrs. Comstock, and others, who are laboring among colored refugees down in Kansas, giving a detailed account of the great suffering among these poor people. They say that the arrivals continue at the rate of about one hundred and fifty per week, most of them in destitute condition. The weather is very cold, and as the capacity of the present barracks is greatly overtaxed, much suffering is the result. Everything is being done for their comfort that can be with the limited means at command. Mrs. Comstock and the Governor make especial appeals for lumber. They need four car loads for the purpose of building new barracks.

THE DE LESSEPS CANAL SCHEME. A despatch to the *Times* from Paris says the promotion of the Panama Canal scheme has been resumed with extraordinary vigor. The movement is so universal that success as regards subscriptions and capital is certain. Adhesions are arriving from every quarter of the globe.

M. De Lesseps told the *Times* correspondent that news arriving every moment confirmed his conviction that the enterprise is safe. Every country in Europe is taking part in it; offices are being opened in Germany, Austria and Italy, and subscriptions are flowing in.

The English have run up the shares to a premium on the Paris Bourse, by sending orders which cannot be executed, except by paying a premium. Founders shares, which were 5000 francs, reach nearly 40,000 francs.

WASHINGTON NEWS.

WASHINGTON D. C. Nov. 30, 1880. Some one has just set afloat a story that a combination has been formed in which Fair of Nevada, is to have a part, to enable the Republicans to organize the Senate. The conservative elements necessary to the success of this scheme have, it is said, definite and satisfactory assurances as to the character of the coming administration.

The leading newspapers of the country will have very full corps of correspondents here this winter; not so large, perhaps, as the exciting events of 1876-7 brought, but larger than at any time previous to that. On point of numbers of persons sent here, the New York papers exceed all others, but in the employment of various agencies through which the news and sensations of the Capitol are gathered, in times of great interest, several of the Western papers exhibit more energy and liberality than the New York *Herald* or *Sun*. Political events are those which make Washington life worth expensive reporting, and the interesting figures in our late National politics are Western rather than Eastern, and the reading population of the West is rapidly increasing, while that of the East is nearly stationary.

General Garfield expects to leave to-morrow night, but may be detained. As was certain to be the case, politicians have taken up most of his time since he reached here. Senator Blaine has been granted the longest interview. It is now held to be certain, that whatever "policy" the General may attempt to carry out, he will attempt it with the advice of those Republican leaders who have the confidence of the Republican masses.

Many influential citizens of the District will this year repeat the effort of the last, to secure a liberal appropriation from Congress for the improvement of Washington harbor. That harbor is becoming a marsh, slowly, but surely. A comparative small sum judiciously expended now will prevent the total ruin of our water front or save enormous expense at a later date. It is a curious fact that every president during the past generation has earnestly recommended government action in this matter, and that nothing more has been done for than might have been done for the trout streams annually provided for in the river and harbor hills.

The National Grange, Patrons of Husbandry, closed its annual session on Saturday. It voted to maintain an official in this city. The daily sessions of this year have been very pleasant, and the "Patrons" have created a most favorable impression. This city will be the place of meeting again next year.

Reports received here do not confirm rumors of a revival of "Exodus" feeling among the negroes of the Southwest. I am able to say, from personal observation, that the North Carolina craze among negroes on this subject is over.

Dampier's account gives a lively impression of what these rains are; and we hear from one observer that the rain in the West Indies falls "not in drops, but in streams of water." These statements are confirmed by accurate measurements made by means of instruments. Capt. Roussin says of Cayenne, that between Feb. 1st and Feb. 24th, 1829, twelve feet seven inches of rain fell.

The wettest region on the earth is not, however, Cayenne, or even a district situated between the tropics. This distinction is justly claimed by Cherrapunjee, in the Cossia Hills, lying north-east of Calcutta. There, in June, 1851, at an elevation of 4,500 feet, 12 feet 3 inches were measured, while the total annual rainfall is 600 inches or 50 feet! The average rainfall on our own west coasts is about 30 inches, so that at Cherrapunjee, twenty times as much falls, and that within the space of about six months. The reason of this unequal distribution of the fall is that when the monsoon changes, and the warm and moist south-west wind is blowing north-eastwards, towards Central Asia, it meets a ridge of high land which it must pass over, and in its passage it is chilled, and deposits its burden of water on the western slopes of the hills.—*English paper.*

Heavy Rainfalls, and Their Causes. Cheyenne men bet on anything. Two of them put up five dollars apiece on a wager that one could hold a wasp longer than the other could, and the fellow who rubbed the chloroform on his hand expected to win; but the other fellow happened to know that male wasps don't sting, and got one of that sex, and they grabbed their wasps and smiled at each other, while the crowd wondered, until the chloroform had evaporated, and the fellow who used it suddenly let go his wasp and let the audience into the secret of how to swear the shingles all off the roof.

"This can't be beat," as the man said when he bought a porcelain egg.

The Hotel Clerk.

We measure rain by catching it in a vessel called a rain-gauge, the area of whose mouth is accurately known, and then calculate how deep the layer of water would have been if all the rain that fell into the gauge had been spread out evenly on a surface of the size of its mouth. A gallon of water would only cover a space of two feet square if spread out in a layer an inch thick. Accordingly, an inch of rain falling on an acre of land amounts to 100 tons of water, and the same fall per square mile would give 60,000 tons. Now an inch of rain falls not very frequently at stations on our west coast, in the course of a day, so that we can easily see why two or three day's heavy rain cause floods in most of our rivers. The area drained by the Thames is 65 square English miles, or five square geographical miles as stated Sir J. Herschel; and accordingly, an inch of rain falling on that district would give us 4,000,000 tons of water, which must almost all of it drain off the high lands and flood those lying lower before it ultimately finds its way to the sea.

However the wettest weather with us is almost dry when compared with that experienced between the tropics during the rainy season. Old Dampier, in his "Theory of the Winds," says of the Island of Gorgonia, which lies not far from Panama: "I have been at this isle three times, and always found it very rainy, and the rains very violent. I remember when we touched there in our return from Cape Sharp, we boiled a kettle of chocolate before we cleaned our bark, and having every man his calabash full, we began to sup it off, standing all the while in the rain; but I am confident that not a man among us did clear his dish, for it rained so fast and such great drops fell into our calabashes, that after we had supped off as sufficed us, our calabashes were still above half full."

The heat of the sun is the power that causes the water to rise into the air. It has been very truly said that the world may be considered as a gigantic steam-engine. The fire is the sun, the boiler the sea near the equator, the condenser the cold air of high latitudes like our own, the work done is the growth of all vegetables and animals.

Let us look a little closer into this, and see how the operation goes on. The action in virtue of which the water rises is called evaporation. Water boils at a certain temperature, but long before it boils steam may be seen rising from the vessel in which the water is being heated. In fact, steam—or, to speak more correctly, aqueous vapour—rises from every free water surface, and even from ice at all temperatures. This steam is not the white thing you see coming out of the funnel of a locomotive, but a perfectly transparent gas. When this is first cooled it forms little drops of water called "bubble steam," and these bubbles floating in the air make an opaque cloud, just as a heap of powdered glass is opaque, although the glass itself may have been quite clear and transparent. The reason is that the light is unusually refracted in passing through the air and the water on the glass, and so the rays cannot get through at all, and the cloud looks opaque.

The best mode of accelerating evaporation is to cause a current of dry air to pass over the surface of the liquid from which the vapor is rising. This is precisely what takes place in the trade-wind zone at all periods of the year, and also in higher latitudes whenever a east wind is blowing. As fast as the vapor is generated it is carried off, being absorbed by the air in its passage, and the place of the partially saturated air is at once taken up by a fresh supply of air, whose absorbing power is as yet unimpaired. Now warm air can contain a much greater quantity of vapor than cold air; and accordingly, as an east wind is always becoming warmer and warmer the nearer it gets to the equator, we see that the trade-winds at the time they reach the limit of the equatorial calms will be nearly or quite charged with moisture.

Let us now see what would cause a mass of air so charged to give up its moisture.

The simplest answer to this is, if we can cool it, we shall, so to speak, squeeze the water out of it. This cooling may be effected in various ways. The simplest is by causing the air, when charged with moisture, to rise up to a great height in the atmosphere, where it finds a very low temperature prevailing. Every one knows that it is, as a general rule, colder the higher you ascend on a mountain; but balloon ascents have shown us that not unfrequently temperatures extraordinarily low may be met with at a very great distance from the earth's surface. In July, 1850, two gentlemen, M. Barral and M. Bixio, ascended from Paris. At the height of 6,000 feet they entered a cloud which enveloped them till they reached the height of 20,000 feet, where the temperature was -9° Fahr., and on ascending 1,000 feet further the temperature fell to -40° Fahr., so that the mercury in their thermometers froze.

Such a change of temperature as this, amounting to upwards of 100°, would be sufficient to render the air, to all intents and purposes, perfectly dry; and as we know that enormous volumes of air do rise at the equator into the higher strata of the atmosphere, a slight calculation will show us how much rain might be produced by this simple action.

A layer of air a foot thick, covering an acre of ground, and possessing a temperature of 80°, as it is not infrequently does close to the line could contain nearly nine gallons of water. Accordingly, a column five miles high covering the same space, would contain 1,000 tons of water if completely saturated at that high temperature. Now, this is not at all an impossible condition for those latitudes, so that, when we take into account the constant motion of the atmosphere, the place of air partially dried being constantly taken by a fresh supply charged with aqueous vapor, the prodigious torrents which pour from the sky in the wet seasons become quite intelligible. Dampier's account gives a lively impression of what these rains are; and we hear from one observer that the rain in the West Indies falls "not in drops, but in streams of water." These statements are confirmed by accurate measurements made by means of instruments. Capt. Roussin says of Cayenne, that between Feb. 1st and Feb. 24th, 1829, twelve feet seven inches of rain fell.

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The Hotel Clerk.

Whatever good qualities the hotel clerk may possess, if he lacks courtesy he cannot succeed. The traveling public is often rude, ill-bred, unreasonable, difficult to please, ungrateful for kindness shown, and too ready to find fault on the slightest provocation, yet such as it is the traveling public supports the hotels, and very generally supports best those where its wants, whims and eccentricities are patiently borne with, and its wrath is turned aside with a soft answer. In no business does courtesy possess such a mercantile value as in the hotel: nowhere else can incivility result in such speed and positive loss of income.

Only those who have perfect self-control, and can merge their identity in their position, are fit to greet the public in a hotel office. Unfortunately too many clerks are deficient in this all-important qualification for the position they hold, yet we can see an improvement, as compared with the state of things a few years ago, and we hope to see the day when any complaints on this head will be unnecessary.

Self-confident clerks are too ready to ignore the necessity for the constant and continual employment of the element of courtesy in their business. They do not, they will not, recognize how absolutely essential it is to success, but sooner or later they will learn to appreciate the truth of every line—every word that has been written on the subject.

Ar-kan-saw or Ar-kan-sas.

The true pronunciation of the name of our state is receiving that serious attention which its importance requires. A joint committee from the Electric and Historical societies have had the matter under consideration, and will report at the next meeting of the latter. While the latter pronunciation, above indicated, accenting the middle syllable and sounding the final *s*, has the sanction of some polite usage, it is understood that the committees are largely and decided in favor of the original pronunciation given by the French, and will report the pronunciation as nearly correct, which is in use by the mass of old citizens, giving the Italian sound of *a* in each syllable and sounding the final *s*, *kan-saw*.

The heat of the sun is the power that causes the water to rise into the air. It has been very truly said that the world may be considered as a gigantic steam-engine. The fire is the sun, the boiler the sea near the equator, the condenser the cold air of high latitudes like our own, the work done is the growth of all vegetables and animals.

Let us look a little closer into this, and see how the operation goes on. The action in virtue of which the water rises is called evaporation. Water boils at a certain temperature, but long before it boils steam may be seen rising from the vessel in which the water is being heated. In fact, steam—or, to speak more correctly, aqueous vapour—rises from every free water surface, and even from ice at all temperatures. This steam is not the white thing you see coming out of the funnel of a locomotive, but a perfectly transparent gas. When this is first cooled it forms little drops of water called "bubble steam," and these bubbles floating in the air make an opaque cloud, just as a heap of powdered glass is opaque, although the glass itself may have been quite clear and transparent. The reason is that the light is unusually refracted in passing through the air and the water on the glass, and so the rays cannot get through at all, and the cloud looks opaque.

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