THE SOUTHERN METROPOLIS

The Improvement Noticeable In and Around Dillon.

CITY GOVERNMENT.

The Need of Better Protection for the Prisoners and a New Court-House.

After an absence of eight month a reporter of THE MINER last week made quite an extensive trip through Beaverhead county, and paid particular attention to the changes and improvements which have been made in Dillon and its environs. In May last Dillon was incorporated and began its city existence by the election of a full complement of officers, from Mayor to City Marshal. Since their installation the Mayor, B. F. White, ably assisted by the six Aldermen, has labored almost incessantly for the improvement of the streets and any other changes which would add to the better appearance and safety of the city. The streets have been, during the summer, thoroughly overhauled and graded, and the sidewalks on Main and the cross streets have been brought up to an even grade. The old sheet-iron stovepipes have given way to the brick flues, and many other minor changes are noticeable on every hand. Some of the tax payers complain of the attendant expense, but when they come to look at the advantages derived from the outlay all objections are withdrawn, and every resident of the city admits that the changes in the place have added much to the value and general tone of their business affairs.

BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS.

The south side of Main street has received an addition to its business capacity in the shape of three two-story bricks, each of which are well built and convenient. The Dillon National Bank has moved into the old Thomsen & Bliven store (the latter having moved into one of the new bricks) and now has one of the finest banking offices in the Territory, and although a comparatively young bank, is gaining for itself a large share of the business of the city.

The Baptist congregation has begun the construction of a new church, the foundation having been completed, but the completion of the brick work has been postponed until the opening of spring. The new church will be the finest in Dillon, and will cost in the neighborhood of $5,000.

This summer the Canal Company completed its ditch, to the length of about twelve miles, at a total cost of $15,000, and with its present capacity of 12,000 inches of water, 7 000 acres of land can be readily irrigated. The land covered by the ditch is on the bench northeast of the city and on the opposite side of the Beaverhead river.

Many new and handsome residences have been erected during the summer, the most attractive ones being those of Messrs. Cusick, Forrester and McCune, in the western portion of the city known as the Orr addition to the townsite, all these being of brick.

A JAIL AND COURT HOUSE.

Dillon's greatest need at present is a more suitable jail and Court House. The present Court House is a two-story wooden building, originally constructed for a school house, but when the new high school house was finished about two years since, the old one was converted into a county building and since then it has been used for that purpose. It is too small for the present needs of the county and altogether out of proportion to the flattering financial condition of the neighborhood. The county is practically out of debt and is well able to afford a much better and more substantial structure. While this building might possibly be used for some time to come, the condition of the jail and its prisoners certainly calls for immediate action. The cells are good and substantial, but the house enclosing them is a regular fire-trap and causes considerable uneasiness among the officers. It is a one-story log house, with neither doors nor windows which could be used to release the prisoners in case of a conflagration, and with the complicated locks attached to the cells, there would be little, if any, chance to save the life of any of the fifteen prisons at present confined therein, and furthermore, there is not enough protection afforded the sheriff and his deputies from breaks. It is only a few months since the prisoners overpowered the sheriff and locked him in one of the cells, necessitating fourteen hours' work to release him in addition to sending to Butte for keys. Since then Mr. Jones has, at his own expense, erected a strong partition in front of the cells, but even that is not sufficient to enable him to safely handle the large number of prisoners. A suitable brick building for both the jail and Court House is sadly needed, and in its present prosperous condition the county can well afford to put it up, and should do so at once. Should the present jail be destroyed by fire by any accident the officials and citizens of the county, particularly the Commissioners, would never forgive themselves for permitting the loss of life which would inevitably follow such a calamity.

DILLON'S ORE AND BULLION SHIPMENTS.

The most noticeable and marked sign of the improvement and growth of the city is the rapid increase of the bullion and ore shipment from Dillion. Last year (1884) these shipments aggregated something less than $150,000, but for the year 1885 up to the 1st of December they had reached nearly double that amount, as follows:

	Pounds.	Value.
Bullion	260,000	51,000
Ore	1,385.000	145,000
Gold dust and bullion		105.000
Total		$301,000

Argenta, thirteen miles northwest of Dillon, produced the bullion, while a large portion of the gold bullion came from the group of mines owned by Phil. Shenon, at Marysville, near Bannack, where he has had eleven stamps in operation during the summer months. The ore came from Argenta, Blue Wing, Bald Mountain and other portions of the county, the richest being from the Polaris mine at Bald Mountain, eighteen cars shipped having netted $36 000 to the owners. This mining industry all centers in Dillon, and B. F. White, of the firm of Sebree, Feirrs & White, and cashier of the First National Bank, devotes a great deal of his time and attention to the business, of which more will be said in detail hereafter.

ROAD AND BRIDGE BUILDING.

The County Commissioners and Road Supervisors of the various districts have done a great deal during the summer toward improving the roads in the country, and recently a contract was let to Sim Estes, of Dillon, to put a new bridge across the Big Hole river at Melrose. It will be a large and substantial structure, containing four bents—one of 60 feet, another of 50 feet and two of 28 feet each—with approaches of 25 feet at each end. The contract was for $1,850 and the old bridge, Silver Bow County contributing $750 toward its construction, it being on the line of the two counties. Crowe & Snead, of Dillon, are cutting the lumber, and Kenyon & Co., of Butte, will furnish the iron used in it. Work will be commenced about Tuesday next, and the bridge will be pushed to an early completion.

MINOR MENTION.

The city limits are a mile square, extending from a point near the passenger depot.

Will Eastman is the boss fisherman among the amateurs, and always bring home a splendid string of whitefish.

There is more mining talk in Dillon than there is in Butte, and everybody feels confident that next spring will show an unprecedented boom in that industry throughout the county.

The Pavilion does not draw as well as last year, but Manager Cusick feels confident that as soon as the cold weather sets in there will be just as large a rush as ever.

Is is estimated that the sum of $50,000 has been expended during the year in the improvement of business property in the city of Dillon alone, while the money handled by the merchants has been fully 50 per cent greater than during the previous year.

Last week there were two weddings in Dillon, Messrs. John P. Zalsman and L. E. Stringham each taking with themselves a wife, and they were both showered with congratulations from their many friends.

Frankie Riley, who was wounded in the Peng-Morrison homicide, some weeks since is rapidly recovering from the amputation of her arm, and will soon be out on the streets. The murder of poor Mose Morrison cast a gloom on the entire community, from which it has not yet recovered. He was one of the most popular men in the section, and his place will be hard to fill.

CITY BREVITIES.

Grand farewell matinee by the Lewis Company at the Grand Opera House to-day.

Miss Lewis had a very good matinee yesterday, at which she played, for the last time during this engagement, "Forget-Me-Not." "Odette" will be given to-night and at the matinee to-day, "Diplomacy" will be the play.

Colonel Estes, of Lee W. Foster & Co., was the recipient, on Christmas day, of a very handsome ebony cane, with a beautiful and oddly shaped gold head, from his friend and partner, Mr. Foster. The cane is a very pretty memento and is much admired.

PEOPLE YOU KNOW.

R. S. Ford, E. D. Hastie and Thomas Dunn, all prominent men of Sun River, are at Helena prior to departing for the East.

Mr. S. G. Murray, principal of the Missoula public schools, left last week for a visit to his family, who are at Sun River, Choteau county. He will attend the Territorial Teachers' Association at Bozeman before he returns home.

Messrs. Nelson Bennett, of Washington Territory; W. Bennett, of Deer Lodge, and G. A. Bennett, of Corvallis, were all in Missoula last week and held a reunion.

Mrs. C. H. Prescott, with her mother and sister, Mrs. and Miss Matthewson, have left Missoula for Helena, where they will hereafter reside—Mr. Prescott having been transferred from his duties at Missoula to the railroad offices in that city.

The Northwestern.

Among the establishments of the city which took especial pains to make the day a pleasant one for their guests, the Northwestern Hotel in South Butte was noticeable. Mr. and Mrs. Toole determined that nothing was too good for the occasion and they spread a veritable feast at each of the meals, dinner naturally being the most extensive. All the delicacies were served in excellent style and it was unanimously voted that the hosts of the Northwestern know how to run a hotel.

The Smoke House Again.

In the report of the proceedings of the District Court at Deer Lodge, for December 23d, is the following: James A. Murray vs. John M. Bowes, et al.; separate trials by jury were had, and verdicts in favor of plaintiff against defendants John M. Bowes, George W. Beal, Sarah J. Beal and George W. Newkirk, Charles H. Richardson, Samuel Lewis and William Coleman, David H. Cohen, David Cohen and Wolf Copinus, Alexander Cohen, Daniel N. Dellinger and Herman Barnett, Leopold F. Schmidt and Daniel Gamer, Henry Jacobs and Herman Gans, Simon Hauswith, —— Donehue, —— Mathewson, George H. Casey, Patrick J. Brophy, Nicholas Connoly and A. M. McIntyre, for possession of those portions of the Smoke House Lode occupied by said defendants respectively.

THE COPPER MARKET.

A Very Heavy Contract Made in the Eastern States.

The stiffness of the copper market continues, and although the raise in the price is not large, the New York *Engineering and Mining Journal*, of the 19th inst., says: "The Lake Companies, acting through the Calumet & Hecla representative, have made contracts with manufacturers for their supplies during the next four months at 11¼ cents. The amount to be delivered is said to exceed 10,000,000 pounds. As it costs about ¾ cent a pound more to bring lake copper forward by rail than by water, the actual advance to the companies is but very slight. During the winter, lake copper has to pay almost as much freight for the 1,500 miles from Calumet to New York as the Montana mines for the 3,000 miles from Butte to New York. The advance in the price of lake copper has given a very strong tone to the market, and the other brands have advanced. Baltimore, B. C. W., 10½c; B., 10c¾c; Orford, 10½c; and 10¾c is asked on slight provocation. Arizona bars (96 per cent.) in good demand, and 9¼c bid. Chili bars, which are now listed on the New York Metal Exchange, are attracting some attention, and a number of sales of English warrants (duly indorsed by importers) were made; many of these were not reported. Prices vary, of course, with the London market, and were as follows: December 14th, £42@£42¾, and £42¾ New York delivery, March, while the London quotation was £41 10s. On the 16th inst., Chili was quoted here £41 12s. 6d.@42, while in London it was reported £41 5s. On the 17th, here, £40 17s. 6d., and in London £40 7s. 6d. To-day, the price here is £41 5s.@£41, and in London the closing price was £40 5s. Best selected, £46."

Amusements.

Miss Jeffreys Lewis' company played to the largest house of the engagement, last evening, the play being "Odette." A trifle wordy and draggy, "Odette" is nevertheless a strong play, carrying a thrilling story and abounding in strong dramatic situations. It affords Miss Lewis ample opportunities for the display of her great powers. She gave a magnificent performance last evening, and held the closest attention of the house, especially in the culmination of the plot of the final act. In all that she undertakes, Miss Lewis excels. Her every pose is a picture and her every movement the embodiment of grace. Her acting is faultless, her enunciation perfect. It is a rare treat to the cultured and refined to witness such a performance as her *Odette*.

Miss Charlotte Tittell, a most charming young lady, made the character of *Juliette* interesting and exceedingly attractive, being possessed of both beauty and talent. Miss Essie Tittell showed decided talent as *Berangere* and Miss Crouse as *Baroness Canado Dorio* showed an intelligence that has marked all her past performances. Miss Hudson made an admirable *Madame Morizot*.

Miss Lewis' splendid acting, together with the excellent assistance rendered by the ladies of the company, alone saved the performance.

"Odette" will be repeated to-night and we have no doubt a greatly improved performance will be given. However, if there were no support whatever and only automatons to utter the lines, Miss Lewis' performance alone should fill the house.

* * *

A GRAND matinee to-day, when "Diplomacy" will be presented.

* * *

THE alluring climate of California, along with big vegetables, also produces the biggest and most robust liars on earth. As this thought suggests itself we notice by our exchanges that Sam Mott is abroad in our Territory. Sam hails from California.

* * *

THE young men of good judgment and cultivated taste are unanimous in the opinion that Miss Charlotte Tittell, of Miss Lewis' Company, is not only a clever actress, but a beautiful and charming young lady.

* * *

MISS LEWIS' Company does great credit to her. The members are like one great happy and contented family. They have made many friends here, who will sincerely regret to see them leave. THE MINER heartily commends them to press and to people as artists and as true ladies and gentlemen.

* * *

A TELEGRAM to THE MINER from Manager Maguire brings the intelligence that the Grand Opera Company will return to Butte on Thursday evening—New Year's eve—and remain the balance of the week, with a matinee. The company will open in "The Chimes of Normandy."

* * *

THE Company has been considerably strengthened since their appearance here, and they give a very excellent performance of "The Chimes."

Senor Figueras, the personal and political friend of Castelar, is a Catalan. He is considered to be an abler and more sagacious man, but has not the wonderful oratorical power of his friend. He is a man of weak health and melancholy dispoosition.

"Did he pop the question last night?" eagerly asked the mother as the daughter came down late to breakfast. "No, not quite." "What did he say?" "Why, he squeezed my hand twice and said that he believed I'd make some man an excellent wife if the fellow had sense enough to take me so far away that you couldn't visit me more than once in twenty years."

Miller's Road House.

The dancing will commence at 8 o'clock o'clock Sunday night, December 27th, at the Road House. Meals served at all hours during the night. 12-25-3t

NEWS FROM THE CAPITAL.

A Lively Mass Meeting---Left Handed Compliments.

LOCAL AMUSEMENTS

A Budget of News From Our Special Correspondent at the Capital.

Special correspondence of THE MINER.

HELENA, M. T., December 24.—A. M. Whitley, whose embezzlement of $436.99 from the firm of T. C. Power & Co., which was duly reported to you, was disposed of in Judge Eddy's court this afternoon by being held for the action of the Grand Jury in a bond of $750. Not being able to furnish bail he was remanded back to jail.

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THE skating rink re-opened to-night, whether permanently or not is undecided. The increased license made the running expenses so great that they had to close, and are probably merely taking advantage of the holiday season to rake in a few shekels from the giddy rollers.

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THE Grau Opera Company gave "The Mikado" last night and followed up with "The Mascot" to-night. A crowded house greeted the initial performance and a good average audience was on hand to-night. The chorus is weak and the company labor under the disadvantage of having no regular orchestra, consequently the enjoyment of the performance is marred by occasional faulty execution. There is, however, good material in the company and with some additions to the chorus it could be whipped into a first class organization.

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THE Charity Ball to be given on December 30th, 1885, will be the society event of the season. The list of lady patrons is very long, upwards of fifty names, including the very best element of Helena society. The "reception committee" is a still longer list and the arrangements are in the hands of Messrs. A. J. Davidson, William A. Chessman, E. W. Bech, James B. Wells, A. J. Fisk and M. A. Meyendorff. The supper will be arranged by the lady managers comittee of St. Peter's Hospital. It will take place in the Amphitheater. Tickets admitting lady and gentleman $5 each.

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MISS HELEN P. CLARK's recent appearance as *Meg Merillies* has excited the dramatic ambition of scores of Helena amateurs and the "Lady of Lyons" is talked of, to be essayed by a young society lady at no distant date. We hope it will prove a success, but—"but me no buts."

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THE mass meeting on the Court House matter was attended by between 300 and 400 of as representative citizens as there are in Helena. The heaviest taxpayers and the amount of wealth represented being astonishing to the croakers who have looked upon it as by-play. After indulgence in the usual personalities, the following resolutions were almost unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That a committee of sixty-five, consisting of the citizens hereinafter named, be appointed, with full power to represent the taxpayers of Lewis and Clarke county in the investigation of all matters pertaining to the new Court House, and such other county affairs as may be deemed expedient, with full power to elect an Executive Committee of fifteen, which committee shall in turn elect a Chairman and other necessary officers, and provide for the employment of attorneys, experts and clerks, appoint all sub-committees, procure copies of all papers necessary, hear evidence, procure testimony, and commence and prosecute suits in the courts, and to do and perform any and all acts and things necessary and proper to be done in protecting the interests of the taxpayers of Lewis and Clarke county. Also to solicit, receive and disburse funds to defray any necessary expense incurred. Ten or more members of the General Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business until the Executive Committee is organized, when that committee shall take full charge and be governed by such rules as it may adopt.

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The names of the general committee of sixty-five include such solid business men as A. M. Holter, A. J. Davidson, Jno. T. Murphy, S. H. Crounse, Dr. G. C. Swallow, T. C. Power, etc., etc.

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THE *Herald* came out to-night with a long *quasi* defensive editorial and a sympathetic letter from an ostensible "Granger." After to-night's meeting, however, they will probably swing around a little, and let themselves down gently.

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A MAN named George Bell, a popular old drayman here, aged 64, got crushed between his own wagon and a freight car this morning at the depot. He was severely bruised and may possibly have received severe interal injuries.

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THE Helena Board of Trade have appointed a committee to draft a memorial to Congress praying that no legislation be had on the silver bill. This of course suits Butte, and will receive its hearty co-operation and good wishes that it will have some effect.

A Fighting Chinaman.

Yesterday afternoon Boston Jim, the Chinaman who runs a hashery on West Park street, was standing on a chair in the act of placing a lamp on the post in front of his place of business as bad luck would have it, a drunken individual came along and staggered up against Jim, and there was a mixture of Jim and the lamp on the sidewalk. Up jumped the Chinaman with a heavy chunk of ice in his hand. The offender, oblivious of the damage he had done, was walking quietly away, but Jim landed him one in the back with the ice, and the man turned and came back. He started for Jim in great shape, but got tangled up in a basket of fresh poultry, and in disgust again started away, and the Chinaman gave him another blow in the back, either with a piece of ice or the lamp. The second time he came toward the missile-heaver, but the latter ran into the restaurant and the drunken man to the city prison to sober up.

Must Settle Up.

In the District Court at Helena Judge Wade has made an order to the effect that all fees for filing papers, etc., with the clerk of the court must be paid in advance, and that no papers will be received until such fees are paid. This is merely in compliance with the law on the subject.

AS SEASONS COME AND GO

Our Progressive Spirit Keeps Apace.

We Are Now at Work, Segregating and Setting Aside Such Lines of Goods

As May Become Unseasonable.

ON MONDAY THE 28TH, we will open with a

HALF PRICE SALE OF BROKEN LOTS OF DRY GOODS,

and will include the remainder of our stock of Ladies', Misses' and Children's Wraps.

The *Small Remnant* of our *Holiday Goods* can be had at one's own price.

Our CLOTHING STOCK is receiving an overhauling.

Odd Lots of men's, boys' and youths' suits will be thrown upon the Bargain Tables, and sold for Half Price.

We will include in this sale all ODD LOTS of Hats, Gloves, Boots and Shoes, Underwear, and such lines as naturally accumulate during the season.

These goods must and will be moved prior to our Annual Inventory, which soon follows. Competition may close their eyes and accuse of *slinging mud*," it is the mud of Low Prices that is telling its own sad tale.

Remember that on Monday, the 28th *Our Half Price Sale begins.* No article placed upon the Bargain Tables will be included in our *Inventory*. It is needless for us to say more, as these Goods *will be sold* if a PRICE WILL MOVE THEM.

We have demonstrated the fact that a Price moves almost anything; we will demonstrate it again.

Respectfully, SANDS & BOYCE.

RECKLESS SHOOTING.

A Saloon Keeper Killed by a Party of Cowboys.

Special to THE MINER.

MILES CITY, December 25.—Reckless revolver practice resulted in the killing of John Church, a saloon keeper, at Powderville, last night. He was waiting on a party of cowboys who claim that a stray shot struck him.

Washington Notes.

WASHINGTON, December 25.—The residence of Dr. Emel Bessels, the Arctic explorer, at Glendale, Md., burned this morning. All of his books and charts and other valuable documents relating to Arctic matters were destroyed.

OPPOSED TO THE SUSPENSION.

The *National Republican* to morrow will give as the result of an exhaustive enquiry concerning future decisions in the House of Representatives regarding the unlimited suspension of the silver coinage a table showing that 143 Democrats and 52 Republicans are against suspension and 39 Democrats and 91 Republicans favor it. A noticeable feature in connection with the matter is the division of the members upon the sectional lines. The West and South are practically a unit for coinage, while the East and Middle States appear to be almost solidly in favor of suspension.

A CHRISTMAS TREE FIRE.

A Panic at a Gathering in a Public Hospital.

CHICAGO, December 25.—During the observance of Christmas at the public hospital of this city, the Christmas tree took fire and a panic resulted. The accident is somewhat more serious than at first reported a number of persons having been injured in the rush for the doors. Over 300 persons were in the chapel when the accident occurred. When the fire started the small room was densely packed and "Santa Claus" was forcing his way through the crowd to the tree to distribute the gifts. Suddenly a wreath of colored paper caught fire from a candle, and almost instantly the entire tree and its contents were a pyramid of flames. The garments of those next to the tree caught fire, and everyone rushed to the door in a panic. Before the room was half emptied of the crowd some one with a fire extinguisher subdued the flames and drenched the clothing which had caught fire. At least one hundred persons were injured, the greater part receiving bruises by being trampled on by their panic-stricken neighbors. A number of children patients had been brought into the chapel in their cots. Before they could be removed several suffered from smoke and fright and one or two were slightly burned. The excitement was intense, and but for the coolness of Warden McGarigle and some of the attaches of the hospital lives would certainly have been lost.

A Minister's Resignation.

PARIS, December 25.—It is stated that Admiral Galiber, Minister of Marine and Colonies, tendered his resignation because President Brisson announced his decision to create a Colonial Ministry.

THE NATAL DAY

How It was Observed in Butte—Presents and Feasts.

Christmas dawned upon Butte yesterday like a spring day in the South. At an early hour the whole city was astir with people who were intent upon celebrating the holiday as their inclinations dictated. In the residence portion the little ones, who had passed the night in dreaming of Santa Claus, and whose visions and expectations had been realized, were in front of their respective homes, showing each other the gifts that good, kind old St. Nick had brought them. The children of larger growth were to be seen exchanging congratulations and the compliments of the season. As the hour for church services to begin arrived, the religiously inclined could be seen wending their way to the respective houses of worship. In all of the churches the services, as mapped out in THE MINER of yesterday, were held. In each the joyous music appropriate to the day was rendered with fervor and effect. The several pastors preached sermons on the great event celebrated to the large and interested congregations.

PRESENTATIONS.

There was of course the usual number of presentations of a private character, but there were also several that can be made public. Among these may be mentioned the remembrance of the banking house of Clark & Larabie to its employes. Before leaving the institution Thursday evening, Mr. W. A. Clark shook hands with each of the gentlemen wishing them a merry Christmas, at the same time leaving in their hand a practical remembrance of the day in the shape of a $20 gold piece. Later in the afternoon there was laid on the desk of each an envelope addressed to him, the contents of which proved to be a $100 bill with the compliments of the firm. It is needless to say the gentlemen duly appreciated the gifts.

Mrs. Scott, of the Albemarle, remembered all the gentlemen guests of the house with presents of fine cigars.

At the Comique there was a deluge of presents. During the performance Messrs. Gordon & Hamilton were called on the stage and Harry Montague on behalf of the company in a few well chosen remarks presented Mr. Gordon with an ebony cane with massive gold head inscribed as follows: "Presented to John A. Gordon by the Theater Comique Company, Butte, Montana, Christmas, 1885." The present to Mr. Hamilton was a solid gold match safe set with quartz. It was inscribed: "Presented to Luke Hamilton by the Theater Comique Company, Butte, Montana, Christmas, 1885." Both the gentlemen made brief speeches in response. In addition Mr. Gordon was presented by Harry Montague and the Duncan Sisters with a gold and platinum watch chain, and the parties presented Lillie Gordon with an elaborate gold medal inscribed: "Lillie Gordon, Merry Christmas. Carrie, Sophie, and Harry." In return handsome presents were made to the Duncan Sisters and Mr. Montague. Mr. Hamilton, who felt in a practical humor as regards gifts, presented each of the ladies in the establishment with a pair of leggins. The presentation of the several articles was quite an event and the entire party was in a happy frame of mind.

J. H. Chauvin was the recipient of a beautiful gold headed cane appropriately inscribed. It was a Christmas present from his book-keeper.

THE SALOONS.

All the larger saloons had prepared special attractions for their patrons, in the shape of lunches and drinks, and in some of them the displays were very elaborate.

At the California Brewery there was a lunch consisting of turkey, roast pig, and and other luxuries, which was washed down with egg nogg. During the afternoon the large number present were entertained with the peculiar music of a bagpipe, and in the evening there was a concert of vocal and instrumental music.

At the Centennial Brewery all the guests partook of the hospitality of the proprietors in any beverage they might elect, including egg nogg.

Matt Slater, of the Elite, dished up egg nogg and all the other good things, including a fine turkey lunch.

At the Capital saloon Sterrit & Mathers were at home all day, entertaining their friends in royal style. In the evening they spread an elaborate lay out, consisting of soup, oysters, roast turkey, roast pig, and other fixings too numerous to mention.

There were numerous other establishments that had fine lunches and other treats for guests, but the reporter did not have time to inspect them. To the credit of the people it must be related that, although there were so many opportunities for drinking, there was but little drunkenness and no rows or disturbances.

Royal Arch Mason.

Last night Deer Lodge Chapter No. 3, R. A. M., held an installation and banquet at Masonic Temple, when the following officers elect were installed: William Thompson, H. P.; Robert C. Knox, E. K.; George F. Marsh, E. S.; T. J. Carmony, Captain Host.; William Morshead, P. S.; William T. Boardman, R. A. C.; John M. Bell, G. M. 3d vail; James Dunstan, G. M., 2d vail; Robert Evans, G. M. 1st vail; Joseph A. Hyde, Treasurer; Anthony H. Barret, Secretary; J. Ross Clark, Sentinel. At the conclusion of the ceremonies a splendid banquet was served and seemingly heartily enjoyed. A happy feature of the occasion was the presence of a large number of the lady members of the families of the gentlemen of the Chapter and their guests. The usual toasts were given and responses made, and it was a late hour before the company separated, all agreeing that the evening had been spent in a pleasant and profitable manner.

CHRISTMAS CRIMES.

A Series of Horrible Killings in the South.

WOMEN MURDERED

Organizing a Safety Committee to Protect Austin, Texas, from Assassins.

AUSTIN, Texas, December 25.—Two terrible crimes were committed in this city last night after midnight, which will undoubtedly result in three deaths, and no telling how many lynchings. During the past year Austin has been horrified every few weeks by some dastardly attack on servant women, both white and colored. Fully a dozen servants have been outraged and eight murdered within this period. The crimes all have the evidence of being perpetrated and planned by the same persons. Every effort has been made to apprehend the criminals, and skilled detectives have been employed. Many negroes have been arrested and put through rigid examinations, but nothing came of their efforts. Many citizens and some officials held to the theory that the crimes were perpetrated by some insane individual, who cunningly devised how he could shed the women's blood without apprehension.

THE FIRST MURDER.

About midnight last night W. H. Hancock, a well-to-do carpenter residing at 203 Water street, was awakened by groans. On entering his wife's chamber, adjoining, he found a vacant bed, covered with blood spots. He followed the trail out of the front door, around the house and into the back yard, where he found his wife weltering in a pool of blood. She had been struck twice across the head and face with a blunt axe, and her skull fractured. Although still alive, the physicians say the lady will surely die from her wounds. Mrs. Hancock is aged 40 years, but is still handsome, and she bore an unblemished character.

MORE BLOOD SPILLED.

In the midst of the great excitement produced by this outrage, the citizens were appalled at learning of a still greater crime, perpetrated about the same hour, several squares distant. At one o'clock Mrs. Phillips, residing at 308 Hickory street, was awakened by the cries of her grandson. Entering her son, James Phillips' room, she found the infant on the bed, covered with blood and Phillip lying senseless from a terrible blow across the head. Ella Phillips, his wife, was missing. A frightened neighbor followed the bloody trail again, and found her body lying in the back yard of the adjoining premises. Death had resulted from a blow on the forehead with an axe. Across the body lay some heavy rails. Her person had been outraged.

There is no clue to either crime and the excitement on the streets during the day has been very great. Christmas was forgotten. The Mayor called a meeting of citizens at the State House. Nearly 1,000 attended. A committee of public safety was organized. The feeling over these last outrages is intense. A house-to-house search for the bloody-handed murders will probably be made.

ANOTHER WOMAN STABBED.

Killed His Wife to Make Her Lead a Respectable Life.

NEW ORLEANS, December 25.—To-night Martin Heindal, a gas fitter, aged 21 years, called at a disreputable house on Custom House street, where his wife, Ernestine, aged 20 years, was living. He called her out, and stabbed her several times, inflicting injuries which will probably prove fatal. Heindal is under arrest, and admits having intended to kill his wife, saying he was unable to endure her conduct. She left him three weeks ago and since then has been an inmate of the disreputable house. He says he and his wife's brother, Jacob Beren, and her father had determined to kill her, and as her father was too old to serve out a term in the penitentiary, it was better that a young man should do it. Jacob Beren accompanied Heindel to the house, and it is said held his ssster while her husband stabbed her. The police have not yet arrested him. The girl recognized Heindal as her assailant, but as yet has made no charge against her brother. The proprietress of the house says Heindal's visit to-night was for the purpose of extorting money from his wife, which was refused. Hence the attack.

THE FRENCH CRISIS.

It Is Thought That the Ministry Will Resign—Ferry Comes Back.

PARIS, December 25.—The majority of the newspapers here predict that the Brisson ministry will resign after the session of the Chambers is renewed in favor of De De Freycinet.

Ferry writes to *Temps* that in the debate on the Tonquin credit yesterday Clemenceau misrepresented him by reading only a portion of the dispatch sent by him to Baron de Courcey, French Minister to Germany, in reply to a dispatch from the latter conveying an offer made by Bismarck to act as mediator between France and China. Ferry says if the whole dispatch had been read it would have been shown that the dispatch was written before the disaster to the French troops at Langson.

CHEEK'S PECULATIONS.

A Money Broker Obtains Funds by Means of Clever Forgeries.

ST. LOUIS, December 25.—Information comes from Clinton, Maryland, that Silas E. Cheek, a prominent real estate and loan agent of that place, is a defaulter for over $100,000. The utmost confidence was placed in his integrity until recently, and the banks had given him credit far beyond his means and honored his drafts for large amounts. About two weeks ago F. C. Nichols, of Bridgeport, Connecticut, arrived at Clinton to look after a mortgage on property belonging to Orton B. Jones. He discovered that the name on the mortgage was fictitious and the mortgage a forgery. Cheek had forged the name on the records to the bogus mortgage and had defrauded him out of $7,300. To save himself Cheek gave a deed of trust on his property for the amount, and the same day gave another deed of trust to save friends who had advanced him money. He then left for Canada and has not been heard of since. His manner of obtaining money was to forge the names to bogus deeds of trust, and imprint the Recorder's seal upon the documents, which he could easily do, as he had access to the Recorder's office at all times. The deeds thus appearing all right he had no trouble in obtaining money on them. As these papers are not recorded it is impossible to tell who have been defrauded but the following parties have been heard from: Central Illinois Financial Agency, Jacksonville, Illinois; John Hurd, Joseph A. Joyce, F. C. Nichols, Bridgeport, Connecticut; Newton Savings Bank, Newton, Connecticut; W. J. O'Keefe & Co., Marshall, Michigan. Checks is 32 years old, married, and his wife is now lying at the point of death, but does not know of her husbands's wrong doings. He owned property worth about $34,000, which has been attached by his creditors, but no other action has been taken. His books show that he has loaned $171,000 for Eastern parties. In his desk the following was found: "I am a thief, scoundral, knave and liar.

SILAS E. CHEEK.

A Labor Advocate.

ST. LOUIS, December 25.—Congressman O'Neill, of this city, who is mentioned as the probable Chairman of the Committee on Labor of the House of Representatives, arrived home to-day and was met by the various leaders of the labor interests to proffer their support to him. O'Neill deprecated any action on their part, not wishing to embarrass the speaker in his selection of committees, and said: "If having created the Committee on Labor in the last Congress, introduced the bill to create the Bureau of Labor Statistics and made a speech in the House on the importance of contract labor, which the Democratic National Committe made one of their principal campaign documents—all of which was done under the eye of the speaker—does not entitle me to the chairmanship of the committee any mass meetings and resolutions will not help me."

The Princess Louise, wife of the Marquis of Lorne, has completed a statue of her mother, the Queen, which is said to be a really fine piece of work. It will be placed on the west front of Lichfield Cathedral.

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