DENTON JOURNAL.

DENTON, MARYLAND,

Saturday Morning, January 19, 1884.

ACCORDING to the New York Herald a bill to reduce the tariff will be reported to the House within a week or ten days and passed within a month. It will provide for a considerable though not sweeping reduction, and it will not be destructive of the protected industries.

THE balloting by the Legislature to choose a United States Senator to succeed Senator Groome, began on Tuesday last, and no choice being had the votiug will proceed from day to day in joint assembly of the two houses untill a Senator is chosen. The Democratic candidates were Judge Robinson, ex-Gov. Thomas, Judge Wilson, and Comp. Keating, who showed their strength in the order named. The Republicans divided their votes between Robert B. Dixon, Charles T. Westcott and J. A. J. Creswell. The number of votes necessary to a choice is 59. Judge Robinson's greatest vote, on Wednesday, was twenty-five. Ex-Gov. Thomas took second place with twenty-one.

The result at the last election, six years ago, was reached on the third day, when Mr. Groome was elected by a vote of 73 against two for Judge Robinson. At the election in 1872 Groome was also a candidate among a number of others, but withdrew on the second day for the sake of harmony, and on the day following the choice of the Legislature fell almost unanimously upon Mr. Dennis.

It is impossible to tell what will be done in the present instance. An old statute law requires the Senator to be chosen from the eastern division of Maryland. This law is said to be but a straw on account of its unconstitutionality and there is a disposition to break away from its requirements and take the Senator from the western side of the bay. This, however, will meet with determined opposition from the Eastern Shore. A time-honored custom has established the right that we should have one of the Senators, and the claim has simple justness to maintain itself. The Senator should be chosen from among the abundant able material on the Eastern Shore, and our members in the Legislature should have their preference respected and accepted by members from the other section of the State.

ROBBERY WITHOUT ROMANCE.

Frank James Broken Down and Dying at the Home of His Wife.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 13.—Probably the most widely circulated book in this country is the "Lives and Adventures of Jesse and Frank James." The power for evil of this so-called history of the career of these outlaws has been greatly increased by the fact that they were real flesh and blood criminals, men of our own day and time, and that it was an easy matter to find corroborative testimony of their wonderful adventures. In this volume, as in all others of a similar character, the brilliant and dashing and heroic doings of the chief actors are alone dwelt upon. If an impartial and truthful biography of the James boys had been published, the effect would not have been so hurtful to the youth of our country. The recital of Frank James, innocent of any crime, being arrested by a Sheriff and posse at Brancenburg, Ky., and his killing of five of the men who sought to place him behind prison bars; of his springing on the back of a friend's horse, though he himself had a bullet in his hip, and escaping through a shower of bullets, makes up a picture of reckless daring and bravery and brilliant triumph over his enemies that is calculated to fire the youthful brain with a wild desire to figure in some similar situation. But if Frank James had been pictured as he is, hunted down by the avenging Nemesis of the law, a prisoner with many charges of crime hanging over him; with detectives watching his every step to see that he does not escape; haunted by the many bloody deeds he has committed; with the widows and orphans he has made clamoring for justice or revenge; at death's door, and the door more than half way open, at an age when he ought to be in the full flush of manhood; with the knowledge, too, that he leaves his wife and child nothing but his abhorred name; absolutely unprovided for—if this picture were hung beside the other, the youthful reader would perforce pause a moment and consider that crime always brings punishment; that retributive justice is as certain as death itself.

Frank James, the last of that gang of cut-throats that so often startled this part of the country by their great crimes, is probably now one of the most miserable creatures on the face of the earth. Nobody knew better than he did when he surrendered fifteen months ago that he had run his race. The hardships of the life he chose for himself in preferenee to a life of industry could have but one result and that is about reached. His spirit was completely broken, or he would never have surrendered. It was not with any hope of being able to become a good citizen; it was not with any idea of doing one single stroke of honest labor for a livelihood A beast of prey naturally, he shrewdly calculated on continuing such, simply changing his methods. Formerly his method was to swoop down upon the defenceless and take what he wanted; latterly he has endeavored to figure as a martyr and accept the contributions of silly, sentimental, mush-brained hero-worshippers. When he was placed behind the bars at Independence, the curious crowd flocked to the jail from all over the State; his jail quarters were converted into comfortable apartments; furniture of elaborate and costly pattern adorned his cell and he was treated like a demi-god. This lasted for several months. Then came his trial at Gallatin for murder. Nobody ever expected him to be convicted, for everybody who knows anything about the history of the band knows that Jesse killed the brakeman at Winston during the train robbery. Jesse being dead there was no danger to anybody in that case. But the trial was disastrous to Frank, for at its conclusion, when he was returned to Independence jail, his feelings were shocked at the change that had taken place there. The Brussels carpet was gone, also the elegant bedroom furniture, ditto the pictures and books, and he was treated as any other felon. He was placed in a small cell, with a pine board table, a stool and a rough bunk.

During his career as an outlaw the strain on his nerves and the tax on his mental powers served as much as did his physical hardships to wear him out. He hoped for relaxation when once out of the saddle, but it did not come. Vigilance was just as necessary in fighting in the courts as in the field. As an evidence of the fact that he has been steadily on the guard against himself, it is said that no man can be found to whom he ever admitted that he had committed or was concerned in any of the robberies or murders charged against him. An illustration of this occurred during his trial at Gallatin. Frank, on the witness stand, said that he passed a certain man's house on a certain date, and that on the next day this same man gave him a letter which contained news of the Winston robbery. In this he blundered, and after the trial he admitted laughingly, that he saw instantly after making the statement that he had blundered, for why should he ride ten miles past a man's house, to whom he had ordered his letters addressed, and wait for the letters to be brought to him? He saw his mistake before the lawyer did, and when Mr. Wallace, seeing the vulnerable point in the alibi, started to frame a question, Frank James said: "Please wait, Mr. Wallace, until I reply to your former question," and then he proceeded:

"I did this because on the day I passed Mr. Blank's house I saw that he had several visitors, and as I was not just at that time running for office or courting publicity, I deemed it best to ride right by, knowing that Mr. Blank would see me and bring my letters to me. It was thus I first learned of the Winston robbery."

It is said by his lawyers and those who have been associated with him since his surrender that he has maintained the same constant vigilance over himself and over events and people around him that he exercised while at large. The secret of his success in escaping the law's clutches so long, while so many who from time to time belonged to the famous band were captured, is that he was always on guard. Before he went into any robbery he planned a way out. He always laid a train of circumstances by which he could establish an alibi. After committing a crime he strained every nerve to get as far away from the scene as possible in the quickest possible time. While the rest were figuring on their profits he was figuring on the chances of escape. Despite his record for bravery and daring, he has always been in dread of the law. He had sense enough to know that sooner or later he would be run down, and while it is considered certain that Jesse would never have been taken alive, Frank, who was less reckless, preferred taking every method to lengthen out his days.

In the heyday of their career it was difficult thing to locate all the members of the gang, except Frank James. While planning an attack and carrying the plans into effect he was always head and shoulders to the front, and his judgment was always relied upon; but after it was over he would never discuss it, never talk about it with his companions. So it has been since he surrendered and when talking with his attorneys. Frank James gave up his fight against society Oct. 9, 1882. He was immediately taken to Independence, and in December was called into court in Kansas City to answer for what is commonly known as the Glendale robbery. It was found, though no doubts were entertained that he planned and executed the robbery, that he had covered his tracks so skillfully that no legal evidence could be produced against him. Then he was taken to Gallatan to be tried for what is called the Winston train robbery. This trial ended in an acquittal. Other indictments were held against him at Gallatan, one for bank robbery, and one for the murder of Cashier Sheets of the Gallatan Bank, but it was decided to give Jackson county another chance at him, and he was taken back to Independence to answer for the Blue Cut Robbery.

At this time plans began to be laid by his wife's family and their friends to get him out of jail. It was an easy matter to get bail, but Frank objected to being taken out, as he knew that Minnesota and Government officers were awaiting an opportunity to swoop down upon him. Efforts were made to come to some understanding whereby he should not be taken out of the State, but not with success. At length, his situation in jail becoming so bad, it was decided to take the risk, and he accordingly gave bail. Sure enough, a United States deputy marshall and a Minnesota official both clapped their claws upon him, but a Daviess county official stepped up and claimed him for the Gallatan robbery and on the indictments for murder. The Court gave the prisoner to the latter official, and Frank was dragged off to Daviess county, where he was arraigned on the robbery charge and gave bail. In the mean time influences were put to work that resulted in the case being thrown into the United States courts, and pending decision James was placed in the custody of his bondsmen. Then Gov. Crittenden came to the rescue, and insisted that James should remain in Missouri until the State courts were through with him.

One or two hitches had occurred in court, delaying proceedings in the Blue Cut case, but it was finally set down for hearing on the 14th inst. This crime was committed on Sept. 7, 1881, at about 8 o'clock in the evening. As a train on the Missouri Pacific Railroad was proceeding westerly at Blue Cut, a short distance east of Kansas City, where the road is flanked on either side by high embankments, the engineer saw a lantern swinging across the track.—"Down brakes" was whistled, and the train brought to a halt just as the cowcatcher touched the pile of ties on the track. According to the stories told by the trainmen, "the woods were full of robbers." Some mounted the engine and stood guard; others, revolvers in hand, stood guard along the side of the train, while the others went through the express car first, and then robbed the passengers. The men mounted their horses and galloped off, leaving the train men to remove the obstructions from the track. It was generally believed that "the old gang" had done the job, but after a long search no trace of the James boys could be found. Something or other directed suspicions toward a settlement known as "Cracker Neck," near the scene of the robbery, inhabited by a community of hard characters, and the police made a number of arrests.

Here comes in one of the most remarkable incidents in this or any other State. One of the Cracker Neck crowd made a confession implicating several others. They were arraigned in court, where the train men all agreed in testifying that there were thirteen men in the robbery. This was corroborated by the Cracker Neck confessor, who gave the names of the thirteen. While this trial was proceeding, Dick Liddell, one of the James gang, was cornered and surrendered. Seeing, as he phrased it, that his "jig was danced," he made a long confession of his crimes and the doings of the gang, among other things relating the details of the Blue Cut robbery, showing that it was committed by Frank and Jesse James, Charles and Bob Ford, Jim Cummings, Wood Hite, and himself (Liddell). This cleared the Cracker Neck crowd, and the ignorant fellow who made the confession acknowledged that he had lied, and fled the country. It is for this robbery that Frank James awaits trial, but owing to his illness and approaching death. there is not the least probability that he will ever answer before any bar on this earth for that or any other of his misdeeds.

PENT UP IN A BURNING CAR.

A Blazing Train Dashing Along over a Fiery Track.

One of the most terrible disasters in the history of the oil country occurred on Tuesday in the burning and total destruction of a train that was crowded with passengers. The morning train on the Bradford, Richburg and Cuba narrow-gauge railroad left Wellesville, N. Y., at 6 o'clock Tuesday morning. When about two and a half miles from Bradford the train ran through a river of oil which had coursed down the steep hillside from an overflowing tank that was being steamed preparatory to being run into the pipe lines. At this spot there is a steep grade. The oil ran down the road bed for a distance of at least 900 feet. In several places it was over the rails.

The engineer did not notice the dangerous ground his train was traversing. There was a sudden and deafening report, and in an instant the locomotive and the train, consisting of a baggage car and passenger coach, were wrapped in a sheet of flame. The gas in the oil had come in contact with the fire box of the engine, and the oil was fired.

The driving wheels scattered the burning fluid in every direction.—Down the grade thundered the train, surrounded on all sides by walls of hissing fire. In less than a minute after the river of oil was ignited the heat was so fierce that the windows in the engine cab and passenger coach were cracked. Long tongues of flame jumped out of the dense black smoke and licked the interior woodword of the car. The revolving wheels threw showers of burning oil upon the bottom of the cars.

The engineer retained his presence of mind, and instantly reversed his machine, which brought the train to a brief standstill in the midst of the conflagration. The burning oil jumped 400 feet ahead of the engine, licking up everything before it. There was fire on all sides. The situation was an awful one. The engineer saw that to remain in that river of fire meant death to all. He opened the wide throttle and the locomotive shot forward at a terrible rate of speed. The run was made through the fire, but the end was not yet.

Ahead was a sharp curve. The engineer, who was badly burned about the head, face and hands, reversed his engine, and threw himself into the deep snow bank which lined both sides of the road. Fireman Michael Walsh, who was fearfully burned, followed him. The engine left the track at the curve, and was thrown squarely upon its back. The baggage car was also derailed, as was the passenger coach, which had broken its coupling and was a rod or two behind the train. The passenger car had run down that awful grade fully a mile at a great rate of speed before it left the track. The furious speed fanned the flames to a fiercer intensity.

The train was filled with passengers. Every seat in the coach was taken. The baggage car also held several passengers. When the windows in the narrow cars began to burst, the passengers were seized with a panic. There was a rush for the doors. The platforms and tops of the cars were in flames. Those who jumped from the platforms into the snow were more or less burned. Strong men threw or forced women and children through the narrow windows, regardless of the flames that leaped up the sides of the car.

It seemed that all the inmates of the car must meet a living death, yet, strange to say, only three persons were burned to death. The imprisoned passengers in the baggage car jumped through the side doors into the friendly snow. Many who jumped from the burning coach were injured by rolling upon the hillside, which was covered with logs and stumps.

Alive in Her Coffin.

JEFFERSONSVILLE, Ind., Jan. 14.—Mrs. Lucinda Neeley of this city, a member of the Order of Knights and Ladies of Honor, and prominent in religious, charitable, and social circles, was taken very suddenly ill on Thursday night, and in two hours was pronounced dead. Heart disease, hastened by acute asthma, was assigned as the cause. On account of the suddenness of her death the funeral was postponed until this morning. A large number of persons, attracted by the social prominence of Mrs. Neeley, and in part by the fact that she was to be buried with the honors of the society of which she was a member, were present. After the funeral sermon the knights and ladies went through their recital for the dead. Then the sorrowing friends took their last look, and the undertaker was about to replace the lid on the coffin, when a glance at the corpse caused him to draw back with an exclamation. The friends were summoned, and, after a hasty consultation around the coffin, the preacher said: "My friends, the funeral of Mrs. Neeley will proceed no further, as it is thought she is still alive. The audience is dismissed."

The undertaker says that as he was about to close the lid of the coffin he noticed a flush on the cheeks of the corpse, and saw a movement of the body as of a person in a desperate struggle for life. The burial has been postponed indefinitely, and every effort will be made to bring Mrs. Neel ey out of her supposed trance.

FIFTY-CENT MARRIAGES.—Moore of Montgomery county has offered a bill to reduce the cost of marrlage licenses from $4.50 to 50 cents. The genial Senator thinks the license fee prevents marriage. Over here it is found that the license is really the cheapest part of getting married. What is a four-dollar and a half marriage license compared to a $200 board bill, a $60 wrap, a $30 dress or a $10 cradle? Senator Moore is wrong. Let the license stay high and reduce the other bills. They are the great hindrances to matrimony. Besides, our girls say they would not marry a man too close to pay four dollars and a half for the sake of hearing them say "I will;" and if Senator Moore ever has occasion to buckle on his courting harness, he had better keep away from the Eastern Shore with his fifty-cent proposition.—Centreville Observer.

Cambridge's 1,000 idlers, made such by the recent freeze, are gradually finding employment.

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The Maryland Penitentiary.

The report of the president and directors of the Maryland penitentiary to the Governor for the fiscal year ended November 30, 1883, has been printed. Special attention is called to the fact that the net revenue to the State, after deducting all expenses and costs of improvements and repairs, is $4,585.81. The cost of maintaining the prisoners during the year was $118.56 per capita. The contracts for labor, some expiring in 1883, while others had but a short time to run, the board renewed with the same parties, but upon much more favorable terms to the institution. The report, in referring to the decreased number of prisoners in the penitentiary, says the reason for it is that a great many offenders who should properly be sent there are sent to the House of Correction, overcrowding that institution, while the new additions to the State prison, erected in recent years at a large cost to the State, are entirely vacant, and the State is losing the value of its large investment. The warden's report shows that the number of convicts in the prison November 30, 1883, was 537, against 494 at the corresponding time the previous year.

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REFERENCES.

P. W. Downes, President Denton National Bank. J. B. Steele, Register of Wills, Denton, Md. L. H. Gadd, Clerk Circuit Court, Caroline county, Wm. G. Horsey, Vice President Denton National Bank. Col. Richard C. Carter, Col. J. W. Bryant, State's Attorney, Denton, Md., Hon. J. M. Wooters, Cordova, Md. Jas. W. Holt, Hillsboro, Md. Hon. Eli Saulsbury, Dover, Del. Michael Colbourn, Seaford, Del. Shull, Wireback, & Co., Wholesale Grocers, 14 South Front Street, Philadelphia. Wm. Fell, Proprietor Eagle Hotel Georgetown, Del. Charles Williamson, Ex-Sheriff Lewes count Del. 10 8 tf.y

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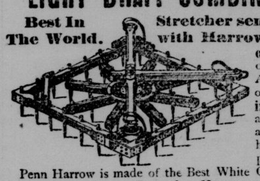

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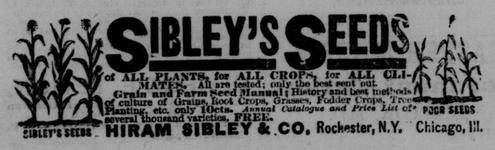

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