

More Business and Brighter Skies!

The Consists' mill manufacturing is running night and day to keep up with its increased orders. Their business has never been so flourishing as now, and as it employs a very large number of hands, the effect of the firm's prosperity will be felt throughout the community. We also learn that the South Norwalk firm of Lombard, Bros. & Rockwell is also working to its full capacity. There's a good time coming boys. Wait a little longer.

The meeting of the officers of the Fourth Regiment, at Bridgeport, last Friday, resulted in the promotion of Lt.-Col. Fairchild to the position of Major. A sharp contest then ensued for the position of Major. Vote after vote was taken without result, the contest being between Capt. Gray of Stamford and Capt. Crowe of South Norwalk. The friends of both candidates rallied by them. Crowe was elected, and finally Capt. Henry Skinner, of Winsted, stepped in and bore off the prize—his friends claiming that Litchfield County was entitled to at least one Field Officer. The meeting was a very full one, and a good feeling prevailed.

The funeral of FREDERICK ST. JOHS was largely attended on Thursday, evincing the wide respect entertained for the deceased and the deep sympathy felt for his family. The services at the house were conducted by Rev. Mr. Sellick, and at the grave by the venerable pastor, Dr. Mead. Ex-Warden Daskam directed the cortege, and the pall was borne by S. S. Bissell, Chas. C. and Frederick T. Betts, Wm. K. Lewis, Chas. N. Clark and Chas. F. Adams. Mrs. St. John, who has been quite alarmingly ill for some time past, is believed to be improving.

The annual Methodist Conference assembled in Hartford on Wednesday last. Bishop Peck presided, and Rev. D. A. Goodsell was elected Secretary; he appointed Messrs. Ferris, Simons and Backman as his assistants. Rev. A. C. Eggleston, of New York, assisted. On Thursday, Rev. I. Simons, of Brooklyn, preached a sermon, and Rev. John Peck, Jr., made an address. Bishop Peck preached again Sunday morning. The appointments will be made this week, and those of local interest will be given in our next issue.

Another of Norwalk's bright and beautiful girls is to be led to the hymeneal altar on the morrow. Miss Annie, the accomplished daughter of Asa Smith, Esq., is to be married to Rev. James H. Van Buren, Rector of the Episcopal church at Milford, Conn. The marriage ceremonies are to take place at St. Paul's church and will be conducted by Rev. Mr. Mead, assisted by Rev. Mr. Sellick. The Bishop having been specially interested in the fortunate groom, from his youth up. May the journey through life prove to the happy pair as auspicious and gladsome as its joyous beginning.

To Thomas, Cecily and Ann, Greeting— We accept your apology for devoting our front. It is full and ample, and we pronounce absolution upon you for your sin. Those "speckled beauties" sent us in substitution, were so delicious that our anger is buried out of sight. If we said anything about your convivial good looks, that we are sorry for, we are willing to be forgiven.

Mrs. Stephen Merrill has replaced her crayon likeness of John Camp, by one of Theodore E. Smith, which in fidelity of likeness and artistic finish, we judge is superior to her former exhibit. She possesses certainly, a very remarkable talent. Her pictures would rank high among the most highly celebrated artists of the day.

FRIDAY—The dwelling house of Mr. Alexander Brito at lower end of Carter St., New Canaan, a few rods from Norwalk boundary line caught fire from the chimney, during the storm on Wednesday. The fire broke out on Friday morning last, between 10 and 11 o'clock. The dwelling being an old one, and very dry, the fire made quick work of it. It being a sparsely settled neighborhood, help was of course scarce, and but a very little if any or the household furniture even, was saved. Insured.

Fun Ahead!

The good ladies of the First Congregational Church have secured the services of Aunt Polly Bassett's singing troupe, including of course her lamely humorous son, who is to be seen on Monday and Tuesday evenings next, at the Opera House. The "Singing School" is sure to draw, as no more enjoyable entertainment has been given here for a long, long time. The wise and prudent will secure their "reserved seats" at a very early day, so as to ensure comfort and a reasonable protection from the jam that is sure to await this original and novel entertainment.

Rev. Dr. Fowler's sermon, Sunday week at the Second M. E. Church, was successful, far beyond the ordinary expectations of the society. He was invited to preach with a view to influencing a reduction of the church debt. It was anticipated that at least the cost of the recent repairs, some \$2,000 might be realized. His discourse seemed especially blessed, for a total of \$4,275.50 was subscribed. Four members, Messrs. D. W. Fitch, Platt Price, G. P. Adams, and William Nash, paid \$250 each, and pledged themselves to pay five per cent more on all amounts any others would subscribe, Rev. Mr. Jones fortified his farewell by a gift of \$100 for himself and \$5 for his little son. This church now fully realizes that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

New Firm.

The Hardware house of Wm. C. Street, without exception, the oldest in Norwalk, if not in the county, is changed by the accession to the business firm of Wm. H. Smith, a young man, of high business capacity, energy and enterprise. The new firm will be known as Wm. C. Street & Son, and will be a noble claimant for a division of the public patronage, than ever before, as the popularity of the old stand will continue to grow.

The Railroad Returns.

The Hartford Convention says that the special committee authorized by the last legislature to revise the schedules of railroad returns and report to the Governor for his confirmation, a new scheme, which shall thereupon succeed the old or present one, has been appointed. It consists of Commissioner George M. Woodruff of Litchfield, Mr. John W. Bacon of Danbury, who until last year was superintendent of the Danbury & Norwalk railroad, and Mr. J. W. Mansfield of New Haven, treasurer of the Connecticut Savings Bank. The commission has before it a peculiarly important work.

Work.

About forty Savings Bank men met at Hartford last Wednesday, to consider the new law reducing the interest rates and in creating their state tax. It adjourned to meet again on the 13th., after appointing a committee to report upon these issues. Had the Legislature left the rate of interest even per cent, and authorized an asking form of the borrower for the amount of his loan, it would have got at a more satisfactory result.

Bontie smoke fills the air.

Tweed is still "waiting for the wagon." Down with the dust. Bring out the sprinkler. Well, does the new place seem like home? There is a dusty call for the street sprinkler. Now, oh Stratford, send us shad worth eating. April 26th is Odd Fellows Thanksgiving day. Miss Catherine Benedict was visiting Mr. Judge Butler last week.

The severe winds of March seem to have extended their reign into April. A prominent Main street saloon keeper disappeared in blue glasses. The new glass front distemper, we are told, now threatens the post office. H. I. Hoyt, Esq., has sold his beautiful blue house to parties in Texas. The Prowitt Soda fountain has commenced blowing—look out for cold weather. The public debt was decreased fourteen millions during the month of March. Sellick Bros. have a brand new awning over the entire front of their new store. Thad Betts has reached Galveston. He made a short stop at Key West, Florida. Ex-Assessor Camp is re-aligning his income, thus showing his abhorrence of water interest.

Pedestrians, the past week, were liberally provided with kerosene lamps and looking glasses. Lots of people have been April fooled at the post office this week by those disagreeable little quarterly bills. F. A. Walker, Esq., was last week appointed Postmaster at Woodbury in place of Mr. Woodruff, deceased. The Louisiana Commission is at work in New Orleans, and Sunset Co. is also there dipping in his little spoon. Ingersoll's suit against Tweed has been withdrawn from the court, and will be tried before Judge O. S. Seymour. Westen has found his match. He was brought to England by O'Leary who walked 500 miles against West 510, in six days. Chamberlain, believing that he is the legal and rightful Governor of South Carolina, proposes to stick—until turned out by force. The new plate glass fronts of Spencer and Swartz changes and improves the appearance of the lower end of Main street wonderfully. A large and beautiful picture of the Immar steamer, Berlin, —the largest passenger steamer afloat,—is on exhibition at the Post Office. The Agnes Wallace-Villa troupe played two evenings at Music Hall, last week, and were well pleased to have their audiences as usual.

Samuel B. Fitch, who has been a popular carpenter and builder here for some time past, has removed to Darien, to try his luck at farming. The Borough advertises for proposals for lighting and care of street lamps for one year from June 1st. We presume the competition will be quite sharp. A large and valuable watch dog belonging to Frederick T. Betts, Esq., which he had intended for biting people that he had to be killed last week. Lockwood the Weston Mail carrier, has laid too loose Eggs on our table! That would Norwalk do without the Eggs Lockwood brings from Weston? Bailey, of the Danbury News, was prowling around to the east of us last Friday. He evidently had a hankering for Stratford shad and an eye to Bridgeport's fifty lure.

Dr. J. Stack, of Greenwich, was in town last week, looking after a beautiful pleasure yacht he is building and which is to be named after a lady formerly residing here. Mr. J. A. Lewis, has leased the cottage this side of Dr. Fitch's school and in pocket hammer in hand and curtain pulleys in jacket he is contemplating the delights of moving. Our friend Noah Hoyt has left the editorial profession after three months service. Cause—used up. We're truly sorry, for his was ever a bright and welcome "Messenger."

Undoubtedly the most important political contest of this year, so far as regards Norwalk, will be the election, and Legislature that will choose a successor to Stanton Matthews.

Mr. J. C. Sutton has left with his specimens of rufous apes picked on his father's farm in Waterbury in the fall of 1876 and the fall of '75. They were remarkably well preserved.

The old Blue Laws have Petered out during the Revolution, and never had any existence except in the brain of the old story teller who was drummed out of the State. Methodism has been highly concentrated at Hartford the past few days. Three hundred live ministers assembled at one time in that quiet little city ought to make life insurance business look up.

Campy entered the post office Friday morning, and observing Postmaster Olmsted about to tackle a box of postal cards with a hatchet, fled in apparent terror, lest it was another torpedo box. Wm. D. Isaacs, Esq., a native of Norwalk, but for more than a quarter of a century a resident of Richmond, Va., was present at the funeral of his brother-in-law, Frederick St. John, last week.

Ex-Mayor Daskam left yesterday as a local business man for New York, he having formed a connection with the house of A. McNeil & Co., 83 Broad street. May the Mayor's old shoes never grow less. At the annual meeting of St. Paul's Episcopal Society, the old board of Vestrymen were re-elected. Hon. Levi Warner and Geo. W. Gram, Esq., were chosen delegates to the coming Episcopal Convention.

The Moosehead trout Morison sent us weighed from three to five pounds, and was so plump enough to make us forget all our sorrows and tribulations as an editor. May the donor "live long and prosper."

The Rhode Island State election resulted in a complete Republican triumph, the first time in three years that the Republican Governor has been elected by the people. The citizens do not seem to despair of the Republic yet.

The Sunday Reformers profess to have traced our friend Wm. K. James to South Norwalk on Friday, and, as they were forming a reflection upon the sharpness of our own section, when our citizens have to leave town to get shaved? As the 9:28 a. m. Norwalk train was approaching the city last Wednesday, a bullet smashed through a window throwing five pieces of glass in the faces of several passengers. This thing is becoming quite too common.

Com. White never shows the white flag and is bound not to give up the ship. He is having a new boat built for the Rockaway route to take the place of the one lost. It is being constructed at Green Point and is promised for the 4th of July.

S. H. Richards, Esq., cashier of the First National Bank of Stratford, is also Mayor, or Town President, as those favored water drinker prefer to call their chief ruler. Richards is a Norwalk boy, which readily accounts for his high honors and prosperity.

The Sixth National Bank, located right on Broadway, N. Y., was burglarized on Sunday afternoon. A hole was cut through the floor of an unoccupied entrance directly under the Bank, and this entrance obtained. A safe was opened, and the thieves made off with all the silver coin they could carry amounting to \$2,500,—half the contents of the safe.

Pirates are not entirely of the past, but are growing as bold as those we read about in blood and thunder stories. The schooner Neilson, from Cranford bound to New York, was boarded in Con bay early Friday morning by a gang of thieves who bound and gagged the crew and then stole everything they could find of value. They secured plunder valued at \$1,500, and made good their escape.

Dedication of Odd Fellow's Hall.

The new and beautiful Hall of our Brothers' Lodge is to be dedicated on the evening of the 18th inst. Very elaborate preparations are making and the occasion will be one of exceptional interest. A poem will be delivered by Judge Sumner of Bridgeport, an address by Rev. I. Simons, and general remarks by the visiting Grand Officers of the State and other brethren, while a Double Quartette under direction of Prof. Gibson will render fine pieces of music on several occasions. The new Lodge Room is conceded to be the finest one in the State and is certainly a model of good taste and sumptuous furnishing.

Unrepented Exporters.

Six monster ocean steamers left the port of New York also on Saturday, heavily laden with exports for Europe. Their cargoes largely consisted in meats, breadstuffs, butter, and other goods. The Tropia taking three hundred boxes of cheese. The Canada took one hundred and sixty head of live beef cattle, fifty-six thousand bushels of corn, and fifty barrels of American apples. Never before did so large a shipment of human food leave our shores in a single day. Who says that business is not improving?

Mr. John Keyser, who has for so many years furnished our people free of all cost, all the summer delights of a sea-side park, informs us that the past winter's storms have been more destructive to his roads and grounds than ever before. It will cost not less than a thousand dollars to reconstruct them.

Reductions in Telegraph Rates.

The Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph Co. yesterday reduced their rates to the uniform price of 35 cents for 10 words for all part of the American Union this side of Omaha. The A. & P. Co. has thus far led every reduction made in telegraphic rates.

ZION CHURCH.—As requested to state the names of those who have been baptized, we have the pleasure to announce that the following were baptized on the 2nd inst. by Rev. Mr. Sellick: Mrs. Julia Green of the Borough, and John Taylor of South Norwalk have been authorized to solicit subscriptions for the benefit of the M. E. Zion church, the money to be used towards paying the salary of Rev. D. D. V. The sum of \$38.50 has already been subscribed by individual members of the church. We trust our citizens will respond liberally to the call.

Improvement in Trade.

There can no longer be any question as to the fact that our local trade has materially improved. Again on Saturday last our stores and shops were well filled with customers and our trades people have every reason to feel encouraged at the present favorable condition of business and the possibility of being able to take Jane Maria to the ball. This done, a pair of boots that fitted like a glove and made by Mr. French and Chaucey Platt, at Harrison's, received his unparelleled praise, already encased in a pair of Earle & Smith's Ball-brigginns. A chance glimpse into the mirror fairly astonished him that he so well became acquainted with the goods of the Parisian importers by Charles Seymor Lockwood, the fashionable Main Street Draper and Tailor. Then he lifted his latest pair of bifurcated garments, made by Harrison's for this special occasion, and ordered the assistant to bring him a pair of boots to take Jane Maria to the ball. 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