

**General News.**

**CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE.**—The Circuit Court of Nowaday County, Mo., began its session during the past week, Judge I. C. Parker, presiding. Most of this time was occupied in the trial of Solomon McAlpine for the murder of John Callicott, developing a most interesting case of circumstantial evidence. In August, 1866, these two men left Hollyville, Iowa, to come to St. Joseph to buy apples, expecting to load their wagon here and return to Iowa in the fall fruit. Not long after—some few days, we believe—McAlpine returned to Hollyville, told some plausible story about his partner having made other arrangements, and left St. Joseph, and for some time no further notice was taken of the matter. The continued absence of Callicott, and the fact that nothing was heard from him, finally induced the arrest of McAlpine; but on his examination nothing was elicited criminating him, and he was discharged.—A long search for Callicott proved unavailing, and for eighteen months a profound mystery enveloped the case.

In March, 1868, a party of railroad engineers, surveying the route of the Missouri Valley Railroad, some six miles northwest of Marysville, found the skeleton of a man. A investigation aroused the suspicion that it was the remains of Callicott. The authorities in Iowa were written to, and witnesses were brought down. The mortuary of Callicott recognized a bony protuberance on the chin of the skeleton; also, the absence of a tooth drawn on the day he started on his fatal trip, and his mother preserved the tooth. It fitted the jaw of the skeleton, and a dentist testified it had been drawn from the orifice. Pieces of a blue coat and several peculiar buttons were found near the skeleton. These were recognized as resembling parts of Callicott's dress when he left home. There were three bullet holes in his skull.

The identification was so complete that McAlpine was re-arrested; and after several continuances the case came to trial last Monday, and resulted in the conviction of the prisoner.—The Judge instructed the jury that any facts or want of proof mitigating the crime from the order in the first degree need not restrain their rendering a verdict of murder in the second degree, or manslaughter. The jury, after due deliberation, brought in a verdict of murder in the second degree. We learn that neither the prisoner nor his friends or attorneys manifest any dissatisfaction with the verdict, and the case will not be appealed.—St. Joseph (Mo.) Herald, Dec. 13.

**LIVINGSTONE'S EXPLORATIONS.**—The Bombay Gazette of October 26 contains further particulars of the explorations and discoveries of Dr. Livingstone. The British Consul, Gambia, under date of Sept. 7, 1869, forwards to the Government Secretary at Bombay extracts from a letter that day received from Dr. Livingstone. The Doctor says:

"I have had no news from anywhere for two years and upwards. For Captain Fraser and our friends at Zanzibar I may say I have found what I believe to be the true route from the Niger to the Atlantic. It lies between ten degrees and twelve degrees south, or nearly in the position assigned to them by Ptolemy."

It is not one source from a lake, but upwards of twenty of them. Lake Liamba, which possibility is an arm of Tanganyika, has four rivers flowing into it. One I measured, and found it to be 294 feet, say 100 yards wide and waist deep, and flowing fast in September. No rain had fallen since 12th May, elsewhere it almost requires canoes. This has eleven good sized 'boons' flowing into it. Taking these four rivers as one line of drainage (a fifth from the Maraca sector, I added), then the Chambezi flows from the side into one centre of the great valley and receives there streams as large as the Isles at Oxford or Avon at Hamilton. The channel enters Gungwe, and receives two streams, then changes its name to Luapula, and flowing north, receives two streams about fifty yards each. Luapula receives one and enters Moero Lake to receive five streams; one is eighty yards broad, the others require canoes, on leaving Moero it is called Luababa, which receives two good sized streams and it forms Uenge, either a lake with many islands or a divide with many streams, which are taken up by the Lofira, a large river, which carries water to the coast of the Atlantic."

I have still to follow down the Luababa and see whether, as the natives assert, it passes Tanganyika to the west, or enters it and finds an exit by the river called Locuida into Lake Chowamba, which I conjecture to be that discovered by Mr. Baker.

I shall not follow the Luababa by canoes, as we did the Zambezi near near the Victoria Falls to the Kebrahaba. That was *insanity* and I am not going to do any more mad things with me. I please geographers, who are mostly insane. My positions have been altered for the most idiotic reasons at places where no one else observed or will observe in our day; and after all our care in laying down Lake Nyassa, and the Victoria Falls, to be to the northwest end, the which 200 miles of water are perched up on a height of 3000 feet above the rest."

Yours, &c.,  
DAVID LIVINGSTONE.  
Dated near Lake Bangweulu, July, 8, 1868."

The necrology of the closing year contains some eminent names. That of the East of Derby will first come to the reader's mind. There was earnest Jones, the great Chartist; Marquis Montebello, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs; Alphonse Lamartine, the French writer; Troplong, President of the French Senate; Lord Gough, the Indian hero; Sir Edward Canard, of ocean steamship; John Jaynes, the English statesman; Louis Bonaparte, the French Emperor; General Gough, the Waterloo hero; Lady Palmerston; Rogee, author of Rogee's Thesaurus; Dr. Kieran, Catholic Archbishop of Armagh; Francis Pickens, the Irish statesman; Bishop of Exeter; Patton, Lord Justice of Scotland, the melancholy circumstances of whose death will be fresh in the minds of our readers; Dr. Waldergrave, Bishop of Natal; John Cunningham, Professor of Latin at Oxford; George Peabody, the philanthropist; Leopold, Prince of Belgium; Carleton, the Irish novelist; Gen. Rawlings, Secretary of War in the United States; Senator Fremont; Mr. Secretary Stanton; Mr. Grinnell, of New York, and Robt. Walker. There are, no doubt, many others, all probably equally well known.—Globe.

**THE POPE ON HIS INFALLIBILITY.**—The Home correspondent of the London "Times" writes that when Cardinal Bonchocho was to pay his homages to the Pope, the latter asked him what was said in France of his infallibility. The prelate replied that "it is hoped that it will not be declared a dogma." The Pope, in a state of great excitement, said: "Your Eminence has already been in opposition. I remember that on a former occasion you were opposed to raising the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception to a dogma, but, thank God, we will that it should be so, and it was so; and we will that the infallibility of the Pope shall be made a dogma, and it shall become one of the articles of faith of the council of 1869." The Cardinal attempted to reply, but was prevented, and retired in a state of great agitation.

**THE EFFECT OF RAILROADS ON THE WEATHER.**—The opinion seems to be gaining strength, that the Pacific railroad is working a great change in the climate of the Plains. Instead of continuous droughts, almost all the rainfall now falls in refreshing abundance. This result has been remarked upon in other sections of the West. In central Ohio, for example, it is said the climate has been completely revolutionized, since iron rails have formed a net work over all that region. Instead of the destructive droughts formerly suffered here, for some four or five years there has been an abundance of rain, more than enough to satisfy all the wants of farmers. This change is thought to be the result of an equilibrium produced in the electrical currents which has brought about a more uniform dispersion of the rain.

A respectable farmer's wife in Illinois was in the habit, under the influence of dressing in a satirical and stealing apples from a neighbor's cellar.

They use daily 250 pounds of nitro glycerine at the Hoosac Tunnel, and kill about five men a month.