Daily Alta California

FRED'K MacCRELLISH & CO.
FRED'K MacCRELLISH.....WM. A. WOODWARD

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SAN FRANCISCO, MONDAY, JAN. 11.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

GHOSTS!

New Ghost Sensation—Awful, Wonderful, Mysterious, and All That Sort of Thing—What His Ghostship Does; He Walks, Groans, Sneezes, Turns On the Water and Gas, Exhibits Himself at a Window, and is Ten Feet in Height—He Holds Nightly Levees Between Half-Past Eleven and Three O'clock—Etc.

Every now and then, when people have no earthquakes, no fearful fires, and the city settles into a state of quiet, some enterprising individual discovers that the building which he occupies, or one in the immediate vicinity, is visited at unseasonable hours by supernatural beings, and the house at once is set down as haunted and given up to the ghosts. Such houses seem to be discovered at pretty regular intervals. Women and children are frightened—spiritualists proceed to investigate the matter—enthusiastic reporters, note book and pencil in hand, rush fraternally to the scene of disturbance, and gaping crowds of awe-struck citizens peer into windows of the dreaded building, criticising every noise. The fever spreads rapidly, and the house is speedily overrun by anxious inquirers after truth. We have not had, until recently, any reliable ghost in the city for some time past, and it had begun to be believed that supernatural visitants were confining their operations to other cities, where the people were less practical and more imaginative. But at last we have a sensation. For some months past strange noises have been heard and strange sights been seen at a house in the southern portion of the city. Several families who have occupied the building have been so much disturbed that they left the premises. Vigilant policemen have searched the building again and again, curiosity hunters have been on the qui vive, and at last the accounts of the mysterious visitor and his manner of proceeding grew so frequent that reporters determined to visit the spot in the hope of bagging the ghost, or, at least, an item. On Saturday night last "a party of three went out for to see," and to ascertain, if possible, whether his Satanic Majesty or some ill-bred defunct individual was disturbing the peace of the neighborhood. Arriving at the scene they found that the reported occupant of the haunted house had for a lodging house. Having made known the object of their visit they were courteously invited to attend the ghost's levee and judge for themselves. As a preliminary measure, they went through the house, penetrating cautiously into the dark nooks, cracks and crannies, the doors of closets and wardrobes, stealthily creeping into the cellar, making much better time in getting out of the cellar and ascending to the unoccupied room in the upper story than when they commenced the examination. Finally they planted themselves in the kitchen, which room is said to be the portion of the house most frequently visited by the ghost, and patiently awaited the commencement of the performances. We could ascertain no particular reason why his ghostship should prefer the kitchen, but he did prefer that he is a hungry ghost, fond of a lunch in the middle of the night, and though thus far foiled, persists in his attempt to obtain it. He appears at about the same hour, but the programme is occasionally varied. At times he is discovered making a thumping and knocking about various articles of furniture and kicking up a rumpus generally. Again, he is a walking ghost, and goes around about the unoccupied portion of the building. Now and then groaning noises are heard, as though the party in question was either in pain, troubled by disagreeable dreams, or sleeping on his back with his mouth open. Occasionally, he favors the spectators with a sight of him. Those who have thus been favored represent him as a stoutly built man, whose height is variously estimated at from six to ten feet, more or less. Several persons claim to have seen him, but have never been able to engage him in conversation, or even to exchange friendly salutations. It is evident that his habits are those of a well-bred gentleman, as it is noted that when in life he was a member of the Eight-Hour League, and chooses his eight hours for recreation at a time when his fellow sufferers are at themselves to sleep and he is least liable to be interrupted by the pertinacious knocking of bailiffs. If we could ascertain his former boarding place, we would warn the proprietor that he may expect to be haunted by his unsatisfied guest.

To return to the inquisitive party of Saturday night. There were present, besides the visitors, the occupant of the house and his friend, the sole remaining lodger. When the present proprietor took possession he congratulated the former on having a "good thing," as the rent was extremely low, and the house speedily was filled with lodgers. This was six weeks or more since, and from that the poor man little knew the trouble that was in store for him. For the first ten days of his occupancy everything passed off smoothly, but then commenced the disturbance. Rumors of strange sights and unearthly noises began to circulate among the lodgers, and notes were compared. The family of the proprietor were especially annoyed, and found it almost impossible to sleep. The lodgers, one by one, left the house, and the business was obliged to be closed, the occupant intending to vacate the premises in a week.

Saturday night does not seem to have been a good night for spectators, for, notwithstanding the disturbances was fearful of getting into the papers; though by making himself visible and allowing a full description to be published in the market, two persons, who evidently knew him, came along about the time he was picked up, and started with him for his residence.

WASHED OVERBOARD.—Two seamen, named Frederick Post and Antonio Gonsalves, were washed overboard, on the 4th instant, from the schooner *Phil Sheridan*, as that vessel was crossing the Humboldt Bar. The former was both drowned before assistance could be rendered.

NOT THE SMALL-POX.—We are informed that the report that William Flynn, proprietor of the Lick House carriages, died of the small-pox, as stated by some of our contemporaries, is incorrect.

ARRIVALS OF COASTERS.—Yesterday there were fourteen arrivals of vessels from coast ports, and one from Portland, Oregon, i. e.: the steamer *Ajax*.

AMUSEMENTS, ETC.

MAGUIRE'S OPERA HOUSE.—Mr. Wheatleigh has been relegated for three nights, and will appear this evening in the successful drama entitled "A Dangerous Game."

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—"A Trip Around the World," Ashcroft in his great specialty "My Sweetheart Across the Sea," and Master Fulton in the pathetic ballad "Father, Come Home," this evening.

METROPOLITAN THEATRE.—Mr. John Collins commences an engagement this evening, supported by the Metropolitan company; the play is "Rory O'More," in which Mr. Collins will sing several of his favorite songs.

WILSON'S CIRCUS.—Mr. Wilson has now got the field entirely to himself in the Circus line, Signor Chiarini having closed his season on Saturday. The usual programme was presented by the talented troupe of acrobats and gymnasts, this evening.

THE NEW CALIFORNIA THEATRE.—The company engaged for the new California Theatre are requested to meet in the "green-room" on Wednesday, at three O'clock, for the purpose of receiving notification from Mr. W. H. Sedley Smith, stage-manager.

ANATOMICAL MUSEUM.—The wonders of the human frame are here presented for the inspection of the student and the curious in the most attractive form; the exhibition, composed of Wax Anatomical pieces, are put together so neatly as to present the appearance of life.

PROGRESS OF THE PETALUMA RAILROAD.

The Russian River *Flag* of January 7th says:

Some of our most prominent citizens, who intelligence and standing in the community would seem to entitle their views to some weight, are apparently still of the opinion that the railroad from Petaluma will never reach this place [Healdsburg]. One of our legal friends, in a facetious mood, the other day expressed his "belief in the office of Vice President of the Petaluma Railroad." Both of these gentlemen were also reelected Trustees John Alexander, Samuel Marks and J. P. Newmark. A. Brown and F. Toplitz were likewise elected Trustees.

THE EXEMPTS' ELECTION.—The annual election for officers of the Exempt Fire Company takes place this evening. Henry G. Langley, Esq., wishes it distinctly understood that the use of his name as a candidate for the office of Vice President is wholly unauthorized, and that he positively recommends the company to prevent a railroad. The polls open from 8 to 9 o'clock P.M., at the Exempts' headquarters on Brenham place.

PROMPT RESPONSE.—Through the liberality of our citizens, somemoney and a considerable amount of food has been placed at the disposal of Captain Douglass for the relief of the distressed D'Arcy family. Mr. A. C. Horner volunteered his services, and, on Saturday, said the family little knew the generosity of Vice President Lick left at the Station House, and will be promptly forwarded.

OVERSEER OF STREETS.—The Board of Supervisors hold their regular weekly meeting this evening, at which the resolution offered by Dr. Cole last week, relative to the appointment by the Superintendent of Streets of an Overseer of Streets, will come up on its final passage. The resolution has met with much opposition on the question of the passage to print.

I. O. B. B.—At a regular meeting of Pacific Lodge, No. 48, held January 7th, the following officers were duly installed to serve for the ensuing term: Jacob Dyrenforth, Vice President; Wm. L. Plate; Recording Secretary, A. Kaplan; Financial Secretary, S. Newfield; Treasurer, L. Plate; Trustees, Phillip Schwartz, S. Sedar and D. D. Plato.

MEETING OF RED MEN.—Pursuant to the call of the Grand Sachem, a large number of the members of the Order of Red Men met yesterday afternoon at the Wigwam, to take measures in reference to the erection of a Small-Pox Hospital for the benefit of the Order, and to listen to suggestions as to the best sanitary precautions.

PAINFULLY QUIET DAY.—Yesterday was quiet to the extent of dullness. Between 8 A. M. and 8 P. M. the police brought in 17 male and female drunks, a very petty larcenist, 1 assault and batterer, and 1 disturber of the peace, and left behind them a drunken man of a $10 greenback in a deadfall on the Berbary Coast.

FELL IN A FIT.—Last evening a man whose name we could not ascertain fell apparently in a fit, on Montgomery street opposite the market. Two persons, who evidently knew him, came along about the time he was picked up, and started with him for his residence.

LIGHT HOUSES ON THE PACIFIC COAST.

Interesting Correspondence between the Board of Underwriters and Lieut. Col. Williamson—Condition of Light House Works on this Coast—Reasons for Delay in Fixing Lights at Point New Year and Point Reyes—Proposed Memorial to the Light House Board—Etc.

The attention of the members of the Chamber of Commerce is invited to the following interesting correspondence and report, as the subject matter of the memorial to the Light House Board will be laid before the Chamber at the meeting called for to-morrow (Tuesday) evening, January 12th:

REPORT.

To the Board of Marine Underwriters of San Francisco—Gentlemen: Your Committee, appointed at a meeting held on December 8th ult., to examine into the present condition of appropriations and of work in progress for the construction of Light Houses and Fog Signals at Point Año Nuevo, Pigeon Point, Point Reyes, Point Arenas, and at such other places as may be contemplated by the Light House Department as locations for lights and fog signals, beg leave to report as follows:

Your Committee at once inaugurated a correspondence with Lieut. Col. Williamson, Superintendent of the Twelfth and Thirteenth Light House Districts, which we append in full, as follows:

[THE COMMITTEE TO LIEUT. COL. WILLIAMSON.]

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF MARINE UNDERWRITERS OF SAN FRANCISCO, 3 & 5 California street, SAN FRANCISCO, December 10th, 1868.

Lieut. Col. Robert S. Williamson, U. S. Engineer, in charge of Light House Department on the Pacific Coast—Dear Sir: At a meeting of the Board of Marine Underwriters of San Francisco, holden at this city on the 8th inst., the undersigned were appointed a Committee to inquire into the present condition of appropriations and of work in progress for the construction of Light Houses and Fog Signals at Point Año Nuevo, Pigeon Point, Point Reyes, Point Arenas, and at such other points