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BIRMINGHAM, - - - MICHIGAN.

MICHIGAN NEWS.

Reports from the pineries show that logging operations are being pushed with unusual vigor, and in most instances under favorable circumstances.

A writer at Old Mason figures up the value of fruit sold from the Grand Traverse peninsula this year at over $84,000.

The government has been selling off some very valuable pine land in the Duluth lumber region, and very heavy purchases have been made by Michigan lumbermen.

A farmer of Frankenmuth, named Martin Lasell, was struck by a Flint & Pere Marquette railway train and instantly killed. He was about 21 years old.

A young lad named Cowan was killed by a falling tree in Wright township, Hillsdale county, recently.

Three men managing a snow plow on the narrow guage railroad, near Paw Paw, were seriously hurt a few days ago.

At a double wedding held in Goldwater both bridegrooms were Methodist ministers. They were Rev. S. M. Merritt of Coldwater, who was married to Mrs. E. L. McCrea, and Rev. Robert Phillips, of Cazenovia, to Miss Mary McCrea. The brides were mother and daughter.

It is proposed to establish a post of the grand army of the republic at Port Huron.

During the month of November 3,842 immigrants entered the United States at Port Huron.

Mrs. Hattie Ahlstrom, wife of Capt. Ahlstrom, of the schooner Queen City, died at Cheboygan of inflammatory rheumatism.

Joe Tucker, a well known young mechanic at Fort Gratiot, has invented a guard calculated to prevent the accidents so frequently occurring at railway switch "frogs." It is patented as Gray's railway guard, by Tucker and his brother-in-law, S. J. Gray, of Fort Gratiot. It has been tested thoroughly and is believed to be a good thing, and one that has money in it for those who secure its control.

An article in the Northwestern Mining News shows that during the past year five Michigan mining companies have paid their stockholders $340,000 more than the actual paid-up capital of the companies. They are the Atlantic, Calumet & Hecla, Central, Osceola and Quincy. Since they were opened these mines have paid nearly 11 times the amount of their paid-up capital, and have paid one-fifth of the dividends paid by all mining companies in the United States during the year.

There are now 410 paupers in the county house at Wayne, Wayne county, and over 200 in the asylum. Though many of these are children, they have so far escaped a visitation of either scarlet fever or diphtheria.

James Manion and James Malloy have been convicted of highway robbery at Kalamazoo. Just as the verdict was rendered Manion went into the judge's room in the court house and leaped from a window. He was followed, brought back, and the judge clenched the verdict by a ten years sentence. Malloy will be sentenced later.

A company has been formed at Jackson to manufacture the Desmond boiler injector invented by John Desmond of that place.

A man named Cadoo, living in Dover, Lenawee county, is now over 100 years old. He is very ill and will probably soon die.

Isaac Van Auken, the Lenawee county convict who tried to cremate himself in his cell at the Jackson prison, has since died of his burns. He was convicted in July, 1866, for the murder of his wife and son, and was in for life with no hope of a pardon.

Last August the superintendent of schools at East Saginaw took a vote of the parents of pupils in the high school on a proposition to change the school hours to only one session per day, viz., from 8:45 to 2 p. m. There were 163 affirmative votes to 7 negative, and the plan was tried. Now the superintendent reports better daily attendance, and consequently fewer withdrawals from school, less sickness, closer application to study, better lessons and fewer cases of discipline.

A 10-years-old son of Geo. Garfield, while coasting at Saranac, ran into the fence, breaking his jaw and cutting a hole in the side of his face.

James Gardner, of Clyde, died of heart disease in a camp 50 miles from Roscommon. The body was taken home and buried by his friends.

Alexander Sinclair, former city engineer, Port Huron, and more recently living on a farm at Deckerville, went to the Pontiac asylum a month ago for treatment. He returned to Port Huron one morning, stopped at the Commercial house, and left the house at 3 a. m. the next morning. Search was made for him but stet not yet been found.

Horace Alderman, aged 11 years, has been arrested on a charge of setting fire to the Hudson West union school building.

Every foot of the Chicago & Grand Trunk railway line between Port Huron and Chicago is now laid with steel rails.

Mctice & Jay's test oil well on the Simpson farm, near Port Huron, is being drilled rapidly and the rock will soon be reached. An immense amount of gas flows from the well, and the driller says the indications for oil are exceedingly favorable.

Burglars around Dundee, and three suspects have been arrested. They give their names as Wm. Edwards, John McArthur and Frank Williams, and claim to hail from Detroit. There appears to be a strong case against them.

Geo. W. Pearsons, a freight brakeman on the Chicago & Grand Trunk railway, fell from his train at Hancroft, and had his skull fractured and an arm broken. He is a married man and his home is at Port Huron. His parents live at Jackson.

Alexander Sinclair, ex-city engineer, who disappeared from the Commercial hotel in Port Huron, Friday night is still missing. It is now supposed he has been drowned in the river.

Two boys recently found the dead body of a man in a piece of woods owned by Mr. Dibble in Howard, Cass county. Appearances indicated that he had been dead two or three weeks. At latest advices the body had not been fully identified, but it was supposed to be that of an insane tramp.

Dennis Root, an old resident of Boston township, Ionia county, died very suddenly a few days ago. He was a well known and respected farmer.

The Coldwater Courier sets forth that there has been $176,200 worth of new building done in that city this year.

The fourth annual exhibition of the Marshall poultry and pet stock association will be held at Marshall, January 11, 12, 13.

Utilizing Smoke.

At Elk Rapids, Mich., is a blast-furnace, in which are manufactured 50 tons of charcoal iron per day. There are 25 charcoal pits, constructed of brick. Each pit is filled with 100 cords of hard wood, and then fired. The vast amount of smoke from these pits, which was formerly lost in the air, has now been utilized by Dr. Price, a chemist. Chemical works have been erected, which are thus described: First, they have a circular tube, made of wood, with pine staves 16 feet in length, bound together with heavy iron hoops. This tube is placed directly over the pits, in a horizontal position, with an opening from each pit into the tube. At the end nearest the building there is a large drum containing a rotary fan propelled by machinery, the power of which is gas. That acts as a suction or draft for the smoke, which is conveyed into five stills filled with copper wire two and a half inches in diameter. The boxes in which the pipes are situated are 20 inches square, eight feet deep, of heavy pine, and filled with cold water. These are all connected with main still 100 feet in length, 10 feet wide, eight feet deep, filled with copper pipes two and a half inches in diameter, in a horizontal position, surrounded with cold water, from this conveyed to a purifier, from which runs what is called pyroligneous acid, which is clear as amber, with an unpleasant odor. From the acid is produced—first, acetate of potash; second, alcohol; third, tar; the fourth part produces gas, which is consumed under the boilers. Each cord of wood contains 28,000 cubic feet of smoke—2,800,000 feet of smoke handled every 24 hours, producing 12,000 pounds acetate of lime, 200 gallons alcohol, and 25 pounds tar. These articles have a commercial value in the manufacture of various articles. The alcohol has been contracted to a firm in Buffalo, N. Y., for five years, they furnishing the packages and receiving it at the works at 80 cents per gallon. The smoke from 40,000 cords of wood consumed per annum is thus made a source of much profit, as the trains are nearly automatic.

DETROIT MARKETS.

Wheat—No. 1, white	$	65	@		98
Flour	4	65	@	4	75
Corn		51	@		55
Oats		35	@		40
Clover Seed, ℔ bu	6	25	@	6	30
Apples, ℔ bbl	2	50	@		75
Dried Apples, ℔ lb		7½	@		7
Cranberries, ℔ bbl	9	00	@	11	00
Butter, ℔ lb		20	@		28
Eggs		25	@		28
Dressed Chickens		12	@		13
Dressed Turkeys		14	@		16
Geese		10	@		12
Ducks		13	@		14
Cheese		13	@		15
Potatoes, ℔ bu		55	@		60
Honey		19	@		20
Beans, picked	2	35	@	2	45
Beans, unpicked	1	50	@	1	00
Hay	10	00	@	13	00
Straw	8	50	@	10	00
Pork, mess	18	50	@	18	75
Pork, family	19	00	@	19	50
Beef, extra mess	12	00	@	12	50
Wood, Beech and Maple				7	00
Wood, Maple				8	00
Wood, Hickory				8	00
Coal, Egg	6	25	@	6	50
Coal, stove				6	[illegible]
Coal, Chestnut	6	50	@	6	75

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

WASHINGTON.

NOT THIS MONTH.

A tariff bill will not be reported by the Senate finance committee before the middle of January.

PREPARING TO CONTEST.

Ackien of Louisiana, is busy arranging plans to contest the seat of Kellogg, and feels sure of success.

DICKSON'S TESTIMONY.

While on the witness stand under oath Mr. Dickson swore that he had never been paid a dime or a dollar to influence his vote on the star route jury.

ROBINSON'S VIEWS.

In the discussion of the army appropriation bill before the House, Mr. Robinson, a republican representative from Mass., in commenting on the suggestion that if the government choose it could compel transportation of its mails for nothing, said: "There was somewhere in every man an impulse that told him that in dealing with other people he wanted to deal squarely. Somehow every man wanted to feel up to the dignity of living up to a bargain, and he (Robinson) knew it would be the temper and discretion of the House to put its foot on any power of readjustment which should amount to repudiation. This was a great government, but it would be weak beyond description when it ceased to do the right and just thing."

CONGRESS.

SENATE.—Dec. 19.—The Indian appropriation bill was resumed.... Mr. Beck offered an amendment to the Indian bill, directing the removal of the Crow Agency to some point east of Big Horn River, in the vicinity of Fort Custer. Agreed to.... The bill finally passed.... The bill reported yesterday by Senator Sherman extending the time for the withdrawal of distilled spirits from bonded warehouses was next considered.... Mr. Conger thought the tendency of the bill would be to encourage over-production of whisky. It was a measure in the interest of whisky men, and at the end of this extension another would be asked.... Mr. Ingalls' amendment adding a provision that from and after the expiration of three years from the entry of any distilled spirits now in warehouses 5 per cent. interest shall be collected upon such spirits, to be computed down to the time of withdrawal, was adopted.... Mr. Windom then offered another amendment limiting to one year the time for the withdrawal of spirits on and after July 1, 1883.... Messrs. Conger, Hale, Edmunds and Ingalls favored this amendment, and Messrs. Beck, Logan, Sherman and Williams opposed it.... The amendment was lost—Yeas 24, nays 27. It was then decided to take up the civil service bill, but the Senate adjourned before any progress was made.

HOUSE.—A number of bills were introduced and referred, among them one limiting the number of liquor saloons in the District of Columbia to 200.... The Speaker laid before the House a number of requests for leaves of absence. Debate ensued, and objections were raised on all sides. Several were granted, however, whereupon Mr. Browne said he had voted against a holiday adjournment in good faith, but was now satisfied that what was transacted in the House yesterday was a low comedy, and that an attempt to meet during the holidays would be a farce.... Finally, after a warm debate, the House, by a vote of 127 yeas to 100 nays, adopted a resolution for a holiday recess from December 22 till January 2.... Mr. Williams, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, reported a joint resolution reciting that the Government of France proposes, to establish at Tunis a judicial system common to Christian nations; that courts in that country are opened for the protection of citizens of the United States in their person, property and rights, and authorizing the President to declare by proclamation that the right on the part of the United States and its citizens to claim extra jurisdiction within said territory of Tunis has ceased and will no longer be claimed or exercised. Passed.... The House then went into committee on the postoffice appropriation bill, but did not reach a final vote before adjournment.... The Speaker announced as an escort at the burial of Representative Orth of Indiana, Messrs. Calkins, Pierce, Steele, Watson, Davis, of Illinois, Urner and Rees.

SENATE.—Dec. 20.—A bill was introduced by Mr. Saunders of Nebraska, to authorize the construction of a bridge across the Missouri directly between Omaha and Council Bluffs, and establish the same as a post road. Referred. Also (by request), for the admission of Utah into the Union on an equal footing with the original states. Referred.... The counselor and diplomatic appropriation bill was called up. On motion of Mr. Pendleton, with the approval of the Committee on Foreign Relations, an amendment was added appropriating $5,000 to enable the President to extend diplomatic relations with the Governments of Eastern Asia. The bill then passed.... The civil service bill next came up and was considered at length but without conclusion the Senate went into executive session.

HOUSE.—The House went into committee on the postoffice appropriation bill, and after consideration reported it to the House, when it passed—163 to 21.... Mr. Lynch offered a resolution making it in order to offer an amendment to the Pension Appropriation bill placing enlisted colored persons on the same footing as other soldiers as to pensions and bounty to such persons. Referred.... Fifteen leaves of absence were granted.

SENATE.—Dec. 21.—Resolutions in regard to a rebate equal to any reduction made in the tobacco tax were presented, and Mr. Morgan of Alabama, gave notice that he would offer an amendment to the resolution of the finance committee in relation to the tax on tobacco providing any rebate allowed should be in certificates to cover future taxation on manufactured spirits or tobacco.... Mr. Saunders of Nebraska, offered a resolution reciting that the pre-emption law under which land could be entered for purchase at $1.20 per acre, without permanent settlement, should be repealed and all government lands should be purchased for actual settlement only. The resolution elicited some discussion and was finally referred.... The resolution for the holiday recess was taken up and discussed at length. An amendment was offered by Mr. Garland of Arkansas, giving the consent of the Senate to the House taking a recess, but stating that the Senate could not afford to adjourn. The amendment was lost, and the original question was voted on and defeated, the vote standing ayes 25, nays 36.... The civil service bill was then taken up and a lively discussion followed. Mr. Conger of Michigan, made a speech in its favor, brimming with caustic remarks, and withal exceedingly witty and logical. Senator Williams of Kentucky, opposed the bill vigorously, declaring it impracticable and worthless, and a mere sham. A little good natured sparring was indulged in by different members, when the debate closed, and the agricultural appropriation bill came up for consideration. Several amendments were discussed and agreed to, and the bill passed.

HOUSE.—The tobacco tax question was the first thing before the House, all members who expressed an opinion being in favor of a rebate on stock on hand at the time the law becomes operative.... The report of the collector of customs at Sitka, Alaska, justifying the shelling of an Indian village by the revenue steamer Corwin was laid before the House.... The House at this point went into committee of the whole on the army appropriation bill. The amount of the appropriation is $24,681,700. One provision of the bill is that for army transportation land grant roads which have received government aid shall be allowed compensation not exceeding 50 per cent of the amount paid by private parties for the same kind of service. It was this provision that furnished the principal debate of the entire session. The question was carefully considered, but without action the committee rose, and after granting 25 leaves of absence the House adjourned.

SENATE.—Dec. 22d.—The tobacco tax measure came up when the following was adopted: Resolved, That it is the common sense of the Senate that whenever the internal revenue tax on tobacco, snuff or cigars is reduced or removed, unless ample previous notice of the time when the act is to take effect be given, a proportionate rebate paid on stock on hand should be allowed. The civil service bill was considered at length. Mr. Brown offered an amendment opening competitive examinations to persons outside the departments, but withdrew it and accepted as a substitute Mr. Pugh's amendment providing that the examination shall be open to all and immediately after the passage of this act those now in office shall be divided into three classes: First, those whose places can be filled at once by others (under competitive examinations) without injury to the service; second, those who can be subjected to such examinations six months after the passage of the act, and third, those who can be subjected to examination in twelve months.... Mr. Pugh explained and advocated this amendment, Messrs. Logan and Jones opposed it.... After some discussion Mr. Pugh modified it so as not to apply to soldiers and others mentioned in section 1754 of the revised statutes.... Mr. Voorhees, on behalf of the Senators opposed to the bill, proposed an agreement that it should be taken up to-morrow after the morning business and voted upon finally to-morrow at 6 o'clock.... Mr. Pendleton was willing to agree to this if unanimous consent could be obtained.... Mr. Edmunds objected, preferring to sit the bill out to-night.... Mr. Van Wyck offered a resolution, which was agreed to, directing an investigation and report by the Commissioner on Public Lands, as to whether payments should be made upon contracts made under the deposit system for surveys before such surveys had been inspected by officers created for that purpose by act of the last session. The Commissioner is given power to send for persons and papers.... Mr. Voorhees moved to adjourn. Agreed to—Ayes 24, noes 21

HOUSE.—Mr. Hiscock offered a resolution declaring that on and after Wednesday, January 3 next, the hour of meeting of the House be 11 a. m. during the remainder of the session.... Mr. Kelley moved that when the House adjourn to-morrow it be till Wednesday. Carried.... The army appropriation bill was then considered in committee, but it being discovered that no quorum was present, the committee arose and reported the absentees to the House.... There were twenty-eight leaves of absence granted, making a total of 131 members absent on leave, and then the House adjourned, the common understanding being that no business should be transacted to-morrow.

CRIME.

ANOTHER SET OF RASCALS.

The community of Jefferson, Ohio, is excited over the defalcation of J. Fuller and H. L. St. John, Cashier and Assistant Cashier of the second National Bank, and the suspension of the bank pending an investigation. Fuller has fled. He has been speculating and used $50,000 to $75,000 of the bank's funds. St. John, on learning that the crime was discovered, had a stroke of paralysis. The depositors will not likely lose any money, the stockholders being liable for $200,000, being far more than the average deposits.

A POSTMASTER ROBBED.

Postmaster Dorr of Mahomet, Tex., was stopped by highwaymen the other night, who ordered him to hold up his hands. As he was slow in complying the highwaymen shot him fatally, then robbed him of his horse and $100.

AN INFURIATED HUSBAND.

A decided sensation has been caused at Peru, Ind., by an attempt of M. E. Kelley, manager of a large manufacturing concern, to kill A. J. Derby, a leading grocer. Going home unexpectedly Kelley found his wife and Derby in what he considered a suspicious position. He made a violent assault on Derby, firing a shot at him which went wide of the mark. He followed Derby to the latter's place of business where another encounter took place, both men exchanging a shot before bystanders interfered. Kelley says he will kill him yet.

A VERY BAD AFFAIR.

Merriam A. Montgomery, about 28 years old, shot his two little children at Packardville, near Amherst, Mass., instantly killing George, 6 years old, and probably fatally wounding Eva, 4 years. Montgomery had not lived with his wife for eight months, leaving her through jealousy, and she made her home with her father, Horatio Marsh, a farmer. Montgomery visited her family and stayed several days. On the morning of the crime he asked his wife if she would live with him and she refused. He immediately went out to where the children were playing and shot them. He then tried to shoot his wife and her father, but was overpowered by the latter and kept in the house till the sheriff came. He was taken to Northampton, pleaded not guilty, and was sent to jail. Montgomery does not drink, and says he does not remember having committed the crime. The whole family came from the west in the spring, and little is known of them.

NEWS NOTES.

A GREENBACK ASSEMBLAGE.

The central committee of the national greenback labor party held a meeting at St. Louis on the 20th instant. A dispatch of this date said: "After the noon hour the members held an informal talk among themselves, in which it was developed that the principal questions before the committee would be the adoption of a platform; also the propriety of changing the name of the party. This latter is expected to cause a lively fight in the committee. There will be four distinct propositions to re-name the party, as, the National, the anti-Monopoly, the Independent and the Whig. It is also probable that action will be taken on the prohibition question. The committee were in executive session during the afternoon and are holding a secret meeting again to-night. It leaked out, however, that the chief matter before the committee so far is a resolution presented by De LaMatyr of Indiana, looking to dissolution of the Greenback party, the calling of a national convention by all elements opposing the Republican and Democratic parties and organization of a new party under a new name. It is understood that all the leading spirits present including Gen. Weaver of Iowa, Hopkins of New York, Chambers of Texas, De LaMatyr, Studebaker and Post of Indiana, Springer of Maine, Hill of St. Louis and others advocated the proposition, in fact it is said nobody opposed it except Jesse Harper, who thought it would be better to continue the present organization and gradually educate the people up to their principles. Messrs. Weaver and De LaMatyr are said to have made strong speeches in favor of the resolution."

HOW IT TURNED OUT.

Except to lawyers it is not generally known that under the common law it is a crime to attempt self-destruction. It is quite unusual for any one to be arrested on this charge, but a case has just come up and been disposed of in New York worthy of note. Dorothea Christina Matzen was arraigned in court on a charge of attempted suicide, her reason being that she was refused the hand of a man in marriage whom she had come from Germany to get. Everything was in readiness for the case to proceed, when her lover came to the front, and made known through a friend, his desire to save the girl by marrying her. All parties consenting, the defendant was dismissed, when her future husband fell to the floor in an epileptic fit. On recovering the ceremony was performed, and all were made happy.

FAILED.

The City bank of Rochester, N. Y., has failed with liabilities amounting to $500,000. A list of creditors is not obtainable. Mr. L. P. Ross, a director, being introduced explained the cause as follows: "Charles E. Upton, the president of the bank, took the bank's money to the extent of $330,000 to speculate in oil, without the knowledge or consent of the directors or any of the officers." This fact was not discovered until the day before the failure. Mr. Ross thinks 75 per cent. will be obtained by the depositors. Upton will probably be arrested.

THE FINE PAID.

Gen. N. M. Curtis, of New York, convicted of levying political assessments on government employes under him, has paid his fine of $1,500 to Judge Barrett.

ELECTION DAY APPOINTED.

Gov. Porter of Indiana, has appointed Tuesday, January 9, as the date for a special election for successor to the late Congressman Orth. It is believed the republican nominee will be Hon. Jos. R. Gray, of Hamilton county, and that the democrats will name Hon. Thos. B. Ward.

THE KINGSTON BLAZE.

The steamer Alvo, from Kingston, Jamaica, brings details of the recent conflagration. All shipping removed out of the harbor was saved, although the heat at that distance was so great that they had to keep the sails wet. Hundreds of people fleeing from the city swam out, the Alvo rescuing 200. The loss was $3,000,000. The custom house was fired several times, but saved. The cause of the fire spreading is attributed to the fact that all the houses were roofed with pine shingles.

ANOTHER BROKEN BANK.

There is great excitement at Victor, New York over the suspension of Moore's bank, with liabilities of $100,000. Mr. Moore made an assignment to Josiah Upton of Victor, of a $12,000 farm, mortgaged for $6,000; the bank building, $12,000, mortgaged for $7,000; cash and papers in the bank vaults, $1,000. There are 1,200 depositors, with balances on deposit of $35,000.

SUFFERING SETTLERS.

It is reported from Dakota that 15 families of Russian refugees, sent by the relief associations to different parts of this territory, are destitute, and unless aid is furnished at once they will starve or freeze to death.

DISASTROUS FIRE AT BUFFALO.

A most disastrous fire occurred in Buffalo, N. Y., on the afternoon of Dec. 21. The fire is one of the most destructive that has visited the city in many years. A number of business blocks were destroyed, among them the beautiful Masonic temple and Commercial Advertiser building. The loss is roughly estimated at $300,000. The fire originated in the engraving room of the Commercial Advertiser building. Files of the Advertiser for 50 years were lost, and the loss on stock, fixtures and building is about $175,000, with an insurance of $100,000. The carpets and furniture of the Masonic temple, costing $12,000, together with the jewels, valued at $25,000 more, were all destroyed.

THEY AGREE.

The Sioux Indian commission has arrived at Pierre, Dak., having effected an amicable treaty highly satisfactory to both parties, 4,200 Indians of different Sioux tribes being treated with. The new reservation is bounded on the north by the Cheynne Grand River, on the south by the Cheynne river, on the west by the 102° meridian, and on the east by the Missouri river. This opens up a vast territory to settlement and gives an unquestioned route to the Black Hills.

A KICK FROM ST. THOMAS.

At a meeting of the city council of St. Thomas, Ont., a committee was appointed to wait upon the Canada Southern railway officials with reference to protesting against the proposed removal of that company's offices to Detroit, as agreed upon as one of the terms of the consolidation with the Michigan Central. It was determined to have recourse to the law, if necessary, in order to prevent such removal.

REDPATH ON IRELAND.

In a lecture on Ireland, in the lecture room of St. Bridget's church, New York, before the eleventh ward branch of the Parnell land league, James Redpath said: "I have been through Ireland and I have seen the peasants. They are not drunken and they are not lazy. In fact, I have never seen a more industrious people. I have seen Irish women busily knitting while they worked carrrying turf. It is enough to make a sensible man swear to hear them charged with laziness. Irish peasants are not lawless. I see that Michael Davitt has said within a week that crime killed the land league. I think it is time to speak out about Michael Davitt. He has turned traitor to Ireland. I stand by Chas. Stewart Parnell and the national league until the oppressive power of landlords is crushed and the sufferings of the famished Irish people are relieved.

SHERMAN A ROMANIST.

The New York Sun says it is positively alleged that Gen. W. T. Sherman has recently been received into the Roman catholic church. The ceremony of the occasion was rather private. Mrs. Sherman has long been a catholic, but the general has always been known as a free thinker.

ANOTHER EXCITING BREEZE.

Jonathan E. Pierpont, for many years secretary and treasurer of the Monroe county. New York savings bank, has resigned his position. The reason for resignation causes much speculation. The directors say Pierpont's books and accounts are all right. The Monroe county savings bank is a preferred creditor of the defunct city bank to the amount of $50,000. Mr. Pierpont is said to have been on Upton's paper to a large amount. The savings bank has a large surplus and is sound beyond all doubt.

THE CREEK INDIANS AT WAR.

Advices from Muskogee, Indian territory, on the 26th said: "The first open hostilities of the Creek Indian war occurred fifteen miles west of Ormulgee. A band of Checote's men, under Jim Larney, were going west, when about 7 o'clock in the evening they were attacked by some 200 of Spichie's partisans under command of Mekarochee. The fight raged for an hour, when Checote's men fell back, but kept up a running fight for ten miles. Bob Carr, Dave Barrett and wife and a man named Walsh are reported killed. The loss on the other side is not known. The whole country is rushing to arms. On receipt of the news here a detachment of forty United States soldiers was ordered to the scene and this morning they overtook and disarmed 150 of Checote's men. This will be continued till all the men on both sides are disarmed. The Spichie men say they don't want to fight, but do want their rights and are anxious that a United States commissioner should investigate and decide the matter between them and the opposing party. United States Agent Tuffts went to the scene of the trouble yesterday."

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

REFORMS DEMANDED.

In the chamber of deputies at Madrid Senor Dominquez, Marshal Gerrano's nephew, demanded that reforms be instituted in the army and navy and in the public administration, and that changes be made in the present constitution in the direction of liberty. The minister of war stated that reforms in the war department were under consideration.

AN M. P.'S MOUTH MAKES A MUDDLE.

The speech of Mr. Biggar, M. P. for Cavan, in Waterford, in which he denounced Earl Spencer, forms the subject of universal conversation. It is stated that the government intends to deal instantly with him on account of his attack on the administration of justice in Ireland and the character of the viceroy.

A POSSIBLE WAR.

The Chinese ambassador at Paris states that the party of resistance in China may compel his government to declare war with France. He says that the Chinese government is desirous of observing strict neutrality in the Annam matter, and wishes to participate in a protectorate at Tonquin if France insists on one. The Journal des Debats in an editorial says France must render a French protectorate at Tonquin effective.

WARLIKE MOVEMENTS.

It is semi-officially stated that the German government intends sending large bodies of troops to the Russian frontier to offset the large bodies of Russian soldiers now moving to the German frontiers. This action causes excitement in military and official circles, and fears are entertained that the relations between Russia and Germany are strained and that these movements of troops mean serious trouble.

RELATIONS OF GERMANY AND AUSTRIA.

Articles have appeared in several Austrian and Hungarian papers warning Austria that the renewal of the alliance with Germany has endangered the maintenance of friendly relations with Russia, and claiming it would be hazardous to urge a continuance of friendship with Germany as the only guarantee of peace.

TO BE PROSECUTED.

O'Brien, editor of the United Ireland, will be prosecuted by the English government for seditious libel. The last issue was all seized by the police.

A PUBLIC CENSURE.

The chamber of French deputies has adopted the bill granting subventions to public schools. During the discussion De Cassagnac was called to order and subsequently formally censured by the president of the chamber.

BITS OF NEWS.

All political prisoners are being released by the Egyptian government.

Trenos Whark, ex-president of the Panama bank, is dead, leaving a fortune of $10,000,000.

It is reported that active fighting continues in the Transvaal, owing to operations of Boer forces against Chief Mapoch.

The porte has notified foreign ambassadors of its intention to expel from Turkey correspondents found to be guilty of sending false news.

Col. Ross, of the governor general's body guard, has made charges against Maj. Gen. Luard, head center of the Dominion militia, and the matter is likely to be ventilated in parliament.

The South Chicago rolling mills will probably resume work early in January.

The immense crop of apples and peaches in Texas has given a boom in the apple brandy business, and it is said nearly 250 distilleries have been licensed in the state.

Twenty-two vessels wrecked in Green Bay, N. F., by wind and snow storm the heaviest in 50 years.

The Washington citizens' committee is piling up evidence daily to prove that the detective force of the District has been in collusion with thieves.

The 2,000 employes of the Lancaster (Mass.) gingham mills have quietly submitted to a reduction of wages.

The czar's contemplated European tour will be deferred until next autumn, when he will travel as the crowned czar of all the Russias, the coronation being fixed for the beginning of summer.

Toronto is preparing to celebrate the city's semi-centennial in 1884 with a grand jollification to last four days.

Mrs. P. S. Breckenridge has just taken out naturalization papers at Pittsburgh, Pa. This is said to be the first instance of the kind in the history of the United States.

It is believed that hostile Zulu chiefs will resist the attempt to reinstate Cetewayo in his sovereignty in Zuzuland.

The Golos says Russia desires to maintain cordial relations with Germany, but cannot allow officious German papers to misinterpret her feelings.

The North German Gazette says the recent warlike preparations of Russia and Germany are simply measures of precaution.

F. B. Gardner, lumberman, once a very wealthy and extensive dealer, has failed at Chicago; liabilities $60,000. The assets, if properly handled, will be sufficient to pay all claims. Gardner is owner of the Pensaukee mill property.

The French goverment will demand a credit of 11,000,000 francs for the Tonquin expedition.

The greenback national convention, 22 states represented, decided at St. Louis to continue the present organization.

The Montreal chief of police has received notice from Scotland Yard of a great diamond robbery at London and offering a reward of $2,500 for the capture of the thief.

The iron manufacturers in the states east of the Alleghenies, while not approving all the changes proposed by the tariff commission, believes that in the main such reductions will not paralyze the industries to be effected by them.

Gov. Hendricks will go to Bermuda as soon as he is well enough to travel.

A Brooklyn judge has decided that a man married while drunk must submit.

Vennor is loosing his grip. He shouldn't prophecy about Christmas weather again; had better deal with a less conspicuous day.

The Egyptian leaders have been publicly degraded from rank and sent to Ceylon.

President Upton, of the suspended City bank of Rochester, N. Y., has given $20,000 bail to await action of the grand jury.

Serious Hurts that Fail to Kill.

A short time ago a shoemaker of Astoria, N. Y., shot himself twice with a heavy pistol, once in the ear and once in the mouth. He was brought to the Roosevelt Hospital, in this city, where it was discovered that the first ball glanced from the skull. The other is thought to be somewhere in the head, perhaps in the brain. Speedy death was expected; but the next day the patient walked away from the hospital, saying that he was sorry for the attempt on his life, but appeared to be in no immediate danger of dying.

With this case as a text, a writer in a morning paper reviews a large number of more or less marvelous cases of recovery from grievous hurts, showing that serious injuries to the main organs of the body are not always followed by death. Men persist in living, not only with bullets in their brain, holes in their stomach, dislocated vertebræ, and wounds in the heart, but even with open wounds clear through the body. During the civil war, General H. A. Barnum, of Brooklyn, received in battle a wound which still remains an open passage through the body. For years the treatment of this wound has been simply to wear in it a roll of prepared lint, which is renewed daily. The suppuration of the wound is constant though variable.

General Shields, of Missouri, had a similar wound extending through his body, and open in front and behind. His wound, it is said, was received in the Mexican war, and he wore, not lint, but a silk handkerchief in it. This he could draw directly through his body.

In some parts of the island of Antigua, one of the British leeward group, there are most remarkable examples of stone forests. These trees are in many instances of great size, presenting a curious sight with living birds perched upon their leafless and stony limbs.

A Turk had rather see two camels wrestle than two men. They kick up more dust than men do, and that's the Turk's idea of bloody fighting.

Quaint Things Said by Little Ones.

Children say many quaint things. Sometimes, too, there is a sort of wit in the piercing directness with which they go to the heart of a question. Mr. Howard Paul, in a collection which he has just published of "Clever Things Said by Children," makes them too clever by half.

The story of the Board school student who could not be made to understand the nature of a miracle, and who, instead of giving the answer expected from him, declared that if he saw the moon shining in the daytime he would say it was the sun, and that if his master assured him it was not the sun he should say his master was drunk, appeared originally in an official report.

The mingled dullness and ingenuity with which children will sometimes throw new light on a question by their mode of answering it is often very amusing. In order to explain in a strikingly intelligible manner the necessity of regulating one's conduct, a schoolmaster asks a boy what, when a watch goes sometimes too fast, sometimes too slow, the owner ought to do with it. "Sell it," replies the boy.

The reputation for veracity enjoyed by George Washington in America has been made by his admiring fellow-countrymen the subject of innumerable jests: and it appears that some lecturer on moral philosophy, having questioned a pupil as to why Washington's birthday was celebrated more than the lecturer's own birthday, received the prompt answer, "Because he never told a lie."

There can be no doubt as to the sharpness (or as to the insolence) of the boy who, as he was removing the outer part of a piece of cheese, and was told by his father in the tone of remonstrance that he ate the rind, answered, "I am cutting this off for you." Many of the savings ascribed to innocent little children are at least as rude as they are witty. What else can be said of the daring repartee uttered by the boy who wished first to know whether his grandpapa had been with Noah in the ark, and, being answered curtly in the negative, inquired of the old man how it was that he escaped drowning?

There is deep pathos, on the other hand, in the tale of a child who, having been presented with a half-crown, and assured moreover that it was a good one, expressed his regret, saying that if it had been bad he might have kept it, but that as it was good his parents would take it from him.

There is drollery sometimes in the *naivete* with which a child will mistake the character of an action. A young man, for instance, coming home from a party so late that he thought it desirable to take off his boots before walking uptairs, was told by his infant brother from a commanding position on the staircase that he need not be afraid of waking the family, since they were "all up."

How Candor Pays.

Atlanta Constitution.

"We had better understand each other," he said deprecatingly, as he shambled into the editorial room. "before we begin. I'm a book agent!"

Unmindful of the groans that met this statement he went on:

"I'm not a white-haired philanthropist from New Haven, who has come south through sympathy for your stricken people. I'm a fair, square, baldheaded book agent."

Encouraged by the reception of this frank avowal, he took a seat, and dropping his feet in a waste-basket said:

"I'm not a retired clergyman who seeks to scatter religious instruction while he builds up his worn out frame in your balmy clime. I'm not an apostle of art who has consented to seek your benighted region, and educate your people by parting with a few picture books in parts. I'm not a temperance lecturer from Bangor who pays expenses by dispensing of literature on commission while he regenerates the rum-sucker. I'm not all of these nor either. I'm an unmodified book agent, with none of the corners rounded, running on cheek in pursuit of tin."

"Here's a candor at least," remarked the young man who writes the puffs of hardware stores.

"Yes; candor at best. I'm not a gilded sham. You don't pick me up for a prince in disguise, or art or morality going incog. I do not fly the skull and cross bones hid behind a holiday flag till I've grappled and boarded you. I've got the regular old Death's head nailed to the mast, and I'm a pirate from keel to center-board, and if you don't want that kind of company blow me out of the water."

He had the whole force on deck at this point.

"I've get no off-hand preamble to my bloody work. I do not lead you through the flowery paths of ease to where I've got the trap sprung. I do not beguile with anecdote, inspire with eloquence, soothe with persuasion or pique with local gossip. I was not directed to you as a leader of culture or a person who'd be likely to buy. I won't show you a list of high-toned decoys who have put their names down to get rid of me and to draw you in. I don't show the work I'm selling, and I've never been able to learn the idiot's soliloquy that explains the pictures."

Here he paused while the manager called for the cash-boy.

"That's about the size of me and my business. The book's right here—fifty parts, fifty cents a part, plenty o' pictures and big type for the reading, written by somebody or other and means $10 clear money to me everytime I work one off. Do you take, or do I go?"

By this time eleven copies of the first part were ordered, and the "eleven able" resumed their work, while the office boy indites this tribute to a man who ain't ashamed of his little racket.

Hoffenstein's Prize Brogan.

Hoffenstein was busily marking the selling price on some clothing which had just arrived, when suddenly stopping in his work he turned to the clerk and said:

"Herman, I had forgot if ve sell all uf dose plack jean pants vat vas damaged. Vas any more uf dem in de sdore yet?"

"Yes, Misder Hoffenstein. I dink dere vas dree bairs left. I hef been drying to sell dem, but de beople say dey don't vant to go around de sdres mit bants on vat makes dem look like a circus brocession. Dere vas yellow spots all ofer de bants, you know."

"Vell, subbose dey had got spots on dem, vas you goin to let de beople dink dey vas damaged? My gr-racious, Herman, de longer you vas in de pisness de more you don't learn nodding. Vy, ven a man comes in de sdore und dells me dot dose bants vas damaged I dells him he vas misdaken; und I asks him if he know a biece uf quadruple, vox finish, needle point, hand dwisted vool from a biece vat vas von ply, cotton stitched und mit a beveled edge. Ven I ask him dot he don't can say nodding. Den I dell him dot de bants vas not damaged, und dot dey vas made uf vot ves called in de old world Spanish vool, de best ardicle made dere. In a gouple of minutes afder I dalk to de gustomer he buys de bants, und I half sell nine bairs in dot vay."

Hoffenstein had scarcely finished speaking when a negro with a bundle in his hand and considerable excited entered the store.

"Vell, my frent, vat can I do for you?" said Hoffenstein, advancing toward him and smiling pleasantly.

"You can't do anything fur me," plied the negro angrily, "but I wa yer to gib back my money what I paid fur des hyar shoes or I'se gwine to take de matter fore de law. I gib four dollars for dem shoes, an' I nebber wore dem but six days fore de soles drapped off, an' when I 'zamined dem dar warn't a blessed ting dar but paper. I'se been cheated, an' when a man thinks he can come miratin' around me an' I ain't gwine to say nuffin' he's apt to find hisself in de nine hole."

"My frent," said Hoffenstein, quietly, "did you find anyding in de soles uf dem shoes?"

"No, sah," replied de negro.

"Vell, dot vas a piece uf hard luck, my frent. De shoes vat you buy vas de Louisiana brize shoe, und ven you dake a pair of dem you vas liable at any moment to find a dwenty dollar gold biece in de soles uf dem. If de soles uf de brize shoes was made of hard ledder, dey vouldn't wear out, and de gonsequence vould be you don't can find de dwenty dollar biece, und dot vas de reason do soles vas made of bapar so dot dey vill vear out soon, und let de beople know if dey get a brize, you know."

"Is dese hyar shoes de regerler prize shoes?" inquired the negro, greatly interested.

"Vell, my frent, if ye see a man vat come in de oder day und show me a gouple uf dwendy dollar bieces vot he got oud uf dem shoes, you vould say dey vas a gold mine."

"If de shoes is de regerler prize shoes, I'll take 'er nudder pair."

"Certainly, my frent. Herman, wrap de shentleman up a bair uf dose Louisiana brize shoes, and dake dose vot you dink de money vas in."

When the shoes had been paid for and the negro had gone, Hoffenstein said:

"Herman, did you see how I vork off dose old star brogans?"

"Yes, Misder Hoffenstein."

"Vell, ven efer a gustomer comes in de sdore, recgolleck dot dey vas de Louisiana brize shoe mit a dwenty dollar gold biece in de sole uf dem. I think I vil learn you something about de business yet."

WIT AND HUMOR.

"I dess I know what memory is," said a little four-year-old. "It's the ting I fordet wid."

One of human nature's oddities—The girl with the biggest feet always wants to play Cinderella.

Boston is a town with ends to it instead of sides. That's one reason why she can never square herself.

A New England paragrapher has discovered that a dog's lungs is the seat of its pants.

Some men are born slight, some achieve slightness, but most men have slights put upon them.

Mince pie is not only the most healthy of any sort, but you may eat six of 'em for supper and have no bad dreams.

An engaged girl is happiest when she is telling about it to another girl who is not engaged and is not likely to be.

A mule is not generally considered an æsthete; but give his hindquarters half a show and he is big on art decorating.

"When will this car go?" asked a gentleman the other evening. "As soon as it has a cargo," was the prompt reply.

The reason why some of the street lamps burn all night is because the light is so small it is afraid to go out alone in the dark.

"Every cloud has a silver lining," said a despondent diner, as he saw the dusky waiters pocket the quarters of the guests

The earth is said to have two motions, but to a drunken man coming home at 11 o'clock at night it doubtless has more than 200.

Seventeen thousand names were added to the pension rolls this last year. It is never too late to find out that you were disabled.

Forney's Progress claims that billiard balls can be made of potatoes. Perhaps they can, but what's the use of wasting the potatoes?

Cairo, Ill., is the place where an English sparrow carried a lighted cigar stub to its nest under the eaves and burned up the house. Sparrows haven't the right sort of mouth to smoke cigars.

"Well madame, how's your husband to-day?" "Why, doctor, he's no better." "Did you get the leeches?" "Yes, but he only took three of them raw—I had to fry the rest."

Young housewife: "What miserable little eggs again! You must really tell them, Jane, to let the hens sit on them a little longer, or we must change our grocer."

A PLUCKY SWIMMERESS.—We learn from a correspondent that, a short time ago, Mrs. G. A. D. McArthur Campbell, formerly a resident of Coonamble, distinguished herself by a deed of admirable bravery. Mrs. Campbell was a passenger in a steamer from Hong Kong to one of the northern ports of Queensland, and one day a little boy about four years of age, to whom the lady was very much attached, fell overboard, the accident occurring through a sudden lurch of the vessel. With the exception of Mrs. Campbell and the man at the wheel, all the passengers and crew were at dinner. Without waiting for a life buoy or divesting herself of any clothing, and simply saying to the man at the wheel, "Don't tell the child's mother," Mrs. Campbell plunged into the water, swam to the boy, and held him up till both were rescued, the steamer having been promptly stopped and a boat lowered. Neither the lady nor the boy was much the worse for the immersion.—*Sidney (Australia) Herald.*

STORY OF HAWTHORNE.—A charming story of Hawthorne was told to Mr. Conway by an intimate of the novelist. One wintry day Hawthorne received at his office notification that his services would no longer be required. With heaviness of heart he repairs to his humble home. His young wife recognizes the change, and stands waiting for the silence to be brokon. At length he falters, "I am removed from office." Then she leaves the room; soon she returns with fuel and kindles a bright fire with her own hand; next she brings pen, paper, ink, and sets them beside him. Then she touches the sad man on the shoulder, and, as he turns to the beaming face, says, "Now you can write your book!" The cloud cleared away. The lost office looked like a cage from which he had escaped. "The Scarlet Letter" was written, and a marvelous success rewarded the author and his stout-hearted wife.

A negro was observed the other day mailing an unstamped letter at the postoffice in a country town in Georgia. He was asked what he meant by mailing unpaid letters. "Oh," replied the negro, "I does that reg'lar." "You do?" "Yesser; w'en de postmaster ain't lookin' I draps my letter in; do dat often. I saves de postage, yer see. I jes write a letter, don't put no stamp onto it, and slips here and lets her drap. Dat's de way I send my letters and gets de best of the postoffice—ha! ha! takes dis nigger to be sharp, it does."

The Fabian policy: A bear, wishing to rob a bee-hive, laid himself down in front of it and overturned it with his paw. "Now," said he, "I will lie perfectly still and let the bees sting me until they are exhausted and powerless; their honey may then be obtained without opposition." And it was so obtained, but by a fresh bear, the other being dead.

An actress who has lately figured as plaintiff in a libel suit at New York, was again in court as a witness. She was twice asked her age and refused to answer, but finally compromised the matter by saying, "I was born in July, 1856; I guess you can figure from that."

FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

Despise no one; for every one knows something thou knowest not.

Emulation embalms the dead; envy, the vampire, blasts the living.

To a guilty soul the fall of a leaf sounds like the crack of doom.

It is the enemy whom we do not suspect who is the most dangerous.

Women's friendship is a theory that has never yet been put to practice.

Suffering itself does not less afflict the senses than the fear of suffering.

Fellowship with God produces strengthens and increases hatred to sin.

Recreation is only valuable as it unbends us; the idle can know nothing of it.

Cast your nets in the right water, and they may take fish while you are sleeping.

Experience is the trophy composed of all the weapons we have been wounded with.

Language is not an instrument into which if a fool breathes it will make a melody.

In memory's mellowed light we behold not the thorns; we see only the flowers.

Seeing much and suffering much and studying much are the three pillars of learning.

Get your money ready before getting out of an omnibus, and—before going into law.

The defects of the understanding, like those of the face, grow worse as we grow old.

As a sandy hill is to the feet of the aged, so is a woman of many words to a quiet man.

One who is never busy can never enjoy rest, for rest implies relief from previous labor.

Fame is to give our heart's blood that a violet may bloom from our dust in a hundred years.

Don't scowl; it spoils faces. Before you know it your head will resemble a small railway map.

The pages of our lives that to the world seem darkest in God's eyes may be luminous as stars.

Every day a little helpfulness. We live for the good of others, if our living be in any sense true living.

If you should have just what you really deserve—no more, no less—would you be as happy as you are now?

Successes in society are the most difficult of accomplishment—you have to sacrifice your vanity to other people's.

If our whole time was spent in amusing ourselves, we should find it more wearisome than the hardest day's work.

Some rocks cannot prevent the course of a river; over human obstacles events roll onward without being turned aside.

Burton describes idleness as being "the cushion upon which the devil reposes." Johnson designates it as "the rust of the soul."

The history of most lives may be briefly comprehended under three heads—our follies, our faults, and our misfortunes.

It is better for the memory to have a distinct idea of one fact of a great subject than to have confused ideas of the whole.

There are few persons in the world whose discourse does not soon, like the dipthongs in spoil, boil, etc., degenerate into I.

The secret of universal success is caution in attempting. Great men can what they will, because they only will what they can.

There are some faults in conduct, and some in conversation and writing, which are not to be condemned or pardoned, but forgotten.

Ignorance is one of those infirmities that are insensible; and, though it be ever so desperately sick, feels no pain or want of health.

In religion talk is brass, action is gold. The old darkey said, "Pears like I could say more in five minutes than I could live in five years."

As a want of faith is fatal to all goodness, so it is a deficiency far more frequent among men than a careless observer would imagine.

In judging of others, a man laboreth in vain, often erreth, and easily sinneth; but in judging and examining himself he always laboreth fruitfully.

More hearts pine away in secret anguish from the want of kindness from those who should be their comfort than from any other calamities in life.

It is not in great deeds of kindness only that the blessing is found. In "little deeds of happiness," repeated every day, we find true happiness.

It is a great blunder in the pursuit of happiness not to know when we have got it; that is, not to be content with a reasonable and possible measure of it.

There is a secret pleasure in hearing ourselves praised; but on such occasions, a worthy mind will rather resolve to merit the praise than be puffed up with it.

This life is not ordained in vain; it is constituted for a grand purpose; if through its lessons of experience we become convinced that this life is not all.

Every heavy burden of sorrow seems like a stone hung around our neck, yet they are often like the stone used by the pearl divers, which enable them to reach the prize and rise enriched.

An honest reputation is within the reach of all men; yet they obtain it by social virtues and doing their duty. This kind of reputation, it is true, is neither brilliant nor startling, but it is often the most useful for happiness.

God has made no one absolute. The rich depend on the poor, as well as the poor on the rich. The world is but a mere magnificent building, all the stones are gradually cementing together. There is no one who subsists by himself alone.

The love of display which results in vulgar ostentation is the result of selfishness, of a desire to excite the envy of others rather than the wish to share benefits with them—an effort to appear great without striving to be great in reality.

After we have finished the time of this life, the end of all time is to succeed, which is to give a period unto all which we leave behind us. Let man, therefore, know, that those things which he leaves behind, for his memory after death, are as vain as those he enjoyed in life.

TEA TABLE QUEENS.—De Quincy said his ideal of luxury was a room crowded with books and a beautiful woman perpetually pouring out tea, and Washington Irving gives us this rapturous description of a Dutch tea table: "Fain would I pause to dwell upon the world of charms that burst upon the enraptured gaze of Ichabod Crane as he entered the state parlor of Van Tassel's mansion. Not those of the bevy of buxom lasses, with their luxurious display of red and white; but the ample charms of a genuine Dutch country tea table in the sumptuous time of autumn. Such heaped up platters of cakes of various and almost indescribable kinds known only to experienced Dutch housewives. There were the doughty doughnuts, the tendered oly kock and the crisp and crumbling cruller; sweet cakes and short cakes, ginger cakes and honey cakes, and the whole family of cakes. And there were apple pies and peach pies and pumpkin pies; besides slices of ham and smoked beef; and moreover, delectable dishes of preserved plums and peaches and pears and quinces, not to mention broiled shad and roasted chicken, together with bowls of milk and cream, all mingled higgledy-piggledy, pretty much as I have enumerated them, with the motherly teapot sending up its clouds of vapor from the midst—heaven bless the mark! I want breath and time to discuss this banquet as it deserves. Happily Ichabod was not in so great a hurry as his historian, but did ample justice to every dainty."

Illiteracy in the United States

The United States boast of the intelligence of their people and point with pride to the ample provision made for the education of their children. The common school, however, has not become universal and its effects, in some localities are not yet apparent. The census of 1880 furnishes a view of the illiteracy of the whole country and locates the lights and shades which denote the prevalence of intelligence or ignorance with startling accuracy. The statistics are based upon the total number of persons of the age of ten years and upward. Of this class the aggregate, according to the census, was 36,761,607, of whom 4,923,451, or 13.4 per cent., could not read and 6,239,958, or 17 per cent., were unable to write.

Taking those that could not write as the basis for the calculations on the national illiteracy and dividing them according to nationality and color these results are obtained: Of native whites who could not write there were 2,255,460, or 8.7 per cent. of the total population; of foreign whites, 763,620, or 12 per cent., and of colored persons, 3,220,878, or 70 per cent. It will be observed that the colored illiterates comprise more than half of the whole number, although the colored population is only one-eighth of the total population.

With 70 per cent. of the colored population unable to write it will be seen at once that the Southern States make a very poor showing in comparison with the North. Southern illiteracy is not confined, however, to the colored people. Of the native whites in Alabama 25 per cent. were unable to write, while in Connecticut only one per cent. were thus illiterate. The average per centage of illiteracy among the native born white population of the Northern States is 3.2 per cent., while in the Southern States it is 21.2 per cent. Of the Northern States Delaware shows the highest percentage of native born citizens who cannot write, 8.1 per cent. being thus unfortunate, while Massachusetts is the lowest, only 7-10 of one per cent. of her natives being unable to write. Of all classes who cannot write Alabama has the highest number according to population, her per centage being 50.9, while Nebraska has the lowest, having 3.6 per cent. The most illiterate of the territories is New Mexico, of whose total population 65 per cent. were returned unable to write, while Wyoming makes the best showing with but 3.4 per cent.

It will be well for the people of every state and territory in the Union to file away this suggestive bulletin and give some of their spare hours to its study. The illiterate states need to have their educational energies quickened by its perusal, while the more intelligent will be given some points that may teach them where to look for the few scattering children within their borders who have thus far eluded the schoolmaster.

Taking Offense.

There is immense wisdom in the old proverb: "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty." Hannah More said: "If I wished to punish an enemy, I should make him hate somebody." To punish ourselves for others' faults is superlative folly. The arrow shot from another's bow is practically harmless until our thought barbs it. It is our pride that makes another's criticism rankle, our self-will that makes another's deed offensive, our egotism that is hurt by another's self assertion. Well may we be offended at faults of our own, but we can hardly afford to be miserable for the faults of others. A courtier told Constantine that the mob had broken the head of his statue with stones. The emperor lifted his hand to his head saying: "It is very surprising, but I don't feel hurt in the least." We should remember that the world is wide—that there are thousand millions of different human wills, opinions, ambitions, tastes, and loves; that each person has a different history, constitution, culture, character from all the rest; that human life is the work, the play, the ceaseless action and reaction upon each other of these different living atoms. We should go forth into life with the smallest expectations, but with the largest patience; with a keen relish for, and appreciation of, everything beautiful, great, and good, but with a temper so genial that the friction of the world cannot wear upon our sensibilities, and equanimity so settled that no passing breath of accidental disturbance shall agitate or ruffle it, and with a charity broad enough to cover the whole world's evil, and sweet enough to neutralize what is bitter in it, determined not to be offended when no offence is meant, not even then unless the offence is worth noticing. Nothing short of a malicious injury or flattery should offend us. He who can wilfully injure another is an object of pity rather than of treatment, and it is a question whether there is enough of a flatterer for a whole-souled man to be offended with.

A Lady Who Wanted Mottoes.

A gentleman, whose wife had instructed him to purchase a few nice, appropriate mottoes, became inebriated, and forgot just what was wanted of him. He had a confused notion that his wife's request was in some way relative to his purchase of something in the way of sign cards, so he called upon a dealer and purchased quite a variety.

'I've got 'em—hic—my dear. He-here's a whole lot nice uns,' he said, as he triumphantly produced his package.

With a sigh over his maudlin condition, she opened the parcel and found the following: 'Hands Off,' 'Your Choice for five cents,' 'Look Out for the Locomotive,' 'Keep off the Grass,' 'No Dogs Admitted,' 'Ham Sandwiches, ten cents each,' 'Tom and Jerry,' 'For Rent,' 'Oysters in All Styles.'

Then the lady went down town and made her own selections, and when her husband woke up one morning after a spree that cost him four hundred dollars, a playcard stared him in the face from his bedroom wall, 'Rum Did It,' and when he turned over with a groan, he noticed the warning, 'Shun the Bowl.' Shifting uneasily to the other side, he caught sight of 'Death in the Cup.'

He hasn't been drunk since.

"I wish I was the trapper and was tied to the stake, going to be burned alive by the Indians," said little Johnny Fizzletop, who was reading a dime novel on the sofa. "Why do you wish to be in such a horrible predicament?" asked his mother. "Because in the last chapter, the trapper scalps Jeewhillikins Jim, the jumping jackass of Juniper Jungle, and his Indian allies, and carries off White Fawn, the lovely maiden, in triumph to his mountain fastness." "I think there is too much fastness anyhow, about the boys of Austin," remarked his mother thoughtfully.—*Siftings.*

A logical conclusion—Little Bob—"Tom, why do you call mamma mater? What's mater mean?" Tom—"Latin for mother, you know." Little Bob—"Oh! I thought it was because she had to see about getting husbands for Flo and Edie that she was a mater."