# Birmingham Eccentric.

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BIRMINGHAM. - - - MICHIGAN.

## TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

AN increase of $3 a month in the pay of enlisted men is recommended by Secretary Lincoln. They get $13 now. If a soldier is worth anything he is certainly worth $16 a month.

A SOCIETY has been formed and incorporated under the laws of Georgia for the purchasing and preserving of the historic home of the late Alexander H. Stephens, know as "Liberty Hall," at Crawfordville. The house and premises will be changed in no particular from their present condition. The consideration is $6,000.

ANNA DICKINSON denies the statement that she has signed with the Knights of Labor for a series of speeches. She states that she has received propositions for work from the Knights, and from various other sources, among them more than one offer to continue on the stage but what she will probably do in the immediate future is to deliver a speech touching upon matters now being widely discussed relating to church and state.

THERE is an old clock in Washington Penn., concerning which the inhabitants of the town tell a strange story. About twenty years ago a man was hanged in the court yard. The clock, which had always tolled the hour regularly, stopped at the hour of 2 o'clock, being the time at which the drop fell which sent the unfortunate man into eternity. Since that time the clock could never be made to strike, and it is now to be replaced by another.

WEALTH has its dangers and its disadvantages. A New York millionaire, whose house is heated by steam, arose the other night only to discover that his engineer who was drunk, had allowed the pressure to ascend to seventy pounds, when forty was supposed to be the limit. The family had been sleeping over a volcano. An old coal stove may be a little inconvenient, but if the engineer who runs it gets drunk and neglects his business there is no danger of blowing it up.

THE agitation for uniform divorce laws continues, and it is likely to go on till State laws are harmonized or Congress is given authority over the subject by a constitutional amendment. Different provisions in the various States practically amount to scandalous laxity all around. As one illustration, a man denied a divorce in New York can go to New Jersey, obtain the desired decree on precisely the same plea, marry, and his marriage is held legal on his return. A National law would seem to be the most feasible, if not the only, way out of the complications now existing.

THE lawyers of Texas who have undertaken to get the Court of Claims at Washington to pass favorably upon the request of an old slaveholder that he shall be paid for his liberated slaves have probably taken up the case as an amusement. They are said to hold that Texas came into the Union in 1845 under different circumstances from the other States. That is certainly not true in a legal sense; and, anyway, after she was once in her condition was not more independent than that of any other State. The Texan slaveholder's claim will be paid about the same time with the Confederate war debt.

AT a social gathering of fashionable darkies in Memphis the other evening, Mr. John Grady was fortunate enough to have eleven dollars in his pocket, and though his nickname is "Luck," unlucky enough to lose the same through a hole in said pocket. There was no doubt that the money had fallen to the floor, and the question was which one of the guests had appropriated it. By unanimous consent of the company it was decided to solve this perplexing problem by means of the infallible "sifter test," and accordingly a sifter was brought from the kitchen. To it was attached a string which was held in turn by the guests. The sifter remained motionless until the string was grasped by Oscar Jones, when it began to revolve with great rapidity. Thereupon Mr. Jones was vociferously declared to be the thief and Mr. Grady promptly caused his arrest. Justice Quigley, who could not have been fully aware of the solemn ceremonial by which his guilt had been established, dismissed the suit.

A SWISS newspaper gives an account of a singular case of necromancy practiced in the canton of St. Gallen. The keeper of a cemetery at St. Fiden was horrified to find that gravestones after being set up again were repeatedly overturned; and as the result of investigations it was discovered that three men formed a society to "exorcise" money by acting on recipes found in the pages of Albertus Magnus. The process adopted was to enter the cemetery at midnight and bury in the earth five franc pieces, repeating the prescribed formulas, and performing the due antics; then two of the silly men passed eight days naked in a hut, living on bread and water, and muttering their magic phrases! They were convinced that such absurd behavior would propitiate a dark spirit, named Hisis, who, for their benefit, would transmute the total sum buried, one hundred and sixty francs, into five millions. The poor wretches, it seems, were discovered by the authorities in a state of extreme excitement, shuddering, quaking, and half or wholly insane. The third confederate, evidently a business man, finding by observation that Hisis worked no miracle, quietly dug up the silver, and, quite in the ordinary way, vanished from the ken of the St. Gallen police.

The "Sandown" for ladies, is a variation of the Newmarket coat with a movable cape.

## MICHIGAN NEWS.

### Shot by His Brother.

A shocking tragedy occurred at Saginaw City on the morning of December 10, by which H. Hartley Ramsay lost his life. The following particulars are from the Detroit Free Press of the following morning: About 1:45 o'clock in the morning Mr. and Mrs. Ramsay were awakened from a peaceful sleep by an incoherent and unearthly scream. The next instant Hartley Ramsay rushed into the room exclaiming, "Will, your revolver quick!" He immediately passed to the dresser drawer, where two revolvers were usually kept, and picked up one and crossed the room to the opposite side and passed out through an outside door. Mrs Ramsay says that after the scream he called buglars. Mr. Ramsay only heard: "Will, your revolver quick!" Mrs Ramsay said: "Oh, Will, the baby!" Will sprang from the bed and put his hand in the bureau drawer and found the revolver was not there and then bethought himself that he put his new self cocker 32 calibre revolver under his pillow last night. He turned to the bed and snatched the weapon and started to follow his brother. Just as he reached the outside door Hartley, with the same degree of excitement with which he had gone out, rushed back and ran against the muzzle of Will's revolver discharging it. He exclaimed: "Will, you have shot me!" "Hartley, impossible," was the response. "Yes, I am shot." Will said, "Get on to the bed and I will send for Dr. Small." Hartley was placed on the bed, and in response to the question, if he was in pain, said no. Will commenced dressing and then looked at the wound, and went to the girl's room to send for a doctor. He returned and was getting his slippers when Hartley got off the bed and started once more for the outside door. When he nearly reached it he commenced to fall and was caught in his brother's arms. Mr. and Mrs Ramsay then placed him on a couch. Dr. Small who had been sent for made all possible haste, and reached the dying man about twenty minutes before he breathed his last. The wound was on the right side just below the ribs. Death resulted from internal hemorrhage, probably about forty or forty-five minutes after the accident.

It is not known whether there were really burglars about or whether Hartley was suffering from nightmare and was in a somnambulistic state. He was a young man of about 21, of fine appearance, and well educated. He had resigned a place on the Times of Saginaw City about ten days before. His remains were taken to St. Johns, about fifteen miles east of Montreal, where his parents live. A singular feature of the case was that the victim had always shown an intense horror of being shot.

### A Mystery of Ten Years' Standing.

A case of mysterious disappearance and supposed murder, which has remained a deep mystery for years in and about Shelby is in a fair way to be unraveled. A few days ago, while workmen were removing the debris from the cellar of John Roach's house, about two miles south of Shelby, destroyed by fire a short time previous, they discovered the skeleton of a man just outside of the cellar curbing, near the stairway, in a sitting posture, and how it came there no one seems to be able to tell, although many theories are advanced. By some it is said to be the skeleton of an Indian buried there some twenty-five or thirty years ago by a tribe who used to inhabit this section; others say that it is that of a man named Thompson, who mysteriously disappeared about eight or ten years ago. The house has been occupied by different families for a number of years past, and it is recalled that about eight or ten years ago it was occupied by a family of very questionable character, and also that they kept a house of prostitution, and many strange stories have been told of midnight revelry and debauch enacted there, and this, with other very 'convicting' circumstances, has led to strengthen the belief that this man Thompson, or some other poor victim, met a violent death during a drunken row, or he was coolly murdered for his money and then jammed into the hole in which he was found.

Two holes, evidently made by pistol shots or some sharp instrument, were found in the skull. The skeleton seemed to be that of a man about 40 years old. The left shin bone had been broken in early life and never properly reset so that it might have caused the owner to walk lame. The body had evidently been stripped of its clothing before being buried, as no traces of buttons, buckles or anything that would resist decay were found, which adds another link to sustain suspicion of foul play.

### New Michigan Corporations.

Articles of association were filed in the office of the Secretary of State during the week ending December 8, as follows:

Three Rivers Seminary, Three Rivers. Capital, $12,000.

Detroit Zoological and Acclimatizing Society. Articles amended.

Iron Star Company, Detroit. Capital, $500,000.

Street Railway Company, of Grand Rapids. Capital increased to $400,000.

Reserve Mutual Life Association, Grand Rapids.

Rochester Cornet Band Association, Rochester.

Detroit Evening Journal Company, Detroit. Capital, $37,500.

Grand Rapids Novelty Veneer Company. Name changed to Peninsular Furniture Company.

Nall, Lyon & Co., Detroit. Capital, $50,000.

Monroe Manufacturing Company, Monroe. Capital, $50,000.

Detroit Preserving Company, Detroit. Capital, $100,000.

Honduras Timber Company, Grand Rapids. Capital, $60,000.

Pembroke Knitting Company, Muskegon. Capital, $10,000.

### Eight Men Find Watery Graves.

The sinking of the barge Enterprise on Lake Huron, early on the morning of December 10 must be added to the list of terrible marine disasters of 1883. The Enterprise had just been raised off Green Island and was being towed down by the tug Baltze. When off Point au Bargues the Enterprise went down in 200 feet of water leaving 14 men struggling in the waters of Lake Huron. Six of them were rescued by men from the Baltze, but seven of the brave men sank beneath the waves, while another survived but a short time. The lost were as follows: Pat Quinn, Detroit, diver; Chas. Carberry, Detroit, pump engineer; Daniel Jones, Windsor, pump engineer; J. McGraw, Oswego, second engineer of the Enterprise; Chas. William, Chicago, deck hand; two firemen on the Enterprise, names unknown; John Carberry, father of Charles, was rescued, but died on board the tug. The Enterprise was owned in Dresden, Canada, and was built in 1874. She was of 303 tonnage and rated, at A1½ and had a crew of twelve men.

### STATE ITEMS.

Charles Mueller, who left Bay City some weeks ago for Honduras, Central America, to seek his fortune in the gold fields, was taken ill and died. His relatives in Bay City were informed of his death a few days ago, and preparations have been made to bring the remains here for interment. Deceased was a young man about 20 years of age and for several months was mailing clerk in the postoffice.

William Bunker, aged 51, was killed at Howley's mill in Bunker Hill township, Ingham Co. He was employed as tail sawyer and a board passed over the saw, striking him in the breast and breaking two ribs, one of which was over the heart and caused almost instant death.

An injunction has been granted restraining the village of Oscoda proceeding further in the negotiation of water works bonds on the ground that the trustees were illegally elected.

The syndicate of Cleveland capitalists who recently purchased all the street railway lines in Grand Rapids, except that on South Division street have closed negotiations for the purchase of that road, the price paid being $54,000. The company now own the entire street railway interests, for which they have paid nearly a quarter of a million.

John Bebee, recently from Muir, whose people lived at St. Joe, N. Y. was instantly killed by the Grand Haven Lumber Company's cars a few miles east of Staton, on the 5th inst. He was on his way to the company's camp, looking for work, and stepped on the track near a short curve, just in front of the engine, which, being deaf, he did not hear. Before the engine could possibly be stopped the entire train passed over him, mangling him so that he was not recognized except from papers found in his clothing. An inquest was held and a verdict of accidently killing rendered. He was 45 years old and had no family.

The secretary of state has begun to make preparations for an accurate census of the state next year under the act 146 of the laws of 1883.

Louis Gale is to be tried at the December term of the Superior Court at Grand Rapids for forgery. He was arrested on the charge of passing a forged order upon A. S. White, of the Michigan Artisan, but was soon after convicted of forging Mrs. Carpenter's name to a mortgage and sent to Jackson. Having been pardoned from prison as innocent of the crime, he will have to stand trial for the old offense.

A school teacher in Union City took four pupils to a billard hall for an object lesson, and the school board suspended the whole five of them.

Scarcity of fuel at Sault Ste Marie. An effort is being made to ship in coal from Cheboygan.

The State Horticultural Society's recent meeting in Eaton Rapids is pronounced one of the most successful ever held by the society

The Michigan bee keepers' convention in Flint on the 5th and 6th inst. was attended by 180 members. Delegates were present from New York, Ohio and Canada. Every subject concerning bee culture was ably discussed by prominent apiarists.

Sheriff [illegible]inney of Jackson county, offers a reward of $5,000 for any information which will lead to the apprehension and detection of the murderers of the Crouch family.

The shipments of lumber by water from the Saginaw river for the season of 1883 amounted to 778,702,467 feet; shingles, 164,072,000; lath, 48,004,425 pieces; oak timber, 2,166,645 cubic feet. The general aggregate of the shipments for 1883 are a little below those of 1882.

The other afternoon a Flint & Pere Marquette passenger train was fired into at a point near the Midland depot. One bullet nearly hit the fireman's head, and a lady in one of the coaches also narrowly escaped.

Mrs. Prof. C. W. Stone of Battle Creek has received $7,000 from the railroad company on the death of her husband in the excursion disaster at Carlyon, N. Y., last summer.

The new tax law provides that on all taxes voluntarily paid between December 1 and January 1 the town treasurer shall add 1 per cent. for collection fee, and on all paid after January 1, 4 per cent.

J. W. Begole, D. S. Fox, G. L. Walker and C. E. Marks of Flint and some gentlemen of Cleveland have organized a stock company with $1,000,000 capital to manufacture Mark's patent car-coupler.

A mortgage of $2,700,000 made by the Michigan and Ohio railroad company to the Central Trust company of New York, has been recorded in Jackson, Monroe, Lenawee, Hillsdale, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Barry and Allegan counties.

The mystery surrounding the murder of Byron Sibley of Marshall, is still unsolved. The theory of suicide is becoming more general.

The Board of Corrections and Charities proposes to hold a meeting, similar to that in Jackson last year, in East Saginaw, commencing on Tuesday morning, December 18. The conference of the county agents will occupy the morning and afternoon sessions of Tuesday. The convention will commence its session on Tuesday evening and last through Wednesday. Papers relating to penal and pauper matters, with special reference to the state institutions, will be read and discussed.

David Brooks, a White Pigeon rough, has been arrested on account of certain hints dropped by himself, charged with the murder of Mrs. Catherine Beard, found dead in bed in her house in that city ten years ago.

The attendance of students at Kalamazoo College this term is very gratifying to the board of management, especially in the increased number, and the representation from all parts of the state.

John Hargadon, for eight years justice of the Peace of Bay City, and at one time city attorney, is missing from his home. He leaves a family in destitute circumstances. No cause assigned for his mysterious disappearance.

Among other things discussed at the Eaton Rapids horticultural meeting was the raising of celery and asparagus. J. N. Stearns, of Kalamazoo, and others stated that there is in many parts of the State just as good celery lands as at Kalamazoo, only the thing has got started at Kalamazoo and had a run. It is expected that other towns of the State will begin to improve their celery land.

O. A. Cope, conductor of the freight train which was run into by the Pittsford disaster, has been arrested and lodged in jail at Hillsdale.

Dr. H. M. Hurd, superintendent of the Pontiac asylum, asks friends of patients to send some present before December 20 for the Christmas gathering.

Benjamin Marr, an old and respected resident of East Tawas, is the first victim of the new railroad. He jumped from a train before it stopped and received injuries from which he died.

The Postoffice Department has ordered that after December 20 the railway mail service from East Saginaw to St. Louis be extended from St. Louis, via Alma, to Ithaca.

The thirty third annual meeting of the Michigan State Teachers' Association will be held in Representative Hall, Lansing, December 26 to 28. The opening address will be delivered Wednesday evening by Prof. J. Estabrook, the president of the association. Hon. Edwin Willits, Principal of the State Normal School, will deliver an address Thursday evening, and Prof. Daniel Putnam, of the State Normal School, Friday evening. The State examiners will hold a meeting Wednesday afternoon. Thursday and Friday will be devoted to council [illegible] discussions. Applications for certificates entitling the holder to round trip tickets for one and one third fares should be addressed to Prof. E. J. W. MacEwan, Lansing. The usual reductions will be made at the hotels.

Under the new state law requiring physicians to register, 334 registered in Wayne county. Of this number 257 practice in Detroit.

The death sentence of Hardinge and Greenwood, awaiting execution in the Sandwich, Ont., jail, for the murder of William Maier of Detroit, has been commuted to imprisonment for life in the Kingston penitentiary.

The new Lake Shore depot at Coldwater is nearly completed.

A new G. A. R. Post has been organized in Manistee.

A building in Hillsdale owned by Hon. John P. Cook, and occupied by Riggs & Co., dealers in millinery and dry goods, was destroyed by fire the other morning.

The township board of Orient, Osceola Co., has put the amount of saloon bonds $6,000.

Kent county has 201 registered physicians.

A "woman's exchange" has been started in East Saginaw, the object of which is to afford women a market for work made at home.

An old colored woman of Grand Rapids who has been viewing the recent wonderful sunsets says that the old world will never see 1884.

Over $100,000 has been expended in Bay City on stone roads.

Cheboygan's lumber operations for 1883 (nine firms) foot up: Sawed lumber, 86,500,000 feet; shipped, 70,000,000 on dock; shingles, 11,500,000; lath, 17,000,000; pickets, 30,000.

A resident of Cadillac reports in Big Rapids the following terrible accident at Cadillac the other afternoon: Elmer Cummer, a brother of the senior member of the Cummer Lumber company, was with the engineer, James Thomas, running a train of logs on the company's road. The train had neared the Harrison settlement, and Cummer, who seems to have had charge of the engine for the moment, was running at a reckless rate, when the engine jumped the track, and the loaded cars piled in a heap over the engine and occupants. As soon as possible the men were rescued. Cummer was found seriously injured, and it was thought he could not survive. Harris was mangled terribly, and died soon after being removed. The fireman is said to have escaped by jumping from the train, as he feared an accident from the reckless running. Harris had been in the employ of the company some twelve years. Out of respect the company have closed their three mills till after the funeral.

The village of McBrides was visited by a destructive fire a few nights ago, the loss aggregating about $5,000.

Prof. Prescott of the University of Michigan states that no poison was found in the stomach of Crouch, the murdered man. Considerable excitement has been occasioned by the testimony of a doctor that Holcomb, a son-in-law of the murdered man, purchased a revolver a few days before the murder.

The suspension of fourteen pupils and a teacher at Union City for witnessing a game of billiards will result in a law suit, the parents of the pupils proposing to carry the matter into the courts.

The November product of the copper mines of the Portage Lake and Keweenaw districts (the product of the Quincy, Peninsula and Osceola mines not being reported) is 2,515 tons and 248 pounds.

### DETROIT MARKETS.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Wheat—No 1, white | $ 99 | @ 1 03 |
| Flour | 5 00 | @ 5 25 |
| Corn | 48 | @ 53 |
| Oats | 28 | @ 31 |
| Clover Seed, ₩ bu | 6 00 | @ 6 25 |
| Apples, ₩ bbl | 2 50 | @ 3 00 |
| Dried Apples, ₩ lb | 7 | @ 7½ |
| Peaches | 14 | @ 15 |
| Cherries | 20 | @ 21 |
| Butter, ₩ lb | 21 | @ 22 |
| Eggs | 25 | @ 26 |
| Potatoes | 45 | @ 50 |
| Honey | 18 | @ 20 |
| Beans picked | 2 10 | @ 2 15 |
| Beans, unpicked | 1 75 | @ 2 00 |
| Hay | 9 00 | @ 14 00 |
| Straw | 7 00 | @ 7 55 |
| Pork dressed, ₩ 100 | 5 00 | @ 5 70 |
| Pork, mess | 11 75 | @ 12 25 |
| Pork, family | | 17 00 |
| Hams | 14 | @ 15 |
| Shoulders | 8 | @ 8½ |
| Lard | 10¼ | @ 10½ |
| Beef extra mess | 11 50 | @ 12 00 |
| Wood, Beech and Maple | | 6 50 |
| Wood, Maple | | 7 00 |
| Wood Hickory | | 7 00 |

### Around the World on a Bicycle.

San Francisco Call.

A young English bicyclist, now in this city, has arranged for himself a year's arduous work. He says that he intends to winter here, and in the spring proposes to make a trip around the world on his bicycle. He will start from this city eastward by way of Ogden, Omaha, and Chicago, and, crossing the Atlantic from New York, will ride from Liverpool to Dover. He will cross the English Channel to France, and ride through Europe into Asiatic Turkey, thence through Persia and Turkestan into the Chinese Empire, and make his way down the Valley of the Yangtse-Kiang to Shanghai, and thence by vessel to San Francisco, consuming a year in the traveling. He says he considers the trip from Sacramento to Reno the most difficult piece of road for a bicycle, and looks with some dismay at his proposed trip through Asia, where a bicycle has never been seen, or perhaps heard of.

## NEWS OF THE WEEK.

### WASHINGTON.

THE CHAIRMANSHIP.

The announcement of the members of the senate committee was the special order of the day at the session of that body on the 10th. The following are the changes in the majority of the chairmanship of the committee: Foreign Relations—Mr. Miller, of California, vice Mr. Windom. Manufactures—Mr. Riddleberger, vice Mr Conger. Agriculture—Mr. Miller, of New York, vice Mr. Mahone. Postoffices and Post Roads—Mr. Hill, vice Mr. Ferry. Pensions—Mr. Mitchell vice Mr. Pratt. Mines and Mining—Mr. Wilson, vice Mr. Hill. Revision of Laws—Mr. Conger, vice Mr. Miller, of California. Improvement of Mississippi River—Mr. Van Wyck, vice Mr. Mitchell. Revolutionary Claims—Mr. Jones, of Florida, vice Mr. Johnston. Transportation Routes to Seaboard—Mr. Aldrich, vice Mr. Harrison. To Examine Branches of the Civil Service—Mr. Cullom, vice Mr. Sawyer. Nicaragua Claims—Mr. Maxey, vice Mr. Davis, of West Virginia. Public Buildings and Grounds—Mr. Mahone, vice Mr. Rollins. Messrs. Sherman and Wilson were placed on the Committee on Foreign Relations. Mr. Miller of New York, fills the vacancy on the Finance Committee. Mr. Frye holds fourth place on the Commerce Committee. The remaining changes are unimportant.

### CONGRESSIONAL SUMMARY.

DECEMBER 5.

SENATE.—Bills were introduced looking to the prevention of frauds in federal elections, to reorganize the legislative power of Utah, granting public lands to soldiers and sailors in the late war, and for the repeal of the internal revenue. Resolutions were submitted inquiring into the expediency of establishing military schools west of the Mississippi for the training of Indian youths, opposing convict labor on public works in the United States, proposing a constitutional amendment regarding the manufacture, sale and importation of alcoholic liquors.

HOUSE.—The Virginia contested election case of Garrison vs. May, was referred to the Committee on Elections, when appointed, with instructions to report the legal questions involved therein; Mr. Jones submitted the customary resolutions announcing the death of Thomas H. Herndon, of Alabama, and in respect to the memory of the deceased the House adjourned, with the understanding that no business would be transacted to-morrow.

DECEMBER 7.

SENATE.—Memorials and petitions concerning railroad land grants in Nebraska and Oregon were presented by representatives from those states. Bills were introduced to restore certain lands in Minnesota and Wisconsin to the market; to provide for the construction of the Delaware and Maryland free ship canal; proposing an amendment to the constitution giving the right of suffrage to women, and other resolutions and bills on minor subjects.

HOUSE.—The oath of office was administered to Mr. McCord, after which the House adjourned until Monday the 10th.

DECEMBER 10.

SENATE.—Bills were introduced to prevent the unlawful enclosure of public lands; regulating the election of representatives to Congress and providing for the establishment of a branch mint at Denver. Mexican veterans submitted a memorial asking for pensions. Voorhees of Indiana, presented a resolution authorizing the committee on military affairs to inquire into the expediency of purchasing the encampment grounds occupied by the revolutionary army at Valley Forge, to be used as a national park.

HOUSE.—To-day was the first bill day in the House, and during the four hours of the session over 550 bills and resolutions were introduced. The states were called in alphabetical order, and when the hour for adjournment came, the call had only reached Massachusetts. The call will be resumed to-morrow.

DECEMBER 11.

SENATE.—Senator Anthony was sworn in, Mr. Edmunds administering the oath. Sherman of Ohio presented a bill for the encouragement of closer commercial relationship with other American states. Colored citizens of Kansas presented a petition praying for the enactment of measures to protect them in the enjoyment of their civil rights. Another bill concerning presidential succession was submitted by Senator Ingalls. The same gentleman also introduced a bill to establish uniformity of the bankrupt law in the United States. Several nominations were sent in, among them that of Butterfield of Ohio as commissioner of patents.

HOUSE.—The speaker was indisposed and Mr. Cox of New York, presided. The roll call of states for the introduction of bills began with Michigan. The first on hand was Mr. Lacey with a bill for a postal savings deposit branch of the postoffice department; Mr. Cutcheon, for the better protection of life and property on Lake Michigan; Mr. Yaple, to abolish the duty on salt; Mr. Maybury, requesting the President to negotiate with Great Britain for a renewal of the Canadian reciprocity treaty of 1854; Mr. Horr, to establish a board of commissioners on inter-state commerce. Most of the bills introduced were of the same character as those introduced yesterday: amending land laws, declaring railroad land grants forfeited, providing for the erection of public buildings, etc. In the two days 1021 bills were introduced.

### NEWS NOTES

ALL DROWNED.

The Guion line steamship Alaska, which arrived at New York the other morning from Liverpool, ran down a pilot boat in the night about 75 miles off Fire island. The night was cold but clear, and in answer to the Alaska's flash for a pilot Capt. Murray saw a pilot boat bearing towards his ship, and when some distance off, on the port side, saw a yawl lowered and the pilot and one of his crew put off to the Alaska. The sea was rough, and the Alaska kept slowly on her course, thinking the pilot boat would keep on her port side; but the latter crossed to starboard, and in doing so was struck amidships by the Alaska and sunk immediately with all on board. Everything was done to rescue the unfortunates, but unsuccessfully. The pilot and man in the yawl, seeing the disaster, lost control of their boat and were thrown into the water, they too drowning. Subsequently another pilot was taken aboard and brought the steamer safely into port. It cannot yet be told what pilot boat it was, nor will it be known for possibly a week, until the roll is called. The boats average in cost from $12,000 to $17,000, and carry from five to ten men each. No blame is attached to Capt. Murray, of the Alaska, or his crew, by those who witnessed the disaster. The shock was scarcely felt on the steamer, but when the full extent of the disaster became known the passengers on the Alaska raised $1,200 for the families of the drowned men.

ATTEMPTED ABDUCTION.

A most dastardly attempt was made at Bellpre, Ohio, the other night to abduct a prominent young lady from her home, but the scheme failed through a mistake of the abductors. About 8 o'clock a stranger knocked at the door of the residence of Mr. Parker Lewis, a wealthy citizen of the place. A servant girl answered the knock, and was told by the stranger that a Miss Hunter was waiting in a buggy in the street to see her. The servant girl started with the stranger, and when a few feet from the house he threw her apron over her face and taking her up in his arms conveyed her to the carriage, in which was another man, and they then drove rapidly away. When about two miles from town one of the men asked the girl if her name was Lillie Lewis, a daughter of Parker Lewis, but on telling them she was not they threw her out of the buggy, after chloroforming her, and made their escape. She was picked up in an unconscious condition by a farmer, who took her to his own home. The abductors were after Miss Lillie Lewis, the accomplished daughter of Mr. Parker Lewis, and she was only saved by a mistake of the abductors. They probably would have wanted a ransom from Lewis.

NOT WANTED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The legislature of Victoria, British Columbia, has passed a resolution instructing the government to introduce a bill restricting Chinese immigration. The startling statement is made by the provincial secretary that there are 3,000 destitute Chinese on the mainland, who can only subsist by murdering and outrage, which they have already begun.

TERRIBLE SUFFERING.

The steamship State of Pennsylvania, which arrived at New York on the 9th, rescued the captain and seven men of the bark Benefactress. Fifteen of the crew had already left in the long boat contrary to the captain's advice, they being between 500 and 600 miles from land. The captain doubts their safety. When the survivors were rescued the vessel was breaking up very fast. The crew had had no water to drink for eleven days except what they caught during showers. The men in the long boat had provisions for two weeks, but no water.

MISUSED MANITOBANS.

A special dispatch from Winnipeg to the Toronto Globe dated Dec. 8, says: A largely-attended farmers' meeting was held at Rapid City last night. Railway monopoly and high tariff were freely denounced. Rev Mr Crawford said: "If we are to be trodden down by the older provinces, I would advocate secession." The citizens of Brandon also met last night and indorsed the stand taken by the farmers. Deputations are being adopted in places all over the province to attend a grand convention at Winnipeg on Dec. 19.

A CRANK GOES COURTING.

Dr. Boynton, Mrs. Garfield's cousin made complaint a few days ago to the superintendent of police of Cleveland that a crank had been annoying Mrs. Garfield. He appeared at her residence on Prospect street, sauntered up and down in front of the house, and finally made a formal call. He is a young man, rather well dressed, and gave the name when arrested of John Denobiga, of St. Louis. He has been writing to Miss Mollie Garfield for a year past, and offered himself in marriage. She, of course, paid no attention to the letters and he went to Cleveland to press his suit. He gained an audience with Mollie, and said he would call again for his final answer, which was agreed to and an officer notified, who met him on his entrance. He made the declaration, "I will marry Mollie Garfield or hang myself." Denobiga was arrested three years ago in St. Louis for forcing his attention in a like manner on Gen. Sherman's niece. He is a thorough "crank," and claims to be a descendant of the first President of the United States, giving at first the name of George Washington.

### CRIME.

YOUTHFUL SINNERS.

About seventeen of the incendiary fires in Milwaukee of the month past have been traced by the police to Bennie West, Joe Moffatt, Finch and Millard, four boys about thirteen years of age, sons of refined people, residents of the Fourth Ward, where the fires occurred, and the boys have been arrested. They had formed a Buffalo Bill organization, and had a pirate's den where they kept dime novels, guns and lassoes, and from which they made raids on the pantrys of well-to-do neighbors. Suspicion fell upon them because of the frequent loss of jellies and pies, and the general braggadocio air the boys assumed. Young Finch confesses. The others deny everything.

AN INDIGNANT INNKEEPER.

An associated press dispatch from Cincinnati, says: Reports from Fields' still-house on the Cumberland river say that last week four men became drunk there and engaged in a fight. W. H. Fields separated them and ordered the party to leave, which they refused to do. Fields then drew a pistol and shot all of them. Matt Knight was killed instantly, Jesse Knight died the next day, and Major Day and John Jenkins cannot live. Fields escaped.

### FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

HOW HICKS PASHA DIED.

A dispatch from Khartoum on the 10th says: An Arab states that Hicks Pasha was last seen with a sword in one hand and a revolver in the other charging with his staff in the midst of the enemy. They were soon overpowered. The Arabs are sick of war, having lost heavily and obtained no plunder, and are returning to their villages.

A BANQUET FOR PARNELL.

A banquet was tendered Parnell in Dublin a few nights ago. An immense concourse was present to do honor to the "great Irish leader." Davitt, in response to the toast, "Ireland a nation," said "that led by Parnell they might believe themselves on the threshold of her destiny as the Irish nation." The "great leader" made an address arraigning the authorities for misgovernment in Ireland, and showing that the people of the Emerald Isle held the balance of power between existing parties. As a national tribute £38,000 was presented to Parnell.

### FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

During November the public debt was reduced $1,721,676. Since June 30, 1883, $41,306,146 have been paid on the debt.

Bigelow, late receiving teller of the Bank of the Republic, convicted of embezzlement, has been sentenced to five years in the penetentiary.

Mrs. Mary A. Miller, of New Orleans, has applied for a license as master of a steamboat. The Supervising Inspector of the district reports her competent, but debars her because of her sex. The case was referred to the Solicitor of the Treasury, who decides against the woman.

O'Donnell's solicitor is endeavoring to induce the jury to sign a memorial to the Home Secretary asking him to commute the death sentence. Some jurymen are willing to sign the paper, but it is expected a majority will decline.

Three Negro children were burned to death in Columbia County, Ga., on a recent Sunday. The parents went to church and locked the children in the cabin.

It is reported that the Zulu Chief Cetewayo will be restored to power over his tribe and the lands placed under protection of British troops.

A Bee line locomotive plunged through a draw into the river in Cleveland, the other morning. The engineer, through whose carelessness the accident occurred, was drowned.

The United States supreme court has decided that suicide by an insane person does not make void a life insurance policy.

Edmunds' bill relating to bigamy, polygamy etc., does not differ materially from the one introduced by him last summer.

Secretary Teller decides that the Choctaw and Chicasaw Indians have no valid claim against the Missouri, Kansas and Texas railroad.

New York State wants the next national Republican convention.

In the last Democratic Congress over 10,000 bills were introduced.

Ohio Republicans have asked that the old duty on wool be restored.

A majority of the senators are opposed to abolishing the internal revenue system.

In the case of James Nutt, who shot Dukes at Uniontown, Pa., a change of venue was ordered to Allegheny county.

Barnum has at last secured a sacred white elephant. The price is $200,000, $50,000 of which was paid down.

Arthur is opposed to Blaine's surplus revenue scheme.

Representatives from the Pacific coast are dissatisfied with the President's reference to Chinese immigration.

Wolff, the German crank who attempted to blow up the German embassy in London for the sake of securing a reward, was arraigned for trial the other day.

Six hundred houses in Constantinople were destroyed by fire recently.

An attempt is being made by residents of Texas to recover the value of Texan slaves emancipated during the war. The principal ground of complaint is that Texas was admitted into the Union under different circumstances from any other state.

Eleven persons were seriously, some fatally, injured by the explosion of a fertilizing tank in the Chicago stock yards.

Bridget E. Cronin sued Father Florence McCarthy, a priest of Brooklyn, N. Y., for $10,000 for criminal assault, and the jury gave Bridget the full amount asked.

A monument is to be erected in Forest Home Cemetery, Milwaukee, to the memory of the victims of the Newhall House disaster.

The commissioner of Indian affairs is of the opinion that the long existing troubles among the Creek Indians is at an end.

Five persons were drowned the other morning while crossing Notre Dame Bay, coast of Newfoundland.

The report that colored people in Arkansas are prevented from the free exercise of their rights is denied by United States officials in that state.

Nearly the entire business portion of N. C., was destroyed by fire a few days ago. The fire started among cotton stored on board the steamer Commerce, and was the work of an incendiary.

A sleeper on the New York Central was burned near Castleton, N. Y. One man was burned to death and others seriously injured. A lamp exploded, causing the fire.

The annexation of Egypt to England is the subject of much discussion among the powers.

Two "noble" Romans fought a duel on the banks of the Tiber a few days ago. One was killed.

The magnificent legislative building in Brussels has been damaged by fire to the extent of 12,000,000 francs. Many valuable historical and state documents were destroyed.

The President has been asked to intercede in behalf of O'Donnell.

Mormons vigorously protest against the appointment of Sumner Howard as United States Judge in Utah.

Nihilistic sentiments have been imputed to Gen. Sherman. He is "out with a card" emphatically denying holding such sentiments.

Anna Dickinson denies the statement that she has signed with the Knights of Labor for a series of lectures.

The Prince of Wales has conveyed to the United States government a formal expression of gratitude for the promptness with which the United States responded to the repeal for co-operation in the late fisheries exhibition.

Texas officials ridicule the scheme to secure pay for emancipated slaves.

M. V. Jones, on trial at Kansas City, Mo., for murder, in lynching the wrong man, was acquitted.

A government detective is at Youngstown, O., looking up the record of O'Donnell's citizenship. If his citizenship is established an effort will be made to have our government apply for commutation of sentence.

The Crown Prince of Germany, during his recent visit to Spain gave 50,000 pestas to the military asylums in Madrid.

A fund of $4,000 has been raised in New York for the families of the men who were drowned by the sinking of the pilot-boat run down by the steamship Alaska.

Sitting Bull's baptism and reception into the Catholic church has been indefinitely postponed because the old chief insists upon a plurality of wives.

French forces destroyed several Malagassy ports.

The trial of James Nutt, for killing N. L. Dukes, changed from Fayette to Allegheny county, has been set for the first Monday in January.

Mormon church papers and leaders are very much agitated over President Arthur's views on the mormon question.

The United States brewer's association will hold its next annual convention in Rochester, N. Y., next May, and celebrate its 25th anniversary in New York in 1885.

The Massachusetts police are investigating the doings of a New Bedford organ firm which is alleged to have sold 25,000 villainously-made organs the past year at a clear profit of $150,000 to $200,000.

Kate Kane, the belligerent female lawyer of Milwaukee has gone to Chicago to live.

The Governor-General of India states that Parliament will be asked to remove cases from before native magistrates to European magistrates when a fair trial by the former appears to be unlikely.

Chamberlain, the father of the famous American beauty now in London, declares he will prosecute any one who photographs his daughter for the purpose of selling the photographs.

It is reported that Susan B. Anthony is engaged in preparing a book upon the progress of woman suffrage in England.

In the sub-treasury in New York there are seven vaults full of silver dollars.

The Supreme court has affirmed the judgment of the court below in favor of Jefferson Davis in the contested will case of Mrs. Dorsey, who left her property to Davis.

Gen. Rosencrans of California brought in the house over 50 bills, the first "bill" day of the session.

Representative Hill has introduced a bill providing that private soldiers of the late war be entitled to public lands in allotments graded according to the length of service.

Issue of silver dollars for the week ended December 8, $521,488; same time last year, $1,189,500.

Carl Schurz has permanently severed his connection with the New York Evening Post.

The French Chamber of Deputies have adopted the Tonquin credit bill.

The celebrated Emma Bond case was called at Hillsboro, Ill., on the 10th. The defense will try to prove that the girl is a victim of her own indiscretion.

Owing to the growing excitement in Irish circles relative to the sentence of O'Donnell, extra guards have been stationed at all the prisons and government offices.

Four inches of snow fell at Saltillo, Mex., Monday, Dec. 10. The occurrence is unprecedented and greatly alarms the more superstitious and innocent Mexicans. It is reported four feet deep in the mountain gorges near Monterey.

Louis Anderson of Lacrosse, Wis., was buried beneath a quantity of hay Nov. 17, and remained in his tomb until Monday, Dec. 10, a period of 23 days, without food or water. When found he was a mere skeleton, but it is thought he will survive.

On the first day's session of the Senate one Maryland senator introduced 83 bills.

The type writer has become such a power in the departments that clerks who cannot operate it and those who hope to be clerks and cannot operate it are taking lessons wherever lessons are to be had.

Ben Brown, a colored waiter, has been arrested for robbing the Eldridge mansion at Norfolk, Conn., last summer of $5,000 in jewelry and $400 in gold.

The poet Tennyson has been made a baronet.

A few days ago two bodies were found in an open boat near New Glasgow dock, Lake Erie. They are supposed to be those of Capt. Quick and his son of Pelee Island. The dead bodies were clasped in each other's arms.

Dr. McCrea of Chicago has been arrested on a charge of manufacturing an imitation well-known patent medicine.

The house of John Eckert of Braddock, Pa., was destroyed by fire a few days since, and his wife perished in the flames. Her husband has been arrested on suspicion of foul play.

The court house at Butler, Pa., was totally destroyed by fire a few days ago. Many important records were destroyed.

Three thousand employes of the Canadian Pacific railway are on a strike. The entire business of the road is at a stand still, and the work shops all shut down.

Rev. Dr. Wilson of Kingston, Ont., has been dismissed from his curacy because he participated in the services of the Salvation Army.

When Senator Anthony, of Rhode Island, was sworn in a few days ago, he entered upon his fifth consecutive term.

The bribery case against ex senator Kellogg is postponed until next term.

In his annual report, the commissioner of agriculture lays special stress upon forest culture.

The steamer Michigan is the oldest vessel in commission in the navy, having been built in 1844. Notwithstanding this, she is still in excellent condition.

"Big Bill Kinney," acquitted of murder at West Union, Va., was taken from jail by a mob and lynched.

The British parliament will be further prorogued until February.

A crowd of people gathered before the house of a merchant in Moscow, lately deceased, to receive the alms distributed at the death of a wealthy person. Several people were crushed to death in the crowd.

Walter G. Gresham's nomination as Postmaster General has been confirmed by the Senate.

Secretary Teller wants it understood that Congress is now in session, and that all questions of land grants will be considered by that body.

### The English Christmas.

Geo. William Curtis in Harper's Magazine.

The English Christmas tradition makes good cheer the glory of the day. Forty years ago, when Leech was beginning his career, Kenny Meadows was the "character artist" of the Illustrated London News, and its chief holiday pictures were drawn by him. They were all scenes of eating and drinking, of games and jollity. They were full of bottles and smoking bowls of roast beef and plum-pudding and mince-pie, of burning brandy and kissing under the mistletoe. "Old Christmas" was represented as a flowing-bearded satyr crowned with ivy and pouring huge flagons of wine, or as a rollicking boon companion stretching out one hand to the spectator over decanters and jugs and glasses, while the other holds an open tankard. The typical faces of the Christmas figures were those of the rubicund middle-class John Bull, and his hearty daughter gayly resisting the efforts of the young soldier—Irving's Julia and the Captain—to draw her under the permissive bough; or of the buxom chambermaid and greedy children in a frenzy of delight over the smoking plum-pudding. Christmas according to these delectable pictures, was all guzzling and gobbling, love-making and other blindman's-buff; and as the reader of to-day looks with amused curiosity at these holiday sketches of yesterday, he too, like the stranger by the fire in Bracebridge Hall, through all the fun and the feasting, hears the music of the old Christmas song:

> "Twas Christmas broached the mightiest ale,
> 'Twas Christmas told the merriest tale;
> A Christmas gambol oft would cheer
> The poor man's heart through half the year."

This is the spirit of Dicken's Christmas, and of Thackeray's, and, in a great degree, of Irving's, touched in all of them by the modern humanitarian sentiment. It is the traditional English Christmas, when no man should go hungry. For there is no joy upon an empty stomach—except, indeed, the thin ecstacy of the starving saints in old pictures, and they were already dehumanized. This is a Christian truth which asceticism has forgotten. To identify squalor, emaciation, and denial of all human delights with especial sanctity was to degrade the rich and generous religious spirit which taught that all the world is made for man's benefit and pleasure. It was George Herbert of whom Richard Spencer said that he sang as one whose business in this world was most with God, and whose beautiful lines,

> "Sweet day, so cool, so calm, so bright,
> The bridal of the earth and sky,"

are as fresh as when they were written; who also said,

> "For us the winds do blow,
> The earth doth rest, heavens move, and fountains flow;
> Nothing we can see but means our good,
> As our delight or as our treasure;
> The whole is either our cupboard of food,
> Or cabinet of pleasure."

Christianity does not decline any wholesome use or beauty of the world, and it would be a sorry preacher in the church embowered and scented with Christmas greens who did not hold that Christmas good cheer contemplates body as well as soul.

In a horse a good and strong, but quiet, pulse beats forty times a minute, in an ox fifty to fifty-five, in sheep and pigs not less than seventy or more than eighty for ordinary health. It may be felt whenever a large artery crosses a bone. A rapid, hard and full pulse in stock denotes high fever; a rapid, small, and weak pulse also fever, caused by a weak and poor state of the subject. A very slow pulse indicates brain disease while an irregular one indicates heart trouble

Fritz John Porter is now in Washington and expects to remain some time. He will endeavor, supported by Grant, et. al. to secure the passage of a bill setting him right in the army, and then placing him on the retired list.

### The Mormon Failure.

New York Tribune.

The Mormon problem seems to be taking prominence again, not in consequence of any change in the situation of affairs in Utah, but only because accident has drawn attention to a scandal which we can never contemplate without irritation. The periodical outbreaks of feeling against Mormonism have not led to any immediate practical results; but perhaps they are not altogether futile, for the discussion at least teaches us how far we have gone astray in our previous theories of the difficulty. Fifteen years ago it was a favorite belief at the east that Mormonism owed its strength to its isolation, and that it would vanish as soon as the territory was thrown open to railroads and mining companies. We now know that the assumed incompatibility of railroads with superstition is a delusion. The steam engine is not necessarily an agent of morality and intelligence; and even money, although it is often accepted as a test of respectability, is not a guarantee of a decent life. Hence the influx of population and the growth of material civilization which we hoped would weaken the Latter Day Saints have on the contrary made them stronger than ever. Immigrants are pouring into Utah, but they are Mormon immigrants. Wealth increases, but it is the church that grows fat. The railroad as a missionary has been a bad failure.

We used to flatter ourselves also that the Mormon imposture could not stand the light of American education and Christianity. But the territory has been open a good while, and yet neither Bibles nor school books seem to make much impression upon those benighted people. We forget that the Saints are converts from Christianity, and that to win neophytes back to the creed they have left is always a task of extreme difficulty. We speak of nineteenth century enlightenment as if it propagated itself by spores, diffused through the atmosphere. But the fact is that the Mormons are increasing with great rapidity, and that the gospel does not overtake them even with the help of the telegraph and the fast mail. The missionary spirit is by no means active on our side, but it is strong with them, and it seems to grow stronger as they grow prosperous. They have passed the boundaries of Utah, and are getting a dangerous hold upon the neighboring territories.

As for putting down polygamy by law, we have not been able to do that yet in New York, and most people despair by this time of our ever doing it in Utah. Certainly we cannot do it if we allow the sovereignty of the United States to be defied by an inner organization of the Saints, which assumes all the civil power by virtue of an ecclesiastical authority unknown to our laws and openly hostile to the legitimate Government. Congress exercises its rule over the territories as far as possible through popular forms. That is what the spirit of our institutions dictates. But if it happens that, owing to the exceptional character of the population, or any other cause, the National authority cannot be exercised in the usual way, some other means of government must be devised. We cannot permit the sovereignty to be destroyed by a pedantic adherence to the customary form of exerting it. We must remember that the authority of Congress over all the territories is absolute. It can govern Utah without legislatures, or even, if the worst comes, without elections, as well as it can Alaska.

### Cold Feet.

Peck's Sun.

With the approach of cold weather comes the desire for warm beds and nice warm night shirts and gowns. The old bachelor and the maid both appreciate a comfortably warm bed on a winter night, and plan to enjoy such accordingly. Some men will jump into bed after coming in late and put their bare feet over against their wife, who has fallen into a gentle peaceful sleep. She dreams of bossing a polar expediton for about a second, when she awaks to a realizatian that her cold-footed and cold-hearted husband is making a warming-pan of the small of her back. About this time, in many cases, it becomes decidedly sultry for the husband. Then he realizes that he has made a mistake, and after solemnly promising never to do it again, and to warm himself before retiring, peace generally reigns, until in an unguarded moment, which is generally the next night, he repeats the same trick, and again makes the same promise. The very thought of a pair of ice-cold feet against your warm back is enough to make the cold chills run all up and down your spine playing tag. A Cedar Rapids, Iowa, man has had a little experience in this line, and had finally been so well-trained by his wife, as to put on his nice, long canton flannel night shirt, when he came home at night and back up to the stove and get thoroughly warmed before going to bed. His wife was beginning to enjoy life and looked forward to the cold nights of the winter with no dread of her husband's cold feet waking her from her journey through the land of Nod. Last week, after his good wife had retired, he arrayed himself in his nice long night shirt, perched himself on a chair with his back to the stove, in which position he soon dozed off, but began to have troubled dreams. He began to believe he was chief engineer in hades and was shouting for more brimstone. He did shout. He was fairly awake. He smelt burnt flannel. He felt rather too warm for comfort. He realized that something had got to be done, and done at once, as his nice nigh shirt was ablaze. He had sat too near the stove. The noise he made caused his wife to come running into the room where she found him rolling on the floor trying to extinguish the conflagration. The man has gone back on everything outside of a bed to warm a pair of cold feet or a cold back, and you can't make him believe there is any other way to get warm than to "spoon it," in the good old fashione way, long canton flannel night shirts the contrary, notwithstanding.

Godey's Lady's Book for December closes the 107th volume of this magazine. It might with propriety be called a souvenir number as it exceeds in beauty anything that has heretofore been issued by the present management of this publication. The attractive illustrations make it the most eagerly sought magazine on our book-table. The steel engravings illustrate most beautifully story and poem that appear in the magazine, while the picture in tints of "Great Aunt Dorothea's Christmas Gift" illustrating a beautiful fashion and story of Godey's Lady's Book might well be termed a happy hit, the regular colored fashion plates will certainly be commended on account of their execution. Abraham Lincoln is the subject of the presidential portrait and an excellent engraving of the Indian Bronze Group which has just been completed for Lincoln Park, Chicago, very appropriately follows the portrait. The colored work department page and the following thirteen pages of fancy work and winter fashions will surely gain the recognition they deserve. As for stories, Mrs. S. A. Shields, the former editress of the book, opens with a charming Christmas story, "Kriss Kringle's Clerk." "Wedded to Misery" finds a most satisfactory conclusion, and "Lucinda," by Hollis Freeman, a sequel to "Merlin," will be welcomed by the regular readers. But the feature that will most interest the ladies is a proposition made in the "Arm Chair" to allow each subscriber in the future to make their own selection of a full size cut paper pattern from any fashion illustrated in the magazine each month, and as we count some thirty illustrations of fashions in this number, it impresses us that the publishers have decided at any cost to captivate all of their lady readers. The January number will contain contributions by Marion Harland, Christian Reid, Thos. Collier, Ella Rodman Church and others, and we are promised during the year a story by Helen Mathers, the author of "Cherry Ripe." Long live Godey's Lady's Book!

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