THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC.

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The death of Mr. Joseph W. Drexel of New York, a few days ago closed a life that was filled with high and charitable deeds. Mr. Drexel was not only a banker and millionaire, but he also combined the qualities of a philanthropist and a patron of art and music. He strove to better the condition of the people about him by economic schemes. For some years he maintained at his own expense cheap coffee houses to benefit the deserving poor of New York city. He sold coal at less than half price to alleviate the distress of that city. He bought 6,000 acres of land in Missouri, divided it into small farms and sold them to worthy colonists on twelve years' purchase, the annual payment not averaging more than a fair rent. As a patron of art and music, he established schools, endowed galleries and in other ways fostered the cultivation of the fine arts. Mr. Drexel was the ideal American gentleman who combined within himself those attributes which make him universally honored.

A prominent contributor to the last number of the North American Review says that the United States has too many holidays, which will ruin the country by diminishing the working time of all laborers. He supports his assertion by counting the number of public holidays observed, and finds that "working people waste during the year nearly three months of time." Such an argument is too shallow and absurd to need refutation. It is absurd on the face of it to say that there are 90 holidays in the course of the year, when the truth of the matter is that the United States has too few holidays in which the laboring classes can find relaxation. As compared with the people of the old world, the people of this country are poor in the matter of holidays. Abroad not only historical, but religious festivals are celebrated, and yet there is no one to predict the ruin of any country of Europe in consequence.

General Quincy A. Gillmore, whose death occurred in Brooklyn, N. Y., recently, was one of the most distinguished military engineers of the country. He was a graduate of West Point, and during the civil war did most valuable service, attaining the rank of major-general of volunteers. After the close of the war he was mustered out of the volunteer service and held the rank of colonel in the United States corps of engineers, being at the time of his death engineer in charge of the defenses of the Atlantic coast. He was the author of numerous works relating to engineering and contributed scientific articles to the American and Universal encyclopedias. General Gillmore was born in 1825, and was therefore sixty-three years old at the time of his death.

Colonel Thomas Wentworth Higginson, one of Boston's most cultured citizens, objects to Miss Louise Alcott's writings that they are not artistic according to the highest standard. Nonsense, Mr. Higginson. Miss Alcott painted life in a way to make every one who picks up her books revive old scenes, and no one can read "Little Women," "Little Men" and "Jo's Boys" without having the heart beat quicker and in sympathy with all mankind. All the noble impulses of one's life are quickened by the beautiful pictures of home-life painted by the noble woman who now walks the streets of "the land that lieth beyond," with patient, brave "Beth," and impulsive, wayward, but manly "Dan."

The courts of New York have decided that sleeping car companies are responsible for money lost by passengers while asleep, and that it is the duty of the porter or the conductor to be on guard constantly and keep watch of the sleeping passengers. The plaintiff is not bound to prove more than enough to raise a fair presumption of negligence and of resulting injury to himself. And if a porter goes to a forward compartment of a sleeping car to black the passenger's boots, and leaves no official on guard, it is a fair presumption of negligence, and a cause for recovery of damages by a passenger.

The advocates of the admission of Utah as a state who pledge their word that in such an event polygamy will be made a criminal offense under the laws of the state, have received a black eye. In the Mormon conference at Salt Lake City, Rudger Clawson and other dignitaries of the church, who were convicted of polygamy and served several years in the penitentiary, said: "We will not make a promise to abandon this (polygamy) any more than any other principle of our faith." With polygamy as the corner-stone of the church, the chances for statehood for Utah are very slim.

The Grant memorial university of Athens, Tenn., will observe General Grant's birthday, April 27, with appropriate ceremonies. President Spencer will preside, Judge Rea of Minnesota, commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, will deliver the oration. The university was founded in 1867, General Grant contributing the first cash donation. It has turned out over a thousand preachers and teachers, and owns property valued at $200,000.

The supreme court of the United States, in the oleomargarine case from Pennsylvania, upholds the validity of the Pennsylvania statute prohibiting the manufacture and sale of the product in that state, doing so on the ground that the questions raised relate to matters of state policy, and are not affected by the fourteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

The Rev. Dr. Warren, president of the Boston University, believes that within the frozen confines of the artic circle lies the Eden of the Scriptures. The Reverend doctor bases his calculations on alleged scientific speculation, and is evidently intent upon decking Adam and Eve in furs instead of the proverbial fig-tree.

Ohio and Iowa will observe General Grant's birthday, April 27, as Arbor Day. In all the northern states, where the memory of Grant is very precious, April 27 is neither too early nor too late for tree planting, and it would be appropriate to celebrate the old hero's birthday in this way.

General Brisbin, commandant at Fort McKinney, W. T., says that the cattle in the Northwest have wintered admirably and that the herds have increased and are nearly as large as they were prior to the disastrous winter two years ago.

A Pennsylvania gas expert says that a vast reservoir of gas underlies a portion of the Ottawa valley.

The leasing of gas lands is progressing in all assured gas territory.

STATE NEWS.

Long Terms for Disorderlies.

The following communication has been sent out by the state board of corrections and charities:

To police justices and those exercising like jurisdiction:

It is certain that a large proportion of the persons convicted before you are arrested under the disorderly act. A large number of these are old offenders, are chronic cases. As a rule they are fined a small sum or imprisoned a few days. This is repeated year by year, until we find some have been in the Detroit house of correction fifty-seven times, and at Ionia it was as bad until the statute prohibited sending persons there as disorderly persons and for less than ninety days.

It requires but little experience to convince anyone that small fines and short terms not only do not deter or improve this class, but harden, brutalize and confirm them in their criminal course.

Especially is this the case with women.

A second or third conviction usually puts this class beyond hope, unless put under restraint long enough to restore their moral strength. The short sentence simply permits of a partial recovery from the effects of dissipation.

The same principle applies to like sentences to county jails of this class.

Such sentences are a libel on justice, and can only tend to make criminals.

This class of chronic disorderlies should be kept for a term of years. There then would be some chance for reform. Even if not reformed, they would be kept sober, made to work, kept out of the hands of the saloon-keepers, constables and courts out of sight—which all work in the direction of reform.

We call your attention to these views, ask your careful consideration of them, and urge you to apply the remedy so far as the statute has given you power.

The disorderly act authorizes you to send those thrice or more times convicted to prison for one year; twice convicted, six months.

We urge upon you that as to all chronic cases you cease all fines, and sentence in all cases to the full term of the law. The state will be the gainer in the matter of expense, and we believe many can in this way be improved, and some reformed.

GEO. D. GILLESPIE,
Chairman of Board of Corrections and Charities.
L. C. STORRS, Secretary.

The Outlook Dubious.

For the April crop report returns have been received from 990 correspondents representing 719 townships; 673 from 464 townships in the southern four tiers of counties and 176 from 155 townships in the central counties. On the 3rd and 4th of April, when the correspondents mailed their reports, vegetation had shown no signs of growth. In the southern portion of the state the ground for six weeks previous had been bare of snow and subjected to successive freezing and thawing, a condition long since proven to be highly unfavorable to wheat and clover. The wheat tops are very generally reported dead but hope is entertained that the roots are yet alive. While no satisfactory estimate of the condition is possible at this time, it is noticeable that the estimate as given by correspondents is much lower than that given a year ago. In the southern counties it is seven per cent lower, in the central eleven per cent lower. Since the first of April there has been about the usual amount of rain fall for the time of year, and the temperature has been slightly above the normal. The number of bushels of wheat reported marketed in the state in the eight months including August and March is 11,064,787. There are 187 elevators and mills in the state that have not reported for March and a total of 179 elevators and mills that have failed one or more times to report since December 1. Based on reports previously received from them it is safe to estimate the amount of wheat purchased at these elevators and mills at 187,000 bushels adding this to the amount reported marketed we have a total of 11,482,657 bushels marketed in the state since Aug 1. These figures alone warrant the statement that on April 1 there were less than three and one half million bushels of the 1887 wheat crop in the farmers' hands in excess of their own requirements.

Death of A. T. Chase.

Hon. Arthur T. Chase, representative in the legislature from Benzie and Leelanaw districts, died in Traverse City on the 16th inst.

Mr. Chase was twice elected to the legislature, had served four years as superintendent of schools, six years as clerk and register and 15 years as a supervisor. He came to Benzie county 27 years ago, was one of the most highly respected citizens and prominent in all work to advance the interests of the county. He was a staunch republican. His loss will be greatly felt all through the Grand Traverse region.

Michigan News Briefly Told.

A delegation of state railway agents held a meeting in Lansing a few days ago for the purpose of organizing a Michigan division. The association elected officers as follows: President, F. T. Lillotte, Pinconning; vice-president, W. F. D. Long, Manton; secretary, O. E. Gleason, Big Rapids; treasurer, James Cox, Mackinaw; executive committee, D. W. Damon, Ypsilanti; C. H. Putnam, Hudson; F. D. Clark, Midland. Resolutions governing the association were also adopted.

A new bank has been organized at East Saginaw with $200,000 capital.

The Michigan republican editorial league was organized in Lansing the other day, with the following officers: President, Tom Applegate, Adrian Times; secretary, Frank Godfrey, State Republican, Lansing; treasurer, C. F. Baxter, Charlotte Republican. The above officers, with C. F. Kimball of the Pontiac Gazette, and W. L. Eaton of the Kalamazoo Telegraph, constitute the executive committee.

William E. Trowbridge, an old resident of Decatur, died while sitting at the breakfast table the other morning.

John Anderson and Alexander Bettes, farmers living near Ravenna, are in jail in Grand Rapids, charged with counterfeiting.

John Anderson of Casnovia is under arrest for counterfeiting.

Frederick Gardner of Niles has sued the Michigan Central in the United States court at Grand Rapids for the loss of a leg on that line in '82.

Belding wants to have the main line of the D., L. & N. run through its borders.

Ontonagon offers a fine site for the new Michigan Indian school.

One hundred dozen of the brooms made at the Michigan school for the blind are sent to San Francisco every month.

Miss Hattie Olney, poor lame creature held at Lapeer on a charge of infanticide, has been released on $1,000 bail and given comfortable quarters outside the jail.

Forty thousand speckled trout have been planted in the creek which runs through the soldiers' home farm at Grand Rapids.

J. T. Moxley of Owosso has received a patent on an animal trap that will, he thinks, exterminate multitudes of rabbits that over-run Australia. The government has offered $250,000 for means of getting rid of the pest. Moxley has sent plan of the trap for inspection.

The homesteaders on the railroad indemnity lands in the upper peninsula are still sticking to the property, but are not cutting timber.

The coroner's inquest over the remains of Mary Harringer, a 14-year girl who died under suspicious circumstances in Battle Creek Jan. 20, and which has been adjourned from time to time, has been concluded, and a verdict rendered that deceased came to her death from the effects of a corrosive poison administered by some unknown person.

The executive committee of the state horticultural society and several prominent horticulturists of Western Michigan met in Grand Rapids a few days ago and decided to hold a union meeting either at Bentonville or Benton Harbor in June, when it will be proposed to divide the work of the state society into three branches, pomology, market gardening and landscape gardening.

Hon. George Oviat, died in Chase on the 12th inst., of a disease contracted in the army.

Mrs. Marmaduke McAfferty came to Muskegon several months ago and married Albert Hancock, supposing her husband had been killed in Kansas. McAfferty was not dead, however, and has caused his wife's arrest for bigamy, while she has commenced proceedings against him for a divorce.

The Australian government offers $250,000 for a feasible scheme to destroy the rabbits that overrun the big island-continent, and J. T. Moxley of Owosso has sent the plans for a trap he invented, and directions for forwarding the money to him.

The $10,000 law suit between "Ike" Bearinger of East Saginaw and Congressman Fisher has been settled out of court.

The Calhoun county farmers have formed a society called the "Calhoun County Horse Thief Association."

A new swindle is now operated in this state. A man buys cattle of a farmer, gives his check on a local bank where he has money enough deposited to cash the check. The check is duly cashed and the farmer feels happy, until eventually the receipt the farmer gave for the check turns up as a note for about four times the amount of the check.

The supreme court has filed its opinion in the question as to the construction of the ninth clause of the will of the late C. B. Mabley of Detroit. The ninth clause provides that $75,000 in government bonds shall be purchased, $25,000 to be paid over to Mrs. Mabley, for her benefit, and the other $50,000 to be held for the benefit of the minor children until the youngest is of age. The question was whether they should invest $75,000 in bonds or buy bonds of the par value of $75,000, which would be nearly about $100,000. Judge Look, in the Wayne circuit court, held that they should buy bonds to the face value of $75,000, and the supreme court affirms that opinion, which insures the investment of the larger amount. The decision is adverse to Mrs. Mabley's desire in the case.

The color line is occasionally drawn in Michigan. Two physicians of Detroit, one of them colored, entered a dining-room near the corner of Washington and State streets for dinner the other day. The white man had regularly dined there, and was considerably taken aback when told that his friend could not be accommodated. The colored man will bring suit under the provisions of the civil rights bill.

The crop bulletin of the Michigan weather service for the week ending April 14 says: The temperature, rainfall and sunshine have been slightly above the normal, yet the beneficial effect of these favorable conditions on wheat and clover seed have been more than offset by severe freezing on the 7th, 8th, 12th and 13th. Wheat and clover must be in to show life, and are believed to be severely winter killed. Plowing is under way in the southern section of the state though probably only on the dryer soils. Oats are being sown in some sections. Reports from the northern section state that "the snow has melted considerably, but still covers the ground."

William L. Angell of Howard City suicided by taking strychnine the other day.

A Jackson firm is selling potatoes imported from Scotland.

The Niles paper mill has been closed because straw is so scarce.

Charlie, an eight year old child of Mr. Woodle Rose, living five miles from Ovid, was fatally hurt the other day. The child was riding a horse in company with his father, when his horse shied and he was thrown and his father's horse stepped on his head, fracturing his skull.

J. T. Moxley of Owosso has received a patent on an animal trap that will, he thinks, exterminate multitudes of rabbits that overrun Australia. The government has offered $250,000 for a means of getting rid of the pest. Moxley has sent the plan of his trap for inspection.

The university branch of the state republican club is to hold a mock convention May 1, to nominate a national ticket.

Democratic students of the university have organized a club.

An organized band of hoodlums, who have sworn to devote their entire time and energies to burglary as a business, has been unearthed in Battle Creek. Four of them were arrested the other afternoon, three of whom were found at 2 o'clock in the morning in the cellar of a west end grocery with two bags full of plunder. They have not confined their operations to Battle Creek, but have been as far north as Ingham county. Considerable stolen property was found on an island in Goguac lake where the gang had made their headquarters lately. The boys have not lived with their parents since beginning operations. They admit having burglarized five other stores within a week.

About the 1st of April Mr. George G. Van Alstine, formerly of Bay City and later of Port Huron, now private secretary of the auditor-general, left for a trip to Mexico. A day or two later one of his children was stricken with scarlet fever and died, and on the 14th inst. his wife died. Meanwhile every means known has been resorted to in order to find Van Alstine, but, as he is traveling in the interior of Mexico, remote from all lines of mail or telegraph, no trace of him has been found. He therefore, does not know of the sad state of affairs at his home.

Mrs. Rose Hartwick Thorpe, formerly of Grand Rapids is now living in San Diego, Cal., and it is said that she has realized handsomely through lucky investments in real estate, and is now in comfortable circumstances. She is continuing her literary work and makes a very neat little income from her contributions to magazines and newspapers.

About seventy new cottages will be erected at Bay View this season, the hotel accommodations greatly increased and the auditorium enlarged to accommodate 2,000 people.

The Michigan Central has commenced a $6,000 depot in Bay City.

The Countess Magri, formerly Mrs. Tom Thumb, has sent the little white slippers in which she was married to Tom, to the Grand Rapids Lodge of Elks of which she is an honored and honorary member.

Henry Campau, aged 50 years, dropped dead at Hugarty's lumber yard in Hawkawlin the other morning.

An insane convict named Burton escaped from the asylum at Ionia, but was soon recaptured by J. O. Frost, a keeper, who was obliged to fight with Burton in order to make him go back.

Lieut.-Col. Willis C. Humphrey, assistant adjutant-general of the Michigan militia, died in Lansing on the 14th inst. He has been connected with the office of adjutant-general for 17 years.

C. H. Broden of Maysville, convicted at Chatham, Ont., of forgery, has been sentenced to five years imprisonment.

The state convention of the W. C. T. U., will meet in Coldwater May 22-25.

Hon. Wm. W. Crapo of New Bedford, Mass., well known in this state, will be a candidate for the republican nomination for governor in that state.

The Feige, Silsbee furniture company of East Saginaw has been awarded the contract for furnishing the new government building at Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Rev. Mr. Hansen of the Methodist church at Traverse City, has been tried by a ministerial board, and the decision is against him. This stands until the conference meets, when, if he chooses, he may have a further contest. He was accused of unministerial conduct.

Michael Coburn, who was sent from Detroit November 5, 1885, for four years for larceny, died at the state prison the other morning of pneumonia. He claimed to have blue blood in his veins, but refused to give the names of his parents as he did not wish to disgrace the family. His body will be sent to the Ann Arbor pickling vats, unless claimed.

The senate committee on military affairs reports adversely the pension claim of W. J. Thompson of the Third Michigan Infantry, who was appointed second lieutenant, but never mustered in as such an officer, though the committee is satisfied that he performed such duties.

Ocean gray and old silver are neutral colors which are much admired for cloth tailor-made gowns.

THE PENSION BILL.

Important Amendments Made to that Measure.

Epitome of Washington News.

The house committee on invalid pensions has taken final action upon the senate bill known as the dependent pension bill. Some verbal amendments were made to the first section relating to the claims of dependent parents, but none of them materially changed the effect of the section. A substitute was adopted for the second section, which is the principal section of the bill. The substitute provides for a pension for all persons who have served in the military or naval service of the United States for any period and who have been honorably discharged and who are now or may hereafter be suffering from mental or physical disability, not the result of their own vicious habits, which totally disables them for the performance of manual labor, at the rate per month of one cent for every day's war service. It further provides the same pension for all persons who are 62 years of age, or who may hereafter become 62 years of age, for and during their natural lives.

Section 3 was amended so as to provide that when the widow of any person who had served in the war and been honorably discharged is in a condition of dependence or is suffering from any disability recognized by the general pension laws, or is 62 years of age, she shall be placed upon the pension roll at the rate per month of one cent for every day's war service of her husband.

The fourth section was then amended so as to make the attorney fees for claims under the bill $5 instead of $10. The element of dependency, placed in the grand army bill by the senate, was eliminated so that all soldiers are to be pensioned for their services equally without regard to their financial condition, and according to the per diem idea.

The amendments were adopted by a strict party vote, the republicans favoring the provisions of the senate bill, so that the amended bill may be regarded as embodying the democratic policy in the matter of pension legislation.

The bill to limit the appropriation for the Detroit public building to $1,500,000 went through the senate without a murmur of objection. It is hardly probable that it will go through the house so easily.

The senate has passed a bill appropriating $10,000 for a monument to Brig. Gen. William Luce Davidson, who fell in the battle of Cowen's Ford in February, 1781.

After being in session eight days, the dead-lock in the house over the direct tax bill was broken on the 12th inst., as a result of the caucus held the night before to consider the situation. As a result of this conference the bill entitled "An act to credit and pay to the several states and territories and the District of Columbia, all the moneys collected under the direct tax levied by act of congress approved August 5, 1861," will be presented in the house Thursday, December 6, Saturday, December 8, and Tuesday, December 11, 1888, immediately after the reading of the journal. The friends of the direct tax bill are a good deal disappointed at the turn affairs have taken and regard action on the measure as definitely postponed until next december, but they say they are well satisfied with the record they have made and believe the country will sustain their action.

The secretary of the treasury has awarded the contract for provisions for vessels and stations in the tenth lighthouse district for the next fiscal year to G. & R. McMillan of Detroit at $80.44 per man on vessels and to the same firm at $40.02 per man at stations.

The inter-state commerce commission during the month of March entered upon a somewhat extensive investigation of the matter of under-billing. Testimony was taken at Chicago, Omaha, Lincoln, Detroit, Buffalo, Washington and other points. They suggest the amendment of the law by imposing a small penalty upon shippers who, by false billing, false classification, false weighing, etc., obtain transportation for their property at less than the regular rates.

The president has signed the bill for the relief of Fidus Livermore of Jackson.

Senator Palmer has introduced a bill for a national industrial exposition of the arts, mechanics and products of the colored race.

Alfred Pearson, a Michigan veteran who has become totally disabled through wounds received in battle, will receive a pension of $58 per month. Pearson's legs are paralyzed and his arms are nearly useless.

Representative Burrows says the postponing of the debate on the direct tax bill is an indication that the rebel brigadiers have captured the capital.

Gen. Wilson is nursing a scheme to prevent Michigan's through railroad scheme with Canada. Congressman Seymour is opposing him.

The inter-state commerce commission has recommended to congress an amendment to the act to cover the transcontinental competition of Canadian roads.

President Cleveland approves the project to erect a statue of Washington in Paris.

Col. D. M. Fox, 70 years old, who was in command of a Michigan regiment during the war, will receive a pension of $50 per month. Col. Fox was over military age when he entered the service, and was permanently disabled by wounds.

Representative Fisher has introduced a bill to pension Emanuel H. Custer of Monroe, at the rate of $50 per month. The beneficiary of this bill is the white-haired patriarch who lost his two sons, Gen. George and Capt. Tom, at the battle of the Little Big Horn.

A bill has been introduced in the senate to grant a pension of $5,000 per annum to the widow of the late Chief Justice Waite.

The supreme court has decided the case of Charles H. Page vs. the United States, a suit brought to recover balance of salary as member of the house of representatives for the second Rhode Island district in the 45th congress. William A. Pirce held the seat and drew the salary of the position through the first session and until January, 1887, when the house by resolution declared the seat vacant. Another election was held and Feb. 25, 1887, Page presented his certificate of election and was given the seat. He claimed the whole salary for two years, $10,000, but was only paid for the time during which he occupied the seat. In the lower courts the decision was against Page and the supreme court decides that he has received all the salary to which he is entitled.

A fund is being raised for the widow of Chief Justice Waite. Among the contributions already received are the following: Justice Blatchford $1,000, Justice Matthews $1,000, Secretary Whitney $500, Secretary Fairchild $250, John Hay $500, Riggs & Co. $250, George Bancroft Davis $250, B. H. Warner $100, John R. McLean $500, Gen. Nichols L. Anderson $250, W. H. Phillips $100, Justice Strong $100, W. S. Cox $100 and G. F. Appleby $100.

Frauds in the New York custom house in regard to the importation of sugar are being investigated by a senate committee.

The chairman of the house committee on labor has been instructed to report the arbitration bill embodying a provision for the appointment of a special board by the president to investigate all strikes and report the result of its inquiries to congress. He was also instructed to report the bill restricting the sale of convict-made goods to the state in which they are produced. The Buchanan bill prohibiting the importation of convict-made goods, was also agreed to.

A bill has been agreed to and favorably reported providing for a conference in Washington next spring of representatives of various American governments.

The supreme court has rendered a decision in the Geneva award case, affirming the decision of the court of claims. Suit was brought by one of the claimants of the second class for his pro rata of the sum of $29,167, deducted from the amount of the award by the treasury department to pay the expenses of the tribunal. The court of claims decided the treasury department in error in deducting this amount. The attorney general claimed that the court of claims had no jurisdiction in the case, but the supreme court decides that the court of claims has jurisdiction and that its judgment was correct. This will give holders of second class Alabama claims a small percentage in addition to what they have already been paid.

Representative Chipman has introduced a bill authorizing the secretary of the treasury to sell the lots in rear of the old Detroit postoffice at a price at least equal to the purchase and to turn the sum over to the fund for building the new postoffice. It is thought that $100,000 can be obtained for this old site.

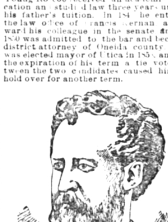
CONKLING DEAD.

The Distinguished Statesman Passes Peacefully Away.

Sketch of His Life.

Roscoe Conkling died at his home in New York on the morning of the 18th inst. It was a terrible struggle that the brave man fought with death, but he passed away peacefully and without a struggle.

Roscoe Conkling was born in Albany, N. Y., Oct 30, 1829. His father was Alfred Conkling, an able New York jurist and author of several works on legal subjects. Young Roscoe received an academic education and studied law three years under his father's tuition. In 1846 he entered the law office of Francis Kernan afterward his colleague in the senate and in 1850 was admitted to the bar and became district attorney of Oneida county. He was elected mayor of Utica in 1858, and at the expiration of his term a tie vote between the two candidates caused him to hold over for another term.



In November, 1858, Mr. Conkling was chosen as a republican to congress, and took his seat at the beginning of the first session of that body in December, 1859—a session noted for its long and bitter contest over the speakership. He was re-elected in 1860, but in 1862 was defeated by Francis Kernan, over whom he was elected in 1864. Mr. Conkling's first important speech was in support of the 14th amendment to the constitution. He vigorously attacked the generalship of McClellan, opposed Spaulding's legal tender act, and firmly upheld the government in a vigorous prosecution of the war.

Mr. Conkling was re-elected to the house in 1866, but in January, 1867, before taking his seat, was chosen United States senator to succeed Ira Harris, and re-elected in 1873 and 1879. In the senate he was from the first a member of the judiciary committee, and connected with nearly all the leading committees, holding the chairs of those on commerce and revision of the laws. Senator Conkling was a zealous supporter of President Grant's administration and largely directed its general policy towards the South, advocating it in public and by his personal influence. He was also instrumental in the passage of the civil rights bill and favored the resumption of specie payments. He took a prominent part in framing the electoral commission bill in 1877 and supported it by an able speech. Mr. Conkling received 93 votes for the republican nomination for president in the Cincinnati convention in 1876. In the Chicago convention he advocated the nomination of Gen. Grant for a third term.

In 1881 Senator Conkling became hostile to President Garfield's administration on a question of patronage, asserting, with his colleague, Thomas C. Platt, the right to control federal patronage in his state. The president having appointed a political opponent of Mr. Conkling to the collectorship of the port of New York, the latter opposed his confirmation. Finding that he could not prevent the confirmation, Mr. Conkling on May 16 resigned his senatorship, as did also his colleague, and returned home to seek a vindication in the form of a re-election. In this, however, after an exciting canvass, they failed, and two other republicans were elected to take their places. Mr. Conkling immediately resumed his law practice in New York City.

In 1886 Mr. Conkling was counsel for the state senate committee, appointed for the purpose of disclosing the fraud and bribery in the grant of the Broadway horse railroad franchise by the board of aldermen in 1884. After the taking of testimony, lasting about three months, Mr. Conkling made an argument, together with Clarence A. Seward, which resulted in the repeal of the Broadway railroad charter, drove the "boodle" aldermen either to Canada or Sing Sing, and Jacob Sharp to his grave. Since that time Mr. Conkling has added much to his reputation not only as a brilliant but remarkably successful lawyer. He had appeared in a majority of the noteworthy cases tried in the state of New York since his retirement from the senate.

Mr. Conkling's health had been excellent up to the time of the recent great blizzard in New York, when, in returning to his home through the heavy drifts, he nearly perished from cold and exhaustion. To that terrible journey is laid the disorder which culminated in his death.

DETROIT MARKETS.

WHEAT, White	87	@ 87¾
" Red	85¼	@ 81
CORN, per bu	57	@ 58
OATS, " "	35	@ 38
BARLEY,	1 50	@ 1 65
MALT	80	@ 90
TIMOTHY SEED	2 50	@ 2 55
CLOVER SEED, per bag	4 10	@ 4 12
FEED, per cwt	18 00	@ 20 00
FLOUR—Michigan patent	4 50	@ 4 75
Michigan roller	4 25	@ 4 50
Minnesota patent	4 75	@ 5 00
Minnesota bakers'	4 25	@ 4 50
Rye	3 40	@ 3 50
APPLES, new, per bbl	3 00	@ 3 50
BEANS, picked	2 45	@ 2 50
" unpicked	1 80	@ 2 10
BEESWAX	22	@ 25
BUTTER	20	@ 21
CHEESE, per lb	12	@ 12½
DRIED APPLES, per lb	6	@ 6½
MAPLE SUGAR	11	@ 12
EGGS, per doz	14	@ 15
HONEY, per lb	16	@ 17
HOPS per lb	6	@ 8
HAY, per ton, clover	9 00	@ 10 00
" " timothy	13 00	@ 14 00
MALT, per bu	90	@ 1 05
ONIONS, per bu	1 75	@ 1 80
POTATOES, per bu	85	@ 90
POULTRY—Chickens, per lb	11	@ 12
Geese	11	@ 12
Turkeys	13	@ 14
Ducks per lb	13	@ 14
PROVISIONS—Mess Pork	14 75	@ 15 00
Family	15 25	@ 15 50
Extra mess beef	6 75	@ 7 00
Lard	7	@ 8
Dressed hogs	6 00	@ 6 25
" Beef	2½	@ 4
Hams	11	@ 11
Shoulders	7	@ 7½
Bacon	10	@ 10½
Tallow, per lb	3	@ 3½
HIDES—Green City per lb	5	
Country	5½	
Green Calf	6½	
Cured	6½	
Salted		
Sheep skins, wool	50	@ 1 00

LIVE STOCK.

CATTLE—Market slow 5 to 10c lower; steers, $3 90@5 05; stockers and feeders, $2 90@3 65; cows, bulls and mixed, $1 75 @3 60; Texas steers, $ @4.

HOGS—Market slow, 5 to 10c lower; mixed, $5 45@5 75; heavy, $5 55@5 85; light, $5 40@5 75; skips, $3 @5 15.

SHEEP—Market strong; natives $ @5 75; western, $4 50@5 25; Texans, $ 50@4 50; lambs, $5 @6 30. The Drovers' Journal special cablegram from London quotes excessive supplies, very weak demands and half cent decline on cattle; best American beeves, 11½c per pound dead weight.

The latest garter-buckles have as ornaments four tiny enameled pansies, set with sapphires and rubies.

There was paid for locomotives last year about $30,000,000.

GENERAL NEWS.

While Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds of Las Vegas, N. M., were walking in the street at Albuquerque, N. M., a revolver fell from his pocket, and dropping on the pavement was discharged. The ball struck Mrs. Reynolds, killing her.

Carl Schurz has gone to Germany on private business.

Fifteen business buildings and eight cottages in Orlando, Florida, were destroyed by fire the other day at a loss of $200,000.

The will of the late John Roach, the great ship builder, has just been filed for probate. The will provides that the business shall be continued 10 years, the widow shall have an annuity of $5,000, and the residue of the estate is to be divided equally among the heirs, although any heir contesting shall be disinherited. The Oregon transportation company is suing the estate for $100,000.

At a meeting of the board of managers of the National Soldiers' Home Association a committee was appointed to prepare a memorial page to be inserted in the minutes of the meeting of the death of the late Chief Justice Waite, who was ex-officio a member of the board.

The Koolewai Indians of Montana are getting ugly, it is said, and threaten to avenge the hanging of three of their tribe for murder by the white people.

The case against John Coughlin, who was on trial for the second time at Ravenna, O., for the murder of detective Hulligan of Cleveland has been dismissed by the prosecution. Coughlin was once convicted of murder, but a new trial was granted. Eleven jurors had been secured before the prisoner was discharged by the state.

Iowa saloonkeepers believe they can circumvent the prohibition law by selling original packages of liquor shipped from other states or imported from Canada.

Some New York papers having declared that the state agents would get a large percentage of the refunded direct tax, Gov. Luce and Gov. Foraker have denied the story so far as Michigan and Ohio are concerned.

The assembly has passed the bill submitting to the voters of New York an amendment to the constitution prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors.

Mr. Powderly is out with a card saying he is ready to enter into a compact with the locomotive brotherhoods to guard the interests of labor.

The government will send troops to suppress the threatened Indian uprising in Montana.

The Burlington strike has cost the company $2,100,000 and the strikers $601,580.

The Milwaukee chamber of commerce has complained that the F. & P. M. and D., G. H. & M. have been discriminating on freight rates, and the inter-state commerce commission will hear what the railroads have to say April 27.

Two men have been jailed at Hamburg, Ark., charged with the robbery on the St. Louis, Arkansas & Texas railroad.

Reports of heavy damages from floods on the Mississippi and Missouri continue to come in. Many families of poor foreigners have been driven from their huts in the low ground at St. Paul.

The First National bank of St. Johnsonville, N. Y., was robbed early the other morning. The burglars blew off the vault and safe doors with a powerful explosive. Less than $100 in cash; $820 in unsigned bills, a gold watch and chain valued at $170, together with other jewelry left at the bank for safe keeping, were taken.

The New York Central labor union has decided to repudiate the united labor party.

Kentucky prohibitionists favor Gen. Clay Smith for president.

Willie Brady, aged 6, Chicago, got hold of a pistol and dropped it on the floor. It went off, killing his 3-year old sister.

David Walker, chief Bald Knobber, convicted of murder in the first degree at Ozark, Mo. Two of his pals get 20 and one 15 years.

The low price of coke has induced a general shut down in the Connellsville, Pa., region. From 6,000 to 7,000 men are thrown out.

David A. Brown, jr., of Richmond, Ind., gets an $8,000 verdict against the Philadelphia & Wilmington railroad for injuries in a railroad accident.

The Hungarian league, a kind of Mollie Maguire league, is committing outrages in the Pennsylvania coal regions. Two arrests have been made at Wilkesbarre.

Mrs. Joseph Bird and her babe were burned to death at Middleton, N. Y., the other day.

John J. Knodel, aged 24, of Newark, N. J., becoming angry at the 14-year-old son of officer James Wilson, tore both ears from the boy's head. He was arrested. The victim is in a serious condition.

It is stated that the Standard Oil Company has completed all its arrangements for building a pipe line from Lima, O., to Chicago, for the cheap and rapid transportation of the crude oil, which is destined to take the place of coal in the great manufacturing establishments in Chicago.

Rumored that President and Mrs. Cleveland will visit Austin, Texas, in May.

The 23d anniversary of the death of Lincoln was commemorated in Springfield, Ill., on the 15th inst.

Prof. Wm. F. Sherwin, well known as a musical composer and conductor, and throughout the United States and Canada as a Chautauquan worker, died in Boston on the 15th inst.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Chicago proposes to erect an $800,000 national temperance temple in that city. Mrs. Carse, the president of the Union, says that $75,000 in stock has already been subscribed.

The inter-state commerce commission wants congress to amend the law so as to cover transcontinental competition of Canadian roads. It provides that no United States road shall charge more for local freight than the rate share of the rates charged on the Canadian freight they have received.

The Standard oil company will build a pipe line from Lima, O., to Chicago for the purpose of carrying crude oil, which will be used in many of the largest manufactories there. The line will be 210 miles long, constructed of eight-inch pipe, and will cost about $2,250,000.

The twenty-sixth anniversary of the emancipation of the slaves in the District of Columbia was appropriately and enthusiastically celebrated by the colored people of Washington on the 17th inst. There was a long procession with colored militia, bands, carriages and colored men in the afternoon which, as it passed the executive mansion, was reviewed by the president. In the evening meetings were held in several colored churches, at which speeches were delivered by Fred. Douglass, W. H. Hart, Prof. Langston, Senators Sherman and Blair, and others.

FOREIGN NEWS.

Queen Victoria has invited the King and Queen of Italy to visit Windsor Castle in June. The invitation has been accepted.

Mr. Matthew Arnold, the noted poet, scholar, critic and theologian, whose recent sharply critical article on "Civilization in the United States" attracted marked attention, died suddenly in Liverpool the other day. Mr. Arnold was the son of Dr. Arnold of Rugby fame.

The British steamer Vena was sunk in a collision off Deal on the 16th inst. and 16 persons were drowned.

The conference to settle the difficulties between Morocco and the United States will meet in Madrid May 1.

General strikes of workingmen are being arranged for in Berlin, Altona, Carlsruhe and other places in Germany.

The Widow's Smite.

Mrs. Samuel Watts, a comely widow, murdered a neighbor named Storm, near St. Louis the other day. The two had quarreled often over a line fence. Storm went to the widow's house and renewed the quarrel, and while Storm's back was turned the widow seized a gun and shot him dead. The murderess was arrested.

FOR THE BOYS.

NAMING THE CHICKENS.

There were two little chickens hatched
out by one hen,
And the owner of both was our little boy
Ben;
So he set him to work as soon as they
came,
To make them a house and give them a
name.

As for building a house, Benny knew
very well
That he couldn't do that; but his big
brother Phil
Must be handy at tools, for he'd been to
college,
Where the boys are supposed to learn all
sorts of knowledge.

Phil was very good natured, and soon his
small brother
Had a nice, cozy home for the chicks and
their mother;
And a happier boy in the country just
then
Could not have been found than our dear
little Ben.

But a name for his pets was harder to
find,
As least just as suited exactly his mind;
No mother with twins was ever more
haunted,
With trouble to find just the ones that she
wanted.

There were plenty of names, no doubt
about that,
But the name that would do for a dog or a
cat
Would not answer for chickens as pretty
as these;
Or else our dear boy was not easy to
please.

These two tiny chickens looked just like
each other;
To name them so young would be only a
bother,
But with one in each hand, said queer lit-
tle Ben,
"I want this one a rooster and that one a
hen."

Benny knew them apart by a little brown
spot
On the head of the one that the other had
not;
They grew up like magic, each fat, feath-
ered chick,
One at length was named Peggy and the
other named Dick.

Benny watched them so closely not a
feather could grow
In the dress of the chickens that he did
not know;
And he taught them so well they would
march at command,
Fly up on his shoulder, or eat from his
hand.

But a funny thing happened concerning
their names;
Rushing into the house one day, Benny
exclaims
"O mother, O Phil! such a blunder there's
been—
For Peggy's the rooster and Dick is the
hen!"

—Selected.

Did Skipper Jack Make Harbor?

REV. EDWARD A. RAND.

"It is going to be a bad night," growled Skipper Jack Tolman, as he walked the deck of the Petrel. He gave an order to the man at the helm, then glanced at the scanty canvass the Petrel was carrying, and finally looked off toward the north-east. "A bad sky all round to the nor'ard, and worse still in nor'east," he muttered. "It don't rain yet, does it?" He held up his hand to the sky, and suddenly felt a rain drop. "She's a comin'; rain is a-comin', sure. Wind is dreadful uneasy. Still everything is snug and tight above and below, for'ard and aft, and I guess the Petrel will stand it. I hope to make harbor 'fore dark."

"Harbor!" how pleasant the thought of a refuge in contrast with this driving wind, this howling sea, and the ugly rocks off Naylor's Point too!

"Must get round Naylor's Point somehow," exclaimed Skipper Jack. "Good to get home and see Jerry."

Jerry was the skipper's son, a life almost near its end, tossed and broken upon waves of suffering, but soon to have rest.

"Good to see Jerry, good to get into harbor," said the skipper once more. "Hard a-starboard!" he here shouted to the man at the helm.

The Petrel readily obeyed this command from her master, and as the canvass felt the stronger pressure of the wind, the foam around the vessel's bows was piled up like a drift of January snow.

"I will step down into the cabin," said Skipper Jack. "I hope Fred has turned in." Fred was the skipper's nephew, a boy of seventeen—now making his first voyage in the Petrel.

A generous, active and manly fellow was Fred Tolman. In his uncle's opinion he had but one fault. Fred had become 'pious.' This was no recommendation in the eyes of Skipper Jack. Disregarding God, he was not at ease with one who did regard him.

"Don't like to have these folks round that pray and read their Bibles," muttered the skipper when he heard about Fred's new life. "Only thing I have have against Fred."

In the mind of Fred's mother, a praying woman—Skipper Jack's opposition to religion was her only objection to Fred's venture at sea with his uncle. But sometimes any harsh opposition to the truth is only a sign of a serious disturbance of conscience within. Skipper Jack was rebuked by his nephew's quiet, reverent life.

In the snug little cabin of the Petrel sat Fred Tolman busily reading.

"Ho, boy!" Thought you had turned in."

"Well, Uncle Jack, thought on the whole I wouldn't thank you."

"Readin', Fred?"

The skipper saw Fred's Bible in the sailor boy's hands.

"Thought I would, uncle; sort of quiet down here, you know."

Fred's answer irritated his uncle. "Well, boy, that won't get you into harbor. The storm is breaking on us fast; no time to be readin'."

Fred said nothing to this relative anxious to have his nephew 'turn in' a moment ago, and now, because the latter was reading his Bible, anxious to have him turn out.

"S'pose you think you have got into comfortable harbor? That's the way with you pious folks—thinkin' only of themselves and lettin' the rest of the world go. Well, Jerry he has nothin' to do with such things; he bears his pain like a hero. He don't need your prayin' or your readin'—" He stopped; Fred had quietly closed his Bible and left the cabin.

"What a fool I am," thought Skipper Jack. "I don't treat the boy decent. I'm ashamed of myself. Been bellowing away like a mad bull." He looked round upon the now empty cabin. There was that Bible. He took it up involuntarily, opened it carelessly and saw these words: "There is no peace, saith the Lord, unto the wicked." He dropped the book as if it were a bomb about to explode, and rushed upon the deck. When he looked at the great wrathful sea to sing the Petrel from billow to billow, he felt that all that raging of the waves was an image of the disturbance in his own breast.

The rain now began to sweep across the ocean. It relieved Skipper Jack to see this new element of discord, for he felt his own deficiency only when the nephew that he hectored calmly took his irritating remarks, and showed that the nephew's religion was a force superior to the uncle's irreligion.

But there was Jerry at home. If Skipper Jack was out in a spiritual chaos, outside of a harbor, Jerry kept him company.

"The boy don't want Fred's port he has been makin' for; and if Jerry can get along his father can, I guess," reasoned Skipper Jack. In this frame of soul he had emerged upon the deck of the Petrel.

"Oh, ho!" he soon shouted. "This won't do!" He turned to the man at the wheel and cried, "Bill Lappen, you go to the bow. Keep a sharp lookout. I'll take the wheel."

The crew of the Petrel was very small, and in this rough weather it seemed weaker still. Going round Naylor's Point, too, the vessel's course was very much veered. Would the Petrel weather that point and make harbor? Might she not be blown out to sea? Then, Naylor's Point was an exceedingly rocky projection, a kind of giant foot thrust out by the land to trip up heedless vessels.

"Tough time!" groaned the skipper, gripping the wheel.

How hard it was to steer, the wind pouncing down, the waves rushing, the rocks threatening, and a fierce rain slashing and dripping everywhere! When did the wheel ever seem so hard to manage?

"Just let me help you," said Fred, stepping forward cheerfully.

Skipper Jack felt exceedingly mean to accept the help of a boy he had ridiculed, but aid was imperative.

"Hard a-starboard! hard, hard!" the lookout would shout, and round would go the wheel obediently.

Such a difference as there was between the two faces at the wheel—Skipper Jack's so anxious, unhappy, stormy, Fred's quiet and at rest.

"Hard up hel-um!" the lookout was shouting.

"Goin' to be a slim chance to get around that p'int," murmured the skipper. "There now! there she—goes! There! Yes, we are slippin' round in good style."

After a weary half hour the skipper was not only in the harbor, but at home. He went at once to see his son.

"Well, Jerry," he exclaimed, "how are you to-day?"

The consumptive fastened his hollow eyes on his father:

"I am better."

"Better Jerry?"

"Not in body, but—but—I have got—peace."

"What, Jerry? Go into harbor?"

"Father, I have found a friend; I've found a Savior. Yes, if that's getting into harbor, I am there; and I think, father, it's about time for you—"

The skipper rose and left the room. He sought a little corner up in the shadowy garret, and there fell upon his knees, in a distress greater than any in nature, whose wild stormy gusts howled about the roof of the mariner's home.

"Can't hold out any longer!" he groaned.

No more opposition now, but over waves of stormy penitence the soul of Skipper Jack came into harbor at the foot of the cross.

The Great Genoa Centennial.

Already patriotic Americans are talking about celebrating the four-hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America, and they call it by the big name at the head of this article.

Politicians say the celebration must occur in Washington, and probably no one will object. The important thing is to celebrate it with enthusiastic and loyal hearts.

Perhaps some of our boys and girls do not know how near the discovery of America came to being lost. Francis Humphrey, in Wide Awake and Women, tells us.

January 4, 1492, Columbus set out on his return to Spain. He took with him nine Indians. He was two months crossing the Atlantic, and met with a fearful storm which lasted fourteen days. He feared the vessel might sink and the king and queen of Spain might never hear of his great discovery. So he wrote an account of it on a strip of parchment, wrapped it in a waxed cloth, placed it in the center of a cake of wax, put the whole into a barrel and threw it into the sea. He thought perhaps somebody might find it.

He put into the river Tagus in Portugal to wait for fair weather, and visited the Queen of Portugal.

March 12 he sailed into the harbor of Palos. You remember that the Santa Maria was wrecked on the coast of Cuba. The Pinta had become separated from the Nina while crossing the Atlantic, so it was only the Nina that sailed into Palos on that joyful day almost four hundred years ago. The news of her arrival flew quickly over the town. The bells were rung, the shops were closed, and everybody left their business and their work, even the children left their play, to hasten to the wharves.

Columbus was at once ordered to go to the court at Barcelona. As he drew near that city, a great company on horseback came out to meet him. His entrance was a triumph. Such a brilliant and strange procession had never before been seen in Spain. For first of all came the dusky Indians (six of them) wearing feathers of gay tropical birds and ornaments of gold. The sailors and ship-boys of the Nina carried poles and pike staffs, on the top of which were stuffed parrots, cocoanuts, bananas, huge calabashes or gourds, rare plants, and the stuffed body of an iguana or big lizzard. One of the prettiest things was the yellow ears of the Indian corn. Coronets and bracelets of gold, baskets finely woven of grass, and banners were in the procession. Then came Columbus himself, on horseback, and around him were the proud nobles of Spain.

The king and queen rose to receive him, which was a great honor. They listened to his story, and when he had finished they fell on their knees, all who were present did the same, and the royal choir chanted the Te Deum Laudamus, "We praise thee, O God." Thus they gave to God the glory of the great discovery.

But I doubt if Columbus enjoyed anything more than he did the telling of all he had seen and done to his good and faithful friend Don Perez.

Untimely Enthusiasm.

That company in the country is a great event is well known. This was fully illustrated by the experience of a certain Bostonian who was snow bound in a small town last week. He was invited to take supper at the house of a well-to-do farmer whom he knew, where there was a small boy not yet beyond the high chair stage of existence. Of course preparations had to be made to give the visitor a good repast and an enjoyable evening, and these did not pass unnoticed by the small boy. When the family and guest were seated at the table the youngster looked at the feast with glistening eyes, then rose in his high chair, waved his arms frantically and exclaimed: 'Hullo, pies! Hullo, cake! Haven't seen you for a hundred years.'—Boston Times.

Time to Sit Down.

A statement now traveling about to the effect that Mrs. Cleveland wears no bustle with her church-going dresses so strongly impressed a sensitive pupil of an Illinois seminary that she made it the subject of her last weekly composition; but when she arose in her place and read out the title, "The Bustle Trembling Upon Its Throne," she was indignantly suppressed by the lady class teacher, who exclaimed: "Well, I never! Take your seat, Miss."—N. Y. World.

Each Had a Head On.

"Why do you wail so, George?" inquired Maygood. "Because," groaned George, "I have run the point of a nail into my foot." "Well," she said, softly, "never mind; I have seen you run the pint of an ale into your neck and look up for more without catching your breath."—Brooklyn Eagle.